

The Treatment of Sick Prisoners and Medical Experiments

Most prisoners suffered from gastro-intestinal diseases, and many had famine oedemas, tuberculosis, and inflamed wounds or had been maimed. In early 1942, the camp had to be put under quarantine because of a typhus epidemic. A prisoner's status in the camp determined how he was treated at the sick-bay. Most prisoners received no medical aid to speak of, and the SS turned away many needy prisoners at the sick-bay. Medicine was scarce, and wounds were dressed with crepe paper. Several patients often had to share one bed. Prisoners who suffered from contagious diseases were not sufficiently isolated. Prisoners who were licensed doctors were not allowed to work at the sick-bay until late 1941. SS doctors carried out medical experiments on prisoners at the sick-bay, infecting them with tuberculosis, among other things. Sometimes, however, prisoner-nurses were able to protect severely harassed prisoners by admitting them to the sick-bay.