

MUSTER ROLLS	
In 1747, an Act was passed for the relief of maimed and disabled seamen. The Muster Rolls are the accounts of collections paid into a fund. This fund was maintained by contributions, - 6d per month (pro-rata) for each crewman. For the ports of Aberdeen, Bristol, Cardigan, Dartmouth, Dundee, Drogheda, Greenock, Lancaster, Leith, Liverpool, Lynn, Newport, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Shields, Whitby and others.	
SERIES: BT 98/ 1-139 CUST 66/227 CUST 91/111 CUST 91/112	1747-1857 1776-1780 1747-1750 1754-1755
AGREEMENTS & CREW LISTS AND SHIPS' LOGS	
The Agreement & Crew Lists were the main source for maintaining the various registers of crew and officers. On foreign voyages, an Agreement & Crew List, (ACLs), is filed for each voyage. Home Trade vessels file ACLs twice a year. Some casualty and death lists for WW1 (1914-1918) are included in BT 99.	
SERIES: BT 98/ 140-end BT 99 BT 100 BT 144 BT 380 BT 381 BT 385 BT 387 BT 165	1835-1860 1861-1994 1835-1999 1884-1929 1939-1950 1939-1946 1939-1950 1939-1946 1857-1972
All surviving ACLs ACLs & some Logs Celebrated Ships ACLs Fishing Vessels' ACLs WW2 ACLs & Log Books WW2 ACLs & Log Books Index to WW2 ACLs WW2 ACLs & Log Books Extracted Ships' Log Books BT 165/2035 holds logs with marriage entries	
100% ACLs in BT 98 , for the years 1835-1860 A random 10% of BT 99 records for the periods 1861-1938, and 1951-1994. 100% of the surviving records for the period 1939-1950 held in BT 99, BT 100, BT 380, BT 381 and BT 387. WW2 years can be searched by the ships' official numbers. Approximately 70% for 1863-1938 and 1951-1976 are at the Memorial University, Newfoundland. 10% at the National Maritime Museum, (90% for 1861-1862, and 90% for years ending in a 5, thereafter). Residual surviving ACLs are at various CROs for 1863-1912. From 1976, the remaining records have been destroyed. BT 144 covers 10% of fishing vessels. BT 100 covers some celebrated ships' records (TNA has 100% of the selected vessels).	

REGISTERS OF SEAMEN	
FIRST REGISTER Copies of a guide to accessing the Series I & II registers are available in the Microfilm and Enquiries Room at the TNA's Kew Office.	
SERIES: BT 120 SERIES I,	1835-1836
COVERAGE: In Series I, the details include place of birth, age, his capacity and the ship on which he served.	
SECOND REGISTER	
BT 112 SERIES II, 1835-1844 BT 119 INDEX TO SERIES II, 1835-1844 Part of the index from BT 119 is in BT 112.	In Series II, the register has annual columns showing details of the voyages for each year.
SEAMEN'S TICKET SYSTEM The Seamen's Ticket system was introduced to circumvent administrative problems with the Series II. In 1853, the ticketing system gave way to a new register, Series III.	
BT 113 SEAMEN'S TICKETS, 1845-1854 BT 114 NOMINAL INDEX to Seamen's Tickets 1845-1854	Seamen's Tickets replaced the register from 1845 to 1854.
THIRD REGISTER	
BT 116 SERIES III, 1853-1857, arranged alphabetically	The last 19 th Century Seamen's Register
By 1857 the Board of Trade, (BT), felt that the Agreements and Crew Lists satisfied the needs of the various Acts and a formal seamen's register was abandoned until 1913 when the Series IV Register was started. Following Series III there is a gap until 1918	
FOURTH REGISTER At some point BT ordered the destruction of part of the Fourth register covering the period 1913-1917. BT 364 was formed from a failed attempt to merge the various cards from BT 348, BT 349 and BT 350.	
SERIES IV BT 350 (CR 10), 1918-1920 alphabetical BT 349 (CR 1), 1921-1941, alphabetical - indexes BT 348 BT 348 (CR 2), 1921-1941, numerical BT 364 1918 -1941 arranged numerically	Series IV comprises three separate collections of index cards CR10, CR1 and CR2. CR10 and some CR1 cards include a photograph of the crewman. BT 364 comprises a mixed selection of CR1, CR2 and some CR10 cards extracted from the other SERIES IV collections.
Originals of these cards are held by: Southampton City Archives, Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY. Tel +44 (0)23 8083 2251 Fax: +44 (0)23 8083 2153 Email: city.archives@southampton.gov.uk	
FIFTH REGISTER European sections of BT 382 include British dependent territories.	
SERIES V BT 382 (CRS10) 1941-1972, arranged alphabetically. European & Dependent	5th Reg. was initially compiled from extracted cards from Series IV, for

Territories, Asiatic, Chinese and Lascar Seamen sections. BT 390 1939-1946 BT 391 1944-1945	seamen were likely to continue to serve during WW2.
SEAMEN'S POUCHES BT 372 1913-1972 arranged numerically. Entries catalogued using Name, initials, Discharge Book Number ("Dis.A") Number, Date & Place of birth.	
Not all seamen had a pouch. 95,000 were destroyed in the mid 20 th Century. The pouches may contain discharge and identity cards, application forms and maybe some personal items including photographs.	
APPRENTICE RECORDS	
SERIES BT 150 1824-1953 BT 151 1845-1950, 1955, 1959-1962 BT 152 1895-1935 CUST 52/112 1893-1908 CUST 57/28 1856-1897 CUST 56/89 1855-1905 CUST 64/205 1853-1893 CUST 67/81 1825-1925 CUST 68/185 1857-1878 CUST 69/224 1857-1880	The Act of 1823 re-enforced the regulations for taking on of apprentices at sea. BT 150 is a Register of Indentures and BT 151 comprises specimen copies of indentures. Similar examples of Fishing Indentures are in BT 152. Customs, (CUST), Port Records hold some local registers.
PENSION RECORDS	
SERIES WO 22 1842-1883 J 96 1943-1993 MT4 1851-1939 part indexed in MT 5 PMG 56 1914-1928 PIN 15 1901-1997 PIN 26 c1916-c1971	Most of the Seamen's fund payment records appear not to have survived. The Series listed here represent examples only. There have been various government schemes but TNA does not have all the records.
ROYAL NAVY RESERVES	
The Series listed have variable content and it is not until 1894 that a consistent record of ratings serving in the reserve appears. Royal Naval Reserve Officers' records start in 1862.	
SERIES BT 164 1860-1946 BT 377 1908-1955 CUST 54/370 1867-1919 CUST 57/30 1891-1949 ADM 28 1798-1810 ADM 240 1862-1960 ADM 337 1894-1922	RNR (selection ONLY) RNR Seamen's Records RN Volunteer Engagement Arundel District Register RNR Sea Fencibles Pay Lists RNR, & RNVR Officers' Service Records - still accruing. RNVR, WW1, Service Records
PRISONERS OF WAR	
SERIES FO 383/352 1917 CO 693/5 1917 CO 693/9 1917-1918 BT 238/274 1951-1955 BT 373 1939-1952 BT 164/23 1939-1946 BT 382 PART 6 1940-1945	Lists of WW1 Merchant Seamen appear in FO and CO series on the left. Review of allowances WW2 POWs. RNR Officers - POWs POWs & Internees

CONTACTS

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Whilst we cannot normally undertake research or identify document references on your behalf, we can offer general guidance and information about the Office and its records.

Written Enquiries should be addressed to:

Enquiry Services Department,
The National Archives,
Kew, Richmond,
Surrey TW9 4DU, England.

Tel: +44 (0)20 8876 3444

Fax: +44 (0)20 8392 5286

Web: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

The Caird Library,
National Maritime Museum,
Park Row,
Greenwich, London SE10 9NF, England.

Tel: +44 (0)20 8312 6516

Fax: +44 (0)20 8312 6632

E-mail: library@nmm.ac.uk

Web: <http://www.nmm.ac.uk>

REGISTER OF SHIPPING AND SEAMEN

The RSS runs a public service and charges for searches.

The Registry of Shipping & Seamen,
MCA Cardiff,
Anchor Court,
Ocean Way,
Cardiff CF24 5JW, Wales.

Tel: +44 (0)2920 448800

Fax: +44 (0)2920448802

E-mail: registryofshipping&seamen@mcga.gov.uk

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY NEWFOUNDLAND

MUN holds approximately 80% of Agreement & Crew lists, (TNA Series BT 99), from 1863 to 1938 and 80% from 1951 to 1976.

The MUN charges for searches.

Maritime History Archive,
Henrietta Harvey Building,
Memorial University,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
Canada, A1C 5S7.

Tel: +1 709-737-8428

Fax: +1 709-737-3123

Email: mha@mun.ca

Web: <http://www.mun.ca/mha>

CREW LIST INDEX PROJECT

Web www.crewlist.org.uk/

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS AT SEA

The Record Series cover various registers. In the BT Series an event was noted in the Agreement and Crew List and in the Official logs. Births are not common occurrences and there is only one dedicated volume of Marriages. Some of the Series are dedicated to seamen others to passengers

SERIES		
ADM 80/6-12	1798-1834	Deceased seamen's wages etc (West Indies voyages)
BT 153-BT 160	c1852-C1891	Registers BMDs
BT 334	1891-1972	Registers BMDs
BT 339	1866-1970	Rolls of Honour
BT 341	1939-1964	Inquiries into deaths at sea
RG 32	1831-1961	Foreign returns
BT 164/23	1939-1946	RNR officers deaths & casualties
CUST 67/74	1892-1918	Falmouth, register of deaths & births

MERCHANT MARINE OFFICERS & CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

The records TNA holds cover varying periods and types of qualification. There are two principal types of certificate: **Competency** - obtained by written and verbal examination; and **Service** - obtained by virtue of experience. The introduction of qualifications began voluntarily in 1845 and became compulsory by the 1850s.

As the nineteenth century progressed, other officers and men were required to gain certification. Engineers were first, then Cooks (registers for the latter are at the National Maritime Museum).

SERIES		
BT 115	1845-1854	Alphabetical Registers of Masters
BT 122-BT 127	c1845-C1921	Various Competency & Service Cert's.
BT 128	1833-1934	Colonial Competency Cert's.
BT 129-BT130	1880-1921	Fishing Skippers & Mates
BT 138	1880-1917	Fishing Skippers & Mates
BT 139-BT 142	c1861-1921	Competency Cert's. Engineers
BT 143	1845-1849	Misc. Competency Cert's.
BT 317	1917-1977	Issue of Certificates
BT 318	1929-1984	Issue of Certificates
BT 396	1883-1959	Issue of Certificates
BT 319	1936-1956	Index to Cooks' Registers
BT 336	1893-1948	Changes of Master
BT 352	1910-1969	Competency Certs - all
BT 167	1702-1993	Precedent Books etc.
CUST 70/188	1842-1854	Bristol: Transfer of ships or changes of Master

MEDALS, HONOURS AND AWARDS

SERIES		Albert Medal Awards
HO 45		Albert Medal Register
BT 97	1866-1913	RNR Officers awards
BT 164/23	1939-1946	Tower Hill memorial index
BT 167/172	1939-1945	Gallantry Awards
BT 261	1856-1981	Honours and Awards
BT 238/1-18	1953-1959	Gallantry Awards
BT 238/77-98	c1953-C1984	Honours and Awards
BT 238/204-215	c1952-1968	Rolls of Honour
BT 339	1866-1970	Mercantile Marine Medal & British War Medal
BT 351	1914-1925	Ships Movement Cards
BT 389	1939-1946	Lists and Indexes to ADM 1 & ADM 116, ADM 137
ADM12	1914-1918 & 1939-1946	RN Gallantry Awards
ADM 1 (CODE 85)	1939-1945	Gallantry Awards WW1
ADM 116 (CODE 85)	1914-1918	Gallantry at Sea Awards
ADM 171	c1882-1919	Various Gallantry at Sea Awards
MT 9 (CODE 6)	1903-1950	

TNA LEAFLETS AND GUIDES

SUBJECT LEAFLETS:	
Agreements & Crew Lists between 1747-1860	D092
Agreements & Crew Lists after 1861	D091
Seamen's Registers of Service, 1835-1857	D089
Sea Service Records, 1913-1941	D090
Royal Naval Reserve	M037
Officers' Service Records, 1845-1921	D093
Registration of Ships, 1786-1994	D094
Medals and Honours	D095
Guide to Merchant Navy leaflets	D110

INTERPRETATION LEAFLETS & GUIDES	
Registers of Seamen, Series II	D113
Registers of Seamen's Tickets	D114
Registers of Officers' Service	D111
RGSS Registers abbreviations	D112
Register of Seamen, Series II, (1835-1844)	Finding Aid
Content Notes to Series -- especially BT 98	
Merchant Seamen Records	SS 38

PUBLICATIONS

Records of Merchant Shipping and Seamen	TNA Guide 20
The work of the Registry of Shipping & Seamen, and Merchant Marine Offices (1945), W J Killingback	TNA Library Ref. 387.20216
Early Stuart Mariners and Shipping; Maritime Surveys of Devon & Cornwall 1619-1635c. State papers Domestic, Charles I, (SP16)	Devon & Cornwall Record Society: New Series vol. 33
My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman. How can I find out more about him? Christopher T. and Michael J. Watts;	publ. Soc of Genealogists (2 nd edn 2002).
A Guide to Lloyd's Marine Collection and Related Sources at Guildhall Library. D.T. Barriskill	publ. Guildhall Library (2 nd edn 1994)