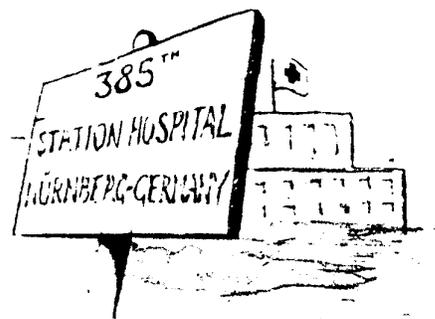


OUR ARMY HOSPITALS



Located in Nürnberg, the approximate center of the U.S.-occupied zone of Germany, the hospital plant operated by the 385th Station Hospital has been open for the reception of patients since 24 June 1945. In name the 385th is comparatively new in the European Theater. However, the history of the unit prior to 1 April 1946, the time of redesignation, was that of the 116th General Hospital. The original organization was activated at Camp Ellis, Illinois, 10 March 1944; departed for the United Kingdom 18 July 1944. On 29 July 1944, operation of Hospital Plant 4198 at Unisake Barracks, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England, began and continued until 20 April 1945. Departing from England, 10 May 1945, personnel and equipment arrived at Area X, Camp Twenty Grand, Rouen, France, to await further assignment. On the 6 June, all personnel, with the exception of those in the motor convoy, departed in "40 and 8's" for Nürnberg, arriving at that destination three days later.

The hospital site, Standort Lazarett, located on the western edge of Nürnberg, was constructed expressly as a military hospital. Begun in 1935 and completed in 1937, construction compares favorably with that of an American counterpart of ten years ago. A 15-acre plot of ground surrounded by high fences, landscaped with young trees, shrubs, small floral gardens and spacious front lawns, contribute to a favorable atmosphere for treatment of the sick and injured. On warm sunny days ambulatory patients take advantage of paths and lawns for strolling and sunbathing out of view of the public. A small athletic field within the grounds is available to convalescent patients for softball, track and soccer. By American standards the hospital was fairly modern and well equipped in most respects. However, it was not without damage. One bomb had exploded in the front center section of the main building. Although the dam-



Col. Alex P. Kelly, MC
Commanding Officer

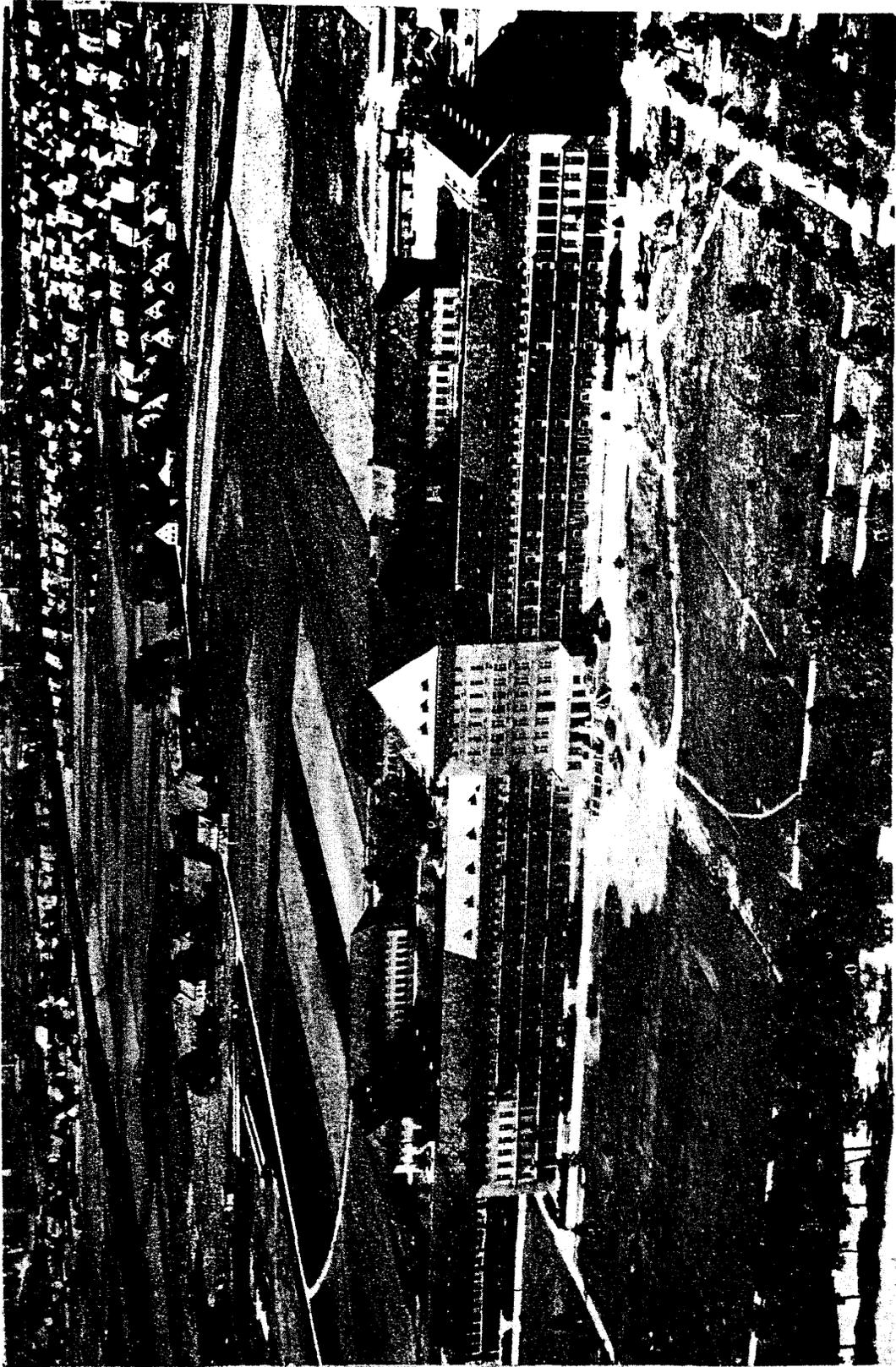
age was great structurally, none of the fine medical equipment was damaged. The professional staff performed under difficulty for approximately six months, because the bomb damaged the large elevator used to transport litter patients to surgery, X-ray, and physical therapy on the third floor of the central wing.

Treatment of patients is confined to two buildings, the main building accommodating all cases with the exception of psychiatric patients who are confined in a two-story building adjacent to the central hospital building. The main building is a four story structure of brick construction. The central wing contains administrative offices on the first floor; physical therapy, obstetrical-gynecological

section and genito-urinary clinic on the second floor; surgery and X-ray on the third; and female patients on the fourth. This wing divides the medical and surgical services. The other buildings on the grounds are the laboratory and dental clinic in one building; the mess halls (officers, nurses, enlisted men, and patients), Red Cross recreation rooms, officers' club and laundry in another building; the motor pool; two officers quarters; and the main gate guard post.

Enlisted men are quartered in a German kaserne one-quarter mile from the hospital. Recreational facilities are available for enlisted personnel at a Sport-Platz, approximately one-half mile from the barracks. A suitable building serves as the enlisted men's club. Cinder track, swimming pool and jumping pits are available in addition to fine fields for softball and football.

Inasmuch as the 385th Station Hospital is located near



Aerial view of the 385th Station Hospital, Nürnberg, Germany.

the scene of the War Crime Trials, patient care and treatment has been accorded not only Allied Nationals but occasionally a witness for the defense. Under great secrecy some of the condemned defendants were hospitalized for short periods, while others were escorted under heavy guard to the hospital for special examination. Although the trials of the major criminals are ended, continued activity at the Palace of Justice will necessitate providing hospital treatment for the personnel affiliated with the War Crimes Commission.

What is thought to be unique and unusual in a large hospital is the operation of one kitchen, which feeds, separately and at the same hours, officers, nurses, enlisted men, ambulatory and bed patients, including a special diet mess. Food prepared in the central kitchen is transported by means of insulated food carts throughout the hospital and served within a matter of minutes after leaving the kitchen. Ward kitchens are also provided. The enlisted and patients messhalls utilize steam tables to keep food at proper temperatures.

Facilities to provide adequate maintenance of motor transportation were not anticipated, but a motor pool shop, large enough to accommodate four vehicles in the process of repair, in addition to a lathe, separate painting room and parts room, has made it possible to keep motor operations always at peak efficiency.

Limited space has necessitated much alteration to provide suitable accommodations for various sections. Medical supply is utilizing an entire basement to provide storage space for supplies, to meet the demands of this hospital and approximately one hundred satellite units based on this hospital for medical supplies. Post exchange activities use the basement area below one wing of the medical service. Attractive decorations have offset the disadvantage of locations. For lack of suitable space the large out-patient clinic likewise functions from space allocated in the basement.

Present construction underway, which should be completed during the summer of 1947, will augment patient recreational facilities. A theater, with a seating capacity of 450 persons, and a Red Cross building, with large game and handicraft rooms, outdoor tennis and badminton

courts, will adequately meet the present requirements.

Redeployment has presented the usual problems, however the mission of this hospital has been accomplished despite personnel handicaps. From 24 June 1945 through 30 September 1946, the hospital has admitted 16,185 patients, had 25,095 dental sittings, treated 56,648 outpatients and run a total of 325,630 laboratory tests.

The present hospital commander, Colonel Alex P. Kelly, assumed command 1 March 1946 succeeding Colonel Paul Hayes, who in turn had taken over from the first commander Lieutenant Colonel Joseph J. Hornisher, 12 August 1945.

On the opposite page is reproduced a letter which the Theater Chief Surgeon recently received from Miss Katharine Densford, President of the American Nurses' Association. Miss Densford's visit to the European Theater, to which her communication refers, was reported in last month's issue of the Medical Bulletin. Her letter is presented as a matter of interest to many Army nurses and medical officers who met Miss Densford during her tour of European Theater hospitals.

MEDICAL BULLETIN

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