

OUR ARMY HOSPITALS

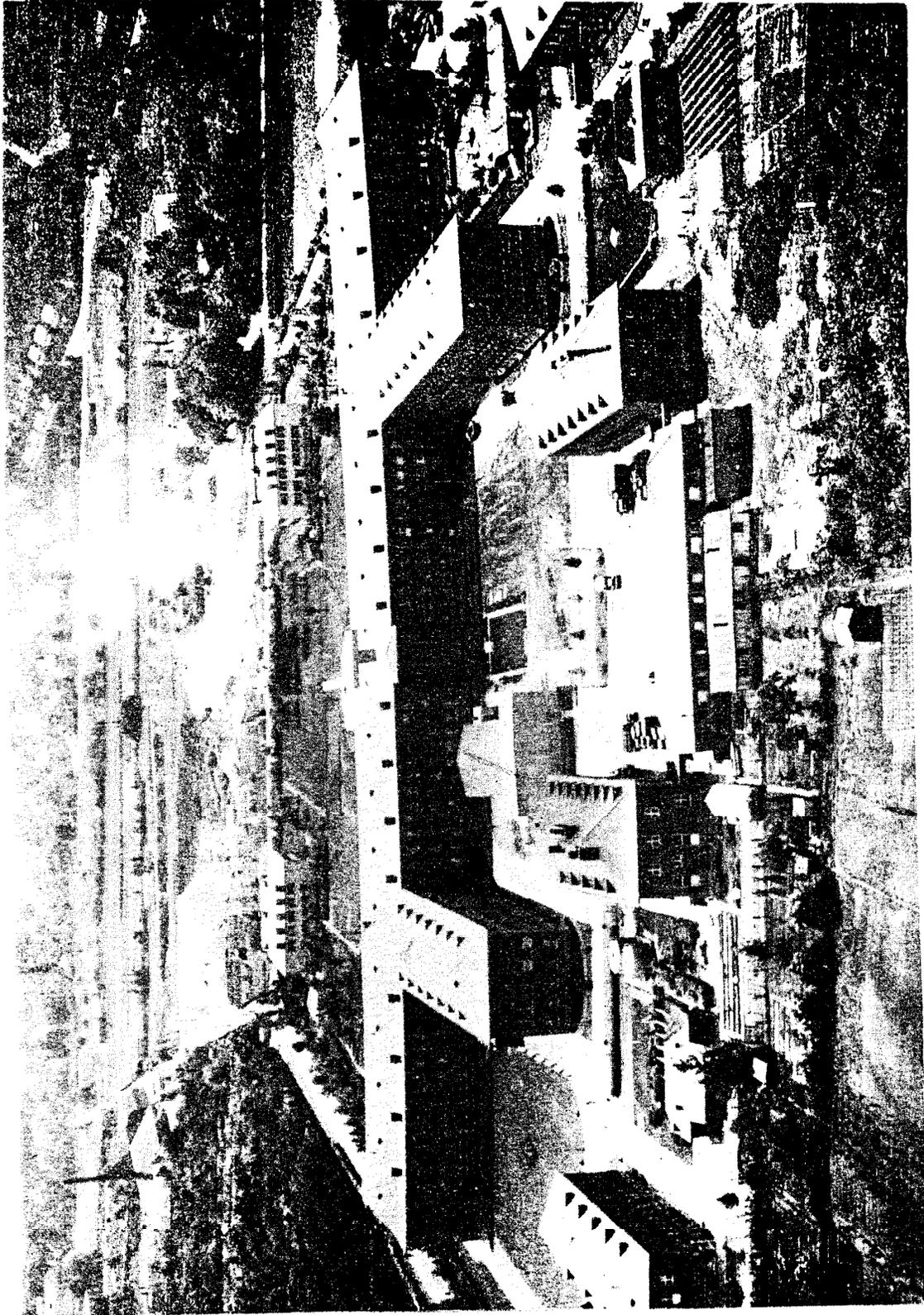
317th STATION HOSPITAL WIESBADEN



The 317th Station Hospital Unit arrived at Wiesbaden, Germany on 7 June 1945 and officially opened a 750 bed hospital for reception of patients on 20 June 1945. The hospital plant formerly known as "Standort Lazarett" was completed in late 1940 and occupied by the Wehrmacht until about 1 June 1945. It is located in the southeast section of the city on approximately 20 acres of well-landscaped ground with adequate drainage. There are eight large and four small permanent type buildings constructed of reinforced brick and concrete. Two of the large buildings are used by nurses as billets.

The main hospital building is built in shape of a double T (TT) and is a three-story structure of 40,086 square feet. The main building houses all the hospital wards (except two neuropsychiatric wards), the X-ray department, physiotherapy department, out-patient department, registrar's office, dispensary pharmacy, central supply, the medical and unit supply, post exchange, medical and hospital libraries, American Red Cross suite, and all administrative offices except those of the mess and civilian personnel. The basement of the main building, which was constructed to provide a bomb proof duplicate of the principal hospital facilities, now provides space for storage of medical and unit supplies, patients' clothing and baggage, post office, electrical shop, utilities office, sign printing shop, and the post exchange "coke" bar and storerooms.

The clinic building contains the chapel, including office space for two chaplains, the dental clinic and the clinical laboratory. The basement provides space for the morgue and autopsy room and storage space for use of dental and laboratory service. The laundry building, in addition to housing a modern German-equipped laundry, contains the motor pool dispatcher's office,



Aerial View of the 317th Station Hospital



Colonel George E. Leone
Commanding Officer

civilian personnel office, post exchange tailor shop, beauty parlor and barber shop. The mess building consists of two floors, a basement and attic storage space. The first floor is used as the kitchen where the food is prepared for the enlisted personnel and the patients. The second floor is used as the enlisted mess hall. The neuropsychiatric building provides office space for the neuropsychiatric service, 40 beds for closed cases and 58 beds for open ward cases. The motor pool has a six-section garage which houses the fire truck and apparatus, the utilities carpenter shop, the motor pool and a machine and

plumbing shop. The motor park is adequate to take care of 40 vehicles. The post theater building, constructed and completed by U. S. Army Engineers early this year, seats 500 persons. Now under construction is a patients mess building which will seat approximately 250 persons. It is estimated that it will be completed and ready for occupancy by 31 October 1946.

Ample care has been afforded all patients in spite of redeployment problems which necessitated constant reorganization and training of replacement personnel. This hospital serves the typical station hospital needs for the Wiesbaden Community Area which includes personnel of the Hq USAFE, Hq EATS, Hq WAFS, Hq 1st Constabulary Brigade, Offices of Military Government for Greater Hesse and the 559th Motor Ambulance Co., as well as scattered U. S. Army units in the adjacent French occupied zone. The number of personnel entitled to medical service in the area approximately 18,000. In anticipation of the arrival of dependents a complete obstetrical service was added to the hospital facilities early this year. It now has been in operation long enough to

run at full capacity. A very attractive nursery catches the eye of almost every visitor or inspector in this section.

This hospital has been designated as a special treatment center for psychotic and psychoneurotic patients. It also conducts psychiatric evaluations for many types of cases including military prisoners awaiting trial and individuals under consideration for separation from the service because of unfitness. The neuropsychiatric service actively participated in the Lichfield trials held in Germany. Many patients have been received from the Military Intelligence Service Center in Oberursel for evaluation and treatment. These cases required special security measures. An active neuropsychiatric out-patient service is maintained for the Wiesbaden Military Area.

The physical facilities for the care and treatment of neuropsychiatric patients consists of a separate three story fire proof building and special facilities in the main hospital for female psychotic patients. The ground floor of the neuropsychiatric building houses the closed wards. Special security and protective measures have been provided for the acutely disturbed patients. The closed ward section is constantly filled to capacity. The second floor of this building is devoted to the care of less disturbed and open ward cases. The third floor has a spacious attractive lounge and day room for selected neuropsychiatric patients. Electro and insulin shock therapy are ably administered and producing average results. Specially trained personnel are utilized for this work. Hydrotherapy facilities are also available in this building. Immediately adjacent, completely enclosed by a double escape proof fence, is a large lawn protected by beautifully landscaped shrubbery and small trees. It is used for daily recreation of closed ward patients.

The only electroencephalographic machine in the European Theater is located in the main hospital building. The machine is scientifically arranged with a special built-in screened cage to produce the best EE 9 records possible. Five psychiatrists are presently on duty in this service. Nurses with special training in handling these cases are selected. On-the-job-training

is continuous for enlisted personnel. An officer psychologist and a WAC officer psychiatric social worker are on duty. Red Cross workers trained in psychiatric social work also assist.

During the year of 1946 up to the present date (23 September 1946) there have been 1,147 admissions to the neuropsychiatric service out of a total of approximately 6,000 admissions for the entire hospital. Of these neuropsychiatric admissions a total of 518 have been processed for return to the Zone of the Interior. The average number of neuropsychiatric patients is between 125 and 150. Recreation facilities for neuropsychiatric patients have been provided. Open ward patients participate in the Red Cross draft program. Selected patients are taken on the Rhine River tours. Two 16 mm. movies are exhibited weekly in the neuropsychiatric building.

An out-patient neuropsychiatric clinic is held twice weekly and has proven a decidedly important factor in screening the psychopaths, inadequates, situational maladjustments, mild neuroses. Cases which require hospitalization for evaluation are admitted and studied carefully before recommendation is made as to their disposition.

Recreation facilities made available to patients and duty personnel consists of conducted tours to various cities and points of interest in the adjacent countryside. In recent months special emphasis has been placed on conducted tours on the Rhine River which consists of six hour ride in a luxurious yacht operated by USFET Special Services, with luncheon served aboard. These trips are available on week ends. Assmannshausen - Niederwald Special Service Rest Center has had its share of patients, and duty personnel of this hospital also partake of available facilities.

The officers' club and mess building is conveniently located in the billet area and accomodates 14 officers on the third and fourth floors. The enlisted men's club has been recently redecorated and serves the needs satisfactorily. A snack bar was opened 20 September 1946 as a post exchange activity serving ice cream, sandwiches and soft drinks to duty personnel of the unit. This installation is located just off the military reservation.

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