

IRAN

The Red Lion and Sun Society has had a 1,600 ton floating hospital constructed, one of the most original and resourceful methods of providing medical aid for the population along the coast and in the islands.¹ We have asked the National Society to tell our readers about this ship and welcome the article supplied, which we give below.

Treatment and providing medical necessities for the inhabitants of the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea coasts and islands have always been among the principal aims of the Red Lion and Sun Society. After thorough studies, the Society came to the conclusion that the best way to achieve this end was to be equipped with a hospital ship; thus, due to the regular visits of the vessel, medical attention can be given to the population living on the southern coasts of Iran. So the hospital ship *Farur* was purchased to fulfil these humanitarian tasks.

The vessel entered the waters of Iran in March 1972, and berthed at Abadan Port.

The vessel's main particulars are the following :

Length over all	abt. 68.00 m
Breadth moulded	abt. 13.70 m
Depth up to main deck . .	abt. 6.80 m
Engine output	2 × 2 700 BHP = 5 400 BHP
Speed	abt. 18 knots

¹ *Plate.*

The hospital ship has the classification German Lloyd+100 A4+MC. The above dimensions have been chosen with regard to the facilities of the smallest harbour within the service area of the meanwhile constructed standard type vessel. Moreover, it is as well possible to anchor offshore and keep up connection with land by means of a landing craft placed on board, which is set to water by the ship's proper gearing. This jet-propelled landing craft is also equipped with an ambulance car which is used for the transportation of patients, doctors and nurses.

According to the highest international safety rules, the vessel has been constructed as a passenger ship.

To make the stay aboard the vessel a most pleasant one for the patients, physicians, nurses and crew, the ship is equipped with an extensive conditioning system suitable for special services and medical rooms.

To comply with its scope of duties the ship has been provided with special equipment, consultation and operation rooms for the following departments: general surgery and wound dressing, abdominal-, nerve- and vascular surgery, internal diseases, throat-nose-ear complaints, gynaecology, children's ward, dentistry, clinic, X-ray examinations, as well as consultation rooms for the outpatients.

In the hospital section of the ship there are 42 beds. Seriously ill persons who have undergone an operation remain on board for treatment in 4 separate wards:

2 sick wards, one for 15 male and the other for 15 female patients.

1 ward for four children.

1 ward for four patients with infectious diseases.

This last ward is kept separate from the other parts of the hospital section and is equipped with separate air supply system and sanitary rooms.

The equipment of the hospital section includes the latest medical appliances. Apart from units for electro-diagnosis and a fully transistorized monitoring system, the medical equipment moreover includes cardiotherapy units as well as a unit for all applications of short-wave therapy.

In the radiological station, an X-ray unit is set up for routine examinations, as well as for special radiological demands. Evident-

ly, a dark room for the development of X-ray films is at hand. A second unit with mobile support and inferior output is provided for use in the operating theatre.

Moreover, a laboratory, dispensary and blood bank as well as various treatment rooms necessary for the hospital service are available. The ship also has an extensive pharmacy.

Two separate galleys are provided, one for preparing meals for crew and staff, whereas the second galley is used for patients' food only. Provisions may be stored over a longer period of time in both provision rooms and spacious refrigeration rooms suitable for tropical conditions.

Due to the restriction of draught, the ship has been fitted with two light-weight but nevertheless high-quality engines.

The output of 2700 BHP each of the two engines installed is transmitted on two propellers which results in the vessel's speed of abt. 18 knots. This high speed offers the possibility of making up for eventual delays in preceding harbours so as to keep a time schedule for fixed arrival at certain harbours. Moreover, the ship will be able to reach disaster areas sooner.

For the ship's supply of electric current, 3 diesel generator aggregates of 380 KWA each are provided, one of them serving as stand-by; furthermore, an emergency generator is provided for emergency cases. In order to keep the ship's noise level as low as possible, the generators are additionally muffled. The ship is also equipped with a waste destructor.

In order to reduce the rolling of the vessel particularly when the ship is riding at anchor offshore, a passive tank-stabilizer unit has been installed. The system can be adapted to the different weather conditions from the bridge in order to abate as far as possible the ship's movements in case operations are being carried out and for the general well-being of all patients.

The ship is also equipped with other facilities such as an elevator system connecting the different decks, and a laundry with spin dryer, ironing and washing machines.

The fresh water system, which desalinizes seawater, provides 30 tons of fresh water per day, which is stored in appropriate tanks with a capacity of 100 tons.

The ship has already started its humanitarian tasks, and the inhabitants of the southern coasts and islands enjoy its medical facilities. One day before the ship arrives at a certain port or island, the respective authorities announce to people the vessel's detailed arrival and stay programme, and after landing, the medical team start their services. They visit the patients, treat them, give them free medicines, and those who need operation are transported to the ship by the landing craft.

Since the commencement of its duty, up to October 31, 1973, in the course of two round trips, 39,321 persons have been treated as outpatients, 1839 persons as inpatients which included 1192 cases of operation, thus during 282 days a total of 41,160 persons have enjoyed medical treatment. The hospital ship *Farur* has provided the facilities for the Red Lion and Sun Society to overcome the problem of treating the inhabitants of the southern coasts of Iran.
