THE 65TH GENERAL HOSPITAL
WORLD WAR II

The 65th General Hospital, an Army Reserve unit composed of faculty members, active and former Duke Hospital house staff members and nurses of the Duke University Medical Center, was formed in 1940 at the urging of Dr. Wilbur C. Davison, then-dean of the medical school.

The 65th GH was called to active duty in July 1942 and served through September 1945. Its first year on active duty was spent in training and helping staff the large station hospitals at Fort Bragg. In the early fall of 1943, the 65th was ordered overseas, embarking from New York aboard the "Queen Elizabeth." On October 19, 1943, it arrived at its first hospital site, still under construction, on a farm near Malvern, Worcestershire, England. Soon thereafter, it received its first patients—casualties transferred from the North African theater.

In February 1944, the 65th was ordered suddenly to a hospital site at Botesdale, Suffolk in East Anglia in the very heart of the 8th Air Force to strengthen and expand the care of the Air Force's increasing casualties. At that time, months before the Normandy invasion of France, the 8th Air Force was the only American force in western Europe in active combat. In its near daily air raids over Europe, as many as 10,000 airmen and 1000 planes were sometimes involved. Casualties were numerous, caused by anti-aircraft fire ("flak"), exploding shells and bullets from German fighter planes, cold environment (-60 degrees at altitude), aircraft crashes and accidents. Thus, the 65th General Hospital was suddenly thrust into a very active experience that continued unabated until after the end of the war 18 months later.

The 65th functioned as an evacuation hospital receiving freshly wounded casualties direct from the planes, as well as a General Hospital providing definitive and specialty care and outpatient clinics for the large number of troops in the surrounding area. After D-Day and the invasion of France, it also received hospital trains of up to 600 patients each, transferred from field and evacuation hospitals on the continent. These usually kept full the 65th's 1,456 hospital beds, 500 of which were in ward tents.

In its 22 months overseas, the 65th General Hospital treated 17,250 bed patients and more than 30,000 outpatients. The hospital's mortality rate in the treatment of fresh battle casualties was an amazingly low 0.4 percent. At the end of the war, the 65th General Hospital was highly commended for its outstanding service by General Eisenhower; General Spaatz, Commander of the 8th Air Force; and the Surgeons General of both the Army and the Air Force.

Together, the doctors, nurses, and enlisted men of the 65th General Hospital lived through some of the most difficult times in history. In 1947, Frank E. Holt began the tradition of uniting surviving members of the 65th General Hospital. For 56 years, Sarkis C. Mihranian has managed the unit's reunions, keeping close the strong bonds the members formed while dutifully serving our country.
DEDICATION CEREMONY
October 26, 2002, 10:30 a.m.

WELCOME
Ralph Snyderman, MD
Chancellor for Health Affairs
Duke University Medical Center

NATIONAL ANTHEM
82D Airborne Division Band
Ft. Bragg, N.C.
1SG Wes Smith, Band Master

HISTORY OF THE 65TH GENERAL HOSPITAL
William G. Anlyan, MD
Chancellor Emeritus, Duke University

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 65TH GENERAL HOSPITAL
Ivan W. Brown, Jr., MD
65th General Hospital
Former James B. Duke Professor of Surgery
Duke University Medical Center

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Brigadier General Eric B. Schoomaker
Commanding General
SE Regional Medical Command
Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center
Chief of Medical Corps Affairs, Office of the Army Surgeon General

SERVICE MEDLEY
82D Airborne Division Band

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL SCULPTURE
R. Sanders Williams, MD
Dean, Duke University School of Medicine
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

65TH GENERAL HOSPITAL FINAL RETREAT CEREMONY
Sargeant Frank E. Holt
65th General Hospital

“GOD BLESS AMERICA”
82D Airborne Division Band

Luncheon to follow at the Searle Center
SPEAKERS

WILLIAM G. ANLYAN, MD
Chancellor Emeritus, Duke University

WILLIAM G. ANLYAN, MD is chancellor emeritus of Duke University, chancellor for health affairs emeritus, and a trustee of The Duke Endowment. Under his leadership from 1964 to 1988, Duke University Medical Center became one of the major private tertiary care facilities of the Southeast.

Anlyan graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and received a medical degree there in 1949. He then served an internship and residency in general and thoracic surgery at Duke University Medical Center, which he completed in 1955.

In addition to his leadership at Duke, Anlyan has been chair of the Council of Deans and the Assembly of the Association of American Medical Colleges. He was the founding chairman of Educom, a Washington, D.C.-based consortium of leading colleges and universities promoting information technology applications in education. He also is the chairman of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine.

In 1980, he received the highest honor given by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Abraham Flexner Award; and in 1979, Yale University presented him the Distinguished Surgeon Alumnus Award. In 1995, Duke University Medical Alumni Association honored him by establishing the William G. Anlyan Lifetime Achievement Award for extraordinary leadership and accomplishment in the field of medicine.

IVAN W. BROWN, JR., MD
Historian, 65th General Hospital, World War II

ONE OF THE YOUNGEST DOCTORS in the 65th General Hospital, Ivan Brown, MD, has dedicated himself to recording and preserving its history.

During the war, he was captain of the neurological service, which performed near-miraculous work restoring disfiguring head injuries. He also was in charge of the shock ward, where battle casualties were received, triaged, and prepared for surgery. During basic training at Fort Bragg, N.C., Brown bonded with the officers of the 82nd Airborne Division, and later treated their wounds during the fighting.

Brown is James B. Duke Professor of Surgery, emeritus, and the author of works on medical history.

He received a medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1940 and completed a pathology residency here before the start of World War II. After the war, he returned to complete a surgical residency and serve on the faculty.

Brown has attended every 65th General Hospital reunion. In the 1980s, he funded and created a documentary covering the history of the 65th. In addition, Brown is responsible for the Medical Center’s archival collection of materials for the 65th General Hospital.
THE FRONT LINES
In the operating rooms of the 65th, Duke surgeons battled to save the lives of wounded soldiers. In its first year at Botesdale, the 65th admitted 11,059 patients, of whom 6,816 were admitted to the surgical service.
BRIGADIER GENERAL ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER, MD
Commanding General, Southeast Regional Medical Command
Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center
Chief of Medical Corps Affairs, Office of the Army Surgeon General

BRIGADIER GENERAL ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER is the commanding general of the Southeast Regional Medical Command at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, the lead agent of the Department of Defense TRICARE Regions 3 and 15, and chief of medical corps affairs in the Office of the Army Surgeon General.

During a 23-year military career, Schoomaker has received numerous honors and decorations, including the Legion of Merit with four oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Prior to his current position, he was commander of the 30th Medical Brigade headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Schoomaker attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He completed the Reserve Officer Training Corps and was commissioned a second lieutenant when he received his undergraduate degree in 1970.

In 1975, Schoomaker received a medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School. He earned a PhD in human genetics from the University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies in 1979. He then completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at Duke University Medical Center in 1978, followed by a fellowship in hematology at Duke in 1979.

STEPHEN H. SMITH
Sculptor

STEPHEN H. SMITH, a sculptor whose works capture the complex anatomy of the human figure, is responsible for crafting the 65th General Hospital, World War II memorial sculpture.

A native of Wilmington, N.C., he earned an undergraduate degree in art history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979 and a master of fine arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1982.

Since 1986, Smith has taught advanced figure drawing, anatomy, sculpture, and foundry techniques at universities and private institutions, including the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the Atlanta College of Art, Oglethorpe University, and Wingate University. He perfected the portrayal of the human anatomy by studying athletes and ballet dancers, and by reviewing autopsies and works by masters of the Renaissance.

An artist whose large works are commissioned by architects and designers, Smith's sculptures are collected privately and in corporations nationally and internationally. In the United States, he has 26 permanent collections, and other private collections are in Tokyo, Japan, and Hamburg, Germany.
Ralph Snyderman, MD

Dr. Ralph Snyderman is chancellor for health affairs, executive dean of the Duke University School of Medicine, and president and CEO of the Duke University Health System. He completed his medical training at Duke after earning his medical degree magna cum laude from the Downstate Medical Center of the State University of New York in 1965. Dr. Snyderman is now in his 28th year as a member of the Duke faculty, where he has served as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, chief of the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology, Frederic M. Hanes Professor of Medicine and Immunology, and finally, James B. Duke Professor of Medicine. Under Dr. Snyderman’s leadership, Duke has become a national model and one of the few fully integrated health systems in the country. He oversaw the development of the Duke University Health System, which provides an increasing continuum of care throughout North Carolina and beyond. He continues to play a leadership role in academic medicine and is the current chairman of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

R. Sanders ("Sandy") Williams, MD

Dr. Robert Sanders Williams is the dean and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Duke University School of Medicine, where he received a medical degree in 1974. In 1980, he joined the Duke University Medical Center faculty. After ten years at Duke, he became chief of cardiology and professor of internal medicine and molecular biology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where he led one of the country’s leading basic and clinical research programs and directed the Ryburn Center for Molecular Cardiology. As a molecular cardiologist, he has made major contributions to the understanding of the basic mechanisms of cardiovascular disease and how these fundamental mechanisms influence the presentation and treatment of a range of clinical disorders.

"I'll Be Home"

At Christmas 1944, bashed-up GIs in one of the 65th's orthopedics wards celebrate the holiday. It was one of the busiest periods in the hospital's history, as casualties from the Battle of the Bulge poured in from the continent. Thirty-five-hour shifts were common as the hospital struggled to keep pace with the influx of patients.
SPONSORS

Duke University Medical Center wishes to thank the following for their generous support:

The Duke Endowment
for commissioning the memorial sculpture

The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
for funding the sculpture of the corpsman

Duke University Medical Alumni Association
for sponsoring this event

IN MEMORIAM

These four individuals gave their lives for their country in World War II through their service in Duke’s Army Reserve 65th General Hospital.

Walter E. Brown, MD, Army Captain
John F. Kincaid, MD, Navy Lieutenant
Robert E. Seibels, Jr., MD, Army 1st Lieutenant
William W. Green, MD, Army 1st Lieutenant