Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Records of Duty Locations for Naval Intelligence Personnel, 1942 - 1945
Record Group 38

Updated May 5, 2020

1. What information is in these records?

The records contain the following information about the military intelligence personnel attached to Naval Group China during World War II: name, rank or rate of pay, branch of service, muster roll date of reporting or detachment, date and duty location approximately every two weeks. There are multiple records for individual naval officers and sailors indicating changes in their location inside and outside of China, rank or rate of pay, and unit over time.

2. Why were these records created?

Naval stations and commands prepared muster roll reports throughout World War II to provide a record of the physical locations and changes in the rank or pay rate of naval personnel. The records were used to prepare summary reports.

3. 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 Duty Locations for Naval Intelligence Personnel, or using the National Archives Identifier 603333, 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.