



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Morris I. Mendeloff Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 755



Collection Summary

Title	Morris I. Mendeloff Papers
Dates	1917-1967
Collection Number	MS-755
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Mendeloff, Morris I., 1887-1967
Extent	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch	<p>Morris I. Mendeloff was born in Russia in 1887 and came to the United States at the age of sixteen. He first located in Baltimore where he attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then upon graduation went to West Virginia to begin practice as a company doctor with the Kanawha & West Virginia Railway. In 1913, he moved to Charleston, W. Va., and began a successful general practice followed by a specialization in internal medicine.</p> <p>In August 1916, Mendeloff received a commission in the United States Army as a first lieutenant. He was the first physician from Charleston to receive an active duty assignment in World War I. Ordered overseas in June 1918, he was assigned to the Thirty-seventh National Guard Division of Ohio in their field hospital in France. He was in charge of the dressing station which was always well to the front.</p> <p>Mendoloff was with the Thirty-seventh in some of the most critical fighting of the Meuse-Argonne offensive from September 26 to October 1, 1918. He then accompanied the Thirty-seventh to the Belgium front and was on duty in Flanders from October 31 to November 9, 1918. He received an honorable discharge in April 1919 and soon afterwards returned to the United States to resume his private practice in Charleston.</p> <p>Morris Mendeloff married Esther Cohen in March 1917. They had three children, Albert I., Lillian, and Morris I. The Mendeloff's were active members of Temple Israel of Charleston, West Virginia.</p> <p>Mendeloff died in 1967.</p>
Scope and Content	The collection consists of correspondence and a memoir documenting Mendeloff's experiences as a field hospital physician in France and Belgium during World War I. Also included are photographs and miscellaneous items.
Arrangement	The collection is arranged into three (3) series: A. Correspondence; B. Memoir; C. Miscellaneous.
Terms of Access	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
Preferred Citation	<p>Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Morris I. Mendeloff Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:</p> <p>[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-755. Morris I. Mendeloff Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.</p>
Provenance	Received from Alan Mendeloff, Shorewood, Wis., 2008.
Processing Information	Processed by Dorothy Smith, August 2008.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jewish physicians / World War, 1914-1918
Media	Autobiographies / Photographs

Series A. Correspondence, 1918-1919

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of detailed letters Mendeloff wrote to his wife, Esther. The correspondence starts in June 1918 when Mendeloff was sent overseas and ends upon his arrival back in the United States in April 1919. The letters describe his travels, camp life, his experiences with the local population and the culture and terrain of France and Belgium. There is very little discussion in these letters of military activity or battles.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Morris Mendeloff to Esther Mendeloff, 1918 June 16-July 27

Box 1. Folder 2. Morris Mendeloff to Esther Mendeloff, 1918 August 8-September 23

Box 1. Folder 3. Morris Mendeloff to Esther Mendeloff, 1918 October 17-November 30

Box 1. Folder 4. Morris Mendeloff to Esther Mendeloff, 1919 February 12-April 2

Series B. Memoir, 1918-1919

Scope and Content Note Contains a 49-page handwritten memoir which Mendeloff completed in France soon after the armistice was signed [November 1918] and before he arrived home [April 1919.] This memoir does contain more details of battles as well as military and medical activities. He also includes descriptions of his travels and contact with the local populations of France and Belgium.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 5. Memoirs of Dr. M. I. Mendeloff as a First Lieutenant in the Medical Corps in World War I, 1918-1919

Series C. Miscellaneous, 1917-1967

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of photographs of Mendeloff in his uniform and an image of Morris and Esther Mendeloff in 1917. Also included in this series are a number of newspaper clippings about Mendeloff, some postcards and scattered military records.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 6. Postcards and miscellaneous military records, 1918-1919

Box 1. Folder 7. Photographs, 1917-1918

Box 1. Folder 8. News clippings, 1918-1967