



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Records of American Prisoners of War During the Korean War, 1950 - 1953 Record Group 319

Updated June 5, 2020

1. What information is in these records?

These records contain information about U.S. military officers and soldiers who were prisoners of war (POWs) during the Korean War. Each record represents an individual prisoner of war and contains the name of a prisoner, serial number, date of birth, dossier number, rank, and prisoner of war camp.

2. Why were these records created?

The records were created and used to identify U.S. military personnel who were reported as prisoners of war at some point during the Korean War.

3. How do these records differ from the Records of Repatriated Korean War Prisoners of War (Record Group 15)?

These records contain date of birth, rank, and dossier number information, which is not in the Records of Repatriated Korean War Prisoners of War. There may be information for an individual POW in both sets of records or there may be information in only one set of records.

4. What does the Dossier Number refer to?

Although the documentation for the records does not provide an explanation for the Dossier Number, NARA staff have learned that in some cases, but not always, the Dossier Number corresponds to the Control Number used on at least some of the debriefing reports for surviving Korean War POWs, known as Reports of Intelligence Processing Returned American Captured Personnel (also in NARA's custody). However, these reports are arranged alphabetically by the surnames of interviewed former POWs so you can access the reports without a Dossier Number or Control Number.

5. How can I access a copy of the full file?

The raw data file, along with the associated technical documentation, may be downloaded from the National Archives Catalog at: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>. There you can search by the series name, Records of American Prisoners of War During the Korean War, or using the National Archives Identifier 583429, which is the description identifier for this series description.

In the results, select to view the full series description. Click on the link "file unit(s) described in the catalog" next to "Includes:" for a list of the file units within this series. Then select the file unit

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containing the records of interest to you. The file unit description will include the list of electronic records and documentation files available for viewing and/or downloading.

Additional information about downloading electronic records from the Catalog is available at:
<https://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog-faqs>.

Please keep in mind that the data file consists of the raw structured data as loaded into AAD (i.e. the coded values without meanings), but without the AAD software that displays the meanings for coded values and field titles. For more details about using files containing raw structured data, you may wish to review our "Introduction to Raw Data" at:
<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/electronic-records/raw-data-intro.pdf>.