

Halloran Hospital Collection

1918-2010

Collection #: SIM-28

Title: Halloran Hospital Collection

Creator: Henry J. Kennedy, Esq. and Archives and Special Collections Staff

Dates: 1918-2010

Extent: .35 cubic feet

Abstract: This artificial collection was begun by Mr. Kennedy who donated his materials in 2016. The Archives and Special Collections will continue to add material as it becomes available.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Halloran Hospital Collection, Archives & Special Collections, Department of the Library, College of Staten Island, CUNY, Staten Island, New York.

Acquisition

Initial donation by Henry J. Kennedy, Esq.

Processing Information

Description and inventory by James A. Kaser.

Restrictions

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright Notice

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Brief Administrative History

Halloran General, the 382 acre campus that became a U.S. Army Debarkation Hospital in World War II, was created by the State of New York as the Willowbrook School for the developmentally disabled. As the school was nearing completion, the Army took over the facility in September 1942 and modified it by adding numerous facilities including a surgery wing, 3.5 miles of covered, heated walkways to connect all buildings, a Red Cross Auditorium that could seat 1,200, labs for the fabrication of artificial eyes and limbs, a vast food services complex that could prepare meals for special diets, as well as serve as many as 93,000 meals per month, a sophisticated telephone system that included jacks at patient's beds, and a radio station. With a capacity of 1,500 beds, the hospital was activated as an Army post on October 19, 1942. Halloran received the first wounded on November 5, 1942. Soon afterwards the decision was made to double capacity to 3,000 beds, making the facility one of the largest receiving hospitals in the United States. An additional 3,500 beds were stockpiled and capacity reserved for them should an emergency or disaster make them necessary. As a debarkation hospital, Halloran gave personnel wounded overseas preliminary care and classified them for transfer to other Army hospitals who specialized in the type of injury they presented or were simply closer to their hometowns. The hospital also treated soldiers from the Second Service Command (New York, New Jersey and Delaware) for injuries and illnesses that could not be adequately cared for in local station hospitals. Patients were processed at a rate of 2,500 per day, utilizing Addressograph and Graphotype machines. A P.O.W. camp located on the grounds provided a supply of manual labors to support hospital activities. The hospital became known for developing innovative techniques for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and studies on the use of penicillin and streptomycin.

The Army released Halloran to the Veterans Administration on January 1, 1947. By January 1, 1950 Halloran V.A. Hospital had 1,500 patients and a staff of 1,600 and offered specialized wards for geriatrics and neuropsychiatry and the treatment of paraplegics and patients with tuberculosis. The political battle to keep Halloran as a V.A. Hospital failed due to the insistence of the State of New York that the campus be returned to its original purpose. On March 16, 1950, the Veterans Administration announced the closure of Halloran, effective June 30, 1950. This date was later revised to December 31, 1952 to coincide with the expected completion of a new V.A. Hospital in lower Manhattan.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of material in this collection consists of issues of *Halloran Beacon*, a newsletter primarily intended for distribution to Halloran patients and staff, as well as newspaper clippings and articles from popular magazines and medical journals. The most comprehensive items in the collection are the three booklets that give overviews of the facility when it was in operation during World War II and in 1950 after the facility had been a Veterans hospital. The two books in the collection were written for children by Halloran's commanding officer Brigadier General Ralph G. Devoe. The collection also includes some items of material culture, including badges, matchbooks, and a license plate.

Arrangement

The materials in this collection are arranged by type of document and then by date.

Series Descriptions & Container Listing

[The following box/folder inventory is in the form of a table. If you are visually impaired and using a pdf reader you may need assistance and should contact the Archives at 718-982-4128.]

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Letter. Alois Kretschmer, POW to Edward Kretschmar, Kinterville, PA. 9/11/1945.
- 2 Book. Devoe. *Adventures of Midgie*. NY: Crowell, 1946.
- 3 Book. Devoe. *Calling All Ducks*. NY: Crowell, 1945.
- 4 Editorial. Devoe. "Is Nursing Craft Needed?" 1943.
- 5 Article. Chapman. *One-Armed Soldiers Clapping*. 2010.
- 6 Article. Hamburger. "The Boys in Maroon." 1943.
- 7 Article. Lyons. "Penicillin Therapy of Surgical Infections." 1943.
- 8 Article. Pulaski, et. al. "Streptomycin in Clinical Infections." 1947.
- 9 Article. "Quickly Converted for Casualties." *Architectural Record*. 1/1944.
- 10 Article. Rose, et.al. "Antistreptolysin Tites in Cases of Filariasis...." 1944.
- 11 Article. Small. "Favorable Response of Sarcoidosis...." 1951.
- 12 Booklet. "Halloran General Hospital." Philadelphia: Campus. N.d.
- 13 Booklet. "Halloran Veterans Administration Hospital. 1950.
- 14 Booklet. "Handbook: Halloran General Hospital." New York: NY Telephone. 1944.
- 15 Personnel Manual. Halloran General Hospital Exchange. N.d.
- 16 Newsletter. Halloran Beacon. Volume 1. Issues 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10. 1943
- 17 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 1, no. 40. 11/1944.
- 18 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 1, no. 45. 2/14/1944.
- 19 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 1, no. 46. 2/29/1944.
- 20 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 1, no. 52. 5/30/1944.
- 21 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 2, no. 2. 8/15/1944.
- 22 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 2, no. 9. 2/14/1945.

- 23 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 2, no. 45. 7/30/1945.
- 24 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 2, no. 46. 8/14/1945.
- 25 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 2, no. 47. 9/15/1945.
- 26 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 2, no. 48. 10/8/1945.
- 27 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 2, no. 50. 11/25/1945.
- 28 Newsletter. *Halloran Beacon*. Vol. 3, no. 4. 3/15/1946.
- 29 Program. Church service, fifth Sunday after Trinity, July 9, 1944
- 30 Program. Demonstrations and Exhibitions for the Brooklyn and Long Island Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. 5/20/1944.
- 31 Program. Thanksgiving Dinner. 1943.
- 32 Program. Thanksgiving Dinner. 1944.
- 33 Newsclippings. 1918; 1938.
- 34 Newsclippings. 1943.
- 35 Newsclippings. 1944.
- 36 Newsclippings. 1945.
- 37 Newsclippings. 1946-1951, n.d.
- 38 Photograph. Halloran General Hospital. Associated Press. 3/22/1943.
- 39 Photograph. "Hunt for Escaped Prisoner Is On." 6/12/1944.
- 40 Photograph Album Page. Public Health Unit. 4/1944.
- 41 Photograph. "Arrive on Gripsholm." 9/29/1944.
- 42 Photograph. Swimming Pool Construction. May 23, 1945
- 43 Postcard. Halloran General Hospital. Boston: Tichnor. N.d.
- 44 Postcard. Bakery Equipment. U.S. Signal Corps. N.d.
- 45 Postcard. Mess Hall. U.S. Signal Corps. N.d.
- 46 Badge (2). "Temporary." N.d.
- 47 Badge. "Theological Service T.S. Award." N.d.
- 48 Vehicle Plate. "Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island, New York, 558." N.d.

- 49 Matchbooks. "Acute Medical and Surgical Building;" "Chaplains' Corps;" and "Officers Mess."
N.d.

Oversize

- 1 Article. "Holloran Hospital: Army Brings North Africa Wounded Home to the U.S. for Treatment." Life Magazine, 5/3/1943.
- 2 Article. "Life Gives a Party at an Army Hospital." Life Magazine, 9/6/1943.