# PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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

Creator: Lt. Commander James Warren Wengert, M.D. (1934-2006)

**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

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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 His unpublished research, collected over the past two decades (and included in this collection) was intended to expand the scope of this last volume.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.

# **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:

Combat Surgeon (1989) by Arthur C. Neeseman—1st edition

Front Line Surgeons (1950) by Clifford L. Graves—1st edition

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—1<sup>st</sup> edition

Recollections of a Rebel Surgeon (and Other Sketches) (1899) by Dr. F.E.

Daniel—1st edition

Of Battles Long Ago: Memoirs of an American Ambulance Driver in World War I (1979) by G. Ripley Cutler—1<sup>st</sup> 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)

Illustrated London News—Spring 1991

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)

U.S. News & World Report—August 15, 1988

What's New—eleven copies from 1944 to 1945 (rare)

World's Works—December 1916 (rare)

*Yank*—c. 1944 (rare)

## **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-Napoleanic Era

Folder Eighteen Napoleonic Era

Folder Nineteen Larrey (litter)

Folder Twenty Europe 1815-1900

Folder France 1812-1914

**Twenty-one** 

Folder Europe 1900-1914

Twenty-two

Folder WWI Krauts Medics

Twenty-three

Folder WWI Miscellaneous

Twenty-four

Folder U.K. Empire 1900-1914
Twenty-five

Folder WWI U.K. Medics—British

Twenty-six

**Box Two** 

Folder One Crimean Ambulances

Folder Two Europe—WWI

Folder Three Russo-Japanese War

Folder Four Larrey—Camel Litter

Folder Five 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 WWII Miscellaneous Ambulances

**Twenty-one** 

Twenty-three

**Twenty-four** 

Folder USSR WWII Twenty-two

Folder Germany—Post 1950

Folder Italy—Post 1950

Folder [label fell off]
Twenty-five

Folder France—Post WWII
Twenty-six

Folder Soviet Bloc—Post 1950
Twenty-seven

Folder Israeli-Arab Twenty-eight

Folder 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

Folder Nine Japan—Medics (Spures)—WWII

Folder Ten Post WWII—Medics, other

[Folder Eleven] [Unfoldered items]

Folder Twelve Hospital Ships—WWII

Folder Thirteen U.S. Air Ambulance—WWII—S. Konski—CBI

Folder Fourteen Hospital Ships—U.S.—to 1940

Folder Fifteen Korea

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

**Folder** Report of the General Board United States Forces, European Theater—

**Twenty-one** "Evacuation of Human Casualties in the European Theater of Operations"

**Box Five** 

Folder One Confederate MC

Folder Two [unlabeled folder]—The Military Surgeon—articles

[Folder Three] [unfoldered items]

Folder Four Civil War—Union uniforms, Equipment, Litters

Folder Five American Civil War Nurses

Folder Six Trains U.S.

[Folder Seven] [unfoldered items]

Folder Eight Air Ambulance—U.S.—WWI to 1940

Folder Nine Medical Supply WWI Air Evac. /U.S. Air Forces Link-Coleman

Folder Ten U.S. Air Ambulances WWII—C47-C57—Miscellaneous

Folder Eleven U.S. Air Evac. Single Engine—WWII

Folder Twelve [unlabeled]—miscellaneous military medical history

Folder Thirteen Mexican Border—Pershing—1914-WWI (1917)

Folder Fourteen WWI Nurses

Folder Fifteen WWI Uniforms, Equipment and Litters

Folder Sixteen Medical Photos—WWI

Folder Seventeen [unlabeled]—miscellaneous military medical history

Folder Eighteen 1898 Leslie's

Folder Nineteen 1900-1914

Folder Twenty Spanish American War

Folder Dodge Commission

**Twenty-one** 

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]

Folder Twenty-six Sanitation—Hygiene

Folder Twenty-seven The Places of the Medical Department in the Army—1890-91

Folder Twenty-eight 1890-1895

**Box Six** 

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.

Folder Seven U.S.—Post-Revolutionary War to Mexican War

Folder Eight U.S.—1920-1942—"Tin Hat Era"

Folder Nine [unlabeled]—miscellaneous military medical history

Folder Ten U.S. WWII—Uniforms and equipment

Folder Eleven U.S. WWII—Litters, mules, travois, wheels

Folder Twelve U.S. Medics

Folder Thirteen WWII Medics—South Pacific

Folder Fourteen P.O.W.

Folder Fifteen "Ronald's WWII Memories"

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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**Folder Two** *1867-1868* 

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**Folder Three** *1868-1869* 

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**Folder Four** 1869-1870

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**Folder Five** 1870-1871

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**Folder Six** 1871-1872

pp. 238-240

**Folder Seven** *1872-1873* 

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**Folder Eight** *1873-1874* 

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**Folder Nine** *1875-1876* 

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**Folder Ten** *1876-1877* 

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Folder Twelve 1876 (contd.)

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Folder 1889

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Sub-series Two Annual Reports of the Secretary of War, 1892-1897

Reports of the Surgeon General and

**Quartermaster General** 

Folder One 1892

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Sub-series Three Annual Reports of the Secretary of War, 1898-1901

Reports of the Surgeon General and

**Quartermaster General** 

Folder One 1898

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Folder Four 1900

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**Quartermaster General** 

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<u>Sub-series Five</u> "Notes on the History of Military Medicine" by Lieut. Col.

Fielding H. Garrison, Medical Corps, U.S. Army. 1922

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.

Ш

**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

"William Crawford Gorgas, Master Sanitarian" — December

1954, vol. v, no. 10

"Medicine, Warfare and History"—Dec 1953, v. iv, no. 12

"The Army Surgeon"—March 1954, vol. v, 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** Report of the Secretary of War, Surgeon General Report,

1900—pp. 732-737, 686-697, 710-711, 530-533

**Folder Seven** "Medical Marvels in our Army" by James Hay—*Munsey's* 

Magazine, Nov. 1916, v. 59, no. 11

**Folder Eight** 

1877

OTIS—Surgeon General Report—handwritten transcription—

**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

<u>Series Three</u> <u>Separated Research Material—Miscellaneous</u>

Folder One "The Mobile Modular Medical Support System"

Folder Two Loose articles and clippings

Folder Three Publications

<u>Series Four</u> <u>Separated Research-related Material</u>

**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

<u>Sub-series Three</u> 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

Folder Eight Transport of Sick and Wounded by Pack Animals (late

1800s)—33 images

Folder Nine Red Cross Nurses, American Expedition Forces—1918-19,

**France** 

**Sub-series Two Motor Ambulances** 

Folder One Military Ambulances (1900-1920s, WWI)—12 images

Folder Two Military Ambulances (WWII)—18 images

Folder Three Military Ambulances (1970s-1980s)—25 images

**Sub-series Three** 35mm Slides—Military Medical Transportation (by Subject)

Folder One Dr. Porter—16 slides

Medical Equipment—18 slides

Folder Two Maps—10 slides

Folder Three Guy Henry and the Canyon of the Rosebud—17 slides

Folder Four Wounded Knee—20 slides

Folder Five Miscellaneous Ambulance

Sheet one—20 slides Sheet two—12 slides Sheet three—11 slides

Folder Six Handwritten notes—lecture at Civil War Roundtable of

Nebraska

Folder Seven Civil War—Medical Transport

Sheet one—18 slides Sheet two—20 slides Sheet three—20 slides Sheet four—11 slides

Folder Eight Miscellaneous Military Medical Transport

Sheet one—4 slides Sheet two—8 slides Sheet three—20 slides Sheet four—11 slides Folder Nine Planes and Helicopters

Sheet one—11 slides Sheet two—15 slides

Folder Ten Slim Buttes—9 slides

Folder Eleven Vietnam—23 slides

Folder Twelve Military Medical Transportation Miniature Models

Sheet one—9 slides Sheet two—20 slides Sheet three—15 slides Sheet four—18 slides