Vintage Ambulances: From horse-drawn to airborne

A U.S. Army horse-drawn ambulance with two servicemen. [NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE]

An ambulance train “parked” at Harewood Hospital, Washington D.C., 1863, just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg. [NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE]

1861 photograph shows the Ambulance Corps demonstrating how they work together to remove wounded Civil War soldiers from the field. [LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PHOTO]

An ambulance with the Preparedness League of American Dentists emblem on the side in 1918, from the publication Dental Digest. [NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE]

The 1st R.I. Ambulance Company during a mobilization parade in 1917. Spectators are seen lining both sides of the street. [PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTION]
Red Cross ambulance presented by railway employees. [SMITHSONIAN LIBRARIES, ELECTRIC RAILWAY JOURNAL. v.58 JULY-DEC. 1921, (NEW YORK): MCGRAW HILL PUB. CO.]

Ford Model T Ambulance on display in the Early Years Gallery at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. [U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO]

De Havilland DH-4 1920 ambulance. [U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO]

Fokker A-2 ambulance. [U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO]

Dr. Frank I. Payne

A 1936 Cadillac ambulance used by the Westerly Ambulance Corps, one of the oldest volunteer private emergency medical services established in 1917 under the name Westerly Red Cross Sanitary Unit. Dr. Frank I. Payne served as the Corps’ founding father and first Commander. [THE WESTERLY AMBULANCE CORPS, INC.]