



1940-1949



Title page - This photo looks northwest roughly the same direction as the photo that opened the previous chapter. The Army Medical School building (Building 40) has been completed and the flagpole moved from in front of Building 1 to the east front of Building 40. The garden area bordered by the flagpole to the west, Red Cross Hall to the north, and Building 1 to the east is now fully landscaped and developed. The Hoff Memorial Fountain now occupies the traffic circle in front of Building 1.

Source: WRAMC History Office, PAO Historical Collection, AP-4

► **Building 1 at night in 1946.**

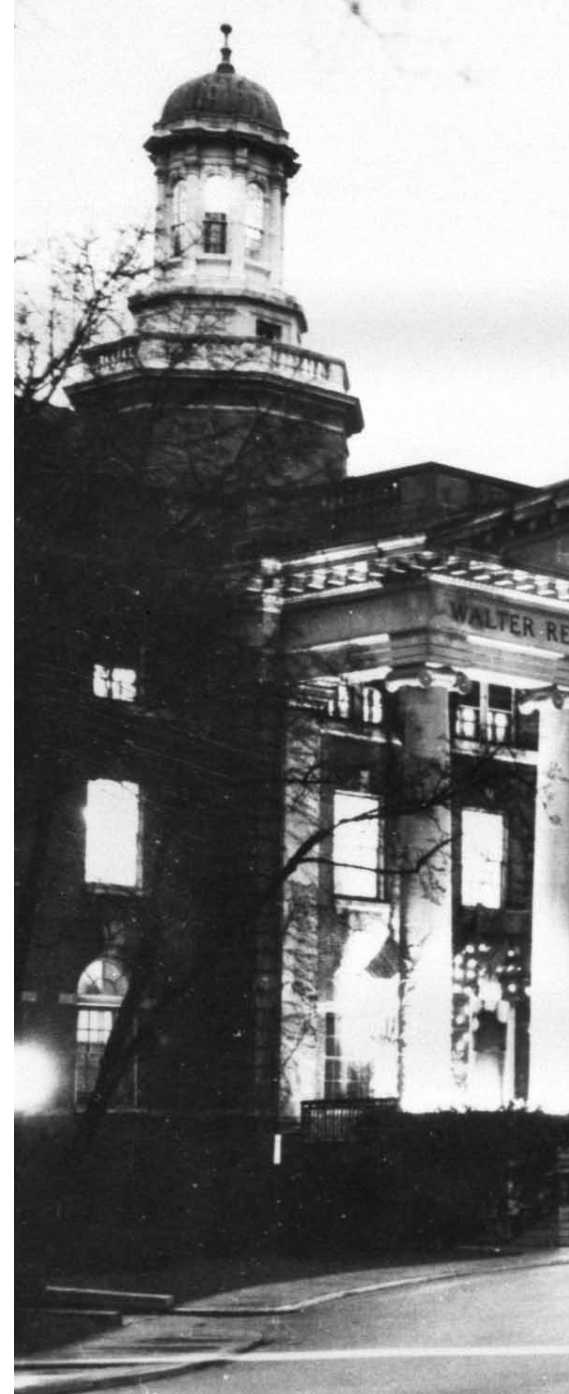
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

World War II was by far the most extraordinary event of this decade, as well as the century for the United States and the world. The cataclysm that was the Second World War is hard to grasp. How do you come to grips with an estimated 50–60 million deaths worldwide during those war-riddled years? As in World War I, the United States was not involved in all the years of the war, entering after Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and continuing through the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945. United States involvement in World War I (4.7 million mobilized, with 116,000 deaths and 204,000 wounded) paled in comparison to World War II (16 million mobilized, with 400,000 deaths and 670,000 wounded). The worldwide loss of human life and property simply has no comparison in human history.

At Walter Reed, even the significant building expansion that took place along with and after World War I could not accommodate the patients generated by the Second World War. The busiest year for admissions in World War I was 1918, with 13,752 admissions of which about 1,800 were related to the influenza epidemic. The 18,046 admissions in 1943 easily topped that total. Walter Reed needed additional facilities; thus, in September 1942, the Army purchased the old National Park Seminary at Forest Glen. The 185-acre

property was initially called the New Section, then the Convalescent Section, and finally simply Forest Glen. As the second name implies, it was primarily used for convalescence. In addition, the Army temporarily took possession of a former Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Beltsville, MD, about 7 miles from the main campus and 4 miles from Forest Glen. Camp Ord, as it became known, was an independent and self-sufficient station where soldiers wore fatigues rather than Class A or convalescent clothing. Rehabilitative work was mostly agricultural. Camp Ord was operated until March 7, 1945.

In May 1941, at age 81, General of the Armies, John J. Pershing, former Commanding General of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I and former Army Chief of Staff, left the Carlton Hotel in Washington, DC, where he lived and moved into Walter Reed General Hospital. A special suite was built for him on the third floor of what had been called Ward B of Building 1. While the suite was being finished, he stayed on Ward 4, the male officer's medical ward. Shocked by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he wrote President Roosevelt and offered to do whatever he could. However, he knew that this war was not his war, but belonged to the men who had earlier worked for him and to the sons of the Doughboys of World War I. Before sailing for the



invasion of North Africa, George Patton came to pay his respects and get a stirring farewell. Before leaving, Patton got down on his knees and asked Pershing for his blessing. Pershing squeezed his hand and said: "Good-bye, George. God bless and keep you and give you victory." Patton rose and saluted his old commander, who likewise rose and smartly returned the salute.

On Sunday April 22, 1945, the newly sworn-in President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, came to Walter Reed to pay his respects to General Pershing, his World War I commander. President Truman had taken the oath of office just ten days before following the unexpect-



ed death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Prior to visiting General Pershing, President Truman wanted to attend church and did so at Walter Reed's Memorial Chapel.

General Pershing lived in the "penthouse" until his death on July 15, 1948 at age 88. The penthouse became known as the Pershing Suite; subsequently, other famous officers were hospitalized in the Pershing Suite, including General Peyton C. March, Chief of Staff of the Army during World War I. He was hospitalized at Walter Reed General Hospital circa 1954 and died there on April 3, 1955. At times, the suite was used as overflow for the labor and delivery ser-

vice. President Eisenhower was a patient in the Pershing Suite for approximately one month during his eleven-month stay at Walter Reed between May 1968 and March 1969. He used the Pershing Suite while the Presidential Suite on Ward 8 was being redecorated. The area was closed after clinical care moved to the new hospital facility in 1978; but, when space got tight, it was used off and on for administrative space. In the late 1980s, it was used by The Surgeon General's Consultant for Academic Medicine's office and conference space. From the late 1990s until today, it has been used by the Walter Reed Society.

Following the end of World War II,

many physicians were interested in specialty medical and surgical training. Across the Army Medical Department, physician residency training began in earnest and Walter Reed was no exception. In the past 60 years, Graduate Medical Education (internships, residencies, and fellowships) has become an integral part, if not the engine, that has driven expansion and excellence of clinical services at Walter Reed. While these individual specialty and subspecialty programs have numbered in the 50s to 60s, trained thousands of physicians, and contributed immeasurably to the stature of Walter Reed, it is simply not possible to even begin to address them in this volume.

► The Memorial Chapel saw heavy use not only for memorial services, but also for many weddings. This photograph is from May 1948.

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



▼ The entrance used by the Army Medical Department Research and Graduate School is also the headquarters of the Army Medical Center. On the right is the solarium wing of the Red Cross Building. May 1948.

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, SC 320757





▲ Gas station on Walter Reed General Hospital grounds in 1942.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



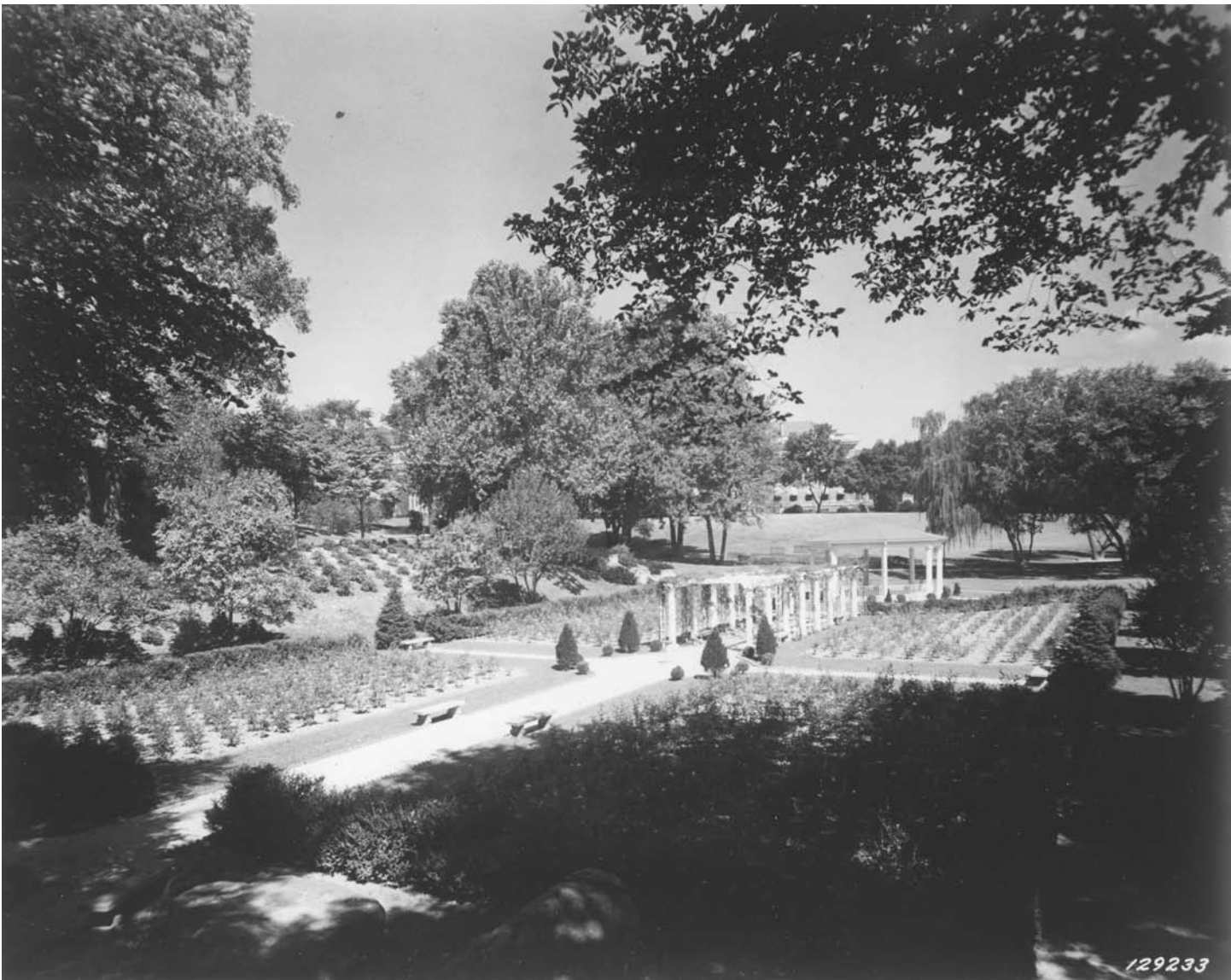
◀ 16th Street Entrance to Walter Reed on May 19, 1949. Delano Hall is seen in the background.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



▲ East elevation of Building 40, formerly the Army Medical School.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



▲ The Officer's Club at the Army Medical Center, Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C., May 29, 1949.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



▲ The formal garden of Walter Reed Hospital, September 8, 1941.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



◀ Woman on garden path, April 21, 1948.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

► The Army Prosthetics Research Laboratory at Army Medical Center, Forest Glen, MD. May 19, 1949.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 321908



◀ Post Theater at Forest Glen, MD. 1946.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 321816

► The Aural Rehabilitation Center. Forest Glen, MD. 1946.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 321815





▲ Castle at Forest Glen, January 18, 1945.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 591022



▲ Administration Building of the Forest Glen Annex. May 19, 1949.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 321906

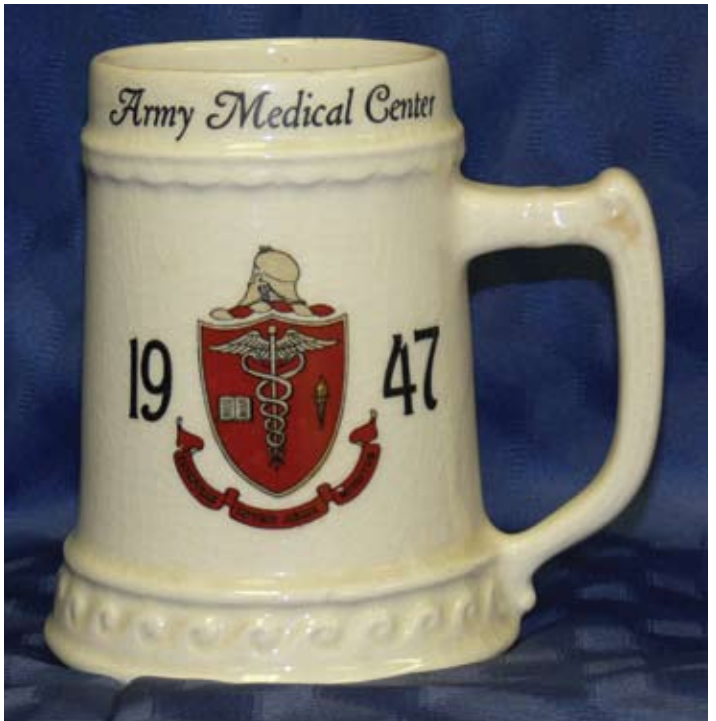
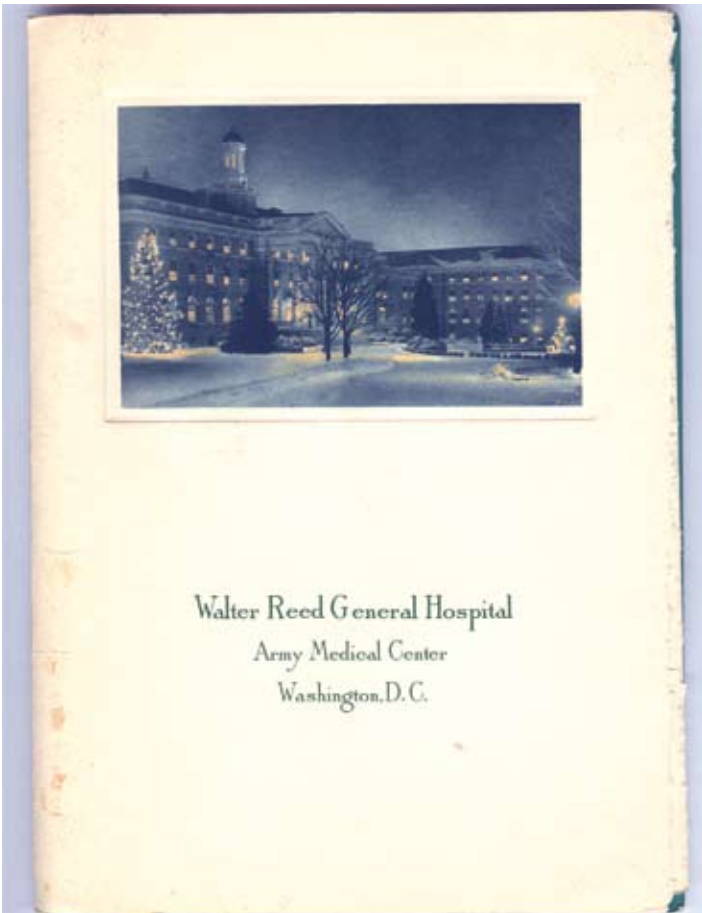
The Army purchased a 188-acre site from National Park College, a private school for young women that had occupied the site since 1894. For its 1943 opening, it transformed the 70 college buildings of varied architecture into the nucleus of a convalescent branch for Walter Reed Army Hospital's ambulatory patients, thus freeing much needed bed space at the main Washington campus for patients needing constant medical attention.



▲ Ward Room in the Forest Glen Section, Walter Reed General Hospital. Most of the original furnishings of the National Park College were retained after it was taken over as an annex to Walter Reed Hospital. 1944.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 321812



▲ A solarium was added to Red Cross Hall in 1948.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



Christmas dinner brochure and mug from 1947.
Source: Pierce Collection



▲ Jerry Colonna and Bob Hope greeting patients after a show at the Red Cross Hall on February 10, 1948. Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection

▶ Jimmy Durante, star of radio and television, performed for patients at Walter Reed. After, he toured some of the wards. Here, he pens an autograph for a fan. Source: WRAMC History Office, PAO Historical Collection, Celebrity 2





▲ Sgt. Ernest H. Robson, Orange, NJ, and Pvt. Rocco R. Parrotti, Orange, NJ, show each other the Purple Hearts they were awarded after being wounded in the engagement in North Africa. They were wounded in the same action at Safi, Morocco, and brought back to the transport and occupied adjoining beds at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C., where they are in high spirits and recovering from their wounds. (Original caption)
 Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, SC 165259



▶ A Gray Lady writes a letter for a GI patient, 1944.
 Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 333302



▲ United States Army officers and enlisted men, home after service in the North African campaign, were brought to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., after arriving at an East Coast port. They were cheerful despite wounds suffered during the successful military operations. The accompanying picture was taken as the wounded were being removed from the special hospital train for transport to the hospital. An Army nurse prepares a wounded soldier for transfer from the train to the hospital. (Adapted from original caption)

Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, SC 139698



◀ An arm amputee veteran winding rug yarn on a reel in the Occupational Therapy Shop at Walter Reed Hospital, 1946.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 335144

▶ Rehabilitation continues to be a critical part of patient care at the Hospital. Here, patients are taught the visual methods of piano on August 20, 1945.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 335161





▲ An instructor teaching typing to a patient in the supine position, 1946.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 335158



▲ Ms. Lois Senft, a speech correctionist, plays a recording of a patient's voice on voice recording and playback equipment. May 5, 1949.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 335757



▲ After nearly three years of research and experimentation the Army's prosthetics research laboratory, Forest Glen, Maryland has developed a cosmetic hand that is Life-Like in appearance and may be adapted to many tasks normally allotted its human counterpart. The primary improvements of the hand over the hook are its appearance and facility of articulation. In addition to veterans, civilian amputees have volunteered for the experiments which have led to the development of the cosmetic prosthesis in its present stage. Mr. Jerry Leavy, Los Angeles, California a civilian amputee who has volunteered for the Army's prosthetic research program demonstrates the use of the cosmetic hand. The hook offers a marked contrast to the neat life-like hand. May 7, 1948. (Original caption)

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 299862



▲ Hot biscuits from the oven.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center History Office, PAO Historical Collection

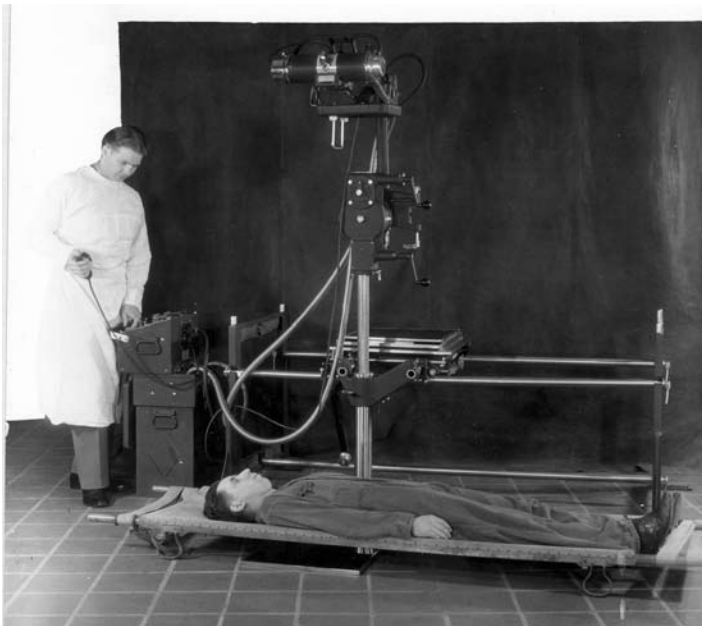


▲ 2nd Lt. Lorraine Shandolmier, a dietitian, checks the contents of a tray cart.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center History Office, PAO Historical Collection

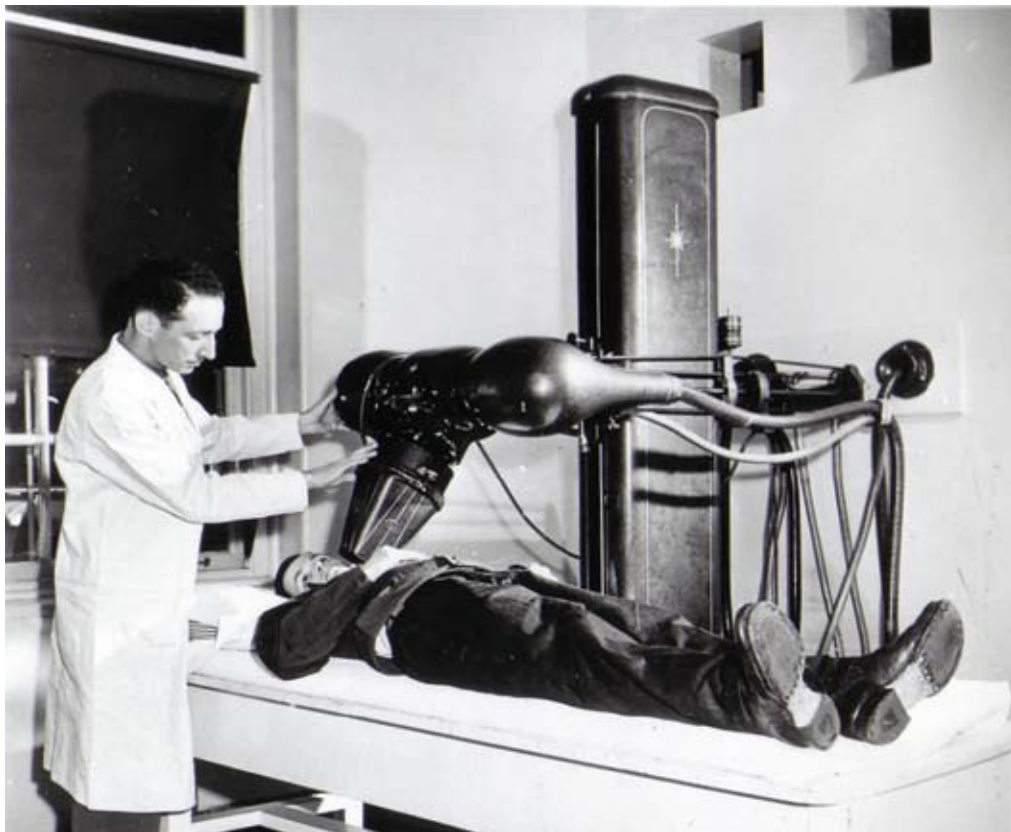


▲ Bedside Service. SP4 J. F. Bailey on Ward 39, helps PFC Ronald L. McGuire of Fairborn, Ohio with his food brought to the ward via the Centralized Tray Service Cart, one of the 30 such carriers recently purchased by the Food Service Division. (Adapted from original caption)

Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center History Office, PAO Historical Collection



▲ (Left and Right) Demonstrations of a portable X-ray apparatus as used in the field, Army Medical School, 1941.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center History Office, PAO Historical Collection



▲ Major Milton Friedman of the Roentgenology Department gives a high-voltage X-ray treatment to a soldier-patient at Walter Reed General Hospital. 1944.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 321749



▲ Men at work in the clinical Laboratory Pathology Preparatory Room, October 4, 1940.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590849



▲ Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, visits Capt. Monroe Romansky (right) in the Penicillin Laboratory. Capt. Romansky developed a beeswax and peanut oil carrier, called Romansky's Formula, that extended Sir Fleming's penicillin shot from every 3 hours to single daily injections. 1945.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives



▲ Where Heroes Meet. General Dwight D. Eisenhower visits PFC Ray E. Stevenson of Fayetteville, TN, on Ward 36 of the Hospital. 1945.
Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, WRAMC History Collection



▲ President Harry S. Truman officially opened the country fair for benefit of the Nurses' National Memorial at Walter Reed General Hospital on September 11, 1946. Truman attended his first church service after becoming President at Memorial Chapel at Walter Reed. He had come to Walter Reed to visit General Pershing, his commander during World War I who resided in the Pershing Suite.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 321773



▶ President Truman greeting soldier-patients at a White House reception.

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



The back of this postcard reads: The Headquarters Army Medical Center and Army Medical Department Professional Service Schools Building is located at Alaska Avenue and 16th Street, Washington D.C.
Source: Pierce Collection



The back of this postcard reads: The American Red Cross maintains a Social Service and Recreational Center for patients in Walter Reed General Hospital.
Source: Pierce Collection

162— Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D. C.



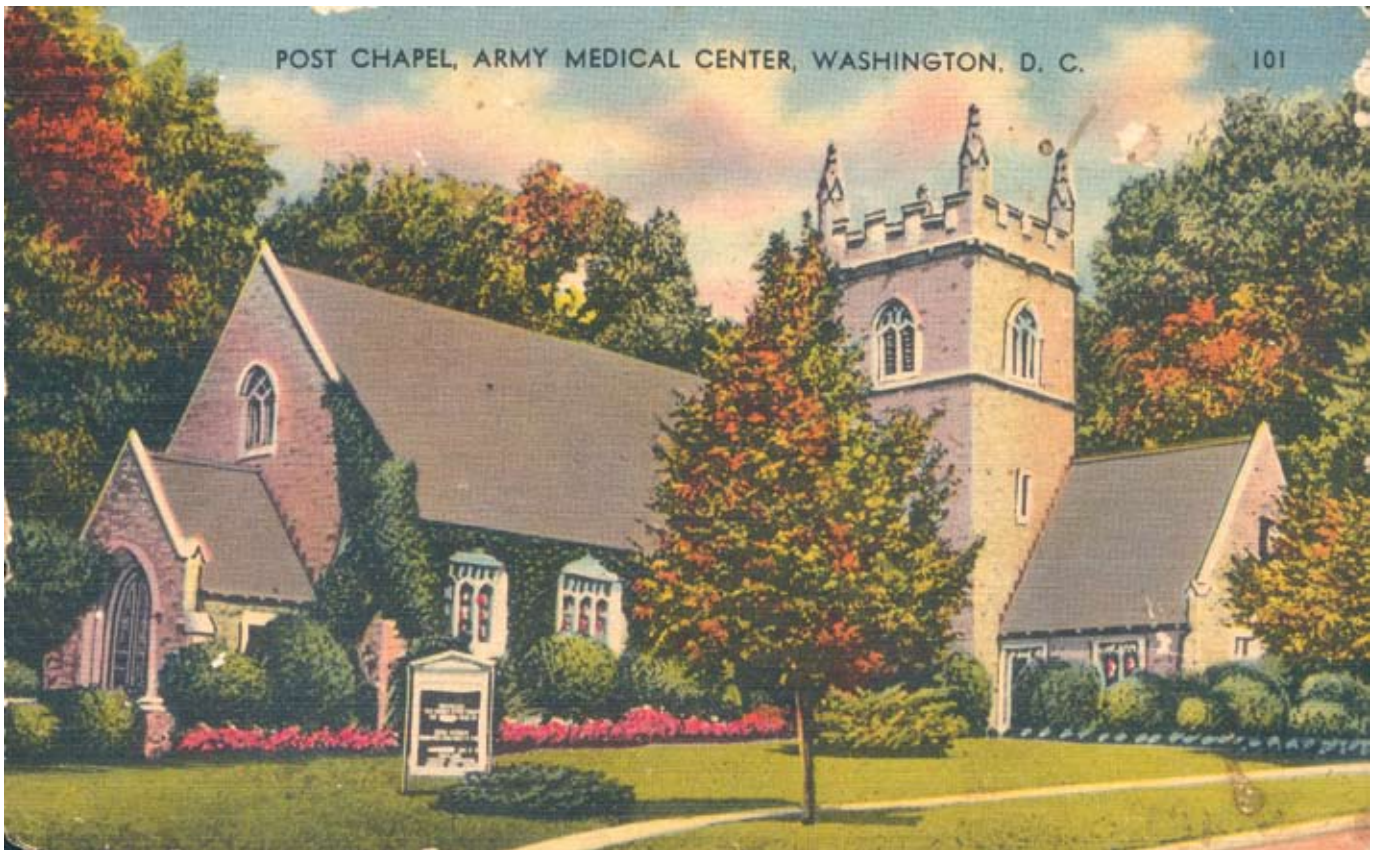
PHOTO BY U. S. SIGNAL CORPS

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Source: Pierce Collection

POST CHAPEL, ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Source: Pierce Collection



A new father surveys his twins. Stork Club visiting hours as posted.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Directorate of Public Works Archives

