

Wilbur, H.T. Diary

H.T. Wilbur Diary

1942-1943

Title Statement

Wilbur, H.T. DiaryGuide to the H.T. Wilbur Diary SC 00839

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 00839

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/575

Unit Date

1942-1943

Language

English

Creator

Wilbur, H.T.

Extent

0.01 Linear Foot

Extent

1 vol.

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Acquisition Information:

Purchase.

Processing Information:

Accessioned and processed by Ute Schechter, Warren E. Burger Archivist, in March 2009. The diary was further described by Pat Overton, SCRC Staff, in October 2009.

Preferred Citation:

H.T. Wilbur Diary, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

Information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: [H T Wilbur](#)

Scope and Contents

Diary of a medical doctor who served in the U.S. Navy beginning July 5, 1942, when he reported for duty at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. The name given on the front of the diary is H.T. Wilbur which suggests him as the author. Wilbur was detached for duty to the U.S.M.C. recruiting station, also Washington, D.C. He writes extensively on medical issues and cases and events encountered during his tour of duty. At the start of his diary he also reflects on his career decision and discusses qualifications and certification, etc.

Beginning January 1943, Wilbur then was on duty on the USS Albermarle out of Norfolk, Virginia; other places mentioned are Trinidad; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Recife, Brazil. Wilbur records his observations on a regular basis, but not all entries are dated.

Keywords

Diaries

USS Albermarle (Ship : AV-5)

United States. Navy--History--World War, 1939-1945

United States. Navy--Medical care

World War, 1939-1945--Medical and sanitary affairs.

World War, 1939-1945--South America

World War, 1939-1945--United States

Description of Subordinate Components

Diary

Unit ID id62532

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/45594

Unit Date 1942-1943

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 46 (Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Selected highlights from the diary: Pg. 2 – October, Richmond Virginia; Scarlet Fever prevalent in Arlington

County – treated a mild case. Smallpox threat emanated from the Amish in Pennsylvania who do not believe in vaccination. Pg. 3 – Received orders from the Navy January 25th; terminated private practice. Pg. 7 – Sent to Norfolk Naval Base to await duty assignment. Pg. 12 – Descriptions of a ship's "sick bay" Pg. 16 – Description of Norfolk as a city is crowded, dirty, and overpriced on goods and services. Pg. 20 – Spent two summers as a worker at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, DC. Here he developed an interest in psychological philosophy that was not available in medical school. Pg. 22-33 – Descriptions of the various emergency rooms and clinics he practiced in as a student. Pg. 45 – Describes his medical school time of the patients and processes in Obstetrics. Pg. 66 – Reported for duty on US Naval ship January 23, 1943. Set sail two days later. Detailed descriptions of the ship, his quarters, and bunk mate follow. Pg. 73 – First port of call is Puerto Rico on March 1. Pg. 78 -82 - Descriptions of San Juan, the life and people at this time during liberty in the city. Pg. 83 – Next port of call is Port of Spain, Trinidad, for official business – no sightseeing. Pg. 95-99 – Gives detailed descriptions of the living conditions aboard ship and of the other men assisting in the "sick bay" and other medical areas of this ship. Pg. 100 – Describes the long held ceremonial tradition of crossing the equator. First time equator crossing sailors were inducted into this unique "Fraternal Order." Pg. 110 – Proceeding to port of call at Bele'm, Brazil. On shore describes experience of money exchanges.