

General Register Office Overseas & Military Indexes

- This is a brief listing of the General Register Office Overseas and Military Indexes held on microfiche at the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies.
- For expert advice about these indexes and records you should contact the Overseas Section, General Register Office, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale, SOUTHPORT PR8 2HH

tel: 0151 471 4801 (Overseas Section)

e-mail: overseas.gro@ons.gov.uk

web: www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/research/searchingforoverseasrecords

Before using the Overseas Indexes

- When searching for a birth, marriage or death of a British citizen, first rule out other possibilities in your search strategy: registration in another district, event not yet registered, event incorrectly indexed, etc. Consider also other registration authorities in the British Isles: Ireland (north & south), Scotland, Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man.
- Once the records of British registration authorities have been exhausted, it is then worth examining the possibility of overseas and military registrations. Many records (of births, marriages or deaths of British nationals at sea, in foreign countries, or while serving abroad with the armed forces) are preserved in the country of origin, but may also be recorded among the overseas and military registration records now held by the Office for National Statistics and presented on this series of microfiches.
- It is worth bearing in mind that the High Commission records kept by the ONS only cover Commonwealth countries from after the dates of their independence; there are also some countries for which no provision was made for Consular or High Commission registration – e.g. Australia, Canada, New Zealand & Zimbabwe.

Births indexes on microfiche

BIRTHS
Army chaplains' returns 1796–1880
Army returns 1881–1955
Service Departments' returns 1956–1965
Consular returns 1849–1965
UK High Commission returns: births pre-1956
UK High Commission returns: births pre-1981
Births abroad 1966–1994
GRO list of army regimental registers
Regimental registers 1761–1924 (births & baptisms) + supplement
Ionian Islands 1818–1864 (military registers; chaplains' returns; civil registers)
Marine births 1837–1965
Air births 1947–1965

Marriages indexes on microfiche

MARRIAGES
Army chaplains' returns 1796-1880
Army returns 1881-1955
Service Departments' returns 1956-1965
Army marriages within British lines 1914-1925
Consular returns 1849-1965
UK High Commission returns 1950-1965
Article 6 / 18 marriages 1907-1965 (but chiefly 1940s+)
Marriages abroad 1966-1994
GRO list of army regimental registers
Ionian Islands military registers 1818-1864

Deaths indexes on microfiches

DEATHS
Army chaplains' returns 1796-1880
Army returns 1881-1955
Service Departments' returns 1956-1965
Consular returns 1849-1965
UK High Commission returns 1946-1965
Deaths abroad 1966-1994
Ionian Islands 1818-1864 (military registers; chaplains' returns; civil registers)
War deaths (Boer): Natal & S. African forces 1899-1902
War deaths (World War I, 1914-21) - Army (other ranks; officers)
War deaths (World War I, 1914-21) - Navy (all ranks)
War deaths (World War II, 1939-48) - Army (other ranks; officers)
War deaths (World War II, 1939-48) - Navy (ratings; officers)
War deaths (World War II, 1939-48) - RAF (all ranks)
War deaths (World War II, 1939-48) - Indian Services
Marine deaths 1837-1965
Air deaths 1947-1965

Obtaining certificates

- The General Register Office will supply certified copies of service, consular & High Commission registration entries for the same fee as normal certificates.
- Apply in person: overseas certificate application forms for use in the public search room of the Family Records Centre are available from the Family Records Centre, 1 Myddelton Street, London EC1R 1UW.
- Apply by post (or telephone, fax or e-mail): the GRO Overseas Section has confirmed that the standard postal application forms can also be used for obtaining overseas certificates from the GRO Overseas section at Southport.