Hilda Riss, born 03 December 1935 in Rosental, Crimea, was deported in the middle of August 1941 with her family to Siberia, where nevertheless, she was able to enjoy a good education. She completed her secondary schooling and after that she was a teacher and director of the library in Usmanka, Kemerowo district. She studied at the State University of Tomsk from 1957 to 1962. After her academic studies, Hilda Riss was an associate of the Institute of Crop Management in Alma-Ata until 1982, and from 1983 until her retirement in 1991, a leading agronomist, that is to say, a senior scientific associate in Kazakhstan. From 1959 to 1996 she published 5 books in Russian under the name “Galina Kosolapowa” and one book in the Tschechmian language on the subject of crop protection. In 1969 she qualified for a scholarship and in 1972 in Moscow received her certificate as senior scientific associate of entomology. After her retirement and particularly after her emigration to Germany in 1995, Hilda Riss increasingly turned her attention to the research of her fellow Germans from Crimea. She wrote her sixth book “Krim nascha Rodina” [Crimea, our Fatherland - MW] in Russian because she wanted to communicate with those German-Russian generations who were not able to attend a German school, in order to keep in contact with them, and together material for a memorial book of the Crimean Germans in the German language.

Her address is: Hilda Riss, Gibitzenhofstr. 122, 90443 Nürnberg, Tel: 0911-422454

The first Germans established themselves in Crimea in the years 1804 to 1810. They came from various districts of South Germany and from Switzerland. In addition, Mennonites came from the Berdjansk area of Taurien province in the years 1862 to 1870.

The German immigrants founded eight so-called mother colonies: Heilbrunn, Herzenberg, Kronental, Neusatz, Rosental, Friedental, Sudak-Festung, and Zurichtal.

The beginning was difficult, but in the course of time these people adapted to their new surroundings and turned the countryside into fertile oases. But the bloom of the German colonies lasted only a short time. In 1871 their self-government was abolished and in 1874 general compulsory military service was introduced. All other special rights had already been eliminated earlier. In response to the implementation of these laws, many Crimean Germans emigrated. In the years following the October Revolution and up until
1929, when the Soviet Union hermetically sealed its borders, 900 families emigrated to America, and settled in Canada, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and other countries.¹

In 1915 there were 314 German colonies in Crimea. In 1926, 43,631 Germans lived there, making up 6.1 percent of the total population of the peninsula. The German colonies disintegrated after a few years of Soviet rule. The land taken from the settlers was nationalized; religious instruction in the schools was forbidden. The people spoke about rich and poor, kulaks and agricultural laborers (Batraken). Kulaks were dispossessed. Stalin’s 1929 slogan, “The Kulaks as a class will be liquidated!” became the reality of “Entkulakisierung” or de-kulakization².

Alexander Solzhenitsyn described it as follows: “The powerful force of de-kulakization was felt a million times and took on unimagined proportions. The people affected made a large file for the investigation departments. There is nothing in the history of Russia comparable to this action. It was a mass evacuation of people, an ethnic catastrophe, one which was followed by a three-year famine in the years 1930 to 1932, caused neither by drought nor by war. The driving force was so powerful, that no stick or stone was left unturned, and all were swept together into one heap to accomplish this goal.” (The height of the famine can be defined in different ways, but all Russian-German witnesses of that time accept it as the first half of 1933. – Editor)

Mass ostracism resulted from that first act of the new history. It was repeated by Hitler with the Jews, and by Stalin with “disloyal peoples”, which included the Russian-Germans during the German-Soviet war.

From the archives in Crimea it is known that de-kulakization lasted from 1929 to 1933. In the year 1930 alone, over 25,000 people were exiled from the area of the Crimean peninsula, most of them to the Urals and to the Swerdlowsk district, but also in other regions – Archangelsk, Perm, Baschkirien, Kazakhstan, Siberia, ASSR Komi.³

Through my reading I have learned that during the years of de-kulakization, the deported citizens of Crimea in 1930 had established a settlement in Serow Rayon⁴ of the Swerdlowsk region by the name of “Sewernyi Krym” (North Crimea).

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We have researched the deportations of the Germans from Rosental. In 1926 there were 67 yards, which housed 87 families with children. After de-kulakization, 27 families (31 percent) had disappeared, including the families Bäuerle, Wander, Dyck, Krug, Rissling, Bäuerle, Wander, Dyck, Krug, Rissling,

¹ My mother, her sister, two brothers, and their parents made up one of these 900 families. -- MW
² “de-kulakization” is not a recognized English word, but best describes the process whereby successful farmers (called kulaks) were stripped of their property, their rights, and were exiled.
³ Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Komi is located in NE European Russia with Syktyvkar as its capital city.
⁴ Rayon or raion is a municipal district.
Faut and Fix. The families Antoni, Hoerner, Eisenbraun, Koelsch, Moch and Reinbold appear to have been decimated. Every third family had no head-of-household.

The most independent, educated, and able people were removed from the villages. Often they were exiled with only what they wore, or what they could carry in a knapsack (backpack). Their possessions were immediately declared to be the property of the kolkhoz. As an example, the house of my uncle, A.G. Fix, served as the kolkhoz office until 1965. Later it was a residence for teachers, and after 1991, a private residence. It has been occupied for more than 150 years, and will likely withstand the test of time for a long while yet.

The mass evacuation of Crimea began in March of 1930 and continued through the entire month of April. In the two days of April 24-25 alone, eight transports departed Simferopol in the direction of the Urals.

Only a few were successful in returning to Crimea, and of these, even fewer were allowed to return to their home villages. That was the lot of those who experienced de-kulakization. But there were also many who had been left behind, who were arrested and shot.

As the children of the 1930’s grew into the adolescents of the war years, they were taken into the “Trudarmee”5. *(By definition the Russian word “Trudarmee” means labor army. In reality it meant forced labor, in other words, extermination camp. One needs only to observe the death rate in Camp Krasnoturjinsk by reading the sketches of individual fates in the following report.—Editor.)* Mostly they had to work under the worst conditions in mining, timber cutting in the forest, in quarries and road construction, or in the construction of military installations.

During Soviet times, in the years from 1930 to 1950, most of the Germans from Crimea ended up in the Urals. They arrived in several waves, and their placement depended on various social, economic and political factors, that is:

- To expedite the industrialization of a region;
- Massive deportations of so-called special re-settlers [de-kulakization –MW];
- Deportation of civilians from areas near the Front during the second world war;
- Deportation of Germans from Crimea, the Caucasus, etc.

These migrations were conducted with force and affected various nationalities, including the Russian-Germans.

According to the population census of 1926, 26,000 Germans lived in the Urals. The majority stemmed from the Volga regions. By 1939 this number had already climbed to 35,400. Included in that number were large numbers of Crimean Germans, *because the first waves of Germans deported from Crimea under de-kulakization were sent to the Urals*, the majority directly from Simferopol. The exact number of Germans deported from Crimea is not known.

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5 Soviet “army” of forced slave laborers utilized in a variety of industries and subjected to sub-human living conditions. I have kept the German spelling throughout this article. MW.
The war with Germany led to the demise of the German presence in Crimea.

In 1941 more than 63,500 Germans, including their non-German family members, lived in Crimea. In only one week, from August 16 to 22, 1941, they were deported (and not evacuated!). Some of these people were taken off the transport trains in the Caucasus and held\(^6\), prior to being deported a second time for the purpose of mobilization and assignment to the Urals.

When the order of the war-time administration of the Southern Front was issued on August 25, 1941 – “About the Re-settlement of the Germans out of Crimea” –, there were no longer any Germans in Crimea. It had been planned to take them to North Caucasus, but besides North Caucasus, they also ended up in Dagestan and Baschkirien\(^7\) and in the districts of Rostow, Omsk, Swerdlowsk, Perm and Tscheljabinsk. The last three districts are located in the Urals.

Those Germans who arrived with the first wave in Dagestan in the north Caucasus or in the Rostow district, after bringing in the harvest, were deported to the Siberian districts of Novosibirsk, Kemerowo and Omsk, as well as to thirteen districts of Kazakhstan. According to our incomplete statistics, they were distributed over a total of 440 locations, including 64 in the Urals – 51 in Swerdlowsk district, 8 in Perm district, and 5 in Tscheljabinsk district. The numbers increased even more in 1942 with the arrival of Crimean Germans, who had already previously been deported from their homeland to Siberia.

At the same time, the number of Germans in the Urals climbed significantly with the arrival of those in the Trudarme. Convicted Germans, of whom only a few were free [on the loose – MW], likewise ended up in the camps in the Urals. And finally, young German soldiers, who soon after the war’s beginning had been transferred from the Red Army into the labor army, made up a further contingent of the Trudarmee in the Urals.

The third wave consisted of German Trudarmee laborers from the ranks of the second deportation. At first, those men between the ages of 17 and 50 capable of physical labor, had been deported to the districts of Omsk and Novosibirsk, in the areas of Krasnojarsk and Altai, as well as to the Kazakhstan SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic – MW]. By January 30, 1942 the mobilization of 120,000 men was projected for the total wartime effort. The first arrivals in Tagillag\(^8\) in February 1942 were German evacuees from Kazakhstan and Siberia. In March and April of 1942 there followed local resident Germans, Germans who had not been deported (ie. from the Asiatic regions of the USSR – Editor). Among them however were many Crimean Germans.

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\(^6\) They were used in the Caucasus to help with the harvest, and then shipped east. -- MW

\(^7\) Baschkortostan is/was a Soviet republic in the extreme eastern part of European Russia, located west of the Urals in the Volga District. The capital city is Ufa. Dagestan is a Russian republic in the North Caucasus region.

\(^8\) City of Nizhni Tagil in the Urals. See http://www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/8390.cfm#12
The third or Harvest Mobilization of 1942 was the most extensive. This then affected many women, although they were not sent to Tagillag. However one year later in September 1942 [sic], scores of women arrived at the construction sites\(^9\), as well as men from the second deportation drive, primarily from Omsk district and Krasnojarusk area.

When women were called for mobilization in the Soviet rayon of Mamljutki in North Kazakhstan, women who appeared to have no children were immediately rounded up and placed in the Trudarmee. Several who had come with children were sent back. They were strongly warned to leave their children at home next time. Lydia, daughter of Georg Kuhn, was summoned three times. Each time she took her daughter Rosa along, and when she was asked why, she answered that she had no parents and did not know where she should leave her child. After that she was left alone.

The Crimeans in the Trudarmee worked in various rayons in the Urals. In Tscheljabinsk area, and indeed in the cities of Tscheljabinsk, Kopejksk, Korkino, Mias, etc, these were primarily men. In Swerdlowsk region most of the Trudarmee inmates were in camps and were concentrated in construction in Nishnij Tagil, Krasnoturjinsk, Kuschwa and Tawda. Altogether, the Crimeans in the Trudarmee worked in more than 30 populated places, including some in Baschkirien, Udmurtien and other regions.

The first ones mobilized into the Trudarmmee, including the Crimean Germans, almost all arrived in the harsh winter of 1942/43. Many remained there for eternity.

In the years 1942 to 1946, 6,512 Germans entered the Trudarmee in Tagillag; included in this number according to our limited research, were 382 German men and 32 German women from Crimea. Of these, 81 died (20 percent), 26 were “written off” as invalids (6 percent), 12 were condemned, and two managed to escape.

Among the Crimean Germans there was a considerable number of educated men and women. One hundred and forty-seven men and six women were university educated; 2,594 had received the normal high school education. The number of illiterate Germans from Crimea is stated as 367; we strongly challenge this number, because nearly all Germans in Crimea before the war years had graduated from a German school. However not all could write in Russian. To tell the whole truth, it must also be noted, that some in the Trudarmee who were educated were able to continue to practice their profession. Representative of this group was the pharmacist G.A. Fix who was allowed to work in the dispensary.

The Germans forced into the Trudarmee in Swerdlowsk district were held in six camps, almost half of them in special industrial construction projects of the NKVD.\(^{10}\) In the Urals there were four large NKVD concentration camps:

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\(^9\) Tagillag was set up in November 1941 to build new mines and factories in and around the author’s hometown of Nizhny [Lower] Tagil in the Urals. See Marina Berestova, Tagillag: bol’ i svershenie [The Tagil Camp Complex: Pain and Achievement] [http://www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/8390.cfm](http://www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/8390.cfm)

\(^{10}\) Russian acronym for Peoples Commissariat for Internal Affairs, in other words, the State Security Police.
The goal of this work is to gather together the available archive material and information from the memorial books (Knigi pamjati). We also have statements from witnesses of that time period. But that is another subject.

TRUDARMEE CRIMEAN GERMANS IN SWERDLOWSK DISTRICT

(Alphabetical order according to the cyrillic alphabet)


Antoni, David son of David. Born 1917 in Bustartschi. Worked in Trudarmee labor camp Nishnij Tagil until being transferred to Tawdinsk camp 01 Jan 1946.

Antoni, Simeon son of David. Born 1915 in Bustartschi. Worked in camp Nishnij Tagil until discharged as “Invalidität” or person incapable of work 02 Sep 1945.


Bäuerle Ernst (Erich) son of Reinhold. Born 12 Oct 1923 in Kronental. Met a Volga German Emilia Luzi (1925) and had a daughter Nellie. Ernst died accidentally in an auto accident 1969. His widow lives with grandson Sergei in Heilbrunn, Germany.


See the original article for more information about the names listed below, which mostly involves dates of deportation and mobilization into the Trudarmee or slave labor force.


Böshans, Otto son of Thomas. Born 1916 in Ulan-Ely, Eupatoria rayon. Re-settled to the Urals, arrested in 1937, sentenced 10 years to a corrections camp (Besserungslager).


Benz, Alexander son of Tobias. Born 1918 in Neusatz, Suya rayon. Fate beyond Trudarmee work-camp Nishnij Tagil is unknown.


Bär, Galina dau of Vladimir. Born 1924 in Messit, Kolajsk rayon. 1944 transferred to Tagilstroj camp.

Bär, Leo son of Natan. Born 1914 in Saurtschi. Studied medicine in Simferopol. Expelled from the institute in 1933 when his father was exiled as a kulak. Mother had died already in 1930. Served as teacher in Ak-Scheich. Died in Latvia 1982.


Bergsmeier (Bergmaier), Johann son of Josef. Born 1917 in Freidorf rayon. Mobilized into Trudarmee 1941 at camp Krasnoturjinsk. Died there 04 Sep 1943.


Birkholz, Reinhold son of Theodor. Born 1911 in Tarchanlar, Dzhankoi rayon. Released from Tagilstroj labor camp as “Invalidität” or person incapable of work 20 Sep 1945.


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12 Based on the extremely high death-rate in this list of names, being sent to Krasnoturjinsk camp virtually amounted to a death sentence. MW


Braun, Peter son of Peter. Born 1924 in Karasan, Simferopol rayon. Deported in August 1941 to Camp Serow, and sent 19 Jan 1943 to the war zone to support the Front line troops (“in die Etappe”).


Bub, Peter son of Anton II. born 1923 in Besbailan, Karasubazar rayon. Worked in Tagilstroj camp until 25 May 1946.


Buchmann, Boris son of johann. Born 1912 in Dzhar-Kuju, Dzhankoi rayon. Worked in Tagilstroj camp until 22 Apr 1946. (photo included)


Wagner, Wilhelm son of Jakob. Born in 1922 in Kara-Kijat, Ak-Scheich rayon. Married to Frieda Ruf before the second World War. Frieda and their son were deported with her
parents first to the Caucasus and then to Kazakhstan. Wilhelm later married Valentina Ratschejewa and together had children Alla and Jur. He died in 1977. His children live in the Ural region.


Wagner, David son of David. Born 1912 in Dzhapar, Feodosia rayon. Worked as a carpenter in Trudarmee camp “Bogoslowugol”. Arrested 1945 and sentenced 5 years to labor camp.


Wagner, Michael son of Josef. Born 01 Oct 1906 in Kiptschak, Simferopol rayon. Married to Anna (1907) dau of Stefan. Children Georg (1931) and Nadeshda and Vera (both 1935). Worked as kolkhoz gardener. Remained in Nishnij Tagil under “Kommandantur Meldepflicht” or “obligation to report to the commandant” until 1955. (photo included)


Wagner, Jakob son of Johann. Born 1924 in Kijat, Ak-Scheich rayon. Deported first to the Caucasus in 1941, then to Kazakhstan, and then to the Trudarmee in Nishnij Tagil.


Wacker, Christian son of Andreas. Born 1902 in Bitak near Simferopol. “written off” from Trudarmee camp Nishnij Tagil 20 Mar 1943 as “Invalidität”.


Walz, Oskar son of Heinrich. Born 19 Sep 1916 in Kambar, Simferopol rayon. Wife Tatjana dau of Ivan.


Haller, Amalia dau of Philipp. Born 1902 in Kulj-Oba. Mother was Christina dau of Andreas Eisenbraun.


Galwas, Robert son of Anton, born 1895 in Dschurgun-Mirnowka, Dzhankoi rayon. Worked in Tagilstroj camp until 04 Jun 1946. (photo included.)


Halster, Benno son of Gottlieb. Born 1910 in Beschui-Ijak, Karasubasar rayon. Released 07 Apr 1943 from Tagilstroj as “Invalid”.


Geiger, Leo son of Valentin. Born 1925 in Simferopol. Deported to Tscheljabinsk area in August 1941. Transferred from Bakalstroj to Tagilstroj where he worked until 1946.


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13 I have seen this name usually as “Gegelmann”. -- MW


Heck, Alexander son of Peter. Born 1900 in Dschaitchi, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. Last record of him in Nishnij Tagil on 15 Sep 1943.


Heck, Wendelin son of Wendelin. Born 1900 in Dschaitchi, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. Name recorded in the lists of Nishnij Tagil.


Heck, Josef son of Anton. Born 07 Feb 1923 in Rosental. Deported first to the Caucasus, then north Kazakhstan and in 1942 into the Trudarmee. Survived the Trudarmee, returned to Kazakhstan and married Maria Kress dau of Josef. Five children.


Heck, Emanuel son of Wendelin. Born 1921 in Alatai. Name found in the lists of Tagilstroj.


Heckel, Friedebert son of Karl. born 1923 in Dzhankoi rayon. Trudarmee camp Tawda.

Herbold, Heinrich son of Konrad. Born 1900 in Kadyko. Released from Tagilstroj 19 Mar 1943 as “Invalid”.


Hörner Theodor son of Peter. Born 1903 in Tali-Iljak, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. Name found in the camp lists of Tagilstroj.


Gissler (Hissler?), Jakob son of Heinrich. Born 1925 in Eupatoria. Name found in the Trudarmee lists of the Ural region.


Dewald, Eduard son of Heinrich. Born 08 May 1912 in Dschurgun-Mirnowka, Dzhankoi rayon. Wife Bernadette dau of Friedrich. Son Jakob. After release from Tawstroj 17 May 1946, he lived in Kuschwa where he worked for the local building authority.

Dyck (Dick, Dück), Georg son of Johann. Born 1907 in Alatai. Worked in Tagilstroj until 21 May 1946.


Dyck, Josef son of Josef. Born 1908 in Krasnoperekopsk. Worked for Trudarmee as a metalworker in a brickyard.


Dyck, Michael (Pius) son of Eduard. 1929 – 18 Dec 1992. Came from Alatai. Living in Simferopol at time of deportation in August 1941, first to Caucasus and next to Krasnoarmejskoje in north Kazakhstan. Hi father and older brother Anton were sent to Tscheljabinsk and his mother to Archangelsk. Three children remained behind. Viktor starved to death. Michael and brother Johann were placed in a colony for young criminals. Michael was released with dystrophy and lived with his Uncle Georg Fix in
Nishnij Tagil, until mobilization into the Trudarmee. Died of lung cancer in east Kazakhstan. Wife was Isolde dau of Jura. (photo included)

Dyck, Simeon son of Johann. Born 1900 in Alatai. Mobilized 22 Jan 1941 to Trudarmee camp Tagilstroj.


Dieter, Johann son of Johann. Born 1907 in Dzhankoi district. In Tagilstroj until 27 May 1946.

Dorin, Johann son of Johann. Born 1911 in Borlak. In Trudarmee camp Tawdinlag until 27 May 1946.


Seitz, Andreas son of Andreas (Heinrich). Born 1908 in Eupatoria. In Tagilstroj until 27 May 1946.


Kaufmann, Reinhold son of Johann. Born 1913 in Ak-Scheich rayon.


Keilbach, Magdalena dau of Friedrich. Born 1902 in Kotschkar-Eli, Ak-Scheich rayon. Two sons Jakob (1933) and Peter (1940).


Kelsch, Gottlieb son of Wendelin. Born 1902 in Dschaitschi, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. In Tagilstroj until 01 Jan 1946.

Kelsch, Gottlieb son of Franz. Born 1908 in Rosental.


Kelsch, Leo son of Franz. Born 1913 in Alatai, Bijuk-Onlar rayon in Trudarmee camp Tagillag, Swerdlowsk district, until 27 May 1946.
Kelsch, Nikolau son of Alexander. Born 1897 in Alatai, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. Mobilized to Tagilstroj but released 17 Mar 1943 as incapable of work.


Klaus, Edgar son of Ludwig. Born 1918 in Dschuma-Ablam, Bijuk-Onlar rayon.

Kliment (Clement?), Nikolai son of Konstantin. Born 1896 in Dzhankoi.


Knittel, Anton son of Bernhard. Born 1910 in Kirmatschi, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. In Trudarmee camp Tawdinlag, Swerdlowsk district, where he was condemned 02 Sep 1943.14

Knittel, Artur son of Friedrich. Born 02 Nov 1923 in Michajlowka. In Tagilstroj until 29 May 1946. (photo included)


Konrad, Gerhard son of Friedrich. Born 1921 in Agai, Freidorf rayon. Entered military service with the Red Army in October 1940. Disarmed at the Front because he was a German, he was shipped to an aluminum plant in the Urals. Sentenced 22 Apr 1942 to

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14 I believe this means sentenced to a penal camp. See story following list of names.
three years labour camp, which he survived thanks to his job as an electrician which provided him better working conditions.


Ljubinskij, Alexander son of Josef. Born 1890 in Neo-Chori, Kolajsk rayon. Released from Tawdinlag 31 Mar 1943 as “Invalidität” or incapable of work.


Maier, Adolf son of Jakob. Born 1899 in Alma-Tarchan. Released from Tagilstroj 28 May 1945 as incapable of work (“Invalidität”).


Miller, Herbert son of Andreas (Heinrich). Born 1925 in Beschpilaw. Worked in Tagilstroj until 30 May 1946.


Müller, Eduard son of Friedrich. Born 12 Feb 1904 in Friedental. Released from Tagilstroj 30 May 1946.

Müller, Erika dau of Ernst. Born 1903 in Simferopol. Released from Tagilstroj 30 May 1946.


Oberzeiser, Johann son of Josef. Born 1923 in Rosental. Released from Tagilstroj 31 May 1946.


Ott, Lydia dau of Fedor. Born 1895 in Kopan, Crimea. Before the war, she lived with her son Alexander. Released from Compulsory Registration in 1956.


Pastler, Johann son of Johann. Born 1911 in Nishnije Fundukly, Suja rayon. Died in Krasnoturjinsk camp 30 May 1944.


Pastler, Emil son of Eberhard. Born 05 Dec 1910 in Nishnije Fundukly, Suja rayon. Named stricken from Trudarmee list 23 Mary 1943 as “Invalidität”.


Rapp, Otto son of Thomas. Born 1924 in Feodosia rayon. Died in Krasnoturjinsk camp 10 Jan 1942.

Rapp, Erwin son of Mathias. Born 1918 in Feodosia rayon. Died in Krasnoturjinsk camp 08 Jan 1943.

Regner (born Fefler?), Katharina dau of Johann. Born 11 Jan 1924 in Kutschuk-Abai, Ak-Scheich rayon. In Tagistroj until 01 Apr 1946.


Resostaber, Albert son of Johann. Born 1918 in Simferopol rayon. Released from Tagilstroj 01 Jan 1946.

Reibold, Josef son of Peter. Born 1925 in Suja rayon. Released from Tagilstroj 01 Jan 1946.


Reinboldt, Georg son of Peter. Born 1923 in Rosental, Suja rayon. The family was exiled as kulaks to Swerdlowsk district in the 1930’s. Was in Tagilstroj until 01 Jan 1946.

Reinhardt, Theodor son of Michael. Born 1910 in Rosental, Suja rayon. Was transferred 17 Oct 1944 as “invalided” to Tagilstroj where he remained until 01 Jan 1946.


Seidler, Johann son of Andrej. Born 1925 in Mamak, Simferopol rayon. In Tagilstroj until 01 Jan 1946.


Tiche, Paul-Josef son of Jakob. Born 1921 in Tuke-Eli, Suja rayon. Deported to north Caucasus in August 1941, mobilized into Trudarmee 19 Jan 1942. Was in Tagilstroj until 01 Jan 1946. [I believe this to be Paul-Josef son of Josef, not Jakob. Josef was a brother to my grandmother. MW]


Treiber, Wilhelm son of Philipp. Born 27 Feb 1925 in Arankoi-Eli, Suja rayon. [I believe this should be Anakoi-Eli, my mother’s birthplace. MW] In Tagilstroj until 01 Jan 1946.


Feist, Jakob son of Wendelin. Born 1920 in Aschaga-Dschamin, Saksk rayon. Released from Tawdanstroj as “Invalidität” or incapable of work.


Fütterer, Eduard son of Alexander. Born 1919 in Ackerman, Dzhankoi rayon. In Tawdinlag until 10 Feb 1945, then in Tawlag until 01 Jan 1946. Later lived in Kuschwa and freed from Compulsory Registration in 1956.


Vogel, Pius son of Gottfried. Born 1908 in Adschi-Ketsch, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. In Tagilstroj until his release as “Invalidität” or incapable of work 17 Mar 1943.


Fritz, Eduard son of August. Born 1907 in Rosental. In Trudarmee camp Tawdinlag and then in Tagilstroj until 27 Apr 1945.

Frohmiller, Vladimir son of Timotheus. Born 1924 in Ak-Sakal, Ak-Scheich rayon. In Tagilstroj until 01 Jan 1946.


Zeeb, Alexander son of Grigori. Born 1900 in Mamak, Simferopol rayon. Released from Tagilstroj 19 Mar 1943 as “Invalidität” or incapable of work.

Zeeb, Friedrich son of Karl. Born 1892 in Neusatz, Simferopol rayon. Released from Tagilstroj 19 Mar 1943 as “Invalidität” or incapable of work.

Zeisler, Karl son of Johann. Born 1897 in Grigorjewo, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. In Trudarmee camp Tawdinlag, but released already 15 Sep 1943 as unfit for work.


Schwarz, Charlotte dau of Ferdinand. Born 1910 in Alt-Kerleut, Feodosia rayon. Mobilized into Trudarmee at Bogoslowlag and then in Tagilstroj until 01 Jan 1946.


Schäfer, Philipp son of Philipp. Born 1916 in Anakoj-Eli, Karassubasar rayon. Deported 1941 to Kazakhstan, then mobilized into Trudarmee in Tagilstroj 22 Jan 1942. Released 19 Mar 1943 as “Invalidität” or incapable of work. [This is my uncle, brother to my mother. MW]


Schneider, Ferdinand son of Johann. Born 1899 in Aitugan, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. “written off” the Trudarmee lists 13 Sep 1943 as chronically ill (“krankheitshalber”).


Schneider Fridolin dau of Ferdinand. Born 1924 in Aitugan, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. In Tagilstroj until 01 Jan 1946.


Schneider, Erich son of Theodor. Born 1923 in Agjar-Dscheren, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. Worked in Tagilstroj camp until 01 Jan 1946.

Schoppert, Leonhard son of Johann. Born 1893 in Beschui-Eli, bijuk-Onlar rayon. Worked in Tagilstroj camp until his release as “Invalidität” or person incapable of work on 19 Mar 1943.

Schröder, Johann son of Peter. Born 1902 in Friedental, Suja rayon. Deported to Kazakhstan and then mobilized into Trudarmee 20 Jan 1942 in Swerdlowsk district.


Stauber, Traugott son of Christian. Born 10 Jan 1919 in Heilbrun. Graduated from Veterinary program in Dzhankoi. Deported to north Caucasus 17 Aug 1941, then to Kazakhstan in November 1941. Mobilized into Trudarmee 26 Jan 1942 in the Urals, where he worked on a farm. His wife worked as a milkmaid. Released from the Trudarmee he moved his family to Dijewka in Kazakhstan and later to Germany.


Stein, Johann son of Anton. Born 1905 in Menler, Bijuk-Onlar rayon. In Tagillag until 01 May 1946.


Stoll, Vladimir son of Vassili. Born 1919 in Eupatoria. “written off” from Nishnij Tagil camp as “Invalidität” or person incapable of work.


Stoll, Reinhold son of Reinhold. Born 1918 in Dzhankoi-nemetzkj. Mobilized first to Trudarmee labor camp Tawdinlag and then to Tagilstroj until 27 Jun 1945.


END OF LIST OF NAMES

*Auxillary Information – not part of original article. MW*
12. STALIN'S DEATH CAMPS

SOURCE. Marina Berestova, Tagillag: bol' i svershenie [The Tagil Camp Complex: Pain and Achievement], pp. 100--118 in Obinskii polis (Moscow: Molodaya Gvardiya, 2002)

This essay by a 17-year-old schoolgirl is about the Tagil camp complex (Tagillag), which operated in the Urals between 1941 and 1953.

Tagillag was set up in November 1941 to build new mines and factories in and around the author's hometown of Nizhny [Lower] Tagil in the Urals. By the end of 1942 it had 43,000 prisoners in several dozen camps, some as far from the core area as Bashkiria, engaged in a broad range of work that now included forestry and agriculture. It contracted to 25,752 prisoners in 1944 and 13,610 at the beginning of 1946.

The total number of prisoners who passed through its camps during the peak years of 1942 and 1943 was 85,547. Of these 59,822 (70 percent) were dead by the end of this period.

A special category of the prisoners was made up of Soviet Germans, who were arrested and deported en masse in 1942. About 7,000 of them were sent to Tagillag. Among them were the aviation engineer Boris Viktorovich Raushenbakh, later to become an Academician and famous space scientist, and the well-known chemist and mineralogist Paul Emilyevich Rikert.

Prisoners lived in damp unheated barracks, half underground with small windows under the ceiling. There was less than one square meter of space per person. They slept on bare planks in their work clothes. Footwear and warm clothing were in short supply. The diet contained little protein or vitamins, so pellagra and other deficiency diseases were rife--as well as dysentery, typhus, hypothermia (freezing), etc.

The working day of hard manual labor was 11 hours. Even on "days off" a "subbotnik" (1) was usually declared, involving three or four hours work on supplementary tasks such as clearing railroad tracks, digging trenches, harvesting potatoes, repairing the barracks or removing bugs from the planks. But worst of all were the occasions when prisoners were forced to do extra work after their evening meal, typically to unload coal from freight cars for 3--5 hours or even all night long. "They returned exhausted, ate breakfast, and returned to work without sleeping."

One of the most terrible subdivisions of Tagillag was the 13th penal section, set up deep in the forest in 1943. Its purpose was to isolate prisoners who had infringed camp regulations, refused to work or tried to escape--or who were simply disliked by the commandants. They worked felling trees. Their work quotas were the highest and their
rations the lowest--no more than 300 grams of black bread and a bowl of gruel [balanda] a day. How long could they last on that? (2)

Tagillag constituted a self-sufficient world in itself. It grew its own food and ran its own bakery and retail network. It also possessed a procuracy, a court, a jail, a police force, a state security department, a printing press and two newspapers (one for staff, the other for prisoners), medical, cultural, and sports units, a post office, a fire service, and--last but not least--a cemetery.

NOTES

(1) On a subbotnik people supposedly volunteered for unpaid work of public value on their day off. In practice there was considerable pressure to volunteer, and certainly in the camps there was nothing voluntary about it.

(2) In his Gulag Archipelago, Alexander Solzhenitsyn mentions rumors of special penal camps in the Far North. However, he does not provide much information about them because he was unable to find surviving witnesses.