

There's that familiar face — and another like it

By MIKE SPEAR
Staff writer

KARLSRUHE, Germany (S&S) — When Patricia Ann Mataya gets up in the morning and looks into the mirror, she's apt to see almost a double image of herself. And it's no trick mirror that

causes this.

There in the glass in front of her is the familiar face that she knows is hers, but right there beside it very often is another face that looks like hers, too.

It belongs to Paula Ann Mataya who has been with Patricia for more than 19

years. They are identical twins who have twinned just about everything they've done since they were born 10 minutes apart — Patricia first — in Clayton, Wash.

They grew up together, and, four months out of high school, they left

home to join the Army. They have served together since. They work as clerk-typists in the 517th Maintenance Co at Gerszewski Barracks here for unit clerk, Spec 5 David Montgomery, and recently they were promoted to E4.

"We came into the Army because we came from a small town, and there were no jobs and we wanted to see Europe," said Patricia. "It's been exciting, and we've been lucky, too. They let us stay together because we are sisters. We came here as supply clerks, but they thought it would look good to have us working in the orderly room."

It apparently has worked well for the Army, too. Montgomery says they are both good workers.

"When you look closely, you see there are differences in Patricia and Paula, although they are small. Patricia is not only just a little larger, but she is also more talkative. She will tell you that their lives as twins are enjoyable and that they've had no identity problems such as some psychiatrists say twins are apt to have. They have the same general interests and the mutual hobby of horseback riding. They also are best friends.

"Everybody tells us we should have twin boyfriends," Paula says. Then she points out that Patricia has a steady boyfriend, but he doesn't have a twin brother.

"I've thought about what it would be like not being a twin, and I can't even imagine it," says Paula.

Both have seven months to go until they get out, and they say they probably will go to college under the GI Bill. But first they will go back home for awhile to see what's going on.

Are there any disagreements between them, pet peeves? "Well, I think Paula's a little mousey sometimes," Patricia says with a laugh. "She has cats and she talks to them like they were human."

"I think she's too bossy sometimes," Paula says. "Maybe it's because she's bigger than I am."



A problem of identification

Spec. 5 David Montgomery, company clerk of the 517th Maintenance

Co., ponders which of his assistants is which. The clerk-typist twins at

Karlsruhe are Patricia (left) and Paula Mataya. —S&S, Grandy

94th Bn achieves dual purpose

Engineer unit opens own medical aid station

By CHARLES KEILHOLZ
Staff writer

DARMSTADT, Germany (S&S) — Operation of a medical aid station by the 94th Engr Bn here is solving the dual problems of man-hours lost to sick call and medics not being able to work in their skill fields.

The problems had been compounded by the fact that the unit's casern is located a few miles from the nearest dispensary in downtown Darmstadt.

Working as a dispensary annex, the aid station is manned by a clinical specialist and five medics from the 94th. It's equipped to handle routine sick calls, emergencies, perform minor surgery and do some lab functions in its four-room complex.

Before it was put into operation, people from the 94th and other units at Ernst Ludwig Casern had to find a way to Cambrai Fritsch Casern for morning sick call. Delays at the dispensary and with getting transportation often meant a loss of four to six hours duty time per person. This has now been cut to 30 minutes to an hour, said a unit spokesman.

"What we do is screen people here first," said Spec. 6 Martin Thurman, aid station founder. "Normally, we screen out 60 per cent of the people who don't need to see a doctor; the rest we provide transportation up to the dispensary in our ambulance." A fully qualified clinical specialist, Thurman also is licensed as a practical nurse in both Virginia and Texas.

"We will get a man in who needs only medication for a cold, has a minor injury

or some other minor ailment, we treat him here and have him back to his unit in 30 minutes or so and little duty time is lost," Thurman said. "We can also dispense certain medications."

In the course of a day, the staff will see about 30 people at sick call and another 10 or so during the day for follow-up care. "That's 40 people less workload for the main dispensary. Sometimes, sick call runs through as many as 60," adds Thurman.

The aid station contains the basic items authorized a battalion medical section for field use. "We have also been able to get other items for use that are not always available in a basic aid station," Thurman said.

"They are also able to conduct hearing tests, blood tests and other examinations for things such as high blood pressure and overweight. "We've found two people with diabetes and started treatments, and they didn't know they had the problem until tested," Thurman said.

"People have told me that they receive better medical care here because we can give more personalized care. That's something they like."

The staff itself is very happy to be working in their normal skill field again. To a person, they feel the Army is getting its money's worth from both their training and work as full time medics.

"It beats being a supply clerk or a 'gofer' when we're not in the field," one of them added. An active training program keeps them up to date and gives them a

chance to learn more in the medical field.

Their enthusiasm and confidence is shared by the very people they treat, says the 94th's adjutant, Capt. James T. Hodgson. "At first, people passed our aid station up, but as soon as they found out how competent Thurman and the staff were,

they all started coming over.

"I would say that 98 per cent of the people in the unit trust Thurman as much as any doctor. Other unit's people feel the same way and very few of them go to the dispensary now without first going through our aid station."



On the job he's trained for

Spec. 6 Martin Thurman checks the throat of Spec. 4 James Pope at the

medical aid station. —S&S by Millie