Biographical Note: Biography:

Dr. Irwin Hoffman provided the following information:

“I served as a medical officer in the 11th Evac from roughly Aug 1, 1951 to Aug 1, 1952, as a specialist in Internal Medicine. We treated many wounded soldiers with acute renal failure [due to epidemic hemorrhagic fever], and despite assiduous careful, "conservative" therapy- fluid restriction, low potassium diet, ion exchange resins, etc- many died from potassium poisoning. One of my colleagues, Lloyd H. (Holly) Smith had been trained in the use of the Kolff artificial kidney at Harvard and at the Walter Reed Army Hospital. He proposed to our CO (Col Harold Glascock) that we ask that the Walter Reed kidney be shipped to Korea and that we begin to dialyze these patients. Col Glascock made the request, and forwarded it through the usual channels- that is, to the appropriate medical authorities in FECOM, Japan. The request was denied, so the Colonel, on his own authority, cut orders on Holly to go to Washington (hitching a ride on an airforce plane from a nearby Army air base), pack up the Walter Reed kidney and all necessary chemical and electrolyte supplies, and bring it back to Wonju. Holly was away about 2 weeks. While he was gone the Colonel built a separate tent-unit, with its own power generator, for the dialysis unit. Holly returned with the equipment, had it installed, and dialysis therapy at once began. Holly directed the unit, some others involved were Capt Bob Hall (later director of cardiac cath labs for Dr. Denton Cooley in Houston) and Lt. Bob Abernathy (later chief of infectious diseases , I think, at the Univ of Arkansas, Little Rock.) Almost at once we began to receive patients by helicopter from all over Korea. Since each dialysis run took several hours, and there were many patients, the difficult decision was who could be treated without dialysis- or who would die in spite of dialysis. I took a series of pictures of the first dialysis run-I may have the slides still, but I'm certain I sent a set of prints to Holly. He went on to become chief of medicine at UC San Francisco, and Editor of the American Journal of Medicine. He published his series of cases of trauma-related renal failure, treated by dialysis, and it was a landmark article. Col Glascock was passed over for promotion to Brigadier General, and
resigned his commission—abandoning a lifelong ambition to one day be Surgeon General of the US—a position his father had held. All of us at the 11th Evac felt he had offended his superiors in the chain of command, and paid the usual Army price. He was a truly great commander, and physician, and deserves the credit for the establishment and success of the Dialysis unit at the 11th Evac. After leaving the Army, he became medical director of the Eaton Pharmaceutical Company.

Another interesting chapter in the medical history of the 11th Evac was Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever. This was a strange infectious disease, spread by ticks, of unknown cause (then) but almost certainly due to Hanta virus. Patients had bloody eyes, vomited blood, had hemorrhages in the right atrium of the heart, the stomach, and the kidneys. We thought the pathological picture resembled histamine poisoning—perhaps the responsible organism released histamine. We treated alternate cases with intravenous Benadryl (an anti-histamine) and thought we had good results. Since I had training in Pathology, I autopsied all the hemorrhagic fever death cases, brought tissue samples to Pusan for histologic study, and studied the slides with the pathologists there. The FECOM authorities didn't much like our treatment, so it wasn't used elsewhere in Korea. They were probably right, unlike their decision on dialysis. Holly Smith is now medical director of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in La Jolla, California. If you haven't yet contacted him, you should. Bob Hall is still in Houston.”
- Irwin Hoffman, MD to Alan Hawk (January 18, 2000)

“I do want to tell you about Dr. Kee Suk Wang (slide # 16). He was a Korean MD, very bright and eager to learn. He attended many of our teaching conferences. Dr. Ralph Monroe and I collected some money and brought him to the USA for post-doctoral training in Hematology—at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, NY. and at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. After completing his training he returned to Korea, and I believe is now a Hematology department head at two Korean medical schools. After a year in Korea I served a year in Japan at the Tokyo Army Hospital. Then I practiced Internal Medicine and Cardiology in Cedarhurst, NY. from 1953 to 1983, when I moved to Santa Fe, NM. Currently I am Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM.”
- Irwin Hoffman MD to Alan Hawk (March 11, 2000)

Series/Scope and Content Note: The collection contains a medical society certificate, an offprint of an article on epidemic hemorrhagic fever, and 131 slides from Hoffman's personal collection.

Box 001:

00001: Certificate: X Corps Medical & Dental Society

35mm slides with Dr. Hoffman's descriptions (these are duplicates made by AFIP, the originals were returned to Hoffman):

1. The Old Man - Col. Glascock
2. Capt. Wang and Friend (me)
3. Bob Abernathy
4. John Davis & Roy Mundy (Surg. Research Team)
[8228 Army Hospital Hemorrhagic Fever Center Sign]

Bob Hall - New Chief of Medicine

8228 MASH - Giulio Barbero

8228 - Bill Kessler

8228 - Sid Katz

Bagpipe Player, visited sick patient

The Old, Tired Womb. Flags up for the Weather (Med. Officers' BOQ)

Spring is here, and we roll up the tent.

President of Wonju Weightlifting and Mozart Society


Ralph Monroe and Capt. Kee Suk Wang

Catholic Mass, Easter Sunday

["Clean All Weapons Before Entering Hospital Area" Sign]

One Reason For Staying at Home (Hospital in Background) [mine field]

"Quartermaster Rotation" [corpse taken in airplane]

A GI leaves Korea the hard way. [corpse taken in airplane]

Medical Ward

Headquarters

["Eleventh Evac. Hosp. SMBC." sign]

Officers' Mess

Taegu. This is called chicken.

Taegu. A Famous Sign.

A Way Station in the Trail of Evac.

Luigi Pellegrino at our tent door.

Volley Ball - A "spike"

Luigi Pellegrino

Oscar Hardin

Sol Bershadsky & Bob Abernathy

Ralph Monroe & Warren Zundell (Emancipation Day)

The Bonzelaar Twins and Ed Marcus.

Bill Maguire

8228 Rex Speers

Rifat Sassoon (85 mm lens)

Paul Mikkelsen

Bob Pekarsky, my oral surgeon

Bob Blackburn in a Benchleyesque mood.

Helicopter coming in to 8228. They carry 2 cases.

Corner of hem. fever ward. Note map of Korea, giving location of each case.

Preventive medicine officer with specimen of "apodemus"- which spread h.f.

Note `black stripe`.

Harry Herkinrath recovered from hemorrhagic fever.

Rusty - One of our more decorative nurses.

Artificial Kidney

Artificial Kidney. Smith, Post, Howard.

Ready to start.

Masao Yatsuhashi
Holly makes an emergency repair

2. The incision (F2, 1/20)
3. Boring the holes (Rusty is the nurse).
4. Still Drilling
5. Well?
6. Sorry - no clot.

Bob Abernathy
Artificial Kidney
Something wrong!
Artificial kidney - pause for repairs.
Post & Patient (he survived).
Artificial kidney
Typical medical officer BOQ.

2nd set of slides: all photos taken with a Leica III F bought at the Hospital PX for $75, using Kodachrome film ASA 25. **The numbers in parentheses were assigned by Dr. Hoffman. To facilitate access, consecutive numbers were assigned to them starting where the previous donation had left off. Dr. Hoffman’s numbers were also kept in case they are needed in the future.

67 (1) Volley ball game, officers v enlisted men
68 (2) First stop in Korea (Pusan) a replacement battalion.
69 (3) Damaged plane at local AFB
70 (4) Me and a tank
71 (5) A fighter at local AFB
72 (6) My tent mate, and colleague, Capt Ralph Monroe
73 (7) Ralph Monroe, Susie (Army nurse) and 2 Korean kids
74 (8) Ralph and the 2 kids
75 (9) Capt Bill Levy, hospital psychiatrist
76 (10) Levy on "emancipation day"
77 (11) Levy waves goodbye to Korea
78 (12) At the 8228 MASH (?Bob) Hutchinson, chemist
79 (13) Capt Bob Hall, new chief of Medicine, and member of Wonju Bach, Mozart, and weight lifting Society. Cardiologist, head of diagnostic team for Dr Denton Cooley at Texas Heart Institute.
80 (14) Warren Zundell and Ralph Monroe with orders home. Warren is an orthopedic surgeon, Ralph an internist
81 (15) Bob Stone (center, JAG), myself (rt) and Rifat Sassoon (left)
82 (16) Air evac of wounded to Japan from local AFB
83 (17) Chemical warfare demonstration
84 (18) Leaving Korea by air, 1st stop is Sasebo, Japan
85 (19) Another tired plane
86 (20) A headless torso was exhumed near the hospital
87 (21) GI's ready for air evac to Japan. Note smiles
88 (22) Mr Lee, our tent house boy, showing off
89 (23) Joe, Col Glascock's houseboy
Col Bartlett from FECOM came to evaluate our hemorrhagic fever treatment results. He wasn't impressed.

A Canadian soldier - probably a patient

My pilot for a trip to 8228 MASH

Medical officer - ?name

Med officer Joe Picchi

Med officer Luigi Pelligrini

Med officer Luigi Pelligrini

Bob Blackburn, med officer, needed lots of rest

Medical officer (also in group photo #36, but ? name

Warren Zundell with a package for me (canned food from home)


Col Tom Haedicke (Medicine chief) before Bob Hall and me - we're en route to 8228 MASH for med conference

Gentlemen of tent #1: Front (L-R) Saul Bershadsky, Masao Yatsuhashi (surgeon), Oscar Hardin. Rear: 2 ?, then Bob Blackburn, the Bonzelaar twins, and another ?

It's me again, suited up for Korean air travel

Me with sunburn

Me - posing at our tent door sign (vieux carre - after New Orleans)

Med officer - Bob Abernathy

11th Evac officers' club under construction

Same, when complete

Sign at 4th Field Hospital

My pantry 45Thermite bomb demo

Thermite bomb demo

Digging for bodies near hospital (see slide #20)

Supplies for dietary supplementation

My desk Note chamber pot. Latrine was a long, cold walk in winter at night.

New arrivals in Korea are greeted with band music (Port of Pusan)

A local village store

Local village laundry

Local "sweetheart laundry"

Air view of Korea

Local night club: Welcome, UN and "off limits"

"You expected a laundromat?"

Korea from the air. Bleak

Local stores attract customers with confederate flags

Howard Johnson's - Wonju branch.

Local village liquor display: Contents, equal parts of carbon tetrachloride, wood alcohol, and gasoline with some urine for color GI's got very sick from this stuff - some went blind from the methyl alcohol.

Back at the AFB

Back at the AFB

AFB Fighter coming in

A med evac plane

The gun isn't loaded - the camera is.

The welcoming sign in Japan after my year in Korea. On to Tokyo Army Hospital