



Royal Navy Ratings, 1835-1945

Information From Archives M9

1 Ships' Musters and Pay Books

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: ADM 31-39, ADM 41, ADM 102 and ADM 8

These are the surviving ships' musters and pay lists. If you know the ship's name, you can search our online Catalogue to see whether a muster or pay list has survived www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

Catalogue reference: ADM 102

This series of records contains the muster books for hospital ships and naval hospitals for the years 1740-1860.

Catalogue reference: ADM 8

These documents list the whereabouts of all ships in the Royal Navy both at home and abroad between 1693 and 1908.

Information that this source should reveal:

ADM 31-39, 41 and 102: These list the name of every rating that was on board each Royal Navy ship or in a naval hospital.

May include: Age (from about 1761); place of birth (from 1761); dates of death; whether he sent part of their pay to their next of kin (from about 1758); whether the sailor was discharged to hospital; also the name of the ship on which the rating served and, if he was transferred, the name of his new ship.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Both the name of a ship and the approximate date that the sailor served on it are essential.

If you know where a sailor was at a particular time, ADM 8 may help you to find the name of the ship on which he was serving.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the rating*
- the ship on which he served together with an approximate date*
- whether he died in service

Our normal fee for one search (i.e. one named ship for a specific time period not exceeding two years) in the Ships' Muster and Pay Books, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £30.

2 Certificates of Service, 1802-1894

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: ADM 29/1-96

These certificates of service were compiled by the Navy Pay Office in support of applications made by Royal Navy ratings for pensions, gratuities and medals.

You can search much of ADM 29/1-96 by surname via our online catalogue, available at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

Information that this source should reveal:

Usually includes: name, place of birth, age on entry, rank, dates of entry and discharge from ships as well as length of service.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Many ratings did not make such an application.

It is sometimes very difficult to identify ancestors with common names using these records without knowing some key details such as the names of which ships he served on.

There are indexes to these records in ADM 29/97-100 and ADM 29/100-104.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the rating*
- the ship on which he served together with an approximate date*

- whether he died in service

Our normal fee for one search in the Certificates of Service, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £30.

Please note, however, if the sailor has a very common surname then the standard charge may not apply. We will only search for the name as it has been provided to us. If you wish a search to be undertaken on a variation of the sailor's name (such as with or without middle names, or middle names used as first names), the fee is likely to be higher. For example, if we have been asked to search for a Charles Marshall Burr, we would not search under the name Charles Burr. Likewise, if we were asked to search for a Fred Cheeseman we would not search under the name Frederick Cheeseman.

3 Greenwich Hospital In-Pension Applications

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: ADM 73/1-35

Contains the applications made by ratings to become in-pensioners at Greenwich Hospital.

Information that this source should reveal:

These give details of the sailor's service in the Royal Navy and the nature of his disablement.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Arranged by initial letter of surname although not all start in 1790 or end in 1865.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the rating*
- the ship on which he served together with an approximate date*

Our normal fee for one search in the Greenwich Hospital In-Pension Applications, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £30.

Please note, however, if the sailor has a very common surname then the standard charge may not apply. We will only search for the name as it has been provided to us. If you wish a search to be undertaken on a variation of

the sailor's name (such as with or without middle names, or middle names used as first names), the fee is likely to be higher. For example, if we have been asked to search for a Charles Marshall Burr, we would not search under the name Charles Burr. Likewise, if we were asked to search for a Fred Cheeseman we would not search under the name Frederick Cheeseman.
