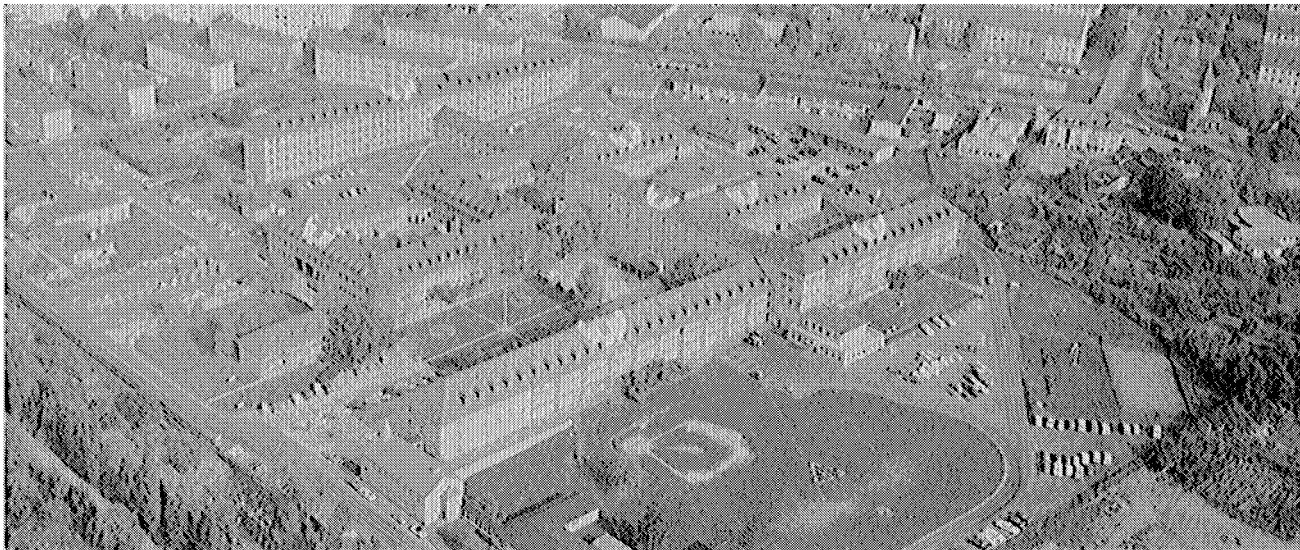


US ARMY HOSPITAL, FRANKFURT



The 97th General Hospital was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on 25 June 1943, to serve the medical needs of an armed force in the crisis of war.

In March 1944, after training and preparation, the unit sailed to England and immediately took over the care of 428 patients. As the Allies stepped up the drive to regain the continent, the hospital's mission grew. The patient load reached 1300. On one day, in September 1944, 338 patients were admitted.

At the end of hostilities the 97th was transferred to Frankfurt, arriving on 1 August 1945. The unit took over operation of a Luftwaffe Hospital built in 1938 and considered one of the modern and well equipped hospitals of the day. The patient load remained at about 1300 during the early occupation, and the 97th General Hospital had a permanent peacetime mission.

With the influx of dependents to Europe after 1946, it was necessary to accommodate the new nature of the patient load. One of the big accomplishments was the construction of three additional wings in 1952. Other constructions for a well-rounded installation were a chapel, library, mess hall, officers' club, Red Cross wing and movie theater.

With the ever-changing times and requirements of the U. S. Army in Europe, the concept of the medical service area was established, and the 97th became the centerpiece of the Frankfurt Medical Service Area. The largest in Germany, the FMSA today encompasses a military population from Germany's eastern border to Holland, from Heidelberg in the south to Hannover in the north. At present the FMSA has 12 medical dispensaries, 23 dental dispensaries, two veterinary units, a force of over 1700 people caring for the health of Americans in uniform and their families overseas.

In its quarter-century of service, the 97th has admitted and treated more than 380,000 patients. Each year another 120,000 receive out-patient care throughout the FMSA. Some 50,000 babies have been born at the 97th—in 1967, an average of more than six deliveries on every day. One figure alone establishes the scope and significance of the hospital for the American presence in Europe—to date, patient visits of all kinds total more than three million.

And the future promises not merely more of the same, but an ever-expanding mission for the 97th. In addition to continuing construction and renovation of the physical plant, the establishment of a research center is being planned by Colonel Robert M. Hardaway III, 97th commanding officer, who conducted highly significant medical research at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. An Intensive Medical Care unit has been established, and another for coronary care is in the offing. Also planned are automation of laboratory procedures, computerization of medical records, advances in the transportation of patients from dispensaries, and many other administrative and professional innovations.



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