

# National Museum of Health and Medicine

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## Otis Historical Archives

2500 Linden Lane  
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### OHA 265 Parker Collection

**Accession Number:** NA

**Date of Records:** 1954

**Size:** 1 box, 0.25 linear feet

**Finding Aid by:** Hannah Vahle (2018)

**Access and Use:** The Otis Historical Archives is committed to providing open access to its collections as far as possible within the limits of privacy and confidentiality. Access to this collection is at the discretion of the Otis Historical Archives and material contained within the records may be subject to review before access is granted.

**Restrictions:** This collection is unrestricted.

**Condition:** No issues.

**Historical Note:** The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, and necessitated a wide variety of medical support programs to be installed within Korea. Building from the knowledge gained in World War II, the United States military knew that a large-scale blood collection, transportation, and distribution system was necessary so the supply of fresh donor blood for the wounded would not be interrupted during an engagement. The American Red Cross once again, as in World War II, became a collecting agency for blood for the U.S. military. Many of the World War II programs founded to supply blood to overseas military casualties were either reinitiated or ramped up production to meet the new needs of the Korean War. Due to the nature of human blood, it cannot be simply stockpiled in preparation for any needs, but must have proper refrigeration and handling, and cannot be kept in usable condition for more than 30 days. This necessitates an adept supply chain to meet the ongoing need for the military. Author U.S. Navy Lieutenant James H. Parker describes the amount of blood transported during the conflict and how the blood needs of the U.S. military were met. This manuscript was presented at the 5th Annual Military Medico-Dental Symposium on October 21, 1954.

#### **Works Consulted:**

Kendrick, Douglas M. "The Blood, Plasma, and Related Programs in the Korean War." Office of Medical History - Army Nurse Corps History. Accessed January 9, 2019.  
<https://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/korea/blood/chapter20.html>.

**Series/Scope and Content Note:** Unpublished manuscript by Lieutenant James H. Parker of the U.S. Navy, presented at the 5th Annual Military Medico-Dental Symposium on October 21, 1954. This manuscript outlines supply chain logistics for shipping and receiving whole blood for distribution in the military. The scale of the blood and other medical supplies being transported is emphasized, as is the importance of outside partnerships, such as the aid of the Red Cross. Photographs within the collection depict various stages of the transport process, from packaging blood to be shipped, to loading the supplies on aircraft, unloading in Korea, and finally the blood's use in a clinical setting.

#### **BOX AND CONTENT LIST**

##### **Box 001:**

- 00001: Parker, James H. *Whole Blood Supply to Korea*. U.S. Army Medical Department. Parker collection, OHA 265. Presented at the 5th Annual Military Medico-Dental Symposium, October 21, 1954.
- 00002: Series of 22 photographs depicting packaging, transportation, unloading, and distribution of human blood from the United States to Korea.