



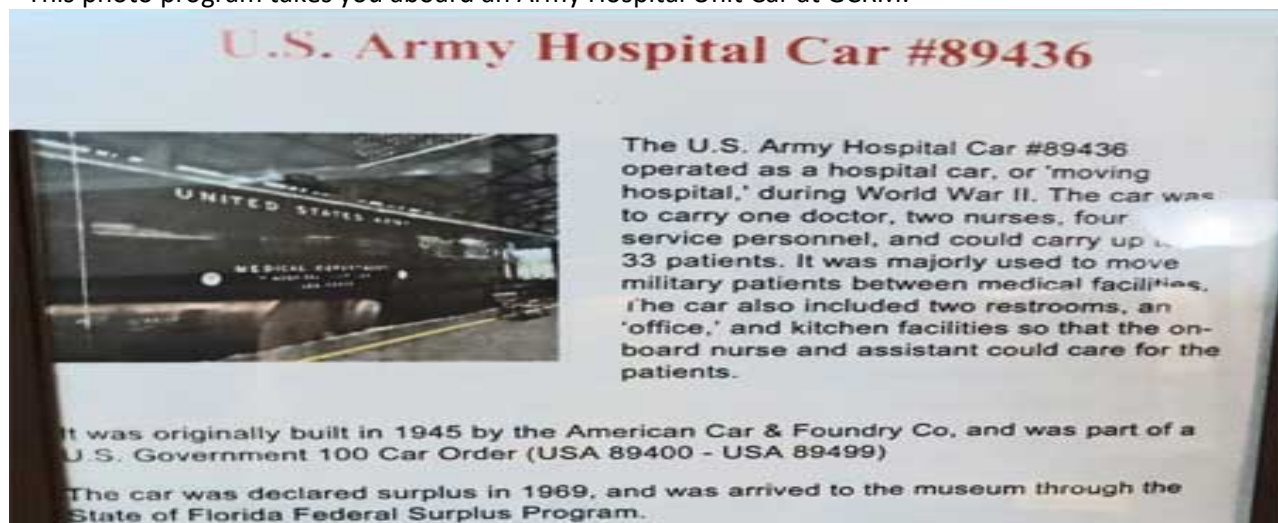
Railroad cars for transport, treatment, and evacuation of military personnel have been in use since the Civil War.

"Many consider the Civil War the first modern war, because of weapon and technology advancements. As battle casualties mounted, U.S. Army leaders looked for better ways to move injured soldiers to area hospitals. Hospital cars were constructed from existing railroad passenger cars, with bunks replacing seats. Because of rough tracks and poor construction methods, the ride in these hospital cars included plenty of jolting and jostling, causing more pain to the wounded soldiers. The hospital cars operated as part of dedicated trains, complete with a boxcar to provide meals. During World War I, the unit car was developed. This car contained a kitchen and a ward section for patients. Most of these cars operated overseas, moving wounded soldiers from the battlefield to hospital ships headed back to the United States. These cars operated in hospital trains staffed by American Red Cross doctors and nurses. At the beginning of World War II, the U.S. Army had three types of hospital cars: ward cars, ward dressing cars (which included a small surgery area), and kitchen cars able to feed up to 500 people." <ncpedia.org>

From ***Railroad Magazine*** - September of 1945

"The Army's battle-sick and wounded is provided by 200 Hospital Unit Cars recently built by American Car & Foundry in its St. Charles, MO., shops. Costing \$57,000 apiece, these 85-foot hospitals on wheels incorporate such new features (making the riders independent of conventional diner service); ultra-modern pharmacy unit, the finest sterilizing equipment, ide-activate air conditioning and automatic hear control devices." <railwaysurgery.org>

This photo program takes you aboard an Army Hospital Unit Car at GCRM.





Sources: <http://railwaysurgery.org/Army.htm>, <https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/sr201508hospital.pdf>, <https://www.med-dept.com/articles/the-hospital-train-in-the-e-t-o-1944-1945/>, <https://www.ncpedia.org/transportation/hospital-cars>, and <http://railwaysurgery.org/List.htm>.

7-part series on the [Gold Coast Railroad](http://acuri.net-florida) is at [acuri.net-florida](http://acuri.net-florida)

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