

# **KELLY HOSPITAL**

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

POSSIBLY one of the most important departments operating on Kelly Field is the Medical Department. While distinct from the Air Service, still its work here warrants special commendation.

Shortly after Kelly Field was established need was recognized for a Medical Department, for although the facilities for a splendid Base Hospital were available at Fort Sam Houston, only about

eight miles away, cases often develop, accident and otherwise, which demand immediate attention. Thus on June 1st. 1917, Capt. John R. Oswalt arrived at Kelly, being sent here from Washington to lay the foundation for the establishment of a hospital system here. Captain Oswalt's endeavors along this line were augmented by the arrival at this time of Sgt. Verne Wheeler, lately returned from the Philippines, a man experienced in organization and of executive ability. Among the many innovations which he established here are the first Infirmary, consisting of a tent and a Field Medical Chest. Also to him may be given the credit for the present system of receiving and handling all recruits, giving them their smallpox and typhoid inoculation, and the admirable system of cross filing at present in use in the Surgeon's Office

In September, 1917, the first modern and well equipped hospital was opened this being in the Flying Department. The building contained modern operating rooms, laboratory, dispensary, two wards, kitchen, dining room, and offices. At the time, it was known as the "Camp Hospital," being the only one on the field. Now, however, since the large and up-to-date hospital buildings known as the Main Hospital have been erected in Kelly No. 1, the former "Camp Hospital" has become known as "Hospital, Flying Department." Major Sherwood was Post Surgeon when this little building was dedicated and built up a wonderful organization there. Later, when the new Main Hospital was opened, this became the Post Surgeon's principal charge, and the little hospital at Kelly No. 2 is now only operated as a department of the Main Hospital.

He was succeeded by Major Louis H. Bauer, the present Post Surgeon, under whose efficient direction the Medical Department has reached its perfection. During the recent influenza epidemic, Kelly Field stood fore-

most in military circles as most successfully combating the plague. Recognizing the character and quality of Major Bauer's work here, he was awarded the commission of Lieut.-Colonel, and he holds this rank at the present time.

The Main Hospital comprises a beautiful, new group of buildings at the junction of the Frio City Road and the Quartermaster Depot Road, just opposite the Main Post Office. They are Maj. R. H. STRONG modern in every respect and inside and out are products of all that is best and latest in the Medical world. An exceptionally fine retinue of physicians and nurses are in constant attendance and cases of every nature are treated there and major operations performed. The hospital has a capacity of 100 beds.

The Branch Hospital, also located in Kelly No. 1., has proved to be a very necessary adjunct to the Field, and especially during the recent influenza epidemic it proved its worth, its work spreading out to such an extent that nearly all the barracks along the Frio City Road were utilized as wards. The efficiency of the Department may be best attested to by its works. Out of 2412 cases of influenza treated 333 developed pneumonia. But notwithstanding this, the deaths which occurred were only 52. an amazingly low figure, and a percentage. not equaled by any other Field or Camp in the United States. During the height of the scourge both doctors and nurses (the latter referred to as angels by the men) worked day and night and in several cases sacrificed their own lives, so enthusiastic were they in their work.

The officers and enlisted personnel of the Medical Department in Kelly Field are as follows: