

Frequently Asked Questions: WWII Veteran Eligibility Requests

1. Who owns the World War II (WWII) records and where do we send a request for a copy of a WWII record or determination of WWII eligibility?

The U.S. Coast Guard is in the process of permanently archiving WWII Merchant Mariner records to the legal custody of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in St. Louis.

Once the transfer is complete, WWII merchant mariner service records will become public records and may be requested by contacting NARA at the address below. Please be advised that there are fees associated with the request of public records.

National Archives and Records Administration at St. Louis
P.O. Box 38757
St. Louis, MO 63138-0757

WWII eligibility requests may be submitted by:

- Mail:

National Maritime Center
Attn: Correspondence (NMC-41)
100 Forbes Drive
Martinsburg, WV 25404

- E-mail:

To request records via e-mail, please submit a [Record Request Form](#).

- Fax:

304-433-3417, Attn: Correspondence (NMC-41).

2. What documentation is needed if applying for either the DD Form 214 or DD Form 1300 for a deceased mariner?

Under the Privacy Act, a certified copy of the death certificate will be needed if you are applying for a DD Form 214 or DD Form 1300 for a deceased mariner.

NOTE 1: For living mariners, requests should be made using a DD 2168 and should include:

- *Requester name and mariner's full name*
- *Mariner reference number/social security number, Z card number, or MMC book number*
- *Mariner date of birth*
- *Contact information address and phone number for mariner and requester*
- *Signature and Date.*

NOTE 2: If the request is from a third party, also include a death certificate, power of attorney, letter of incapacitation from a doctor, or mariner consent.

3. How do I apply for veteran benefits if I have oceangoing service that was performed on a vessel operated by the Army Transport Service or Navy Transport Service?

Send a completed DD Form 2168 and any associated sea service documentation to:

[Army Transport Service](#)

Commander

U.S. Army Human Resources Command

Attn: AHRC-PDR-V, DEPT 420 ISRB

1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Department 540

Fort Knox, KY 40122-5402

Or

[Naval Transportation Service](#)

U.S. Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312)

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38054-5045

4. How does a WWII merchant mariner request a copy of his/her medical records?

Merchant mariner medical records are generally not made a part of the records maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard. If a merchant mariner was treated at a private hospital, the records must be obtained through that facility. Requests for medical records for merchant mariners who were treated at U.S. Public Health Service Hospitals should be sent to the following address:

Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center
Health Data Center
1770 Physician Park
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

5. Can a DD Form 214 or DD Form 1300 be issued for merchant mariners who served during the Korean War, Vietnam Era, Persian Gulf War, and/or during the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan?

No. There is no active legislation permitting the U.S. Coast Guard to issue discharge documents for merchant mariners who served during the Korean War, Vietnam Era, Persian Gulf War, and/or during the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan.

6. Can training time with the U.S. Maritime Service be used as evidence of oceangoing service during World War II to establish veteran's benefits?

No. Although a mariner may have participated in training courses or spent time training with the U.S. Maritime Service, the U.S. Coast Guard is unable to use this documentation as evidence of oceangoing service during WWII. The U.S. Maritime Service was not a uniformed, armed service, and was not operated by the War Shipping Administration.

7. What agency is responsible for issuing awards and decorations to Merchant Marines who have documented oceangoing service during December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946?

The U.S. Department of Transportation maintains files on awards and decorations granted to Merchant Marines.

Requests for information on awards and decorations should include the full name of the seamen, Coast Guard Z or Book Number, and World War II home address. Requests should be submitted to:

U.S. Maritime Administration (MAR-630)
(Attn: Mariner Medals and Ribbons)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590