

Army Serial Numbers – WWII Army Dog Tag Numbers

Regular Army (1940): start with digit 1, followed by a second digit (indicating Corps Area/Service Cd) (there were 9 Corps Area for military administrative purposes, and 4 Army Areas for strategic military purposes) 11130295, 13176244, 14130598, 16087357, 19005129

National Guard (1940): start with digits 20, followed by a third digit (indicating Corps Area/Service Cd) 20417243, 20468791, 20651726, 20900697, 20906536

Draftees (1940): start with digit 3, followed by a second digit (indicating Corps Area/Service Cd) 31130734, 31240869, 34834714, 35388430, 39407665 (these were draftees called up the Selective Training & Service Act)

Commissioned Officers (1921): start with prefix O, followed by hyphen + series of 1 > 6, even 7 digits (1921 box includes 1 to 99,999 – 1940 box starts with 23,000) O-57, O-742, O-3822, O-777657, O-1170276

Warrant Officers (1942): start with prefix W, followed or not by hyphen + series of 7 digits, starting with 21 such as W 2101199, W-2118310, W-2129700, W 2125908, W 2133860 (while most ID Tags start with first digits 21, other show different numbers, such as W-92186, W 901800, most probably Officers already commissioned between the war years, 1920-1930)

Flight Officers (1942): start with prefix T, followed by a series of digits T-80, T 1846, T-6367, T-136265, T 223076

Army Specialist Corps (1942): start with prefix S, followed by a series of digits S 1038451

Army Nurse Corps (1921): start with prefix N, followed by a series of 6 digits (box with group of 700.000) N 702927, N-782136, N 795100, N-795163

Hospital Dietitian + Physical Therapist (1942): HD start with prefix R, while PT start with prefix M, followed by a series of digits R or M

Contract Surgeon (1941): start with prefix CS, followed by a series of digits CS

WAC (1943): start with prefix L (officer) L-918042, A (soldier) A-205333 and V (W.O.) V-704827, followed by a series of 6 digits, of which the first indicated the Service

Army Army Areas/Service Commands:

First Army Area

First Corps Area (Maine-New Hampshire-Vermont-Massachusetts-Rhode Island-Connecticut) HQ=Boston, Mass.

Second Corps Area (New Jersey-Delaware-New York) HQ=Governors Island, N.Y.

Third Corps Area (Pennsylvania-Maryland-Virginia-District of Columbia) HQ=Baltimore, Md.

Second Army Area

Fifth Corps Area (Ohio-West Virginia-Indiana-Kentucky) HQ=Ft. Hayes, Ohio

Sixth Corps Area (Illinois-Michigan-Wisconsin) HQ=Chicago, Ill.

Third Army Area

Fourth Corps Area (North Carolina-South Carolina-Georgia-Florida-Alabama-Tennessee-Mississippi-Louisiana) HQ=Atlanta, Ga.

Eighth Corps Area (Texas-Oklahoma-Colorado-New Mexico-Arizona (partly) HQ= Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.

Fourth Army Area

Seventh Corps Area (Missouri-Kansas-Arkansas-Iowa-Nebraska-Minnesota-North Dakota-South Dakota) HQ=Omaha, Nebr.

Ninth Corps Area (Washington-Oregon-Idaho-Montana-Wyoming-Utah-Nevada-Arizona (partly)-California-Alaska (attached) HQ=Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.

There were also 4 other Departments (US overseas possessions): Hawaii, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico and the Philippines (prior to their seizure by Japan)

Regular Army :

All serial numbers start with digit 1, while the second digit indicates Corps Area or Service Command .

The War Department allotted a sequence of 100,000 numbers to each "Department", and a series of 1,000,000 numbers to each "Corps" or "Service Command" .

Hawaiian Department = range from 10,100,000 > 10,199,999

Panama Canal Department = range from 10,200,000 > 10,299,999

Philippine Department = range from 10,300,000 > 10,399,999

Puerto Rican Department = range from 10,400,000 > 10,499,999

First Corps Area = range from 11,000,000 > 11,999,999

Second Corps Area = range from 12,000,000 > 12,999,999

Third Corps Area = range from 13,000,000 > 13,999,999

Fourth Corps Area = range from 14,000,000 > 14,999,999
Fifth Corps Area = range from 15,000,000 > 15,999,999
Sixth Corps Area = range from 16,000,000 > 16,999,999
Seventh Corps Area = range from 17,000,000 > 17,999,999
Eighth Corps Area = range from 18,000,000 > 18,999,999
Ninth Corps Area = range from 19,000,000 > 19,999,999

National Guard :

All serial numbers start with digits 20, while the third digit indicates Corps Area or Service Command . The War Department allotted following ranges .

Hawaiian Department = range from 20,010,000 > 20,019,999
Puerto Rican Department = range from 20,020,000 > 20,029,999
First Corps Area = range from 20,100,000 > 20,199,999
Second Corps Area = range from 20,200,000 > 20,299,999
Third Corps Area = range from 20,300,000 > 20,399,999
Fourth Corps Area = range from 20,400,000 > 20,499,999
Fifth Corps Area = range from 20,500,000 > 20,599,999
Sixth Corps Area = range from 20,600,000 > 20,699,999
Seventh Corps Area = range from 20,700,000 > 20,799,999
Eighth Corps Area = range from 20,800,000 > 20,899,999
Ninth Corps Area = range from 20,900,000 > 20,999,999

Draftees :

All serial numbers start with digit 3, followed by the second digit indicating Corps Area or Service Command . The War Department allotted following ranges .

Hawaiian Department = range from 30,100,000 > 30,199,999
Panama Canal Department = range from 30,200,000 > 30,299,999
Philippine Department = range from 30,300,000 > 33,399,999
Puerto Rican Department = range from 30,400,000 > 30,499,999
First Corps Area = range from 31,000,000 > 31,999,999
Second Corps Area = range from 32,000,000 > 32,999,999
Third Corps Area = range from 33,000,000 > 33,999,999
Fourth Corps Area = range from 34,000,000 > 34,999,999
Fifth Corps Area = range from 35,000,000 > 35,999,999
Sixth Corps Area = range from 36,000,000 > 36,999,999
Seventh Corps Area = range from 37,000,000 > 37,999,999
Eighth Corps Area = range from 38,000,000 > 38,999,999
Ninth Corps Area = range from 39,000,000 > 39,999,999

First digit of all serial numbers already indicates the specific Service Command. The War Department allotted following ranges.

First Service Command = range from 100,000 > 199,999
Second Service Command = range from 200,000 > 299,999
Third Service Command = range from 300,000 > 399,999
Fourth Service Command = range from 400,000 > 499,999
Fifth Service Command = range from 500,000 > 599,999
Sixth Service Command = range from 600,000 > 699,999
Seventh Service Command = range from 700,000 > 799,999
Eighth Service Command = range from 800,000 > 899,999
Ninth Service Command = range from 900,000 > 999,999

KOREA AND VIETNAM.

A. With the separation of the Air Force from the Army in 1947 the system of serial numbers was modified so as to differentiate Air Force serial numbers from Army ones. The letters "RA" were now prefixed to the serial numbers of Regular Army soldiers and "US" in front of that of draftees. Non-federalized reserve component soldiers received serial numbers for the first time. Army Reserve enlisted men were designated with an "ER" prefix. Federalized Army National Guardsmen had "NG" placed in front of their serial number. A much more complicated system of prefixed letters and blocks of numbers was adopted in the 1950s which include systems of prefixes for women soldiers and soldiers holding reserve commissions.

B. Serial numbers (8 digits) continued to be issued in blocks based on where the individual enlisted or was inducted, now based on army area. The system adopted in 1948 [with the reintroduction of the draft] was based on Army Area and whether the person was a draftee (AUS), a volunteer (RA) or a WAC.

C. This system remained in use until serial numbers were phased out in 1969. In 1949 the term "serial number" was officially replaced with "service number," although the former term continued in general usage until the social security number replaced the service number.

D. Male officer serial numbers continued to have the O- prefix. Numbers 1-to 99,999 were reserved for Regular Army officers. Higher numbers were reserved for reserve component and AUS officers. In 1964, the block of numbers reserved for RA officers was used up. Accordingly RA officers were issued serial numbers with six digits but the prefix OF- was assigned to such serial numbers to differentiate them from the reserve component officers with the same series of digits and the O- prefix.

E. On July 1, 1969, Army service numbers were converted to be identical with the soldier's social security number.