

U.S. Army Military History Institute  
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Technology

## COMPUTERS AND THE ARMY

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

### CONTENTS

Gen/Misc....p.1

Machine Records Units....p.3

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**MACHINE RECORDS AND PROCESSING UNITS**

The U.S. Army adopted machine accounting methods for its personnel data in Sep 1940. At that time, the traditionally small peacetime force began expanding into what ultimately peaked at a wartime strength of over eight million soldiers. Management of such prodigious personnel data was accomplished through a system of hole-punched cards, electrical accounting machines, and special administrative units that collected and processed the myriad information.

These machine records units (MRU's) were initially assigned to all major command headquarters in the U.S. During WWII, MRU's followed the field armies overseas into the various theaters of war, being assigned down to corps headquarters level. In the ETO, for example, 32 MRU's and equivalents were stationed in England on D-Day, 6 Jun 44.

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