

These wells were connected to the village water mains supplying the villagers as well as the Air Force, Medics and us Engineers stationed in Mourmelon..



I am pointing to the capped casing of one of the six wells. The gasoline engines and chlorinators were mounted on concrete pads such as this one.

Another fellow and myself kept the pumps going 16 hours a day, but we never did get the village's overhead storage tank filled. Maintaining the six 4 cylinder gasoline engines, which powered the pumps, was a bigger job than adding the chlorine. We had to keep them supplied with gasoline, change the oil regularly and keep them tuned up

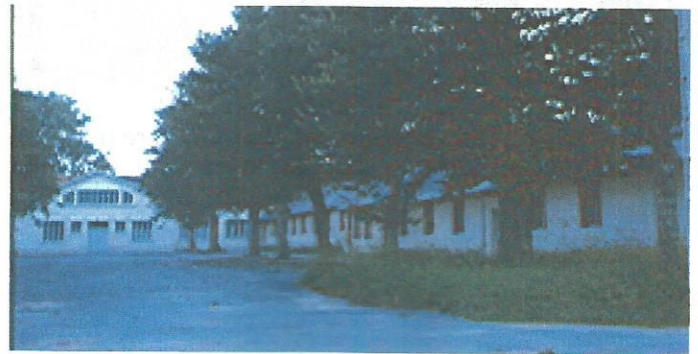


These are the Napoleon Barracks, built in 1815, that our 361st Special Service Engineers remodeled into modern Hospital Wards.

The Napoleonic barracks had brick walls and the pitched roofs, as you see in the above photo, covered open ceilings. Our 361st Engineers put in concrete floors and covered them with asphalt tiles. They plastered the inside walls and installed drop ceilings with fluorescent lights. When finished the inside looked like a modern hospital ward of the present.



On the horizon, in the distance, are the hangars at the Mourmelon Airport where the wounded from the battlefield in Germany were landed when being brought back to the Hospital.



The round roofed building at the end of the tree lined street was remodeled, by our Engineers, into a modern Operating Room with X-ray equipment and everything else like a modern Hospital of the day.

I was there pumping water until the 15th of April 1945 when General Eisenhower decided a few more able bodied Engineers were needed on the front lines in Germany. Those of us in the 361st, under the age of 25, were "drafted" to become Combat Engineers and sent up to the front lines in Germany.

There were eight of us in that category in Company B. We were loaded in a truck and transported to Compiègne, about 60 kilometers west of Reims. There we were transferred to a Replacement Depot, where we were to be outfitted with clothing and arms needed on the battlefield. (See Book 2, page 50)

Fortunately, while in Compeigne, the Germans surrendered and **Victory in Europe** (VE Day) was declared.