



NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### Record Group 389

#### Series: Records of World War II Prisoners of War, 1942 – 1947

#### What information is in these records?

These records about U.S. military officers and soldiers and U.S. and some Allied civilians who were prisoners of war and internees provide serial number, personal name, branch of service or civilian status, grade, date reported, race, state of residence, type of organization, parent unit number and type, place of capture (theater of war), source of report, status, detaining power, and prisoner of war or civilian internee camp code.

Records of prisoners of the Japanese who died also document whether the prisoner was on a Japanese ship that sank or if he or she died during transport from the Philippine Islands to Japan.

#### Why were these records created?

The Office of the Provost Marshal General used reports from the International Committee of the Red Cross to generate monthly reports on U.S. military and civilian prisoners of war and internees, and some Allied internees.

#### Does the file contain records for all prisoners of war?

No. In some cases, for unknown reasons, there are no records for some prisoners of war whose names appear in the lists or cables transmitted to the Office of the Provost Marshal General by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In addition, a small percentage of the original punch cards or other types of cards could not be converted to a contemporary digital format and included in the file because of the poor condition of the cards. Instead, staff have scanned the photocopies of these punch cards or other types of cards and make them available via AAD as part of the scanned technical documentation for these records.

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