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Wayne State University Archives
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Rudolf J. Noer Papers

.5 linear feet (1 MB)

1942-1945

Finding aid written by Meghan McGowan on November 21, 2014.

Accession Number: WSP000394

Creator: Rudolf J. Noer

Acquisition: Donated to Reuther Library by Rudolf J. Noer on February 3, 1977

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

Notes: Citation style: “Rudolf J. Noer Papers, Box 1, Folder [#], University Archives, Wayne State University.”

Related Material:

WSR000345: 36th General Hospital Records, 1941-1946, 1955.

Abstract

Rudolf J. Noer, an instructor at Wayne University, and was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1940. During the second World War, Dr. Noer served as a doctor at the 36th General Hospital, a field hospital under the sponsorship of Wayne University, School of Medicine.

The first 36th General Hospital was created during WWI under the title of Base Hospital 36 and was located in Vittel, France. During WWII, Dean Edgar H. Norris of Wayne University sought approval to recreate the success of Base Hospital 36 from the War Department, and was granted permission to create a 1,000-bed hospital in 1942. Upon gaining approval, Dean Norris selected staff members to be sent to the 36th General Hospital, which included Dr. Wyman C. C. Cold, Dr. James M. Winfield, Nurse and Professor Edna T. Plambeck, and Dr. Rudolf J. Noer. Dean Norris then elected Dr. Richard M. McKean as the Chief of Medicine in the new unit. The new staff were trained at Camp Carson in Colorado prior to deployment, followed by a brief training at Camp Shanks. The hospital staff was deployed on August 20, 1943 and they first sailed to Algeria, and then arrived in Italy in October of 1943. The hospital then followed the troops to France, where it operated until November 1943, after which it was deactivated. In sum, the hospital operated from 1943 to 1945 and treated over 45,000 patients.

Upon returning home, Dr. Noer became a professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Louisville School of Medicine for 18 years, as well as an editor of *The Journal of Trauma* for eight years. Dr. Noer retired from the University of Louisville and joined the faculty at the School of Medicine at the University of South Florida in 1970, where he was Professor of Surgery until he became a Professor Emeritus in 1977.

This collection contains "A History of the 36th General Hospital," a manuscript written by Dr. Rudolf J. Noer. Additionally, this collection contains correspondence about the hospital, some military memorabilia including language and culture books, and correspondence and documents about the 36th General Hospital, Camp Carson, and the hospital's time in Italy and France.

Important Subjects:

Military Hospitals
World War, 1939-1945 -- France
World War, 1939-1945 -- Italy

Important Names:

36th General Hospital
Cole, Wyman C. C.
McKean, Richard
Noer, Rudolf J.
Norris, Edgar
Plambeck, Edna T.
Wayne University, School of Medicine
Winfield, James M.

Arrangement

Material in the collection is grouped by subject.

Box 1

1. Postcards, pamphlets, and language books, 1942-1945
2. France and deployment, 1942-1944
3. Camp Carson, Colorado, 1943
4. Italy, 1943-1944
5. O'Reilly General Hospital, 1942-1943
6. Correspondence about General Hospital 36 and Wayne University, 1944-1945
7. A History of the 36th General Hospital, Master Copy, n.d.
8. Newspapers, 1943-1945