Date of Records: 1939-1994, bulk 1940s

Size: 1 box

Finding Aid by: revised by Eric W. Boyle (2014)

Access and Use: The Otis Historical Archives is committed to providing open access to its collections as far as possible within the limits of privacy and confidentiality. Some of the records may contain restricted material. Access to this collection is at the discretion of the Otis Historical Archives and material contained within the records may be subject to review before access is granted.

Biographical Note: Howard Alexander Donald, M.D. (1915-1994) was a graduate of George Washington University Medical School. He was a medical resident in obstetrics and gynecology when he entered the United States Army as a First Lieutenant in 1939. By 1944, he had achieved the rank of Major and was assigned to the 203rd Hospital Ship Complement in Charleston, SC. He was subsequently assigned to the United States Army Hospital Ship Algonquin. In 1945, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Following his military service, Dr. Donald completed his residency at Columbia Hospital for Women in Washington, D.C. and later served as Chief of Staff and on the Executive Board.

Series/Scope and Content Note: The Donald Collection was donated to the National Museum of Health and Medicine in 2007 by Douglas Donald, Dr. Donald’s son. The collection includes photographs and correspondence related to the US Army service of Dr. Donald, primarily during the period when he was commanding officer of the US Army Hospital Ship Algonquin, as well as his activities in converting commercial ships to hospital ships in World War 2. Includes photographs taken by Donald of ports in Italy, Tunisia, and US as well as on board the Algonquin. Additional rare items of note include dinner menus and activities for patients being transported.

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

Box 001:

00001: Hospital Ships, General
  • Newspaper articles by Ernie Pyle
  • Seating capacities on US Army transport messes
- Merchant marine pay scale

00002: Hospital Ships, Standards and Specifications
- History of hospital ships and transports
- Specification for hospital areas on Army transports
- Correspondence related to conversion of hospital ships
- Minimum standards for hospital ships and troop transports

00003: Instructions for Transport Surgeons
- Patient evacuation to lifeboats
- Debarkation of patients (equipment and personnel needed)
- Duties and responsibilities of the Office of Medical Transport Inspector
- Instructions for Transport Surgeons

00004: Hospital Ships’ Carrying Capacity and Classification
- Data on 24 ships
- Patient capacities and classifications
- Classification of vessels—military personnel authorized

00005: USHS Algonquin
- Commissioning proclamation
- Photo postcards
- Menus and newsletters from the ship publication, *The Barnacle*
- Report of Voyage
- Welcome letter
- Movie schedules
- Personnel assignments
- Patient’s comment sheet
- Ship regulations
- Medical plan and plan for evacuation of sick and wounded

00006: US Hospital Ship Chateau Thierry
- Newspaper articles about the newly-commissioned ship

00007: US Hospital Ship Comfort
• Newspaper articles about kamikaze attack

00008: US Hospital Ship Acadia
• Photo postcard
• Newspaper articles about ship’s arrival in America

00009: Orders and Awards
• Dr. Donald’s appointment as 1st Lieutenant
• Promotions to Captain, Major, Lt. Colonel
• Assignments to Camp Upton, the 203rd Hospital Ship Complement, and the Algonquin
• Letter of commendation from Col. Zartarian, Mason General Hospital, NY
• Authorization to wear campaign stars
• “Thanks of a grateful nation” signed by President Harry Truman

00010: Hospital Ships, Additional General Information
• Binder including information about the Red Cross, laundry operations, supply catalog, Algonquin, Chateau Thierry, and the Thistle

00011: Miscellaneous
• Newspapers and articles including front page of Aruba Post, material on hospital trains, and Port News

00012: Personal Papers—Civilian Life
• The Lutheran magazine, 1945
• Columbia Hospital News reporting on Donald being elected to Chief of Staff
• Form from the Directory of Medical Specialists
• Obituary and hospital notice of his death

00013: Photographs: 1st Lieutenant Howard A. Donald, age 29

00014: Photographs: USHS Shamrock (interior) (13 images)

00015: Photographs: USHS Algonquin at New Orleans Port of Embarkation (Jan. 31, 1944) (13 images)

00016: Photographs: USHS Algonquin, Chas. Port of Embarkation (no date) (16 images)

00017: Photographs: Major Howard A. Donald, M.D., age 29

00018: Photographs: USHS Shamrock (exterior) (11 images)

00019: Photographs: Marseilles and Repat. Area (ca. 150 images on the subjects listed below)
• Leghorn and Pisa
• Southern France
• Ship’s company and ship scenes
• Miscellaneous ports