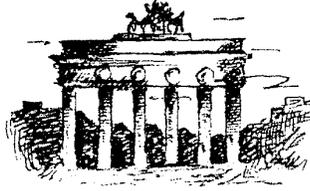


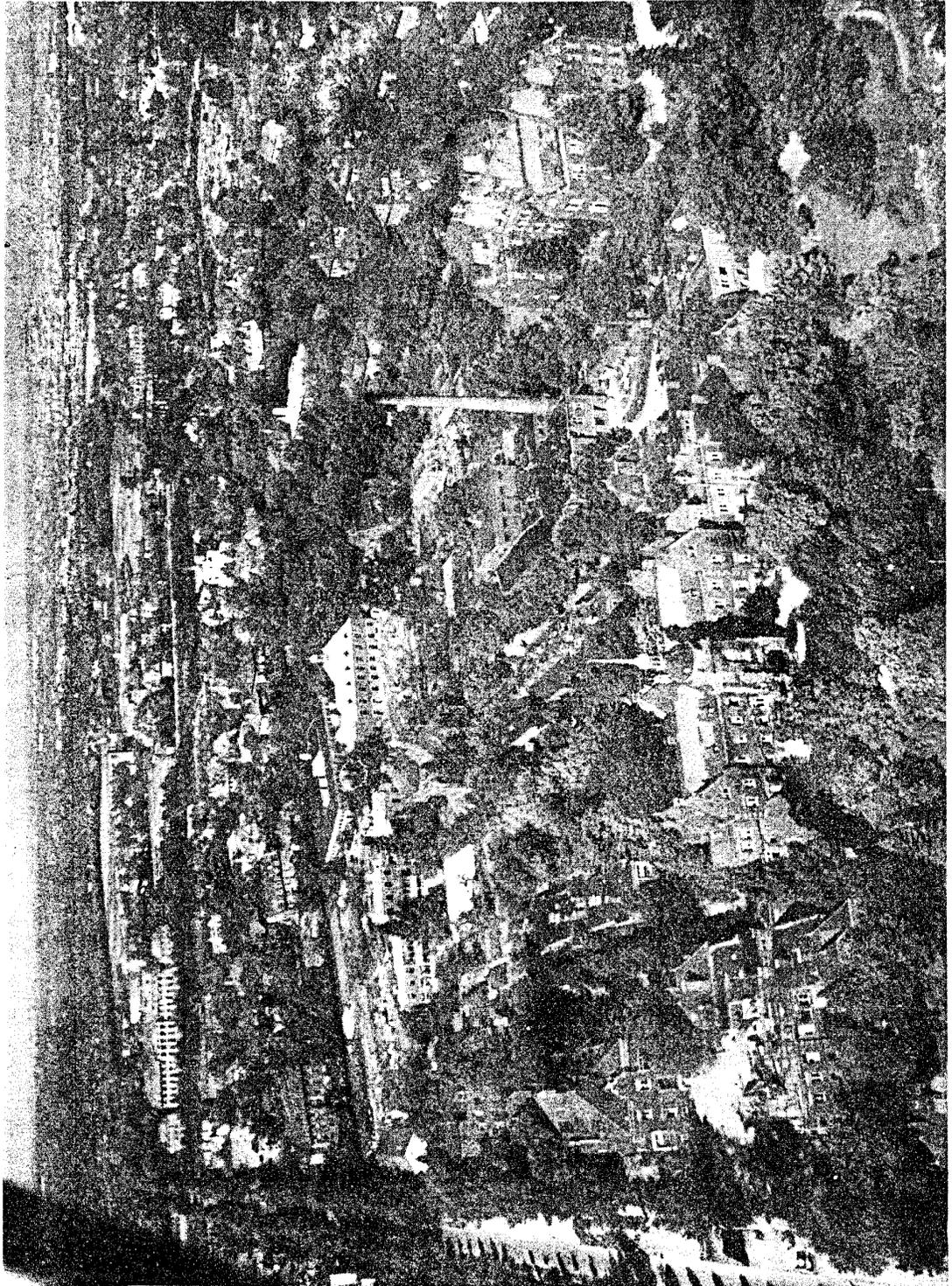
**OUR
ARMY HOSPITALS
279th STATION HOSPITAL
BERLIN**



The present location of the 279th Station Hospital is within the city limits of Berlin, Germany, in the Lichterfelde Bezirk, about three miles south west of the Brandenburg Gate. The unit was originally activated on 25 June 1943 in Camp Bowie, Texas. Leaving the continental United States 28 December 1943, the unit arrived within the United Kingdom on 12 January 1944. Operations were carried on in Wales until May 1945, when the unit moved to Verdun, France. After a short stay there they moved to the present location, officially beginning operations on 18 September 1945.

The 279th Station Hospital is on the site of a former German hospital, the construction of which was started in 1898. In 1941 the facility was taken over by the German Reich and used for hospitalization of Waffen-SS. After the fall of Berlin, the hospital was taken over by the Soviet Army. Upon organization of the quadripartite control of Berlin, the hospital came into the possession of the United States Army. In the early days of occupation of Berlin, the 101st General Hospital was also in Berlin, but after deactivation of that unit, the 279th Station Hospital became the only United States Army Hospital in the former German capital.

During the bombing of Berlin, considerable damage was done to buildings, grounds and installed German equipment. Up to the present time, restoration of buildings and grounds has continued. The site (consisting of about 15 acres) is completely enclosed by brick walls and iron fencing. The facility has 22 buildings and some minor structures within the enclosure. Buildings are varying sizes and capacities and not connected by corridors or tunnels. However, there is a central heating plant. To compensate for the present daily temporary shutting off of electric current in sections of the city, the hospital



Aerial view of the 279th Station Hospital, Berlin.

generates a small amount of electric current to operate certain facilities during the time, such as operating section, x-ray, dental and physical therapy clinics. Water and sewer lines connect with the city systems.

This hospital originally had an authorized bed capacity of 750. Between August 1946 and February 1947, the authorized bed capacity was 500. Since February the 279th has been a 250-bed hospital. Hospitalization is accomplished for all U.S. troops in Berlin, War Department civilian employees and dependents of each. While the 10th Medical General Dispensary accomplishes most of the outpatient service, a consultation service is maintained at the hospital for referred cases.

Since 1 November 1946, the offices of the Surgeon, Berlin Command, and Commanding Officer, 279th Station Hospital, have been consolidated.

The relative remoteness of this hospital from other Army hospitals has been recognized and a staff has been maintained for most emergency procedures when the condition of patients precludes immediate transfer to Frankfurt or elsewhere. Arrangements can be made to have consultants sent here by plane instead of moving the patients and thus jeopardizing the lives of patients by ill-timed evacuation.

The various clinics are at present adequately staffed and equipped. The obstetric and pediatric sections are rapidly increasing in direct ratio with arrival of dependents. At the present, about 1,900 dependents are listed in this community. Among this group, medical and dental requirements are greater than among a similar group on an Army post in the United States, because there are few large concentrations of Army dependents in the United States and Army and civilian medical facilities are more widely distributed.

Coincidental with reductions in military personnel in Berlin, there has been a reduction in admissions to hospital. The total number of hospital admissions for the calendar year 1946 was 12,804.

Enlisted men are quartered in a single three-story brick building within the hospital area. Nurses are quartered in a continuous block of stucco apartment houses di-



Col. Edward A. Coates, Jr.
Commanding Officer
279th Station Hospital

agonally across "Unter den Eichen" from the front entrance to the hospital grounds. The male officers are quartered in requisitioned houses, all within two blocks of the hospital. A unit club adjoining the hospital grounds is maintained for the enlisted men. The hospital officers' club is two blocks from the hospital within the residential area.

The various special services and Red Cross facilities maintained in the American sector of Berlin for military personnel are available to hospital personnel. To those interested in educational advancement, about 60 courses are available at high school and college level at the Thomas A. Roberts School and at the American University of Berlin. Dependents are eligible to attend classes and earn credits. Various athletic sports are fostered in season.

At present the hospital basketball team has maintained a high place in the league series.

The German opera houses and theaters are available as well as amusement places in allied sectors of Berlin.

This hospital had three Commanders between September 1945 and May 1946, namely: Colonel Raymond R. Decker, MC, Lieutenant Colonel Elmer A. Lodmell, MC, and Colonel Henry S. Murphey, MC. Since May 1946, Colonel Edward A. Coates, Jr., has been in command.

VOL. 2, NO. 3, MARCH 1947

MEDICAL BULLETIN

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