



WWII in cornwall park

Cornwall Park has always been a place of refuge and respite for the people of New Zealand since its opening in 1903. Not everyone knows, however, that Cornwall Park once housed a war hospital serving American soldiers injured in World War II, and later became a pioneering hospital for women's health. Read some of the stories shared with our staff, from those who lived during this time.

"We grew up at the foot of the mountain [One Tree Hill/ Maungakiekie]. I remember seeing the soldiers swimming in the water tanks and watching them ride the horses, hired from August Stables which were situated in August Place. Horses were very overworked and slow. "

- Unknown

"Today I received orders to go to New Zealand. The plane coming over flew at 10,000 feet, and I was uncomfortably cold in spite of the woollens I wore. Arrived at Auckland at 1600 hours and went out to the 39th General Hospital. Colonel Longfellow is looking well. They have 300 patients, and most of these will soon be gone. The grounds are beautifully landscaped, and the hospital itself is immaculate. It has stood up very well."

- Derived from the official wartime diary of the late Ashley W. Oughterson, M.D.