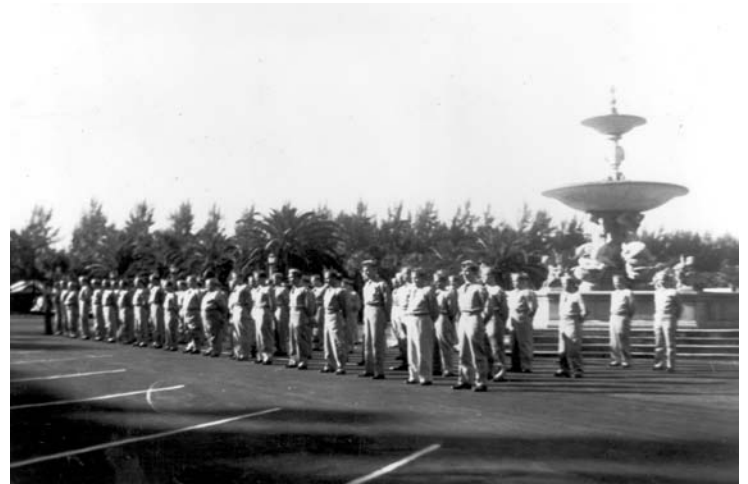


Did You Know...

Hotel turns Hospital

Expecting a large number of wounded from the invasion of Africa, the U.S. Army leased The Breakers Hotel for \$250,000 per year and converted it into a hospital which opened in December 1942. From 1942 to 1944, the army operated The Breakers as the Ream General Hospital. With its wide hallways and large elevators, the hotel was easily transformed into a 500-bed hospital that specialized in neuro-psychiatry and plastic surgery, with 400 military staff. The south loggia of the hotel became an officers' lounge, the ballroom became the recreation hall, the mezzanine turned into operating rooms, and the Coconut Grove room became a dental clinic. Officer patients enjoyed the view from rooms on the sixth and seventh floors and ate in the famous circular dining room. It also served servicemen's family members, and several babies were born at Ream General Hospital. Returned to the owners, the resort reopened on December 11, 1944. Two Miami firms were hired to restore the hospital into the hotel, with John Volk of Palm Beach as architect-engineer.



Upper right: The west entrance of The Breakers; Below right: Military personnel assigned to Ream General Hospital line up in front of the Breakers' famous fountain; below: As many as 400 people staffed Ream General Hospital.

