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climate, photos, miscellany

## The fall of Berlin, 1945, part 1/X

2014-12-10

in [Bombs and rockets](#), [Writing](#)

“Dr. Margot Sauerbruch also expected the worst. She worked with her husband, Professor Ferdinand Sauerbruch, Germany’s most eminent surgeon, in Berlin’s oldest and largest hospital, the Charité, in the Mitte district. Because of its size and location close by the main railway station, the hospital had received the worst of the refugee cases. From her examination of the victims, Dr. Sauerbruch had no illusions about the ferocity of the Red Army when it ran amok. The rapes, she knew for certain, were not propaganda.

Margot Sauerbruch was appalled by the number of refugees who had attempted suicide – including scores of women who had not been molested or violated. Terrified by what they had witnessed or heard, many had slashed their wrists. Some had even tried to kill their children. How many had actually succeeded in ending their lives nobody knew – Dr. Sauerbruch saw only those who had failed – but it seemed clear that a wave of suicides would take place in Berlin if the Russians captured the city.

Most other doctors apparently concurred with this view. In Wilmersdorf, Surgeon Gunther Lamprecht noted in his diary that ‘the major topic – even among doctors – is the technique of suicide. Conversations of this sort have become unbearable.’”

Ryan, Cornelius. *The Last Battle*. 1966. p. 31

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