

Field Hospital Offers Varied Services

FORT SILL ARMY NEWS, SEPT. 2, 1944

The Army Field Hospital, the Medical Department's ingenious contribution to military mobility, is represented in an organization now being trained at Fort Sill.

This hospital, activated in July at Camp Barkeley, Tex., is organized into three platoons, each operating a complete hospital unit which can function independently. The three hospital units of the three platoons are organized into the large single hospital when greater capacity is desired in one

area.

Each of the three units provides as wide a variety of medical service under the shelter of camouflaged tents as can be had at most any Station Hospital at an established Army post.

Yet the whole Field Hospital can be disassembled, packed aboard trucks or other means of conveyance and again unpacked and made ready for full hospital service in about four hours. Personnel functions as loaders, packers,

truck drivers and even latrine trench diggers as well as skilled medics, as the need arises.

This organization thus can follow the combat troops, moving with the tide of battle. It is the most mobile and most advance hospital unit. At the same time, the Field Hospital, an innovation of this war, ingeniously provides services ordinarily associated with stationary installations. Nurses are among its personnel.

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Portable gasoline generators supply electric current for use in the surgery tent and to operate the mobile x-ray equipment. Gasoline heats the large sterilizers and autoclaves for sterilizing instruments. A refrigeration unit to cool certain items in the pharmacy tent operates on kerosene.

Functioning professionally like a permanent hospital, this Field Hospital has tents bearing appropriate signs such as "Laboratory," "Surgery," "Medical Supply," "Dental," "Pharmacy" and even "Isolation."

The Field Hospital is widely adaptable. It can serve as a Surgical, Clearing, Evacuation, Convalescent, Station or Field Hospital. As the latter it ordinarily gets patients from a clearing company in a medical clearing battalion. It also could receive walking wounded if necessary. It is prepared to take care of a patient for approximately two weeks before evacuation to the rear. Ambulances would transport bedridden patients should the hospital have to move quickly.

Some of the personnel of the Field Hospital at Fort Sill already have been overseas in this war, as is true of the commanding officer, Lt. Col. A. R. Mailer, and the executive officer Maj. John M. Dyson, both Medical Corps officers. Colonel Mailer, Galesburg, Ill., served in the Field Artillery in World War I from sergeant to battery commander, and in this war he already has served in the Middle East as a medical officer. Major Dyson, Hazelton, Pa., has returned from duty in the Caribbean area.