

## Our Army Hospitals



# 98TH General Hospital MUNICH, GERMANY

TEGERNSEE

Colonel Leroy D. Soper, M.C.

The 98th General Hospital officially opened for the reception of patients on 21 July 1945, in the former "Krankenhaus Schwabing" on the northern outskirts of the city of Munich, Germany. The unit was activated in the United States, and had been set up in the United Kingdom for seven months prior to its arrival on the continent.

The hospital is located in a 45-acre park completely surrounded by a high wall. The buildings consist of the Administration Building--also housing two chapels and the Roman Catholic Convent of nursing sisters of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy, who formerly operated the hospital for the city of Munich--and seven three-story ward buildings, connected by long corridors which are enclosed and heated. Between the corridors are located the large clinic buildings, the operating room, X-ray, physiotherapy, main kitchen, and mess hall. In addition, there are approximately 15 other large buildings utilized as barracks for enlisted personnel, laboratory, laundry, utilities, heating plant, and motor shed. The entire area has been landscaped, and there are flower and vegetable gardens, smooth grassy lawns, and hundreds of old shade and fruit trees.

Constructed in 1908, the plant was at that time one of the most modern hospital installations in the world. The operating room, with its high tile walls and modern German operating lights, rivals the most modern in the United States. The physiotherapy clinic specializes in many types of hydrotherapy, and rumor has it that it was the scene of some of the immersion experiments perpetrated upon inmates of Dachau. Wards are divided into numerous rooms, practically all of which have southern exposure, most acceptable in this northern climate. Bomb damage during the war was heavy, due to the fact



that a shortwave radio transmitter was operated from the hospital, but a tremendous amount of repair has already been done. This program is still under way.

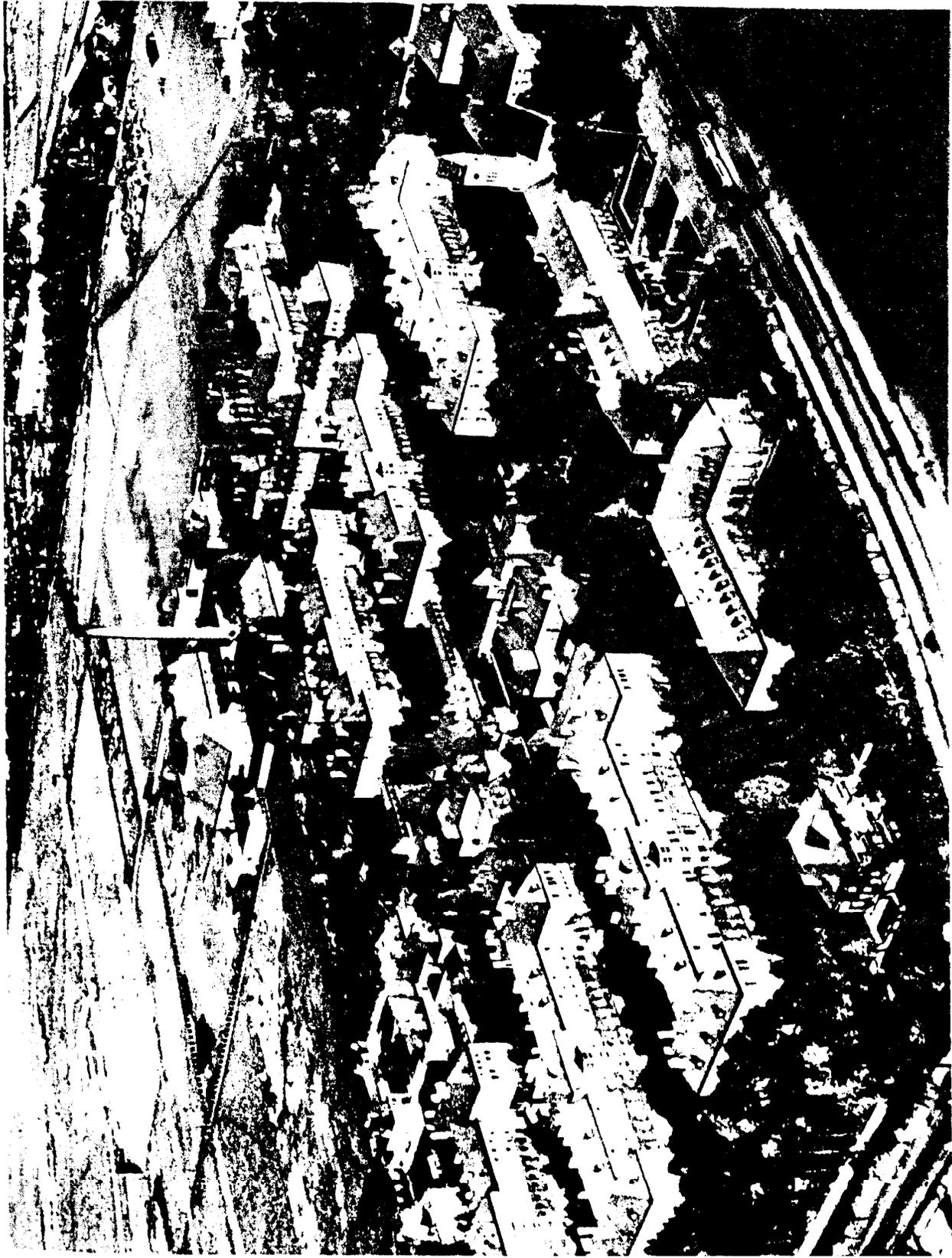
Although redeployment hit the 98th as hard as any other organization in the Theater, qualified professional personnel have always been supplied by higher authority to maintain superior standards of professional skill. Officers certified by the various Specialty Boards have headed services and sections. Their assistants have been, without exception, well trained, energetic, eager young men who have given excellent care to the sick and injured.

With the coming of civilian dependents into the Theater, it became necessary to establish obstetrical and gynecological sections, which are now complete, with an outpatient clinic with dressing rooms and examining rooms. Labor and delivery rooms are located in this department, and have no connection with the operating room or other sections of the hospital. An up-to-date nursery has been set up and is being operated according to modern standards. Ten babies have already been delivered in the hospital. A department of pediatrics has been established, with bed space for approximately twenty children. It has its own entrance and is isolated from other departments.

The 98th operates an unusual feature unique in this Theater--a convalescent rest and recreation center on the shores of Tegernsee, a lake resort 54 kilometers southeast of the city in the Bavarian Alps. A selected group of convalescent patients arrives each Monday at the Hotel Seeheim, one of the better tourist and resort hotels on the lake. Here they enjoy five days of fishing, swimming, sailing, boating, outdoor sports, and relaxation in the warm Alpine sunshine. A medical officer, nurse, and specially trained house-keeping staff are in attendance at all times. The ration, prepared by a French chef, served in an attractive dining room with an unobstructed view of the lake and mountains, and with an orchestra playing softly in the background, is a feature which never fails to elicit unbounded enthusiasm. Patients are returned to the hospital on Saturday, and over the weekend duty personnel of the unit use all facilities of the center.



HOTEL SEEHEIM  
98th GENERAL HOSPITAL  
RECREATION  
CENTER



98th General Hospital, Munich, Germany

Saturday night dances are held, alternating between enlisted and commissioned personnel. This resort, in its beautiful lake and mountain setting, has proved itself of inestimable value in the rest and rehabilitation of patients, and is a morale builder for all personnel of the hospital.

In addition to the rest center, recreation facilities provided by the hospital include one of the largest Red Cross set ups in the Theater. It occupies almost a complete floor, and is equipped with games, music, writing rooms, craft shops, and a Little Theater. The soda fountain which adjoins, operated by the Post Exchange, also is a morale builder. For personnel of the hospital, there are tennis courts and a large outdoor swimming pool. Munich itself, with its background of Nazism, offers numerous points of interest for sight-seers. Conducted tours of the city are sponsored by Special Services and the Red Cross. Personnel also have access to Dachau, Berchtesgaden, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Nürnberg, Salzburg, and other world famous places.

During its twelve months of operation, the hospital admitted a total of 13,825 patients. Of these, 1,990 have been returned to the Zone of the Interior for further hospitalization, 81 have been transferred to other hospitals in this Theater, and there have been 144 deaths. The remainder have been returned to duty. The average daily patient load is from 700 to 850. The highest census was on 14 September 1945, when 1,037 patients were on the Morning Report.

The patient strength gives only a faint idea of the amount of professional work provided by the 98th. Specialists serve as consultants for many of the smaller hospitals in the vicinity. Over 2,000 outpatients are seen each month. The laboratory serves nearby smaller hospitals, performing procedures which are not practical in smaller institutions.

Situated in one of the most beautiful sections of Germany not far from the Bavarian Alps, the 98th has accomplished its mission with credit during the past year, and looks forward to continued service to the Army and the civilian dependents, with the purpose of continuing to offer the very best professional care that can be secured in Europe.

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