



1920-1929



Title page - This aerial view, taken in the summer of 1921, looks north toward Building 1, the main administration and clinical building, which was completed in 1908 and occupied in 1909. The new Wards A (west) and B (east, hidden behind the trees) were completed in 1914 and 1915, respectively. Directly north of the east portion of Building 1 are two identical double sets of Sergeant's quarters, Buildings 2 and 3. To the east of Building 3 (right in the photo) is the larger "Isolation Hospital" of 12 beds completed in 1913. Temporary wards for World War I are seen in the foreground (left and right). The YMCA building is seen in the upper right of the photograph. Also north of Building 1, in the upper portion of the photos, are former private homes that were on the property that was purchased for the facility. These were used as officer's quarters.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, 9882AC

► Building 1 as it appeared late in the second decade after two major additions.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



The war was over, but the care and rehabilitation of war wounded continued at Walter Reed during the early years of its second decade. Closure of temporary Army hospitals that were opened during the war led Congress to provide additional funds to Walter Reed to purchase additional property and to replace many of the temporary buildings added during the war with permanent structures. Between 1920 and 1922, the Army purchased 44 acres of land north of the Post that was part of the Sixteenth Street Heights subdivision. This brought the campus to its present size of approximately 116

acres. Later in the decade, major east and west additions were added to "old main," bringing Building 1 to essentially what is seen today.

Warren G. Harding, elected President of the United States in 1920, was the first President to personally visit Walter Reed. Mrs. Rea and Miss Lower from the Red Cross at Walter Reed were at the White House making arrangements to bring wounded soldiers there for a garden party when the President approached them and asked if he could come out for a visit. He said how about this Sunday, and they said "of course." Concerned that

they had committed to the President of the United States without the knowledge of the hospital commander, they rushed back to the hospital hoping that everything would be alright. It was of course and the President's visit on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in May was a rousing success.

The rolling of Easter eggs on the Monday following Easter was a Washington children's tradition long before it began at Walter Reed in 1923. In 1927, Walter Reed held Washington's first Easter Sunrise Service soon becoming an annual event interrupted only during World War II.



The Army Medical School's new permanent building was built on the little knoll to the west of Building 1 that had been the location of the tent-sheltered Hospital Company C in April 1909, the first medical unit to occupy the grounds. The Army Medical School, founded by Surgeon General George Miller Sternberg in 1893, was not a four-year medical school as we know it today, but was a course of variable length depending on the needs of the Army that was an introduction to military medicine for physicians who had no prior service. The new building (Bldg. 40) opened in 1923 and also housed the Army Dental School and Army Veterinary School.

Over the years, Building 40 would undergo significant additions in the 1930s and 1960s. With the arrival of the Army Medical School, the installation was now named the Army Medical Center, which encompassed the schools (Army Medical School, Army Dental School, and Army Veterinary School), Walter Reed General Hospital, and all other activities on Post.

James D. Glennan, Walter Reed General Hospital (1919-1923) and Army Medical Center (1923-1926) commander was an avid garden enthusiast and had much to do with developing the formal garden south of Building 1. He

is credited with acquiring a number of Japanese cherry trees that were surplus from over 3,000 sent from Japan for planting around the tidal basin and Potomac River and having them planted on the upper rim of the rose garden basin.





On December 12, 1920, a fire in Ward 43, the ward for neuropsychiatric patients under observation, caused \$25,000 damage and the death of one patient. Wards 43 and 44 were completely destroyed. Thirty-eight patients were helped to safety, earning the staff a collective special commendation for conspicuous and meritorious conduct. The destroyed buildings were long low structures, part of a number erected to care for the wounded veterans from World War I. *The Come-Back*, Vol. 2, No. 27, December 18, 1920.

Sources: (Left) National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection (Below and Below Opposite) Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





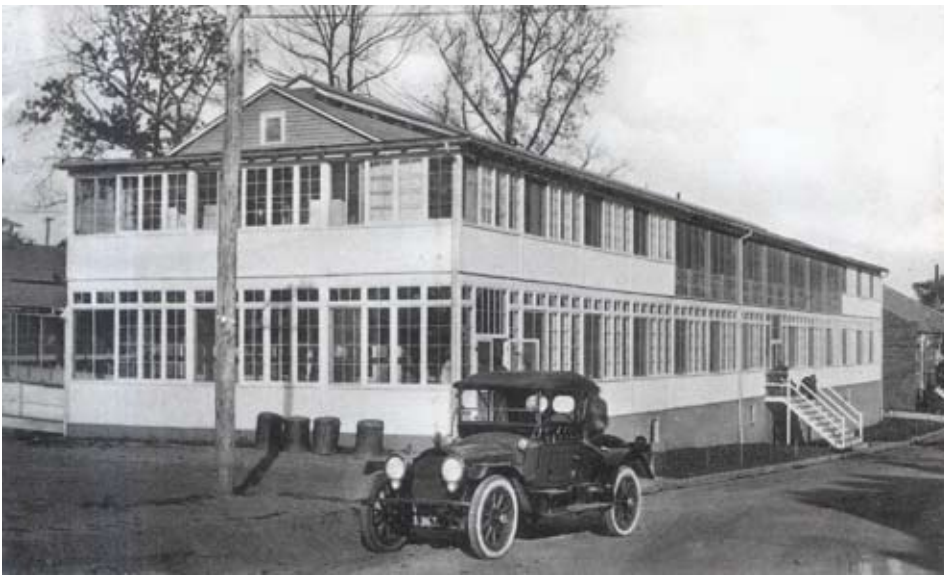
▲ The great influx of patients during and after World War I contributed to crowded conditions on the campus. Temporary buildings and tents filled the grounds around the main building.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 30624



▲ Snow removal team taking quick action.

Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives

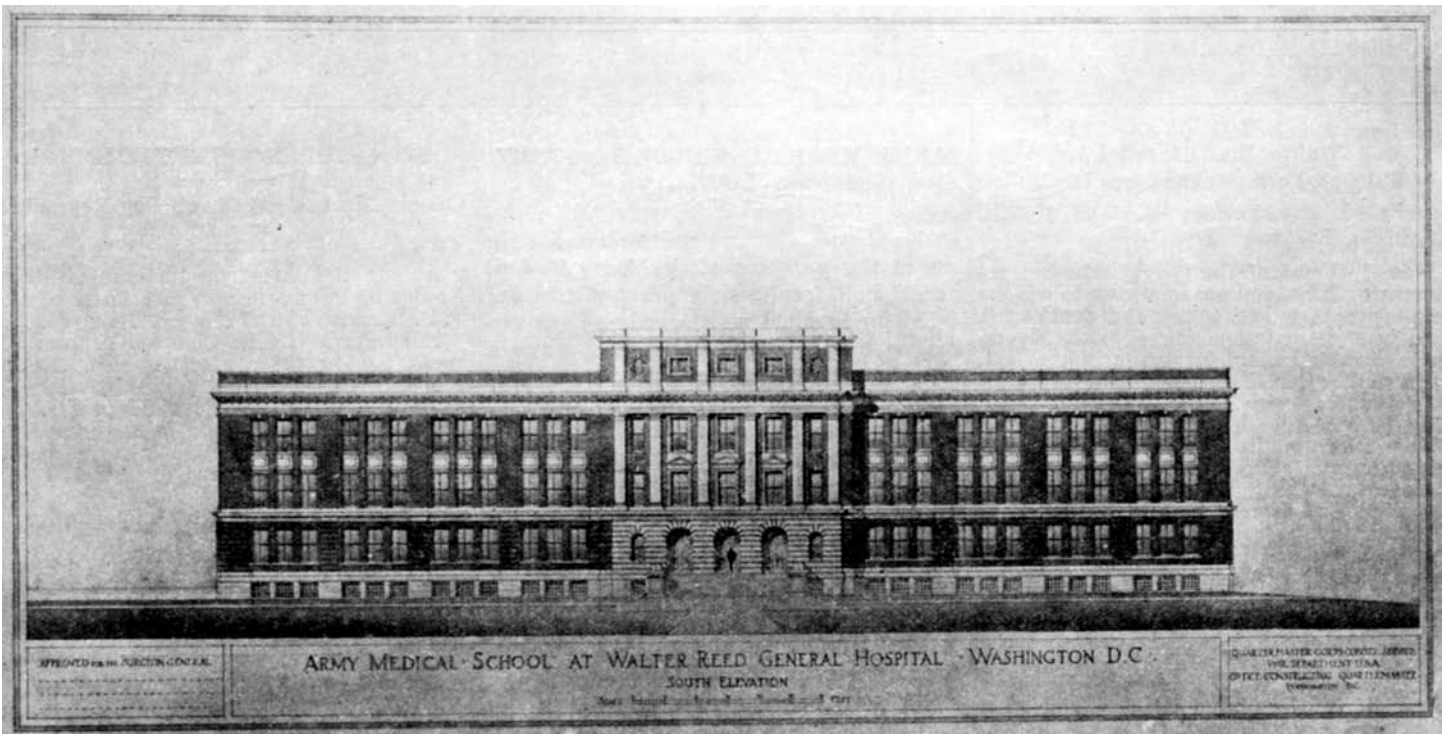


◀ Convalescent Wards 23 and 24 with sunporches.
 Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, NCP 15001

▶ The 12-bed isolation ward was built in 1913. This building was razed in the 1970s to make way for the new hospital building.
 Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 4176



◀ 1927, Entrance to Kitchen Area. Right: first floor, Mess II; second floor, Library; third floor, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Wards.
 Source: *Borden's Dream* by Mary W. Standlee, p. 218



▲ Architect's rendering of the Army Medical School at Walter Reed Hospital. South Elevation. The Army Medical School moved from 7th Street in downtown Washington, D.C., to a location on a knoll west of Building 1, site of the original Company C Hospital Corps encampment.
 Source: *The Come-Back*, March 17, 1922

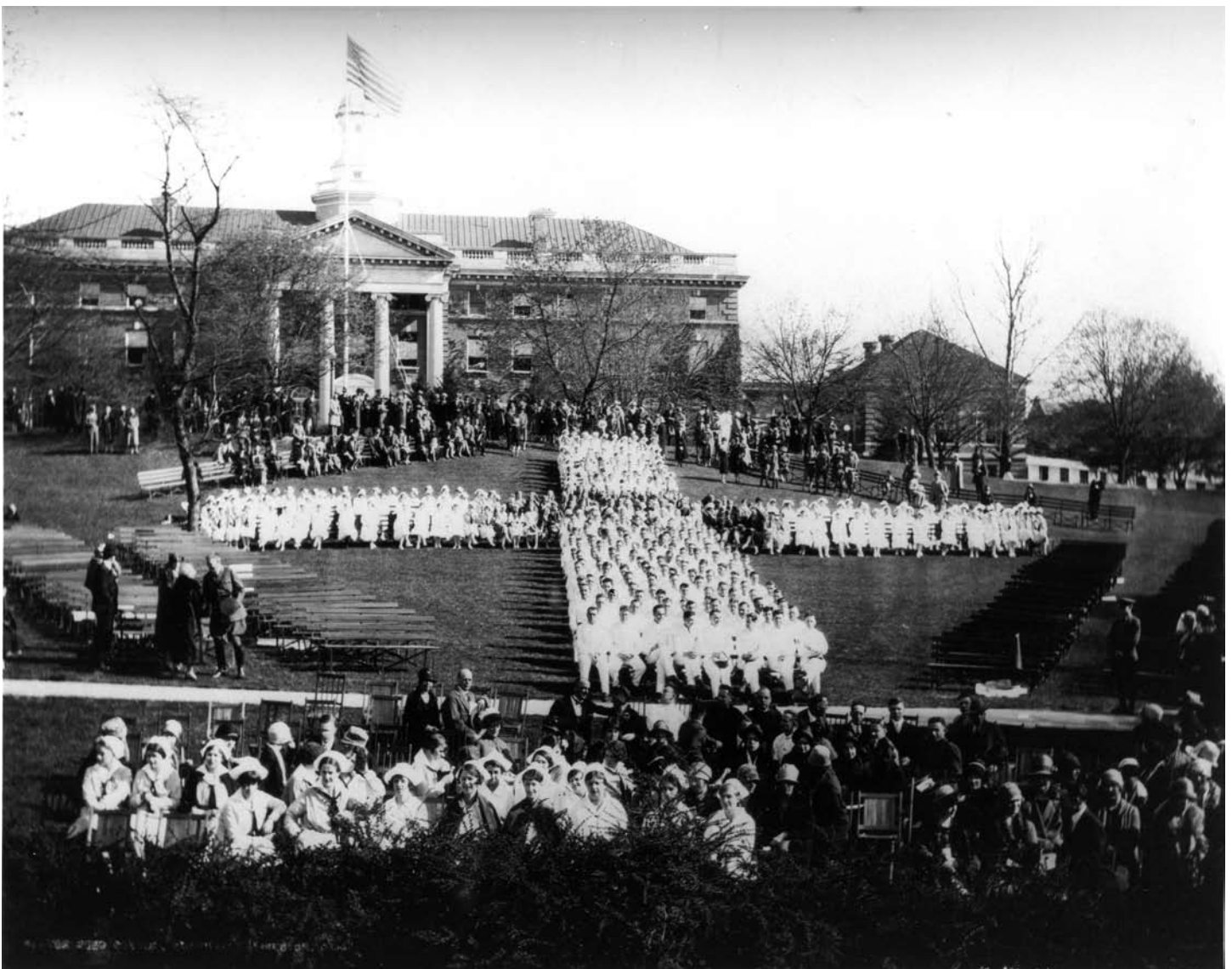


▲ The Army Dental School was located in these temporary WWI buildings from 1922 to 1930 when these buildings were condemned and torn down. March 23, 1923.
 Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



◀ The First Easter Egg Roll at Walter Reed was held the Monday after Easter on April 2, 1923 in the formal gardens. Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

▼ The first Easter Sunrise Service in Washington, D.C., was held at Walter Reed in 1927. More than 8,000 people attended the second Easter Sunrise Service in 1928. The services were broadcast live by local Radio Station WRC. The initial Service, co-sponsored by the Washington Federation of Churches and the U.S. Army, featured an impressive “Living Cross” formed by Walter Reed personnel with music by the U.S. Army Band. This annual event, held every year except 1942–1944, has attracted thousands of participants. Source: *Borden’s Dream* by Mary W. Standlee. p. 215



► Native Americans with patients.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

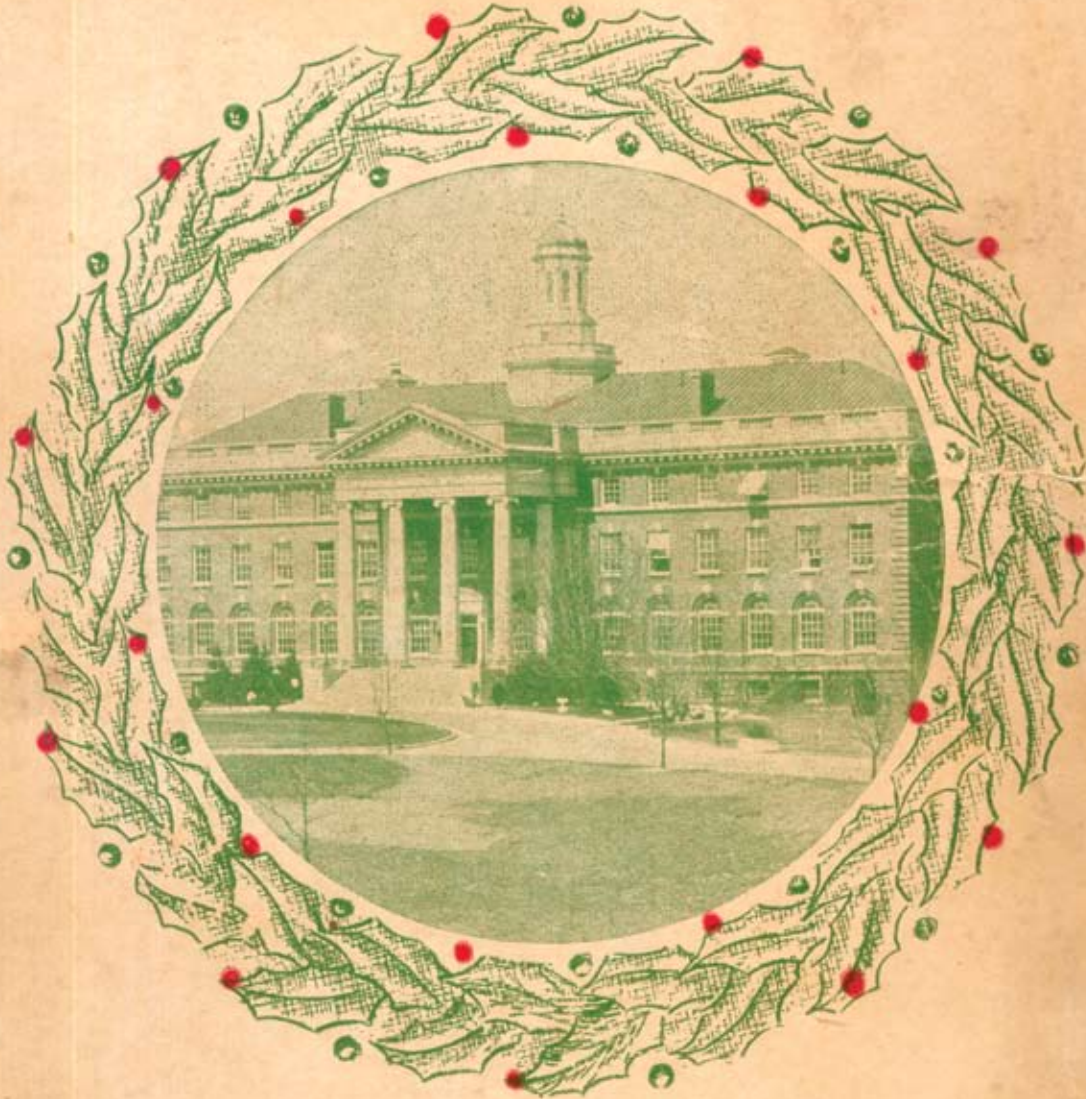


◀ Thanksgiving pageant.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Montgomery Collection

► 4th of July pageant.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Montgomery Collection



A Merry Christmas
1921

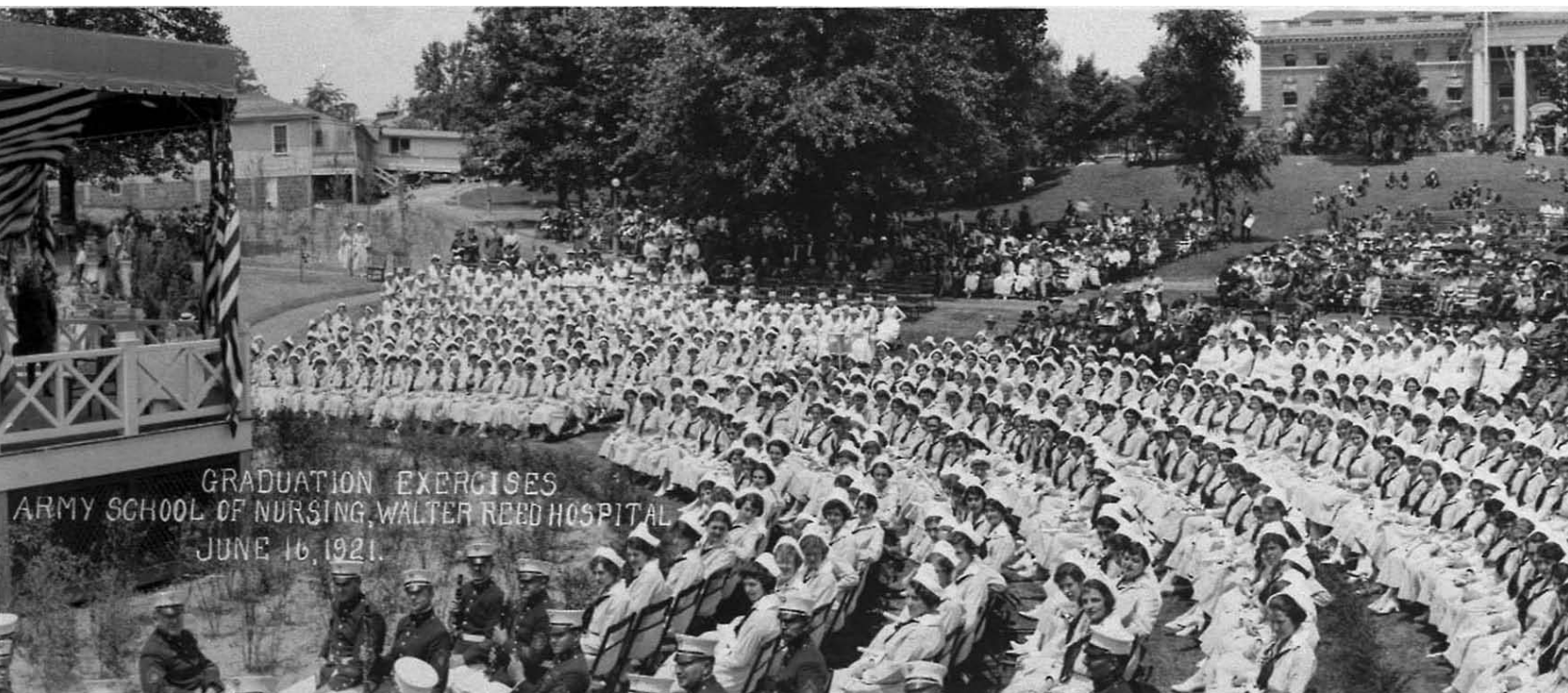


Walter Reed General Hospital,
Washington, D. C.

Front of the Christmas Menu from the 1921 Christmas Dinner. Highlights from the menu include Oyster Cocktails, Roast Virginia Turkey, Skookum Apples, and English Plum Pudding.
Source: Pierce Collection



▲ Outdoor class for the nurses. Notice the temporary ward construction behind them.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection





▲ Nurses doing their morning exercises.
Source: Office of The Surgeon General, Office of Medical History

▼ Maj. General Merritte W. Ireland, U.S. Army Surgeon General, presided at the graduation ceremonies for more than 400 students from the Army School of Nursing at Walter Reed. It was said to be the largest graduating class from any similar institution in the United States. June 16, 1921.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, 65-12604



► The study of bacteriology has been important from the beginning of Walter Reed Hospital's history. Here, one of the specialists is studying a slide.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 608



◄ A long view of the bacteriology lab where physicians trained in the Army Medical School.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 2313



▲ Army officer examining men's teeth.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 607

▶ (Left) Mrs. Henry (Edith Oliver) Rea, the original Red Cross Gray Lady. She was appointed by the American Red Cross to coordinate the Red Cross activities at Walter Reed during World War I. (Right) Shown is Mrs. Rea wearing the uniform of the day that gave the volunteer women their unofficial name based on the pearl gray color of their dress.

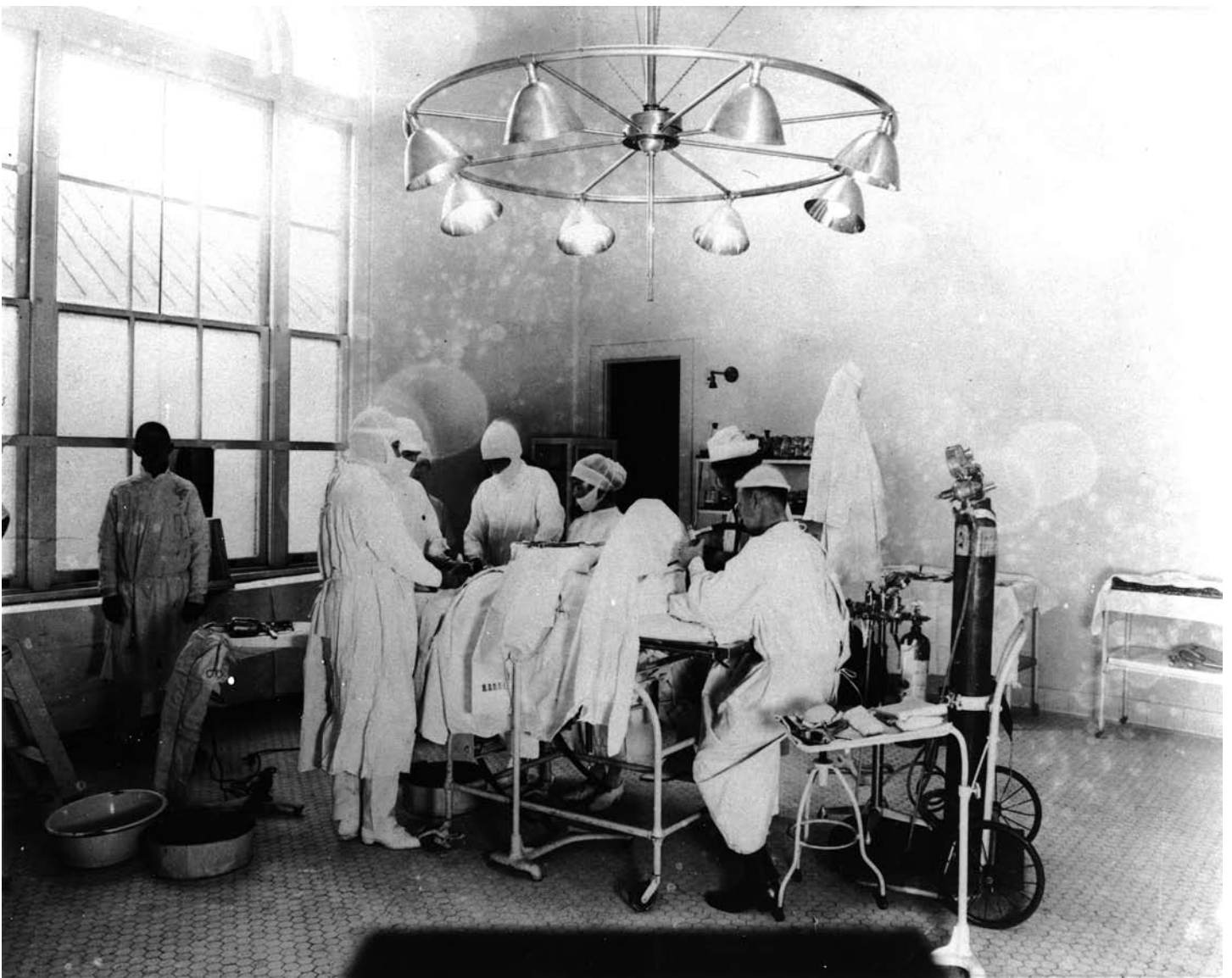
Sources: (Left) Pierce Collection; (Right) National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection





Inside the main entrance to the main hospital (Building 1), July 25, 1924.

Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



▲ Col. William L. Keller, Chief of Surgery, at work.
Source: *Borden's Dream* by Mary W. Standlee, p. 163

▶ Inside of the Operating Room of the Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Clinic, 1922.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives





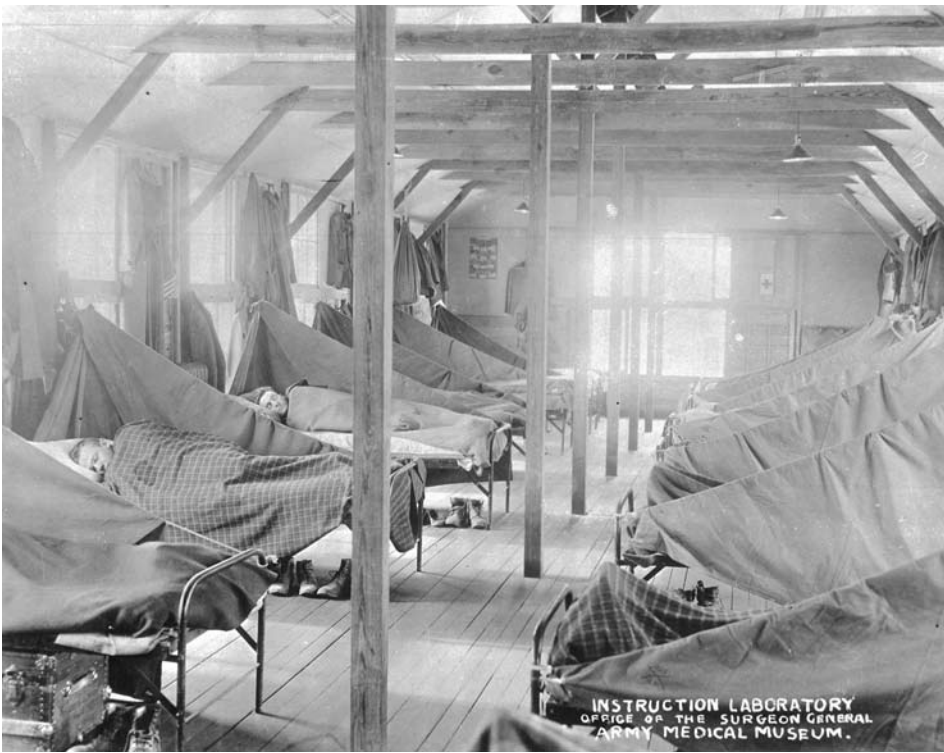
INSTRUCTION LABORATORY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM

▲ A typical hospital ward at Walter Reed. Patients are here for observation.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection. Reeve 605

▶ Rehabilitation aides (later called physical therapists) attending to their patients in one of the temporary building wards in August 1922.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center History Office



518 E. Aug. 2-22.



◀ Inside a hospital ward in a temporary building.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 227

▼ Patients in Ward 72 on New Year's Day, 1920. This was one of the temporary wards built to accommodate the wounded from the Great War.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection





▲ A portable X-ray machine is brought to the patient on the ward. The practice at the time was not to use protective shielding.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 2312



▲ Dental procedure using natural lighting.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 225

▶ A Dental Technician positioning the X-ray machine for dental radiographs at Walter Reed General Hospital, 1922.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, NCP 2732



► Patients enjoyed a social event in the recreation center of the Red Cross Building.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 740



◀ Re-education in the form of occupational therapy is taking place on Ward X.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 773

► A war veteran wearing temporary pilons, which precede permanent prosthetic limbs.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection, Reeve 282



► Wounded soldiers being taught scroll work by a vocational aide at Walter Reed Hospital.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 644



◀ Veterans recovering from wounds are taught basketry. The skills learned here will improve hand dexterity and eye-hand coordination.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 286

► The process of making prosthetics is an essential part of training the patients to return to their normal lives. Here, technicians are shown creating the limbs lost in battle.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeves 271



► Weaving is not only a creative way to pass time in the hospital, it also teaches eye-hand coordination, teaches injured muscles to work again, and gives the patient a sense of accomplishment when the project is completed.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 645



▲ World War I veteran enjoys a spring day on campus.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 170



▲ Soldier learning gardening in the Walter Reed greenhouse.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 280



▶ The World War I veteran received a practical course. Farming, gardening, chicken-raising, and carpentry were taught, as well as stenography, printing, and the crafts. (Original caption)

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 281



▲ Typewriting is another skill useful both in physical therapy to regain coordination and muscle strength, and also a useful tool for employment after release from the hospital. The patient is being observed by a Physiotherapy Aide.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 646



◀ A patient learning hand weaving in his hospital bed, February 16, 1926.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 560344



▲ Patient learning telegraphy, July 1922.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 41849



▲ Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 4268



Learning to use prosthetics is critical to the patients' recovery. In this series of photographs, patients are learning dexterity as well as skills for vocations after their release from the hospital.

◀ Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 2021



▲ Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 4267



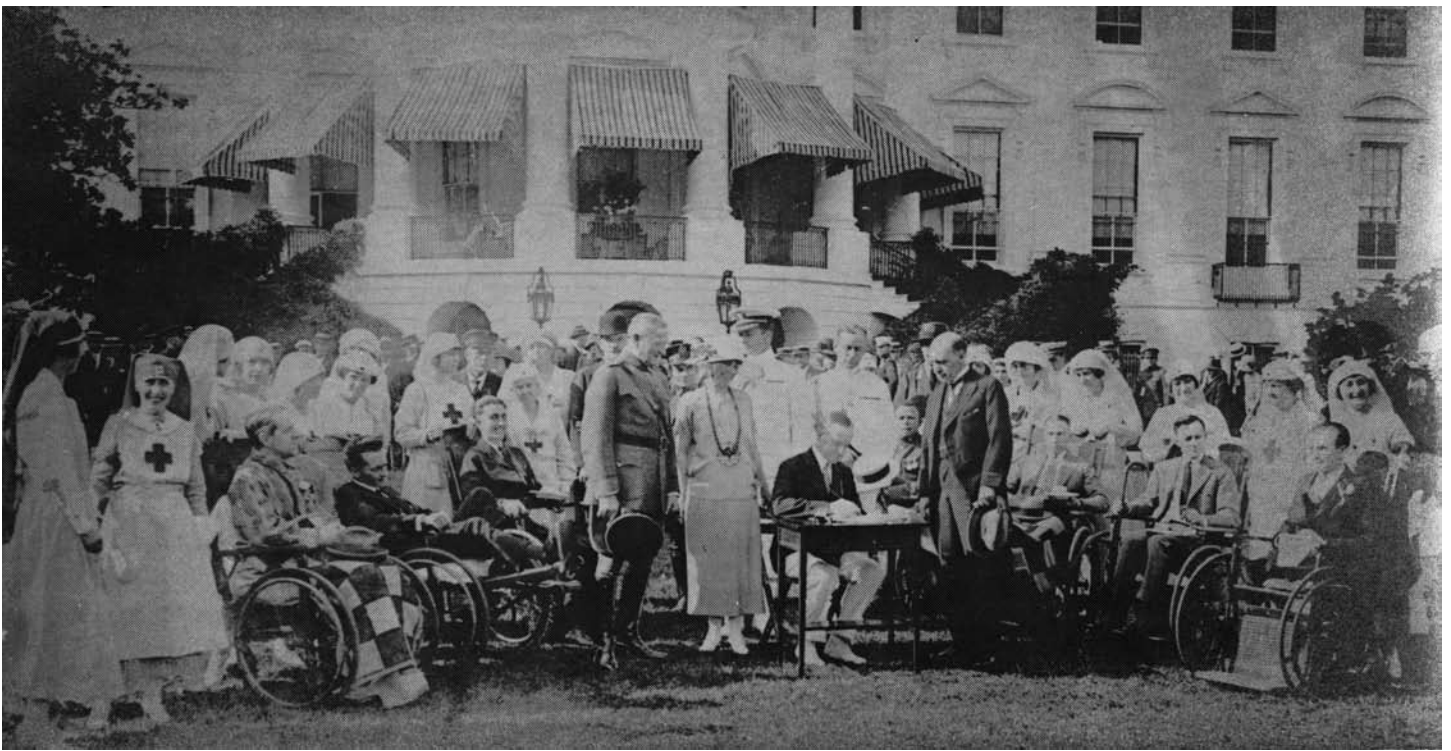
▶ Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 4269



◀ Col. Glennan with the Duke of Windsor visiting with patients in 1920.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

▼ President Warren G. Harding was the first President to visit Walter Reed General Hospital in 1922. Here, he meets patients during his visit.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection





▲ Surrounded by Walter Reed patients and Red Cross Gray Ladies at the White House, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill for veterans relief pay, June 5, 1924. Looking on is General of the Armies, John J. Pershing.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



◀ President Calvin Coolidge visiting with Walter Reed Hospital patients, 1926.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP



INSTRUCTION LABORATORY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM

A determined and resolute Pvt. Maleskie poses for a picture in uniform at Walter Reed.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reeve 1299