

HOSPITAL TRAINS

Gerry Glancy

Introduction

Chronologic History

World War 2

European Theatre of Operation

Zone of the Interior

Chronologic History

- 1854 - Balaclava
- 1860 - Civil War
- 1914 - WW 1



The railway yard at Balaclava...



World War 1



Tough Nurses



World War 2

Hospital trains in the ETO



Bn Aid Station



Field Hospital (DPC)

World War 2

Hospital trains in the ETO



Get them to a port - hospital ship

Could Be Exciting



Hospital Ships

Navy



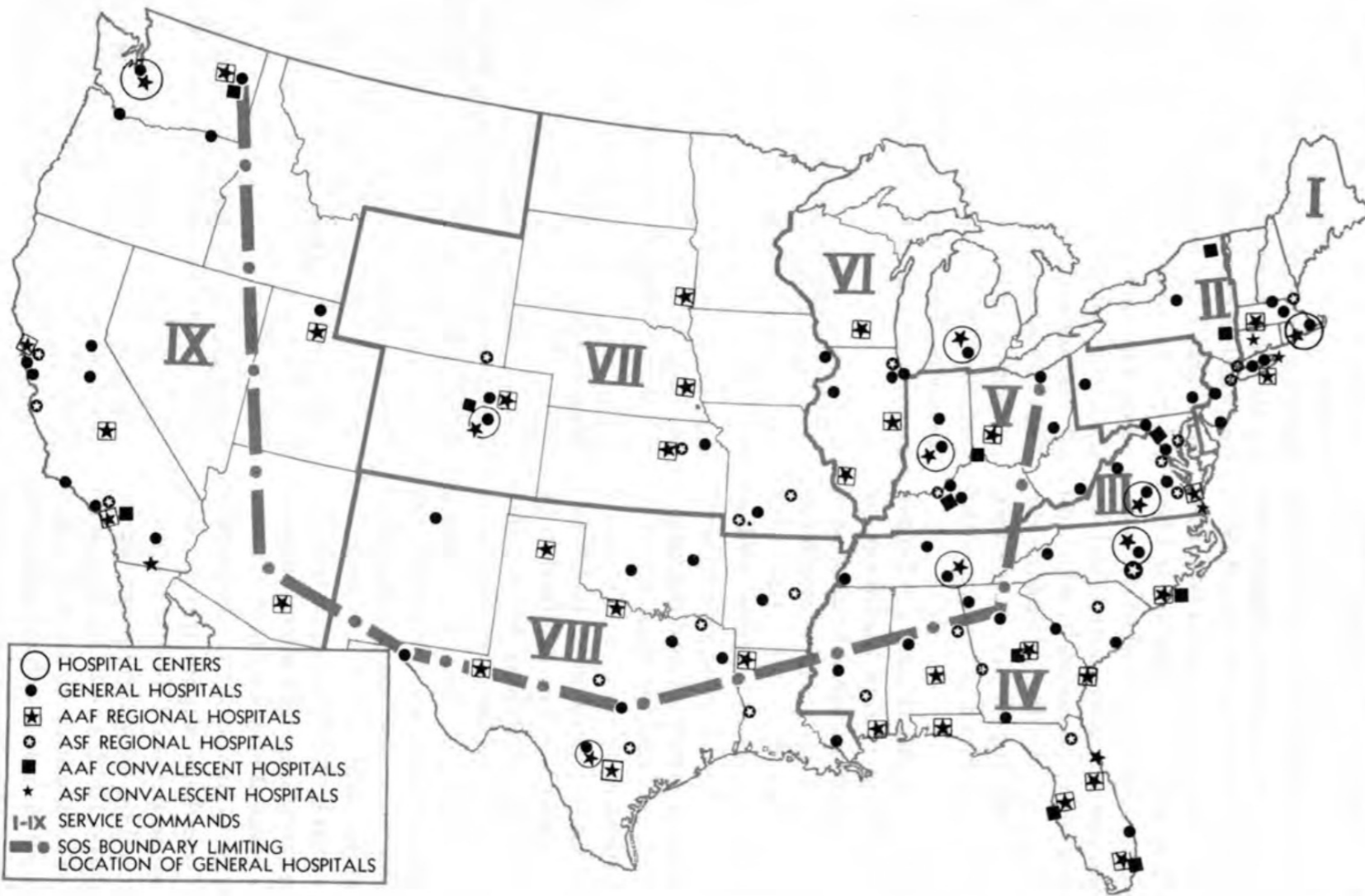
U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL SHIP "LOUIS A. MILNE"
COMMISSIONED AT BOSTON PORT OF EMBARKATION
MARCH 16, 1945
OPERATED BY TRANSPORTATION CORPS, ASF

Photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps

Army - 24!

Distribution Plan

New York
Hampton Roads
Charleston
New Orleans
San Francisco



LOCATION OF GENERAL, CONVALESCENT, AND REGIONAL HOSPITALS DURING WORLD WAR II

To Which hospital?

To Which Hospital?

Closest to home
Nature of injury

Burns - Brook, San Antonio
Hand - Valley Forge

Casualties of War

Combat injury
Disease



Anopheles



Disease?

7 Dec, 1941

How Many Hospital Trains?

None

Nada

Zip

Zero

Zilch

Initial Solution

Alfred E. Neumann

Existential Angst



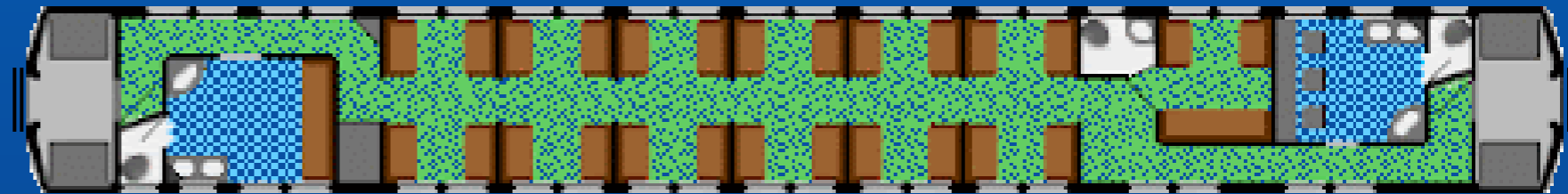
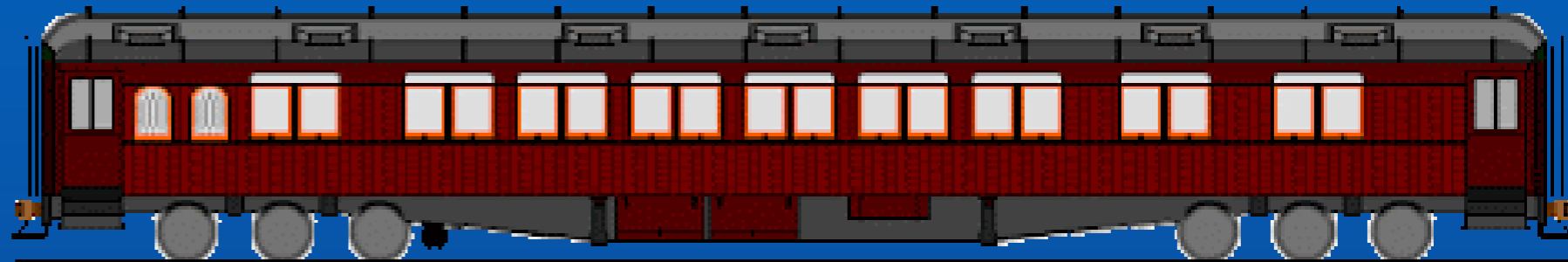
"What, me worry?" —ALFRED E. NEUMANN

Plenty of Pullmans

But, we have a problem....



"Gothic" 12-1 Pullman sleeper



12 section, 1 drawingroom - capacity 27 - Plan 2410 - built 1910 to 1913 - 910 cars total

The Solution



Modify Pullmans

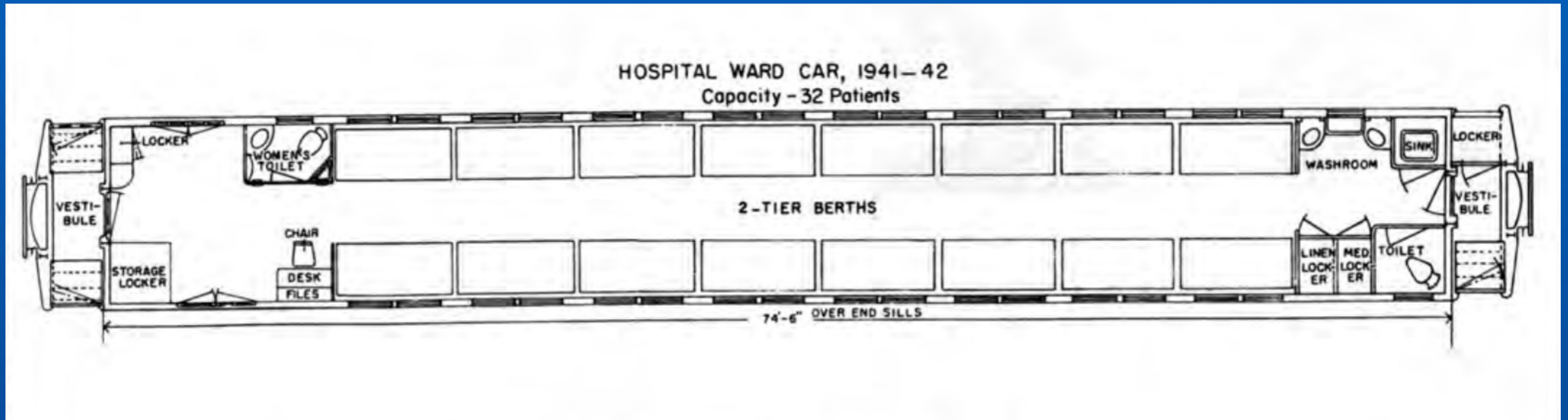
The Solution

Army Designs and Builds Its
Own Cars



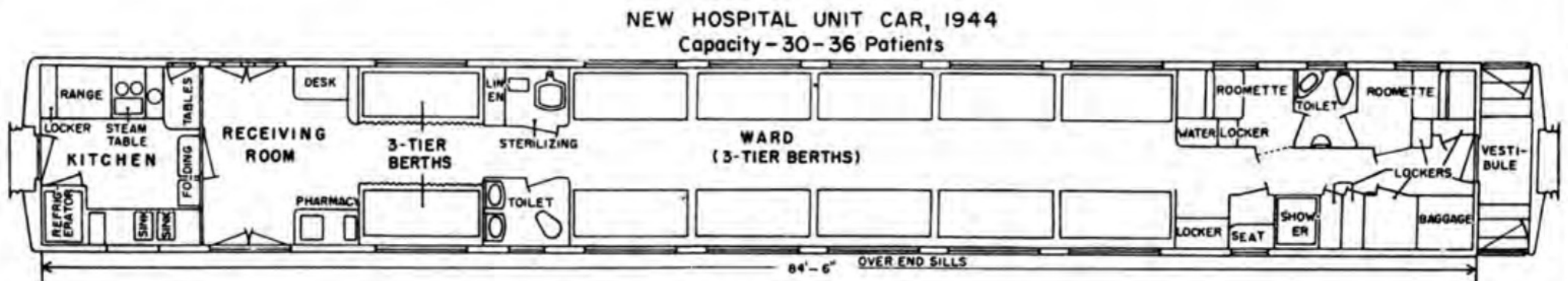
Kitchen Car

The Solution



Ward Car

The Solution



Unit Car
Train within a train

Unit Car Amenities

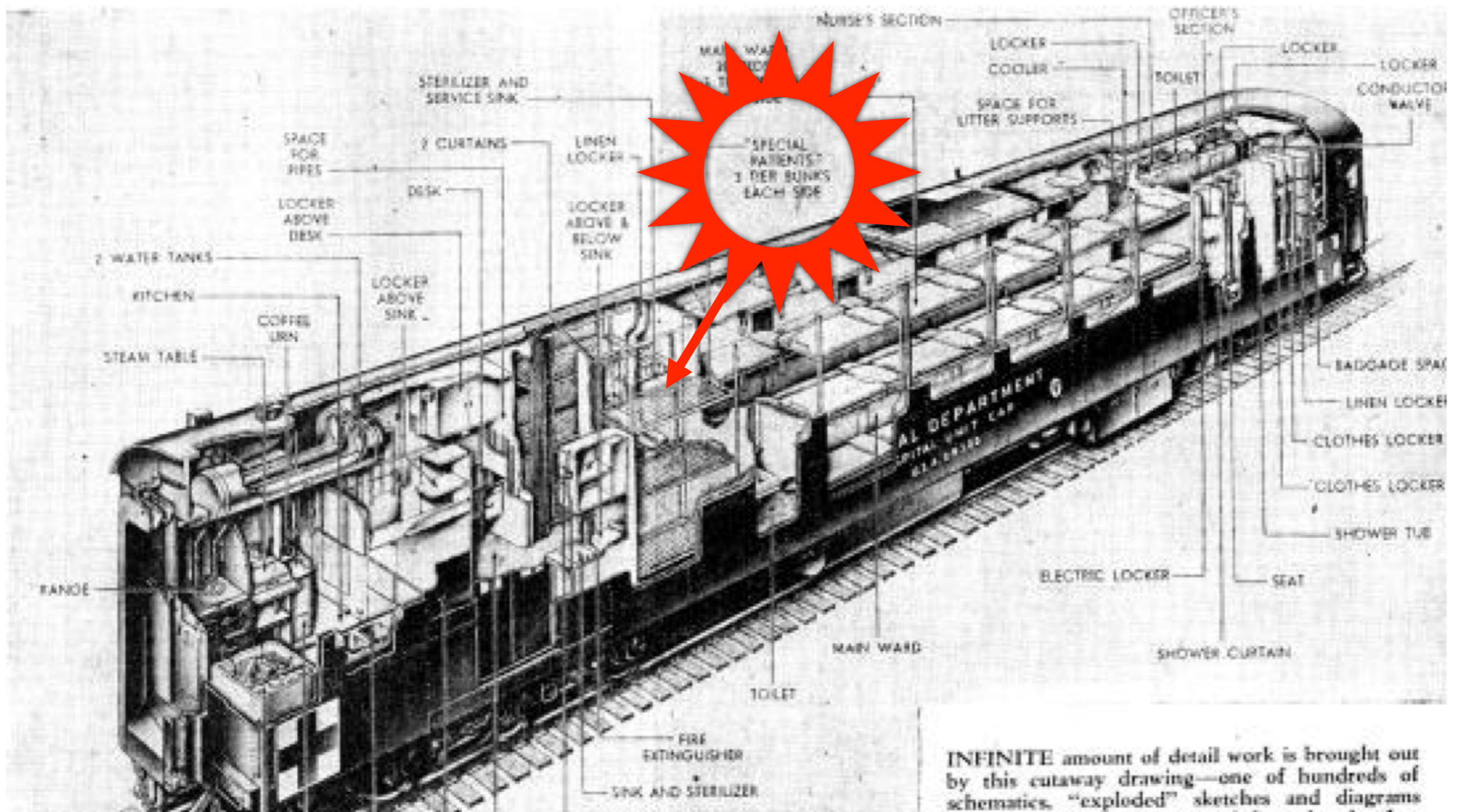


Photo by the author.

During the daytime, the crew could fold away the berths to create sitting areas.

A/C

Unit Car



A Third Casualty of War

Injury

Disease

Psychiatric



WW 1 - "Shell Shock"

WW 2 - "Combat Fatigue"

(PTSD)

Treatment of Combat Fatigue

Hot shower

Warm meal

Clean sheets

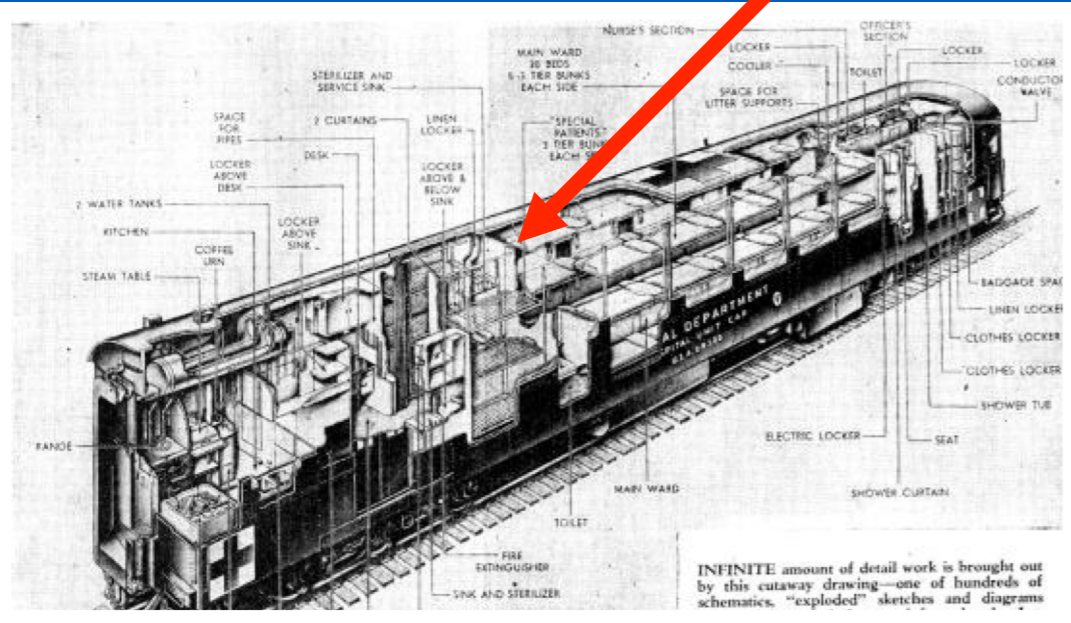
Empathetic doc

“You’re not a coward”

“You’re going back”

Love Those Brits

The following Hospital Trains being used in the United Kingdom had following patient carrying capacities:



BUNKS LITTERS AMBULATORY PADDED

Hospital	228	64	2
Train			
No. 11			
Hospital	228	64	2
Train			
No. 12			
Hospital	228	64	1
Train			
No. 13			
Hospital	228	64	1
Train			
No. 14			
Hospital	252	64	1

Final Kerfuffle Train Crew

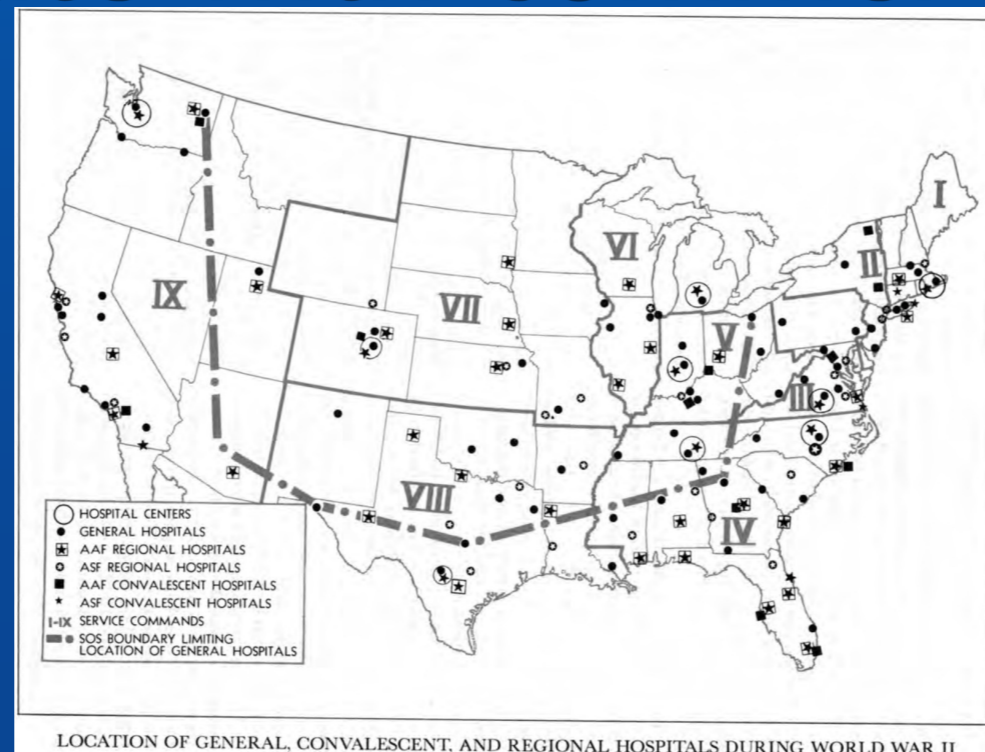
1-2 Docs, 1 Nurse, 5-6 Enlisted Medics

“Hey You” Roster

Permanent Detachment
1247th Service Command
Service Unit

From Debarcation Hospitals “Dispatch” Hospital Trains

Determine (anticipate) needs
Form up trains: 1 to 18 cars
Integrate with commercial RRs



Many trains from One

Initial train divides along the way

Junction point

Unit car

Minimize dead heading upon return

Railroads Bask in Glory

The best cared for wounded in the world

The men in this Pullman car were wounded in Europe.

Now, in an almost unbelievably short time after they received their first medical attention at aid stations right on the battlefield, they are in America—on their way to General Hospitals near their homes.

No other wounded in the world are cared for with the skill and devotion which the men and women of the Army Medical Corps give American wounded. No other wounded in the world are brought home so speedily.

Motor vehicles, ships, planes and trains all play a part in getting them here fast.

And Pullman—working with the railroads through its "pool" of sleeping cars—is privileged to contribute to their comfort.

Pullman's part of the job is providing sleeping cars to supplement the Army's special hospital trains. These cars—like the one in the picture—may have to be taken out of regular passenger service in order to meet Army needs as promptly and fully as possible.

So please—if you should be unable to get

the Pullman space you want exactly when you want it—remember this:

About half the Pullman fleet is assigned to carrying out mass troop movements and transporting other military personnel.

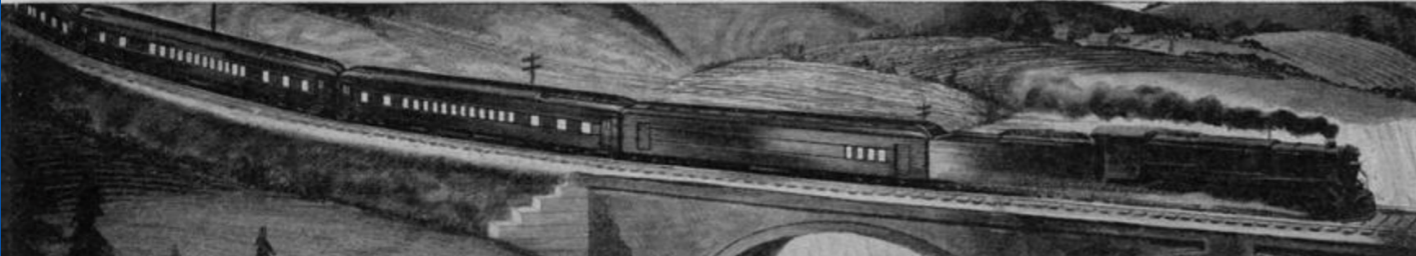
The other half is carrying more passengers than the whole fleet carried in peacetime.

And from this half must be drawn the increasing number of sleeping cars in which the wounded ride.

PULLMAN

For more than 80 years, the greatest name in passenger transportation

Copyright 1945, The Pullman Company



TRAVELING IN HIGHER
This sleeping room is exactly the design that it is fully equipped. In an emergency New York Central representatives could have train cars made and an operation could be performed here.

THEY WEAR THE CAPSULES
Detailed men of the Medical Corps and doctors and nurses. They combine the skill and support of the Cadettes, in serving the Army's problem... with a tradition of train and railroad service.

THEir WATER A SALUTE
The Army Nurse takes a salute, not only because she's a Cadette... but for her quality, often better service. The Army regularly sends 1,000 more trained nurse volunteers each month this year.

DIRTY FROM KITCHEN CAR
Early, scrupulously made, prepared by Army cooks, are brought from the Hospital Kitchen Car. Most on special duty get extra food. When Ward Cars are all together New York Central runs the dining-car-cum-prepares and service this hospital train.

AN M.D. IN THE CAR
Ward Commander is a physician of the Army Medical Department, usually a Captain or Major. He makes control every part and every detail of his aboard the moving hospital.

REPRESENTS THE RAILROAD
A New York Central Passenger representative takes each Hospital Train. He acts for the railroad, making Ward Commander work more smoothly, supplies and every other matter.

BITTY BAGS GO HERE
Patients' personal "Bitty Bags" go under beds. Other baggage goes in baggage car forward. Many New York Central baggage cars are on military duty. That's why you are asked to travel light.

Trains in White
How Army Hospital trains speed wounded fighters homeward over the River Level Route

MILE AFTER MILE, these travelers drink in each new picture framed in the windows of their Ward Dressing Car. It may be the scenic Hudson River, the rich fields of the Mohawk Valley, or the blazing furnaces of some war production center. But always, it's home... the good old U.S.A.

This is the last lap of their long, long, journey... a journey that may have begun on a stretcher, under flax, but is ending now amid the care and comfort of a modern "hospital on wheels."

In this supreme service, New York Central is proud to share. Special schedules fit Medical Department needs. Speeds are planned for maximum comfort, and engineers exert all their skill in smooth train operation. For aboard these "trains in white" ride America's most honored passengers.

YOUR WAR BONDS HELP BUILD ARMY HOSPITAL CARE

NEW YORK CENTRAL LINES

New York Central

How well did it work?

Hospital cars

Pullmans - 120

conversions

Ward cars - 128

Unit cars - 202

Kitchen cars - 60

40 hospital trains on any given day

More Numbers

May 1945 - 47,044 moved

Total for ZI - about 500,000

The Human Factor



“Very good, sir”

Thank you!

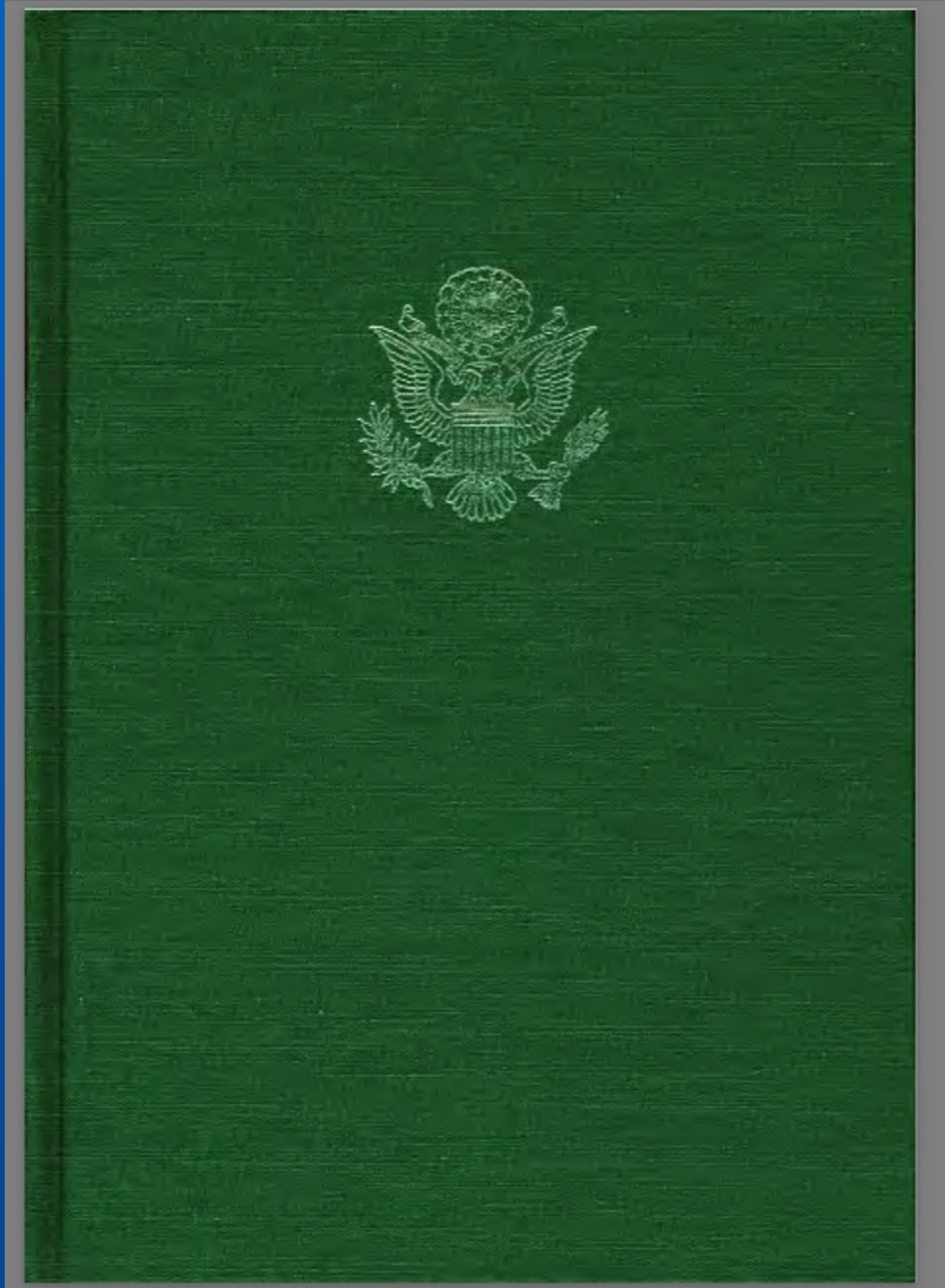


The Number 20 rounding the curve at the end of the Marina headed for the tunnel under Fort Mason pulling a hospital train. Note the World War II era livery on the engine. -Wilbur C. Whittaker

Wikipedia

1. [^] ^{[a](#)} ^{[b](#)} ^{[c](#)} Cooke, Brian (1990), *The Grand Crimean Central Railway*, Knutsford: Cavalier House, pp. 16–30, ISBN 0-9515889-0-7
2. [^] ^{[a](#)} ^{[b](#)} Jack Edward McCallum (2008). *Military Medicine: From Ancient Times to the 21st Century*[☐]. ABC-CLIO. pp. 154–155. ISBN 9781851096930.
3. [^] See [here](#)[☐] for one example of an extensive journal entry from the first world war hospital trains in Europe.
4. [^] Railroads Carry Wounded Soldiers "Hospital Cars Rode the Rails", by Larry K. Neal Jr., Tar Heel Junior Historian, Spring 2008.[☐]
5. [^] Piedmont Division, gUnited States Army Hospital Trains;A Brief History of American Rail Casualty Transportation, By Michael T. Fleming,

Gerry's Stumble



THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT:
HOSPITALIZATION AND EVACUATION,
ZONE OF INTERIOR