

" THE YEAR IN REVIEW "  
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 203RD GENERAL HOSPITAL

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I N M E M O R I A M

This Review Is Dedicated With

ALL RESPECT AND REVERENCE

TO:

Technical Sergeant ROSS SMITH

and

Private HARLOW C. DUNLAP

who both passed away while members of this organization, and in the service of their country.

During those apathetic years of 1938, 1939, 1940, and 1941, as the storm clouds gathered in immensity over the continent of Europe, it became apparent even to the most cautious of thinkers that the United States was in grave danger of being involved once again in war. It was during September, 1940, that the 76th Congress, as a direct consequence of this European situation, declared it imperative to increase and train personnel in the armed forces of the United States. As a result, they authorized the induction into the Army and Navy, of 900,000 Selective Service men each year.

On February 10th, 1941, the War Department ordered the activation of the 203rd General Hospital, to be located at Fort Lewis, Washington. The personnel consisted of 12 regular army men, selected for their special qualifications, to form an administrative headquarters. That cadre consisted of the following men:

M/Sgt. Ralph P. Hebert	(Sgt. Major)
Tech. Sgt. Charles F. Fox	(First Sgt.)
Sgt. Sylvester S. Szymanski	(Mess Sgt.)
Sgt. Ross Smith (now deceased)	(Sply Sgt.)
Corporal Edward M. Decker	(Duty Corporal)
Sgt. Don L. Burbank	(Duty Sgt.)
Corporal Walter Pivinski	(Duty Sgt.)
Corporal William P. Smith	(Duty)
Pfc Bernard R. Acosta	(Cook)
Pfc Mike Salinas	(Cook)
Pfc John B. Draheim	(Clerk)
Pfc John M. Mason	(Clerk)

Despite difficulties, such as lack of equipment, a headquarters was established, and in a short time this cadre, by loyal, hard work, and a desire to make the organization a smooth-functioning unit, began to gain the necessary momentum. Soon this group was augmented by personnel from other sources, and attained a full allotted strength of 250 men. This group represented a cross-section of selectees being received upon enlargement of the Army, and it must be said that the organization was greatly benefited.

Lt. Col. R.R. Williams, Medical Corps, Surgeon IX Army, supervised activation of the organization with Captain C.E.

McEnany, Medical Corps as temporary Commanding Officer. On  
 ruary 17th, Captain James E. Graham, Medical Corps, arrived  
 Letterman General Hospital, and assumed the post of Commandi  
 Officer, relieving Captain McEnany. Soon the organization r  
 ceived additional officers, Captain Lyle B. Clothier, M.A.C.,  
 Lts. Forman, Peterson, Russell, Kuykendall, and Trelstad, al  
 the Medical Corps. A later addition to the organization was  
 Lt. Ronald G. Eason, M.A.C.

Basic and some technical training, was given men in so  
 as personnel and equipment were available. Groups of men wei  
 placed on special duty at the Station Hospital to receive fu  
 ther technical training, and other groups were sent to the ve  
 rious service schools. Those who received Certificates from t  
 various service schools were:

Achen, Donald P.	Surgical
Adams, Homer W.	Surgical
Alberts, Albert	Surgical
Anderson, Harry	Surgical
Beal, Richard	Medical
Belosic, Edward G.	Laboratory
Black, Dale W.	Pharmacy
Black, Verle D.	X-Ray
Block, Victor	Surgical
Blakeman, Douglas A.	Medical
Bonds, Roland Q.	Medical
Caccamise, Albert	Surgical
Caldwell, Samuel	Pharmacy
Call, Norman E.	Medical
Casper, Alfred	Dental
Caylor, Harvey C.	Medical
Copeland, George C.	Medical
Dalton, Barney	Medical
Dayton, Rhodes P.	Laboratory
Douglas, Peter L.	Sanitary

Dunlap, James C.	Medical
Durword, William F.	Surgical
Garaventa, Francis F.	Medical
Garrett, Clarence R., Jr.	Surgical
Goodyear, Leland H.	Surgical
Hall, Laurance F.	Surgical
Hall, Lloyd B.	Surgical
Harrington, Edward F.	Pharmacy
Takeshi, Imai	Surgical
Iverson, Allen B.	Surgical
Kennedy, Sheldon L.	Dental
Killen, Joseph M.	X-Ray
Kleinman, Abram	Laboratory
Knerr, Robert I.	X-Ray
Koblyk, Nickolas F.	Surgical
Libby, Vern R.	Medical
McLean, Kenneth	Laboratory
Madsen, Frank H.	Medical
Mayeda, George M.	Medical
Miller, William	Laboratory
Moyle, Clifford	Surgical
Nakamura, Akira	Medical
O'Connell, John P.	Medical
Omonsky, John	Medical
Paree, Claudio C.	Medical
Passey, Elaine H.	Surgical
Pederson, Lloyd S.	Surgical
Peterson, Max J.	Medical
Rainer, Joseph F.	Medical
Rico, Harold	Surgical
Rodaer, Sherman E.	Medical
Ross, Norwood E.	Surgical
Roylance, Vorge W.	Medical
Ryan, Carl J.	Medical
Sargent, Robert D.	Pharmacy
Schnelker, Henry H.	Pharmacy
Skeem, Harold E.	Medical
Smith, Arthur L.	Medical
Smith, Owen C.	Medical
Strasters, Robert V.	Surgical

Suez, Arthur	Medical
Sutlovich, Ludwig L.	Surgical
Takatsui, Fumio	Surgical
Thompson, Dick	Surgical
Tsuyuki, Hideo	Intelligence
Van Dine, Leo A.	Medical
Walters, Dorval J.	X-Ray
Williams, Don P.	Medical
Waybright, Lewis, J.	Dental
Weaver, Foy R.	Dental
Williams, Gail W.	Medical
Warren, William D.	Medical
Yzaguirre, Pete L.	Surgical

During August, 1941, the organization was attached as a unit to the Station Hospital, but maintained its own headquarters, and remains in that status at the present time, our first birthday.

In spite of our youth as an organization, and constant changes and interchanging of personnel, to schools and on various detached services, it was possible to organize teams and participate in athletics. Obviously the 203rd was rich in athletic ability, having drawn a large group of former high school and college stars. Thus, the organization gave an excellent account of itself, in competition with other organizations, line or otherwise. In all of the organized sports, boxing, baseball, football, and even ping-pong, the 203rd men were able to defeat any competition with which they came in contact. For the most part, sports were more or less impromptu affairs, challenge matches in volley ball and ping-pong between the officers and men of the 203rd and 68th Evacuation Hospital. In both events the 203rd men far outclassed their rivals. Chief Mike Salinas, full-blooded Mission Indian, leader of the boxers, was so highly rated by rivals in neighboring outfits, that no competition could be found for him.