

## OUR ARMY HOSPITALS 388<sup>th</sup> STATION HOSPITAL

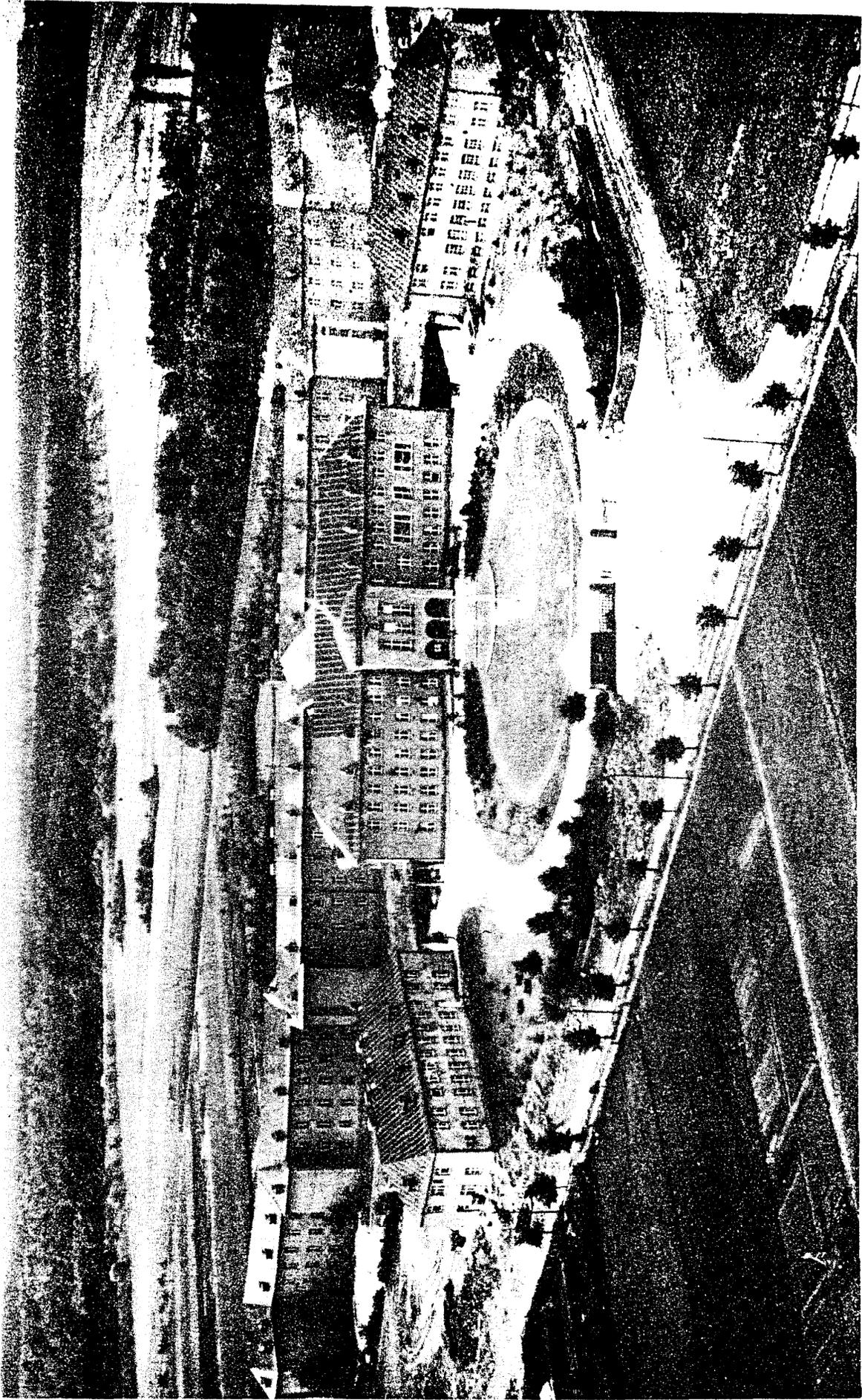
The 388th Station Hospital received its present title when the 113th Evacuation Hospital was redesignated the 388th Station Hospital, 16 March 1946, at Karlsruhe, Germany. On 1 April 1946 the hospital moved to its present location at Giessen, Germany, where it now occupies a former German Standard Hospital.

The hospital plant was constructed between 1936 and 1939 by the German Army. It was used as a Germany Army hospital from 1939 until March 1945 when Giessen was captured by American troops. The 20th Hospital Team occupied the plant and operated it as a German Prisoner of War hospital until March 1946. The 388th Station Hospital now operates it as a 250-bed military hospital.

The hospital has ten buildings occupying 6,300 square meters. The style of construction is plain. The buildings are constructed of brick, cement, and quarry stones, and are roofed with slate. The plant was struck by several bombs during the war, resulting in extensive damage to roofs and grounds and parts of the main building. The hospital now has been completely repaired.

The task of reconstruction was commenced shortly after the 388th Station Hospital took over the plant. The area needed new walks, streets, and fences, new outside lighting, repainting and replastering. A new mess hall has been completed. Two new barracks for enlisted men, a heating plant and an orderly room are being built and will be completed in the near future.

The hospital grounds cover an area of 65,000 square meters. The patients' ward and private rooms are so arranged in a curve that they receive a maximum of sunlight. All rooms have balconies which overlook the many acres of terraced ground, landscaped with flower beds and shrubbery,



Aerial View of the 388th Station Hospital, Giessen



Col. Seth Gayle, Jr., MC  
Commanding Officer

Surgery, Medicine, and EENT - have been published and distributed to the Military Community families. During the last week of February, three babies were delivered at the hospital, and attendance at pre-natal clinics promises even more obstetrical cases. A fully equipped physiotherapy department is maintained with an experienced physiotherapist in attendance. In addition to furnishing supplies and equipment for the hospital, the medical supply section has been designated as a parent station for providing supplies and equipment to approximately 30 satellite stations scattered throughout this area.

Photography has been developed not only as a personal hobby, but also in the field of clinical records. Excellent black-and-white and color studies of venereal disease cases have been made which are used as adjuncts to lectures on the subject. The photographic dark room and laboratory is at the disposal of all officer, patient, and enlisted personnel. The hospital Red Cross is well equipped. The theater, used as a Chapel on-Sundays, will accommodate 100 people. Special Services provides excellent movies as

offering a pleasant setting for the straight line architecture of the buildings. Behind the hospital, there is a large garden which supplies the mess with fresh vegetables and fruits.

Medical service is provided by the hospital to approximately 9,000 civilian and military personnel. Increase in the number of dependents in the Weilburg, Marburg, Wetzlar, and Giessen Military Communities has necessitated provisions for an entire dependents ward, along with clinics to cover all fields of medical out-patient services, and a Community Dispensary especially designed for dependents. Complete schedules of these clinics - Orthopedic, Dental, Female (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Pediatrics,

well as opportunities for outdoor and indoor sports, and European Theater tours. There is an excellent Information and Education library in the main building, offering all types of literature for interested patients and personnel. A rather large selection of medical books and periodicals is maintained for the use of-the hospital staff.

The city of Giessen, Germany, itself has a reputation for medicine. It was founded in 1103, when a castle was erected on the river Lahn. Later, it became a university and garrison town. The University of Giessen was one of the six largest universities in Germany and contained schools of science and medicine. The university was recently closed, but some of the civilian hospitals are still functioning. The Giessen eye clinic has an international reputation.

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