

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

ИЗ ИСТОРИИ МЕДИЦИНЫ

Original papers

UDC 929:61(091)+614.25+355.415.6+617-089+355.72

<https://doi.org/10.56871/MHCO.2026.53.63.011>

V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky (Saint Luke) as an organizer of healthcare during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945

Ekaterina I. Kalikinskaya

Museum of St. Luke (V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky) in Pereslavl-Zalessky, 85 Moskovskaya str., Pereslavl-Zalessky, 152021, Russian Federation

For citation: Kalikinskaya E.I. V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky (Saint Luke) as an organizer of healthcare during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945. *Medicine and Health Care Organization*. 2025;10(4):119–128. <https://doi.org/10.56871/MHCO.2026.53.63.011>.

Received: 20.10.2025

Revised: 03.12.2025

Accepted: 28.01.2026

ABSTRACT. Valentin Feliksovich Voyno-Yasenetsky, glorified in 2000 at the Council of New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church as Saint Luke of Crimea, is world known as a outstanding surgeon and a prominent scientist, and was also a talented organizer of healthcare system. In 1923, after being ordained a bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church, he was declared an “enemy of the people” and had for many years suffered persecution, been imprisoned, sent to camps, and three exiles. After the end of his last exile in 1943, he nevertheless remained under suspicion and was actually under the control of the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs (PCIA) until the last days of his life. So, the conditions in which he had to demonstrate his qualities as a talented leader were not in the least favorable. Despite this, he managed to do a lot to organize healthcare processes during the years of Soviet power — first in the Krasnoyarsk Territory, then in Tambov. The article examines the facts of the biography of V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky, related to the sphere of health care organization in 1941–1946. In the last decades of his life at the Crimean cathedra, despite the awarded title of Stalin laureate, V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky (Saint Luke) was deprived of the opportunity to influence the medical community due to ideological divergence of views with the Soviet government and concentrated entirely on church service.

KEYWORDS: Healthcare organization, Great Patriotic War medicine, evacuation hospitals, surgeon Voyno-Yasenetsky, Saint Luke

Funding. This study was not supported by any external sources of funding.

✉ Ekaterina I. Kalikinskaya. E-mail: ek.selena@yandex.ru

© Kalikinskaya E.I., 2025

<https://doi.org/10.56871/МНСО.2026.53.63.011>

В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкий (святитель Лука) как организатор здравоохранения в годы Великой Отечественной войны 1941–1945 гг.

Екатерина Игоревна Каликинская

Музей святителя Луки (В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкого) в Переславле-Залесском, 152021, г. Переславль-Залесский, ул. Московская, д. 85, Российская Федерация

Для цитирования: Каликинская Е.И. В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкий (святитель Лука) как организатор здравоохранения в годы Великой Отечественной войны 1941–1945 гг. *Медицина и организация здравоохранения*. 2025;10(4):119–128. <https://doi.org/10.56871/МНСО.2026.53.63.011>.

Поступила: 20.10.2025

Одобрена: 03.12.2025

Принята к печати: 28.01.2026

РЕЗЮМЕ. Валентин Феликсович Войно-Ясенецкий, прославленный в 2000 году в Соборе новомучеников и исповедников церкви русской как святитель Лука Крымский, известный во всем мире как гениальный хирург и крупный ученый, был также талантливым организатором здравоохранения. В 1923 году, после принятия сана епископа Русской православной церкви, он был объявлен «врагом народа» и долгие годы подвергался гонениям: побывал в тюрьмах, лагерях и трех ссылках. После окончания последней ссылки в 1943 году он оставался под подозрением и до последних дней жизни находился под контролем органов Народного комиссариата внутренних дел. Так что условия, в которых ему пришлось проявлять свои качества руководителя большого масштаба, были не самыми благоприятными. Несмотря на это, ему удалось немало сделать для организации процессов здравоохранения в годы Великой Отечественной войны — сначала в Красноярском крае, потом в Тамбове. В статье впервые рассматриваются факты биографии В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкого, относящиеся к сфере организации здравоохранения в 1941–1946 гг. В последние десятилетия своей жизни на Крымской кафедре, несмотря на звание Сталинского лауреата, В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкий (святитель Лука) был лишен возможности влиять на медицинское сообщество из-за мировоззренческих расхождений с советской властью и сосредоточился только на церковном служении.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: организация здравоохранения, медицина Великой Отечественной войны, эвакуационные госпитали, хирург Войно-Ясенецкий, святитель Лука

Источник финансирования. Автор заявляет об отсутствии внешнего финансирования при проведении исследования.

✉ Екатерина Игоревна Каликинская. E-mail: ek.selena@yandex.ru

© Каликинская Е.И., 2025

CHIEF CONSULTANT OF HOSPITALS IN THE KRASNOYARSK REGION

After Valentin Feliksovich Voino-Yasenetsky was ordained in 1921 and became a bishop two years later, his life turned into a continuous series of arrests, prison terms, labor camps, and exile. The department in Tashkent, which he founded in 1920, was taken over after Bishop Luke's arrest by G.I. Ilyin, and later by Professor F.I. Val'ker, a graduate of the Military Medical Academy in St. Petersburg [1].

Only in 1941 Valentin Feliksovich got the opportunity both to practice his beloved surgery under appropriate conditions and to make a significant contribution to the organization of healthcare. He did so in the Krasnoyarsk Region, while serving his third exile. In June 1941, shortly after the start of the Great Patriotic War, the surgeon-episcopal priest went to see P. Musalnikov, the first secretary of the Bolshemurtinsky District Party Committee, demanding to be sent to a hospital to treat the wounded. When his efforts came to nothing, Valentin Feliksovich began sending telegrams to state leaders and prominent figures in the country's healthcare system, offering to put his experience and knowledge to use in treating soldiers [2]. Such a telegram, in which the exile addressed high-ranking government officials (M.I. Kalinin, for example), stating that his expertise in treating purulent wounds should serve the country and wounded soldiers, and at the end of which he promised to return to exile after the war ended, likely caused quite a stir. But such was the character of Valentin Feliksovich, Bishop Luka. He spoke the most important things directly, to the point, without regard for any obstacles.

Why did they say yes? It's hard to say for sure now. We think it's quite possible that N.N. Burdenko, who had worked with infected wounds and was familiar with V.F. Voino-Yasenetsky's 1934 monograph "Essays on Surgical Treatment of Infected Wounds", played a role. Nikolai Nilovich may have consulted with Kalinin, with whom he often communicated, and confirmed the value of such work for doctors and patients, highly praising his colleague's professionalism.

In any case, permission was granted, and on September 30, 1941, Valentin Feliksovich was flown from Bolshaya Murta to Krasnoyarsk. In those years, the evacuation hospitals (EH) of the People's Commissariat of Health were grouped

into local evacuation centers (LEC), typically located within a single region or several regions. Valentin Feliksovich was assigned to LEC-49.

Evacuation hospitals located behind the front lines bore the main burden of treating the wounded. Over the years, the proportion of evacuation hospital beds located in the rear ranged from 34.8 to 68.1% of the total number of hospital beds, which were available at the hospital bases of the armies, fronts, and the People's Commissariat of Health's evacuation hospitals. There were enough buildings in the rear that could be easily converted into hospitals. Up to 60% of evacuation hospitals were housed in schools [3]. Valentin Feliksovich's main workplace became Hospital No. 1515, which was housed in four buildings. Building No. 2, where surgeon V.F. Voino-Yasenetsky lived and worked, was located in School No. 10 on Lenin Street. On October 20, 1941, the hospital housed 800 beds; on December 15, 1941, the hospital's capacity was increased to 1,000 beds, after which the number slowly grew¹.

It must be said that this was an extraordinary figure. In 1941, the average capacity of a military hospital was 350 beds; by 1944, as a result of organizational measures, it had reached 500 beds [3].

Most of Chief Surgeon Voino-Yasenetsky's workday was spent in a four-story building with a spacious courtyard, central heating, running water, and a local sewer system (Fig. 1). The pharmacy and X-ray room were located in another building.

When the bishop-surgeon began his work, the total number of medical and service personnel at Hospital No. 1515 was 350 people, including 28 doctors. There were only five surgeons among them, and not all of them were capable of performing serious operations².

In December 1941, the hospital director, Third-Rank Military Doctor Tyschenko, reported: "The most difficult circumstance is that the most critically ill and sometimes hopeless patients from all the evacuation hospitals in the city are being sent to our hospital, which, given our small staff of nursing personnel, makes it very difficult to care for other patients. We have no stretchers to transport patients from wards to the operating room... no boxes for storing blood.

¹ Central Archives of the Ministry of Defense (TsMAO), f. 974, op. 49575, e.h. 1.

² Ibid.



Fig. 1. Corridor of the second building of Hospital No. 1515 (School No. 10) in Krasnoyarsk, the surgeon V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky, Bishop Luka's main place of work (1941) (photo from the museum of School No. 10 in Krasnoyarsk)

Рис. 1. Коридор второго корпуса госпиталя № 1515 (школы № 10) в Красноярске, где было основное место работы хирурга В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкого, епископа Луки (1941 год) (фото из музея школы № 10 г. Красноярска)



Fig. 2. Unloading the wounded patients at the train station in Krasnoyarsk (1942) (photo from the museum of School No. 10 in Krasnoyarsk)

Рис. 2. Выгрузка раненых на вокзале в Красноярске (1942 год) (фото из музея школы № 10 г. Красноярска)

There are no instruments for cranial surgery. Three buildings lack quartz burners”.¹

Work began under such conditions...

Bringing in an outstanding surgeon who also had experience as a healthcare administrator gave the hospital a great opportunity to raise the standard of medical care for the wounded. Valentin Feliksovich managed to expand operations significantly. He worked with complete dedication and demanded the same from his staff. All the hospital's resources were devoted to providing the most effective care to as many patients as possible. The most critically wounded

and ill patients from other field hospitals in the city, those whom other doctors considered hopeless, were sent to Field Hospital No. 1515, where V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky was in charge. He also received the most severely wounded and sick who arrived in Krasnoyarsk on medical trains from the front. They were triaged directly on the railway platform (Fig. 2).

Memoirs by T.P. Sizykh, “A Contemporary of a Turbulent Era”, dedicated to the life of N.A. Branchevskaya, the chief medical officer of Hospital No. 1515, describe this process: “The chief physician had to organize the reception of the wounded, their unloading from the train cars, sorting, and delivery to all four wards of the hos-

¹ TsAMO, f. 974, op. 69646, e.h. 2.

pital... by truck or horse-drawn cart... Unloading the medical train required people, and plenty of them. We received a telegram informing that the medical train was on its way even before it arrived at Krasnoyarsk Station. After that, we contacted paramedic and midwifery school at night, and the heads... and wards of the evacuation hospital during the day, so they would send people to the station. All the mobilized personnel went to the station to unload the wounded and transport them to the hospital. A medical screening officer (paramedic) was dispatched from the hospital, along with doctors... who were not busy with surgeries... on a personal assignment from Professor V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky, to identify all severely wounded patients with injuries to major joints and pelvic bones, as well as the chest, since only the professor could operate them. Therefore, from all the medical trains arriving from the front, these wounded were taken out of the heated railcars and... concentrated at School No. 10. The fulfillment of this task was mandatory and strictly enforced. Only a small number of such wounded happened to end up in other hospitals in Krasnoyarsk. Then the doctors at these hospitals would summon Professor V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky, the chief consultant for all evacuation hospitals in Krasnoyarsk, who would examine the wounded soldier and, as a rule, transfer him to... School No. 10" [4].

Evacuation Hospital No. 1515 surpassed all other medical facilities not only in terms of the number of wounded. Its structure changed completely after V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky took office as chief surgeon. The hospital, which was originally a general surgery facility, began admitting wounded soldiers with severe injuries to the joints, skull, and chest, as well as those with purulent complications [1]. By May 1942, the hospital was already performing surgeries on patients with trauma, neurosurgical, and urological conditions, as well as on soldiers with chest injuries (Fig. 3).

According to S.V. Kozhevnikov, the hospital also housed a medical-aviation commission within a medical aviation unit, which made decisions regarding transporting the most severely wounded from hospitals in the Krasnoyarsk Region to the chief surgeon. In addition, V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky referred patients from Hospital No. 1515 to specialized hospitals: for example, patient G.I. Ilyin, who had shrapnel wounds to his chin and lower jaw, was transferred

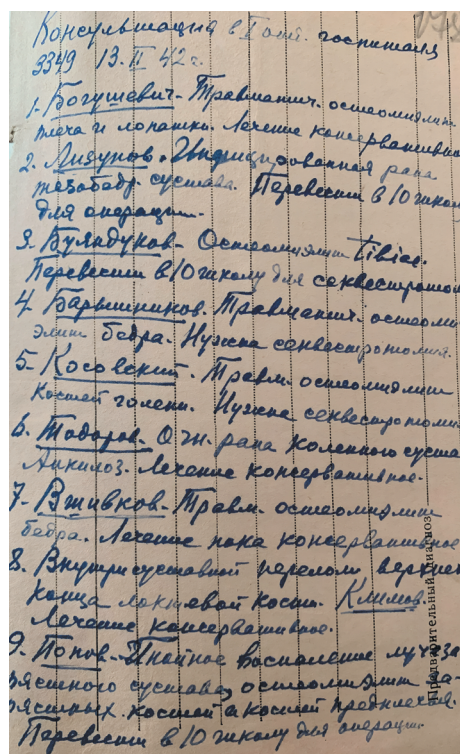


Fig. 3. Fragment consultations held by Professor Voyno-Yasenetsky at the State Archives of Krasnoyarsk Krai. Photo by the author, 2025

Рис. 3. Фрагмент консультации профессора Войно-Ясенецкого в Государственном архиве Красноярского края. Фото автора, 2025 год

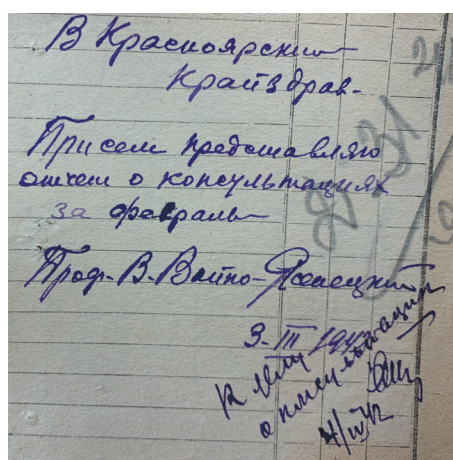


Fig. 4. Title page of the report to the Regional Health Department by Professor V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky for February 1942 at the State Archives of Krasnoyarsk Krai. Photo by the author, 2025

Рис. 4. Титульный лист отчета в Крайздрав профессора В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкого за февраль 1942 года в Государственном архиве Красноярского края. Фото автора, 2025 год

by his order to the maxillofacial hospital, while patient S.E. Alekseev was sent for treatment to Field Hospital No. 3343 to see the surgical oncologist Rakhtangov [5].

To develop a new surgical approach, Valentin Feliksovich had to conduct not only clinical studies but also experimental research on cadavers. At Hospital No. 1515, 20 autopsies were performed over a nine-month period in 1942. For this purpose, Professor Voyno-Yasenetsky insisted on hiring a part-time pathologist whose duties included “performing autopsies on all cadavers from the city’s hospitals” [6]. Subsequently, these observations supplemented the second edition of “Essays on Purulent Surgery” and formed the basis for a new, extremely effective method of surgical treatment for gunshot wounds of large joints, described by Valentin Feliksovich in his work “Late Resections in Infected Gunshot Wounds of the Joints”. This monograph was published in 1944. The surgeon’s medical achievements were applied in practice from the early years of the war, long before official publication, as evidenced by reports on the activities of hospitals in the Krasnoyarsk Territory (Fig. 4), where these methods are listed in the “Scientific Work” section [5].

Some time later, a commission led by N.N. Pri-
orov, Chief Surgeon of the People’s Commissariat of Health of the RSFSR, visited the hospital and rated the surgical work very highly, despite the noted shortcomings: a shortage of ether and other anesthetics, insufficient qualifications of mid-level and lower-level staff, and a lack of

bone graft material. “In conclusion regarding the organization of surgical work at the hospital, and especially in Ward No. 2, it should be noted that it is organized to a high standard, as was noted by the Chief Surgeon of the People’s Commissariat of Health hospitals” [7].

Professor Voyno-Yasenetsky was committed to improving the knowledge and skills of young specialists. He delivered a series of lectures at the hospital on the treatment of infected wounds, joint injuries, new methods of anesthesia, and implementing a unified treatment protocol. Surgeons from other hospitals also came to him for training and to share their experience. The headquarters of the Siberian Military District issued an order to the heads of hospitals throughout the Krasnoyarsk Territory: to send their surgeons to Hospital No. 1515 for advanced training. According to S.V. Kozhevnikov, approximately 50 doctors attended Professor Voyno-Yasenetsky’s course over six months. Lectures were held on Mondays; hospital directors were specifically prohibited from granting doctors time off on Mondays. In addition, Valentin Feliksovich participated in the training of rural doctors. In some cases, he traveled to remote corners of the Krasnoyarsk Region to give lectures or consult on complex cases, and, when necessary, to perform surgeries [5]. A copy of the order dated April 26, 1943, signed by T.M. Astafieva, head of the Krasnoyarsk Regional Health Department, has been preserved. The order states that Professor Voyno-Yasenetsky was assigned to the surgical department of the consulting bureau to “improve



Fig. 5. Bishop-surgeon with the hospital medical staff No. 1515

Рис. 5. Епископ-хирург с медицинским персоналом госпиталя № 1515

the quality of medical and sanitary services for the rural population and provide practical assistance to rural doctors”.

In 1943, at Valentin Feliksovich's initiative, three doctors were sent to the Novosibirsk Institute for the Advanced Training of Physicians for a course in surgery, while two doctors underwent training in traumatology in Krasnoyarsk (Fig. 5).

The district surgical conference of the Siberian Military District in Novosibirsk on March 24–29, 1943, marked an important milestone for the surgeon and his students. V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky participated in the conference, having arrived with his students and R.A. Branitskaya, head of the Krasnoyarsk District Health Department. He delivered a presentation on the treatment of gunshot osteomyelitis. In a letter to his son, Valentin Feliksovich wrote: “They listened with delight, with deep attention, and demanded a continuation. They called the report not only profound but also wise... people came up from all sides to introduce themselves” [8].

Professor Voyno-Yasenetsky generously shared his findings with his students, encouraging their scientific work in every way. It was important to him to train not only practically experienced but also thoughtful surgeons. When, in February 1944, the surgeon-bishop left Krasnoyarsk due to his transfer to the Tambov department, he left behind a perfectly organized and efficiently functioning hospital with a team of female surgeons he had trained.

This is evidenced by a report dated August 11, 1944, found in the archives, compiled by Hospital Director Vernikovskiy covering the first three years of Hospital No. 1515's operation. It reports that during the past period, a total of 8,012 wounded were treated at the hospital, and 2,384 people (29.75%) were returned to their units. There were 94 deaths (1.17%) during the entire period [7].

After the departure of the outstanding surgeon, surgical performance indicators declined slightly but generally remained at a high level.

CHIEF SURGEON OF THE HOSPITALS IN THE TAMBOV REGION

In February 1944, surgeon Voyno-Yasenetsky, who had already become Archbishop Luke, was transferred to Tambov. The medical community of Tambov welcomed him very warmly. A directive issued by A.S. Gasparyan, head of the Regional Health Department, to A.A. Avetisov,

head of Hospital No. 5953, instructed that he must create the most favorable conditions for the newly arrived senior surgeon. The surgeon quickly launched a massive effort in the hospitals. Bishop Luke immediately began working actively with several surgical teams where there was a shortage of experienced surgeons. In the first half of 1944, in less than five months of work, the chief surgeon performed 507 surgical procedures, which was six times more than before his arrival [9]. Patient mortality also dropped sharply. Alongside his work in the hospitals, the professor began consulting at hospitals and seeing patients at the regional hospital's outpatient clinic. Archbishop Luke wrote at that time: “Work in the hospitals is going excellently; a monograph on the treatment of chronic gunshot-induced pleural empyema is taking shape. I am giving lectures to doctors on suppurative arthritis. There are almost no days off” [8].

Professor V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky participated in the 5th Congress of Physicians in Tambov. He opened the morning session on September 27, 1945, with a report titled “Sepsis, Its Forms, Pathogenesis, Clinical Picture, and Therapy”, and was later invited to the Final Republican Conference of the Ministry of Health's Evacuation Hospitals on January 26–30, 1946 [9].

However, the bishop-surgeon no longer took an active part in organizational or educational activities. With his enormous workload, it was already difficult for him to divert his attention from surgical work. Moreover, he was not always able to secure even adequate conditions for his work. A document has been preserved, written by V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky to the head of the regional health department, A.S. Gasparyan, on March 19, 1944, in which the consulting professor intercedes on behalf of doctors Popkova and Mazurkevich, asking that they not be dismissed and that they be allowed to remain at the hospital. “I ask you not to deprive me of doctors Popkova and Mazurkevich, who are already working under very difficult conditions and are extremely useful and necessary to me for assisting with surgeries and managing critically ill postoperative patients. During their time at the hospital, both have shown an interest in surgery and have significantly improved their skills in it. Without them, the work at the hospital, which the doctors are already barely managing, will suffer greatly. Professor V. Voyno-Yasenetsky” [10]. However, his request was not granted.

P.V. Bystrova, head of the autopsy department at the Tambov Regional Hospital, recalled that the archbishop-surgeon's contributions were not officially recognized, and the reason was his active involvement in the revival of the church. She personally knew His Eminence during years of work in Tambov and believed that he had been denied the title of "Honored Physician of the RSFSR", which was awarded by the Tambov Regional Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the Regional Executive Committee — in a completely unjust, yet quite demonstrative manner. On April 11, 1945, some Tambov doctors, who were far inferior to him in terms of medical expertise, were awarded this title, but Archbishop Luke was excluded for ideological reasons. Moreover, the awarding of the medal "For Valiant Labor in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945" which was approved by the Tambov Regional Council of Workers on December 20, 1946, was an act of disrespect rather than an honor. There is evidence from eyewitnesses that the bishop himself was offended by such an award and remarked that it was worthy of lower-ranking medical personnel, while his students had been awarded Orders for their work [9].



Fig. 6. Bust of Stalin Prize laureate Professor V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky, Archbishop Luke, in front of the house-museum of St. Luke in Tambov. Photo by the author, 2024

Рис. 6. Бюст Сталинского лауреата профессора В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкого, архиепископа Луки, перед домом-музеем святителя Луки в г. Тамбове. Фото автора, 2024 год

However, the saint had another sphere where he felt he had reached a new pinnacle in life: by his own admission, it was in Tambov that he fully felt himself to be a bishop (Fig. 6). Church affairs came to the forefront for him. Leading the diocese and maintaining relations with a newly established institute of commissioners for religious affairs took up much of his energy and time [11].

His award of the Stalin Prize in Medicine, First Class, in 1946, and the immense fame he gained both in the country and abroad, one might think, should have changed this situation. But his hopes were not fulfilled. The relationship between the authorities and the Stalin Prize laureate was finally settled in Crimea, when the archbishop was invited to take up the Cathedra of Simferopol.

AT THE CRIMEAN CATHEDRA: BISHOP OR SURGEON?

During his first months in Crimea, the bishop often mentioned that he was a recipient of the Stalin Prize and that the government held him in high regard. He also expressed a firm intention to continue his medical practice. But in early October 1946, the Stalin Prize laureate was prevented from attending the 25th All-Union Congress of Surgeons. The Archbishop had received an invitation to this congress even while he was on his way to Crimea. He had been personally invited by the Deputy Minister of Health of the USSR, Professor N.N. Priorov, who held his scientific and surgical work in high esteem. Two weeks before the congress, Priorov sent a letter to Archbishop Luke informing him that the official invitation had been sent. The archbishop-surgeon was eagerly preparing for the trip and had even purchased plane tickets. However, the Regional Health Department, having received a telegram on September 27 regarding the archbishop-surgeon's assignment to the congress, did not deliver it to His Eminence until October 2. The Stalin Prize laureate was no longer able to attend the congress [12].

The award ceremony in an official setting did little to change the situation. On December 2, 1947, at 2:00 p.m., D.A. Krivoshein, accompanied by his deputies and other members of the Executive Committee, as well as a representative of the newspaper "Krasny Krym," awarded Professor V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky a diploma, a gold badge, and a certificate of the Stalin Prize laureate. Archbishop Luke arrived at the ceremony in his episcopal vestments, graciously thanked the Soviet

government, and proposed giving a series of lectures for local surgeons. Permission was granted, and sometime later, at the Congress of Crimean Physicians, Saint Luke delivered a lecture on surgery. The congress participants were very pleased and expressed their gratitude to him. On March 17, 1947, at the request of the City Health Department, a public lecture by the archbishop-surgeon was organized for doctors in Feodosia. At this lecture, dedicated to the treatment of carbuncles, he was not understood by his colleagues; the method he had developed together with the Arkhangelsk healer Valneva was declared by the doctors to be “quackery,” even though the surgeon had previously tested it at the Tashkent clinic. Authorities took advantage of this misunderstanding to gradually discredit the archbishop in academic circles. At first, invitations to participate in the medical community poured in from all sides. On April 24, 1947, for example, he delivered a major one-and-a-half-hour lecture at the Officers’ Club for military doctors, attended by 150 people. Prior to that, there had been five other major lectures. The archbishop hoped to begin a full series of lectures on purulent surgery for doctors in Simferopol.

The chairman of the regional executive committee, D.A. Krivoshein, granted permission for this.

Professor Potapov, Professor in a medical institute, a communist and secretary of the local party organization, was assigned to organize the event. Naturally, Potapov was not pleased with this. Together with his wife, who was a surgeon as well, he began to turn other professors against the archbishop, pointing out that it was unacceptable to give lectures while wearing a cassock.

When Archbishop Luke was giving a lecture at the Third Clinical Hospital, all the professors demonstratively left the hall during a break.

Although some doctors still asked Potapov whether the award-winning surgeon would continue to give lectures, he replied: “No, he will not, and if he does, only when he takes off his cassock and stops wearing a cross”. The archbishop responded to these demands: “Why do they care about my cassock? Does it really matter what I’m wearing? I’m not lecturing doctors on theology, but only on matters of surgery” [13]. Soon he ceased to have official contact with the medical community...

On January 17, 1949, Archbishop Luke wrote a letter to an old acquaintance from Pereslavl, Dr. Mikhail Grigorievich Molyakov, in which he unequivocally expressed his attitude toward the situation. “You, Mikhail Grigoryevich, have

forgotten that Dr. Valentin Feliksovich died in 1923, and in his place, by God’s grace, Archbishop Luke lives. No matter how important Valentin Feliksovich’s surgical and scientific work was, the work of His Eminence Luke is more important and fruitful. Before I arrived, there were no more than 10 worshippers at the Simferopol Cathedral on weekdays, but now there are 250. On Sundays the cathedral is full, and on major holidays, when it is extremely crowded, many are forced to stand in the courtyard. Glory to God!” [12]. Thus, at the end of his life, the 71-year-old archbishop-surgeon unequivocally chose church activities and never returned to matters of healthcare organization.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The author read and approved the final version before publication.

Competing interests. The author declares the absence of obvious and potential conflicts of interest related to the publication of this article.

ДОПОЛНИТЕЛЬНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ

Автор прочитал и одобрил финальную версию перед публикацией.

Конфликт интересов. Автор декларирует отсутствие явных и потенциальных конфликтов интересов, связанных с публикацией настоящей статьи.

REFERENCES

1. Archpriest George. Greetings from Saint Luke, the beloved physician. Saint Petersburg: Nauka; 2009. (In Russian).
2. Kozhevnikov S.V. Krasnoyarsk period (1941–1945) of the life and work of St. Luke (surgeon V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky). Krasnoyarsk: Polikor; 2020. (In Russian).
3. Bobiy B.V., Goncharov S.F. On Issue of Creation and Activity of Evacuation Hospitals of People’s Commissariat of Health of USSR during Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945. *Disaster Medicine*. 2020;(2):5–16. (In Russian). <https://doi.org/10.33266/2070-1004-2020-2-5-16>.
4. Sizykh T.P. The Same Age as the Dashing Century (a Personal Biographical Narrative). Krasnoyarsk: PIK Offset; 2015. (In Russian).
5. Kozhevnikov S.V. Siberian Periods of the Life and Work of St. Luke (Surgeon V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky). 1924–1926; 1940–1944. Krasnoyarsk: Polikor; 2024. (In Russian).
6. Kozhevnikov S.V. Krasnoyarsk Evacuation Hospital No. 1515 — the Center of Military Field Surgery of the

- Country in 1941–1943. *Bulletin of SUSU. Series “Social and Humanitarian Sciences”*. 2018;18(2):14–18. (In Russian). <https://doi.org/10.14529/ssh180202>.
7. Kalikinskaya E.I. V.F. Voyno-Yasenetsky — leading surgeon of Krasnoyarsk evacuation hospital No. 1515 during the Great Patriotic War. *Military Medical Journal*. 2019;(6):83–89. (In Russian). EDN: BOZPGG.
 8. Popovsky M.A. Life and Habits of St. Luke Voyno-Yasenetsky, Archbishop and Surgeon. Saint Petersburg: Satis; 2013. (In Russian).
 9. Lisyunin V.F., Archpriest. Revival of the Tambov diocese during the years of the service of St. Luke (Voyno-Yasenetsky): Based on state, departmental, and private archives. MD dissertation. Theological Sciences. Tambov; 2019. (In Russian).
 10. Abramova G.A., Archpriest V. Lisyunin. Accept My Love. The Tambov Period of St. Luke’s Service: Research, Documents, and Memories. Tambov: Studiia pechati Galiny Zolotovoy; 2022. (In Russian).
 11. Chebotarev S.A. Restless People. Tambov: Derzhavinskiy; 2025. (In Russian).
 12. Archpriest Nikolai Donenko, Filimonov S.B. “We continue to develop Luka...” Saint Luka (Voyno-Yasenetsky) and the Crimean diocese. 1946–1961. Collection of documents. Moscow: Sretensky Monastery Publishing House; 2011. (In Russian).
 13. Archpriest Nikolai Donenko, Zamtaradze R.A., Filimonov S.B. Crimean diocese in the documents of Saint Luka (Voyno-Yasenetsky) and supervisory bodies 1946–1961. Simferopol: N. Orianda; 2015. (In Russian).
 4. Сизых Т.П. Ровесница лихого века (личностно-биографическое повествование). Красноярск: ПИК Офсет; 2015.
 5. Кожевников С.В. Сибирские периоды жизни и деятельности святителя Луки (хирурга В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкого). 1924–1926; 1940–1944. Красноярск: Поликор; 2024.
 6. Кожевников С.В. Красноярский эвакогоспиталь № 1515 — центр военно-полевой хирургии страны в 1941–1943 гг. *Вестник ЮУрГУ. Серия «Социально-гуманитарные науки»*. 2018;18(2):14–18. <https://doi.org/10.14529/ssh180202>.
 7. Каликинская Е.И. В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкий — ведущий хирург Красноярского эвакогоспиталя № 1515 в годы Великой Отечественной войны. *Военно-медицинский журнал*. 2019;(6):83–89. EDN: BOZPGG.
 8. Поповский М.А. Жизнь и житие святителя Луки Войно-Ясенецкого, архиепископа и хирурга. Санкт-Петербург: Сатис; 2013.
 9. Лисюнин В.Ф., протоиерей. Возрождение Тамбовской епархии в годы служения святителя Луки (Войно-Ясенецкого): на материале государственных, ведомственных и частных архивов. Дисс. ... канд. богословских наук. Тамбов; 2019.
 10. Абрамова Г.А., протоиерей Лисюнин В. Примите мою любовь. Тамбовский период служения святителя Луки: исследования, документы воспоминания. Тамбов: Студия печати Галины Золотовой; 2022.
 11. Чеботарев С.А. Беспокойные люди. Тамбов: Державинский; 2025.
 12. Протоиерей Николай Доненко, Филимонов С.Б. «Разработку Луки продолжаем...» Святитель Лука (Войно-Ясенецкий) и Крымская епархия. 1946–1961 гг. Сборник документов. М.: Изд-во Сретенского монастыря; 2011.
 13. Протоиерей Николай Доненко, Замтарадзе Р.А., Филимонов С.Б. Крымская епархия в документах святителя Луки (Войно-Ясенецкого) и надзирающих органов 1946–1961 гг. Симферополь: Н. Орианда; 2015.

ЛИТЕРАТУРА

1. Протоиерей Георгий. Приветствует вас Святитель Лука, врач возлюбленный. СПб.: Наука; 2009.
2. Кожевников С.В. Красноярский период (1941–1945) жизни и деятельности святителя Луки (хирурга В.Ф. Войно-Ясенецкого). Красноярск: Поликор; 2020.
3. Бобий Б.В., Гончаров С.Ф. К вопросу о создании и деятельности Наркомздава СССР в годы Великой Отечественной войны 1941–1945 гг. *Медицина ката-*

AUTHORS’ INFO

✉ **Ekaterina I. Kalikinskaya** — Cand. Sci. (Biol.), Director of the Museum of St. Luke in Pereslavl-Zalessky
E-mail: ek.selena@yandex.ru;
<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1665-6029>; SPIN: 1248-4356

ОБ АВТОРАХ

✉ **Екатерина Игоревна Каликинская** — к.б.н., директор музея святителя Луки Крымского в Переславле-Залесском. E-mail: ek.selena@yandex.ru;
<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1665-6029>; SPIN: 1248-4356