

WORLD WAR II NIKKEI VETERANS RESOURCES FOR DENSHO'S FINDING YOUR NIKKEI ROOTS SERIES

1. If your veteran died in service, order the **Individual Deceased Personnel File** (IDPF).
 - Army files for Surnames A-L are at the National Archives at St. Louis, MO.
Contact: STL.Archives@nara.gov
 - For Surnames M-Z, contact:
U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Casualty & Memorial Affairs Operations Division,
ATTN: AHRC-PDC
1600 Spearhead Division Ave
Department 450
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5405
usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.foia@mail.mil
2. If your veteran was buried overseas and you want information on the site, contact:
American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II
2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201
703-696-6897
<https://www.abmc.gov/>
3. If your veteran returned home, first look for his/her discharge papers in your family papers. If you don't have the **Separation (discharge) Papers**, contact the National Personnel Records Center by phone, by mail, or online.
 - If you are the next of kin, go to eVetRecs at <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>
 - Or use the paper form SF-180
 - If you are not the next of kin, download SF-180 at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>
4. After you obtain the above initial information, (IDPF or Separation Papers), check to see if an **Official Military Personnel File** (OMPF) exists. Although the vast majority were destroyed in a fire in 1973, it's always worth it to inquire. Find more information at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.
5. More time-efficient than mail or online requests is to visit the National Archives and retrieve files in person. If you cannot go in person, hire a researcher. The National Archives has a list of researchers available by topic and location: <https://www.archives.gov/research/hire-help>. Or, try the Association of Professional Genealogists: <https://www.apgen.org/cpages/home>.

Compiled by Linda Harms Okazaki. All URLs valid as of 22 July 2020.



6. The Separation Papers, IDPF, and OMPF are just the beginning. Unit histories, morning reports, medical records, after action reports, and more are worth the time and effort to obtain as they will help to piece together the story of your veteran. It's best to either go in person or hire a researcher for these auxiliary and organizational documents. See #5 for resources on finding a researcher.

7. For those who served in the Office of Strategic Service (OSS), some personnel files are available through the National Archives at College Park, Maryland. More information about the personnel files can be found at <https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2008/nr08-130.html>.

8. For civilian personnel files, contact the National Personnel Records Center. More information about the civilian personnel files can be found at <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/civilian-personnel/federal-agencies>.

ONLINE RESOURCES

442nd Regimental Combat Team, Archive/Research Documents (good resource!)
<http://www.the442.org/archiveddocuments.html>

Densho Encyclopedia: Japanese Americans in Military During World War II
http://encyclopedia.densho.org/Japanese_Americans_in_military_during_World_War_II/

Discover Nikkei Japanese American Military Experience Database
<http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/resources/military/>

Go For Broke National Education Center
<http://www.goforbroke.org/>

Golden Arrow Research
<https://www.goldenarrowresearch.com/>

Index of 100/442 Documents from NARA
<http://www.javadc.org/RG%20NARA%20Index%20for%20442-100.pdf>

Japanese American Veterans Association Research Archive
<https://java.wildapricot.org/Research-Archive>

National Japanese American Historical Society
<https://www.njahs.org/research/>

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