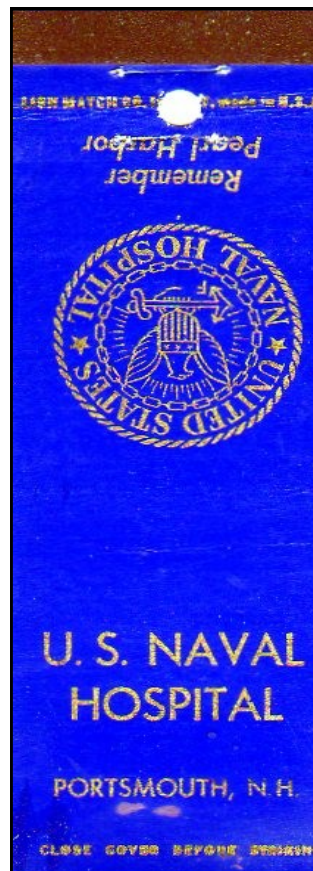
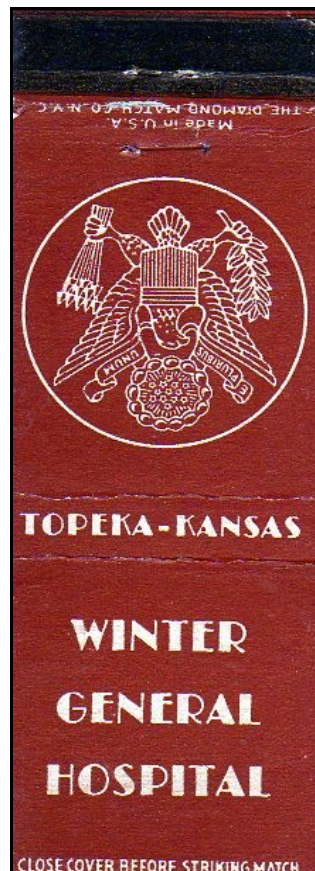
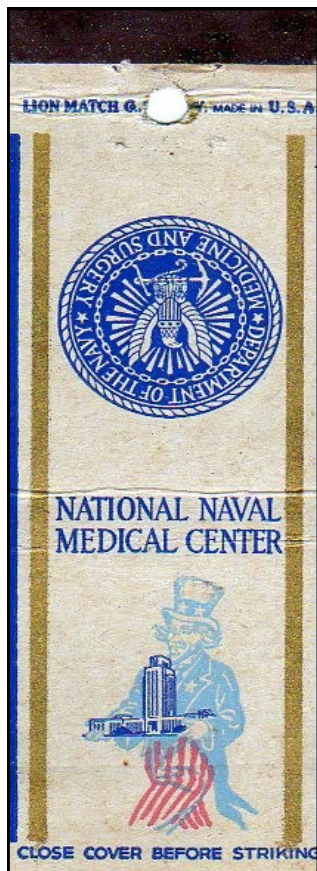


Military Hospitals

by
Mike Prero

Before the Civil War, medical care for the military was provided largely by the regimental surgeon and surgeons' mates. During the Civil War, field hospitals were set up, often right on the battlefield, but the health care dispensed was primitive, at best. As time went on, and especially with World Wars I and II, things became more organized, and permanent military hospitals were established.



It was World War II that saw the great mushrooming of military hospitals, and, consequently, the boom in military hospital covers. Indeed, most such covers come from those same World War II hospitals, especially if you discount the later Veterans Administration hospital covers, which are normally collected as a separate category. Today, almost all of those hospitals are long gone, but the covers are still floating around! Walter Reed and a few others are still going.

My father had his eyes injured during World War II, and I can remember going with him to Letterman Army Hospital several times in the 1950s.

I don't have my Military Hospital covers broken out separately, so I can't drag out an album to verify this, but these covers are basically all 20s and 40s, and all front-strikes. The 40's are almost exclusively Universals. In fact, during the war, these 40-strikes were used as postcards, and Universal seems to have cornered the market in that regard.

The World War II issues, and those immediately after, can mainly be divided into Army and Navy hospitals. I believe there are few Marine hospitals. Air Force hospitals came later.

