

Selected Digital Collections for Historical Wartime Research

Civil War

Civil War Glass Negatives and Related Prints (Library of Congress)

Provides access to about 7,000 different views and portraits made during the American Civil War (1861-1865) and its immediate aftermath.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-war-glass-negatives/>

Liljenquist Family Collection of Civil War Photographs (Library of Congress)

More than 2,500 special portrait photographs, called ambrotypes and tintypes, and small card photos called cartes de visite represent both Union and Confederate soldiers during the American Civil War (1861-1865).

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/liljenquist-civil-war-photographs/>

William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection (Library of Congress)

The William A. Gladstone Afro-American Military Collection (ca. 500 items) spans the years 1773 to 1987, with the bulk of the material dating from the Civil War period, 1861-1865.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/gladstone-african-american-military-collection/>

World War I

Advertising War (Smithsonian Institute)

With the outbreak of World War I, governments, militaries, and service organizations hired artists and illustrators to depict the ravages of war and to rally patriotism.

<https://www.si.edu/exhibitions/advertising-war%3Aevent-exhib-6113>

In Her Words: Women's Duty and Service in World War I (Smithsonian Institute)

Through the letters and artifacts of four women, visitors can explore unique, personal perspectives on life, duty, and service during the war.

<https://www.si.edu/exhibitions/her-words-womens-duty-and-service-world-war-i%3Aevent-exhib-6257>

Newspaper Pictorials: World War I Rotogravures, 1914 to 1919 (Library of Congress)

This online collection is drawn from three primary sources: The War of the Nations: Portfolio in Rotogravure Etchings, a volume published by the New York Times shortly after the armistice that compiled selected images from their "Mid-Week Pictorial" supplements of 1914-19; Sunday rotogravure sections from the New York Times for 1914-19; and Sunday rotogravure sections from the New York Tribune for 1916-19.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-rotogravures/>

Picturing World War I: America's First Official War Artists, 1918-1919 (Smithsonian Institute)

<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/official-artwork-wwi/introduction>

World War I Collections Sampler (Smithsonian Institute)

Select objects from the collections related to World War I as the Smithsonian recognizes the 100th anniversary of U.S. involvement in World War I in 2017.

<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/wwi-sampler>

World War I Sheet Music (Library of Congress)

From 1914 through 1920 the Library of Congress acquired over 14,000 pieces of sheet music relating to what ultimately became known as the First World War, with the greatest number coming from the years of the United States' active involvement (1917-1918) and the immediate postwar period.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-sheet-music/>

Posters: World War I Posters (Library of Congress)

This collection makes available online approximately 1,900 posters created between 1914 and 1920.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-posters/>

World War II

Voices of the Manhattan Project (National Museum of Nuclear Science & History)

"Voices of the Manhattan Project" is a joint project by the Atomic Heritage Foundation and the Los Alamos Historical Society to create a public archive of our oral history collections of Manhattan Project veterans and their families.

<https://www.manhattanprojectvoices.org/>

WW II Films (Ball State University)

Short documentary films, promotional films, and news clips from WW II.

<https://dmr.bsu.edu/digital/collection/WWIIHstFlm/search>

World War II Photos (National Archives)

This is a representative sampling of photographs from World War II that can be found in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration.

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/ww2/photos/images/thumbnails>

World War II Poster Collection (Northwestern University)

View more than 300 World War II-era posters issued by various U.S. government agencies. They represent the government's effort, through art, illustration and photographs, to unite the American people in a time of adversity.

<https://dc.library.northwestern.edu/collections/faf4f60e-78e0-4fbf-96ce-4ca8b4df597a>

Korean War

Korean War Records (National Archives)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/korean-war>

Wilson Center Digital Archive of the Korean War (Wilson Center Digital Archive)

A collection of primary source documents related to the Korean War.

<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/50/korean-war-1950-1953>

Vietnam War

The Pentagon Papers (National Archives)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/pentagon-papers>

The Vietnam Center (Texas Tech University)

The Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive collects and preserves the documentary record of the Vietnam War, and supports and encourages research and education regarding all aspects of the American Vietnam Experience.

<https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/>

Vietnam War (National Archives)

The National Archives has a wealth of records and information documenting the U.S. experience in the Vietnam conflict. These include photographs, textual and electronic records, audiovisual recordings, exhibits, educational resources, articles, blog posts, lectures, and events.

<https://www.archives.gov/research/vietnam-war>

Vietnam-Era Prisoner-of-War/Missing-in-Action Database (Library of Congress)

This database of over 160,000 records is designed to assist researchers in accessing U.S. Government documents pertaining to U.S. unaccounted-for military personnel from the Vietnam conflict as of December 1991.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/vietnam-era-pow-mia-database/>

War in Iraq

Iraq War 2003 Web Archive (Library of Congress)

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/iraq-war-2003-web-archive/about-this-collection/>

War in Iraq (National Archives)

A compendium of online resources.

<https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/war-in-iraq.html>

Miscellaneous

Memorial and History Site Links Maintained by The National Archives

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/links>

Military Records at the Indiana State Archives

The Indiana State Archives holds records ranging from the territorial period up to 1988. More recent records often accessed to provide proof of service for benefits, loans, and military funerals. Earlier records are useful for genealogical purposes, and often include biographical details about the soldier. Many of these records have been indexed in the Indiana Digital Archives, which will soon be moving to the Research Indiana Indexes.

<https://www.in.gov/iara/2521.htm>

Patriotic Melodies (Library of Congress)

Patriotic Melodies tells the stories behind many of the songs that have now become part of the American national heritage. A combination of hymns, national songs, music of the theater, radio and television, military themes, and poetry, all of this music demonstrates that while over history many things have changed, this expression of pride and hope remain a constant part of the American experience.

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/patriotic-melodies/>

Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation's Armed Forces (Smithsonian Institute)

Patriot Nations tells the remarkable history of the brave American Indian and Alaska Native men and women who have served in the United States military.

<https://www.si.edu/exhibitions/patriot-nations-native-americans-our-nations-armed-forces%3Aevent-exhib-6361>

Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

<https://www.loc.gov/vets/>

Veterans Service Records (National Archives)

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

War Letters: Lost and Found (Smithsonian Institute)

On view are original letters from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam—lost and rediscovered by strangers at yard sales, in floorboards of homes being renovated, and even on the battlefield.

<https://www.si.edu/exhibitions/war-letters-lost-and-found%3Aevent-exhib-1010>

Women Veterans Historical Project (UNC-Greensboro)

The WVHP's strengths are oral histories and materials from veterans of World War II, but it also includes the stories and materials of women who served in World War I, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, The Cold War, Desert Storm, the Gulf Wars, and the War on Terror.

<http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/WVHP/>