

## 1939 Register

The 1939 Register is a useful resource, which fills the gap caused by the loss of the 1931 census (a fire during WW2) and the lack of a 1941 census return (not taken due to the Second World War). The Register provides the most complete survey of the population between 1921-1951 in England and Wales. It was created for the purpose of war related schemes such as rationing, identity cards but was also instrumental in the early stages of the creation of the NHS.

The 1939 Register is accessible via the Find my Past website and lists 41 million lives recorded on one day, 29 September 1939. The Register records everyone but some of the entries are blocked out. Although created in 1939 the original entries were updated in 1991. This update was not to add new entries.

The original existing entries were checked and those for people born after 1915 but still alive (or their deaths not registered) in 1991 were blocked out for Data Protection reasons.

The information on the 1939 registers is as follows:

1. Address
2. Schedule number - household entry number
3. Schedule sub number – each person in a household starting at 1
4. Surname and other name (first name)
5. O, V, S, P or I – Only used for institutions and refer to officer (not military), visitor, servant, patient or inmate. See example
6. M or F – male or female
7. Day – of birth being date and month e.g. 21 Feb
8. Year – of birth e.g. 1910
9. S M W or D – single, married, widowed or divorced
10. Personal occupation
11. 'See instructions' – often details of wartime role e.g. ARP warden

**TIP:** For more details, see <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/1939-register/>

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