

Interview with Kazimir Ladny

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Interviewer: Mark DePue

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DePue: What happened when somebody was sick? What did the compound do about sick prisoners?

Ladny: They took him to what they called a field hospital. But later on we found out that it was like, get rid of the sick people. So they were just—whoever got in there never came out.

DePue: With that as background, tell me the story, explain what happened when there was a pretty thorough inspection of all of the prisoners to see who actually had dysentery.

Ladny: Yeah. It was very interesting thing. One day they took us to the monastery and there were several tables standing there. And there were quite a few beautiful Russian women dressed in white, like nurses or doctors or something. And we were ordered to go to the table, take the pants down and bend over. And she was looking for some sign of blood or something. And if it was okay, she said, "Okay, you go in this direction." But if she found some question, "So in this corner". And so I was lucky, I was in this healthy group and I went out. The group of these people who were healthy were standing outside, and they were elaborating something on what to do, yeah. So they said, "These people over there are sentenced to death. They take them out and they'll never come back. They get rid of. Just to control the sickness, they are going to get rid of these people." Oh, hell, there are our soldiers, our friends. Never abandon your friend during the war. So we decided to go and to liberate them. So there's a whole bunch of us, we were close to 100 of us. But we were healthy. So we just went through the door. And the Russian soldiers tried to stop us. They didn't succeed. We pushed them out. And we went and we joined these people in the corner over there, and we mix so that nobody knew who was healthy or who was sick. And we all went out.

DePue: So they basically let you get away with this pretty audacious move on your part.

Ladny: Yeah, yeah.