



Press Release

For immediate release:

New WW1 Records Released

New avenues of research are opened up by the latest release of unique Great War records.

During the First World War many servicemen were reported as 'Missing' or 'Killed in Action' and for the first time you can now search a comprehensive list of these online. Usefully this includes the changing status of soldiers as the facts became clearer over time, as many assumed dead were found alive and those reported missing had their status updated.

This new release from TheGenealogist contains over 800,000 records. Included are 575,000 Killed in Action records, over 226,000 unique Missing-in-Action records and 14,000 Status Updates.

Over 100,000 people previously reported as missing had further status updates:

- 59,500 were later reported as killed
- 47,400 were later reported as PoW
- 2,000 were later reported as rejoined
- 4,200 were later reported as "not missing"
- 8,400 were later reported as wounded

Examples

Bertram Trechmann

In the Casualty Lists on TheGenealogist we are able to find the story of an officer that survived the war, having been previously been listed as dead.

An example of this type of positive record status change is Flight Sub Lieutenant Trechmann who was first reported as 'Died As A Prisoner' in the Daily Lists of 6th June 1917.

By the end of July 1917 his status changed to 'Previously Reported Died As A Prisoner, Now Reported Alive and Still a Prisoner'.

Finally his records show he was 'Repatriated' on the 31st December 1918.

Brigadier-General Lord Longford

During the First World War, Brigadier-General Lord Longford was in command of a division sent from their base in Egypt to Suvla on the Gallipoli peninsula as reinforcements during the Battle of Sari Bair.

The initial attack by other Divisions on Scimitar Hill had failed. With his men waiting in reserve, the 5th Earl and his troops were then ordered to advance in the open across a dry salt lake. Under fire, most of the brigades had taken shelter, but Lord Longford led his men in a charge to capture the summit of Scimitar Hill. Unfortunately, during the advance, he was killed.

Earl Longford's body was never recovered and so, in the confusion of war, he was first recorded as Wounded, and then Wounded and Missing. Eventually, in 1916, he would be assumed to be dead. Posterity tells us that the peer's last words were recorded as **“Don't bother ducking, the men don't like it and it doesn't do any good”**.



Quote

Mark Bayley, Head of Online Content at TheGenealogist comments:

“The telegrams and published lists of Dead and Missing must have had a huge impact on the lives of our ancestors. These records give an insight into what must have been an emotional roller coaster. They also give new avenues of research into what some researchers may have assumed were dead ends.”

Casualty lists are now available to Diamond subscribers of TheGenealogist.

**To find out more about the 'First World War Collection' visit the
TheGenealogist.co.uk**

###

**If you would like the screenshots and PoW picture as separate Jpegs or more
information on this press release please contact Nick at nick@thegenealogist.co.uk**

Source Information

Casualty Lists, 1914-1918 [database online]. TheGenealogist.co.uk 2014

*Original data: "War Office Weekly Casualty List, London, List Numbers 1-36 [07/08/1917-09/04/1918]"
HMSO , "Daily Casualty Lists [03/09/1914-03/29/1920]" Newspapers*

Detailed Examples

Example 1 Thought to be dead

Some people initially reported to be dead may appear in the Casualty Lists as still alive. When it is shown that a serviceman survived, this can reopen a closed off branch of a family tree, the correction now opening up that person's line for further research again.

An example of this type of positive record status change is Flight Sub Lieutenant Trechmann who was first reported as "Died As A Prisoner" in the Daily Lists of 6th June 1917.

Military » Casualty Lists

Forename

Bertram A

Surname

Trechmann

Source

Status




Regiment

Rank

Service Number

Search

Found 4 Results.

| Forename | Surname | Regiment | Rank | Service Number | List Date | Source | Casualty Status | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B A | Trechmann | R. N. | Flight Sub-Lieutenant | | 6th June 1917 | Daily Casualty Lists | Died As A Prisoner |     |
| Bertram A | Trechmann | R. N. | Flight Sub-Lieutenant | | 5th April 1917 | Daily Casualty Lists | Prisoner |    |
| B A | Trechmann | R. A. F. | Captain | | 31st December 1918 | Daily Casualty Lists | Repatriated |    |
| B A | Trechmann | R. N. | Flight Sub-Lieutenant | | 30th July 1917 | Daily Casualty Lists | Previously Reported Died As Prisoner |     |

Found 4 Results.

By the end of July 1917 his status changed to Previously Reported Died As A Prisoner, Now Reported Alive and Still a Prisoner.




Finally, in December 1918, his records show that he was Repatriated.

Example 2 “Missing in Action”

The second class of newly released records on TheGenealogist is for those ‘Missing in Action’. This was the status given to soldiers such as John Kipling, the son of the famous writer Rudyard Kipling.

Killed at the battle of Loos, John Kipling’s body was not found until 1992, although some historians now think that the identification of his body had been done unsatisfactorily and that a different officer is buried in the grave now attributed to him. If this is so, then John Kipling is still Missing in Action.

Kipling had written to his father before the battle asking for an aluminium identification disc, "with a string through it". Officially issued British identity tags of the time were made of fibre and so didn’t always survive well in battle.



[Search](#) [TreeView](#) [Forum](#) [DNA](#) [Social](#) [News](#) [Help](#) [Christmas Shop](#) [Account](#)

Military » Casualty Lists

Forename

John

Source

Regiment

Service Number

Surname

Kipling




Status

Missing

Rank

Search

Found 1 Result.

| Forename | Surname | Regiment | Rank | Service Number | List Date | Source | Casualty Status | |
|----------|---------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| J | Kipling | 2nd Irish Guards | Second Lieutenant | | 19th October 1915 | Daily Casualty Lists | Missing |    |

Example 3 “Killed in Action”

Researching a soldier from among the Killed in Action records of World War I, we can find the famous war poet Wilfred Owen (Second Lt. W.E.S. Owen of the Manchester Regiment) who was shot and killed in November 1918. The news of his tragic death reached his parents as the Armistice bells were ringing.

Scrolling to ‘Military Records’ on TheGenealogist website, picking “Casualty Lists” from the drop down menu. We select their status as “Killed” and enter the name of our ancestor, such as W.E.S. Owen in this example. On clicking ‘Search’, the results will appear for us to choose from.

| Military » Casualty Lists » Full | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Forename | W E S |
| Surname | Owen |
| Casualty Status | Killed |
| Rank | Second Lieutenant |
| Regiment | Manch. R. |
| Daily List Date | 22nd November 1918 |
| Category | Officer |
| Source | Daily Casualty Lists |



Example 4 Thought to be dead

Another good example of this changing status is that of a soldier from the South Lancashire Regiment, Private E.E. Bennett.

The local newspaper in Warrington had reported at the time that the grieving parents of Private E. E. Bennett had been left in a state of shock when they received a letter from their son, who the army had pronounced dead two weeks before.


We can see the change in his status in the Casualty Lists on TheGenealogist, when the War Office altered his status on finding he was still alive.

| Military » Casualty Lists » Full | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Forename | E E |
| Surname | Bennett |
| Casualty Status | Previously Erroneously Reported Killed |
| Rank | Private |
| Service Number | 11590 |
| Regiment | S. Lancs Regt., 6th Bn. |
| Daily List Date | 4th October 1915 |
| Category | NCO's and Men |
| Notes | Correction |
| Casualty Status | Previously Erroneously Reported Killed |
| Source | Daily Casualty Lists |
|  | |

Example 5 Thought to be wounded

A complete opposite illustration, on many levels, is that of the 5th Earl of Longford.

Within the Daily Casualty List on TheGenealogist for the 6th September 1915, we can find Lord Longford who had previously been reported as “Wounded”.

| Military » Casualty Lists » Full | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Forename | T |
| Surname | Longford |
| Casualty Status | Wounded |
| Rank | Brigadier General, Earl of |
| Decoration | K.P., M.V.O. |
| Daily List Date | 6th September 1915 |
| Category | Officer |
| Source | Daily Casualty Lists |
|   | |

His status was then changed to be “Now Reported Wounded and Missing” and this alteration appeared in the daily list of the 27th September 1915:

| Military » Casualty Lists » Full | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forename | K P |
| Surname | Longford |
| Casualty Status | Previously Reported Wounded, Now Reported Wounded and Missing |
| Rank | Earl of, Brigadier General |
| Decoration | M.V.O. |
| Daily List Date | 27th September 1915 |
| Category | Officer - Mediterranean Expeditionary Force |
| Casualty Status | Previously Reported Wounded, Now Reported Wounded and Missing |
| Source | Daily Casualty Lists |
|   | |

During the First World War, Brigadier-General Lord Longford was in command of a division sent from their base in Egypt to Suvla on the Gallipoli peninsula as reinforcements during the Battle of Sari Bair.

The initial attack by other Divisions on Scimitar Hill had failed. With his men waiting in reserve, the 5th Earl and his troops were then ordered to advance in the open across a dry salt lake. Under fire, most of the brigades had taken shelter, but Lord Longford led his men in a charge to capture the summit of Scimitar Hill. Unfortunately, during the advance, he was killed.

Earl Longford's body was never recovered and so, in the confusion of war, he was first recorded as Wounded, and then Wounded and Missing. Eventually, in 1916, he would be assumed to be dead. Posterity tells us that the peer's last words were recorded as "Don't bother ducking, the men don't like it and it doesn't do any good".

###