



National Archives and Records Administration

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World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918

On May 18, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act authorizing President Woodrow Wilson to draft men into military service. The Selective Service System required all men, regardless of citizenship, between the ages of 18 and 45 to register for the draft. This resulted in three separate registrations.

Records

___M1509, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*. 4,277 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by state or territory, then by county or city, and then by draft board. Within the county, city, or local board, the cards are arranged alphabetically by surname of registrant.

Draft Card Content

Within this series you will find three types of cards, one corresponding to each of the three registrations. Although each card asks different questions, all cards should provide the name of the registrant, age, address, date and place of birth, race, citizenship status, place of employment, and give a brief physical description.

- *12-Question Format (Draft Card A), Registration of June 5, 1917*

This registration was for all men between the ages of 21 to 31; born 1886–1896.

1. Full name. Age in years.
2. Home address.
3. Date of birth.
4. Are you a natural-born citizen, a naturalized citizen, an alien, or have you declared your intention?
5. Where were you born?
6. If not a citizen, of what nation are you a citizen or subject?
7. What is your present trade, occupation, or office?
8. By whom employed? Where employed?
9. Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support?
10. Married or single? Race?
11. What military service have you had? Rank. Branch. Years. Nation or State.
12. Do you claim exemption from draft?

- *10-Question Format (Draft Card B), Registrations of July 5, 1918, and August 24, 1918*

The July 5th registration was for any male who attained age 21 after June 5, 1917. The supplemental registration held on August 24th was held for those who became 21 after June 5, 1918. This would include those born between 1896 and 1897.

1. Full name. Age in years.
2. Home address.
3. Date of birth.
4. Where were you born?
5. I am a Native of the U.S.; Naturalized Citizen; Alien; Declared Intention; Noncitizen; or Citizen Indian.
6. If not a citizen, of what nation are you a citizen or subject?
7. Father's birthplace.
8. Name of employer? Place of employment?
9. Name of nearest relative. Address of nearest relative.
10. Race – White; Negro; Indian

• *20-Question Format (Draft Card C), Registration of September 12, 1918*

The third registration was open to all males between the ages of 18 and 45; born 1886–1900.

1. Full name.
2. Permanent home address.
3. Age in years.
4. Date of birth.

Race

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| 5. White | 8. Indian Citizen |
| 6. Negro | 9. Indian Non-Citizen |
| 7. Oriental | |

U.S. Citizen

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 10. Native born. | 11. Naturalized. |
| 12. Citizen by Father's Naturalization before Registrant's majority. | |

Alien

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 13. Declarant. | 14. Non-declarant. |
| 15. If not a citizen of the U.S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? | |
| 16. Present occupation? | |
| 17. Employer's name? | |
| 18. Place of employment? | |

Nearest Relative

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 19. Name. | 20. Address. |
|-----------|--------------|

Other Records

___M1860, *Boundary Maps of Selected Cities and Counties of World War I Selective Service Draft Registration Boards, 1917–1918*. 1 roll. DP. Arranged geographically, these maps can simplify the task of finding the card for a registrant who lived in a heavily-populated area. For a list of cities included, consult the descriptive pamphlet.

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