

West Sussex Record Office



Searchroom Leaflet No 13:

Soldiers of the Royal Sussex Regiment

If you are trying to trace an officer or soldier, this leaflet highlights some of the main sources available at West Sussex Record Office.

Printed sources

The Roussillon Gazette: We have an almost complete run of the regimental journal from 1910. They are a rich source of information on individual battalions and companies, and some of the officers and men who served in them.

Local newspapers: These date from the mid-18th century. For WWI they are a rich source for photographs, letters home, casualty lists, reports of honours and awards. Some WWI and WWII newspapers are available as searchable PDFs on our public access computers. Many local titles can be viewed on the British Newspaper Archive website (free access at WSRO).

Published books: There are over 1,000 books in the library of the Royal Sussex Regiment, including battalion histories which sometimes contain appendices listing officers and senior NCOs who served with them.

Original records

Unit war diaries: These provide a day-to-day account of activities within a battalion. We have a good set of war diaries for the First World War, available on our Great War West Sussex 1914-18 website.

Nominal rolls: These are lists of men and can be very useful, where they survive, sometimes confirming the battalion that a soldier was serving in and his regimental number.

Battalion orders: These may contain 'administrative' details relating to an individual soldier if, for example, he was transferred to another company, subject to a field punishment, granted leave, or invalided back to the UK.

Photographs: We have thousands of photographs amongst the Regimental archives, either as individual prints or in albums. Some name indexes are available (e.g. MP 4173).

Diaries and service papers: We have a limited number of these for officers and other ranks and you can use our online catalogue to look for them.

Enlistment books: This is a series of volumes for soldiers who enlisted with the Regiment from 1919 to 1946 (and relate to soldiers who served between 1893 and 1955).

They will usually provide a name, army number, date of attestation, and date of discharge or transfer. Some are too fragile to produce to visitors, but a name index is available from the Searchroom Supervisor.

Cinefilm: A video compiled from original footage was produced for the Regiment's Tercentenary in 2001, which is now available from us on DVD—please ask at Reception if you would like to order a copy.

Online records

Great War West Sussex 1914-18 website contains a wealth of material from the Royal Sussex Regiment archives, local newspapers and other sources.

World War One medal cards, service and pension records can be searched on the Ancestry and Find My Past websites. Although only 40% of service records survive, this is an outstanding resource and is available free at the Record Office.

Soldiers' documents 1760-1939, can be searched on the Find My Past website, also available free on public access computers in the Searchroom.

Material held elsewhere

Service records (post-1920): You may be able to obtain a service record from the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. The following web page will explain how to apply: <https://www.gov.uk/get-copy-military-service-records>

Uniforms, badges, weapons, drums and medals: For enquiries relating to collections of the Royal Sussex Regimental Museum, please visit the Royal Sussex Regimental Association website at www.theroyalsussexregt.org.uk and complete the contact form.

Consult our staff

We deal with thousands of military history and family history enquiries every year. Our staff have considerable experience in dealing with queries and research problems and would be happy to help you. Do please contact us for advice.

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See also:

***Searchroom Leaflet No 11—
Tracing Military Ancestors***

A large-print version of this leaflet is available in a special folder in the Searchroom.