

US Army Hospital Frankfurt

THE 97TH GENERAL HOSPITAL, operating unit of the U.S. Army Hospital Frankfurt, was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina on 25 June 1943. On 23 March 1944, the members of the hospital boarded the USS Argentina in Boston harbor and sailed to England where they operated a U.S. Army Hospital at Wheatley's Halten Park from April 1944 to June 1945. Crossing the channel to Le Havre, the 97th travelled across France to Germany by boxcar, arriving in Frankfurt on 30 July 1945. At the time, the unit relieved the 180th General Hospital of its responsibility for operating the Frankfurt hospital then known as Army hospital plant number 4377.

Originally designed as a luxury type German Luftwaffe hospital, the U.S. Army Hospital Frankfurt was expanded from its original four wing 350 bed base to its present eight wing 1000 bed size. In addition to four new hospital wings, a number of new buildings were constructed. These include a medical supply warehouse, a utilities building, an officers' assembly hall, a chapel, a Red Cross recreation area and a hospital theater. In 1951 a new white weather proof plaster "face" was added to the existing buildings to protect the underlying masonry from further deterioration.

Physical expansion of the plant has been accompanied by professional growth. In May 1955 the hospital was granted full accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. Now serving as the orthopedic, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, and air evacuation center for all of USAREUR, the hospital has on its staff eleven consultants to the USAREUR Chief Surgeon. The consultants are Colonel Thomas W. Inmon, MC, Cardiology; Lt. Colonel Edward J. Jahnke, MC, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery; Lt. Colonel Sanford M. Vaughan, MC, Dermatology; Lt. Colonel Elizabeth Breitung, ANC, Nursing Methods; Lt. Colonel Jack W. Passmore, MC, Ophthalmology; Colonel George H. Parrot, DC, Orthodontia; Colonel Frank J. Shaffer, MC, Otorhinolaryngology; Lt. Colonel Enrico D. Carrasco, MC, Pediatrics; Lt. Colonel William L. Austin, MSC, Pharmacy; Lt. Colonel Mary L. BenDure, AMSC, Physical Therapy; and Lt. Colonel Harry J. Adams, MSC, Social Work.

Commanding Officer of the hospital is Colonel Richard H. Eckhardt, MC. Colonel Eckhardt has a distinguished record as a military physician and hospital administrator. He commanded the hospital at Fort Dix prior to arriving in USAREUR and was Deputy Surgeon of General Headquarters in Japan. Prior to his assignment to the hospital, he was Chief



Colonel Richard H. Eckhardt, MC.

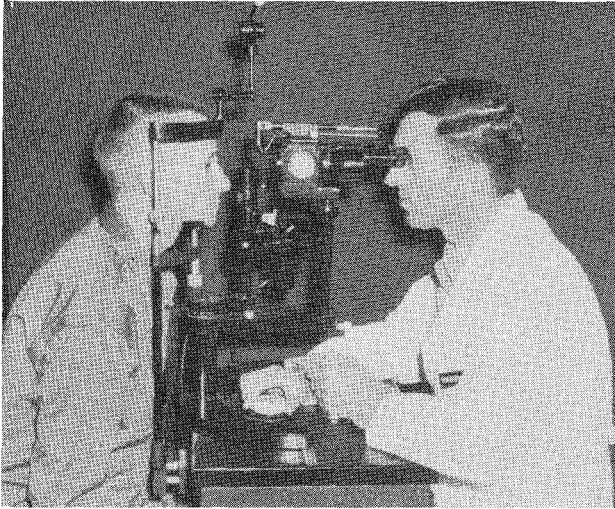
of Plans and Operations in the USAREUR Chief Surgeon's Office.

In addition to operating the Frankfurt hospital, the personnel of the 97th must be ready to move into the field for a war time mission in the event of hostilities. This requires a constant training program. Sharing in the excellent training program that has been developed are several field type units that are located in the Frankfurt area. As many as six different medical units send men in for on-the-job training and participation in classes taught by the hospital personnel.

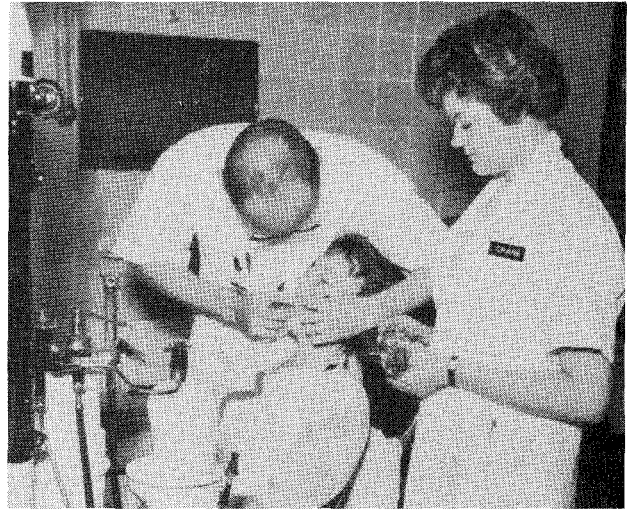
A recent improvement has been the lighting of the heliport in back of the hospital. Helicopter evacuation flights from out-lying areas to Frankfurt have become a routine operation with an average of two trips a day and a high of five or more flights per day. Helicopters can now land at night with little difficulty. Patients leave the helicopters within fifty yards of the hospital entrance.

Operating with an authorized capacity of 650 patients, the hospital has an average census of almost 500 patients per day. There is a numerical turnover of patients every nine days. In addition, the hospital admits one military and one non-military patient every hour, treats twenty patients in its outpatient clinics every hour, delivers one baby every three hours and air evacuates to the United States sixty patients each week.

FRANKFURT



Lt. Colonel Jack Passmore, the Chief Surgeon's consultant in Ophthalmology uses a slit lamp to magnify and examine the eye of Sergeant Dillard R. Scott.



Patients from all over the command travel to the dental clinic. Clinic has experts in the prevention and correction of irregularities in teeth.



Patients departing for the U.S. bring mountains of baggage. Major William Lindsey, Registrar and Sp4 John Garlit look at tags on just a few of the bags.

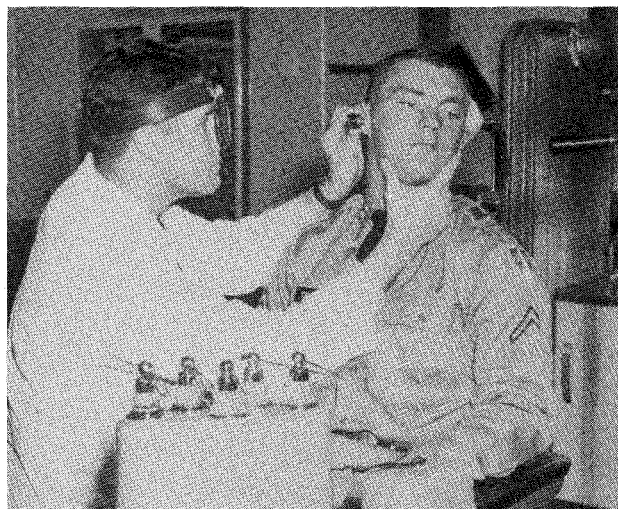


Physical therapy not only contributes to the health of the patient, but in some cases can be very enjoyable as evidenced by one of the younger patients.

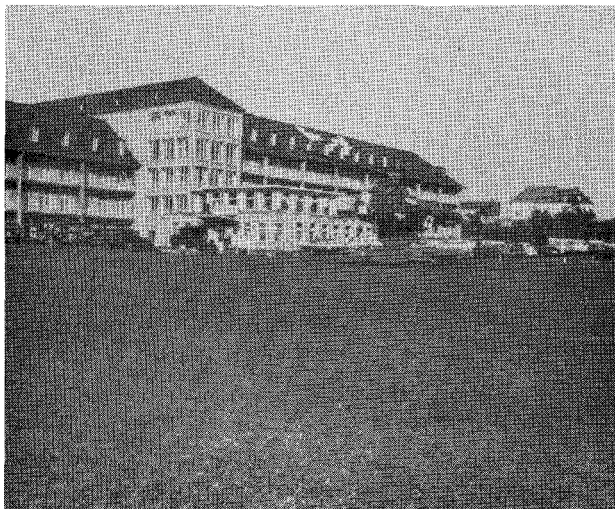
HOSPITAL



Lots of babies arrive at the hospital, but not all of them arrive three at a time. Sp5 and Mrs. Jack H. Decker are the parents of these triplets.



Ear examinations are usually routine, but patients from all over USAREUR are referred to Frankfurt for special examination and treatment by specialists.



The heliport at the back of the hospital provides a landing place that is utilized daily. Patients are moved directly into building from the "chopper".



Air Force provides' ambulance planes to U.S. All USAREUR patients for air evacuation are processed through the U.S. Army Hospital, Frankfurt.

On the cover: Captain Lourene F. Martin, ANC conducts a class on the iron lung at U.S. Army Hospital, Frankfurt.