**The Medical School During War**

Dr. Edmund Andrews (1824-1904), one of the medical school's founders, acquired notable battlefield experience as surgeon in the First Illinois Regiment of Light Artillery during the American Civil War (1861-1865) when he saw heavy action during Grant’s campaign in Tennessee.

Dr. Andrews’ letters were published in the *Chicago Medical Examiner* during 1862 which described his observations of surgeries, conditions of the camps and hospitals, and overall health of the troops.

Dr. Allen A. Wesley (1856-1929), one of the founders of Provident Hospital, was in the medical school class of 1887.

During the Spanish-American War (1898), Major Wesley was appointed to the medical examining board for all medical officers serving in Cuba, the first African American to hold such a position.
Dr. Nicholas Senn was a graduate of the medical school’s class of 1868. In 1884, he was appointed Brigadier General of the Wisconsin National Guard. He founded the Association of Military Surgeons in 1892 and was appointed the Surgeon General of the Illinois National Guard in 1893.

During the Spanish American War he was commissioned Lt. Colonel and Chief Surgeon of U.S. Volunteers.

Revolution in China, 1911

Lucy Gaynor, MD, graduated with honors from the Woman’s Medical College of Chicago (Northwestern University Woman’s Medical School) in 1891.

Dr. Gaynor was endorsed by the Friend’s Missionary Board and in 1892 sailed to Nanking, China to begin two decades of missionary work as the city’s first female physician. She established a hospital and a training school for nurses.

On December 6, 1911, Nanking fell to revolutionary forces; by December 10, Dr. Gaynor and her staff opened an emergency field hospital. She contracted typhus and died on April 22, 1912.
In October 1916, Dr. Frederick Besley began organizing a general hospital unit to assist the Allied war effort in Europe. Medical officers were recruited from Northwestern’s medical school with others from Rush Medical College and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. The nurses were recruited from Cook County, Mercy, Augustana, and Evanston hospitals. Many of the enlisted men had been students at Northwestern and other universities in the Chicago area.
Dr. Besley, commissioned a major, became director and chief of surgical services for the unit, it left Chicago on May 16, 1917 landed at Boulogne, France on June 11, and set up headquarters at Dannes-Camier.

The unit replaced the British Expeditionary Force's Base Hospital No. 18, freeing the British staff for duty closer to the front line.

For the next 22 months, the unit operated a 1,200 to 1,500 bed tent-and-hut hospital, treating some 60,000 patients, mostly British soldiers.

Occasional German air raids in the area created dangers beyond the usual hazards of disease and accident.

Most of the officers, nurses, and enlisted men returned to the United States in April, 1919.
World War II – Algeria and Italy

J. Roscoe Miller, MD (1930), dean of the medical school and Michael L. Mason, MD (1924), PhD (1931) were responsible for the re-activation of Base Hospital No. 12 as the 12th General Hospital in 1942.

Dr. Mason had served the unit in World War I as Sergeant in charge of orderlies.

Alumni and faculty were the nucleus of the 2,000-bed general hospital including eight operating rooms.

The medical curriculum at home was accelerated by scheduling continuous classes.
The Northwestern unit was stationed at Ain-El-Turck, Algeria, December 1942-December 1943; and in Italy, successively at Naples, Rome, and Livorno; inactivation was September 15, 1945.

The personnel worked in rehabilitation of casualties, infectious disease, and combat and war fatigue.

A letter from U.S. Army Surgeon General Kirk to Northwestern administrators sums up the role Northwestern faculty, students, and alumni applied not only in World War II, but in both wars:

"I realize what a serious deprivation it has been for your University to meet its manifold responsibilities with so many of its ablest members in the 12th General Hospital...that your contribution has been of inestimable value to the Army Medical Service, particularly to our soldier patients."
This uniform was worn by James A. Connor, MS, MD, 1933 Northwestern University Medical School; Instructor in Pediatrics; Major, 5th U. S. Army, Medical Corps, 12th General Hospital, 1942-1945; Pathologist and Chief of the Officer’s Club.

A gift of his estate.

This 48 star flag flew over the 12th General Hospital encampment at Ain-El-Turck, Algeria.

A gift of Michael L. Mason, BS (1916), MD (1924), PhD (1931) Northwestern University Medical School

War Memorial Door

Entrance to the Archibald Church Medical Library, 1926-1965