

V. A. Hospitals

[by Win Lang, Golden Orange bulletin, June 1979]

Do NOT confuse covers issued by military branch hospitals and Veterans Administration hospitals. At the end of World War Two, 176 V.A. hospitals existed, with at least one in every state and one in Puerto Rico. Many are now long gone.

Almost all...there seems to be a question about a very few...issued a 40 strike cover, in dark blue, either with silver or with gold ink overlay. Some read "Billboard" inside, some did not. Each had a sketch of its building on the back. There are any number of variations, such as striker and/or paper colors, etc.

Eventually the V.A. went to one universal cover and there are at least five different sets of such covers. We are here concerned with individual issues.

Here is a list [of hospital locations] as authenticated by the V.A. An asterisk * means no covers known:

Alabama: Birmingham, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Tuskegee.

Arizona: Phoenix, Tucson, Whipple.

Arkansas: Fayetteville, Little Rock.

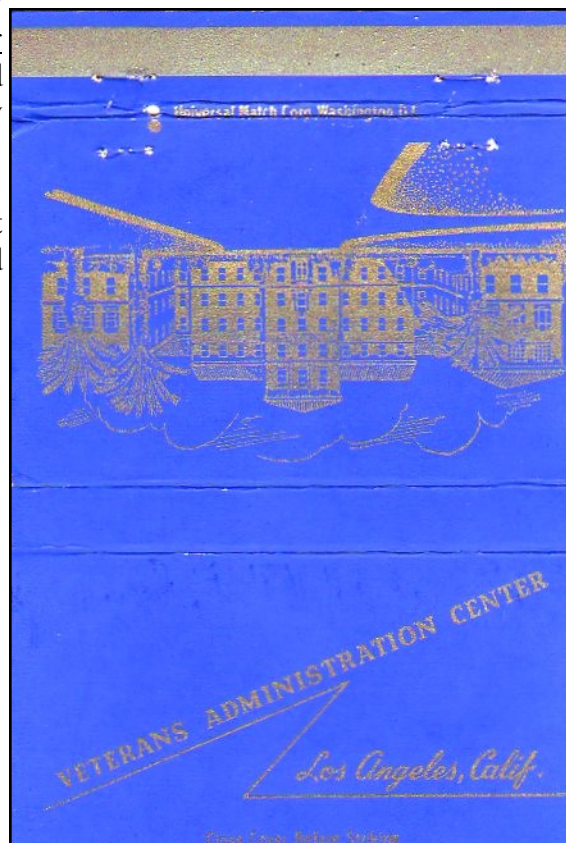
California: Fresno, Livermore, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Martinez*, Oakland, Palo Alto, San Francisco, San Fernando, Sepulveda.

Colorado: Denver, Ft. Lyons, Grand Junction.

Connecticut: Newington, West Haven.

Delaware: Wilmington.

Florida: Bay Pines, Coral Cables, Gainesville*, Lake City, Miami*.



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Georgia: Atlanta*, Augusta, Dublin*.
Idaho: Boise.
Illinois: Chicago, Danville, Downey, Dwight, Hines, Marion.
Indiana: Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Marion. [*Ed: I don't know if the latter is an error*]
Iowa: Clinton, Des Moines, Iowa City, Knoxville.
Kansas: Topeka, Wadsworth, Wichita.
Kentucky: Ft. Thomas, Lexington, Louisville.
Louisiana: Alexandria, New Orleans*, Shreveport*.
Maine: Togus.
Maryland: Baltimore, Fort Howard, Perry Point.
Massachusetts: Bedford, Boston, Brockton, Northampton, Rutland Heights, West Roxbury.
Michigan: Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Dearborn, Iron Mountain, Saginaw.
Minnesota: Minneapolis, St. Cloud.
Mississippi: Biloxi, Jackson.
Missouri: Jefferson Barracks, Kansas City, Popular Bluffs, St. Louis, Springfield*.
Montana: Fort Harrison, Miles City.
Nebraska: Grand Island, Omaha, Lincoln.
Nevada: Reno.
New Hampshire: Manchester.
New Jersey: East Orange, Lyons.
New Mexico: Albuquerque, Fort Bayard.
New York: Albany, Batavia, Bath, Bronx, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Canadaigua, Castle Point, Montrose, Northport, New York City, Sunmount, Staten Island.
North Carolina: Dunham, Fayetteville, Oteen, Salisbury.
North Dakota: Fargo, Minot.
Ohio: Brecksville, Chillicothe, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton.
Oklahoma: Muskogee, Oklahoma City.
Oregon: Camp White, Portland, Roseburg*.
Pennsylvania: Altoona, Butler, Coatsville, Aspinwall, Erie, Lebanon, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Wilkes-Barre.
Rhode Island: Providence.
South Carolina: Charleston*, Columbia.
Tennessee: Memphis, Mountain Home, Murfreesboro, Nashville.
Texas: Amarillo, Big Spring, Bonham, Dallas, Houston, Marlin, McKinney*, Kerrville*, Temple, Waco.
Utah: Salt Lake City.
Vermont: White River Junction.
Virginia: Kecoughtan, Richmond, Roanoke, Salem*.
Washington: American Lake, Seattle, Spokane, Vancouver, Walla Walla.
Washington, DC: Washington, DC.
West Virginia: Beckley, Clarksburg, Huntington, Martinsburg.
Wisconsin: Madison, Tomah, Waukesha, Wood.
Wyoming: Cheyenne, Sheridan.
Puerto Rico: San Juan.

Any definite knowledge of existing covers from those with an asterisk will be appreciated. The Army, Navy, and Marines each had their own hospitals and R&R Centers in various locations. Many issued covers. (The Coast Guard and the C.B. came under the Navy. There was no U.S. Air Force at this time, but the U.S. Army Air Corps came under the Army) Again, these hospitals (and their covers)

had nothing to do with V.A. Hospitals.

Ed note: All of the above was done by Win Lang in 1979. Since then, John William, OH, has updated, and thus produced, a more comprehensive listing of the covers, themselves, should you be interested. John's listing was done in 1993/94. It lists some new locations, as well as 225 single covers and twelve VA sets, ranging from 5-10 covers each. This list may be obtained from: John Williams, 910 Howard Ln., Vandalia, OH 45377-1866 (matchjsw@donet.com).
