

## Joseph E. Smadel Papers

**Title:** Joseph E. Smadel Papers

**Author/Creator:** Joseph E. Smadel, 1907-1963

**Collection number:** 18

**Size:** 3 linear feet

**Bulk dates:** 1943-1963

**Inclusive dates:** 1907-1971

**Repository:** Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910.

**Abstract:** The records include correspondence, reports, photographs, publications, and memorabilia.

**Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on these records.

**Preferred citation:** Joseph E. Smadel Papers, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library

**Status:** This collection is processed.

### **Biographical note:**

Joseph Edwin Smadel was born on 10 January 1907 in Vincennes, Indiana. He was the son of Joseph William and Clara Green Smadel. Clara died when Joseph was still an infant in 1909. His father Joseph was a medical doctor. Smadel received his AB in 1928 from the University of Pennsylvania and his MD from Washington University in St Louis in 1931. Joseph married fellow Washington University classmate Elizabeth Moore on 1 July 1936.

Smadel's medical career began at the Medical School at Washington University where he was intern and resident from July 1931 to July 1934. He then moved to the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York, because they had better research facilities, where he stayed from July 1934 to August 1942.

Smadel's military career began with a commission as Lieutenant with the US Navy Reserves on 20 November 1940. He was on active duty from 2 March 1942 to 18 March 1942 and honorably discharged on 10 June 1942 due to physical disability. He then joined the Army as a Captain on 17 August 1942 and served as the Chief of Virus Division of the 1<sup>st</sup> General Medical Laboratory in England and France from 20 May 1943 to 2 September 1945. Smadel was honorably discharged from active duty on 22 September 1946 and entered the Army Reserves on 5 June 1946. He was honorably discharged from the Army Reserves on 1 April 1953 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

## Joseph E. Smadel Papers

After his active military duty ended, he returned to Washington D.C. and served as Chief of the Division of Virus and Rickettsial Diseases at the Army Medical School (later to be renamed the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR)) from 1945 to 1950, to be followed by serving as Chief of the Division of Communicable Diseases from 1950 to 1956. Smadel left the staff of WRAIR on 20 April 1956 to take a position as the Chief of Virus Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

In addition to his work at the Army Medical School, Smadel served on the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board and was Director of the Commission on Immunization (1947-1952) and then Director of the Commission on Hemorrhagic Fever (1952-1954).

Joseph Smadel received numerous awards and honorary degrees over the years, which culminated with him receiving the Lasker Award in October 1962 for his work on scrub typhus in Malaya during the years 1948 to 1950. He died on 21 July 1963.

### **Scope and content of the collection:**

The papers include correspondence, certificates, reports, reprints, memorabilia, photographs, and slides.

A memorial fund was established in his name after his death by longtime friend and colleague Dr. Theodore Woodward. Records of the fund and its activities can be found in the Papers of Theodore Woodward.

### **Custodial History:**

Some photographs were donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Smadel. Several are from his home and others are from his office at the NIH. The photographs of his birthplace and youth came from Mrs. Robert A Simpson. 2 photographs were donated by his aunt Miss Clara Smadel. The provenance of the remaining records is unknown.

### **Processing information:**

Processed by: Lara D'Agaro

Processing note: Original order was retained wherever possible. Materials were separated by document type and arranged chronologically. Exact duplicates were removed and discarded. Metal staples, paper clips and metal binders were removed. All records have been rehoused in acid-free folders. The photographs were mainly housed in 3 binders and had no discernable order. All of the photographs and slides have been rehoused in Mylar sleeves and have been placed in acid free boxes in chronologic order. Detailed lists attached to groups of correspondence, slides, and reports are retained in the administrative archives records; please contact the archivist for more information.

### **Arrangement of collection: The collection is organized as 4 series.**

Series I: Correspondence

Joseph E. Smadel Papers

Series II: 1<sup>st</sup> Medical General Laboratory

Series III: Awards, Orders, and Reports

Series IV: Photographs

**Detailed description of the collection:**

**Series I: Correspondence, 1946-1963 (6 folders)**

This series includes correspondence to and from Joseph Smadel. The materials are arranged chronologically.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, 1946-1948	
2	Correspondence, Rickettsial antigens, 1950-1951	
3	Correspondence, 1950-1957	
4	Correspondence, 1960-1963	
5	Correspondence, Lasker Award, 1962-1963	
6	Correspondence, University of Maryland honorary degree, 1962	

**Series II: 1<sup>st</sup> Medical General Laboratory, 1943-1971 (7 folders)**

This series chronicles the work at the 1<sup>st</sup> Medical General Laboratory during WWII. The laboratory was stationed in Salisbury, England, arriving in June 1943. A temporary detail was sent first to Le Mans and then to Paris from August to November 1944 with Joseph Smadel as its chief. The remainder of the laboratory then moved to France in March 1945. The laboratory was dissolved and personnel returned to the United States in July 1945. The reports are all photocopies. These reports were compiled due to interest in writing a history of the unit in 1971. There is correspondence to elaborate on some of the unit's activities.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, 1957-1958, 1971	
2	The American Red Cross-Harvard Field Hospital Unit, photocopy, 1943	
3	Annual report of the General Medical Laboratory "A" 15 <sup>th</sup> July 1942 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 1942, photocopy, January 1943	
4	Annual report for 1943 of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Medical General Laboratory, photocopy, February 1944	
5	History of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Medical General Laboratory during its development in the United States, photocopy with original photographs, March 1944	
6	Annual report for the year 1944, photocopy, 1945	
7	Report of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Medical General Laboratory, 1 January 1945 to 31 May 1945 inclusive, June 1945	

**Series III: Awards, Orders, and Reports, 1940-1978 (16 folders)**

This series contains clippings, programs, and brochures. The applications folder contains applications for federal employment, personal history statements, qualification questionnaires, and passport applications. The Lasker Award for Clinical Research was awarded to Joseph Smadel in 1962. It was to honor his work with Scrub Typhus.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Applications, 1946-1963	
2	Articles collected by Smadel, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1952, 1961, and undated	
3	Awards, Certificates, and Memberships	
	a. United States of America Typhus Commission Medal, 1946	
	b. American Public Health Association, Fellow, 1949	
	c. Military Preventive Medicine Association in Korea, Honorary Member, 1952	
	d. Certificate for Distinguished Performance of Duties, 1953	
	e. Southern Honshu Medical Society, Member, 1953	
	f. University of Chicago Howard Taylor Ricketts Award, 1953	
	g. Military Preventive Medicine Association in Korea, Honorary Member, 1954	
	h. Army Medical Service Graduate School Citation, 1954	
	i. The Jefferson Medical College of Medicine Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, 1955	
	j. Belgian Society of Tropical Medicine, Honorary Member, 1956	
	k. Washington University Alumni Citation, 1956	
	l. Meritorious Civilian Service Award, 1956	
	m. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 10 years' service, 1957	
	n. American Academy of Microbiology, Charter Fellowship, 1958	
	o. American College of Physicians James D Bruce Award, 1959	
	p. Stitt Award, 1959 [see photographs]	
	q. Association of Military Surgeons, Life Member, 1959	
	r. Alpha Omega Alpha, Alumni member, 1960	
	s. University of Maryland Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science, October 1962	
	t. Albert Lasker Clinical Research Award, November 1962	
	u. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 20 years' service, 1963	
4	Bibliography, undated	
5	Biographies, 1946-1964	
6	Clippings, 1949, 1950, 1957, 1960, 1962, 1963 [also oversize, S11]	
7	Commission and Discharge Papers, 1940-1953	
	a. Certificate, Naval Reserve Commission, November 1940	
	b. Correspondence, Honorable Discharge Naval Reserve, photocopy, June 1942	
	c. Special Orders, US Army, August 1942	
	d. Special Orders and Certificate, Honorable Discharge US Army, September 1946	

Joseph E. Smadel Papers

- e. Certificate, Army Reserve Commission, June 1946
- f. Certificate, Honorable Discharge Army Reserve, April 1953
- 8 Lasker Award, Ceremony, 1962
- 9 Lasker Award, Clippings, 1962-1963
- 10 Lasker Award, Public Information service of Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, Clippings, 1962
- 11 Medical Records, 1959-1963
- 12 Military personnel records jacket documents, 1946-1956 and undated
- 13 Passenger Guide, Air Transport Command, 1948
- 14 University of Maryland honorary degree, Ceremony, 1962
- 15 University of Maryland honorary degree, Program, 1962
- 16 Virus Isolations Clinical, 1944-1945

**Series IV: Photographs, 1907-1963 and undated (2 boxes)**

This series includes photographs from his adolescence through to his death in 1963.

**BOX 1**

Folder	Title	Date
1	Birthplace, Vincennes, Indiana, undated	
2	Smadel on his mother's lap, 1907	
3	Smadel with friends (7), [1920-1930]	
4	Typhus Commission mission (6), 1944	
5	Typhus Commission mission, negatives of previous 6 photographs, 1944	
6	Presentation of Typhus Commission Medal (2), 1946	
7	Production of Japanese Encephalitis vaccine, 1946 or 1947	
8	AFEB Commission on Immunization in Malaya (11), Spring 1948	
9	AFEB Commission on Immunization in Malaya (3), Spring 1948 (Oversize) (S11)	
10	Collecting mites in Malaya, 1948	
11	National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis meeting (3), 1950	
12	<i>Service Stripe</i> , 1952	
13	Unidentified conference, 1952	
14	National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis vaccine advisory committee, 1954	
15	Smadel fishing, Maryland, color (10), May 1955	
16	The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia honorary degree (2), 1955	
17	Washington University alumni citation (2), 1956	
18	Seventh R. E. Dyer Lecture, November 1957	
19	Armed Forces Epidemiological Board meeting, 1958	
20	Unidentified meeting, 1958	
21	Eighth NIH Lecture (2), May 1959	
22	Dedication Ziskind Research Building (3), May 1959	
23	Cholera Survey Team, Tokyo (8), 1959	

## Joseph E. Smadel Papers

- 24 Cholera Survey Team , meeting with the King of Thailand (3), 1959
- 25 Cholera Survey Team , standing outside airplane, East Pakistan, 1959
- 26 NIH Lecture, Arthur Kornberg Lecture, October 1959
- 27 Presentation of Stitt Award, November 1959
- 28 Armed Forces Epidemiological Board meeting, 1959?

### BOX 2

Folder	Title	Date
1	Second International Conference in Live (Attenuated) Poliovirus Vaccines,	June 1960
2	Chinese aviator with cutaneous Leishmaniasis, slides (2),	January 1961
3	Retirement party for Surgeon General Leroy Edgar Burney,	January 1961
4	R. E. Dyer Dinner (4),	March 1961
5	Brookhaven National Laboratory, scientific staff and visiting committee,	May 1961
6	International Conference on Measles Immunization (5),	November 1961
7	Unidentified meeting (2),	1961
8	Smadel and Colin MacLeod outside 406 <sup>th</sup> Medical Laboratory, Japan (3),	January 1962
9	Smadel dining with Mrs. Gustav Stern,	1962
10	Smadel working at desk at NIH (3),	July 1962
11	University of Maryland honorary degree(2),	October 1962
12	NIH Lecture (2),	December 1962
13	NIAID 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary,	1962
14	CBS <i>Eyewitness to History</i> program (5),	March 1963
15	Smadel on boat with Colin MacLeod,	1963
16	Smadel on vacation? (10),	1963?
17	Portraits of Smadel (11),	1925, 1934, 1946, 1948, 1959, 1960, 1962, and undated

### Related Material

For more information, see the Theodore Woodward Papers; the Records of the US Army Medical Research Unit-Malaysia, 1952-1987, and the Records of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, 1942-1975 in the Gorgas Memorial Library, WRAIR; the Records of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, Commission Project and Manuscript files, 1954-1965, at the National Archives; the Papers of Marshall Hertig, 1921-1967, at Harvard University; the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board records, 1946-1990 and the Stanhope Bayne-Jones Papers, 1852-1969, at the National Library of Medicine. For Dr. Woodward's recollection of Dr. Smadel and the Chloramphenicol study in Malaysia see the WRAIR AV Material Records.