

OUR ARMY HOSPITALS



11th FIELD HOSPITAL

By

Major Louis E. Mudgett, MSC

The 11th Field Hospital, located in Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt, Germany, occupies what was formerly the "Staedtische Krankenhaus." The "Staedtische Krankenhaus," established during the years 1879-81, was originally an 80 bed hospital. By 1942, the maximum bed capacity had reached 1,200. From 1942 to 1945, the hospital was utilized mainly as a German Army Hospital, (Lazarett), only one ward being retained for civilian use.

The 216th General Hospital (1,000 beds) occupied the "Staedtische Krankenhaus" on 8 August 1945, and was redesignated the 387th Station Hospital (500 beds) on 1 April 1946. The 387th Station Hospital was reorganized as a 250 bed hospital on 30 June 1949. On 25 August 1949, the 387th Station Hospital, which had been the Orthopedic Center of the European Command, was inactivated and the 11th Field Hospital was activated on the same day.

The 11th Field Hospital was originally activated at Camp White, Ore., on 1 August 1942 and was assigned to the Seventh Service Command at Camp Carson, Col., on 17 November 1942. On 18 December 1942, the hospital was attached to the Northwestern Sector Command.

The unit departed from the New York Port of Embarkation on the "Evangeline NY 366" on 18 April 1943 and arrived at Oran, North Africa, on 11 May 1943, when it was attached to services



PATIENTS FIND the rooms at the 11th Field Hospital very pleasant. This one is on the Surgical Ward.

of Mediterrean Base Section.

The hospital saw action in the Sicily campaign to 17 August 1943, participated in the Naples-Toggia campaign to 21 January 1944, took part in the Rome-Arno campaign, supported battle elements in the Southern France campaign from 15 August 1944 to 14 September 1944, and rendered medical services in the Rhineland campaign from 15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945.

The hospital was awarded battle credit for participation in the campaign in Central Europe and for participation in the Sicily (Amphibious) campaign.

Departure from France for redeployment to the United States was on 11 November 1945. The hospital arrived at the Boston Port of Embarkation on 20 November 1945 and was inactivated at Camp Myles Standish, Mass., on 21 November 1945.

The function of the 11th Field Hospital is to provide medical services primarily for the U.S. Armed Forces of the Stuttgart Military Post. In addition, medical service is provided for Department of the Army civilian employees, dependents of military and civilian personnel and for such other personnel as are authorized under pertinent directives. The total military and civilian population of the post is approximately 10,000.

All buildings of the hospital are of permanent construction with the exception of the civilian mess hall and the quarters and mess hall for the 14th Labor Supervision Company. Essential-

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ly all permanent construction is of brick supporting walls and curtain walls of reinforced masonry.

A great deal has been done to improve the hospital buildings and grounds during the past year. Considerable landscaping has been done. The medical and surgical wards have been painted recently, and the repainting of the outside of all buildings will be completed soon. A large out-door swimming pool was completed on the hospital grounds during the summer of 1949 and the present plan is to use it as the Post swimming pool.

A beautiful theater was also recently completed at the hospital. The theater will seat 369 and there is space for fourteen wheel chairs. A formal opening is planned as soon as seats are installed.

All wards of the hospital are now being consolidated in one building and a wing of this building, thus making more space available for the USAREUR Medical Training School, which is located within the confines of the hospital grounds and occupies considerable space formerly occupied by the 216th General Hospital and the 387th Station Hospital.

The hospital is well equipped and has the appearance of a large stateside general hospital.

The Dental Service of the hospital is very active. During the period 25 August to 31 December 1949, there was a total of 9,681 sittings. A two-chair clinic with one civilian dentist and one hygienist is also in operation in Robinson Barracks (Headquarters, Stuttgart Military Post) for the convenience of the large number of enlisted personnel stationed there.

The hospital is commanded by Col. Abner Zehm, MC, who is also the Surgeon of Stuttgart Military Post.

An interesting sidelight is that one hospital unit of the 11th Field Hospital was attached to the 2d Armored Division during certain phases of the Sicily campaign, while Colonel Zehm was Surgeon of that Division.

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