

AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR

When the revolution broke out in 1917, supervision of prostitution was abolished. It was reintroduced again in 1918 with the arrival of German troops. Under the conditions of the occupation, the order at harlot houses was rather strict. The morality police started its activities, and “public women” were forced to go to a check-up for sexually transmitted diseases twice a week. Nine brothels were opened, mostly intended for German military personnel stationed in Tallinn. On November 25, 1918, the Mayor ordered to close the harlot houses of Tallinn. By contrast, hostels received special permits for keeping “dating rooms”. Secret brothels also continued to operate. In 1920, Tallinn City Government issued regulations to combat prostitution and sexually transmitted diseases. The law tried to channel prostitution rather into apartments and rental rooms, “where every woman is doing her business as a free tenant”, and to avoid the emergence of large brothels. In 1920, there were 726 registered prostitutes in Tallinn.