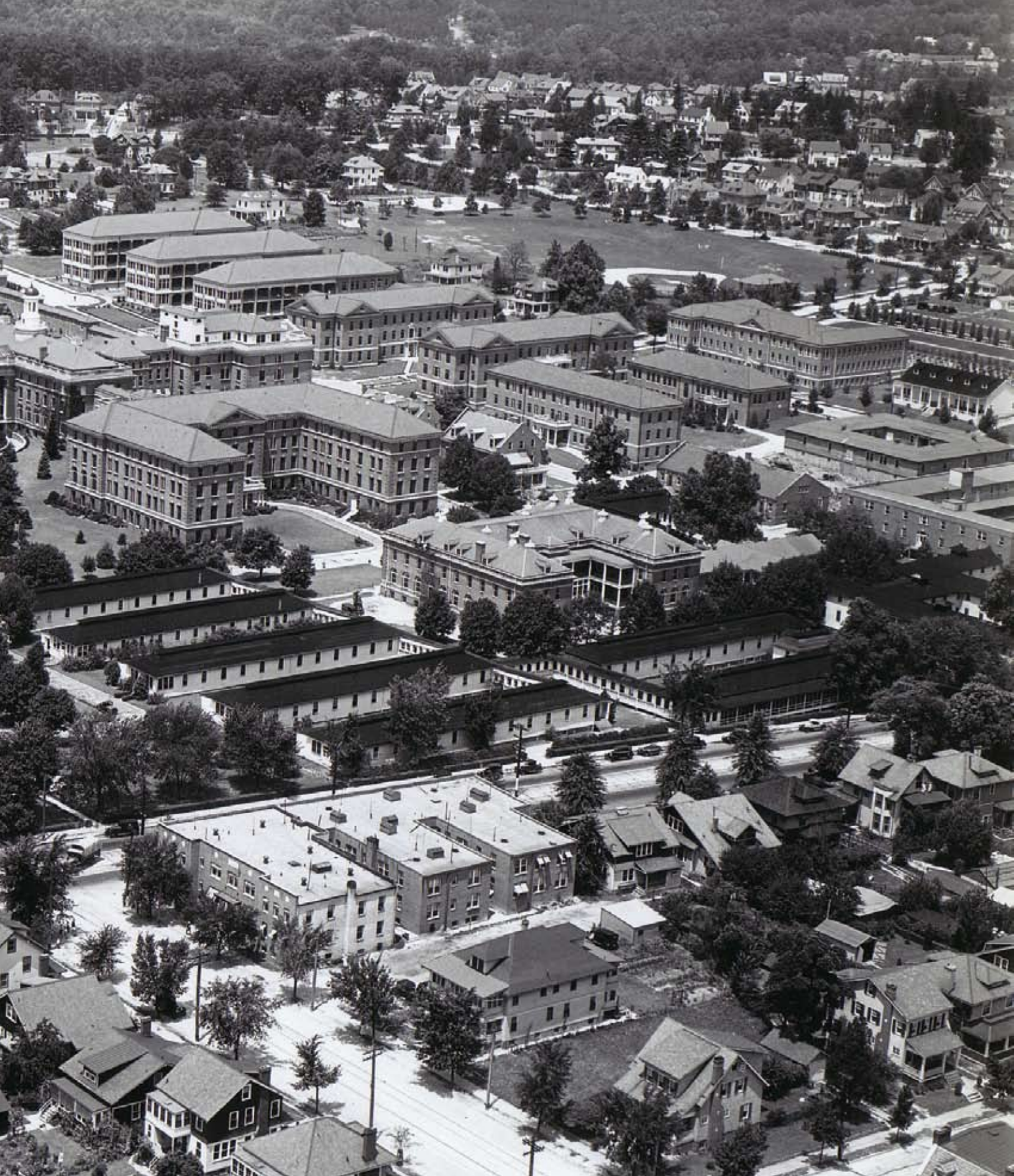




1930-1939



Title page - In comparison to the disorganized, chaotic photo taken in 1921 that opened the previous chapter, this northwest looking photo taken 10 years later shows an extraordinary transformation to an organized, orderly campus of uniform, symmetrical, and permanent buildings. During the 1920s, major additions to the campus had been massive east and west wings onto Building 1, permanent ward buildings north of Building 1, the initial Army Medical School (Building 40, upper left with additions being added), Red Cross Hall (Building 41), and Memorial Chapel. Some of the more orderly temporary buildings remain to the southeast of Building 1 and south of the General Officer's quarters. The flagpole remains in the traffic circle in front of Building 1.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, 17128AC and 17132AC

► This view of an addition to the Army Medical School was taken in April 1931. It shows the massive amount of construction happening on the grounds.

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

As the demands to care for and rehabilitate the war wounded declined, dependents made up a higher percentage of patients at Walter Reed. In addition, establishment of the Veterans Administration health care system took veteran patients away from all Army hospitals, including Walter Reed. However, Executive Order #6101 of April 5, 1933, authorized treatment of Civilian Conservation Corps members, which helped fill the bed space lost with the exodus of VA patients.

The 1930s brought together a trio of talented surgeons, all destined to leave their mark on Walter Reed and the Army Medical Department. The most senior was the already legendary William L. Keller, who had been Chief of the Surgery Service since returning from World War I. When he retired in 1935, he was the first person made a lifetime consultant by The Surgeon General. He was given an office at Walter Reed, where he returned twice weekly for 15 years until his health deteriorated and he was no longer able to do so. Keller died at Walter Reed in July 1959 at age 85. In August 1974, ground was broken for a new Army community hospital at West Point, NY, that was named for him.

Norman T. Kirk, a previous Chief of Orthopaedics at Walter Reed, returned from the Philippines to resume his old

position in 1930. He had previously served with the Punitive Expedition in Mexico with Pershing and Eisenhower, in Panama, and Texas. During World War I, when assigned to Walter Reed, Kirk had authored *Amputations, Operative Technique*, a book that became a classic in the field. Following World War I, he served in San Antonio, the Philippines, and San Francisco. He returned again to Walter Reed in 1941–1942. Before being promoted to General Officer, he commanded the Percy Jones General Hospital in Michigan. From June 1, 1943 until June 1, 1947, during the height of World War II, Dr. Kirk served as US Army Surgeon General. He died at Walter Reed in 1960 at age 72.

In 1930, James Claude Kimbrough, a veteran of World War I and recipient of the Purple Heart, became Chief of Urology at Walter Reed; he began a long and fruitful association for both. He had already served as Chief of Urology at the Station Hospital in San Antonio and at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco. Dr. Kimbrough became a legend in his own time and was known as the “Father of Army Urology.” Following his retirement after 36 years of active duty, he was also made a lifetime consultant to Walter Reed. He died in 1956 at Walter Reed after a brief illness. The new Army Community Hospital at Fort Meade, MD, was named for him when it opened in June 1961.



Significant additions to the Army Medical School building (Building 40) were completed in 1932. With the additional administrative space, the Army Medical Center Commander moved out of Building 1 and into Building 40. With the Commander, the flagpole was moved from in front of Building 1 and placed at the east entrance of Building 40. In 1933, the Hoff Memorial Fountain was placed in the traffic circle in front of Building 1, where the flagpole had been.

Plans for a memorial chapel had begun as early as 1922, spurred by Miss Margaret Lower of the Red Cross and



encouraged by the Commander, Gen. Glennan. At the time, chapels could not be built with government funds, so monies needed for the chapel were raised from donations. The nest egg was started with a \$5 gift from a former vaudeville entertainer; gifts ranged from 25 cents to \$32,000 from the ever benevolent Mrs. Rea. The groundbreaking took place on November 11, 1929 at 11 a.m., the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, eleven years after the end of the "War to End All Wars." The cornerstone was laid May 28, 1930, and the dedication was on May 21, 1931. It was said that, "Ev-

erything in it is a memorial to someone much loved."

Built to house students of the Army School of Nursing and named for the second superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps, Jane Delano, the first section of Delano Hall was completed on November 29, 1930. Additional wings were added, and the entire building was completed in 1934. By that time, however, the Army School of Nursing had been closed since January 1933. The closure was due to the reduction in the number of nurses required, because many nurses were staying on

active duty due to the uncertain economic times, the cost of operation, and the lack of success in retention of those trained.

Most of the construction related to the clinical needs of patients occurred late in the previous decade and early in this one. It involved replacement of the temporary buildings constructed during World War I with permanent wards located north of Building 1. All but one of these was later razed to make way for the AFIP building in the 1950s and even later for the new hospital building in the 1970s.



Dedicated October 25, 1935 in memoriam of Col. John Van Rensselaer Hoff. Mrs. Hoff was granted the permit to erect the memorial on January 19, 1931. She died, but the executor of her will, Mr. Van Rensselaer H. Green, carried out her wishes. Col. Hoff was one of the many noted surgeons whose untiring devotion to a cause raised the Medical Corps from a rather insignificant Army adjunct to an important branch of the service. He was born in 1848, entered the Army in 1874, and retired in 1912. He was recalled to active service during the World War and died in 1920. Col. Hoff was, above all, a military surgeon, and was the first officer to apply military drill and precision to the movements of corpsmen in handling wounded patients. During his 38 years of energetic duty, Col. Hoff saw service in the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. He was a military observer with the Russian army in the Russo-Japanese War and was Chief Surgeon of the American Expeditionary Force to China in 1900. Mr. James C. Mackenzie designed the fountain, and it was built under the direction of Capt. Kester L. Hastings, Post Engineer, U.S.A. Capt. Hastings' son is Brig. General James E. Hastings, US Army (ret), former Deputy Commander for Clinical Services at Walter Reed.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 320751

► The new nurses quarters, Delano Hall, under construction on April 8, 1931. The Hall had 196 bedrooms for nurses assigned to the hospital. It had sunporches, music rooms, reception rooms, and a ballroom. It was named for Jane Delano, the second superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps. Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590550



▲ The Red Cross Hall, South elevation, taken June 7, 1932. This new building, completed in 1928, replaced the original World War I period structure, and was paid for by the American Red Cross and donated to Walter Reed. Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590555



▲ New addition to the Army Medical School, East elevation. November 9, 1931.
 Source: WRAMC Historians Office, PAO Historical Collection

▶ The new headquarters of the Army Medical Center in Building 40, September 13, 1935. The flag was moved from its previous location in front of the hospital when the headquarters moved to the new building.
 Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590700





▲ This view of the front of the hospital was taken in early 1935. The pergola and rose garden can be seen in the foreground.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 320751



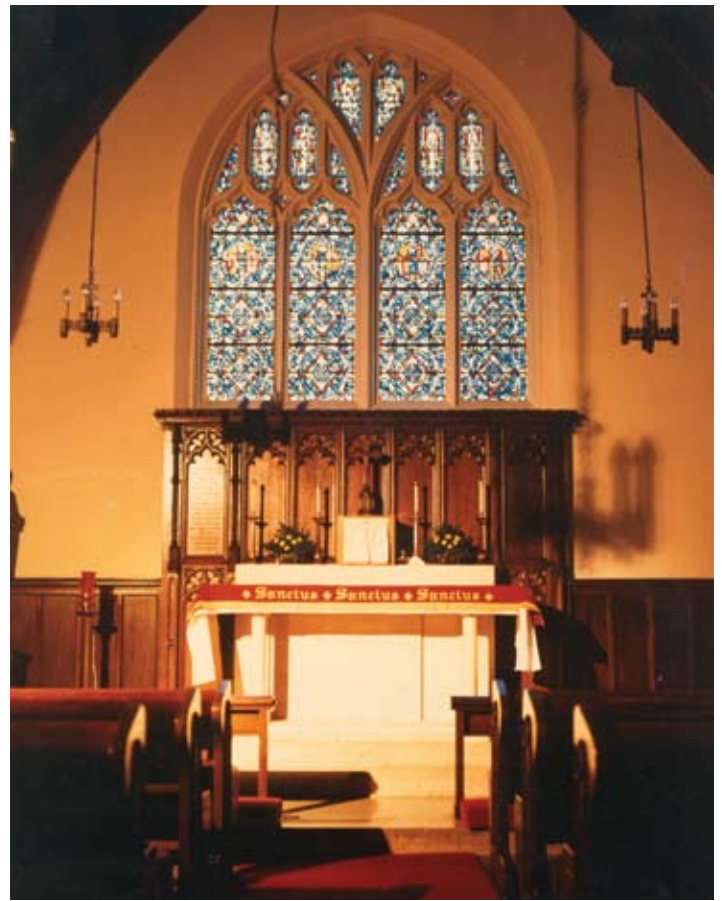
◀ The groundbreaking for the new chapel. In attendance is Chaplain Oliver, Miss Margaret Lower, Gen. Darnall, Father McGeary, Mrs. Edith Oliver Rea, Miss Boardman, General Merritte Ireland, Mrs. Walter Reed (black dress and black hat), and Col. Easterbrook. 1929.

Source: WRAMC History Collection



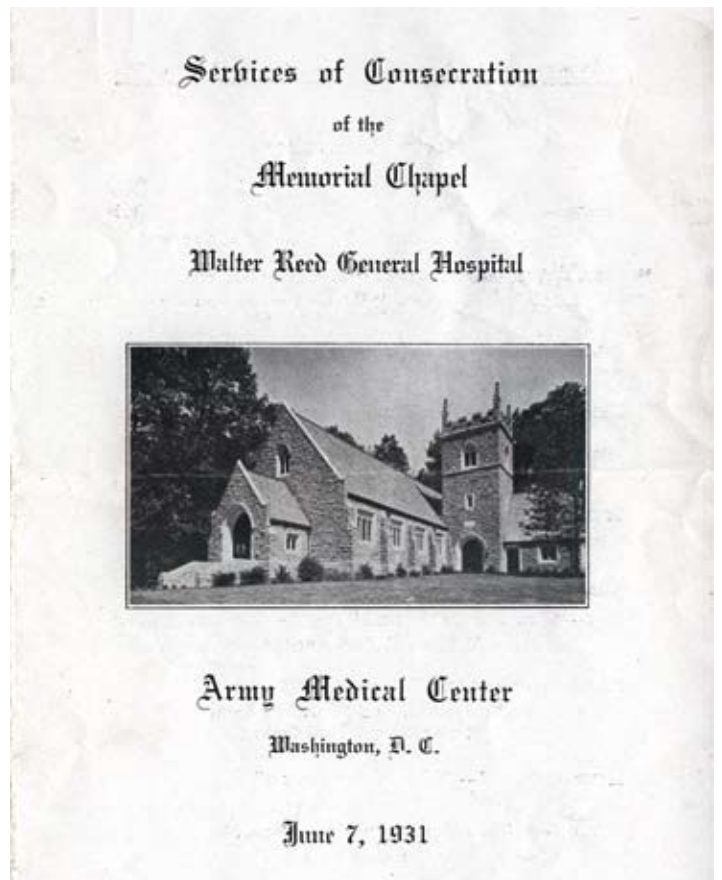
▲ Dedication services for the Memorial Chapel were held on May 21, 1931. Among the visitors were Mrs. Herbert Hoover, the Secretary of War, Mrs. Patrick J. Hurley, and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson.

Source: Pierce Collection



▲ These later interior views show the main altar in the Memorial chapel (left). The “Little Chapel” (right) equipped by the McCook family in memory of family members “who served their country in the war for the preservation of the Union.” In time, this became a Roman Catholic sanctuary due to its frequent use.
 Source: WRAMC History Office, PAO Historical Collection

The influenza epidemic of 1918 led to caskets filling every available space. In 1922, spurred by Miss Margaret Lower and supported by General James D. Glennan, Commander, the Gray Ladies began to plan for construction of a memorial chapel. By 1924, a site was identified and fund-raising efforts were begun. Donations ranged from twenty-five cents to \$32,000. When construction bids were examined in October 1929, the estimate had increased to \$84,900 without windows, an organ, the altar, a flagstone floor and foundation, or a Glennan memorial tower. When finally completed, the building cost \$161,000. The costs were met by an impressive list of memorial gifts. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month on the 11th anniversary of the end of World War I.



► Cover of the Services of Consecration of the Memorial Chapel.
 Source: National Museum of Health and Medicine, AFIP, Reid Collection



▲ Built in 1911 to house nurses, Building 12 was located near Georgia Avenue and the main entrance to the hospital. Jane Delano, the second superintendent of the Army Nurses Corps, insisted the barracks be located near the front of the property. When Delano Hall (Building 11) was completed in the 1930s the nurses quarters were moved there. Building 12 became officer's apartments. This photograph is from about 1931.

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

► Brig. General Albert E. Truby, a contemporary of Walter Reed, was an advocate for the powers of healing from the enjoyment of nature. Here is a pergola with clinging roses in bloom as seen looking west through the Portal Garden about 1932.

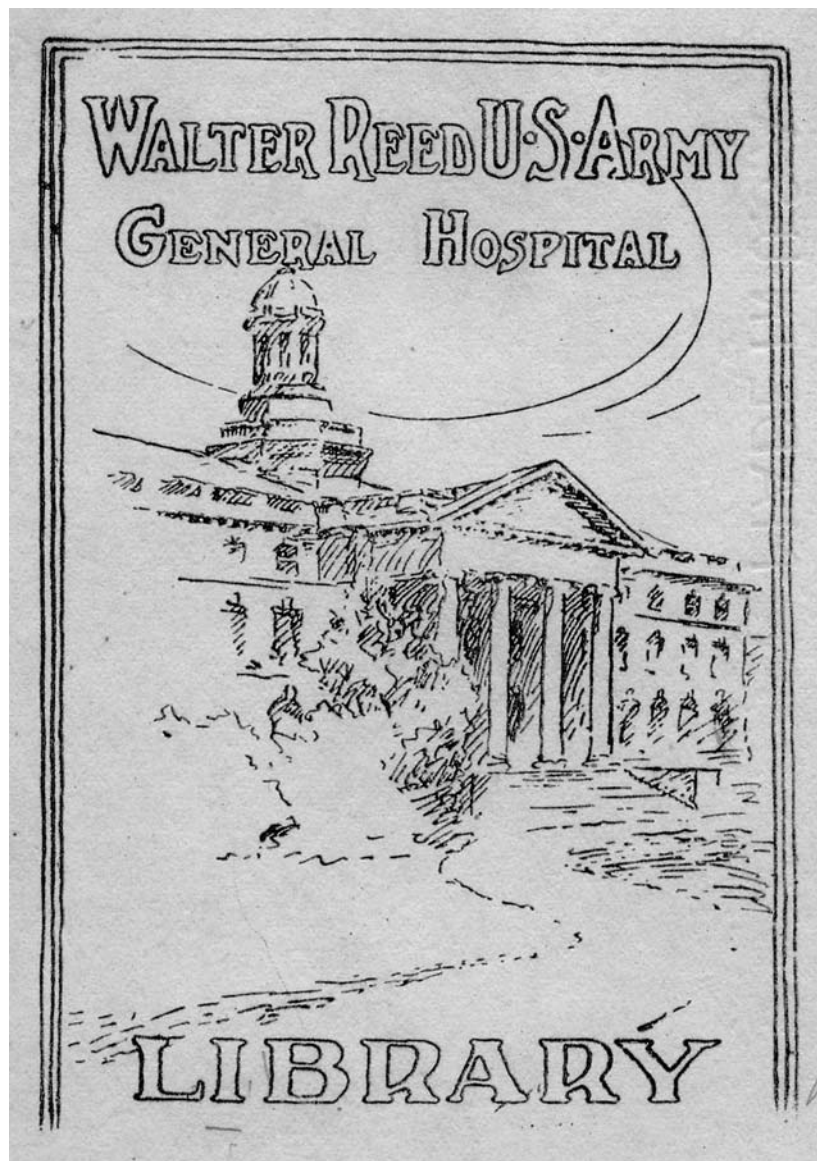
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590597



► Nurses relaxing in the reading and music room of the new Delano Hall. February 1, 1939. Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590777



▼ A library was established to serve both the patients and the staff. The Library continues to serve the Walter Reed base. Source: WRAMC Library





▲ General of the Armies, John J. Pershing, was an ardent supporter of the hospital and the medical care of the soldiers who served under him in World War I. He made numerous visits to the hospital, participating in many activities. Here, he is cutting the cake to celebrate the 16th Anniversary of the American Red Cross at Walter Reed in 1934. Also pictured are Brig. General Albert Truby, CG, and Miss Margaret Lower, Field Director, ARC.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590677



◀ In 1938, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President, cut the cake at an American Red Cross party at the hospital. Brig. General Wallace DeWitt and Miss Lower stand in the foreground.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590763

► Interior view of Ward 9A waiting for patients. October 14, 1933.
Source: National Archives and Records Administration, SC 590631



▲ Surgical Operating Room at Walter Reed Hospital about 1935.
Source: Walter Reed Army Medical Center History Office

WARD 21

GUR-R-RL, you're wonderful!" There is just one question we want answered before we leave: "What is 21 going to be when Major Lehman has gone?" The class of 1930 was the first entire class to have its Obstetrics at Walter Reed, and thank goodness we all got through before Major Lehman was transferred!

Twenty-one is many things beside the Obstetrical Service. For one thing, it is the water-tight excuse,—"on call to 21"—and that "call" lasts three months. Anything and everything can be sidestepped for the evenings of that time,—not only can, but must.

It is also the happiest, most informal service on the Post, and no one concerned is really sick. We learned a lot,—or thought we did,—about the psychology of early parenthood. Some of it comes under "Grandiose Delusions", and a lot of it under "Situation Psychoses." But the complete non-repression of our resistive little charges in the Nursery was the real revelation,—that and their individuality. Don't ever believe that a Mother doesn't know her child from all the rest,—its been tried.

Whole days we spent making supplies, down in the Utility Room, days when we talked sixteen to the dozen all our time on duty, with never a long breath. And who could forget Duffy's doll? It was made of a suture pad, a sponge, and a 4x4, with a face painted in mercurochrome! Yet the covers vanished into the big bag, filled, in spite of all the sociable hours.

Before we leave the subject of 21, we want to give special mention to the young lady on night duty at the time, who, on going upstairs with a tray of nourishments, fell up with twenty-four glasses of chocolate malted milk be-showering her. She broke every glass but one. We want to congratulate her on that one glass, but in the same breath hope that life won't always give her such a deal.

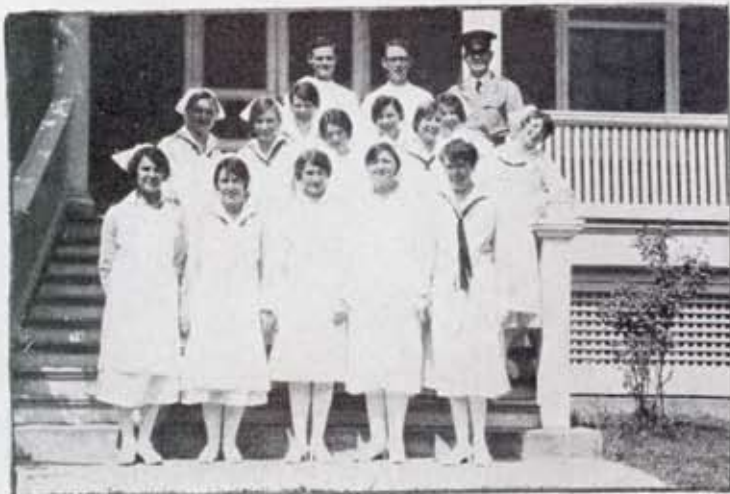
But take heart, all you who are leaving your time in 21,—for Public Health awaits you in another year, with dozens more of little babies to care for, and loads of doting mothers.



Eighty-one



21



21