James W. Wengert, M.D. Military Medical Collection

Dates: 1960s-2007
Quantity: 9 linear feet, 7 large boxes and 1 document box
Acquisition: Donated by Helen Wengert, 2007
Identification: Call# PAPERS 00007, PMML ID# 32618, OCLC# 247103249
Citation: [Document Title]. The James W. Wengert, M.D. Military Medical Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.
Language: English
Finding Aid: Written by Rebecca Redinger, June 2008; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

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Biographical Note

Lt. Commander James W. Wengert, M.D was born on May 22, 1934 in Grand Island, NE. He grew up in Omaha, NE. When he was older, Wengert went to school to become a doctor, the third generation in his family to do so.

In 1960, Dr. Wengert became a Flight Surgeon with the U.S. Navy. From 1962-1964 he served on board the aircraft carrier USS Randolph. He served as Lieutenant Commander until 1967. Following his service in the military, Dr. Wengert trained at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute from 1967-1970. In 1972 he began teaching and served as a psychiatrist at the VA Hospital in Omaha. He remained there until his retirement in 1995.

In addition to his own medical profession, Dr. Wengert was a dedicated historian of military medicine and the American frontier. Whether discussing the ancient battlefields of Greece or the Vietnam Military Medics., Dr. Wengert had a deep knowledge of military medicine throughout history. Later in life, he combined his two interests by
reading and writing about General George Custer. In 2007, he published an article (posthumously) for the *Journal of the West* entitled “Henry Rinaldo Porter: A Surgeon’s Account of Custer’s Last Stand.” Dr. Wengert published two other works on medical history in the American West: *A Frontier Army Christmas* and *Custer Despatches: The Words of the New York Herald Correspondents in the Little Big Horn Campaign of 1876*, as well as a book entitled *The Military Ambulances*. His unpublished research, collected over the past two decades (and included in this collection) was intended to expand the scope of this last volume.

Not content to just read and write about military medicine, Dr. Wenger was also an avid collector of military medical toys. In an obituary notice that appeared in *Old Toy Solder: The Journal for Collectors*, two friends wrote of Dr. James “Doc” Wengert,

> Over 35 years of collecting, Doc joyously developed our hobby’s definitive collection of military medical toys. He could spot a red cross on a made-in-Japan tin bus across a crowded flea market; no paint variation or casting difference in a figure was too subtle for Doc’s eye. Where others found a piece or two, Doc came home with a bag full of weird and wonderful figures and ambulances by the dozen; “moving the wounded” was Doc’s special passion.

Before his retirement in 1995, Dr. Wengert served as Assistant Chief of Psychiatry for the Veterans Administration in Omaha, and as a trustee for the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Dr. Wengert died unexpectedly in his sleep on May 23, 2006. He had just turned seventy-two. His wife Helen still lives in Omaha, NE.

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**Scope and Content of the Collection**

The collection contains research material pertaining to the history of military medicine and transportation, the majority of which includes personal research clippings and notes. Separate from the collection are 287 books, a variety of rare books and magazines.

**Series One**

This series contains four boxes of subject files, including notes, article clippings, publications and photographs. The files pertain to specific wars, time periods and geographical locations.
Series Two

This series contains separated research material originally contained within three-ring binders. This series include a collection of Annual Reports of the Secretary of War, specifically those of the Surgeon General and Quartermaster General, as well as additional articles relating to the history of military medicine.

Series Three and Four

These series contains additional separated research material. Series Three includes loose articles, clippings and publications.

Series Four

This series includes hand-written notes, photographs, articles, various ephemera, and correspondence. Of particular interest in this series is an unknown manuscript containing parts of Chapter 4 through Chapter 10 (pp. 149-358). It is believed to be a section from Dr. Wengert’s book The Military Ambulance (1981).

Series Five

This series contains a collection of images, mostly photographs and 35mm slides. These include illustrations and photographs of early Military Ambulances and Motor Ambulances. The slides pertain to the history of military medical transportation.

Arrangement

The Series categories for this collection were arranged by PMML staff. Series One (contained in six boxes) remains in its original, seemingly random, order; the subject labels are those given by Dr. Wengert.

Series Two and Five were transferred from large binders into archival folders. Series Two consists of research material from three three-ring binders, originally stored separately from the Subject Files of Series One. Series Five consists of photographs and 35mm slides originally stored in three three-ring binders. The images remain in their original plastic sheets.

Series Three and Four came with no discernable arrangement and have been rearranged in a more efficient working order by PMML staff.

The collection is contained within eight archival boxes.
Rights

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Related Collections

Irving Heymont Collection
Matthew A. Gelbin Collection
James W. Wengert M.D. Military Medical Collection
Herman N. Rosenberg Collection
Avery Jacobek Memorial Collection

Separations

Books: 287 volumes, located in the Main Floor of the Library

Rare Books:

- *Gunshot Injuries* (1914) by Louis A. LaGarde—1st edition
- *Medico-Surgical aspects of the Spanish American war* (1900) by Dr. Nicholas Senn—autographed 1st edition
- *Soldier Doctor of Our Army* (1917) by Mrs. Maria Porter Brace Kimball—1st edition

Periodicals:

- *All Hands*—May 1991
- *America’s Civil War*—January 1991
- *Autograph Collector’s*—March 1990
- *Blue & Gray*—August 1991
- *Hutchinson’s Pictorial History of the War*—c.1941 (rare)
- *Journal of the American West*—four volumes from 1991-2007
- *Medical Affairs*—Spring 1961 (rare)
- *Medical Corps International*
- *Military Collector & Historian*—Spring 1990
Military Modeler—November 1991
National Forum—Spring 1991
Navy Medicine—May 1991
Nebraska History—Fall 1988-89
Old Toy Soldier—Spring 2000, Summer 2002
Red Cross Magazine—twenty-five volumes from 1916-1919 (rare)
Regiment—May 1998
Scabbard—July-August 1990, September-October 1990
Unknown Title (WWII Air)—c. 1944 (rare)
U.S. Art—November 1991
U.S. Infantry Journal—September 1907 (rare)
U.S. Naval Medical Bulletin—June 1945 (rare)
What's New—eleven copies from 1944 to 1945 (rare)
World’s Works—December 1916 (rare)
Yank—c. 1944 (rare)

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Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library’s online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Names

Wengert, James Warren, Lt. Commander, M.D.
Custer, George. General
Porter, Henry Rinaldo
USS Randolph

Subjects

Ambulance service – History
Great Britain -- Army -- Medical Department -- History
Medicine – Military
Medicine --United States -- History
United States -- Army-- Medical Corps
United States – Army -- Transport of sick and wounded-- History.
United States – History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Medical care.
World War, 1914-1918 -- Medical care
World War, 1939-1945 -- Hospitals
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series One  Subject Files (original label titles)

Box One

Folder One  All Others—Napoleonic Era
Folder Two  Crimean War
Folder Three  Franco-Prussian War—1870-71
Folder Four  Zulu War—1879
Folder Five  British—Victorian Era—General Medical Articles
Folder Six  British to 1900—Victorian Era—Indian Mutiny
Folder Seven  Boer War II—Transport/Evac.—Medical Photos
Folder Eight  Boer War—(Antiles, also see box)
Folder Nine  Russo-Japanese War
Folder Ten  St. John—Malta
Folder Eleven  Red Cross/Crescent
Folder Twelve  Pre-History—Greece—Rome—Byzantium—General History
Folder Thirteen  Byzantine Medic
Folder Fourteen  Red Cross Dogs
Folder Fifteen  Medical Animals—Mules, Camels, etc.
Folder Sixteen  A.D. 1000-1700
Folder Seventeen  1700-Napoleonic Era
Folder Eighteen  Napoleonic Era
Folder Nineteen  Larrey (litter)
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Europe 1815-1900
Folder Twenty-one
France 1812-1914
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Folder Twenty-three
WWI Krauts Medics
Folder Twenty-four
WWI Miscellaneous
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U.K. Empire 1900-1914
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WWI U.K. Medics—British

Box Two
Folder One
Crimean Ambulances
Folder Two
Europe—WWI
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Russo-Japanese War
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Larrey—Camel Litter
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Napoleonic Ambulances
Folder Six
U.K. WWI—Transport and Evac.
Folder Seven
British Horse Ambulance
Folder Eight
U.K. WWI
Folder Nine
France WWI
Folder Ten
Germany WWI
Folder Eleven
1920-1940—All Nations
Folder Twelve  Italy WWI
Folder Thirteen  France WWI
Folder Fourteen  [no label]—miscellaneous military medical history
Folder Fifteen  German—Ambulance WWII—Vol. I
  -General markings—misc. photos
Folder Sixteen  Ambulance—U.K. Commonwealth—WWII
Folder Seventeen  Germany WWII—Horse and Motorcycle—Vol. II
Folder Eighteen  Germany—Tracked and Armored—Vol. III
Folder Nineteen  Germany WWII—Ambulances—Vol. IV
Folder Twenty  Italy WWII
Folder Twenty-one  WWII Miscellaneous Ambulances
Folder Twenty-two  USSR WWII
Folder Twenty-three  Germany—Post 1950
Folder Twenty-four  Italy—Post 1950
Folder Twenty-five  [label fell off]
Folder Twenty-six  France—Post WWII
Folder Twenty-seven  Soviet Bloc—Post 1950
Folder Twenty-eight  Israeli-Arab
Folder Twenty-nine  Ambulance Miscellaneous—Post 1950
Twenty-nine

Folder Thirty  1990s Bosnia-IFOR Ambulances
Folder Thirty-one  BAS

Folder Thirty-two  Evac. Maps/Techniques and Routes—Red Cross Violations—Civil War-Present

Folder Thirty-three  Fort Riley—Mule Ambulances

Box Three

Folder One  U.S. Medics—Korea
Folder Two  U.S. Medics—Vietnam
Folder Three  Post Vietnam
Folder Four  1990-91 Desert Storm
Folder Five  [unlabeled]—miscellaneous Military medical history
[Folder Six]  [Unfoldered items]
Folder Seven  Luftwaffe—Air Ambulance
Folder Eight  Hospital Ships
Folder Nine  Hospital Trains
Folder Ten  British Air Ambulances
Folder Eleven  U.S. Hospital Ships—after WWII
Folder Twelve  Navy Uniforms
Folder Thirteen  Air Ambulances—Post Vietnam

Box Four

Folder One  Ambulance Oliver Militaire—BAS
Folder Two  WWI—U.K. Nurses—photos and illustrations
Folder Three  France WWI
Folder Four  WWII Medics
Folder Five  ARP
Folder Six  The Blitz
Folder Seven  England Commonwealth—WWII
Folder Eight  WWII—Germany
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Folder Ten  Post WWII—Medics, other
[Folder Eleven]  [Unfoldered items]
Folder Twelve  Hospital Ships—WWII
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Folder Fourteen  Hospital Ships—U.S.—to 1940
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Folder Sixteen  Air Ambulances—Vietnam
Folder Seventeen  American Civil War—photos
[Folder Eighteen]  [Unfoldered items]
Folder Nineteen  American Civil War—Red Cross
Folder Twenty  Civil War Times—Medical Articles
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<td>American Civil War Nurses</td>
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<td>Medical Supply WWI Air Evac. /U.S. Air Forces Link-Coleman</td>
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<td>U.S. Air Ambulances WWII—C47-C57—Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>U.S. Air Evac. Single Engine—WWII</td>
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<td><strong>Folder Twenty</strong></td>
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<td>Dodge Commission</td>
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Folder Twenty-two  Philippines [sic]
Folder Twenty-three  1900-WWI—Equipment, travois and tents
Folder Twenty-four  Spanish American ___ --Uniforms, equipment, litters, travois
[Folder Twenty-five]  [unfoldered items]
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Folder Twenty-seven  The Places of the Medical Department in the Army—1890-91
Folder Twenty-eight  1890-1895
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Folder One  Hx [“history”]—Army Nurse Corps
Folder Two  Hx—Medical Department, Early Register of Medical Officers—1775-1873—Hoff and Brown Smart
Folder Three  U.S.—Pre-Revolutionary War
Folder Four  U.S.—Revolutionary War
Folder Five  Mexican War, 1846-48 to the Civil War
Folder Six  General U.S. Medical Hx—Insignia, Equipment, etc.
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Folder Eight  U.S.—1920-1942—“Tin Hat Era”
Folder Nine  [unlabeled]—miscellaneous military medical history
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<th>U.S. WWII—Litters, mules, travois, wheels</th>
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**Series Two**

**Binders/Separated Research Material**

**Sub-series One**

*Annual Reports of the Secretary of War, 1866-1890*

Reports of the Surgeon General and Quartermaster General

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<td>pp. 272-276</td>
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<td>pp. 318-325, 191, 250-251</td>
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Folder Twenty-one 
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**Sub-series Two**

*Annual Reports of the Secretary of War, 1892-1897*

Reports of the Surgeon General and Quartermaster General

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<td>1894</td>
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<td>1896</td>
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**Sub-series Three**

*Annual Reports of the Secretary of War, 1898-1901*

Reports of the Surgeon General and Quartermaster General

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<td>Folder Two</td>
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<td>1901</td>
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<td>Folder Five</td>
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<td>Folder Six</td>
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Sub-series Five


Folder One

 Entire volume, minus pages 1 and iv

Folder Two

 Duplicate pages: iii, v, 2-4, 118-134, 135-156, 188-206

Sub-series Six

Pamphlets and Publications—Military Medical Transportation

Folder One

 “Report of a Board of Officers to decide upon a pattern of Ambulance Wagon for Army Use”—1878—color photocopy

Folder Two

 “British Ambulance Cart”—book illustrations

Folder Three

 “Report of the Committee on Hospital Conveyances, the British Army, April 24, 1868”—photocopy

Folder Four

 Ciba Symposia— “The Ambulance”—February 1947, vol. 8, no. II

Folder Five

 “Transportation of the Wounded: The Models of the Armed Forces Medical Museum” by Alan Hawk

Folder Six

 “Handbook for the Hospital Forces” by Charles Smart, Assistant Surgeon General—1902

Folder Seven

 “Medicines for the Union Army” by George Winston Smith—1962

Folder Eight

 “U.S. Navy Medical Personnel in Marine Parachute and Raider Battalions in WWII” by Ken Haney—signed by author

Folder Nine

 “Medical Aspects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition”— Nebraska History, v. 51, no. 2, Summer 1970—missing cover

Sub-series Seven

Miscellaneous Articles—Military Medicine

Folder One

 “Training for Combat Casualty Car in Armor Unites” by Captain Paul Dougherty, MD and Captain Ralph Briggs—Armor—November-December 1989
Folder Two
“Evacuations of the Sick and Wounded”

Folder Three
Royal Army Medical Corps
“The British Army: Its History, Customs, Traditions and Uniforms”
“India’s Army: The Medical Services”
“Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps”—August 1909, v. XIII, no. 2

Folder Four
U.S. Armed Forces Medical Journal
“The Medical Corps of the Army and Scientific Medicine”—December 1954, vol. v, no. 2
“Medicine, Warfare and History”—Dec 1953, v. iv, no. 12
“Leonard Wood, a Gallant Man”—August 1954, v. v, no. 8

Folder Five
“The Founding of this Association, and its founder, as I knew Him: An Anecdotal Sketch of Professor, Doctor Nicholas Senn”—Military Surgeon, May 1920, v. XLVI, no. 5

Folder Six

Folder Seven
“Medical Marvels in our Army” by James Hay—Munsey’s Magazine, Nov. 1916, v. 59, no. 11

Folder Eight
OTIS—Surgeon General Report—handwritten transcription—1877

Sub-series Eight
The Medical Department of the United States Army

Folder One
“Volume One: The Surgeon General’s Office”

Folder Two
History of the Medical Department of the U.S. Army
“The Army Medical Bulletin”—Chapter 2, 7, 8
“The Army Medical Department—Special Articles” pp. 126-1217, 1287-1288. 1352-1354, 1418-1419, 1491-1492
“Original Memoirs”—Lieut. Col. John van Rensselaer Hoff

Sub-series Nine
Red Cross Magazine
Various articles and clippings
| Sub-series Ten          | History of the Great War: Medical Services General History—  
|                        | Vol. IV, Chapter XXIII  
|                        | “Ambulance Transport” and related images |

| Series Three           | Separated Research Material—Miscellaneous |
| Folder One             | “The Mobile Modular Medical Support System” |
| Folder Two             | Loose articles and clippings |
| Folder Three           | Publications |

| Series Four            | Separated Research-related Material |
| Sub-series One         | Miscellaneous Clippings, Articles and Documents |
| Folder One             | Handwritten notes and contact information |
| Folder Two             | Photos and image clippings |
| Folder Three           | Articles and Publications  
|                        | “Les Equipes Sanitaires”  
|                        | “D-Day Medical Plans Paramedics”  
|                        | *Aviation Digest*—July 1988  
|                        | “Battle Fatigue Identification Management and Preservation Training”  
|                        | “Recent Experiences in Military Surgery after the Battle of Santiago” |

| Folder Four            | Military Ephemera |

| Sub-series Two         | Book Ephemera (Items found in Donated Books) |
| Folder                 | “Etat—Major et Service de Sante”  
|                        | “Uniforms of the Navy” by Tily  
|                        | “Rhymes of a Red Cross Man”  
|                        | “They also served G + A forty”  
|                        | Un-labeled  
|                        | “Picture Encyclopedia of _____Medical Instruments and Equipment, v. 2” |
“A Soldier-Doctor of our Army”—by Maria Kimball

Sub-series Three  Correspondence

Folder One  Letter to Dr. Wengert from Hannah Politis
            Letter to Mr. Frederick Gaede from John K. Lattimer

Folder Two  Letter to Dr. Wengert from Great Mohon
            Enclosed research materials/articles
            “Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay” by Don Rickey, Jr.
            “Army Wives on the American Frontier” by Anne Bruner Eales
            “Winners of the West: Supplying the Frontier Military Posts” by Raymond L. Welty
            “Scurvy in the Civil War” by Byron Stinson, M.D.

            “Dancing was Lively” by Bill Green
            “Voices from a Disease Frontier” by James N. Leiker
            “Medicine in the West” by James O. Breeden

Sub-series Four  Manuscript

Folder One  Unknown Manuscript—p. 149-358, Chapters 4-10

Folder Two  Galley Images

Series Five  Images: Photos and Slides

Sub-series One  Early Military Medical Transportation—Ambulances

Folder One  Native American “Travois”—5 images

Folder Two  French “Service de Sante” Vehicles—6 images

Folder Three  First American Ambulance Wagons—16 images

Folder Four  Civil War Ambulances (1860s)—37 images

Folder Five  Improved Ambulances (1880s-1900s)—20 images

Folder Six  Military Ambulances (1900s-1920s, includes WWI)—17 images

Folder Seven  Military Ambulances (1930s-1940s, includes WWII)—4 images
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<td>Red Cross Nurses, American Expedition Forces—1918-19, France</td>
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<td>Military Ambulances (1900-1920s, WWI)—12 images</td>
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<td>Folder Two</td>
<td>Military Ambulances (WWII)—18 images</td>
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<td>Folder Three</td>
<td>Military Ambulances (1970s-1980s)—25 images</td>
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<td>Sub-series Three</td>
<td><strong>35mm Slides—Military Medical Transportation (by Subject)</strong></td>
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| Folder Nine | Planes and Helicopters                     | Sheet one—11 slides  
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| Folder Eleven | Vietnam                                   | 23 slides |
| Folder Twelve | Military Medical Transportation Miniature Models | Sheet one—9 slides  
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|              |                                             | Sheet four—18 slides |