

Great Britain. War Office

Headquarters Records: America (WO 28/2-10): 1775-1785

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Content List – Volume 6, General Hospital Department

Background: As stated in *A History of the Army Medical Department*, medical arrangements in Canada were under the control of Dr. Robert Knox, Inspector of Hospitals at Montreal, and Dr. Hugh Kennedy who held the appointment of Inspector of Regimental Infirmaries at Quebec. General hospitals were situated at the bases at Montréal, Québec, and later at Three Rivers (Trois-Rivières), with small hospitals at St. John's south of Montréal, at Oswego on Lake Ontario, and at Sorel on the St. Lawrence. From these documents, it indicates in 1776, the officers for the Hospital included the following: purveyor, which was the hospital administrator (surgeon William Barr); surgeons (Pennel Cole, John Weir); apothecaries (David Caldwell, Richard Monington, Vincent Wood); 19 surgeons mates; and 5 extra mates. The adjutant general and deputy adjutant general receiving most of this documentation were: Major Richard Lernout, as of 1780, and Captain Le Maistre. This collection, more broadly, contains the paperwork received by the adjutant-general or deputy adjutant-general at military headquarters in Canada (Québec), from officers in the field and others during the American Revolution. (The adjutant-general was the chief administrative officer to the general.)

Hospitals, returns and letters, 1776-1781

Date	Author and Place	Summary
February 28, 1776	Lord William Barrington, War Office.	Instructions for the direction of the Hospital established for the Forces in Canada.
December 24, 1776		List of Officers of the Hospital serving under Sir Guy Carleton, Commander in Chief.
May 26, 1777	Robert Knox, Montreal.	Proposed Disposition of the Hospital.
June 3, 1777	Robert Knox. Montreal.	Return of the Officers of the Hospital to remain in Canada.
November 3, 1777	Robert Knox.	Return of the Hospital Staff in Canada.
January 5, 1778	Robert Knox. Montreal.	Return of the Hospital Staff in Canada.
February 17, 1778	Thomas Prendergast, surgeon at the general hospital at Three Rivers, to Captain Francis Le Maistre, deputy adjutant general. Quebec.	Complaint against Major Berner of the German Chasseurs about a dispute over housing.
April 30, 1778	Robert Knox. Montreal.	Return of the Hospital Staff in Canada.
July 1, 1778	Robert Knox. Montreal.	Return of the Hospital Staff in Canada.

July 1, 1778	Robert Knox. Montreal.	Return of the Hospital Staff in Canada.
July 2, 1778	Robert Knox to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Knox about to leave for England.
July 6, 1778	William Barr, Esquire, purveyor of the hospital staff, to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Enclose lists requested by Barrington and certificates to be signed by Carleton and the deputy pay master general.
July 6, 1778	Robert Knox to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Barr will be handling pay matters.
July 6, 1778	George Shepherd, hospital mate, to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Request permission to return home to deal with private affairs
July 6, 1778	William Barr to General Frederick Haldimand, commander in chief for Canada. Montreal.	Enclose returns of the staff of the hospitals in Canada
July 16, 1778	D. Caldwell, apothecary to the army to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Request that a certificate be signed of his having been on duty on the hospitals staff since January 1, 1776, to get paid
August 25, 1778	William Barr to "Your Excellency." Montreal.	Report that plans are progressing for a hospital in the "Quebec Suburbs"; this will save a lot of money each year in rent to the Hotel Dieu, present hospital; strongly prefer to have Protestant sick in a Convent or Nunnery as heard "Nuns of the Hotel Dieu have killed some of our Sick by tampering with them about their conversion, when in a state of great weakness of Body & mind."
August 27, 1778	William Barr to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Concerns rent of the new hospital building and appendages, resulting in a hospital for between 120 and 130 patients.
September 12, 1778	A. Mabane, surgeon, Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Enclose a return for the garrison hospital at Quebec.
[No date]	A. Mabane. Quebec.	Report of the Sick in the Garrison Hospital of Quebec, 17 - 27th September 1778.
September 28, 1778	A. Mabane at Captain Francis Le Maistre. Quebec.	Enclose report of the garrison hospital.
[No date]	A. Mabane, and Hugh Alexander Kennedy, physician & inspector. Quebec.	Report of the Sick in the Garrison Hospital of Quebec 28 Sept. - 4 Oct. 1778 including the General Hospital and the Hotel Dieu.
October 5, 1778	A. Mabane to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Quebec.	Enclose report of the garrison hospital.
October 11, 1778	A. Mabane to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Quebec.	Enclose report of the garrison hospital.

October 27, 1778	John Graves to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Machiche.	Request assistance in obtaining "Medicines for the Royalists at this Place"; apothecary at Montreal said I needed an order as scarce.
September 30, 1779	William Barr to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Report medical supplies delivered by the ships <i>Eagle</i> and <i>Three Brothers</i> but will send invoices if additional supplies needed.
October 7, 1779	Kennedy to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Montreal.	Report "Captain MacDougal of the Emigrants arrived from Carleton Island with certificate – cannot recruit loyalists, needs medical attention for kidneys.
[No date]	William Barr. Three Rivers, Montreal and St. Johns.	Return of His Majesty's Hospitals in Canada 8 - 14 December 1779.
January 2, 1780	William Barr to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Three Rivers.	Enclose depositions of 56 royalists at Machiche.
[No date]	William Barr. Three Rivers, Montreal, and St. Johns.	Return of His Majesty's Hospitals in Canada 29 December 1779 - 4 January 1780.
July 14, 1780	William Barr to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières] to Quebec.	Chest of medicines for the Quebec garrison hospital being sent by bateau and should arrive soon.
[No date]	William Barr. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières], Montreal, and St. Johns.	Return of His Majesty's Hospitals in Canada 27 September - 3 October 1780.
[No date]	William Barr. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières], Montreal, and St. Johns.	Return of His Majesty's Hospitals in Canada 18 - 24 October 1780.
February 5, 1781	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult, adjutant general to William Barr. Quebec.	Two surgeons' appointed - William Menzies to succeed Dr. Davison in the 84th Regiment and Andrew Graves to succeed Dr. Curie in the 53rd Regiment of Foot, the hospital staff asked to supply two surgeon's mates to assist.
February 9, 1781	William Barr to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Quebec.	Difficulties in responding to Lernoult's request for two surgeon's mates and suggest an alternative approach.
February 12, 1781	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult to William Barr. Quebec.	Agree with Barr's approach to meet the need for two surgeon's mates; sending a mate to relieve Dr. Menzies at Detroit can wait until spring.
[No date]	William Barr. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières], Montreal, and St. Johns.	Return of His Majesty's Hospitals in Canada 2 – 27 Feb. 1781.
[No date]	William Barr. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières], Montreal, and St. Johns.	Return of His Majesty's Hospitals in Canada 28 March - 3 April 1781.
[No date]	William Barr. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières], Montreal, and St. Johns.	Return of His Majesty's Hospitals in Canada 11 - 17 April 1781.
July 23 1781	William Menzies, surgeon of the 84th Regiment, to Major Richard	Concerns two drummer boys of the King's or 8th Regiment - need a

	Berringer Lernoult. Sorel to Quebec.	disposition perhaps with the Music Master of the 34 th .
November 26, 1781	Captain Francis Le Maistre to William Barr.	Concerns destroying provisions unfit for use at [Trois Rivières]
December 4, 1781	William Barr to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières].	Condemned provisions cannot be sunk in the river, as suggested, until ice in the river recedes.
[No date]	Robert Knox.	Lists of the "Full Diet", "Half Diet", and "Low Diet" served at the hospitals.
[No date]		List of "Patients to be sent up to Three Rivers" with names of men from the 44th Regiment, Fraser's corps, and the 8th Regiment, along with their "complaints."
[No date]	Kennedy to [unknown].	Enclose returns of "Invalids" from the 29th, 53rd, 31st regiments of Highland Emigrants, and few of the 47th Regiment."

General Hospital Department, returns and letters, 1782-1783

February 25, 1782	Hugh Alexander Kennedy, physician and inspector, to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult, adjutant general. Three Rivers to Quebec.	Request assistance in providing needed medicine for the 53rd Regiment.
April 26, 1782	Hugh Alexander Kennedy to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Three Rivers.	Request assistance in providing needed medicine for the Royal New York, 44th, and 84th Regiments.
August 4, 1782	Hugh Alexander Kennedy to Captain Francis Le Maistre. Three Rivers to Quebec.	List of staff of the General Hospital, along with the post of each.
August 21, 1782	R. McAusland to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Niagara.	Thanks for medical instruments received upon arrival from Detroit; various personal matters.
October 4, 1782	Hugh Alexander Kennedy to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières] to Quebec.	Enclose Prendergast's request to resign and support acceptance.
October 8, 1782	Thomas Prendergast, surgeon's mate, to Hugh Alexander Kennedy. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières].	Request permission to resign position to deal with private affairs
[No date]	Hugh Alexander Kennedy to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières].	Support request of James Connor, hospital mate, the eldest mate, to be made "Regular Mate."
October 30, 1782	Hugh Alexander Kennedy to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult.	As directed, sent Thomas Prendergast to Oswego to help take care of sick; provided him instructions on the treatment of scurvy.

November 26, 1782	Hugh Alexander Kennedy to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières].	Responded quickly to request for medicines to be sent to the garrison at Carleton Island; other posts have recently received medicines.
[No date]	Hugh Alexander Kennedy.	List of the staff of the general hospital of Canada with the locations of their posts.
January 10, 1783	Thomas Prendergast to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Oswego to Quebec.	Request to resign; hope service since 1766 "has been agreeable."
April 12, 1783	Thomas Prendergast to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Oswego to Quebec.	Third request to resign.
[No date]	Hugh Alexander Kennedy to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult.	Application received from Major General de Loas [?] of Lossberg's Regiment for medicines needed by the regiment's surgeon and available from the General Hospital; seeking guidance on how to proceed.
June 24, 1783	William Barr, purveyor of General Hospital of Canada	Return of the Officers of the General Hospital"; at Three Rivers [Trois Rivières].
June 26, 1783	Thomas Prendergast to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Oswego to Quebec.	Fourth request to resign, with more personal details of the reasons for his request including his health; note on the envelope "to write to Major Ross to give leave to Surg's Mt. Prendergast to come down to Quebec direct at Carleton Island."
July 1, 1783	Hugh Alexander Kennedy to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult.	Request leave of absence until next Spring, in order to settle property inheritance of children
July 10, 1783	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult to Thomas Prendergast.	Written to Major Ross "that if the service can any Way dispense with your Attendance at the Post under his Command, he will permit you to come down to Quebec, there to learn his Excellency's further Commands."
August 2, 1783	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult to Hugh Alexander Kennedy. Quebec.	Expenses in stationery and postage should be included in the contingent account of the general hospital.
August 6, 1783	Kennedy, Surgeon Pennel Cole, and [?] to the Army Richard Monington. Montreal.	A statement verifying Mr. James Connor, mate to the General Hospital in Canada, served well for seven years.
August 7, 1783	Thomas Prendergast to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Oswego to Quebec.	Disappointment at Major Ross' order to stay put; asking again that the commander in chief be informed I wish to quit; includes a separate page indicating he wished not to be "left in

		the power of Major Ross...[because] he would do any thing in his power to hurt me."
August 21, 1783	Brigadier General Allan Maclean to [unknown]. Niagara.	Statement by Maclean of crimes by James Connor, surgeon's mate of the General Hospital - MacLean had had Connor arrested for having caused a ruckus on board the <i>Seneca</i>
September 11, 1783	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult to William Barr.	Enclose statement of Connor's crimes; His Excellency "has determined to let him go; Barr to inform Connor "without Delay"; appears to be a draft letter with substantial editing.
September 22, 1783	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult to William Barr.	Forwarding request from Lieutenant Colonel David Dundas for medical supplies for post at Niagara; request they be sent via Captain Maurer at Montreal.
September 29, 1783	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult to William Barr.	To send Pennel Cole to Quebec, pursuant to an enclosed letter from Cole.
September 30, 1783	William Barr to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières] to Quebec.	Medical supplies requested for Niagara had been put on a vessel bound for Montreal and directed to Captain Maurer.
October 3, 1783	James Connor to "Your Excellency" General Haldimand. Quebec.	Responding to the commander in chief's termination of his service – refer specifically to "the unmerited and undeserving usage I received from Brigadier McLean at Niagara" and therefore feel "obliged to throw myself wholly on your Excellency's known Candor and Humanity"; headquarters note "to be refer'd to B. G. Macleans arrival."
October 10, 1783	James Connor to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult.	Same as above.
October 10, 1783	James Connor to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Three Rivers [Trois Rivières] to Quebec.	Still upset about his "distress'd & Unhappy situation"; referring to the "arbitrary & Ignominious treatment I have met with"; request Lernoult's assistance in obtaining His Excellency's favor"; headquarters note on envelope "acc'd and answered the same Evening."
October 19, 1783	Pennel Cole to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Quebec.	Thanks for having been granted leave to return to Europe.

October 28, 1783	James Connor to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Montreal.	Maclean is going to Quebec, want to go too but lack financial means or official permission; request assistance.
[No date]	William Barr. Three Rivers [Trois Rivieres], Quebec, and Montreal.	Return of his Majestys Hospitals in Canada 22 - 28 October 1783.
November 3, 1783	Brigadier McLean to James Connor.	"in my opinion your being dismissed the Service, is but a very mild punishm't for Your conduct at Niagara", General indicated he will permit you to remain in "hospital establishment" If acknowledge folly and behave.
November 10, 1783	James Connor to Major Richard Berringer Lernoult. Montreal.	Enclosing a letter from Maclean and offer thanks to His Excellency for his forgiveness.
November 17, 1783	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult to James Connor.	Acknowledge receipt of Connor's letter with enclosure of Maclean's letter; confirm will be "reinstated" as hospital mate; confident future conduct "will do credit to those Friends who have interested themselves in Your favor"
November 17, 1783	Major Richard Berringer Lernoult to Dr. William Barr.	To reinstate Connor.
[No date]		List of Hospital Staff who draw their pay in Canada.
Dated Saturday morning, 9 o'clock.	James Connor to Major Richard Berringer Lernout.	Lodging very expensive and hopes to hear his fate soon