Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

World War II Prisoners of the Japanese Data Files, 4/2005 - 10/2007

ADBC Collection

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1. What information is in these records?
2. Why were these records created?
3. Is there more than one version of the records in this series?
4. How do these records differ from the Records of World War II Prisoners of War (Record Group 389)?
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1. What information is in these records?

These records contain information on military personnel and a few civilians who were prisoners of the Japanese during World War II. The records include name, rank, service number, branch of service, source of the information, unit information as available from parent unit to subordinate unit, and notes.

2. Why were these records created?

The American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (ADBC), a private organization, used their organizational records and other materials from their members to expand upon the information in the electronic records series, Records of World War II Prisoners of War (Record Group 389).

3. Is there more than one version of the records in this series?

Yes. The creators of these records have donated a previous version to NARA. Only the most recently accessioned file is available on AAD. The previous file, however, will continue to be preserved and available for reproduction when requested. Each version differs in the information contained in the records. For the most recently donated file, the creators expanded the source field into three separate fields, added individual records, updated unit information for some of the records, and corrected typographical errors.

4. How do these records differ from the Records of World War II Prisoners of War (Record Group 389)?

The information in these records is derived from some of the fields in the Records of World War II Prisoners of War and also includes additional information from American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor's organizational registration cards, unit rosters that they located, and other sources. Also, these records contain information only on prisoners of the Japanese, while the Records of World War II Prisoners of War contain information on prisoners of the Japanese and

Germans. There may be information on a prisoner of the Japanese in both sets of records or there may be information in only one set of records. In addition, since the donors sometimes expanded upon the information obtained from the Records of World War II Prisoners of War, the World War II Prisoners of the Japanese File may have data for an individual that differs from that found in the Records of World War II Prisoners of War.

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, World War II Prisoners of the Japanese Data Files, or using the National Archives Identifier 731002, which is the description identifier for this series.

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