

Collection #
M 1042
OMB 0136

**BILLINGS GENERAL HOSPITAL, FORT BENJAMIN HARRISON
RECORDS, 1943–2003**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes; 1 oversized manuscript box; 1 box photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1943–2003

PROVENANCE: Martha Rose Scott Baum, Indianapolis, Indiana, September, 2012

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0245

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Billings General Hospital was constructed on the grounds of Fort Benjamin Harrison, east of Indianapolis and opened on 1 March 1941 under the command of Colonel Harry L. Dale. It was named for Colonel John Straw Billings from Switzerland County, Indiana, who served as a surgeon during the Civil War, and was on the staff of the Army Surgeon General from 1864–1895. Its primary function was to serve as an orthopedic center for wounded soldiers. The hospital was designed to house 1,600 patients but at times the number swelled to 2,000. The hospital closed in March, 1946.

Sources:

Information in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains scrapbooks, photographs, and patient interviews, 1941–1946. Martha R. Baum, a civilian with the hospital's public relations staff assembled the scrapbooks and conducted the patient interviews. The scrapbooks are comprised of photographs, newspaper clipping and other items chronicling the history of the hospital. Patient interviews include basic information and are separated into two categories: alphabetical and by type such as branch of service, where served, prisoners, nurses and African-Americans. Also included are photographs of military personnel receiving treatment and performing rehabilitation exercises. There also are photographs of parties, dances, and special events including performances and visits by celebrities including Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, Carmen Miranda and Jennifer Jones. Additional items include loose newspaper clippings, copies of the hospital's newsletter, *Top Billings*, a record book of newspaper releases, and general items regarding the hospital.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Scrapbooks

CONTENTS

Scrapbook #1

CONTAINER

OMB 0136
Box 1, Folder 1

Scrapbook #2

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Scrapbook #3

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Box 1, Folder 3

Series 2: Interviews

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Patient Interviews, Air Corps, 1944-45

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Patient Interviews, ETO, Normandy, 1944

Box 1, Folder 2

Patient Interviews, Italy, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 3

Patient Interviews, Pacific, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 4

Patient Interviews, Nurses, 1945

Box 1, Folder 5

Patient Interviews, Sample from About 500
Interviews, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 6

Patient Interviews, "Of Particular Interest," 1943-44

Box 1, Folder 7

Patient Interviews, Pre-1945

Box 1, Folder 8

Patient Interviews, Officers, 1944

Box 1, Folder 9

Patient Interviews, African-Americans, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 10

Patient Interviews, Prisoners, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 11

Patient Interviews, Asia, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 12

Patient Interviews, ETO After Normandy, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 13

Patient Interviews, No Subject, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 14

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Patient Interviews, No Category	Box 2, Folder 8

Series 3: Billings General Hospital Related Materials

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Holiday Publications, 1944-45

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Box 2, Folder 9

<i>Top Billings</i> , 1945	Box 2, Folder 10
Record Book, Newspaper Releases, 1945-46	Box 2, Folder 11
General Information, ca. 1945	Box 2, Folder 12
Directories, February, 1946	Box 2, Folder 13
Martha Baum, Notes, 26 February 1946	Box 2, Folder 14
Herbert L. Dubbe, 1946	Box 2, Folder 15
Newspaper Clippings, 1945-46	Box 2, Folder 16
Martha Baum, Notes on Patients, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 17
Newspaper Clippings, 2003	Box 2, Folder 18

Series 4: Photographs

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Staff and Patients

Patients (1 of 2)

Patients (2 of 2)

Rehab Programs

Portraits of Patients

Jennifer Jones

Carmen Miranda

Hope and Crosby Visit

CONTAINER

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Photographs:
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Photographs:
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Activities

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Buildings

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 11