

HISTORY OF US ARMY HOSPITAL WURZBURG

The US Army Hospital Wurzburg is located high on the Galgenberg Hill overlooking the city of Wurzburg, in the heart of Franconia. Across the city and the winding Main river atop another of the surrounding, vineyard covered hills, stands the formidable Marienberg Fortress. Founded in 1201, the fortress served as a home for ruling bishops from 1253 to 1720. In the shadow of the Marienberg stands the "Kappele", which through the years has become a truly popular pilgrimage church. Within the city are numerous reminders of the artistic past. The Residence, probably the most wonderful of all the Palaces in Germany; the "Grafeneckart", which has been the town-hall since 1316; the "Old Main Bridge" with its colossal baroque Saints; numerous fountains dotting the city as reminders of the baroque and rococo eras. The city of Wurzburg was almost completely destroyed during the last weeks of the war in 1945. Through the energetic efforts of its citizens, the city has been rebuilt at a feverish pace. Many of the old landmarks have been restored and modern construction has been added to produce a contrast of old and new, which is Wurzburg.

The building that serves as the physical plant for the US Army Hospital Wurzburg was originally constructed as a permanent type hospital by the German government at a cost of \$1,300,000. It was designed as a 300 bed facility by architects and engineers of the German army. The hospital is a 6 story building situated on a landscaped park area of approximately 14 acres. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on Christmas Day, 1935 and the hospital was opened for operation on

11 November 1937. Medical treatment facilities were provided for German troops stationed in Wurzburg and their dependents. Major services included General Surgery, Medicine, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Dermatology. Nursing services were provided by Catholic sisters, who were assisted by German Red Cross nursing aids during the war. Operating beds were increased to 700 during hostilities, with a maximum patient census of approximately 1500 attained toward the end of the war.

The first US Army unit to occupy the hospital was the 107th Evacuation Hospital, which assumed operations on 8 May 1945. The hospital has been under the control and management of several US Army medical units since that time. The longest tenure by any one unit was by the 10th Field Hospital which assumed control in December, 1950, until it was redesignated the 10th Evacuation Hospital in June, 1962. ~~The 10th Evacuation Hospital operates the facility, today.~~

Major reconstruction of the hospital building was accomplished during 1951 and 1952. The facility was completely repainted and new floors were installed throughout the building. Remodeling of the structure provided a Red Cross lounge area, library facilities, new patients dining room and a 120 seat theater for motion pictures as well as live presentations. An independent water chlorination system was installed during the reconstruction period. There was no interruption of medical service while remodeling was in progress.

The mission of the 10th Evacuation Hospital is to operate the US Army Hospital Wurzburg, function as headquarters for the Wurzburg Medical Service Area, and to train for employment as an evacuation

hospital, if necessary. The US Army Hospital Wurzburg presently has a 241 bed capacity. It is organized into three major professional departments: Medicine, Surgery and Hospital Clinics and Area Medical Service. The recent average monthly patient census is 135. Live births average 95 per month. Outpatient services are provided for authorized personnel residing in Wurzburg as well as for referral patients from attached annexes and dispensaries and Seventh US Army unit dispensaries located within the service area. Specialty clinics include Surgical, Orthopedic, EENT, Medical, Dermatology, Pediatric, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Physical Therapy.

As headquarters for the Wurzburg Medical Service Area, the hospital provides logistical, administrative, and professional technical support for two attached dispensaries, the 210th General Dispensary at Kitzingen and the 269th Medical Detachment at Wertheim, and three attached annexes, the 23rd Medical Detachment at Wildflecken, the 24th Medical Detachment at Schweinfurt, and the 31st Medical Detachment at Bad Kissingen. Dental service is provided by the 123rd Medical Detachment (Den Svc) with Dental Clinics located at each annex and dispensary as well as at the hospital in Wurzburg. The 80th Medical Detachment (VFI) provides veterinary services for the medical service area and also operates a small animal clinic in Wurzburg. The hospital with its attached units provides medical services for approximately 34,000 authorized personnel located within an area of about 3500 square miles. Ambulance services furnished by the 549th Medical Company (Amb) from the annexes and dispensaries to the hospital as well as from this hospital to other hospitals in Frankfurt and Landstuhl.

Training, a continuous process at the US Army Hospital Wurzburg, is so organized as to assist the hospital in the accomplishment of its daily mission and to simultaneously prepare the hospital for any emergency mission. Practice in the care and handling of mass casualties is provided twice each year, with the handling of over 100 simulated casualties in a problem based upon a fictional natural disaster in the Wurzburg area. Field training is regularly conducted during the year in order to gain proficiency in operating under such conditions.

The US Army Hospital Wurzburg has established a formal Hospital Improvement Program with listed priority projects. The outpatient clinic area, as an example, has recently been completely remodeled to provide more comfortable waiting rooms for patients. The patient appointment system is being revised to provide "true" appointments for all clinic services. A helicopter landing pad capable of being lighted at night is being constructed on the hospital grounds immediately adjacent to the emergency room to provide more rapid evacuation for emergency patients. Additional parking space for patients is to be provided. Professional areas are to be remodeled and a program of modernization of equipment for improved diagnosis and treatment of patients, is being instituted. These and other improvement projects are all part of an endless and continuing attempt to provide the best possible care for the American soldier and his dependents.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals recently conducted its periodic survey and the US Army Hospital Wurzburg was reaccredited. The hospital is commanded by Colonel Donald E. Carle, MC, who assumed command in July, 1964.