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# Research Resources for Lifewriters

by Denis Ledoux



In the Turning Memories Into Memoirs® workshops, you learn that the truth of your stories often is to be found in the details. In this article, you will find resources to help you obtain those details.

You can obtain copies of a veteran's service records and work with his exact enlistment and deployment dates, the history of his title and rank designations, his company and commander information, and the locations in which he was deployed. This factual basis for your story will help you make more accurate inferences on his life.

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If you are a veteran or a next-of-kin you may mail records requests to:

National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
9700 Page Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Specify that duplicate records are needed and include:

- ◆ Full name
- ◆ Branch of service
- ◆ Service or Social Security number
- ◆ Exact or approximate dates of service
- ◆ A signature of the veteran or of his next of kin

You can include all of the above information on Form 180, which can be downloaded from [http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st\\_louis/military\\_personnel\\_records/standard\\_form\\_180.html](http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records/standard_form_180.html).

It is often not only interesting but very informative to include

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contemporary historical details in when you write of the life of an individual. You know, for instance, that your parents were married on June 1, 1942, but do you know what was happening in the region and the country at the time.

Below are web sites that will provide you with historical information on certain dates:

[www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)

[www.angelfire.com/ma2/massmarriages/history.html](http://www.angelfire.com/ma2/massmarriages/history.html)

(Enter the date you are interested in along with your email address to receive an in-depth list of newsworthy events from that day.)

[www.dmarie.com/timecap](http://www.dmarie.com/timecap)