

# Major-General O'Meara

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ACC/2004/2



Papers of Francis Joseph O'Meara, covering his time in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War as well as a small number of personal and family papers, and some family photographs.

Catalogued by Harriet Wheelock  
July 2011, updated November 2017

**FJO**  
**Major-General Francis Joseph O'Meara**

**Collection**  
**c.1900-[1990s]**

*Extent:*

11 files and items

*Creator:*

O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*

Papers of Francis Joseph O'Meara, covering his time in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War as well as a small number of personal and family papers, and some family photographs.

*Arrangement:*

Papers have been divided by subject and arranged chronologically, the collection of photographs is at the end of the collection

*Administrative History:*

Francis Joseph O'Meara was born in county Cork in July 1900 to a medical family. He was educated at Clongowes Wood College and Trinity College Dublin, where he received his MB in 1923. O'Meara joined the British Army in 1918 in the Officer Training Corps, he left to study medicine, rejoining the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1923, serving in Egypt and India.

On the outbreak of the Second World War O'Meara was with a casualty clearing station in France, where he established an Ambulance Corp. In June 1940 he was captured by German soldiers and spent the next four years in captivity in various internment camps in France and Germany. Following his release and recovery O'Meara returned to Germany as the consulting physician to the British Army of the Rhein (BAOR) from 1945-1950. From 1950 onwards he served positions in the near and far East, in 1954 he was appointed as director of the Middle East Land Forces and in from 1956-1959 he was director of medical services, Western Command. O'Meara retired to Herefordshire where he died in 1967.

*Acquisition:*

Papers were donated to the archive by two members of the O'Meara family.

*Access Conditions:*

Access subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Access Guidelines

*Reproductions:*

Copying of archive material is subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Copying Guidelines

*Related Material:*

Banner presented to Major-General O'Meara in recognition of his work with POWs  
(ACC/2014/1)

**FJO/1      Certificates      1923, 1935**

*Extent:*  
2 items

*Creator:*  
Trinity College Dublin

*Description:*  
Degree certificate for O'Meara's MB in Surgery and Obstetrics from Trinity College Dublin (1923) and his certificate of marriage with Janet Glendown Croft (1935)

**FJO/2      Medical Specialist, Catterick Camp      3 April 1939**

*Extent:*  
2 pages

*Creator:*  
O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*  
Typescript letter from O'Meara as the Medical Specialist at Catterick Camp to his Commanding Officer, O'Meara points out the current lack of space for the medical specialist, his equipment and records, especially since the arrival of the electrocardiograph which will be further exacerbated by the arrival of an Iron Lung during the year.

**FJO/3**  
**Second World War**

**Series**  
**1944-[1990s]**

*Extent:*

4 files

*Creator:*

O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

Caner, Jean

*Description:*

Accounts written by O'Meara relating to his experiences during the Second World War, and especially the four years he spent as a Prisoner of War.

Also the account of French dentist Jean Caner, who spent time as a prisoner of war with O'Meara in late 1940.

**FJO/3/1 Report of Activities in France, 1940**

**25 July 1944**

*Extent:*

20 pages

*Creator:*

O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*

Typescript report, with covering letter, written by O'Meara after his repatriation from Germany in 1944 laying out his activities with the Motor Ambulance Corp he formed at Dieppe on 30 May 1940, and following his capture his work in the Hospital de Prisoniers du Guarre, St. Pol sur Ternoise, Pas de Calais.

**FJO/3/2 Statements on Captivity**

**19 August**

**1944 - 17**

**November**

**1944**

*Extent:*

3 items

*Creator:*

O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*

Series of official statements made by O'Meara, following his release, relating to his period of captivity. Firstly, a report on two German doctors encountered by O'Meara during his time in POW camps and their treatment of British prisoners. A letter to 'Wilson' regarding his memorandum 'The Prisoners of War Comes Home', in which O'Meara gives his thoughts on the experiences of POW and why they did or did not attempt to escape from the camps. A report by O'Meara on a man he meet during captivity who acted as an informer for the Germans and disrupted the British Prisoners.

**FJO/3/3    The Experiences of a Physician in Germany    [1958]**

*Extent:*  
51 pages

*Creator:*  
O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*  
Typescript of a talk given by O'Meara on his experiences in Germany from 1941 to 1950, covering his time as a Prisoner of War and his return after the war as Consulting Physician to the British Army of the Rhein.  
Talk seems to have been given to the Chester and North Wales Medical Society (FJO/4)

**FJO/3/4    Account of Jean Caner    [1990s]**

*Extent:*  
60 pages

*Creator:*  
Caner, Jean

*Description:*  
Notes made by Jean Caner on his time as member of the French Army and a prisoner of war in 1940. Cancer was a dentist before joining the French Army in 1940, he then worked at the field hospital at Marcoing, before being transferred to Cambrai. Jean Caner spent some of his time as a prisoner of war with Francis

O'Meara, and his account contains many references to O'Meara and the time they spent together.

Jean Caner's accounts are written in French, a summary document with translations of key passages has been provided.

*Custodial History:*

Odile Grimonpont-Caner contacted the Heritage Centre on finding that we held papers relating to Francis O'Meara, who was fondly remembered by her father Jean Caner. She provided copies of the accounts written by her father.

**FJO/4      Publications      1951, 1958**

*Extent:*  
2 items

*Creator:*  
O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*  
Copy of an article by O'Meara 'B.A.O.R. Medicine 1946-1949' published in the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps (1951), with a typescript list of all O'Meara's publications.

**FJO/5      Application for British Citizenship      1952-1954**

*Extent:*  
5 pages

*Creator:*  
O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*  
File of letters and forms relating to O'Meara application for British Citizenship

**FJO/6      Biographical and Family Information      1957-1967**

*Extent:*  
13 pages

*Creator:*  
O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*  
File of papers including a newspaper cutting marking the retirement of O'Meara (1958), biographical notes made by O'Meara for the Director of Public Relations in the War Office (1957), letters relating to the O'Meara family history (1864-7) and a typescript account of a visit by car to Ireland in 1966.



**FJO/7 TCD and RCPI Dinners 1960-1967**

*Extent:*  
4 items

*Creator:*  
O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*  
Speeches and table plans from a number of Trinity College Association Dinners in the UK and a table plan for the tercentenary dinner of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

**FJO/8 Photographs c.1900s-1950s**

*Extent:*  
14 items

*Creator:*  
O'Meara, Francis Joseph, 1900-1967

*Description:*  
Small collections of photographs of Francis O'Meara, including four of his childhood (1910s), four from Clonglowes Wood College (1920s), two from Trinity College Dublin (1920s) and four from the RAMC (1930s-1950s).