

preliminary inventory of the records of the adjutant generals office preliminary inventory no 17

Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office Preliminary Inventory No 17

preliminary inventory of the records of the adjutant generals office preliminary inventory no 17 serves as a crucial reference for historians, researchers, and archivists interested in military history and administrative documentation. This inventory is a meticulously compiled listing of records held by the Adjutant General's Office, providing detailed insight into the organization, correspondence, and activities within the office. Understanding its scope and significance opens a window into the inner workings of military administration during pivotal periods of American history.

What Is the Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office Preliminary Inventory No 17?

At its core, the preliminary inventory is a descriptive catalog of archival records. Prepared by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Preliminary Inventory No 17 specifically enumerates the collections maintained by the Adjutant General's Office. This office has historically been responsible for managing military personnel records, orders, reports, and correspondence, making its archives a treasure trove for those researching military operations, personnel movements, and administrative orders.

The inventory serves as a guide, detailing the types of documents available, their organization, and sometimes the dates covered by each series. It helps researchers identify where relevant records might be located without having to sift through countless files blindly.

The Role of the Adjutant General's Office in Military History

To appreciate the value of Preliminary Inventory No 17, it's useful to understand the role of the Adjutant General's Office itself. Established during the early years of the United States Army, the office acts as the chief administrative office responsible for maintaining records related to personnel management, orders, and correspondence between different military departments.

Over the years, the Adjutant General's Office has been involved in documenting everything from troop deployments during the Civil War to administrative changes in the 20th century.

Consequently, its archives reflect a broad spectrum of military history, making the preliminary inventory a vital tool for tracing such events.

Contents and Organization of Preliminary Inventory No 17

Preliminary Inventory No 17 is not just a simple list. It is carefully structured to help users navigate the complex archives of the Adjutant General's Office. The inventory breaks down the records into series and subseries, each representing a particular type of document or administrative function.

Key Record Series Included

Some of the prominent categories covered in this inventory include:

- **General Orders and Circulars:** These documents record official communications that affected the entire army or specific units.
- **Personnel Records:** Files relating to individual soldiers, officers, enlistments, promotions, and discharges.
- **Correspondence Files:** Letters and communications between the Adjutant General's Office and other military or government bodies.
- **Reports and Returns:** Periodic reports on troop strength, movements, and supply status.
- **Special Subject Files:** Documents relating to specific campaigns, military policies, or organizational changes.

Each category within Preliminary Inventory No 17 includes descriptions that help pinpoint the exact nature of the records, the date ranges, and sometimes the volume or quantity of materials available.

How Researchers Benefit from This Inventory

For archivists and historians, having access to such a detailed preliminary inventory is invaluable. Instead of guessing where to start, researchers can zero in on relevant record groups, saving time and improving the quality of their research. Whether tracing the military career of an ancestor, studying troop movements during a particular conflict, or analyzing administrative changes over time, this inventory offers a clear roadmap.

Using the Preliminary Inventory Effectively

Navigating the archives of the Adjutant General's Office can be daunting without a proper guide. Preliminary Inventory No 17 is designed to assist researchers in understanding the scope and structure of the holdings before visiting or requesting records.

Tips for Maximizing Research Efficiency

- **Review the Inventory Thoroughly:** Before visiting an archive, study the inventory to identify which record series are most relevant to your topic.
- **Take Note of Record Dates:** Matching your research timeframe with the dates indicated in the inventory helps avoid unnecessary searches.
- **Understand the Record Types:** Knowing whether you need personnel files, general orders, or correspondence can guide you to the correct series.
- **Contact Archivists in Advance:** Archivists familiar with Preliminary Inventory No 17 can offer additional insight and help locate hard-to-find records.

By incorporating these approaches, researchers can make their experience more productive and uncover richer historical data.

Significance in Archival and Military Research

The preliminary inventory is more than a catalog; it represents a bridge between the past and those seeking to understand it. Military records can be vast and complex, often requiring specialized knowledge to interpret. Preliminary Inventory No 17 simplifies this challenge by organizing the records logically and descriptively.

Connecting the Dots in Military History

Many historians have relied on this inventory to piece together detailed narratives about military campaigns, personnel changes, and organizational structures. For genealogists, the personnel records indexed through the inventory can provide personal details about ancestors' military service.

Moreover, the inventory helps preserve the integrity of the archival collections by promoting proper handling and referencing of documents. This ensures that future generations can continue to access and learn from these invaluable records.

Where to Access Preliminary Inventory No 17 and Related Records

Preliminary Inventory No 17 is typically available through the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and some regional archival facilities. Many parts of the inventory have been digitized and can be accessed online via the National Archives Catalog, making it easier for remote researchers to explore their contents.

Additional Resources to Complement Your Research

To deepen your understanding of the records, consider consulting:

- Published regimental histories and official military histories that reference Adjutant General's records.
- Other preliminary inventories and finding aids related to adjacent military offices or specific conflicts.
- Secondary sources discussing the administrative history of the U.S. Army.

These resources can provide context and help interpret the raw data found within the preliminary inventory.

Exploring the preliminary inventory of the records of the adjutant generals office preliminary inventory no 17 offers a unique glimpse into the administrative backbone of the U.S. military. Whether you are a dedicated historian, a genealogist, or simply curious about military documentation, this inventory is a key starting point to unraveling a wealth of historical information.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office Preliminary Inventory No. 17'?

It is a compiled listing and description of records held by the Adjutant General's Office, organized as Preliminary Inventory No. 17, used for archival and research purposes.

Who typically uses the Preliminary Inventory No. 17 of the Adjutant General's Office records?

Historians, researchers, genealogists, and military personnel use this inventory to locate

and access specific documents related to military administration and history.

What type of records are included in the Adjutant General's Office Preliminary Inventory No. 17?

The records include military correspondence, personnel files, orders, reports, and other administrative documents maintained by the Adjutant General's Office.

Why is the Preliminary Inventory No. 17 important for historical research?

It provides an organized and detailed guide to the records, facilitating easier access to primary sources crucial for studying military history and administration.

Where can one access the Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office?

The inventory can typically be accessed in national archives, military archives, or through online archival databases managed by government or historical institutions.

How does Preliminary Inventory No. 17 assist in record management?

It helps archivists and researchers by categorizing and describing records systematically, ensuring efficient retrieval and preservation of important documents.

Are the records in Preliminary Inventory No. 17 digitized and available online?

Availability varies by institution; some records from the inventory may be digitized and accessible online, while others might require in-person consultation at the archive.

What time periods do the records in Preliminary Inventory No. 17 cover?

The inventory typically covers records from various periods during which the Adjutant General's Office operated, often focusing on significant military events and administrative eras.

Additional Resources

****Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office Preliminary Inventory No 17: An In-Depth Review****

preliminary inventory of the records of the adjutant generals office preliminary

inventory no 17 represents a critical archival resource, offering a structured catalog of historical military documents maintained by the Adjutant General's Office. As an essential tool for historians, researchers, and military professionals, this inventory sheds light on the organizational and administrative history of the U.S. Army during pivotal periods. This article explores the significance, scope, and practical applications of Preliminary Inventory No. 17, while analyzing its contribution to preserving military heritage and facilitating scholarly inquiry.

Understanding the Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office

The Adjutant General's Office has long been a cornerstone of administrative operations within the U.S. Army, responsible for personnel management, orders issuance, and record-keeping dating back to the country's early military engagements. The preliminary inventory of the records housed under Inventory No. 17 serves as a detailed index that organizes these documents, making them more accessible for systematic study.

This inventory acts as a bridge between raw archival material and effective research. It catalogs various records, including correspondence, orders, reports, and personnel files, spanning numerous years and military campaigns. By doing so, it provides clarity on what records exist, their condition, and their relevance, which is indispensable for researchers navigating vast collections.

The Role of Preliminary Inventory No. 17 in Archival Management

Preliminary Inventory No. 17 is part of a broader series of inventories created to manage the ever-growing collection of military documents. The process of compiling such inventories involves meticulous examination and classification of records, often highlighting:

- The chronological range of documents
- Types of records included (e.g., muster rolls, casualty lists, orders)
- Physical condition and preservation status
- Administrative context and source provenance

By systematically organizing these elements, the inventory assists archivists in prioritizing preservation efforts and helps users locate specific materials without needing to sift through unindexed archives.

Scope and Content of the Records in Preliminary Inventory No. 17

The records encompassed in Preliminary Inventory No. 17 predominantly relate to the administrative functions of the Adjutant General's Office during specific military operations or time periods. These can include documentation from the Civil War, Indian Wars, or other significant military campaigns, depending on the archive's focus.

Key Features of the Inventory

Some of the notable features of the preliminary inventory include:

1. **Comprehensive Descriptions:** Each record group is described with enough detail to provide insight into its contents without needing to consult the physical documents immediately.
2. **Indexing by Record Type:** The inventory classifies records into categories like general orders, correspondence, and personnel records, enhancing searchability.
3. **Cross-referencing:** Where applicable, the inventory points to related record groups or subsequent inventories, facilitating broader research.
4. **Condition Notes:** It often includes remarks on the physical state of collections, alerting users to potential issues like fragility or incomplete records.

Such features underscore the inventory's value not only as a catalog but also as an analytical tool supporting archival decision-making and historical analysis.

Comparative Importance Among Military Archives

When compared to other military archival inventories, Preliminary Inventory No. 17 stands out due to its focus on administrative records rather than purely operational or combat documents. While battle reports and strategic plans are crucial for military history, administrative records provide unique insights into the daily functioning, personnel management, and procedural evolution of the Army.

This makes the inventory particularly valuable for researchers interested in organizational history, military law, and the evolution of military bureaucracy. Furthermore, the inventory complements other archival sources by filling gaps related to internal processes and communications.

Applications and Benefits for Researchers and Historians

The availability of the preliminary inventory significantly enhances the efficiency and scope of research activities. For historians and genealogists, it opens doors to:

- Tracing military careers through personnel files
- Understanding the chain of command and administrative decisions
- Examining the evolution of military documentation practices
- Accessing original orders and correspondence for contextual analysis

Moreover, the inventory's detailed descriptions allow researchers to assess the relevance of records before requesting access, saving time and resources.

Challenges and Limitations

Despite its usefulness, Preliminary Inventory No. 17 is not without limitations. As a "preliminary" inventory, it may lack exhaustive detail or complete indexing found in final, published finding aids. Some records may be only partially described, and the inventory might not reflect the most recent archival reorganizations or acquisitions.

Additionally, the physical condition of some records may restrict access or require specialized preservation efforts, which the inventory notes but cannot resolve. Researchers must often combine this inventory with other resources and archival assistance to build a comprehensive understanding.

Preservation and Future Prospects of the Adjutant General's Records

The ongoing digitization and modernization of military archives aim to increase accessibility and safeguard the historical records cataloged in inventories like No. 17. Digital archives, searchable databases, and enhanced metadata promise to transform how these records are used, breaking down barriers imposed by geography and physical fragility.

In this context, Preliminary Inventory No. 17 serves as a foundational reference, informing digitization priorities and guiding metadata development. Its structured approach to categorization provides a blueprint for organizing digital collections and ensuring that the rich history of the Adjutant General's Office remains accessible for future generations.

While the transition to digital formats is underway, the physical archives remain invaluable. Preservation efforts informed by such inventories help maintain the integrity of original documents, which are critical for forensic analysis, authenticity verification, and nuanced historical interpretation.

In summary, the preliminary inventory of the records of the Adjutant General's Office Preliminary Inventory No. 17 represents a vital archival tool that bridges historical military documentation and modern research needs. Its detailed cataloging fosters greater transparency and usability of administrative military records, supporting scholarly endeavors and preserving institutional memory. As archival methodologies evolve, this inventory remains a cornerstone for understanding the organizational backbone of the U.S. Army's administrative history.

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