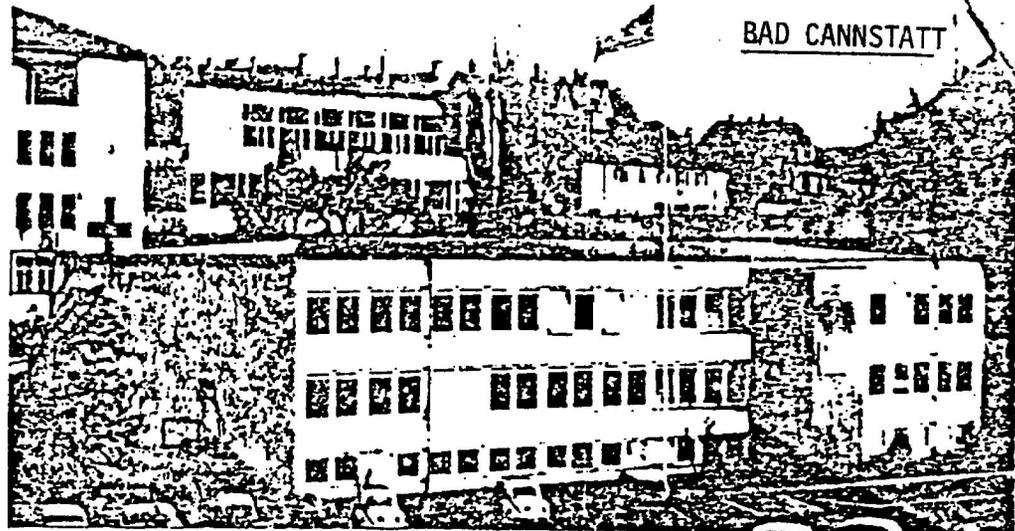
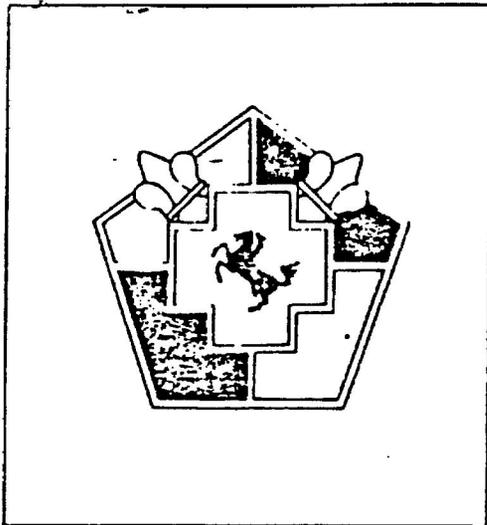


History of 5th General Hospital



This hospital was first organized as Base Hospital No 5 in February 1916 at Harvard University and was mobilized in May 1917. The hospital was originally under the command of Colonel Robert U. Patterson from May 5th, 1917, continuing until February 27th, 1918. The original complement of this hospital when it went overseas consisted of 24 medical officers, 2 dental officers, 64 nurses, and 153 enlisted men. The hospital sailed for England on the 11th of May 1917 and passed through England moving directly to France where it landed May 30th, 1917. The staff that arrived in France was expected to care for a 1000 bed facility and upon arrival at the British Hospital found that they were charged with operating a 2000 bed facility. Reinforcements were requested and 15 nurses and 40 enlisted men arrived in the latter part of July 1917. During the night of September 4th, 1917, the hospital was attacked directly by enemy aircraft and it sustained the first casualties of the American Army in France since the declaration of war. The Hospital Adjutant LT Fitzsimmons, was killed outright, three other Lieutenants were wounded.

During the tour in France, the hospital cared for 45,937 casualties and during one 24 hour period the hospital admitted and cared for 964 cases of sick and wounded. On September 7th, 1918, Major Henry Lyman, MC, assumed command of the hospital and retained command of the hospital until it was demobilized and returned to the British on January 20, 1919. The unit departed from France April 7th, 1919, and arrived in New York April 20th, 1919, and was formally demobilized on May 2nd, 1919, at Camp Devens, Massachusetts. The 5th General Hospital was reactivated effective 5 January 1942 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. LTC Maxwell G. Keeler was named as the Commanding Officer and a table of organization was authorized for a 500 bed general hospital. Subsequently the unit was reduced to its final strength of 37 officers, 60 nurses and 275 enlisted men by order of the Commanding General, New York Port of Embarkation, and the remainder of the personnel were transferred to Washington forming later the nucleus of the 105th General Hospital in the South Pacific Theater. The unit embarked for overseas duty 19 February 1942

from the port of New York. Seven of the officers and 26 nurses and 14 enlisted men arrived at Belfast, Northern Ireland on 3 March 1942 due to being assigned medical duties on other ships in the convoy. They returned 4 March 1942 and remained at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts until the group was reembarked for Northern Ireland on 12 May 1942. The unit established a hospital in the facility of the British 32nd General Hospital in Musgrave Park, Northern Ireland on the outskirts of Belfast. During this mission, the hospital was assisted by members of the 2nd US General Hospital and the 53rd Medical Battalion. During the period in Northern Ireland, the patients cared for totaled 7,487. In December 1942, the hospital in Musgrave Park was turned back to the British and the hospital moved to Odstock, England. The hospital formally opened on 1 March 1943 and remained in operation until 12 May 1944, caring for patients at this site, a total of 10,004 admissions being accomplished. The unit embarked at Southampton, England, 5 July 1944, one month after the invasion, and disembarked at Omaha Beach on 6 July 1944. The



professional personnel operated with other hospitals in the area at the time until completion of the facility for the 5th General Hospital which was opened on 31 July 1944, less than three weeks after going ashore. A 500 bed expansion unit became almost immediately necessary and by 15 August 1944 the hospital census was 1,400 patients. During the month of August, 4,238 patients were received. The site at Toul comprised 20 permanent buildings which had been a French military hospital, and the hospital opened originally with a capacity of 400 patients which was later expanded to 850 by the opening of two separate tented areas and 500 more beds were made available through the construction of Swiss wooden huts giving a total of 1,350 beds. At this time it operated under the command of the 820th Hospital Center, the headquarters of which was in Nancy.

Assignment of the hospital at that time was to the Medical Division, US European Command, with station at Bad Cannstatt, Germany. The hospital has remained at that site until the present time.

During the war the hospital was operated by the German government as two distinct units combined in operation of this facility: Reserve Hospital No 3 and Observation Reserve Hospital No 4. In the night of 14/15 April 1943 the first bombing raid destroyed the administration building

near the gate, and the gate, and the building housing the present bowling alley, the CADUCEUS Theater, and the EM Club. Additional wooden barracks were destroyed near, where the present German kanteen stands. Subsequent bombing raids produced no major damage to the hospital. During the occupation at the end of the war, the hospital was occupied by the French, and in August 1945, American operation of the hospital was begun. The hospital at that time comprised 46 acres, but in the middle of 1961 that part of the hospital which can be seen up the hill from the present location, consisting of A, B, and C Buildings, and the green houses, were returned to the city of Stuttgart. New construction which has been accomplished on the kaserne is as follows:

In the year 1950 the Dining Facility was constructed. It now supports a population of over 1000 hospital staffing as well as a patient status of 70 per week. BOQ No 2 was constructed in the year 1951; BOQ No 1 was constructed in 1953; currently BOQ No 2 is the USAREUR Alcoholism Treatment Facility. The present Enlisted Members' Billets were constructed in 1952, and the present Administration Building was constructed in 1961 to replace a like facility which was lost when the German Government in the form of the City of Stuttgart received back that portion of the Hospital which has previously been described. Previous construction of interest are the present G-Building which was built in 1908. The G-Building is comprised of the Dental Facility; Psychiatry and Neurology; the EENT; and the Physical Therapy. The Operating Suite, Building F was constructed in 1923. It houses the Hospital's operating facilities. Building E was

constructed in ___ and currently consists of the Intensive Care unit, Orthopedic Ward, Surgical Clinic, Preventive Medicine activity, Medical Records sections and the Psychiatric ward. The D-Building, the MEDDACS largest unit was constructed in 1937. It has Radiology, Surgical Ward, Labor and Delivery, Post Partum, Pathology, Pediatric Clinic, Medical Clinic, OB-GYN and Medical Library.