

GEORGE HERSCHEL YEAGER, B.S.

CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

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Randolph Winslow Surgical Society

West Virginia University

ALTHOUGH spending two years of study at the University of West Virginia in the mysteries of the "healing art", Maryland boasts of graduating one of her sons with all the qualities which an altruistic medical man must have. His popularity among his class-mates has given us an eloquent testimonial of the regard we have for him. With an unassuming, quiet manner, winning personality associated with a keen mind, one would say his future is assured and only have we to wait to hear of his success. And so to quote: "George is a man, take him all in all, I shall not look upon his like again."

November 24, 1943

Col. Yeager Relates Work Of U. Of M. Hospital Unit

On the high seas homeward bound from Tokyo is the last of the original personnel of the 42d General Hospital unit, that was activated at the University of Maryland Hospital and left here on April 20, 1942.

Col. George H. Yeager, who commanded the unit and moved it from Brisbane to Manila to Tokyo, arrived in Baltimore a few days ago. He related its story without embellishment.

During the course of the war the unit treated more than 50,000 patients. It was done with a complement of 35 doctors and 83 nurses supplemented by medical and sanitary corps administrative officers and 450 enlisted men.

Short Of Doctors, Men

"We were short of enlisted men and doctors all the time," said Colonel Yeager, "but the 42d General Hospital did a remarkable job. It was hard work during long hours with very little time off.

"We never had a major disciplinary problem and the death rate was startlingly low," he asserted proudly.

Being the first hospital unit to enter Tokyo was an experience that brought the most satisfaction to the unit.

On August 30, the hospital ship Marigold docked at Yokohama. The peace treaty was signed on September 2 and on the next day 20,000 prisoners of war were released on Honshu. "We set up our

hospital in 24 hours and were all ready for the 550 men that arrived," Colonel Yeager related.

Hospital In Warehouse

At that time the hospital was an improvised one. It was set up in an empty warehouse on the pier at Yokohama.

Psychology was the most precious instrument and little personal touches became the finest medicine the hospital had to offer.

"Making those men feel like in-

[Continued On Page 9, Column 5]



COL. GEORGE H. YEAGER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1945

Colonel Yeager Tells Work Of U. Of M. Hospital Unit

[Continued From Page 10]

dividuals again was the task we undertook," Colonel Yeager said. "We took care of the worst camps first. The first patients had traveled from eighteen to twenty hours to reach the hospital and all were given a hot meal on arrival.

"American home-cooked food did wonders. It meant a lot to them just to see American foods again. Nurses helped to serve the food. After the meal the litter cases were given baths and put to bed between clean sheets. All ambulant cases (walking wounded) bathed and were issued new uniforms. Fleas and lice had been on all of them."

Soon On Way Home

Those who were well when they arrived at the hospital were on their way home within two hours, Colonel Yeager said. Medical teams were sent out from the hospital to the various prison camps. They administered immediate medical aid and accompanied those most in need of attention back to Yokohama.

Colonel Yeager related that two other hospital ships besides the Marigold were docked in Yokohama and the three ships functioned as a floating hospital where the most serious cases were treated. The navy ship Benevolence and the British ship Tjitjalengka docked soon after the Marigold, he remarked.

Condition of the men varied according to the camps they came from, Colonel Yeager pointed out. "Those who were subjected to hard labor in the copper mines were in good physical condition because the Japs had learned that they had to feed them in order to get the work out of them," he said.

Most Prevalent Maladies

Vitamin deficiency and malnutrition were the two most prevalent maladies and beri-beri was the main disease, Colonel Yeager reported. There was also quite a bit of tuberculosis, he added. "Ten per cent of the cases hospitalized were tubercular patients," he asserted.

"In a few camps, particularly where there were air corps prisoners, the men were subjected to daily beatings. After Okinawa, however, the prisoners received better treatment," Colonel Yeager said. Some were in fair health.

Setting up the hospital involved a lot of manual labor. Colonel Yeager commandeered the services of approximately 300 Japanese civilians for the purpose. "It was a streamlined flexible unit," remarked Colonel Yeager.

In New Location Now

Today, the 42d General Hospital unit in Tokyo is located "in a beautiful hospital as modern as any we have in Baltimore," Colonel Yeager declared. It is situated in St. Luke's Hospital, which was endowed by the Episcopal Church with American funds.

Colonel Yeager was assistant professor of surgery and chief of operative and experimental surgery at the University of Maryland medical school before he entered the Army. The 39-year-old doctor will soon resume those positions. He is now on terminal leave prior to going on inactive status.

After graduating from the University of West Virginia he obtained his medical degree from the University of Maryland. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Board of Surgery, and of the Clinic Investigative Society of the South.

a Presidential Citation, but the commendations he prizes most are two personal letters—one from Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the other from Maj. Gen. J. L. Frink.

General MacArthur wrote: "On the occasion of the opening of St. Luke's Hospital by the 42d General Hospital, I desire to make of record my grateful appreciation for the splendid services your officers, nurses, and enlisted men have rendered in the campaign which culminated in the liberation of the Philippines and the occupation of Japan."

"Tower Of Strength"

"Through the long bitter period from May, 1942, when your hospital unit arrived in Australia, until peace was restored upon the surrender of Japan, it has proved a tower of strength in ministering to the sick and wounded of our military forces . . . and thereby has upheld the highest tradition of the American Army and the medical and nursing profession as well."

"All personnel of the 42d General Hospital may carry with them upon return to civilian life a sense of that deep satisfaction which alone springs from duty well done."

General Frink's Tribute

Tribute was paid Colonel Yeager as follows in a letter signed, "J. L. Frink, major general, United States Army, commanding:

" . . . As chief of surgical service, executive officer and commanding officer of the 42d General Hospital, . . . you have steadfastly maintained a high level of professional service in your command."

"During all these difficult times you have shouldered your responsibilities in such a manner as to earn for yourself not only the approbation of your associates in my own headquarters, but also the good will and respect of commanders of the units to whom you have rendered medical care."

"For your high professional attainments and good judgment; for the loyal, cheerful, energetic and

Won Promotion

When he left Baltimore in 1941, he was chief of the surgical section and held the rank of major. He was made commanding officer of the unit in April, 1943, and in December of that year was promoted to his present rank.

Colonel Yeager has received the Legion of Merit and his unit got

Yeager Named Chief Surgeon Of 29th

By ALDINE R. BIRD

Appointment of Dr. George H. Yeager, Baltimore army surgeon who headed the University of Maryland medical unit in Australia and Japan as division surgeon for the new Twenty-ninth Divisional National Guard, was announced today by Governor O'Connor.

At the same time the Governor announced appointment of top regimental officers in the reactivated One Hundred and Seventy-fifth Infantry of the guard upon recommendation of Col. William C. Purnell, recently renamed commanding officer.

NAMES OF APPOINTEES

First appointments went to commanders of three battalions in the Baltimore infantry unit which will take the place of the pre-war "Dandy Fifth" in the Maryland National Guard. They will be:

First Battalion, Lt. Col. Roger S. Whiteford; Second, Lt. Col. Anthony J. Miller, Jr.; Third, Lt. Col. John C. Geiglein. The first two are from Baltimore; the latter from Westminster.

Regimental officers named were Major Henry J. Reed, operations; Major Albert G. Warfield, intelligence, and Major Edmund G. Beacham, M. C., surgeon.

At the same time, Major H. Edward Wheeler, Bel Air, former Army Air Corps, was appointed operations officer of the newly organized One Hundred and Fourth Fighter Squadron, upon recommendation of Lt. Col. Robert L. Gould, commanding officer.

Wheeler was a pilot in the old One Hundred and Fourth Observation Squadron of the Maryland National Guard from 1934 to 1941 and served with the antisubmarine command as a squadron commander and A-3 staff officer in the war. Later he was transferred to the Army Transport Command as a base commander in Alaska.

NAMED LT. COL.

Dr. Yeager will have the rank of a lieutenant colonel, and will have medical jurisdiction over Virginia and Maryland units. He was chief surgeon of the Forty-second General Hospital, and later commanding officer of the hospital in Australia, Philippines and Japan. He won the Legion of Merit, Presidential unit citation and the General MacArthur citation.

All of the other officers named saw service with the One Hundred and Seventy-fifth from Normandy to the German river Elbe; all hold the Silver Star, some with one or more oak leaf clusters, and most of them the Bronze Star with clusters.

Colonels Whiteford, Miller and Geiglein hold the Purple Heart, while Colonel Miller and Major Warfield also hold the Croix de Guerre.



APPOINTED — After heading the Maryland medical unit in Australia and Japan, Lieut.-Col. George H. Yeager (above), Baltimore surgeon, was appointed division surgeon of the Twenty-ninth Division National Guard by Governor O'Connor.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1942

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 27, 1965

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM #3 -- (1965)

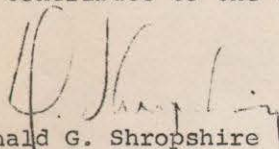
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

The Board of Regents of the University has announced the appointment of Dr. George H. Yeager as Director of University Hospital, effective February 1, 1965.

Dr. Yeager comes to the position with an extensive background in our environment, a major contributor to the Hospital-Medical School effort, and great respect from the hospital family at all levels. We would expect his leadership to move us forward in the months ahead.

On behalf of the Hospital, we use this means to welcome Dr. Yeager to his new post and pledge him support.

The Acting Director uses this opportunity also to express sincere appreciation for the cooperation and support of the Dean, Medical Staff, and all employees these last seven months. Working with each of you has been satisfying and has contributed to an improved knowledge of need and means of accomplishment. We shall continue to contribute to the team effort to make this a better hospital.


Donald G. Shropshire
Acting Director

DGS:aw

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

#2438

BALTIMORE (Md.) February 1- Dr. George H. Yeager is retiring this month as director of the University of Maryland Hospital after a 44-year career at the School of Medicine.

He has seen the progression of the hospital not only from an administrator's view, but through the eyes of a physician as well. He was professor of clinical surgery before taking on the directorship in 1965. During his term as director, he established a reputation for his attention to the details which make a hospital run effectively.

His biggest accomplishment has been improvement of the physical facilities of the hospital, Dr. Yeager feels. When he came to University, department heads were working under undesirable conditions, he says, and there were no amenities for private patients. Especially with the opening of the north hospital wing, he says, University can now provide satisfactory facilities for all types of patients.

Dr. Yeager has also seen the development of intensive care units. At the beginning of his career, acutely ill patients were scattered throughout the hospital. Now this system has given way to centralized intensive care units in which each patient can be assured that he is within immediate reach of highly skilled practitioners and the most advanced technical equipment.

Dr. Yeager knows what it's like to give medical care without the benefit of a first-rate physical plant or supplies. While he was commanding the 42nd General Hospital during World War II, the unit functioned in a convent in Brisbane, Australia and in bamboo

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YEAGER 2-2-2-2

#2438

huts and tents in Manila, Philippines, and finally acquired satisfactory facilities when the "42nd" went into Tokyo at the end of the war with General Douglas Mac Arthur. Dr. Yeager was awarded the Legion of Merit in 1945 and retired from the Air Force as brigadier general.

With his retirement, Dr. Yeager will continue his international traveling, beginning with several months on a consulting job in Bogota, Columbia. After that, his plans are not firm.

Until a successor is chosen for Dr. Yeager, the hospital will be administered jointly by Dr. John H. Moxley, dean of the medical school, and Jack Robinette, administrator of the hospital.

"George Yeager has devoted his entire professional life to University Hospital," said Dr. Moxley. "He accomplished many things before taking on the directorship of the hospital, when it was at a low point," he said, "including founding the surgical research lab and the surgical vascular clinic."

Dr. Moxley added that Dr. Yeager has developed the hospital into a thriving institution, maintaining the respect of his staff in the process. "He is one of the most respected men in the country in the field of surgery, as well as among hospital administrators," said Dr. Moxley.

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Testimonial Dinner

to honor

George H. Yeager, M.D.

*Director, University of
Maryland Hospital
Associate Dean,
University of Maryland
School of Medicine*



University of Maryland
School of Medicine and
Hospital

Baltimore, Maryland

February 5, 1973

Blue Crest North



George H. Yeager, M.D.

With love
regards
George

GEORGE YEAGER, M.D.

DR. YEAGER, our honored guest, has enjoyed a distinguished career as a surgeon, medical administrator, member and officer of many local and national surgical societies, and in the military.

George Yeager was born in Davis, West Virginia. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of West Virginia in 1925, and his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1929. He completed the surgical residency program at the University Hospital in 1933 under Professor Arthur M. Shipley, and he has been continuously associated with the University since.

During the period from 1933-42, Dr. Yeager was active in anesthesiology, working and teaching in operative surgery, engaging in a busy surgical practice, and developing a clinic for the treatment of peripheral vascular disease. During these years he also found time to serve as an enthusiastic member of the Maryland National Guard.

In 1942 Dr. Yeager departed for overseas as Chief Surgeon of the 42nd General Hospital. A year later he became commanding officer. This unit served with distinction in Australia, the Philippines, and Japan. This position brought to the forefront his outstanding capabilities as an administrator, for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit in 1945. After discharge from active duty in April of 1945, his interest in the military continued as a reserve officer and as a consultant to the Surgeon General. In 1970 he retired from the service as a Brigadier General, USAF.

Since 1945 Dr. Yeager has displayed a most unusual capacity for stamina and hard work. He was very busy with a demanding surgical practice and also found time to be active in local, state, and national societies. He served as President of the State Medical Society and founded and edited the State Medical Journal. He is a member of the American Surgical Association, Southern Surgical Association (Secretary and past President),

the Society for Vascular Surgery (Secretary and past President), the Southern Medical Association (past Counselor), the Southern Surgeons Club (past President), the Southeastern Surgical Congress (past President), and the New York Academy of Science. From this partial list of organizations to which he belongs, it is apparent from the number of elected positions in these societies that his capabilities as an administrator and leader were duly recognized. During this span of years he also served in 16 local, state, and national planning and review committees. He was active in the Research Surgical Laboratory, and for some years was its director. From this area came many of the 71 published papers of which he was author or co-author.

With his recognized and proven administrative ability, it seemed very natural that in February, 1965, he was requested to assume the duties of Director of the University of Maryland Hospital. Immediately after assuming this post, there was a very noticeable improvement in morale. Things were accomplished. The old and over-crowded building was rejuvenated: New units were added, and the old areas refurbished. His tenure has been characterized by steady and outstanding progress, often accomplished under almost insurmountable handicaps.

Dr. Yeager is a personable, capable, compassionate, generous, tolerant, and industrious individual; a man admired and respected by people in all walks of life. In addition to those many attributes which have led to his successful and productive career, he is endowed with great equanimity. Without this, such a task as director of this institution would have been well nigh impossible.

As his directorship of this institution comes to an end, it is the unanimous opinion that "George Yeager has done a great and outstanding job." To him we convey our heartfelt thanks.

Dr. Yeager Is Elected Union Memorial Chief

Dr. George H. Yeager has been elected the first male president in Union Memorial Hospital's 119-year history. At the same time, Mrs. Bruce P. Wilson was elected chairman of the board.

As a result of a meeting of the board of directors, a major corporate reorganization of the hospital was announced by Mrs. Virginia L. Nelson, retiring president. Dr. Yeager was elected to succeed Mrs. Nelson

as president and to succeed Dr. Herbert E. Wilgis as executive director when their terms of office end in September.

"Combining the offices of president and chief administrative officer provides greater continuity in the management of the affairs of the Hospital. Dr. Yeager's unique background as a superb administrator and renowned physician make him eminently qualified to assume this newly defined position," Mrs. Nelson said.

Previous Posts

Dr. Yeager was director of the University of Maryland Hospital, as well as professor of clinical surgery of the University of Maryland School of Medicine until his retirement in February of this year.

Dr. Yeager is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery; member of the American Surgical Association, Southern Surgical Association (secretary and past president), American College of Surgeons, Association of Military Surgeons in the United States, American Medical Association, New York Academy of Medicine, New York City Medical Society.

He is a 40-year member and past president of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, and is a charter member of the Baltimore Academy of Surgery.