Hospitals: Military and Naval

Archive and manuscript sources in the Wellcome Library

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The archives and manuscripts collections cover a broad range of subjects dating from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. This is one of a series of thematic guides designed to assist users of the collections to identify material of particular relevance to their research. For more detailed subject searching, you can run keyword or subject searches in the Archives and Manuscripts on–line catalogue, http://archives.wellcomelibrary.org, from which material can be ordered for consultation in the Rare Materials Room. Hard copy catalogues can be found in the Library’s Rare Materials Room or by request to archs+mss@wellcome.ac.uk.

Hospitals: Military and Naval

There is information on the records of several military and naval hospitals in the Wellcome/National Archives Hospital Records Database, http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/hospitalrecords/.

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<tr>
<th>Manuscripts and collections</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Army Medical Corps Muniment Collection: includes a large quantity of reminiscences, photographs, regulations and other records relating to military hospitals in the UK and abroad from 1650 onwards. Index lists hospitals chronologically by date of the item(s) and by name. Numbered army hospitals and field hospitals are listed under name of the conflict. There are separate index entries for Royal Herbert Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital and Hospital Ships</td>
<td>RAMC</td>
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<td>Barbados: ‘State of the Naval Hospital, Barbados’, Jan and Feb 1789, and letter from John Crawford, surgeon</td>
<td>MS.8410</td>
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<td>– John Davy's journal recording inspections of hospitals, 1845</td>
<td>MS.7699</td>
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<td>Basra: British and Indian Hospital for Infectious Diseases: Melville Douglas Mackenzie’s file on his period at while in RAMC, 1917–8</td>
<td>PP/MDM/A/1/1</td>
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<td>Cambridge Research Hospital: later Strangeways Research Laboratory: served as hospital for Belgian Officers in World War I, 1914–7</td>
<td>SA/SRL/A</td>
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<td>Canadian hospitals in France: Record of inspections by John George Adami with a diary, 1915–6</td>
<td>MSS.849–850</td>
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<td>Charlton House: letter from Sir FW Dyson, concerning closure of, presumably a temporary war establishment, 1919</td>
<td>MS.7285/2</td>
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<td>Chelsea hospital: Miscellaneous papers relating to, 1722–1849</td>
<td>MS.5314</td>
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<td>Colchester Military Hospital: H B Hewitt's autobiographical memoir includes his period posted to this hospital, 1945</td>
<td>GC/222</td>
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<td>Crimean War: letters from Florence Nightingale in Balaclava and Scutari to Sir John Lefroy, 1855; see also Florence Nightingale: A guide to sources in the Wellcome Library (PDF version <a href="http://wellcomelibrary.org/assets/wtl039832.pdf">http://wellcomelibrary.org/assets/wtl039832.pdf</a>) for further material in her papers</td>
<td>MS.5479</td>
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<tr>
<td>– journals of Alfred Bowyer Barton, medical officer of the P&amp;O Steamship Co, transporting the sick and wounded from Balaclava to Scutari, 1855–6</td>
<td>MSS.5960–1</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘The English Hospital for French Soldiers... St Malo’: 1914–5, by Nellie Insley</td>
<td>GC/22</td>
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<td>4th General (Stationary) Hospital, France, 1914: Colonel Frederick Smith’s “Bloodless Adventures of Colonel Xerxes Wilson, RAMC at the Back of the Front in the Opening Months of the Great War” is based on his own experience when posted to command this hospital</td>
<td>MS.8701/3</td>
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<td>French military hospitals:</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Bergues: Pierre Peyras, chirurgien–major, 1 ms receipt on vellum, signed, concerning services at, 1690</td>
<td>MS.7384/6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
– and book of medical recipes from, compiled by M. de La Tour de la Pommeraye, late 18th century. 

– Memorandum on the reform of the service, by Vincent Olivier Gouraud, c.1789. 

– Hôpital Militaire, Marquise: list of soldiers who died at, 1804–5. 

– Barèges: correspondence, case notes and papers of Dr Delpit, chief physician of the military hospital at, 1804–28. 

– Letter from M. Gares, 3rd Marine Division, to the Minister for War, asking about arrangements for military hospitals, 1806. 

– Charles d’Isau’s notebook, incl extracts re military hospitals, compiled 1807–14. 


– Anon draft of an article on, with suggestions for reform, compiled c.1810. 

– Official certificate of number of patients in military hospitals and their requirements, 1830. 

Gibraltar military hospital: Journal of Charles Thomas Haden MD, containing observations on the, 1823–4. 

Greenwich Hospital: material relating to in scrapbooks of George Marsh, Commissioner of the Navy and Director of, 1760s–90s. 

– certificates of good conduct issued to Lt F Bedford, signed by Sr John Colpoys, Governor of the Hospital, and others, 1817. 

Guyana: John Crawford: memorandum proposing, inter alia, a better site for the military hospital and barracks at Demerara, 1795. 

Haslar hospital, Gosport: Observations by Charles Middleton, on reports on conditions at c.1780. 

Holmleigh Auxiliary Hospital, Harrow on the Hill: Admission/discharge register 1914–8; patients’ personal narratives, 1915–7. 

Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals, Pretoria and Deelfontein, No. 2 General Hospital Pretoria: photographs taken by Humphry Rolleston, 1900–1. 


– 1/2 Field Hospital, India: Richard Henry Havelock Charles’ diary while in charge of, 1885. 

Jamaica naval hospital: List of assistant surgeons 1826–51, compiled 1852. 

Malta hospitals: Rosa Louise Hunt, VAD’s, journal in Malta, 1915–6. 


Portland Hospital, Boer War: Papers of Sir Anthony Bowlby, Senior Surgeon 1900–1, including reports and photographs. 

Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool: John Bowlby’s file of period at War Neurosis Centre, 1940. 

Scottish National Red Cross hospital, Kroonstad, South Africa: Notebook containing extracts from letters by an unidentified nurse serving at, 1900–1. 

Scottish Women’s Hospital, Royaumont, France: Notebook of Louisa Martindale, including a record of her service at, 1915.
Shaftesbury Military Hospital: accounts of its history during World War II  
Sudan Campaign: notes concerning field hospital provision, 1898, by T O'Farrell,  
Sutton Emergency Hospital: William Walters Sargant's writings on war neuroses and case records 1940–9  
3rd Southern Hospital, Oxford: photograph album of Dorothy Waller VAD, 1915–6  
Tidworth Military Hospital: John Bowlby's files, 1940–2, mainly relating to selection and training issues  
Unnamed hospital [in Africa]: [Thomas] Rowland Hill's 'admissions' notebook, 1941–2  
Villa Trento military hospital, Italy: Case books of Sir Alexander Ogston, 1916–7  

Attention is drawn to the film of Royal Naval Hospital, Sydney, showing treatment of prisoners of war with nutritional deficiencies, c. 1945, in the Moving Image and Sound Collection.