

**SCTMG 2021****International Scientific Conference «Social and Cultural Transformations in the Context of  
Modern Globalism»****EVACUATION HOSPITALS OF ZLATOUST DURING THE  
GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR**

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**Abstract**

The paper reveals the activities of the Zlatoust evacuation hospitals during the Great Patriotic War. These medical institutions made positive contribution to the country and played a huge role in the defeat of fascist troops. For the purposes of the research, we selected and analyzed many literature and archival sources, such as: minutes of the meeting of the executive committee of the Zlatoust City Council of Working People's Deputies (from 1941–1945) on the issue the transformation of certain buildings (mainly schools) to evacuation hospitals, their repair and equipment; newspapers “Bolshevik Slovo”, published in Zlatoust during the Great Patriotic War with the photos of evacuation hospitals; collection of documents “Chelyabinsk region 1917–1945. The purpose of this study is to summarize, analyze and systematize the collected information on the activities of the Zlatoust evacuation hospitals during the Great Patriotic War. Local authorities and the staff of the evacuation hospitals performed this work. Evacuation Hospital is a wartime hospital. There were several evacuation hospitals, such as: EH-1128, EH-1732, EH-3111, etc. in Zlatoust during the Great Patriotic War. Zlatoust contributed to the activities of evacuation hospitals in the country. City hospitals were staffed mainly with medical personnel from the Zlatoust city health department. About 8 thousand wounded people were treated in evacuation hospitals, almost 80 % of them returned to their service. Zlatoust doctors, in spite of fatigue and hunger, brought thousands of soldiers and commanders of the Red Army back to life, showing the examples of genuine philanthropy and professional duty.

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*Keywords:* Evacuation, hospital, medical assistance, expert care



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## 1. Introduction

The Great Patriotic War ended 75 years ago. It was a historic day when the solemn voice of Levitan announced the long-awaited victory. The heroic and tragic days of the Great Patriotic War are farther into the past. However, time has no power over the fact that people survived the war. It was a very difficult time. It is known that a huge contribution to the Great Victory was made not only by the soldiers, but also by people in the home front: those who did not sleep at night and worked at the machines, those who worked tirelessly in the field, as well as those who looked after the wounded soldiers and who supported them. The medical workers of the evacuation hospitals also played an important role.

Evacuation hospital (EH) is a wartime hospital where medical assistance was provided and the injured and sick were treated. It did not have its own vehicles and was used as part of hospital bases. Each evacuation hospital consisted of a management, treatment and diagnostic departments, a pharmacy, service and material support units. The main tasks of evacuation hospitals were reception, accommodation, triage, sanitary (special) treatment of the wounded and sick. Evacuation hospitals provided people with expert medical care and subsequent treatment, prepared for the evacuation of the wounded and sick requiring long-term special treatment. In 1941–1945 more than 6 thousand evacuation hospitals were formed. With a few exceptions, they had a solid numbering, but in many cases they had a different or parallel name.

The topic of the research is relevant. This statement is confirmed by many world studies in the framework of the Second World War. For example, in the article Surgical and Anesthetic Challenges aboard Non-Hospital Ships in the Pacific during World War II, the authors Falciola and Waisel (2018) state that World War II led to the need for limited and inexperienced clinicians to manage new levels of traumatic injury and transportation of seriously ill people. The Army has approached these challenges partially by training anesthesiologists and developing advanced field hospitals that could perform urgent life-saving surgeries (Falciola & Waisel, 2018). Söhner et al. (2016) in Psychiatry at the Heil-und Pflegeanstalt Günzburg 1939–1945: The role of Ludwig Trieb, head of hospital administration during and after World War II analyze the participation of Ludwig Trib, the administrative head of the South German psychiatric hospital, in the work of the department for killing patients during Nazi rule in Germany, especially in the planning department of the “Reichsarbeitsgemeinschaft Heil – und Pflegeanstalten” after 1941. His work was related to the euthanasia program (Söhner et al., 2016).

In the article Late sequelae of retained foreign bodies after world war II missile injuries, the authors Surov et al. (2012) and others state that many people injured during World War II have foreign bodies in some parts of their bodies, such as fragments of grenades or bullets. Most of these metal fragments remain clinically silent. Some of them, however, can cause delayed complications. The research showed that the health consequences of World War II extend to the present and therefore physicians should be aware of the presence of hidden foreign bodies and their various possible late reactions (Surov et al., 2012).

Baldwin (2018) in Molly Lentaigne, the nurse who drew McIndoe's Guinea pigs: Exploring the role of a medical artist at the Queen Victoria Hospital, 1940–1945 studied the abilities of Molly Lentaigne, who was a medical painter who worked at the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead during World War II with Archibald McIndoe. Her illustrations depicted plastic surgery performed at this

hospital on severely burned soldiers of Royal Air Forces wounded during the war (Baldwin, 2018). Ford (2004), in *Voices of our past: Flight nurse training in World War II*, addressed the need to train “flying nurses” and the creation of the Air Nursing Corps of America in 1936.

Pols (2006) in his article *waking up to shell shock: psychiatry in the US military during World War II* examined the psychological reactions of soldiers (shell shock) to bomb explosions that arose during the First World War. However only during the Second World War, military psychiatrists, especially in the United States, began to systematically apply the methods of treatment of this phenomenon. Their treatments had significant implications for the future of American psychiatry, which in turn had influence on the development of psychiatry and military psychiatry around the world (Pols, 2006).

## **2. Problem Statement**

The problem of this research is to reveal the concept of evacuation hospitals and their meaning during the Great Patriotic War, as well as to collect information about the evacuation hospitals of Zlatoust, their characteristics and descriptions.

## **3. Research Questions**

The research questions are:

- The work of the evacuation hospitals of Zlatoust during the Great Patriotic War;
- The work of doctors and nurses in evacuation hospitals to rescue the wounded people.

## **4. Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to summarize and systematize information about the evacuation hospitals of Zlatoust during the Great Patriotic War.

## **5. Research Methods**

During the study the following research methods as historical-descriptive, historical-chronological, historical-biographical, method of synthesis and analysis, comparison were used.

## **6. Findings**

From the very beginning of the war, the deployment of hospitals began in the Chelyabinsk region. The deadlines were extremely strict: it was necessary to equip hospitals with medical and service personnel, prepare the necessary equipment and medicines and allocate appropriate premises in 15 days. The hospitals were deployed in best buildings: educational institutions, hospitals, all sanatoriums and resorts that existed at that time in the Chelyabinsk region. The hospitals received equipment worth 15 million rubles (in 1940 prices), including 60 X-ray rooms and many other medical equipment (Kozlov, 2000).

A month after the war, by the time the first medical train was received, the region already had 10 hospitals. By December 31, 1941, 73 hospitals were deployed, in which 24.5 thousand wounded soldiers were treated. However, the hospital network continued to grow and in the first half of 1942 there were already 120 hospitals in the region. During 1941–1943, 483 ambulance trains were received in the South Urals with about 220 thousand wounded and sick (Agaryshev, 1998).

Zlatoust contributed to the activities of the evacuation hospitals of the country. On July 20, 1941, a meeting of the executive committee of the Zlatoust City Council of Working People's Deputies took place, during which it was decided to transform the building of the Mechanical College and the buildings of schools No. 23, 8 and 10 to hospitals. Later, the buildings of the school No. 14, the teachers' institute and the building of the city hospital were transformed into hospitals. City hospitals were mainly staffed with medical personnel from the Zlatoust City Health Department. In total, about 8 thousand wounded were treated in them, almost 80 % of them returned to their service (Agaryshev, 1998).

Evacuation hospital No. 1128 with capacity of 200 beds was formed in Velikiye Luki, Kalinin region. On July 16, 1941, by order of the Main Sanitary Administration, it was transferred to Zlatoust. The work of this hospital began on August 1, 1941. It was located in the building of a mechanical technical school on Taganayskaya Street, 2. By specialization, it was surgical. It was divided into 4 departments and received mainly seriously wounded soldiers. It was the main hospital in the city. The heads of the hospital were military doctor of the 3rd rank Chistyakov (1941–1942), military doctor of the 2nd rank Yakov Anisimovich Barsky (1942–1944) and captain of the medical service Bubenkova (1944). The staff of the hospital was presented by qualified doctors and many of them took part in the Finnish war.

In 1941, in the physiotherapy room, doctors Glebova Ropolsky and Kuzin began the scientific work "Treatment of wounds with radiant energy". In the hospital, inter-hospital conferences were held, during which the methods of the treatment of the wounded people were discussed and the best practices of colleagues were summarized. The nurses were trained 2 times a week to improve their qualifications. On January 3, the 3rd rank military doctor Chastikov turned to the Main Sanitary Directorate of the Red Army with a report on the redeployment of the hospital: Due to the successes of our heroic Red Army, the Kalinin region is 2/5 freed from the fascist troops, which creates all the opportunities for our hospital to turn around, if not in the same place, then on the liberated territory of the Kalinin region. The entire staff of the hospital is eager to move closer to the front as soon as possible and, supporting this desire of the staff, the command of the hospital is seeking to satisfy this request of the staff as soon as possible. Our departure from Zlatoust, Chelyabinsk region, will improve the service of the working class of Zlatoust, working at defense plants, with medical assistance, namely the local hospital No. 3114 can be transferred to the premises we occupy and, thus, the local city hospital will restart its work (Kozlov, 2000). This petition was rejected because the hospital remained in Zlatoust until October 1944. Today there is Zlatoust Industrial College named after P.P. Anosov in the building where EH-1128 was located. A memorial plaque is installed on the building. The address remained unchanged: Taganayskaya Street, 2 (this is the central part of Zlatoust) (Kozlov, 2000).

The evacuation hospital No. 3111 with the capacity 330 beds was deployed on August 27, 1941. A month later, the number of beds increased by 30 and amounted to 360. It was located in the building of

school number 8 on the 1st Nizhnezavodskaya Street, 87 (V. Bolotnaya Street, 18). It was of surgical specialization. Minimally wounded soldiers were treated in the hospital using paraffin therapy. The heads of the hospital were military doctor S.L. Aistova (1941) and the 3rd rank military doctor Lugovtsev (1942–1944). The administration of the hospital was presented by a metalwork plant, an abrasive plant, a collective farm named after Chkalov, a tram department, a city industrial complex, a prison, schools No. 22 and 6. In September 1944, EH-3111 was relocated from Zlatoust (Kozlov, 2000). At present, the building where EH-3111 was located is still the secondary school No. 8. A memorial plaque is installed on the building. The address remained unchanged: the 1st Nizhnezavodskaya Street, 87 (this is the district of K. Marx Streer). The memorial plaque was installed on the building, but there is no plaque on it after the renovation of the façade in 2011.

The evacuation hospital No. 3112 was deployed with 360 beds on August 27, 1941. It was located in the building of school number 10 on Bolshaya Vetluzhskaya Street. Minimally wounded were treated in this hospital. The heads of the hospital were military doctor Voronkova (1941–1942) and military doctor of the 2nd rank M. Glyatser (1942–1943). The heads of the hospital were the political department of the Zlatoust region of the South Ural railway and a furniture factory. Initially, there was no close connection and practical work to provide the hospital with assistance, but gradually things changed: a furniture factory made tables and whatnots, community women fixed linen and clothes. In September 1943, the EH-3112 was relocated from Zlatoust.

After the evacuation of the EH-3112 in the same building in September 1943, evacuation hospital No. 5803 with 400 beds was deployed. The heads of the hospital were the Captain of the medical service Golemba and O. M. Uspenskaya. In October 1944 the EH-5803 was relocated from Zlatoust. At present, the building where the hospitals EH-3112 and EH-5803 were located is the main secondary school No. 17. A memorial plaque is installed on the building. The address has changed due to the renaming of the street: Anosov Street, 129 (Vetlugi district) (Kozlov, 2000).

The evacuation hospital No. 3113 was expanded to 360 beds (310 – surgical, 50 – therapeutic) on August 28, 1941. It was located in the building of school number 14 on Lenin Street, 30. The head of the hospital was a military doctor of the 3rd rank Kachurin. The chiefs of the hospital were a timber industry enterprise, a state bank, a printing house, a canteens' trust and a teacher's institute. The doctors in the hospital conducted field surgery classes, hospital conferences, as well as sanitary and educational work among patients. The chief of the hospital was plant No. 259 (plant named after V.Yu. Lenin). The hospital was relocated from Zlatoust in December 1942 (Kozlov, 2000). After the evacuation of the EH-3113 in the same building in September 1943, evacuation hospital No. 5804 with 300 beds was deployed. The head of the hospital in 1944 was the doctor Medovy. In October 1944, the EH-5804 was relocated from Zlatoust (Agaryshev, 1998). Today, in the building where the hospitals EH-3113 and EH-5804 were located, there is a secondary school No. 3. A memorial plaque is installed on the building. The address remained unchanged: Lenin Street, 30 (central part of the city).

The evacuation hospital No. 3114 was deployed with 300 beds (250 – surgical, 50 – for suffering from nervous disorders) in the first half of August 1941. It was located in two buildings of the city hospital: in the surgical-therapeutic building, which was located in the building, Lenin Street 41. In 1942, the surgical building was transferred to the city hospital and the hospital remained only therapeutic.

Minimally wounded were treated in the hospital, using paraffin therapy and hydrotherapy. The head of the hospital was the military doctor A.V. Rogozhnikova. Many of the wounded Red Army soldiers were brought in by dog sleds.

The doctors in the hospital conducted field surgery classes, hospital conferences, as well as health education among patients. The head of the hospital was plant No. 259 (plant named after V.I. Lenin). In December 1942 the EH-3114 was relocated from Zlatoust. Today in the building of the surgical department of the city hospital, where the hospital EH-3114 was located, there is a department of purulent surgery and an otolaryngology department of the Zlatoust city hospital No. 1. A memorial plaque is installed on the building. Address: City Hospital (Medic quarter, district of Gagarin Avenue). In the building of the therapeutic department of the city hospital, where the EH-3114 hospital was also located, there is the main educational building of the Zlatoust Medical College. There is no memorial plaque on the building. Address: Lenin Street, 41 (central part of the city).

The evacuation hospital No. 3868 was deployed with 200 beds in April 1942. It was located in the building of the teacher's institute on Oktyabrskaya Street, 6. The head was the doctor V.S. Gruzina. The chiefs of the hospital were a watch factory, four workshops of factory number 259 and the city trade department (Agaryshev, 1998). In September 1943 the EH-3868 was relocated from Zlatoust. Today, in the building where the hospital EH-3868 was located, there is the second educational building of the Zlatoust Medical College. A memorial plaque is installed on the building. Address: Oktyabrskaya Street, 4 (central part of the city).

In the evacuation hospitals, a huge work of medical workers was carried out, whose task was to bring back to life the soldiers who fought for their homeland. In addition to medical workers, ordinary schoolchildren worked in evacuation hospitals. They did the job they could such as collecting medicinal herbs, reading books and letters to wounded soldiers, caring after soldiers, organizing concerts, helping morally to strengthen the spirit of soldiers. On the basis of the region and the city, Timurov teams were formed, which provided patronage assistance not only to the families of the Red Army soldiers, but also to hospitals. In total, 46 Timurov teams worked in Zlatoust. Children gave many concert programs on various holidays. In order to create positive emotions in the evacuation hospitals, cultural events were organized. The best lecturers of Zlatoust gave lectures, literary readings of works of fiction and film shows were regularly held.

## **7. Conclusion**

During the Great Patriotic War, the Southern Urals became one of the largest hospital bases of home front, intended for the treatment of wounded soldiers. For the needs of the front, 234 hospitals were deployed here, 90 of them were in the Chelyabinsk region and 9 of them were in Zlatoust. The process of the foundation of evacuation hospitals was very complex and required a lot of efforts and patience from the local authorities. The deadlines were very extremely strict: it was necessary to equip hospitals with medical and service personnel, prepare the necessary equipment and medicines and allocate appropriate premises in 15 days. The hospitals were deployed in best buildings: educational institutions, hospitals, all sanatoriums and resorts that existed at that time in the Chelyabinsk region. The hospitals received equipment worth 15 million rubles (in 1940 prices), including 60 X-ray rooms and many other medical

equipment (Kozlov, 2000). Evacuation hospitals played an important role in the history of the country. The lives of many soldiers were saved thanks to the evacuation hospitals and the people who worked in these facilities.

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