National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

Guide to Hospital Ships Material

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OHA 74: Army Medical Museum (AMM) Photographs (1897-c.1915):

The Medical Museum began this photograph series during the Spanish-American War. Most images show medical activities and equipment (including hospital ships and trains) during the war; others are bacteriology, photomicrographs and illustrations for medical manuals showing Hospital Corps activities.

A list of the photographs includes:

0011  View of Relief at Siboney. July 10, 1898.
0026  View of Relief from beach at Siboney. July 10, 1898.
0031  Taking X-ray picture on the Relief. Subject is Colonel Eskridge.
0045  Boat load of wounded coming out to Relief. Siboney, Cuba.
0046  Boat load of wounded coming out to Relief at Siboney, Cuba. July, 1898.
0047  View of Siboney, Cuba from Relief. A boat load of wounded is shown in the foreground coming out to the Relief.
0048  Wounded waiting to come aboard Relief, Siboney, Cuba. July 1898.
0049  Wounded waiting to come aboard Relief, Siboney, Cuba. July 1898.
0052  Wounded waiting to come aboard Relief, Siboney, Cuba. July 1898.
0055  Bringing wounded aboard Relief at Siboney, Cuba.
0064  Sending carrier pigeon from Relief.
0073  Group in ward room of Relief.
0080  Showing launch of Relief coming out for empty boats, Siboney, Cuba.
0109  Group of typhoid convalescents on Relief.
0111  Burial at sea from Relief.
0122  Unloading medical supplies, bedding etc. from Relief, Ponce Harbor.
0124  Boat load of dead going ashore for burial, Ponce Harbor.
0172  Loading sick in boat for transfer to Relief.
0173  Wharf at Arroya, Puerto Rico. Relief's boat making a landing.
0174  View of the Relief from the beach at Arroya.
0176  Loading sick in boat for transfer to Relief, Arroya, Puerto Rico.
0232  Unloading sick for transfer to Relief at wharf at Mayaguez.
0234  Landing wharf at Playa De Ponce. One of the boats of the Relief is being loaded with sick.
0236  Hoisting convalescent soldier on board homeward bound transport. Manila, P.I.
2161a  Army Hospital Ship Relief in New York Harbor, July 1, 1898. Old negative # 108. US Army Hospital Ship Relief in New York Harbor, East River, July 1, 1898, just before sailing for Cuba. Old negative #81.
2172  Medical Officers State Room, Hospital Ship Relief. Old negative #83.
2173  Ward 1, Hospital Ship Relief. Old negative #89.
2174  Ward 3, Hospital Ship Relief. Old negative #85.
2175  Ward 3, Hospital Ship Relief. Old negative #86.
2176  Ward 4, Hospital Ship Relief. Old negative #87.
2177  Operating room of Relief. Old negative #88. Staff of Relief. Maj. George H. Torney, U.S.A., Commander; Maj. Bradley, U.S.V., Executive Officer; Lt. Crabb, Quarter-Master; Chaplain Robinson, U.S.A; Father Connolly; Drs. Tourney Jr., Metcalf, Gray, Schultze, and Marrow. Old negative #90
2181  Female nurses on Hurricane deck of Relief. Hurricane deck of Relief. Dr. W.M. Gray,
Microscopist, Army Medical Museum, Wash. DC. Old negative #94.


2186 Dr. Gray making X-ray photos on Hospital Ship Relief. (copied as MIS 53-21049).

2821 Hospital Ship Relief, Cuban waters, Operating Room.

2822 Hospital Ship Relief, Cuban waters, Operating Room.

2823 Hospital Ship Relief, Cuban waters.

2824 Hospital Ship Relief, nurses in Cuban waters, 1898.

2825 Hospital Ship Relief, Cuban waters.

2829 Hospital Ship Relief, Cuban waters, at wharf.

2833 Hospital Ship Relief, Cuban waters.

2834 Hospital Ship Relief, Cuban waters.

2859 Ward Room of Hospital Ship Relief while in Cuban waters.

2862 Operating Room of Hospital Ship Relief while in Cuban waters.

2937 Hospital Ship Relief, Cuban waters. Ward Room.

OHA 75: Contributed Photographs (CP) (1862-1918):

Over 4,000 photographs sent to the Medical Museum by various donors. Provides a survey of 19th century medicine; especially strong on the Civil War and Western forts. The photographs are numbered consecutively but many are missing. Copies of some of the series were bound in 13 volumes. Original card file survives.

A list of the photographs includes:

2657 US Hospital steamer City of Memphis.
2658 Hospital transport S.R. Spaulding.
2659 Hospital steamer State of Maine.
2660 Hospital steamer State of Maine.
2661 Hospital steamer State of Maine.
2662 Hospital ship General J.K. Barnes.

OHA 76: International Exposition of 1876 Medical Department Photographs (1876):

Two duplicate volumes of 30 photographs made by the Museum for exhibition at the exposition. They show Army hospitals and models of ambulances and hospital buildings, railroad cars, and ships. The model ships are still in the Museum. There is also a group portrait including Woodward. Some glass plate negatives are in the Woodward Collection. Related material is in Curatorial Records: Expositions.

OHA 80: Reeve Photograph Collection - Prints (1917-1953)

Series of photographs taken by the Museum primarily during the tenure of Roy Reeve, chief of photography 1917-1948. Also known as World War I collection. Series began with the Museum's photographs taken in Europe & received from the Signal Corps in WWI. Taken primarily for medical illustrations. Series ended with formation of AFIP Medical Illustration Service (MIS). Original index cards serve as finding aid.
An incomplete list of photographs include:


012658  Packet boat No. 4 transporting American wounded from Evacuation Hospital to Base Hospital.


013589  Scene showing wounded soldiers representing all branches of service, coming aboard USS Rijdan. It was necessary for them to cross the West Gatomska in order to board the transport. Dec. 18, 1918.

013590  Men of the 44th Ambulance Co. bringing stretcher cases aboard the USS Rijdan. Dec. 18, 1918. St. Bazaire, Loire Inferieure, France.

013591  Hospital Ship Mercy. 7 Jan 1919. St. Lazaire, Loire Inferieure, France. 44th Ambulance Co. and 9th Evacuation Ambulance Co. loaded with stretcher cases to go aboard the Hospital Ship Mercy.

013593  Men on stretchers being carried over the rail and placed on board Hospital Ship Mercy for transportation to America, 44th Ambulance Com. and 9th Evacuation Co. Jan. 7, 1919. St. Nazaire...France.


013613  Hospital Ship, loaded and ready to leave. France.


015302  USS Henry R. Mallery at berth. Troops on board 327th F.A. 84th


015673  USS Wilhelmina leaving American docks with casuals, sick and wounded on board for the USA. Feb. 11, 1919. American docks. Bassens, Bordeaux, France.


015675  Carrying stretcher cases on board Hospital Ship USS Comfort. Most serious cases sent back to USA. American docks. Feb. 19, 1919. Bassens, Bordeaux, France.

015676  348th Infantry Band giving concert on docks while loading wounded on board Hospital Ship USS Comfort. American docks. Feb. 19, 1919. Bassens, Bordeaux, France.

015677  Nurses leading blind troops to the Hospital Ship USS Comfort to go on board. American docks. Feb. 19, 1919. Bassens, Bordeaux, France.


015679  Carrying stretcher cases on board Hospital Ship USS Mercy. Feb. 27, 1919. Bassens, Bordeaux, France.

015680  Hospital Ship USS Mercy at berth. Feb. 27, 1919. Bassens, Bordeaux, France.

016021  Red Cross Hospital Ship HMS Kalijan returning to Archangel from the Murman Coast. This ship which has 700 beds will stay in Archangel over the winter. Nov. 11, 1918.

016319  Carrying a paralyzed soldier who was on the President Lincoln on board Hospital Ship to take him to hospital at Brest. June 1, 1918. Brest, France.

017534  Wounded being landed from boat after Chateau Thierry Drive, Aug. 25, 1918.

030735  Hospital Ship Montauk, Hampton, Va. debarkation Hospital #51. 2/14/20.


030737  Getting wounded soldiers ashore from Hospital Ship. 2/14/20

030739  Taking wounded officers from Hospital Ship. Newport News, Va. 2/14/20

032633  Hospital Ship Relief, USN. Interior plans. (Main deck)

032634  Hospital Ship Relief, USN. Exterior and interior views (outboard and interior profile).

032635  Hospital Ship Relief, USN. Exterior and interior views (bridge deck and bridge and superstructure deck).

032636  Hospital Ship Relief, USN. Interior views (First platform and second deck).

032637  Hospital Ship Relief, USN. Interior plans (Midship section).

032638  Hospital Ship Relief, USN. Interior plans (Second platform and Hold).

032639  Hospital Ship Relief, USN. Interior plans (Third platform, Upper deck and Forecastle deck).

033968  Hospital Barge. Patients coming aboard. A.E.F.

035175  Laboratory, USS Relief.

035176  USS Relief, taking patients aboard.


035178  USS Relief, Dispensary (looking forward.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 18, 1921.

035179  USS Relief, Media Room (looking forward.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 12, 1920.


035183  USS Relief, Officers Mess Room (looking port.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 25, 1921.

035184  USS Relief, Laboratory (looking aft.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 12, 1921.

035185  USS Relief, Nurses' Recreation Room (looking port.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 1, 1921.

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035186  USS Relief, X-ray Room (looking aft.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 21, 1921.
035187  USS Relief, Photographic Dark Room (looking starboard.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 6, 1921.
035188  USS Relief, Instrument and Dressing Room (looking starboard.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 7, 1921.
035189  USS Relief, Operating Room (starboard to port.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 31, 1921.
035190  USS Relief, small Operating Room starboard (looking aft.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 14, 1921.
035191  USS Relief, Lobby to Operating Room. Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 7, 1921.
035192  USS Relief, X-ray study Room (looking forward.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 31, 1921.
035193  USS Relief, Sick Officers Stateroom (starboard side.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 24, 1921.
035195  USS Relief, Laundry (starboard side looking aft.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 19, 1921.
035196  USS Relief, Barber shop (looking port.) Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 25, 1921.
035199  USS Relief, Field Hospital Gear. Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 8, 1921.
035200  USS Relief, Sterilizing Room (port). Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 8, 1921.
035201  USS Relief, Sterilizing Room. Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 8, 1921.
035202  USS Relief, Eye Dark Room booths. Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 2, 1921.
035203  USS Relief, Endoscopic Room (starboard side). Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 8, 1921.
035204  USS Relief, Operating Room (looking port). Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Jan 31, 1921.
035206  USS Relief, Hot Air cabinet in Hydro-therapeutic Room (open). Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 24, 1921.
035207  USS Relief, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Room (looking forward). Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 14, 1921.
035216  USS Relief, ready to sail [general view]. Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Feb 15, 1921.
039770  Prayer on board French Hospital ship near Salonica.
039864  French Naval Officer on board Hospital Ship taking wounded on board.
050515  Hospital Ship Relief, 1898, from oil painting.
065813  General J.K. Barnes, USA Hospital Transport. (copy of 2662 Cont Photo)
065814  City of Memphis, USA Hospital steamer. (copy of 2657 Cont Photo)
065815  Hospital Transport S.R. Spalding. (copy of 2658 Cont Photo)
072797  Surgical operation on board US Army Hospital Ship Relief. Spanish War Series #88.
072802  Ward #3 US Army Hospital Ship Relief. Spanish War Series #78.
072804  Ward #4 US Army Hospital Ship Relief. Spanish War Series #77.
072805  US Army Hospital Ship Relief. Spanish War Series #35.
072806  Taking X-ray photograph on USA Hospital Ship Relief. Spanish War Series #89.
076378  Operating Room, US Army Hospital Ship Shamrock at S.I.T. 9/3/43
076379  Nurses stateroom aboard US Army Hospital Ship Shamrock at S.I.T. 9/3/43
OHA 82: Surgical Photographs (SP) (1860-1880s)

400 Medical Museum photographs taken to illustrate interesting surgical cases as well as Museum Specimens. The collection is also known as Photographs of Surgical Cases and Specimens. Copies of the photographs were bound in eight volumes; the collection includes several of each volume. Also includes five boxes of associated records. Includes one hospital ship photograph, SP 109, plan of the fittings of the US Hospital transport General J.K. Barnes.

OHA 120: Bradley Collection (1916-1968):

This collection is from Gen. Alfred E. Bradley, MC, who served in the Spanish-American War as executive officer aboard the hospital ship Relief. He also was chief surgeon of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in WWI. Includes copies of letters to his wife while in medical school, memoirs by his wife, and photographs of England (1916) and US General Hospital in Biltmore, NC.

OHA 227: McGee Collection (1904-1908):

Anita Newcomb McGee, assistant surgeon, was director of the Daughters of the American Revolution Hospital Corps (which became the Red Cross) and organized the Army Nurse Corps in 1901. Material concerns her assignment in Japan during the Russo-Japanese War, including manuscripts, pamphlets, reports, correspondence, reprints, newscippings, and photographs. Many documents are in Japanese. Photographs of Japanese hospital ships Kobe Maru and Kosai Maru are included.

OHA 233: Medical Ephemera Collection - General Medical Reference Series Clippings

Reprints and photocopies filed under subject headings like a library's vertical files. This collection is not being currently maintained and material may be discarded if no longer useful. The Hospital Ship file includes:

1) Arthur, W.H.  Outfitting a Hospital Ship in the War with Spain. Photocopy from the W.H. Arthur Papers at the National Library of Medicine, History of Medicine Division.
5) Robinson, George. The Hospital Ship in the War with Spain, War Paper No. 19 (read before the Kansas Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, November 3, 1898.) Photocopy of paper.
Photocopy of article.

7) Scientific American, Aug. 6, 1898. 2 photocopied pages.

OHA 250: New Contributed Photographs (19th century-present):

Artificial collection of medical photographs recently acquired by or located in the Museum and not part of another collection; begun by Otis Archives in 1986.

A list of photographs includes:

0879 United States Army Hospital Ship Marigold.
0880 United States Army Hospital Ship Marigold. Men sunning on the deck.
0881 United States Army Hospital Ship Marigold. Sleeping quarters for the crew.
0882 United States Army Hospital Ship Marigold. Men sitting on the deck.
0883 United States Army Hospital Ship Marigold. Men relaxing on the deck.
0884 United States Army Hospital Ship Marigold. 212th Hospital Ship complement.
0885 Army Hospital Ships, the Frances Y. Slanger (top), a former Italian passenger liner, and the St. Olaf (bottom), a Liberty Ship, were converted by the Transportation Corps and operated under the Hague Convention.
0890 Painting of unidentified Hospital Ship. US Hospital Ship Relief (in New York Harbor, July 2nd 1898.) Published in Scientific American Magazine, Aug. 6, 1898. #7 Colonel Richard Mason at work in the ship’s lab. #8 English David Hemrick, Chief of Bacteriology in the ship’s lab.
1371 #11 in the ship’s laboratory. #12 in the ship’s lab.
1373 #15 Serology in the ship’s laboratory. #16 Bacteriology corner of the ship’s lab.
2105 Exhibit: Model of Hospital Ship D.A. January.
3410 US Navy Hospital Ship Steamer (Copy of print - origins unknown).
3411 Navy Hospital Ship Haven, Circa 1950s.
3412 Navy Hospital Ship Haven.
3413 Navy Hospital Ship Haven.
3414 Navy Hospital Ship Haven.
3415 Navy Hospital Ship Haven.
3416 Arrival of helicopter aboard the Haven.
3417 Helicopter aboard the Haven.
3430 US Army Hospital Ship Ernestine Koranda, at dock, World War II.

NCP 1369-1373 are part of a series. The accompanying information states: Pictures taken in Korean. Scenes from hospitals, laboratories, prison compounds, serology and other lab work, kitchens, etc. It is not known what ship is referred to in the captions.

OHA 253: NMHM Audiovisual Collection (1930s-present):

Medical films, videotapes, filmstrips, and audio-tapes donated from a variety of sources. Most are from
AFIP’s Medical Illustration Service and WRAMC-TV. Some films may be restricted due to copyright. Includes two films on hospital ships: Med M 341, 'Hospital Ship Activities USA HS St. Mihiel' on 16mm color silent stock. It probably dates to World War II and is faded. The second is evacuation of the wounded (Med M 120).

**OHA 262: Painting Collection (19th century-1960s)**

Relief Painting

USS Relief; artist unknown. Painting shows the second of the hospital ships called Relief which served the Army and Navy. The second Relief was scrapped in 1922.

**OHA 313: Spanish-American War Photographs (1898)**

Group of photographs showing medical activities in the Spanish-American War; some are bound as Medical Department activities in Puerto Rico. Some of these may have been taken by Medical Museum staff. These may be the same as the AMM photographs.

Includes:

- 29 Loading patients to transfer to US Hospital Ship Relief
- 30 Loading patients to transfer to US Hospital Ship Relief
- 31 Loading patients to transfer to US Hospital Ship Relief
- 35 US Army Hospital Ship Relief
- 36 US Army Hospital Ship Missouri
- 37 Sick on wharf at Ponce to be placed on Hospital Ship Relief
- 38 Loading patients on boat at Arroya for transfer to Relief
- 39 Loading patients on boat at Arroya for transfer to Relief; Boat load of wounded coming off dock to Relief from hospital at Siboney, Siege of Santiago, Cuba
- 41 Taking wounded on board Relief
- 42 Taking wounded on board Relief
- 43 Taking wounded on board Relief
- 44 Hoisting convalescent soldier on board homeward bound transport
- 65 Transferring hospital stores ashore at Ponce from Relief
- 77 Ward 4, Relief
- 87 Operating room, Relief
- 88 Surgical operation on board Relief
- 89 Taking x-ray photo on Relief


Assembled material on the history of US Army ambulances from the Civil War to WWI. Includes originals and copies of Army specifications, regulations, correspondence, and drawings, and photographs of ambulance wagons, railroad cars, and ships. Three watercolor views of hospital ship, DA January: Interior view of cabin; Map of cabin floor and lower deck; exterior view.
OHA 343: US Army Signal Corps Photographs (c.1917-1950s)

US Army Signal Corps photographs of medical subjects. Identical to master set at National Archives. Includes a box of lantern slides. There are also Signal Corps photographs in the WWI/Reeve Collection, WWI Glass Plate Negatives, and NCP (unit-level).

0113577 Wounded being brought aboard Relief, Siboney, Cuba. July 1898. Negative by Dr. William M. Gray.
0145713 Photo shows hospital beds aboard the U.S.A.T., John Erickson, at a port of embarkation.
0163460 An operation being performed aboard Convoy Ship carrying US Troops. Medical care is always available. 10/29/42.
0166741 The X-ray Room aboard a Hospital Ship. New Guinea. 12/19/42.
0166743 The Dental Clinic aboard a Hospital Ship. New Guinea. 12/19/42.
0166747 Officers Ward aboard a Hospital Ship. New Guinea. 12/19/42.
0166749 One of the Main Wards aboard a Hospital Ship. New Guinea. 12/19/42.
0166750 A section of a ward on a Hospital Ship. Beds are slung from the ceiling when there is an overflow. New Guinea. 12/19/42.
0170200 One of the ten general medical wards aboard ship. Hospital care aboard ship can be well compared to that of Land Hospitals. 11/4/42. Enroute to Africa.
0187409 Ambulatory patients being lifted from hospital barge in a landing box onto deck of Hospital Ship (Tasma at Milne Bay, New Guinea) Oct. 4, 1943.
0201136 Aboard a Hospital Ship enroute to a Hospital Burma, Lt. Irene Brown administers plasma to a patient as the plane gained altitude over the mountains that both plasma and oxygen were necessary.
0207443 Patients are comfortably bedded down in a medical Ward of a ship which will carry them back to the United States.
0211678 The US Army Hospital Ship, Frances Y. Slanger docking at New York Harbor, carried her precious cargo of American wounded soldiers safely across the ocean from England.
0223826 This spick and span ward office is aboard the US Army Hospital Ship Milne. 1st Service Command 1945.
0223827 A clean utility room aboard the US Army Hospital Ship Milne. 1st Service Command.
0223828 A neat, shiny laboratory on the US Army Hospital Ship Milne 1st Service Command. 1945.
0223829 A dressing station on the US Army Hospital Ship Milne. 1st Service Command. 1945.
0223830 These neatly lined beds are in the Surgical Ward on the US Army Hospital Ship Milne. 1st Service Command.
0223831 A well lit operating room aboard the US Army Hospital Ship Milne 1st Service Command. 1945.
0223832 A clean and spotless diet Kitchen on the US Army Hospital Ship Milne 1st Service Command.
0223837 The US Army Hospital Ship Milne loaded with soldiers nears a port of 1st Service Command. 1945.
0263064 The B-18, one of the 533rd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment boats, has been improvised as a Hospital Evacuation Ship for litter patients. It operates on the Mindanao River near Fort Pikit Ferry.
0311002  USS Comfort Hospital Ship at Pier 232 at the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation, Ca. 10 Aug 1945.

0356231  Commander Bruno O. Junnila and HM/3 Harry Palo, X-ray technician, prepare to X-ray Pfc. George E. Anthony's arms, as nurse Lt. Rita K. camp of Warren, Ohio, stands by to assist, aboard the USMS Hospital Ship Repose, Korea.

0356232  HM/1 John Petry of Indianapolis, Ind., gives prescription to nurse Lt. Kathleen Marsh of North Platte, Neb., as Nurse Lt. Rita K. camp of Warren, Ohio, awaits her turn at the pharmacy office aboard the USNS Hospital Ship.

0356233  HM/1 Ralph E. Hansel of Thomasville, N.C., and Nurse Lt. Rita K. camp of Warren, Ohio, watch samples of spinal protein in the Clinical Laboratory aboard the USNS Hospital Ship Repose. 28 December 1950.

0356234  Nurse and several patients enjoy a song by one of the patient. 28 Dec 1950.

0401859  USN Hospital Ship Repose anchored in Inchon Harbor, Korea. 26 June 1952.

**OHA 375: Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) Korean War Photographs (1951-1953)**

Unidentified photographs of Korean War medical scenes, including pathological photographs and images of field medicine, evacuations, medical staff, hospitals, hospital ships, equipment, ambulances, and helicopters.  See NCPs for other WRAIR photographs from this period.

**Bibliography of Articles by Museum Staff on Hospital Ships**


2) LaGarde, LA. "Description of Models of Hospital Steam Vessels from the Army Medical Museum at World's Columbian Exposition", Chicago, 1892-1893


4) Woodward, JJ. "International Exhibition of 1876: Hospital of the Medical Department, United States Army. No. 4 Description of the Models of Hospital Steam-Vessels Exhibited in Room No. 2", Philadelphia: 1876. (copy available from Museum)

5) Woodward, JJ. "Description of Models of Hospital Steam Vessels from the Army Medical Museum at New Orleans Exposition 1884-1885".

**Bibliography of Additional Books Held by the Museum**

1) Borden, WC. "The Use of the Rontgen Ray by the Medical Department of the United States Army in the War With Spain (1898)", Washington: Government Printing Office, 1900.  Borden discusses the type of x-ray equipment that three hospital ships, the Relief, Missouri and Bay State, carried.  The book was written with the help of Dr. William Gray of the Army Medical Museum and the Relief.

2) Commander, Naval Medical Command. "Navy Medicine Fact File May 1987", includes the Hospital Ships and Fleet Hospitals chapter.

Models of Hospital Ships in Historical Collections (1876)

1) Hospital Ship D A January
   • Made for 1876 Exposition by Charles Hemje
   • M-550 00004; Accession: 703,903; AMM No.2984
2) Hospital Ship Joseph K Barnes
   • Made by Charles Hemji for 1876 Exposition.
   • M-550 00009; Accession: 704,179; AMM No.2984