

REPORT

STAT

DATE DISTR. 27 August 1948

NO. OF PAGES 6

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

STAT

(From a dissertation in competition for the degree of
Candidate of Medical Science)

Tula Oblast was one of the first districts liberated by the Soviet Army from the German invaders. During the short occupation of the oblast by the enemy, so much damage was done that reconstruction has required, and still requires, many months.

The damage done by the invaders, the almost complete curtailment of work in the field of preventive medicine and community sanitation in the oblast (outside of the city of Tula), the threat of epidemics of exanthematous and abdominal typhus, tularemia and other highly contagious diseases, the spread of skin-parasitic and venereal diseases among the population, and likewise war injuries and the exhaustion of the inhabitants due to malnutrition and privations, have placed before the public health authorities the urgent problem of restoring the entire preventive medicine network of the district in the shortest possible time. To solve this problem, the public health authorities had to overcome considerable difficulties in discovering means to eradicate the consequences of the occupation in the shortest possible time.

Investigations of sanitation conditions and public health of Tula Oblast in the years preceding World War II will serve to throw some light upon the consequences of the occupation and the work of the public health authorities in correcting this.

During the 30 years of Soviet rule, great progress was made in improving sanitation conditions. This was the result of the successful development of the national economy, the rise in the security and cultural level of the laborers,

- 1 -

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED

[illegible]

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

and also the adoption of a system of measures in the field of public health.

The birth rate in Tula Oblast before the war was high, and, in 1939, it was close to the average for the Federation.

On the eve of World War II, the mortality of the urban and rural population was 39 percent lower than before the Revolution. Infant mortality in Tula Oblast before World War II was lower than the average for the RSFSR, and 41 percent lower than in 1910-1913.

Epidemic morbidity fluctuated from year to year before the war within wide limits depending on its various causes. Compared with the pre-Revolutionary period, a significant downward trend was noticed in a majority of the epidemic diseases. Thus, for example, smallpox and relapsing typhus were completely eradicated; instances of abdominal and exanthematous typhus were reduced to one-fifth, and were recorded as single incidences; the morbidity of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and whooping cough decreased. The control of epidemic diseases is characterized by high hospitalized incidences: abdominal typhus, 98.6 percent; scarlet fever, 95.4 percent; diphtheria, 85.4 percent; dysentery, 71.6 percent.

Basic measures to cope with epidemic diseases were carried out intensely in Tula Oblast, and in hospitalization and inoculations Tula Oblast even exceeded the average indices for the RSFSR. In general, enormous progress was made in the public health care in the oblast in 25 years of Soviet rule. Along with a 12 percent increase in population, the number of hospitals increased 2.7 times; hospital beds, 3.7 times; dispensary polyclinics, 4.5 times; surgical and surgical-obstetrical centers, more than 19 times; doctors, 3.8 times; and doctor's assistants and midwives, almost 7 times.

The invaders entered Tula Oblast early in October 1941. In October and November, almost all regions were completely occupied. At the end of October 1941, the Germans reached Tula, the city famous for gunsmiths and cartridge-makers. At the end of December 1941, almost the entire oblast had been obliterated.

The majority of the regions were under occupation 50-60 days. Kaluga was occupied for 79 days. The siege of Tula lasted 55 days. But even in this comparatively short time the invaders succeeded in inflicting tremendous damage upon the sanitation facilities in the oblast.

Serious damage was done to the water economy, which was reflected in sanitation conditions. As a result of the destruction by the occupying Germans, the sources of water supply, water works, artesian wells, machines, pumps, reservoirs, etc., were ruined. According to incomplete data, 35 percent of the water pipes and 25 percent of the artesian wells in Tula Oblast were destroyed or damaged; some of the derrick and framework wells were damaged.

The entire network of a unity homes, sanatoria, public nurseries, and sanitation-epidemiological stations was completely destroyed or damaged; the hospital network was 92.4 percent destroyed; the network of polyclinics and dispensaries, 90 percent; health stations were destroyed almost completely. In those places where hospitals and other medical establishments escaped complete destruction, their property and equipment were for the most part plundered by the German soldiers.

The medical establishments of Tula suffered considerably during the siege; 5 hospitals, 5 polyclinics for adults, 2 children's polyclinics, 5 children's consultation centers, 12 public nurseries, and 2 sanatoria were damaged.

The regions of the Podmoskovny Coal Basin suffered more than the others. Thus, in the Shakhin Rayon a new 40-bed hospital with all its equipment was burned; in Kostomarov a 30-bed hospital and a hospital for contagious diseases were 85 percent

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

destroyed; in addition, the Shebekin polyclinic, physiotherapeutic clinic, the tubercular and venereal centers, a 25-bed maternity home, a children's consultation center, 4 public nurseries, and 3 children's nurseries were 45-50 percent destroyed; and in Ogarev, a dispensary building, a children's consultation center, and 3 public nurseries were destroyed. In the mines, ten health stations were destroyed, together with the buildings over the mines; in Volkhov Rayon, the 35-bed Shvartsevakaya Hospital, a 15-bed maternity home, and a dispensary burned completely; the 30-bed therapeutic unit of the Ogarev Hospital was destroyed. The Volkhov Hospital, a rest home, and a polyclinic were considerably damaged. Public nurseries at many pits and mines were destroyed or burned.

Medical establishments worked under difficult conditions during the severe and anxious days of the siege and occupation. Wounded were brought directly from the front line to the hospitals of Tovarkov Rayon. It was necessary to receive them, give them first aid, feed them, and evacuate them further. Hospitals were converted into unusual evacuation points. One hundred and fifty wounded were treated at the Bogoroditsk City Hospital every day.

During the siege of Tula, under conditions of continuous raids by enemy aircraft and artillery bombardment, Polyclinic No 3, the Hospital imeni Semashko, the surgical department of the district scottic hospital, the dispensary of the optical hospital, and the central maternity home continued operations without interruption, although no more than 40 doctors (out of 279) and 250 average medical workers (out of 1,175) remained in the city.

According to incomplete data, during the 2 months of siege (November and December 1941) 428 persons died in Tula, including 21 children under one year of age. Among the dead, more than one-third died of war wounds.

The wounded came to the surgical department of the Field Hospital imeni Semashko directly from the front line and also after German aircraft raids on the city, and were then transferred to the base hospital. Of the total number of sick and wounded that entered the hospital, there were 442 adults and 97 children. A preponderance of the wounded and sick was from the civilian population (483 persons); there were 56 military personnel. In spite of the serious character of the wounds, the mortality (14.6 percent) was not high.

During the siege of Tula, no less than 150 of the civilian population were killed, and about 600 were wounded.

Sanitation problems for the civilian population of Tula Oblast did not end with the liberation from occupation. Since it was very close to the front during all of 1942 and for the greater part of 1943 (until August-September), the territory of the oblast, with its mines, factories, towns, and villages, continued to be subjected to frequent raids by German aircraft.

In Tula, for the 4-month period after the lifting of the blockade (January-April 1942), 328 civilian wounded were hospitalized; during 1942 and for 9 months of 1943, 90 wounded entered the Bogoroditsk Hospital of Tovarkov Rayon; 18 victims of air raids entered the Tovarkov Hospital in 1942, and 26 during 9 months of 1943.

Children under 14 years of age formed a considerable part of those with war wounds. The number reached 70 percent in the Tula Optical Hospital; out of 24 victims in the Volkhov Dispensary, 22 were children under 14.

In the Kaluga Hospital (September 1943) several wards were filled almost exclusively with boys under 14 years of age with amputated upper or lower limbs. All these were victims of mine explosions and blasts. Although the children displayed unusual resourcefulness in their search for the mines, a tremendous persistence in the desire to produce an explosion led to their being injured. The children suffered

- 3 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

the greatest number of wounds in the eyes and wrists.

Mortality from war wounds among the civilian population depended, naturally, on the site of the wounds. The highest mortality rate was among those with body wounds, the majority of which were abdominal wounds with internal complications.

The experience of past wars demonstrates that epidemic diseases constitute the greatest danger for the army and the civilian population. During World War I, and especially in the period of the civil war, an epidemic of exanthematous typhus assumed terrible proportions. Therefore, the first objective of the public health authorities, in the liberated areas was the control of exanthematous typhus cases, a great number of which were noted in many rayons in the very first days after liberation. Together with this it was necessary to take preventive measures against abdominal typhus, dysentery, and other acute gastrointestinal diseases, the danger of which would arise after the melting of the snow in spring and summer, after decomposition of corpses and garbage had set in, and after pollution of the sources of water supply by melted snow and ground water had begun.

Epidemiological work, naturally, could not be carried out apart from the entire restoration work. From the very first days, the building, repair, and the adaptation was begun of accommodations for hospitals, dispensaries, consultation centers, public nurseries, sanitation-epidemiological stations, baths, delousing centers, and barber shops; sources of water supply were repaired and cleaned; fuel was procured for baths and disinfection stations; sanitation facilities were put into working order; sanitation order was established in communal dwellings, homes, and in populated places; medical establishments were supplied with hardware, dry goods, and medical equipment. At the same time, inoculations against smallpox, abdominal typhus, dysentery, and diphtheria were given.

Among the epidemiological measures, house-to-house surveys brought considerable results; the wounded and persons with epidemic diseases and fevers were discovered by this means. The medical workers began these surveys immediately after the expulsion of the invaders. In Tovarov Rayon in January 1942, 112 persons ill with high temperatures and 3,712 with rashes were discovered by house calls made by doctors.

The high morbidity of exanthematous typhus in 1942 shows how great were the effects of the occupation in the first months after liberation. As a result of the measures taken, the morbidity of exanthematous typhus in 1943 dropped almost to one-fifth as compared to 1942. The greatest number of incidences of disease occurred in the rayons along the front. The morbidity of abdominal typhus and dysentery was lower than in 1939, and nothing threatening from this direction was noted either in 1942 or 1943. In the first months after liberation, an increase was observed in tularemia incidences, which was connected with the pollution of wells by the bodies of rodents.

The restoration of the network of medical establishments and execution of epidemiological measures by local organs alone was impossible. The party, the government, and the People's Commissariat of Health of the RSFSR came to the aid of the liberated rayons, including Tula Oblast.

By the end of the first quarter of 1942, 77 hospitals in the oblast had already been restored. These hospitals had 4,685 beds, including 2,216 for infectious cases. This number assured proper hospitalization, with normal bed turnover, for victims of exanthematous typhus.

The matter of sanitary facilities for the population was considerably worse. After the expulsion of the invaders, only 59 baths were recovered. By the end of the first quarter of 1942, there were no more than 355 baths in the oblast including those restored, which was inadequate for the sanitary needs of the population. The network of baths and disinfecting stations was gradually restored and increased with

- 4 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTED

STAT

great difficulties. On 1 July 1943, a plan for the building of very simple baths (1,759) had been 73 percent completed. By this time, 1,304 public baths were functioning, and, in addition, there were 211 individual baths. The building of disinfecting and delousing stations lagged behind, and the corresponding plan had been only 35.1 percent completed by the same time.

Sanitation education played an important role in the system of epidemiological measures. Discussions on disease prevention were held at meetings, gatherings, mines, and before the showing of motion pictures.

The misfortunes of war must inevitably be reflected in the birth rate and in the total and infant mortality, the level of which changed from the prewar figures. This continued during 1942 and for a part of 1943, after which sanitation conditions were bettered; in subsequent years the mortality fell below the prewar level.

Deterioration of sanitation conditions was especially noted in the towns and rayons which suffered most from the occupation and military operations. To these belong Tula and Tula Oblast.

The need of the population of the occupied regions for medical aid was so great that in a number of places (Volkhov, Shoshkin, Tovarkov, and other rayons) the acceptance of patients in the local medical establishments began on the very day after the expulsion of the invaders. Because of destruction of, or damage to, regular facilities, intact dwellings were temporarily converted to medical establishments.

However, medical personnel were the most important need. Comparatively few doctors (about 30) and average medical workers remained at their posts during the occupation, and even fewer continued their work under the Germans. At the beginning of 1941, there were 818 doctors in the oblast. After the liberation, there were somewhat more than 90 doctors in the oblast, including 63 in Tula.

With each month, the number of medical personnel increased due to the acquisition of young doctors, as well as doctors sent by the People's Commissariat of Health from other oblasts. Of the total number of doctors who arrived in the oblast, 44 percent were young doctors who graduated in 1942 and 1943.

For the control of exanthematous typhus and other epidemic diseases, and also for the improvement of the general sanitation conditions in the oblast, the staffs of sanitation doctors and epidemiologists were strengthened. The number of sanitation doctors-specialists by the beginning of 1943 had even increased beyond the prewar period.

The network of hospitals, in particular that of the infectious disease hospitals, was rapidly restored. This was dictated by the necessity for the complete hospitalization of victims of exanthematous typhus. On 1 April, 77 hospitals were already functioning in the liberated regions (excluding Tula); on 1 July, 91 hospitals. The number of beds increased from 1,200 to 3,900 during the first 6 months of 1942. In a year and a half after liberation, the bed network had been 80 percent restored, and the assurance of hospital beds for the population (exclusive of maternity homes) exceeded the prewar level.

In accordance with the problems facing the public health authorities in the first period after liberation, the allotment of beds was changed: the number of beds for infectious cases was increased (more than doubled), as well as the number of therapeutic and general beds, and beds for neuropathic cases; the number of surgical beds was not changed, while the number of maternity and children's beds was reduced.

The network of dispensaries and polyclinics was restored to a considerable degree (85 percent): on 1 July 1943, 130 dispensaries and polyclinics were in operation as opposed to 153 on 1 January 1941. By this time there was not a single rayon without a medical dispensary, and in a number of rayons there were several dispensaries.

- 5 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTED

STAT

Great work was accomplished by the public health authorities in the matter of restoring the health centers. By 1 January 1943, 30 medical and 73 health centers were already in operation. The restored health centers were comparatively better staffed with medical personnel than before the war.

The development of the network of establishments for the accommodation of women and children proceeded at the same tempo as the restoration of polyclinics and dispensaries. On 1 January 1943, 27 consultation centers in urban settlements (as against 42 before the war) were in operation. In the city, 21 consultation centers accepting children had increased to 24. The zone system for serving children by means of urban consultation centers was completely restored, and all zones were staffed with doctors and nurses.

By the beginning of 1943, the network of permanent public nurseries included 61 establishments in the city and 68 in the country, as against 95 in the city and the same number in the country on 1 January 1941. The number of seasonal public nurseries had increased considerably in comparison with the prewar period. Children's dining rooms were organized, serving 6,000 children, 90 percent of whom were children of soldiers. The work of serving children in the towns and rayons was conducted by city and rayon pediatricians, of whom there were 43 in the oblast, including seven in Tula.

The sanitation-epidemiological organization was expanded and became stronger during the war; the number of establishments increased, as well as the number of medical personnel employed in these establishments.

Thus, the problem facing the public health authorities, namely, assurance to the population of the oblast of necessary medical-sanitation aid, had already been solved to a considerable degree one year after the expulsion of the invaders.

This was accomplished despite the fact that the majority of hospitals, dispensaries, and other medical facilities were destroyed, and work was begun in the intact dwellings, public buildings, and other temporary quarters. At the same time, work progressed on the repair of the surviving buildings. Numerous difficulties such as shortage of lumber, roofing iron, glass, transportation, and manpower had to be surmounted in order to carry out this work.

In the process of the reconstruction of hospitals under wartime conditions, with the lack of fuel, food, supplies, and medical equipment, the incidences requiring bed care naturally could not be the same as they were before the war. The number of days of bed care decreased considerably in the city (from 293 days in 1940 to 245 in 1942), and to a lesser degree in the country (corresponding figures: 221 and 214). The turnover of beds in urban settlements decreased from 23.6 in 1940 to 17.4 in 1942. The number of patients admitted to each bed decreased partly because of an increase in the time spent by a patient in bed from 12.4 days in 1940 to 14 days in 1942, which is explained by the more serious condition of the patient.

Such were the first steps of the public health workers in healing the wounds inflicted upon Tula Oblast. They worked diligently and by 1 January 1943 little remained to be done toward the attainment of the prewar level (less than 2 percent for the bed supply, 8 percent for medical personnel, etc.).

The first year of the Five-Year Plan since the war has brought the medical workers of Tula Oblast their first successes: the prewar level for beds in hospitals was exceeded by 2 percent; the number of dispensary-polyclinal establishments, by 30 percent; the number of accommodations in public nurseries, by 2 percent; medical personnel, by 15 percent.

As we have shown, many medical establishments still housed in temporary quarters and equipment of hospitals plundered by the Fascists have affected the quality of medical treatment. The struggle for the improvement of medical-sanitation aid to the population is the most important problem of the public health authorities and medical workers of Tula Oblast.

- EAJ -
- 6 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED