

**UNITED STATES ARMY BASE HOSPITAL NUMBER 12
WORLD WAR I AND II, RECORDS, 1917-2006**

Series 0/20/7

Boxes 1-9 (including one drop-front and one half-size box)

History

In October, 1916, Dr. Frederick A. Besley, a surgeon at the Northwestern University Medical School, began organizing a general hospital unit to assist the Allied war effort in Europe. Northwestern University contributed \$5,000 to the unit. The medical officers came primarily from Northwestern with others from Rush and the University of Illinois. The nurses came from Cook County, Mercy, Augustana, and Evanston hospitals. Many of the enlisted men had been students at Northwestern and other universities in the Chicago area. Although officially called the U.S. Army Base Hospital No. 12 (Chicago Unit) it was frequently referred to as the Northwestern University Base Hospital.

Dr. Besley, commissioned a major, became director and chief of surgical services for the unit which left Chicago on May 16, 1917. It sailed on the *Mongolia* from New York on May 19, with a complement of 240.

On May 20, during gunnery practice aboard ship, portions of the brass cup of a shell boomeranged, killing two of the nurses (Edith Ayers and Helen Woods) and injuring a third (Emma Matzen). The *Mongolia* returned to New York, the two bodies and the injured nurse were removed, and new ammunition was loaded. The *Mongolia* set sail again on May 23.

The unit landed at Falmouth, England on June 2 for a brief stay, during which the personnel were entertained by Sir Thomas Lipton and were greeted by King George V and Queen Mary.

On June 11 the unit landed at Boulogne, France and was transported fifteen miles along the Channel coast to the Dannes-Camier area. Here the unit, as the second U.S. hospital unit to reach France, fulfilled the first part of its mission by taking over the position of the British Expeditionary Force's Base Hospital No. 18, thus freeing the British staff for duty closer to the front line.

For the next 22 months the unit operated a 1,200 to 1,500 bed tent-and-hut hospital, treating some 60,000 patients, mostly British soldiers. Occasional German air raids in the area created dangers beyond the usual hazards of disease and accident. Most of the 330 officers, nurse, and enlisted men returned to the United States in April, 1919.

In World War II Northwestern, primarily through the efforts of Drs. Michael L. Mason and J. Roscoe Miller of the Northwestern University Medical School, revived the unit as the 12th General Hospital, in February, 1942. Mason had served with the unit in World War I as sergeant in charge of the orderlies.

The unit left the United States on December 12, 1942, and landed at Oran, Algeria on December 26. The unit then marched five miles to Ain-el-Turk where the hospital was set up and put in operation. After heavy activity the unit embarked from Oran on December 15, 1943, and landed at Naples on December 19.

In June, 1944, the unit took ship to Anzio and then moved to a position near Rome. On November 19 it was shipped to Leghorn and established the hospital on the coast just north of that port. The next three months were especially active. By July 7, 1945, the hospital had discharged its last patients and the unit itself came to its practical end on August 11, with just 19

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of the original professional, group from Northwestern left. Final orders arrived on September 1, 1945.

Description of the Records, Boxes 1-3 (1917-1977)

The first box contains clippings, programs, poems, and the first (and only?) issue of a newsletter from the 1917-1919 period. Also here are issues of a later newsletter (mostly from the 1960s and 1970s) with information about individual members of the unit and their families and about the annual reunions. Of special interest is News Letters no. 31, May, 1973, the "56th Anniversary Album," which contains many illustrations from the war years as well as from the 1970s.

World War II material in the first box includes several clippings and the first two parts (Feb. 15, 1942-Feb. 28, 1945) of a typescript of the unit's journal.

The second box contains the final part of the Journal (Mar. 2-Sept. 1, 1945), two folders of medical and historical articles (tearsheets from the *Quarterly Bulletin of the Northwestern University Medical School*), and three folders of mounted small black and white photographs of personnel 9 military and civilian buildings and scenes, and a few of operations arid wounds.

The third box contains a scrapbook of materials assembled by Jacob Edward Hunsinger (NU, BS, 1923). This contains many Clippings, postcards, letters, telegrams 9 document s, transportation and entertainment tickets, stubs , and programs, maps, and some insignia. Hunsinder, a private first class, was a member of the original staff of the unit.

Provenance: The U.S. Army Base Hospital No. 12 (Chicago Unit) Records were donated to the Northwestern University Archives by Roy A. Holmes (a private first class with the original staff) on April 15, 1983, as Accession #83-37.

Most of the World War II material was donated by Dr. Ernest McEwen, long a member of the unit, on June 19, 1985 as Accession #85-116.

Restrictions: None.

Separations: Two hundred and sixteen photographs, mainly 4"x6", were added to the photograph collection under the subject heading World War I, Base Hospital No. 12. These consist primarily of hospital, base, city, and maritime scenes.

Sixty-seven glass slides, 3 1/4"x4", depicting similar and sometimes identical scenes as the photographs, were placed in a Hollinger box labeled World War I, Base Hospital No. 12, and added to the glass slides collection.

A box of negatives of World War II photographs was transferred to the photograph collection.

Approximately 20 linear inches of duplicate material was discarded.

Processor: William K. Beatty, January, 1989.

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Description of the Addition, Box 4 (WWI)

The five folders of this addition contain material related to the United States Army Base Hospital Number 12 during World War I. The first three folders contain official and individual correspondence and other personal documents such as work permits and travel visas for hospital personnel. The fourth folder contains programs for entertainment events organized and attended by the hospital staff. The fifth folder contains comments and poems written by hospital patients and staff during the war and reminiscences written later for the 1967 reunion.

Provenance: This addition, separated from Accession #99-60, was donated to the University Archives by the Evanston Historical Society in March, 1999.

Restrictions: None.

Separations: Approximately 70 photographs were separated and transferred to the University Archives' General Photographic Collection under the subject heading World War I, Base Hospital No. 12. In addition, almost two inches of duplicate material were discarded.

Processor: Kate Mazurek, April 21, 1999

Description of the Addition, Box 5 (WWII, 1942-2006)

The additions include both original materials dating from the World War II era and materials documenting the lives of veterans of the Base Hospital, including the annual reunions held to commemorate their experiences. Records relate to the General Hospital in its various locations, including the hospital ship Emily Weder. Approximately half of the addition consists of memoirs or memorabilia contributed by individual veterans.

Correspondence from Ray and Mary Swantek sets the context for the addition, describing their efforts to collect news and memoirs from the remaining veterans of the Hospital.

Historical material includes a history, "6556-V: A Story of the 12th General Hospital," by Burns Lewis; mimeographed sketches of the base hospitals in Leghorn, Italy, and Ain el Turck, Algeria; an unidentified roster; a postcard of the Vulcania, the ship that brought the 12th Base Hospital home; and a photocopy of a photograph from 1943. Newspaper clippings (some originals, some photocopies) relate mainly to the Italian locations and those who served there. Two issues of a January, 1945, newsletter document daily life in the camp.

Reunion files document the first reunion in 1946, reunions in 1967 and 1977, and most of the annual reunions between 1980 and 2006. Records include rosters of potential and actual attendees, information about the reunion site, and information about individual veterans. Some years are not documented. A separate file contains a list of veterans from the Italian and Algerian locations, circa 1989.

The Swanteks compiled a folder of obituaries of former members of the Base Hospital who died between 1988 and 2006. Files relating to specific veterans are arranged alphabetically by surname. Three veterans, Florence Keene Carlson, Al Veit, and Elmer White, contributed

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memoirs of their service at the Base Hospital. Walfred Carlson contributed a brief memoir, written by his wife, along with copies of his discharge papers and a photograph. Two other veterans contributed photocopied materials relating to their service and medals received; and Arthur and Huglene Cole submitted two copies of a newsletter they published for veterans who served on the U.S. Army Hospital Ship Emily H.M. Weder.

Provenance: The additions to the World War II Records of Base Hospital # 12 were donated to the Northwestern University Archives by Mary Swantek on August 15, 2006, as Accession Number 06-109.

Restrictions: None.

Separations: Photographs, dating from World War II as well as from recent reunions, were separated and added to the University Archives' Photographic Collection (see World War II, Base Hospital # 12). One videocassette documenting the group's 1992 reunion was separated to the University Archives' Audio-Visual Collection.

Processor: Janet Olson, August 2006.

Description of the Addition, Boxes 6-9 (WWI, 1917-1983)

This addition to the records of the United States Army Base Hospital #12 consists primarily of autobiographical and biographical information about the men and women who served in the Hospital during World War I, including doctors, nurses, officers, and enlisted men. The records mainly document the lives of Base Hospital "alumni," as they called themselves, after the war, but also include photographs and other items dating from the period of the war.

These records were collected by Roy A. Holmes (Northwestern Class of 1918). Holmes produced the BH12 newsletters for a ten year span, from 1967-1977, and also helped organize the BH12 reunions. Holmes, who was involved in both WWI and WWII, was the last surviving staff member of BH12. He passed away in 1996.

s of the reunions, roster data from the War and from reunions, are organized alphabetically by title.

Autobiographical and biographical folders are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the individual, and material within each folder is organized chronologically by date. Materials in the folders may include correspondence, clippings from newspapers and the BH12 newsletter, and photographs.

Of nearly 150 participants in the Base Hospital, forty were alumni of Northwestern University. The Northwestern alumni are indicated on the container list by their school (Liberal Arts, Medical, Music, etc.) and class year in brackets .

The addition includes approximately 377 photographs and 80 WWI-era postcards. Most of the photographs date from 1917-1919 and include many pictures of the landscape of BH12 50 years after WWI, taken by "alumnus" Birt Frobish. Other pictures depict people and life in the

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Base Hospital and surrounding areas. One folder contains a small print (based on a painting by A.F. Bishop) of the sinking of the *Mongolia* in 1917.

A card file box contains the index cards that Holmes used to record contact information for Base Hospital alumni. Cards are divided into three categories: individuals with whom Holmes still corresponded in 1983, those with whom he had lost touch, and those who had died.

Cross reference: See also the description of the Base Hospital and lists of names in the Northwestern University *President's Report*, 1917-1919

Provenance: The U.S. Army Base Hospital No. 12 (Chicago Unit) Records Addition was donated to the Northwestern University Archives by the Evanston Historical Society on 11/22/1996 as accession #96-209. The records were donated to the Historical Society by Roy A. Holmes in 1983.

Restrictions: None.

Separations: One cubic feet of duplicate materials was discarded.

Processor: Alison Kanosky, September 2006.

Addition, Box 8, folder 32 (ca. 1943-2005)

One folder of material relating to L. Nadine Wagner Lindsay, who served as a nurse with the U.S. Army Base Hospital No. 12 during World War II, has been added to the series at Box 8, folder 32. A newspaper clipping and a chronology document Lindsay's life during and after her service in the War; also included is a copy of a poem written in her honor by her soldier-patients.

Provenance: The se items were donated to the Northwestern University Archives by L. Nadine Wagner Lindsay in February, 2007.

Restrictions: None

Processor: Janet Olson

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Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Annual Reunions	1932-1967
	2	Base Talk v.1 no.10	1917, May 25
	3	Clippings	1917
	4	Clippings	1918-1919
	5	Clippings	1963-1974
	6	Clippings	n.d.
	7	Correspondence	1917-1919
	8	Correspondence	1942-1963
	9	News Letter nos.1-10	Oct 1967-Dec 1969
	10	News Letter nos.11-20	Apr 1970-Feb 1971
	11	News Letter nos.21-30	Apr 1971-Mar 1973
	12	News Letter nos.31-44	May 1973-May 1977
	13	Poems	1917-1918
	14	Programs	1917-1918
	15	Rosters	1967
	16	World War II, Clippings & Correspondence	1942-1945
	17	Journal, Part I	Feb, 1942-Dec, 1943
	18	Journal, Part II	Dec, 1943-Feb, 1945
2	1	Journal Part III	Mar 2-Sept 1, 1945
	2	“Historical Notes” (tearsheets from <i>Quarterly Journal of the Northwestern University Medical School</i>), XIX-XXVIII	1951- 1953
	3	“Historical Notes”: “The Dungeon,” XXXVII	1953-1956
	4	Mounted Photographs-Africa	1942-1943
	5	Mounted Photographs-Africa & Italy	1943-1944
	6	Mounted Photographs-Italy	1944-1945
3	1	Scrapbook, compiled by Jacob Edward Hunsinger	1917-1919
Additions, Box 4 (World War I)			
4	1	General	1915-1919
	2	General	1931-1976
	3	General	no date
	4	Programs	1917-1918, n.d.
	5	Recollections, poems	1917-1919, n.d.

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Additions: World War II, 1942-2006			
5	1	Correspondence relating to collection/transfer to Archives	2006
	2	History of Base Hospital # 12: "6556-V"	1970
	3	Historical Materials (including photocopies)	1942-1945
	4	Newspaper Clippings (including photocopies)	1942-1945
	5	Weekly Newsletter (2 issues)	1945
	6	Reunions	1946, 1967, 1977, 1980-1999
	7	Reunions	2000-2006
	8	Roster of Veterans, Africa-Italy General Hospital	ca. 1989
	9	Obituaries	1988-2005
	10	Carlson, Walfred: Memoir, etc.	1945, 1953, 2006
	11	Cole, Arthur ("Red") and Hughlene: USAHS Emily Weder Newsletters	1998
	12	Inks, Russell: Purple Heart Application (copies)	1997
	13	Keene Carlson, Florence: Memoir	ca. 1995
	14	Ostrander, Harry P.: Memorabilia (photocopies)	ca. 1945-1986
	15	Veit, Al: Memoir	1989-1997
	16	White, Elmer: Memoir	n.d.
Additions, World War I, 1917-1983			
Administrative Files			
6	1	Holmes Donation	April 1983
	2	Newsletters	1930-1966
	3	Newspaper Coverage of <i>U.S.S. Mongolia</i> Accident	n.d. [1917]
	4	Print of A.F. Bishop Painting "America's First Shot"	1917
	5	Records of Alumni Meetings, Newsletters	1930-1973
	6	Rosters and Reunion Materials	1917-1973 (incomplete)
Base Hospital 12 "Alumni"			
	7	Alexander, May	1967-1977
	8	Archibald, U.S.	1960-1977
	9	Baker, Donald W.	1972-1974
	10	Baker, Florence Edna	1967-1968
	11	Baker, Mrs. William J. (Dr. Eloise Parsons)	1967-1980, n.d.
	12	Barnett, Alexander H. (M.D.)	1971-1972
	13	Bartreau, Sidney and Nellie (Stahl) [D 1917]	1967

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6	14	Bustable, Frank G.	1966-1967
	15	Beck, Zella Maude Judy	1967
	16	Besley, Frederick A. (Dr.)	1944-1972
	17	Bennett, Reuben R. (Edith) [LA 1918]	1967-1972
	18	Bollman, Fred K. [LA 1917]	1967-1977
	19	Bradley, Earl G.	1967-1977
	20	Burchan, Daisy	1971
	21	Busby, Wesley G. [LA 1917]	1970-1975
	22	Cahn, Mrs. Norman W. (Bobie)	1970-1975
	23	Cahn, Roy R.	1957
	24	Carlson, Mrs. Oscar (Emma Applegren)	1967-1976
	25	Carson, Harold Paul [MU 1917]	1967-1976
	26	Chase, Martin R. (Grace) (M.D.) [Alum]	1967
	27	Clauson, Frank L. [LA 1916]	1967-1976
	28	Cohen, Rebecca	1967-1975
	29	Collier, Clarence C. (C.C.)	1967-1974
	30	Coon, Mrs. Harold M. (May Morrissey)	1967-1977
	31	Dale, Philip Marshall (M.D.)	1967-1980
	32	Dean, Frederick T.	1967-1973
	33	Dean, Mrs. Harry A.	1967-1976
	34	Dean, Myrtle	1967-1975
	35	Deuel, Marguerite	1967-1969
	36	Devereaux, John R. (Frances)	1967
	37	Devol, James C.	1972-1974
	38	Doble, N.M.L. (Son of William S. [LA 1918])	1967-1976
	39	Dunlap, Robert	1971
	40	Edwards, Robert W. [Alum]	1973
	41	Emmert, James A. [LA 1923]	1967-1973
	42	Erwine, Wright H.	1972-1974
	43	Evans, Mack	1970
	44	Ferguson, Mrs. H.J. (Ada Crawford)	1967-1977
	45	Forbes, Ray	1969
	46	Freeman, Chas.	1967
	47	Friel, Mrs. Thomas (Julie Wilson)	1967-1977
	48	Frobish, Birt [LA 1920]	1967-1977
	49	Fulcher, Mrs. Melvin D. (Rean Jane Anderson)	1967-1977
	50	Fuller, Bessie Mabel	1965
	51	Furbeck, Lyman	1971-1974
	52	Furbeck, Stanley M. (Marie)	1967

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6	53	Furness, Franklin	1969
	54	Gambee, Bessie	1967-1977
	55	Gibson, Mrs. (Ella Pawlison)	1970-1976
	56	Gibson, Willis Stanley [GM 1912, M 1913]	1964
	57	Gilmore, Harold J.	1968-1974
	58	Glaspel, Cyril J. (M.D.)	1967-1977
7	1	Griffin, Robert J.	1967-1977
	2	Grundy, Pheobe M.	1967-1969
	3	Hall, Mrs. Arthur R. (Helen)	1967-1973
	4	Hall, James Pendleton	1973
	5	Hamre, Mrs. Christopher J. (Ernestine Kandel)	1976-1977
	6	Harry, J. Roscoe (M.D.)	1965, 1967
	7	Hartesema, Mrs. H. (Aileen Jensen)	1967, 1969
	8	Hawkins, Mrs. L. Abbott (Bertha Alexander)	1968-1977
	9	Henkin, John (M.D.) [M 1915]	1970, 1972
	10	Hinton, Florence	1975
	11	Hoffman, Clara [LA 1913]	1967-1974
	12	Holmes, Roy A. [LA 1918]	1966-1977
	13	Horowitz, Gabrielle	1961-1982
	14	Hoskyn, Emma	1967, 1972-1974
	15	Hostman, Louisa	1969-1972
	16	Hunsinger, J. Edward [LA 1923, M 1924]	1967-1973
	17	Jacobs, David [MU 1916]	1967-1977
	18	Jardine, Ronald K. (M.D.)	1969, 1976
	19	Johnson, Lester L.	1967, 1978
	20	Keeler, Raymond H. [LA 1918]	1967-1977
	21	Kellams, Mrs. Edward L. (Clara Beehler)	1967-1975, n.d.
	22	Kidd, Harold F. (DDS) [LA 1923]	1967-1977
	23	Kimball, Mrs. John (Edith Maude Murray)	1969, 1971, 1973
	24	Knight, Margaret [LA 1922]	1967-1970
	25	Koch, Sumner L. (M.D.) [GM 1914, M 1914]	1968-1977
	26	Krieger, Mrs. (Mabel Nigley)	1967
	27	Krost, Gerard N. (M.D.) [Faculty]	1969-1975
	28	Landwer, Milton F. [LA 1920]	1967-1979
	29	Leary, Mrs. William A. (Barbara)	1967
	30	Lebowitz, Joseph (M.D.) [M 14]	1968
	31	Lent, Louis L. (Light Duty Man)	1970-1972
	32	Lewis, Mrs. R.A. (Freeda Larson)	1967-1977

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7	33	Lindgren, David	1967-1972
	34	Lyon, Elizabeth C.	1967-1978, n.d.
	35	MacGregor, John	1967-1977
	36	Magee, James C.	1973-1976
	37	Mason, Francis (Frank)	1967-1976
	38	Mason, Mrs. Michael (Alice) [LA 1917]	1963-1977
	39	Matzen, Emma	1967-1980
	40	Maudsley, Mrs. (Emily Lyon)	1970-1971
	41	McCracken, Gordon	1969-1974
	42	McIntyre, Melvin C.	1967-1972
	43	McKenzie, Ola F. [L 1920]	1969-1977
	44	McKesson, Harley D. [LA 1918]	1967-1977
	45	McKone, Mrs. John (Edith Bartlett)	1967-1975
	46	Millner, Walker [LA 1918, L 1922]	1967
	47	Mitchell, Mrs. Laurence M. and Katheryne (Kitty) Mahoney	1967-1977
	48	Morris, Leslie	1973-1977
	49	Neal, Marcus Pinson (M.D.)	1917, 1964, 1967-1977
	50	Norman, Fred I. [LA 1919]	1967-1976
	51	Nusbaum, Mrs. Paulson L. (Janis)	1966-1977
	52	Olson, Anna J.	1967-1973
	53	Olson, Roy H. [LA 1919]	1967-1977, n.d.
	54	Parrish, Rusell L. and Hazel	1967-1976
	55	Pattison, Philip R. [LA 1919]	1967-1977
	56	Pearson, Signe	1973-1977
	57	Peckham, Mrs. William M. (Elizabeth)	1967, 1969
	58	Penney, Maurice D. [LA 1917, M 1923]	1967-1974
	59	Peterson, Mrs. Lindell (Dorothy)	1967-1974
	60	Pierik, Mrs. Herman T., Jr. (Elizabeth Greenwood)	1967-1980, n.d.
	61	Pierik, John C.	1917, 1967-1976
	62	Pirola, Charles [LA 1920]	1967-1980
	63	Pope, Chester A. [LA 1920]	1970
	64	Purcell, Ray	1973-1977, n.d.
	65	Radcliffe, Alice M.	1967-1977
	66	Rauhoff, Mrs. Millard A. (Edna)	1973-1977
	67	Raun, Erling O., Sr. (M.D.)	1967, 1972
	68	Rettke, Minnie	1958
	69	Richter, Thelcla	1967-1979

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8	1	Rist, Martin (Ph.D. Dr.)	1967-1977
	2	Roberts, Elmer C.	1967-1977
	4	Roden, Clara D.	1967-1973
	4	Sellers, Rodney J. [LA 1920]	1967-1968
	5	Simon, Bill	1974
	6	Singleton, Mrs. Shelby M. (Emma)	1967-1971
	7	Singleton, William	1967-1977
	8	Sloan, John	1968-1973
	9	Smith, Mrs. Potter (Nadine)	1970-1971
	10	Stern, Victor	1970
	11	Strange, Willis	1958
	12	Sweet, Mrs. Arthur B. (Helen) [LA 1922]	1970-1973
	13	Swick, Edwin E. [LA 1919]	1967-1978
	14	Umberger, Grace	1967, 1970
	15	Vance, Mrs. Edward D. (Beletta Paulson)	1967-1976
	16	Van Winkle, Helena [LA 1924]	1967-1972
	17	Walsch, Percy N.	1967, 1970
	18	Wanamaker, Mrs. Byron (Ellen Thomsen)	1969
	19	Weedon, Hardy [EB 1923]	1968
	20	Weekes, Mrs. Thomas B. (Bess L. Prouty)	1967-1977
	21	West, Mary K.	1967-1975
	22	Wilson, Viola	1968-1970
	23	Wright, John T.	1967-1979
		Photographs	
	24	BH12 French Scenery Pictures (Birt Frobish)	1917-1919
	25	Photos of 50 th Reunion of BH12	1967
	26	Pictures of Dannes-Camiers Area	1972
	27	WWI Era Postcards from France	c.a. 1917
	28	Photographs of BH12 and Staff during WWI	1917-1919
	29	Photographs of France during WWI	1917-1919
	30	Photographs on Board of <i>U.S.S. Mongolia</i>	May 1917
	31	Photographs of Hospital after Bombing	n.d.
		Addition	
	32	Lindsay, L. Nadine Wagner	1943-2005
9		Card file	