The 130th Evacuation Hospital was activated at Fort Jackson, S.C. 20 March 1944.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Callison, M.C., formerly Commanding Officer of the 312th Medical Battalion and Division Surgeon of the 87th Infantry Division respectively, assumed command of the organization upon activation; and the unit was subsequently assigned to Twelfth Detachment, Special Troops, Second Army, for administration and training.

The hospital cadre was furnished by the 108th Evacuation Hospital and was comprised of thirty-four (34) enlisted men, medical department specialists and specially trained medical non-commissioned officers.

The majority of the hospital fillers came from reception centers at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana; Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; and Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and were chiefly men from the rural areas of Louisiana, Kansas, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The majority of the officers and the nurses were not needed in the early phases of training so were not assigned until shortly before departure of the unit for overseas.

Before arrival of filler replacements the training schedule of this unit was prepared to permit the instruction of cadets on basic military and medical subjects in the morning hours and fatigue details in the afternoon improving the buildings, unit area and preparing charts and instructional aids to be used in training the new men.

The purpose of the cadre training period was to train the non-commissioned officers of the unit in such a manner that they could participate in instruction and demonstration in all of the basic training subjects. The important phase of this period of training was the experience provided non-commissioned officers in actually participating in instruction such as they would be called upon to perform later. Cadre training was completed on 8 May 1944 when the greater percentage of filler replacements had joined the organization for training.

The basic training period of the organization began 15 May 1944. The objective of this phase of military training was to teach the men the art of being soldiers, impress upon them the reason and necessity for military courtesy and discipline, to train them in the ways and means of self-sustenance and preservation, and to provide them with a basic knowledge of Medical Department technical subjects.

No effort was spared to procure literature and training aids which contributed largely to the effectiveness of instruction in the basic subjects presented the men. Equipment in this phase of training was carefully selected and special
demonstrations with proper appliances and equipment were utilized whenever possible in order to visualize the subject material. A complete set of charts described in the "Instructors Guide" was made and proved to be of great value during the course of basic training. The organization had free access to motion picture equipment and made maximum use of it. Whenever possible films were followed by applicatory exercises.

The late Lt. General Leslie J. McNair, the Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces, visited the hospital on 9 June 1944. The General attended a class in heavy tent pitching.

An Air-Ground Demonstration on 6 June 1944 provided actual experience in the identification of American aircraft and an understanding of the part air support plays in ground operations.

Members of the unit went through the day and night infiltration courses on 24 July 1944.

Unit training began on 23 August 1944 and was planned for the reciprocal training of each section of the hospital in such a manner as to provide for the rotation of duties within sections. Men who were to be specialists were sent to technician schools and other special courses. They included Medical, Surgical, Laboratory, X-Ray and Pharmacy technicians, Motor Mechanics, Cooks and Bakers. During this phase of training the organization was active in the field, developing proficiency in pitching and striking ward tents, becoming familiar with equipment and perfecting a standard operating procedure for each section.

Information was received early in September that the 130th Evacuation Hospital had been selected to participate in airborne training and maneuvers at the Airborne Center, Camp Mackall, North Carolina. The unit departed via motor convoy for Camp Mackall, North Carolina complete with personnel and equipment 12 September 1944 for three weeks of airborne training. The first week of this period was occupied with all members of the organization receiving instruction and experience in tying knots and loading C-47 and CG4A mockups with all organizational equipment. This training was in preparation for the participation of the unit in support of the 15th Airborne Division in maneuvers. All sections of the hospital computed C-47 loads for every item of their equipment and a system was planned whereby the hospital, complete with tentage and equipment, could be transported from a landing strip to the hospital site using 1-4 Ton trucks and 1 Ton trailers, flown in with the rest of the equipment and personnel. The hospital was divided into two serials for flights. The first serial made a practice flight from Mackall Field, North Carolina to Knoollwood, North Carolina on 10 September 1944 by C-47 air transportation. Actual participation in the airborne maneuver began on 25 September 1944 when the first and second serials of the hospital were flown from Lamberton Army Air Field to Mackall after the latter had been "captured" from a simulated enemy by elements of the 13th Airborne Division. The first serial, upon its arrival, set up a portion of the hospital and was ready to receive patients promptly; the remainder of the personnel and equipment arrived as a second serial a few hours later. The organization was released from airborne maneuvers 30 September 1944 and returned the same date to its home station, Fort Jackson, South Carolina. This phase of training was of exceptional value to the unit as it called for the utmost in cooperation and the maximum of labor and efficiency
in handling large amounts of equipment over short periods of time. As far as can be determined, this is the first evacuation hospital to accomplish a movement completely by air. A total of 55 C-47 planes were used for the two-serial move.

The last field training of the hospital was held between 15 October and 20 October 1944 when the organization was bivouaced near Camden, South Carolina. Here the unit was tested on its Unit Training, its ability to move and establish station under blackout conditions, and on its members' military occupational specialties.

On 23 October 1944 the unit began waterproofing, packing and crating of organizational equipment preparatory to overseas movement.

During November 1944, the personnel were given a week of familiarization with arms; the carbine, M-1 rifle and pistol. Personnel fired familiarization courses the last two days of the week. Personnel were given the Air-Ground test, the combat Intelligence test and the physical fitness test during November. All were passed satisfactorily.

Officers and nurses to bring the unit to authorized strength were assigned during October and November 1944, and were prepared for overseas shipment.

The hospital with its full complement of men, officers and nurses departed for overseas service from the New York Port of Embarkation 8 December 1944 aboard the Dominion Monarch, a British liner. After arriving in the United Kingdom at Southampton the unit was transported by rail to Tenby, South Wales and was placed under the jurisdiction of United Kingdom Base Headquarters, Western District, and was later assigned to XXIII U.S. Army Corps. While awaiting Continental duty at this station, a program of refresher training in medical and technical subjects was instituted and the greater part of the professional personnel were placed on detached service with various hospital centers throughout England and Wales.

The organization departed from Tenby by rail for the marshalling area 12 March 1945, embarked for the Continent of Europe 13 March 1945 and debarked at Le Havre, France on 14 March 1945. It was transported by troop ferry up the Seine river to DuClaire, France where the unit again debarked and proceeded by foot to the staging area at Camp Twenty Grand. The nurses were transported by motors to a nearby school. Here the personnel of the hospital were issued additional clothing and equipment and after assignment to the Fifteenth U.S. Army the organization departed by motor truck convoy for Sedan, France on 21 March 1945. While in Sedan all sections of the hospital combat-processed their equipment and computed compact loads in order to minimize trucking space, and made final preparations for commitment to combat. The unit was inspected in the field by an examining team from the Fifteenth U.S. Army Headquarters. After being held in reserve at Sedan, France for an Airborne operation the 130th Evacuation Hospital was released from assignment with the Fifteenth U.S. Army and assigned to the Third U.S. Army 12 April 1945. The organization departed from Sedan, France by motor truck convoy and arrived at Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany 21 April 1945 where still further preparations were made by sections of the hospital, and liaison established with the Third Army Headquarters.
The unit proceeded to Nuremberg, Germany, and bivouaced on the edge of the city in reserve on 29 April 1945, here experiencing, for the first time, the presence of enemy planes overhead.

The hospital became operational for the first time on 1 May 1945, near Moosburg, Germany, patients consisting of battle casualties and Repatriated Allied Military Personnel. The fourteenth Armored Division had uncovered a large German Prisoner of War Camp, Stalag VII B, in this town, containing many American and Allied military personnel in urgent need of hospitalization, both because of inadequately treated battle wounds, and illnesses that had been incurred in prison. American and Western European personnel were admitted to the hospital, prepared for evacuation and transferred to the 58th Field Hospital, a holding unit on the air strip at Landschut, whence they were flown to the Communication Zone. A small detail of officers and enlisted men supervised the renovation and rehabilitation of the hospital inside the prison stockade with the aid of liberated medical officers of their own nationalities, Eastern Europeans were cared for in that installation. A total of 706 patients were admitted to the tent hospital at this location in addition to approximately 3,000 who were cared for inside the lager.

On 14 May 1945 the hospital was ordered closed and moved to Mauthausen, Austria, east of the city of Linz, on the north side of the Danube. At this station the hospital undertook the care of inmates of a German concentration camp which had been liberated by the Eleventh Armored Division. This was a true horror or extermination camp, with gas chamber, crematories, and mass graves, where murder and brutality had been practiced in every conceivable form. The patients were almost all political prisoners of every nationality, but preponderantly Russian and Polish. The hospital was expanded to accommodate one thousand male medical patients in tents outside the lager and facilities and were prepared inside the camp to house another one thousand surgical and female medical cases. The highest census was on 21 May 1945, when one thousand, nine hundred forty-five patients were hospitalized. These patients had been reduced, by the treatment they had received at the hands of their captors, to almost indescribable specimens of humanity. The labor involved in preparing for, receiving, and treating this number of patients in a very short time was prodigious, and was only accomplished by the cooperation and self-sacrifice of every member of the hospital. This task was performed in such a manner as to secure the warm praise of those who saw it accomplished.

During this operation information was received that the unit had been placed in category II for redeployment to the Pacific via the United States. Remaining patients were transferred to the 59th Field Hospital on 15 June 1945.

Personnel departed from Mauthausen, Austria for Camp Philadelphia in the Assembly Area near Rheims by rail on 22 June, the equipment having being previously dispatched by motor convoy.

At Camp Philadelphia equipment other than minimum essential was turned in to appropriate depots, and personnel were processed for overseas movement.

Upon completion of these activities, movement to the staging area was made by rail, the nurses going to Camp Twenty Grand, and male personnel going to Camp Lucky Strike, there to await shipment home.
The hospital embarked on the S.S. John Ericson at Le Havre, France on 28 July 1945, sailing for New York the same day. The transport arrived in New York harbor on the morning of 6 August 1945 whence movement was made by bus to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

All members departed for their homes the following day, for thirty days temporary duty, to reassemble at Fort Bragg, North Carolina during the month of September.

The standard issue equipment for an evacuation hospital, semimobile 400 bed, was used throughout the operation of the unit overseas, but has been supplemented in many instances by improvised appliances and somewhat less frequently by captured German medical and surgical equipment.

No unusual standard operating procedure has been employed by the unit excepting that centralization of the two operating rooms, sterilization and the orthopedic clinic has been found highly satisfactorily.

While the unit was stationed in the United Kingdom passes were frequently made available to the hospital personnel who used them in visiting many scenic and historic places throughout England, Scotland and Wales. On the continent of Europe whenever time and circumstances permitted the personnel of the organization participated in sight-seeing tours of renowned sections of France, Germany and Austria. Shortly after the closing of the hospital at Mauthausen many were able to make all day river boat excursions up the Danube, and several trips to Hitler's mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden were made available.

Members of the hospital were authorized battle participation awards for the Rhineland Campaign and the Central European Campaign. Bronze Star Medals were awarded to Lt. Col. John G. Baxter, Major Chester H. Allen, Major Charles B. Roesch, 1st Sgt Willis R. Wood, S-Sgt Earl Wiggins and Private First Class Russell Everson, for meritorious service to the unit at Mauthausen, Austria.

With the announcement of VJ day, plans and preparations for movement of the unit to the Asiatic-Pacific theater were suspended. Additional furloughs were granted, and those eligible for discharge were promptly separated. The majority of those ineligible for discharge were transferred to other units and on 5 November, 1945, the few remaining officers and men formally inactivated the unit.

23 April 1946.

I certify that I was a member of the 130th Evacuation Hospital (SM) from 25 September 1944 to 17 October 1945, that I was with this unit while overseas and that the above history was taken from a booklet distributed to members of this organization on date of inactivation.

Library
Historical Records Section, ADG
Washington, D. C.
3 May 1946

To: Colonel R.E. Callison, Officers and Men of the 130th Evacuation Hospital, U.S. Army.

Subject:
The undersigned Prisoners of War, returning to the Allied Armies wish to thank you and your staff for the efficient, courteous and considerate treatment administered us.

Upon liberation and evacuation from Stalag VII A Moosburg, Germany, we received from your organization our first realization that we were again free.

Signed and sealed upon this, our sixth day of liberation.

L. Budd, 5th D.
2nd NEW ZEALAND EXPOY. FORCE

Lt. Col. Davies R.D.
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

Commandant Locquet
Free French 31 49 F.T.A. C.E. F.
6 Avenue Philippepouaux SEDAM (Arleux) FRANCE.

Lt. William H. Baker

Eric Jones
47 R.H.F. (ROYAL AIR FORCE

Wally S. Brown Jr. 3rd AAF
Pate Plunkett 20 yearly

Sam J. Dougall
Capt. USA