

SCOTT HOSPITAL

MISSION

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

January 1st, 1918, found the Post Hospital at Scott Field undergoing a great many changes. Major Joseph B. Cooke, M. C., the third Surgeon at this Field, was transferred to Garden City, N. Y., December 31st, 1917, leaving First Lieutenant Henry L. Davis, M. C., to assume the duties c.f the Post Surgeon.

During the one day term of Lieut. Davis as Post Surgeon, this hospital's first death from natural causes occurred. This death was also the last for several months.

At the time Capt Bayless assumed the duties of Post Surgeon the personnel of the Medical Department consisted of: Charles O. Bayless, 1st Lt. Henry L. Davis, 1st Lt. Morris S. Wineck, 1st Lt. Dolor I Beaupre, 1st Lt. James G. Conley, 1st Lt. John W. Dunn, 1st Lt. Alexander W. Graves, Medical Corps, 1st Lt. John D. Albin, Dental Corps and a detachment of twenty-one enlisted men of the Medical Department. The hospital consisted of three wards, Medical, Surgical, and Officers', and had a maximum bed capacity (by much crowding) of thirty-five beds.

There were no barracks for the enlisted men and consequently they were crowded into the dining room and kitchen of the hospital, the Medical Detachment and patients being attached to the Eighty-sixth Aero Squadron for rations. With affairs in this state eight more enlisted men were transferred here and at the same time the hospital had a large influx of patients. To take care of the surplus of both patients and enlisted men tents were the only thing that could be provided. The only thing that can be said to recommend these tents is that they were frozen so tightly to the ground that they couldn't blow away and that the snow was 'drifted so high around them that it kept out some of the wind. Every part of the hospital was very poorly equipped—having insufficient beds, medicines and operating room equipment and a detachment, the majority of whom were untrained in hospital work as well as the general duties of a soldier.

Conditions such as these were enough to discourage the most optimistic of men but Capt. Bayless set to work with a will to bring order out of the chaos. With the increase in size of the hospital, two new wards that more than doubled its bed capacity and barracks for the enlisted men being built, the requisitioning of more supplies and equipment, the starting of the Hospital Mess and the organization of classes of instruction for the enlisted men under the direction of Medical Officers the whole hospital began to show improvement. In March four members of the Army Nurse Corps reported for duty; adding greatly to the efficiency of the hospital.

At the opening of the past flying season the hospital as a whole was ready to take care of any emergency.

The first ambulance equipment consisted of two standard army ambulances, a G. M. C. and a Ford, which was later increased to five standard machines. To facilitate the location of wrecks in out of the way places and at a great distance from the Field and the bringing of the injured to the hospital the Surgeon, Capt. Bayless the Officer in charge of Flying, Capt. Hoag, the Engineering Officer, Capt. Etheridge, and Lieut. Thompson designed two airplane ambulances or "Hospital Ships", as they are termed on the flying field, for the use at this Field. Blue prints and pictures of these ships were sent to the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, and ships of like nature were recommended for other fields. During flying hours both a motor and airplane ambulance were constantly on the flying field and relief and emergency ambulances with first aid equipment and full crews of Officers and attendants were held at the hospital in readiness for any emergency that might arise. The summer of 1918 was a very busy one for the Officers, Nurses and enlisted men of the Post Hospital. It would be impassible to enumerate their various activities; but when it is remembered that the hospital has each and every man in the Post under its care from the time he enters the service until his discharge it can easily be

seen that the hospital is no small factor in the successful operation of any Post. Each applicant for enlistment is examined, vaccinated and inoculated at the hospital and started on his army career. His health and the cleanliness of his surroundings are watched over by the hospital Staff; he is cared for when sick; his health is safeguarded when well; and upon the accuracy of the hospital records depends his right to insurance or compensation. It might be interesting to mention here that one man in this detachment is able to say that he made out the enlistment and death records of two men (an experience which happens to very, very few men in the Army). Nothing in an Army Post causes so much criticism as poor hospital facilities or ill or careless treatment of sick soldiers. Having this in mind no efforts were spared to make the hospital at Scott Field the best possible. In this the Surgeon has always had the full support and cooperation of the Commanding Officers of the Post, Colonel Fechet, Major DeArmond, Major Brooks, Colonel Robins and Major Abbey.

During the year the Post has been in quarantine twice—once against small-pox in the vicinity of the Post and again during the influenza epidemic, the last quarantine lasting six weeks.

Much credit is due the Southwestern Division of the American Red Cross for furnishing so much necessary material on short notice which otherwise could only have been obtained through the slower process of regular requisition.

Out of one-thousand three-hundred and ninety-seven cases which were admitted to the hospital during 1918 there were only seventeen deaths—eight due to flying accidents and nine to all other causes.

The year 1918 will long be remembered by the Officers, Nurses, and enlisted men who were on duty at the Post Hospital and we thank all who aided us in our efforts to do everything possible for the welfare of all who came under our care.

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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.