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Title

Did your ancestor serve in the British Military during WWI?

Summary

A look at the various arms of the British Forces in World War One and how you can find out more information about people who served in them. The talk will explain the main branches of the British Forces and delve into the records that these branches created. It will look at what documents are available and how you can access them via the repositories or on-line and will illustrate the great depth of information available using examples found in the archives.

Abstract

This talk will initially explain the information available to family historians about their First World War ancestors and relatives. It will look at the recently available service, medal and pension records from the First World War and will give an overview of the records and their locations.

It will then examine these records in more detail including the following categories:

- The Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Medal indexes
- Soldiers service & pension records
- Naval records
- Records of the air services & RAF
- Officers' records
- War Diaries
- Specific service and regimental resources

Samples of the records will be shown to illustrate the extensive information that can be obtained to help fill out the family tree of your ancestors who served in WWI. This information is likely to contain non-military information such as places and dates of birth, places of residence and relatives such as parents, wives and children. Where records are available on the internet examples will be given of what can be found and the costs involved in obtaining original records. Finally, there will be a look forward to new records that will be appearing during the next few years including the archives of the Red Cross in Geneva.

Audience

All levels