

Bessarabian Resettlement – Propaganda and Reports

Translator: Allen E. Konrad

The material recorded on DAI Microfilm #321 covers a period from the end of 1938 to 1942. The early documents deal with the question of ethnic Germans living outside of Germany. Questions about how to identify them and how to go about registering them. A little knowledge of history gives one the impression that something big was in the making within Germany. One senses that officialdom was busy trying to figure out what to do about their ethnic Germans beyond Germany's borders once a military conflict broke out. Once the war got started, these documents reveal the efforts on the part of the DAI (like a department for ethnic Germans living outside of Germany) to get folks registered for resettlement. Resettlement Camp Commanders write letters about their particular camps. Folks relocated to these camps also write letters and cards to the DAI. Many of the postcards are nothing more than someone requesting a copy of this or that booklet.

I have pulled a few articles from the many frames of documents to help the reader get a feel of what the "higher ups" were doing as World War 2 was gearing up and finally lashing out. Some involves negative propaganda about non-ethnic Germans. Some deals with statistics about the Bessarabia area, populations and land distribution. Someone also made a trip into the Bessarabian area and reported on what he experienced. Articles translated are:

Death to the German Occupation Forces

Basic Questions Toward an Eventual Resettlement of Overseas Ethnic Germans

Circular to Bessarabian Germans Present in the Reich

2nd Circular to all Bessarabian Germans in Germany

Letter by Dr. Stumpp

Statements by Bessarabian Refugees

From the Letter of a Refugee from Lichtental, Bessarabia

A Report Concerning the Incidents in Akkerman and Surrounding Area During Russian Occupation of Bessarabia June 1940

3rd Circular to all Bessarabian Germans in Germany!

Lists Concerning Landed Property Situation of Germans in Bessarabia – 1939

"About the Journey to Bessarabia"

"Village of Teplitz"

"Bulgarian, Russian and Other Neighbors"

"Sarata, the East Schwaben Colony in Bessarabia"

Death to the German Occupation Forces

TO ALL THOSE LIVING IN AREAS PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE GERMAN
OCCUPATION FORCES !

Dearest brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers

There has been a fundamental change in our great war for the fatherland against the German fascist armies.

The advance of the Germans on Moscow has collapsed. These were black days for Hitler. The Red Army destroyed the German reptiles at Rostov, Tichwin, Moscow and on the Kalinin Front and in a number of other areas. Our Red Army has gone over to the attack on the entire front.

The German Flight. He discards the weapons, tanks, machines, mortars and automatic weapons. He is unable to recover his corpses, he saves his own skin. We, however, have freed Rostov, Tichwin, Jeletz, Jefremowo, Klin, Rusu, Tarusu, Wolokolamsk, Solnetschnogorsk, Liwni, Werehowje, Tim and thousands of other towns and villages from the German Fascists invasion. We are approaching Orel, Kursk and Charkow.

The hour of your liberation is close at hand. Hitler's plans, in which he had dreamed of taking and robbing our territories by a lightening-like strike, has collapsed. The German Fascist Army is choking in its own blood. The Russian winter is a terror for the German soldiers. Now the German soldiers, lice-ridden and hungry, afflicted by scabies, with frozen limbs, are fleeing back to the west.

Hitler wants to halt his flight at the secured (?) border and start a "trench" warfare. In vain. The Red Army does not allow him to halt. There will be no "trench" warfare. We will continue to pursue and destroy the cursed Germans.

The Germans are two-legged monsters. When they were on the advance, they robbed, raped and slaughtered. Now that they are fleeing, these monsters are doing even worse things. On their flight, the Hitler (?) are intent on shedding still more blood of the Soviet population, to rob even more of our possessions and to take it back into their land of robbers, to destroy our land even more and to burn down our towns and villages even more. (Photo; with the following caption: The photo shows one of the villages which was burned down by the German robbers during their flight.) They carry off with them all men, starting with the 16 year old boys up to 60 year old men.

Why do the Germans carry off our people on their retreat? Because they need slaves. On their flight, the German robbers take away all the property and possessions from the people. So they search in the attics and in the cellars. They crawl into chests and so they take everything, to the last thread, which is not fastened down. So they burn down all houses. Why do the Germans set fire to the houses? Because they want to turn our country into a desert.

How can you save yourselves? How can you save your children and your property and possessions? There is only one possibility. To help the Red Army to destroy all German dogs.

(Photo: with following caption – On the photo: the corpse of the old man J.J. Sergejew, who came to the village of Poshidajewo to visit his daughter and who was killed by the German robbers in a monstrous manner.)

Men! Don't allow yourselves to be carried off by these nasty Germans! Hide yourselves in the forests, join a section of the Partisans! The Germans are fleeing. Assist the Red Army to beat them. Block their path. Attack them, especially at night when they are sleeping. Avenge yourselves on them for the destruction, murders and rapes. Avenge yourselves for the devastation, for your fathers and children, for the sons and daughters.

Women! Don't allow yourselves to be robbed! Hide the clothing from the Germans! The lice-ridden dog is to freeze in the terrible frost! Hide the provisions and the animals so that the mean Fascist mongrel will die of hunger! Hide everything which the German reptile could use to feed itself!

The Red Army is coming to liberate. We are already close by brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. The dark days of the Hitler captivity and rule are rapidly approaching their end. We will not allow the greedy German monster to leave our country alive. Help us with this.

Death to the German Occupiers!

Once you have read this, hand it on to your comrade.

Issued by the political administration of the Southwestern Front

Basic Questions Toward an Eventual Resettlement of Overseas Ethnic Germans

Revised at the Deutsches Ausland-Institut, Stuttgart

Confidential!

December, 1940

1. Reasons for the Resettlement

Already now, it can be stated with certainty that, after a victorious ending of the war, a substantial return of ethnic Germans from overseas will take place. The Overseas Germans themselves will strive to return to Germany because they will hope to find a place within its extended borders where they can practice their own culture unhindered, and because they will wish to take part in the economic boom of Germany. In addition, there are specific reasons in individual states and areas of the world: Many ethnic Germans in Canada will find it unbearable to keep on living in an environment and under a government which continues to be hostile. Many Germans in the United States will no longer want to suffer the defamation of the German name. Many Germans in Brazil will no longer want to suffer the suppression of the German language. In all parts of Latin America, ethnic Germans will push to share in the benefits and the protection of a Germanic-regimented form of government, which does not abandon its best cultural pioneers (like the German settlers in Paraguay, or in the Argentinean Chaco) during times of economic difficulty.

On the part of Germany, a resettlement of overseas Germans has been taken into account, because one will not be able to obtain enough German people for the rebuilding of the enlarged Germany, and because, as in Eastern Europe, so also in overseas countries one would wish to abandon such ethnic advance posts which are considered to have no future.

2. Preliminary Numbers of the Returning Settlers.

One can differentiate between three types of probable returnees according to their desire and ability to return:

- a. Overseas Germans who will strive to return without being called and who are able to pay for their trip back home;
- b. Overseas Germans who will similarly strive to return without being called, but who are unable to pay for the journey;
- c. Overseas Germans who, because of lack of knowledge or concerns about the possibilities which are available to them in the new Germany, will not strive to return of their own accord, but where it can be presumed where there is an inner readiness so that it will only need a final nudge to convince them, not an intensive recruitment or a command, but only an indication to the possibilities which the new Germany can offer them.

The experts of the DAI have conducted thorough discussions and estimates concerning the number of overseas Germans that would probably make the trip to their homeland, i.e. who

could be included in the three groups just mentioned. They believe that the following numbers are possible:

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rural</u> | <u>Urban</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| USA | 250,000 | 50,000 | 200,000 |
| Canada | 100,000 | 80,000 | 20,000 |
| Brazil | 250,000 | 200,000 | 50,000 |
| Argentina | 150,000 | 130,000 | 20,000 |
| Chile | 3,000 | 2,000 | 1,000 |
| Paraguay | 10,000 | 9,000 | 1,000 |
| Rest of Latin America | 10,000 | 9,000 | 1,000 |
| Australia & New Zealand | 1,000 | 800 | 200 |
| | <hr/> 774,000 | <hr/> 480,000 | <hr/> 293,000 |

Only ethnic Germans have been included in these figures, with the exception of the typical immigration countries of U.S.A., Canada, Brazil and Argentine, where a strict separation between ethnic and national Germans is not possible and, as a result, a number of these German nationals (for Canada only a small number) have been included. The overseas groups, which practically consist exclusively of national Germans (e.g. Dutch [West] Indies, Guatemala, etc.) have not been included in the table above.

3. Specifics Concerning the Position of the Citizenship Rights and the Ethnic Rights of Overseas Germans.

The return home of the ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe could be arranged by means of international treaties between Germany and the country of origin. This approach, in the foreseeable future, will not be able to be followed for overseas countries for the following reasons:

a. The overseas countries, almost without exception, refuse to acknowledge the concept of ethnic Germans, in other words, the overseas citizen of German extraction. Exceptions can be made for individuals, but not for the entire group of ethnic Germans in a country. In overseas countries, the ethnicity is overshadowed to a much greater degree by the citizenship than in Eastern Europe. There are still perception in overseas countries, which in the last few years are not so set anymore in Europe. Here (overseas), as in the past, only those are recognized as German who are national Germans.

After all, before the war, Brazil forbade, in a number of cases, national German returnees to take along their children who had been born in the country and from birth were Brazilian citizens.

b. The human need of overseas countries, especially the need of capable pioneers, is greater than that of Eastern European countries with the result that these countries will not voluntarily allow big groups of their productive citizens to leave.

c. In most of the countries, the ethnic Germans are not sufficiently structured to undertake an effort to reach and resettle all fellow countrymen. Only in Chile and Argentina are there

organizations which, with some legitimacy, can be addressed as the representative associations of the ethnic groups there, but not in Brazil, USA and Canada.

International treaties, concerning the return settlement, are only possible with regard to the national Germans in the overseas countries, their possessions, etc. Canada is a special case in that, as a result of the peace negotiations, the possibility is given to allow a collective return of all ethnic Germans. (Here there are, because of the existence of well organized French ethnic groups, better psychological conditions for understanding the concept of ethnicity than in other overseas countries.

4. Uniqueness of the State of the Mind of Overseas Germans

As opposed to the ethnic Germans in Eastern Europe, the overwhelming majority of ethnic Germans from overseas have a number of common characteristics which results from their unique living conditions. They have a very strong desire for space (a need for elbow room) and a stronger feeling for individual freedom. In the overseas countries, in which the population on average is much less and younger than in Eastern Europe, the individual has to be more self-reliant: a negative sense, because neither neighbors nor the government give the same kind of assistance as they would receive in a European country; in a positive sense, because this self-reliance brings out greater productivity in people of strong character. The government is less concerned about local matters, self-help and self-administration are more strongly developed. The size of yards available to rural settlers is greater than for the average settlers than in Eastern Europe.

The returning settlers from overseas must therefore be approached in a way which takes into consideration their life styles. Groups and camps can be organized in such a way that they are, to a large degree, self-administered (obviously with national German supervision). If at all possible, accommodation in barracks should be avoided, especially for the urban returning settlers. Experience has shown that the overseas Germans are likely to fit into camps which have a positive constructive nature (schooling, approach to world view, community spirit). On the other hand, they will not fit in well in camps which in general have a negative purpose, to spend a certain period of waiting and adjustment (refer to the observation camp for the Volhynian Germans).

5. Uniqueness in the Requirements of the Overseas Germans.

The resettlers from overseas will have completely different requirements from Germany than those from Eastern Europe. The farmers from Canada are used to very big farms which well outfitted with machinery.

The urban dwellers from the United States are in a large measure accustomed to high salaries, private homes (instead of sublet dwellings), and a high level of living comforts.

Yet especially, the better situated of American Germans can offer Germany valuable technological experience, and, on the other hand, a great number of the post-war immigrants in large cities, such as New York, Chicago, Detroit, etc., have had a very basic life-style (such as doormen, elevator operators, taxi drivers, etc.).

The German farmers from South America, especially from Brazil, Paraguay and Northern Argentina (Misiones and Chaco), do not wish to return to Germany proper, but to African colonies of the Empire where they can make use of their climatic adjustment and their experience in farming with sub-tropical and tropical plants.

Should the South American Germans be settled in Central Europe, one could expect a large number of otherwise willing resettlers to remain behind. Only a part of those immigrant settlers since the World War would prefer Central Europe because they have not yet adjusted to the climate; the entire number of post-war settlers (with families) amounts to approximately 50,000.

6. Organizational Approach to the Resettlement.

Immediately after war's end, Germany will have to start with the creation of a Trusted Men's Organization [*Vertrauensmaennerorganisation*] in the overseas countries in question. It would be best to start by sending only a few Trusted Men—primarily overseas experts from within Germany—to the places of most importance, who could then gradually build up around them a network of local trusted people. In view of the specific problems of national and international law in overseas countries (see above, this organization will not be able to have direct contact to the consular and political party offices).

In the initial post-war period, during which a strong demand from overseas is to be expected, the Trusted Men's Organization would mainly have to slow down and sift so that, to begin with, only a few specially suitable people would return home. Especially where the urban Germans are concerned, it must be seen to that they are not only provided with job, but also with a dwelling, an oversight which had serious consequences for those returning from the USA in the year before the war.

In the second phase of their activity, this Trusted Men's Organization can go over to an active recruitment by means of pamphlets, etc. which give objective information concerning work, settlement and housing possibilities in the new Germany, and, thereby, opposes counter-propaganda, which undoubtedly will attempt to hold back many ethnic Germans, who in their hearts are willing to resettle. The recruitment must be carried out extremely carefully. To start with, it will not be possible to make use of public propaganda for the resettlement, such as by means of speakers or posters, which would explain that whoever did not return was opting against German-ness, and that the fatherland would have nothing to do with them in the future. However, should the circumstances in overseas country permit this direct resettlement propaganda, greater numbers would be convinced to resettle than indicated by the statistical table at the beginning [of this document].

7. Preparations in the Homeland.

Among others, preparatory tasks in the homeland are:

- a. A careful study of the present professional formation and the possible future professional input of the overseas Germans,
- b. The timely setting up of the Trusted Men's Organization, referred to in the previous section, as well as the provision of accommodations for those returning home, etc,

c. Setting up a timely schooling for the returnees, where it must be presumed that in many cases, as the result of their distance from Germany and the hostile propaganda, their lack of knowledge of the situation in Germany is greater than for the East European Germans.

8. Future Treatment of Those Who Do Not Resettle.

In addition, the basic question as to what extent a resettlement of overseas Germans is desirable, even in cases where they are willing to resettle, obviously needs further close examination. (At the same time), to what extent, where they are not willing to do this, further cultural input from Germany will still be continued. It is possible to state with certainty, now already, that the inhabitants of the German ethnic island in Chile and Pennsylvania. The Germans in Chile believe that they can serve their motherland, to which they feel strongly linked, better where they presently live than in Germany. The Germans in Pennsylvania, as a result of tribal isolation, have lost almost all contact with us, which does not mean that we should not seek any contact with them at all.

DAI Microfilm T-81, Roll 321, Group 1035, VOMI 947, Frame 2452667-2452668

Deutsches Ausland-Institute – Research Department of German Nationality in Russia
Stuttgart-S., 05 July, 1940 - Danziger Freiheit 17

Circular to Bessarabian Germans Present in the Reich

Dear Fellow Countrymen:

You will be aware of the Deutsches Ausland Institute, which has been in existence in Stuttgart since 1917. On the basis of its scientific research of the German life-style and the German achievements in foreign countries, it provides information on all aspects of Germans living abroad. Since 1938, a Research Department of German Nationality in Russia (formally at Berlin W.35, Potsdam Street 77, since 1 June, 1940: Stuttgart-S., Danziger Freiheit 17, DAI) was newly created at the Institute in conjunction with the Association of Russians from Germans in Berlin (Berlin W.30, Martin Luther Street 97). Dr. Karl Stumpp is the director of the Research Department of Germans from Russia. He was a teacher at the German Girls' High School at Tarutino, in Bessarabia. His assistance is Mr. Eduard Krause, a Bessarabian German from Tarutino, who was proof reader and deputy secretary of the *Deutsches Volksblatt* in Tarutino.

You will have heard through the radio and from the newspapers that, on the basis of an agreement between the Romanian government and the Soviet authorities, Bessarabia has been occupied by Russian troops since Friday, 28 June, 1940. Dear friends, you have close relatives and good friends in Bessarabia and will be concerned about their plight. We therefore take this opportunity to inform you that, in the process of sorting out the eastern borders of Greater Germany, the Fuehrer has considered the Bessarabian Germans. Since the end of October, 1938, the director of the Bessarabian German Ethnic Group, Dr. Otto Broneske has already spent some time in Berlin and was able to present the wishes of the ethnic group to the departments concerned. This means that the Bessarabian ethnic group has already made the necessary preparations and is pleased with the present developments. Since the occupation by the Russians the transport home across Soviet Russian territory will be expedited more easily. Yes, the occupation has given rise in many places that the swastika flag has been hoisted so that in this way their sentiments and their loyalty can be expressed to the National Socialist motherland.

The Soviet Russian military authorities, immediately after their occupation, made contact with the German ethnic group and are negotiating with it on the most friendly of terms. Negotiations concerning the Resettlement of the Bessarabian Germans will take place soon. On the German side, the director of our Research Department will also participate. It is hoped that the Resettlement will be completed before the start of the coldest part of the year. It will provisionally take place in Warthegau.

The Soviet authorities have guaranteed the safety of the Bessarabian Germans and have already appointed ethnic Germans as commissars in various towns and have given them wide-ranging self-administrative possibilities for the transitional period.

We trust that the above explanations will be reassuring information to you and request that you await further developments and that you will trust the directive of the relevant departments of our Greater German motherland and will avoid taking any arbitrary action.

We would be happy to respond to any individual questions, but ,because of the present high load of work, we ask that you only come to us in very urgent and deserving cases. We request that the above information be treated confidentially for the time being.

Heil Hitler

Research Department of German Nationality in Russia

Deutsches Ausland-Institute – Research Department of German Nationality in Russia
Stuttgart-S., 15 July, 1940 - Danziger Freiheit 17

Confidential!

2nd Circular to all Bessarabian Germans in Germany

As a response to our 1st Circular of the 5th of this month, concerning the situation in Bessarabia, we received a lot of correspondence, from which we conclude with satisfaction that the information we imparted was received with joy. There were also a number of objections that our Circular was too positive in nature.

Of course, it is not easy to get reliable news. The content of our letter is based on newspaper reports. Naturally, a variety of rumors rise up in times like these. We have only imparted what appears reliable and believable to us, without always being able to give full guarantees for the accuracy of the reports. We know how you are all anxiously awaiting news. We therefore request that all Bessarabian Germans, on their part, also send information to us, but not about what is rumored, what is heard...but only what has been received first hand {letters, information from refugees, etc.}. In the meantime, our releases have been corroborated by personal communication:

1. Two young people from Tarutino report that Area Headman [*Gauobmann*], Dr. Broneske, on his return to Bessarabia from Bucharest, gave the directive that all Germans should stay where they are. Only Gnadental and Lichtental, to an extent, are to be vacated. Whether this is to be temporary or permanent cannot yet be determined. It is therefore not true that the Area Headman is outside of Bessarabia.
2. An elderly German/Russian departed from Bessarabia on Saturday, 29 June, and has arrived in Stuttgart. He reports that he was treated quite correctly. He was taken by truck, together with other refugees, from Reni to the border.
3. Today I received the first detailed verbal report from a Banat compatriot, who has just arrived from Romania. According to this report, there is no reason for concern. So far, only 60-80 Bessarabian Germans have reported to the Bucharest Consulate [*Geschäftsstelle*] following the first unrest. All officials, with Broneske at the head, remained at their posts. Photos about the marked German houses were actually published in the Romanian newspapers. In Banat and Siebenbuergen, all Bessarabian Germans were registered by the German District Council [*Gaurat*]. The Banat compatriot, who has an important position, assures us that things are quiet in Bessarabia and that nothing is happening to the Germans there. So far, there is not a single known case where Germans were killed. Unrest took place at Czernowitz, and especially at Galatz. In Czernowitz, however, on streets where Germans live, have been blockaded and are well guarded.
4. The Jews there have plundered a few places and caused unrest. They also wanted to storm the German House. Shooting also took place. When the Red Troops marched in, they boasted about the murders that they had committed and expected their reward. This also happened. The Soviet officer asked about these heroes, had them stood against the wall and shot. Clashes also took place in Bessarabia, however, without serious consequences.

Concerning the Resettlement Question Itself.

I am in constant contact with relevant departments.

A command to resettle has not yet been given. Preparations are in progress. When the Resettlement is to take place, and where the Bessarabian Germans are to be settled, is not yet determined. However, the decision will be made in the near future.

It is pleasing that many Bessarabian Germans are coming forward who themselves wish to help with the Resettlement. Certainly, many are also being put to use, especially young people who know the area and the language. At present, I am under severe pressure and it is not always possible to respond to all individual inquiries. Therefore, the following:

1. Whoever would like to make themselves available for the Resettlement, is to report immediately, stating first and surname, date of birth, year and place, parents, home address, present employment (training), knowledge of language and the area. The task could take between 2-3 months. Female helpers do not come into consideration for the Resettlement itself, but for work in the camps and at the following Resettlement. There is a special need for medical doctors. The application is to be addressed to the Ethnic German Central Department [*Mittelstelle*] and to be sent to Dr. Karl Stumpp, Berlin-Zehlendorf, Muetterstr. 4.
2. The question of possessions of Bessarabian Germans living in Germany must be still be postponed. At present, our entire concern is for those remaining there. In so far as there are relatives in Bessarabia, the property will be reported and registered there.
3. We request that inquiries as to whether relatives may be accommodated with their children here, be put aside for the moment. This was not possible with the Volhynian Germans. The greatest effort is made to spare them from having to live in the camps at all. Whether that will succeed depends on when our compatriots arrive here and how the political situation develops.
4. We request that all Bessarabian Germans draw up a list of their home village (also of the neighboring villages) with the following details: first and surname of the husband and the wife (maiden name), number of children, profession, fixed property. Where two independent families live on one farm, this is to be noted. Where required, we will send printed forms (to be requested from the Research Department of German Nationality in Russia, Stuttgart-S., Danziger Freiheit 17). These lists are to be sent to me as soon as possible (Berlin-Zehlendorf, Muetterstr. 4).

So, head up high and have all confidence in our powerful Greater German fatherland and its Fuehrer!

Heil Hitler!

Signed: Dr. Stumpp
Director of the Research Department of German Nationality in Russia

Letter by Dr. Stumpp

From: Muetterstr. 4
Berlin-Zehlendorf
16 July, 1940

To: Deutsche Ausland-Institute – Stuttgart

Immediately after my arrival in Berlin, through the office of the DAI, Dr. Kruse, I reported about the negotiations and preparatory talks at the different places here. There was so much to do in connection with the planned Resettlement that I hardly had time to assess the Odessa newspaper. Again and again, I had to meet with various departments and supply documentation: Ethnic German Central Department (Hoffmeyer), Planning Office (Prof. Mayer), *Greifelt* Office, Central Immigration (Dr. Gradmann). We have actively started to zero in on the preparatory work and already one can see that the planning for the resettlement of the Bessarabian and Bukovina Germans is much more thorough than it was possible for the Volhynian Germans. In addition to the documentation that was delivered, the large map of Bessarabia was well received. The undertaking of the DAI, to have the map printed and to make it available for the Resettlement, is welcome. There is already great demand for it.

The Resettlement command has not yet been given. The Commission is traveling to Moscow on Monday. It is estimated that the negotiation period will be 2-3 weeks. Provisionally, the Resettlement Kommando will only be able to depart during the second half of August, but nothing is definite yet. Everything depends on the process and outcome of the negotiations. It is also not clear yet where the settlement (of Resettlers) will be. All guesses concerning this have been pulled from the air. Alsace has been referred to already also, but it is out of the question at least for the entire Resettlement. Much more likely is the area to the west and the south of Posen.

The new documentation that I had drawn up for the classification of seven types of settlers was quite valuable for the settlement planning. I forwarded this classification to the DAI a few days ago.

There is still no definite information concerning the situation in Bessarabia. The report of a compatriot from Banat has been evaluated in my 2nd Circular to the Bessarabian Germans and can be read there. Today, I am including three further reports which do give a picture of the situation. The statements by Bessarabian refugees (these are not only Germans) are to be viewed with discretion as far as they concern the German villages.

Something must have happened at Gnadental, and possibly at Sarata; however, in the form it seems to me that it does not apply.

Heil Hitler
Signed: Dr. Stumpp

Statements by Bessarabian Refugees

Bucharest, July 1940

The Orthodox priest Siniezin was hanged on the cross in the cathedral by Jews.

The priest Fotezcu was murdered by Jews.

Colonist Eduard Roduener, and his son Eugen were also murdered by Jews in Budacki, which is close to Akkerman.

Praetor Spionnu was shot down by a Jew, Abraham Karolik.

Captain Dojescu was also murdered by Jews.

Colonel Doenaru, commanded of the 35th Regiment, was pulled off his horse by Jews, stripped, spat on, beaten up and chased away.

In the German villages of Gnadenthal and Sarata, the inhabitants were murdered by Russians and the Red mob, who had been incited by Jews.

Another German village, the name is unknown, it is said to have been plundered and that the inhabitants were also murdered.

The retreating Romanian Army was disarmed, beaten and abused by the inhabitants, incited by the Jews.

In the German colony of Tarutino, it is claimed that the mayor, the village notary and secretary were murdered by Jews.

In Kischinev, the priest Berososki was murdered by Jews because he did not allow the Jews to remove the pictures of God from the church and to burn them. His son was also murdered. Another cleric in Kischinev had his stomach slit open in front of his church. A Major and another officer were disarmed, beaten up and spat on. In addition, all the buttons were cut off of their pants. They were dragged across the River Dnjestr into Russia.

The 3rd Rifle Regiment was disarmed. The officers had their shoulder boards ripped off. They were beaten up by Jews, spat on and chased out of the village of Romaneste, which is located next to the German colony of Leipzig. The officers were all locked into a goods wagon and dragged off to Russia.

From the Letter of a Refugee from Lichtental, Bessarabia

(The writer of this letter, Christian Esslinger, comes from Grossliebenthal near Odessa)

Firstly, all the colonists were informed much too late of the rapid advance of the Russians into Bessarabia. I only heard about it on the radio on Thursday, 27 June. The short time I still have available to flee, since it states in my *Nansenpass* [*Reisenpass* ? passport] that I am stateless and previously was a Ukrainian subject. If my passport would have been checked, I would certainly have been sent to my homeland and there my fate would have been sealed: against the wall or sent north. I only decided on Friday evening, after the Russians had already occupied Akkerman at 2:00 PM of that day, to pack my few effects and, leaving everything else behind, to start out for the motherland. At 2:00 AM, on 29 June, I drove to the station at Arzis. At 5:00 AM, the last train of 60-70 cars departed and I went along, all alone in one car. At 9:00 AM we were at Besaraadskaja, where 5 long, big trains came together, with all possible effects of the Romanian officials and large numbers of scattered military people. Here we were detained until 5:00 PM. During this time, from 11:00 PM to midnight, no less than 75-85 Russian airplanes flew over us to the southwest, along the rail line. You can well imagine my agitation. As it later turned out, all the planes were carrying paratroopers who were dropped off at Bolgrad and Reni. When our train arrived at Bolgrad, it was 10:00 PM. Here we were detained until 6:00 AM. It was said that each train was being checked. I was very scared during this time. Later, it turned out that only military personnel were being disarmed and the civilians were not being checked. Unfortunately, because of my fear, I destroyed valuable letters and pictures on the way to Bolgrad. The entire rail line was scattered with shredded paper. In some places, in piles. At sunset on Saturday, we eventually arrived at Reni. The train was not allowed to continue and we all had to get off. Yes, at Bolgrad I met the first parachutists. They are smart people, well dressed, everybody wearing pipe boots [*Rohrstiefel*] (knee boots). They all conducted themselves decently and properly. Unfortunately, civilians were immediately armed there, a militia was formed. I saw a herd of pigs, about 12-15, in the meadow. The mob immediately seized them; many better farmers brought their sheep to safe places; on the rail line there were attempts to enter the cars. Then the soldiers shot into the air and separated the people from one another. So, to continue with the train was impossible. The Russian commander, who had already been at Reni, then gave us a truck and let us be taken to the bridge. From there, a Russian column stuck us into another automobile, and I eventually arrived safely in Galatz, dead tired. The Russian commander was a *Polkownik*, very smart and proper. Immediately soldiers accompanied me. A *Towarischt* (comrade), Ekkert, had to give us the automobile. I did not let on that I spoke Russian well, but only stuttered.

As far as the German colonists in Bessarabia are concerned, they were called upon by the local leaders of the People's Council [*Volksrat*] to stay where they were and remain very quiet, which they also did. However, there was a terribly depressed mood among them. Nobody wanted to speak anymore. The wonderful rich harvest in the fields, the many oil seeds: soy bean, flax, rape seed, mustard and sunflowers for Germany, are still standing and there the band of Russians. Then the Romanians requisitioned all the best 4 year old horses without paying even one Lei for them, except those directly bought by the military. What was paid in cash is hardly worth mentioning. Many farmers who had cultivated 15-30 hectares, do not have a single horse left on their yard. I had only one, which was also taken away.

A Report Concerning the Incidents in Akkerman and Surrounding Area During Russian Occupation of Bessarabia June 1940

Already a few days before 27 June, of this year, there was a certain amount of apprehension evident in both the Romanian military and administrative circles. The 35th Infantry Regiment stationed at Cetatea Alba was suddenly evacuated, one part to Galati and one to Tighina. On the other hand, the police [*Gendarmerieabteilung*] was reinforced.

The administrative authorities, the Tribunal, the national bank, as well as financial and tax authorities received secret command to pack their archives and to be ready for a possible evacuation. When a white flag was hoisted over the city hall and on the fire tower, of which no explanation was given concerning this by the Romanian side, a panicked exodus took place also among the Romanian civilian population. An endless stream of wagons, packed with all kinds of furniture and implements, made their way to the railway station. The Jews were standing in groups on the street and whispered, gestured and conducted themselves in an insulting manner, and by their actions, a certain amount of gloating [*Schadenfreude*] was evident. The Russians stayed calm, displaying neither joy nor grief, more a type of despair. As far as we few Germans were concerned, we remained calm since we had been informed again and again that we were in no danger.

On 27 June, at approximately at 8 PM, we received the terrible news that the town of Cetatea Alba was already to be handed over to the Russians the following day. We immediately attempted to contact our leading circles in Tarutino by telephone. But this was no longer possible. As a result, panic reached its peak. Everybody was left to themselves and acted as they thought fit. Throughout the entire night, everybody looked for a means to somehow move on. Toward morning, I succeeded in sending my wife with a compatriot into the neighboring village of Sofiental where she would be safe for the time being. I myself remained in Cetatea Alba to try to save what was salvageable from my small business. By 10 AM, most of the Jewish businesses flew red flags. The Jews wore red armbands and red ribbons in their button holes. They were clearly triumphant and only greeted us Germans with "Heil Hitler". They indicated that the time of reckoning for the Germans had come and asked us where Hitler was with his assistance. In the small park in front of the Town Hall, almost all Jews, together with the rabble of the town, were gathered to receive the Russian deputation which had been announced to arrive at 1 PM. All the church bells were ringing and, in the meantime, red flags were also flying from all the churches. The rabble from the region, in groups of 100-200 men, streamed into the city park while singing the *International* and carrying red flags. At the same time, communist speeches were held in front of King Ferdinand's memorial. In this respect, a Jew, attorney Pincus Steinberg, was particularly prominent when, during his speech, he threw a big stone at the chest of King Ferdinand. At about 2 PM, "red boats" carrying the first Russians from Ovidiopol arrived. At the same time, approximately 20-25 airplanes of different sizes circled over the town of Cetatea Alba. At about 3 PM, the first Russian tank, from the direction of Bugaz, arrived. Since all streets were overflowing with Jews and the rabble, a further overview of what went on became impossible. The situation became so critical that, at approximately 5 PM, I took my leave from the compatriots who, unfortunately, stayed behind and fled by car to Sofiental. On leaving the town, different groups tried to stop the car, but they let us go at the last moment because of the brandished pistol. In Sofiental, they were aware of what was happening. There was an air of despair among our people. They all looked ahead to the serious events

with trust in God. It was only possible not to lose hope because of the firm faith in our Fuehrer. "Do not forget us, should your flight succeed", were the calls of those compatriots left behind against their will, as I drove from Sofiental. From there, all night through, I traveled unhindered through a number of villages until Kloestitz. The Russians all had red flags, however, the conduct was calm. From Kloestitz, via Beresina, Tarutino, Posttal and Wittenberg, (a string of German villages), there was complete calm. The factories were busy and the farmers followed their daily routine. Nowhere was a red flag to be seen. After we left the last German settlement of Wittenberg, we came into the Bulgarian Region [*Rayon*] and were very surprised that in the Bulgarian villages the red flag flew not only from the administrative buildings, but from practically all houses.

The conduct of the Bulgarian people (Gagausen), surprisingly, was a lot more hostile towards the fleeing Romanian army and us than one would have expected. Individual vehicles of the people in flight were stopped, those sitting inside were ridiculed and stones were thrown at them. Only as a result of the Romanian army that was following, which these gangs still respected, a bloody terror of the fleeing civilian population was prevented. Under these circumstances, we also came to about 2-3 km before Bolgrad. Suddenly, two Romanian trucks came toward us, each carrying 8-10 Russian troops. They stopped us and, after a thorough search for weapons, let us go with the remark that we can drive wherever we wish. But we were stopped again by the very next truck, searched and put on the street with our possessions. With a few friendly words, I persuaded the two young fellows, who took the car from us, to at least take us to the train station, to afterwards disappear with our vehicle. –In the meantime, we got to see the following:

Apart from the Russian troops, who had apparently landed at Bolgrad at 11 AM by parachute, large airplanes kept on landing very close to us, from which Russian troops disembarked. The first thing they did was to take the trucks from the military (Romanian) retreating on the main road, and then with them, in groups of 10-12 men, to disarm the individual advancing Romanian troop sections. The Romanians did not offer any resistance, but allowed themselves to be disarmed and continued on foot toward the train station at Bolgrad. Cavalry, artillery, and other mounted troops sections continued their retreat on the main road. From Bolgrad, we then left by military train, which had been surrounded by the Russians and was only released at 1 AM, to Galati where an uprising of Jews and Russians fleeing to Russia was being suppressed by the police and the military. We also succeeded to escape from this witch's cauldron, by traveling to Braila by ship, from where we then continued to Bucharest by rail.

It is still to be noted that the Russian military acted in a very provocative and insolent manner and handled the people roughly, for example, tearing off the shoulder boards and making fun of the Romanian officers. I heard some Russian soldiers, standing in groups, speaking German and also Romanian. Apart from being armed with machine guns and automatic pistols, they carried old Russian military rifles with which I did my military service in Russia in the year of 1913. Their equipment gave a poor impression. Almost no leather gear! All their cartridge pouches, belts, etc. were of cloth, and not even that was of the best material. Only the stout leather pipe-boots were any good. The troops were all young fellows, between the ages of 19-22, and according to their own comments they belonged exclusively to the paratroop units.

In closing, I want to mention especially that the reception of all refugees from Bessarabia, in Bucharest, , was organized in every respect by the Romanians with a great deal of kindness, discretion and assistance, which impressed us all very much.

Bucharest...9 July, 1940

Signed: Waldemar Kuest

DAI Microfilm T-81, Roll 321, Group 1035, VOMI 947, Frame 2452648-2452649

Deutsches Ausland- Institute – Research Department of German Nationality in Russia
Stuttgart-S., 19 August, 1940
Danziger Freiheit 17

Confidential!

3rd Circular to all Bessarabian Germans in Germany!

One final report before our departure.

First of all, it must be stated that, even with the best of intentions, it was not possible to answer all the letters. So the questions that have been raised will be answered here, as far as is possible and permissible.

1. The names of all those who have applied have been forwarded and they will have received their call-up in the meantime. New applications cannot be considered anymore since the enrollment has been completed and, to our delight, many had applied. Whoever has not received a call-up at this time has been noted for possible future consideration.
2. Sincere thanks for the Lists of Residents which have been sent in.
3. As we would like to record the entire Resettlement process, we request that all newspaper reports and also letters containing important news be submitted.
4. The relevant authorities have, in the last few days, once again confirmed that there is total peace in Bessarabia and that there is no reason for concern. –This was also confirmed in a letter. - Concerning the incidents before the occupation, no confirmed reports have as yet been received. The rumors which have been circulating are to be treated with caution.
5. Mail service has not yet been restored so that letters neither reach Bessarabia, nor are received from there.
6. The Bessarabian Germans who are in Romania (in the military, working there, etc.) will be listed [registered] there and come directly from there into Germany.
7. All Bessarabian Germans in Germany will receive questionnaires in the near future from the Ethnic German Central Department [*Mittelstelle*] with the view to list and clarify their property situation and their citizenship status. –It is advisable if especially those that have no relatives in Bessarabia now already register their left behind property (moveable and immovable) at the Ethnic German Central Department, Berlin, Tiergarten Street 18a (Registration Section). The declarations are to be brief and legible (best to use a typewriter) and to be sent in duplicate.
8. A resettlement of those born in Bessarabia and residents in Soviet Russia is not under consideration at present.

9. The Transfer Commando is presently being trained and will provisionally depart between 25 and 30 August.

10. The question where the Bessarabian Germans will be settled and whether they will be accommodated in camps cannot yet be answered.

11. We request that further addresses of Bessarabian Germans in Germany, and also elsewhere outside of Bessarabia, be submitted.

Heil Hitler!

Director of the Research Department of German Nationality in Russia

Dr. Karl Stumpp

Lists Concerning Landed Property Situation of Germans in Bessarabia – 1939

After the agricultural reform of 13 March, 1920, the total German landed property came to about 300,000 hectares, for the German folks that is 3.5 hectares per head (before the expropriation 4.4 hectares) or 21 hectares per family. When we deduct the community hectares, there remains a figure of 73,170 for the population and landed property of 285,130 hectares.

Minus the community hectares, the family arrives at 23.22 hectares of landed property. When we estimate the non-farmable land at about 13,000 (15%), there remains for the essential farming community, minus the community hectares, property of 4.6 hectares per head or 27.6 for the family.

By all calculations, the number of children come to 4, which means that assumes 6 souls per family. You should be aware that in practice that this number is too high and the average number is 3.5 and it follows then the number of souls is 5.5 per family, so all statements must be reduced by about 10%.

Summary:

- A. Mother Colonies: Landed Property 158,666 hectares (ha), which is 52.8%
Number of Souls 45,440 ha, which is 52.8% per settlement 1,800
Landed Property per head: 3.5 – per family 21.
- B1: Well-to-do Daughter Colonies – 22:
Landed Property: 31,510 ha, which is 10.5%
Souls: 3,286 ha, which is 3.8% per settlement 150 residents.
Landed Property per head: 9.6 – per family 57.5 ha.
- B2: Daughter Colonies with Average Rural Property – 55
Landed Property: 92,570 ha, which is 30.8%
Souls: 23,110 ha, which is 26.9% per settlement 420 residents.
- C1: Community Hectares, resulting from allocated land – 15
Landed Property: 3,950 ha, which is 1.3%
Souls: 2,764 ha, which is 3.2% per settlement 184 residents.
Landed Property per head: 1.4 – per family 8.4 ha.
- C2: Rented Community Hectares – 25:
Landed Property: 9,594 ha, which is 3.2%
Souls: 8,090 ha, which is 9.4%, per settlement 324 residents
Landed Property per head: 1.2 – per family 72 ha.
- C3: 7 very poor Community Hectares (workers and day-laborers):
Landed Property: 725 ha, which is .24%
Souls: 1,392 ha, which is 1.5% per settlement 199 residents
Landed Property per head: .52 ha – per family 3.2 ha.

The German settlements in Bessarabia, classified according to landed property and particular individuality.

Compiled by Dr. Karl Stumpp, department director of Deutschen Ausland-Institute, Stuttgart.

- A – Mother Colonies
- B – Daughter Colonies
- C – Community Hectares
- D – Urban Ethnic Germans

A – 25 Mother Colonies, established from 1814-1842.

Landed Property: 158,666 ha, which is 52.8% of the total German Landed Property.
Number of Souls: 45,440 ha, which is 52.8% of the Bessarabian German population.

The resident count swings (*swenkt*) between 318 – 3,750 (on the average – 1800). The Landed Property in the mother colonies swings between 15-30 ha per family (on the average 21), only in Dennewitz did it come to 43, in Plotzk and in Schabo each 60 ha.

It must be noted that the per-hundred rate of the land poor and landless in the mother colonies is big in proportion, so that the individual farmers, however, have a higher property average, maybe 30-40 ha. Many times over it is so that the landless, as semi-farmers, work the fields of the Landed Property owners, that is to say they sow, harvest and thresh and for that receive half the harvest proceeds. Characteristically, the following is also called attention to:

1. Tarutino - A frontier spot and the political, economical and cultural center of ethnic Germans in Bessarabia. Factory for agricultural machinery and 3 textile factories. Dye-works. For that reason, the per-hundred rate of the landless proprietors is high: merchants, teachers, laborers, drivers, etc. Residence of the administrative district and the Evangelical Lutheran district consistory, German boys and girls high school.
2. Arzis - Frontier spot. Railroad station. Significant mill (*Hochmuehle*). Country school. Higher per-hundred rate of landless proprietors.
3. Sarata - Factories for agricultural machinery. Teachers school. German hospital. German old peoples' home. Brickworks. Here similar to Tarutino and Arzis. The per hundred rate of non-German folks is large in all 3 settlements (check map).
- 4-6. Alt-Posttal, Wittenberg and Teplitz - Renowned due to the "Colonist Wagons" wagon construction – It is distinguished for its light and yet stable construction and for its beauty. At the weekly market, it is not only gladly bought by Germans, but also by Bulgarians, Russians and Romanian farmers. Many blacksmiths. Besides the wagons, rakes and forks are produced here.
7. Beresina – Railroad station. The largest significant mill in Bessarabia which supplies its flour also to Romania (in the "Altreich").
8. Borodino – Farming colony. Here there are also 2 large mills and pottery is produced.
9. Leipzig – Near the Basarabasca railroad station. Here the social differences are particularly strongly developed. Next to well-to-do farmers very poor folks.

10. Schabo – In many respects, takes on a special position:
1. A mixed settlement of Russian, German and French from Switzerland. An enduring struggle exists between the Germans and the French, particularly since the Germans in Bessarabia also seized upon the renewal movement. The French have always shown themselves as being hostile to Germans.
 2. It is the largest wine-growing colony. The major industry is vineyards. To be sure, the frost, for several years (and in the past winter), has destroyed the grape vines, so that now a more aggressive adaptation is being undertaken.
11. Alt-Elft – Agricultural character. Special attention is called to Reinke's model fruit orchard.
12. Gnadental – Well developed co-operative society (consumer).
- 13-25. Brienne, Dennewitz, Friedenstal, Hoffnungstal, Katzbach, Kloestitz, Krasna (the only Catholic colony), Kulm, Lichtental, Neu-Arztis, Neu-Elft, Paris, Plotzk – these mother colonies have nothing special to point out; as settlements they are spoken of as truly genuine agricultural in character. As well-to-do settlements with property of over 40 ha per family, special attention is called to Dennewitz (43), Plotzk (60) and Schabo (60).

B1: Well-to-do Daughter Colonies (22) founded 1863-1912:

Landed Property: 31,510 ha, which is 10.5% of the total German Landed Property.
 Number of Souls: 3,286 ha, which is 3.8% of the Bessarabian German population. There is an average of 130 inhabitants in a settlement. The average Landed Property of a family comes to 57.5. The establishment of these settlements implies a certain gamble (*Auslose*). The agricultural thrust, and out of a desire to do great things, led farmer sons to leave the mother colony and they established new settlements on land purchased from national Russian property owners, and brought the land to economic blossom.

This is in reference to the following colonies: Balaktschelly (51.6), Basyrjamka (42), Eignegut (over 100), Friedensfeld (40.8), Friedrichsdorf (72), Halle (42), Larga (73 -?), Maltscha (53), Negrowo-Ennseln (100), Netusche-Weiler (54), Neu-Alexandrowka (44), Neu-Postal (66), Parapara (58), Pomasan (54), Reimann-Gut (100), Romanowka (60), Rosenfeld (46 -?), Saratzika-Weiler (100), Sofiental (42), Tamurka (60), Tschiligider (55), Balabanka (108), Ennseln-Gut (100), and Schulzenheim (over 100).

B2: Daughter Colonies with average agricultural property (55)

Landed Property: 92,570 ha, which is 30.8% of the total German Landed Property.
 Number of Souls: 23, 110 ha, which is 26.9% of the Bessarabian German population.

On the average, there are 420 inhabitants in a settlement. The average Landed Property of a family comes to 24 ha. Albota (14.1), Alexanderfeld (26.7), Alexandrowka (19.8), Andrejewka (28.8), Annowka (35.3), Baimaklia (23.4), Bajusch (25.5), Balaban (37.2), Balmas (6), Benkendorf (35.4), Demir-Chadschi (30), Ebenfeld (20), Eichendorf (32.4), Eigenfeld (35.4), Eigenheim (31.8), Emmental (13.2), Fuerstenfeld II (33.6), Glueckstal (36), Gnadenfeld (30), Gnadenheim (24), Hoffnungsfeld (36), Jakobstal (12.6), Jargara (15.6),

Jekaterinowka (19.8), Josefsdorf (13.8), Kaschpalat (32.4), Ketrossy (29.4), Kisil (34), Kalatschowke (30), Korntal I (31.8), Korntal II (36), Kurudschika (16.2), Lunga (35.4), Mannsburg (33.6), Manukbejewka (12), Marienfeld (20.4), Mariental (25), Mariewka (31), Mathildendorf (28), Mintschuna (20), Mischeny (36), Neu-Dennewitz (31), Neufall (17), N.-Friedenstal (?), N.-Nikolaewka (18), N.-Paris (10), N.-Sarata (28), N.-Tarutino (20), Pawlowka (37), Philippowka (22), Raskajetz (19), Seimeni (29), Sofiowka (23), Stanhopka (14), and Wischniowka (20).

C1: Daughter Colonies – Hectares for communities founded 1920-23

After the Agricultural Decree of 13 March, 1920, the landless German families also received 6 ha per family. So 13 communities resulted with an average Landed Property of from only 6 ha a family or 1 ha a head for the German population.

Landed Property: 3,950 ha, which is 1.3% of the total German Landed Property.
Number of Souls: 2,764 ha, which is 3.2% of the Bessarabian German population.

On the average, there are 184 inhabitants to a settlement. The average Landed Property comes to 1.4 a head.

To this group belong: Bergdorf, Hoffmannsfeld, Luxemburg, Neu-Borodino, Neu-Josefsdorf, Neu-Kureni, Neu-Mariowka, Neu-Mathildendorf, Neu-Seimeni, Nusstal, Paruschowka, Popasdru-Deutsch, Rosental, Strassburg I and Lower-Albota.

C2: Lease Hectare Communities – 25.

These communities are not new settlements. They were founded already long before the World War by long term leases. Gradually this land was supposed to be turned over as freehold property [*Eigenbesitz*]. During the Romanian Agricultural Decree, the land was expropriated and only 6 ha remained for individual families. Thereby, the lease-hectare communities distinguish themselves from the new emerging hectare communities in that the inhabitants formerly were landed property owners. Also in outward appearance they are dissimilar from the other hectare communities. The living quarters manifest an earlier prosperity, while the homes in the new hectare communities are poor mud huts.

Landed Property: 9,594 ha, which is 3.2% of the total German Landed Property.
Number of Souls: 8,090 ha, which is 9.4% of the Bessarabian German population.

On the average, there are around 324 inhabitants in a settlement. The average Landed Property comes to 7.2 ha a family (1.2 per head).

To this group belong the following colonies: Alt-Oneschto, Blumental, Bratuleni, Fundu-Saratzika, Fuerstenfeld I, Mannowka, Helenowka, Hirtenheim, Kamtschatka, Katlebug, Maraslienfeld, Neu-Annowka, N.-Odessa, N.-Oneschti, N.-Strymba, Peterstal, Reulingen, Ryschkanowka, Romanowo, Sangerowka, Schabolat, Scholtoi, Strassburg II, Strmbeni, Tschemtschelly (near Culevoca).

C3: 7 Hectare Communities.

Where inhabitants are hardly engaged in agricultural property. There are handicraft workers, laborers and day-laborers who live scattered among other nationals. They are extremely poor and perilously on the way to losing their ethnic heritage.

Landed Property: 725 ha, which is .24% of the total German Landed Property.
Number of Souls: 1,392 ha, which is 1.5% of the Bessarabian German population.

.The average Landed Property per head comes to .52 ha. On the average, there are 199 inhabitants in a settlement

To this group belong: Manscheshti, Mansyr, Missowka, Oloneshti, Romanowka (Tighina District), Sarjari, Schabo-Passad.

D. Urban Ethnic Germans.

The percentage of urban ethnic Germans is only a scanty .65%. This ethnic German (group) is the most endangered of all the biological folk. The birth rate is below the death rate. The following cities have German communities:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cetatea-Alba (Akkerman) | 104 out of 28,000 inhabitants |
| Bendery (Tighina) | 80 out of 31,700 inhabitants |
| Kischinev (Chisinau) | 252 out of 120,000 inhabitants |
| Leowa | 80 out of 6,495 inhabitants |
| Tatarbunar | 45 out of 11,453 inhabitants |

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"About the Journey to Bessarabia"
Aquilin Ullrich, medical candidate, Dillingen

Early in the morning we arrive in Giurgiu, a port town on the Danube, to the south of Bucharest. Budapest, Belgrade, the Iron Gate, and the moonlight journey through the Walachia are still vivid within us. This is where our journey on the Danube is to end. Immediately, the first difficulties arose. Our papers, which documented the approval of the Romanian Ministry of Interior for duty free passage of our baggage, were not accepted. We were to await the arrival of the head of customs. It was only 6 AM.

In an old bus, which may have been left behind by the German troops, we drove into town. On the way, we passed ox wagons of Romanian farmers, who sat high up on their wagons, singing and shouting as they drove to market. A colorful crowd mingled in the streets of the town. Romanians, with their white wide pants, filled the market place. They all wore red sashes and many of them had the traditional colorfully embroidered leather vests of sheep skin. On the pavement there were heaped up mountains of tomatoes, peppers, watermelons, apples and grapes. Old women and bearded men crouched among them, surrounded by a bargaining crowd. Most of them did not buy anything. They were more concerned with the joy of bargaining. Conducting business in the East is a ceremony, and fighting for pennies belongs to it just as much as the payment. The babble of many voices filled the square, intermingled with the cries of animals which were tethered and waiting for their buyers. Water sellers were pushing their way through the crowd and zealous police (sic). Everywhere dirty beggars blocked the path – a colorful and lively picture which showed itself to us between the miserable houses of Giurgiu. Like a colorful page out of *One Thousand and One Nights*.

We returned to the harbor. Our 43 items of baggage, most of them containing scientific equipment, were tossed here and there and eventually opened. Our arrival was certainly a sensation and relished to the full. After 4 hours, in which we had to fight for each questionnaire, we were permitted to take our boxes, fixed with a custom's seal, to Bucharest. There we were sure of the active support of the legation.

Only, we were not yet able to leave Giurgiu. The conductor in the baggage wagon refused to accept our things. He claimed that the papers were not in order. This time around, we understood more quickly what he wanted. 20 Lei was the most persuasive speech we could have done. With that, our entrance ceremonies had come to an end, for the time being. However, five hours of negotiations were, even for our expectations, a very impressive reception.

On the train to Bucharest. At the stations, farmers wives came to the train with eggs, boiled crabs, grapes, roasted corn and many other types of southern fruits. They were all dirt cheap and with a true sense of discovery, we all began to enjoy these different delights to the full. One soon discovered that the "dear German gentleman" was being charged twice as much as the locals. The train traveled through endless corn fields in which the cobs were almost burned by the hot sun. We saw the first bucket wells in the bare plains. A romantic picture of the East. There were vineyards on the plains and their heavy dark wine was served at the stations. Once, the train stopped at an open stretch. A soldier had thrown himself under the wheels. Perhaps he could not stand the difficult duties, or his father was unable to provide

him with the 1000 Lei which he had to promise his captain for special leave. Perhaps he was only a German who could not longer stand the boot-heels and fist-blows of his lieutenant. He was dragged into the next field and the train continued on. Nobody showed any compassion – there are so many people in the Balkans.

Out of the mid-day haze, Bucharest emerged, the Paris of the East, as the Romanians proudly proclaim. The suburbs came closer; mud houses scattered like in communal gardens; then in-bad-taste brick houses, small and ugly. We were in Bucharest. In the center of the city, we found that some of the ugly buildings had been torn down. In their place, in strange contrast to their surroundings, skyscrapers towered. Although there were wonderful parks at the gates of the city, this could not lessen our disappointment. A triumphal arch had been erected as a memorial to the victory over the German army. An historical falsification meant to cover up the defeat in the eyes of the simple people. We remembered how a few days earlier, during the night, the searchlight of our steamship had shown on a stone cross on the Bulgarian riverbank and it was said over the loudspeaker, in the Balkan and German languages, "At this place Field Marshall von Makensen crossed the Danube." During the evening, we walked on the Boulevard Bratianu, which was lit up by fantastic light advertisements. Now the leading German industrial names shown from the skyscrapers and Romanesque elegance rewarded us for the efforts of the day. Expatriate newspapers reported of new atrocities by Sudeten-Germans against the Czechs. It was not surprising that we encountered more hatred than love from the Romanians, and more envy than friendship. The many Hebrew noses, which stared after us everywhere, already saw to that. The train carried us further to Bessarabia. We crossed the Pruth, the old border between the Romania as it was before the war and the country of Bessarabia of Imperial Russia. Soon there was no forest anymore. Only extensive treeless steppes, which promised a wonderful corn harvest. Black earth country of which the dark soil was almost a meter thick. We saw the first enclosed Bulgarian villages, clean, even though poor mud huts, but the well-tended gardens, by which they were surrounded, were noticeable.

Slowly our little train steamed through the Bessarabian plains. Sometimes, the view was opened to the Blue Mountains of the Dobrudscha on the far side of the Danube. Then again, there was only the shimmering endless steppe around us. (to be continued)

"Village of Teplitz"

[1. continuation]

Aquilin Ullrich, medical candidate, Dillingen

We leaned far out of the coach windows as Teplitz came into sight. This village was to be our home for seven weeks, until our work would be completed. A number of people had turned up to welcome us. On all sides were smiling faces and we hardly had time to shake hands with all who reached out to us. From letters which had already reached us in Germany, we knew of the great joy of the population about our visit, but we had not expected so much cordiality.

Teplitz is one of the oldest colonies of German settlers in Bessarabia. It was founded in 1817. As with most of the German settlements, this place was established by Schwabians. At present, there are 80,000 Germans in Bessarabia. Practically all of them are to be found in a closed settlement area round about Teplitz. The cultural center of these German colonies is the community of Sarata, founded by East Schwabians, from the area near to Dillingen.

After the first welcome at the station, we traveled to the village at the sharp pace of the steppe horses. The people were waving to us from the windows and in front of their yards. It was a day of celebration for them all. "Our Germans are here." We were assigned to our hosts and soon felt ourselves at home.

Everywhere, white cleanliness gleamed at us. The spaciousness of a steppe settlement became apparent from the village lay-out. The village is located in the flat basin of the Cogalnic Valley. This river is mostly dry in the summer and has water only after the tropical cloudbursts. Wonderful vineyards are ripened by the sun on the south-facing slopes. Teplitz has no picturesque village tree [*Dorflinde*], only sparsely growing young acacia trees. The street is the focal point of the village. The church, in plain colonial style, is hidden behind house high acacias. Like an axle, the street runs from east to west. Here the deep wells are located, in the southern heat the fountains of life. From morning till evening, the street resounds with the shouts of traders, who sell salt, fish, vegetables and German aniline dyes. Also here, on both sides, lie the spacious yards which are accessed from the street by a narrow path between stone gateposts. Low houses, which almost disappear under their huge thatched roofs, offer cool rooms from the midday heat and the annoying dust. All day long, wagon teams rush through the village, followed by meters high dust clouds. It seldom rains here, but when it does, masses of water plunge to the ground like walls of glass and the street becomes a river bed.

Approximately 2,500 people live in this village, with the exception of a few Romanian officials, all Schwabians. A strong pure ethnic German consciousness has been maintained over 120 years in spite of all outside influences. Because of their active relationship with their ancestral homeland, the latest developments in Germany have been like a promise to these farmers. They never tired to listen to us speak about German freeways, of our resurrected defense force, of the Nationalist Party Day. Each evening, after work, we would go from house to house with photo albums and talked. Then the entire neighborhood would come together and, in spite of the many listeners, there was silence around us. I remember an old farmer-woman who showed me a paper cup with an inscription "Bavarian Special Train", which was in her glass cupboard in which she stored family mementos. A acquaintance had

brought it along from the National Sports Festival, and now it had become a sacred family object.

Teplitz is famous for its wagon builders. Before the war, their market stretched to the Caucasus. At present, their sales are restricted to Bessarabia. Many families found their bread by this. This is especially significant because now, after the war, it is no longer possible for the German villages to buy Russian property for their younger sons. However, the desire to be on land is in their blood throughout their life and they work their fingers to the bone to at least be able to buy some land for their eldest. Many families are involved in wagon building. The spokes are made in one house, in another the wooden wheels, and again another family puts on the iron rim. In this way, wagon building is a community project of the village. To be sure, the farmers live far better than the craftsmen. The black soil bears rich harvests. This wealth makes possible a bearable life since the Romanian officials are easily persuaded to close their eyes [easily bribed].

The wealth is visible on the tables of the German farmers. We were offered an unbelievable variety of things. The meals were started mostly with one of the Russian vegetable soups. Then there would be a delicious choice of meat dishes, especially fowl. With that, roasted potatoes, a variety of salads made from the tasty southern fruits. Homemade wine is offered. The meals ends with grapes and watermelon, the red-fleshed melons. These were welcome delights to us, especially since the climate and the diseases of the Balkans required good nourishment.

In the shelter of this village, we hardly noticed that we were in the proximity of the Russian border. The frenzy of the Romanian press, which printed unbelievable things during the Czech crisis, seemed impossible to us and not worth bothering about. We felt quite at home in Teplitz and, after our work had been finished, the departure was painful to all. To this day, letters, which still reach us, speak of the happiness of this summer. --(to be continued)

"Bulgarian, Russian and Other Neighbors"

[2. continuation]

Aquilin Ullrich, medical candidate, Dillingen

When the Germans arrived in the land in 1817, having been invited by the Russian Czar, they found a desolate steppe, almost devoid of people. The chronicle of Sarata (Bessarabia) reports about this time, how the wagon train of Schwabian farmers moved across the steppe and, at night, from behind the shelter of their wagon circle, observed the fires of the nomadic hordes on the horizon. Since the departure of the *Kumenen* and the Turks, the steppe had been left to the wild *Kirgisen* and nomadic people. To this day, Turkish coins and small clay pipes are still found in graves. Grave mounds, which stand out here and there on the steppe, point to still older origins: old Germanic weapons, ornaments and other burial items come to light and tell of years long gone by when Goths lived in this land. Sometimes, a German professor comes to dig up a new mound, gathers together the contents and measures the skulls of the skeletons. Then, for a while, the German farmers are made aware that their ancestors lived in this land a long time ago. Otherwise, it is quiet around these old graves.

Today, Bessarabia is populated by a colorful mix of people. The Romanians just barely have a majority. Russians, Bulgarians and Germans live in the land. When the Germans immigrated, they were given a large portion of land by the Czar with the result that they still live in a closed area today.

All around, the villages of other ethnic groups have been laid out. They all have their distinguishing characteristics. The Bulgarian village is clean and surrounded by well kept gardens. Here the vegetables for the tables of the German farmers are grown. On a number of days during the week, the Bulgarian loads his wagon full of peppers, lettuce, vegetables, tomatoes and drives through the German villages, while constantly calling out: "*Papritsh, Paptrischala.*" The huts of the Bulgarians may well be made from clay, just like the yards of the Russians, but they have a special technique for the plastering. With a watery mix of clay, the house is plastered outside and inside until each edge has been rounded and each corner covered. This plaster is renewed each spring, so that the yards always look clean. Each house has its sitting room. Here, an icon hangs in one corner. Benches run all around the walls, covered with vividly colored and valuable hand-woven wool rugs. A show bed [*Paradebett*] stands there just as the bride brought it into the marriage. It is never used in spite of the inviting abundance of hand-spun blankets and Karakul sheep skins. The family itself sleeps in a room that is filled with half a meter of chopped straw and corn straw. These rooms, of course, are not open to outside eyes.

The villages are large from our perspective. Approximately 5-7000 people live in such a place. The village plat is transparent. The chessboard laid out streets have a large space free at the center. Here the church stands. Its mighty domes and whitewashed walls are in stark contrast to the plain huts all around. Yet there is an air of neglect around it and it may well come from a century that paid more attention to it, or was wealthier. The women mostly sit in front of the doors with a big crowd of children and turn the spindles or comb out the wool, while the men work in the cabbage garden and deliver vegetables.

While visiting a Bulgarian village, a Bulgarian jumped out at me, who, unusually, spoke German. "German gentlemen must to me come. I have in captivity been in Germany as

Russian soldier." His gratitude for the humane treatment during the war was touching. He brought his best wine out of the cellar and, possibly his only piece of pepper bacon, from the chimney flue to host us. All the neighbors came together and he beamed about his visitors, as their inquisitive faces surrounded him. We had just admired his Karakul skins when he wanted to give us one of them to take along. It was almost impossible to prevent him from doing this. However, I did accept a spindle as a memento. These Bulgarians are good neighbors to the German farmers. They are as faithful and reliable as they are superstitiously pious and during the voting, and many Bulgarians voted for the German List.

Completely different are the villages of the Russians and also the Romanians. Here everything goes the way of its fate. The houses are leaning and almost on the verge of collapse. The door hangs next to the door hinge, if it has not been replaced by a few tattered pieces of cloth full of holes. Everything is dirty and neglected. The priest, who counts his candles after each service because they sometimes burn down so quickly, looks terrifying in his shaggy beard. His black robe is stiff with dirt and could stand up on its own. Many a farmer carries three drunken spells over the street per day and possibly does not even know how many children he has, that is how child-abundant these villages are. These are the heads that communism has gone into. In 1923 there was also an attempted revolt which was started by bands of Russians from across the Dnjester. During this time, the German farmers showed their worth. They were armed and withstood the superior might for a number of days, and, above all, prevented the two armed bands from uniting, while the Romanian military, which was situated 50 kilometers away in the major town of the district, took three days before they could intervene. But, by that time, the Germans had repelled the Russians. During the summer, the Russians are employed as hired hands in the German villages. After threshing time, they return home. Sometimes young Russian women also come to the German settlements for work. Some of them have a strange moving melancholy beauty. However, the majority make a dull impression. They have large sad eyes and are like animals.

The Romanians do not make an appearance. They are sent into the villages by the government as community officials, or as postmen and rail workers. Some of them have the thankful task as teachers, to make sure that not a word of German is spoken at school. They seldom have a good reputation. The German farmer would sooner excuse their sincere zeal for their work, even if directed against them, than their pathetic eagerness for bribes, of which only a small number have been able to stay clear of. So the big speeches of State and Culture stand in stark contrast to the reality in which the German farmers enrich the land and, as an example to Russians and Bulgarians, are well thought of even though they are envied. The word of a German counts as much as a signature among these people. When this word is given, deals are sealed now as in Russian times.

Bessarabia has many Jews. Not as farmers. As always, as traders they live off of the work of others. The German stays far away from them. Many years ago, a Jew moved to Teplitz. His windows were demolished as often as it took until he moved away. Some time ago, the Jews attempted a boycott of German medical supplies. *Aspirinosan* and *pyramidul* were meant to deceive the customers. However, the plan fell into the sand. The customers demanded that they be given the German products. Characteristic for the Jewish contamination of the land is the fact that of 129 pharmacies in Bessarabia, 127 are in Jewish ownership.

The German has many neighbors in this land. With some of them he gets along well. He is respected in accordance to his industriousness and proficiency: by some with envy and hatred, by others with admiration and gratitude. But the German keeps his blood pure from all foreigners , since as far as one can recall, there have not been even a dozen mixed marriages in the land. (to be continued)

"Sarata, the East Schwaben Colony in Bessarabia"

[Part 3]

Aquilin Ullrich, medical candidate, Dillingen

While visiting the German museum at Sarata, I discovered, to my amazement, that the majority of founders of this village came from my home area.

This place became the cultural center of the German ethnic group of Bessarabia. Here the German hospital is to be found, which is led by an excellent surgeon. His home is the community of Teplitz, in which we did our investigations. To be sure, the equipment of the hospital does not measure up to the demands of a large hospital. Under the difficult circumstances, which are the result of the government and the financial situation of the ethnic group, the management of the hospital is a remarkable feat. The German Teachers' College, which was founded by the businessman Christoph Friedrich Werner, of Giengen on the Brenz, is also located in Sarata. It is impressive to read the will of this man in which he leaves his fortune to the community, for the building of a German Teachers' College. The document is dated 6 September, 1823. If today, as a result of the ill-will of the government, the teachers trained at Sarata are not allowed to be appointed to government schools, the college only caters to the needs of the church schools, then it is to be expected, sometime in the future, that the rights of the ethnic group will be recognized again.

Picture: [One of the oldest colonies of the Bessarabian settlement: the village Teplitz in whose settlement area Sarata is located. –photo by Ullrich, Dillingen]

The founding of the German museum in Sarata is a great cultural historical accomplishment. Here, in a small room, the most valuable documents of the ethnic group are assembled. The public documents of the area, from 1822-1892, are gathered here and can be a treasure trove to the future historian of the ethnic group. Finds from grave sites of the Gothic era, remnants of Turkish rule and many mementos of the old Schwabian homeland are on display. Even up to today, many valuable contributions still come in from all German villages of Bessarabia.

I remember with pleasure my visit with the director of the museum, the teacher Immanuel Wagner, whose ancestors originated from Baechingen on the Brenz. I told him about his place of origin; about Ulrich Graf who, on 9 November, stood in front of the Fuehrer to protect him; of the newly built castle. "Yes," he said, after a pause, while the tears welled up in his eyes, "I well believe that we Schwabians are faithful people." He brought me a chronicle of Sarata, which he had compiled with great care. Unfortunately, he does not have any money to have it printed. I have noted the most important dates and names from this old school book:

Sarata was founded in the year 1822. Then the most easterly village of the Germans in Bessarabia. The founder was Ignaz Lindle, a member of the chiliastic movement. His home village is Baidlkirch. His parish is Gundremmingen. He already had to leave his parish after one year. By means of the Russian Consulate in Munich, he was invited to St. Petersburg at the end of 1819, where he was appointed as preacher at the Maltese Church. A year later, he was Prior of the Catholic Church in Odessa. On his request, he received 16,000 *Nesjatin* (?) [*Dessiatin*] of land from Alexander I, to settle his followers. These people followed his call with enthusiasm in the hope of expecting, in that place, the end of the world

in a 1000 year kingdom of peace. Necessity made of these dreamers a solid group of German conscious agricultural people with a good grasp of reality.

The following founders of the community of Sarata originate from the surrounding area of Dillingen.

The earlier ones of the first group were: Joseph Scharzmann, cooper (make and repair vessels), from Gundremmingen, and Michael Wagner, wagon maker, from Baechingen on the Brenz.

The following East Schwabian families participated in the founding of Sarata in 1822:

Jakob Schaufelberger, weaver, Baechingen-Brenz
Alois Offenwanger, cabinet-maker, Gundremmingen
Salomon Mack, saddle-maker, Brenz
Johann Seifried, carpenter, Gundelfingen
Johann Sessle, weaver, Baechingen
Heinrich Keck, weaver, Hermaringen
Jakob Waldenmaier, carpenter, Sontheim
Joseph Hobbacher, nail-smith and church caretaker, Biel (?) near Guenzburg
Johann Peter Sessle, blacksmith, Baechingen
Johann Peter Haeussler, locksmith, Kittental near Wertingen
Johann Michael Haussler, weaver, Kittental near Wertingen
Johannes Kastler, weaver, Baechingen
Margaretha Schaffelberger, Baechingen
Bitus Steudle, mason, Herbrechtingen
Balthasar Blatter, weaver, Gundelfingen
Georg Matt, weaver, Gundremmingen
Melchior Bandel, tailor, Haunsheim
Heinrich Mauz, brick layer, Giengen-Brenz
Johannes Brenner, butcher, Lauingen
Erasmus Ilg, gardener, Gundelfingen
Thomas Mueller, tanner, Gundelfingen
Kaspar Osswald, Gundelfingen
Friedrich Geigle, weaver, Hermaringen
Albert Unterseher, carpenter, Lauingen
Johann Rossmann, weaver, Herbrechtingen
Johann Paulin, baker, Gundelsingen
Anton Schmucker, farmer, Offingen near Guenzburg
Joseph Wiedemann, weaver, Gundelfingen
Johannes Keller, weaver, Baechingen
Georg Schoenherr, brick layer, Gundelsingen
Joseph Woelfle, weaver, Gundremmingen
Martin Keller, shoe-maker, Sontheim
Georg Schmucker, blacksmith, Offingen
Johann Georg Beck, saddle-maker, Gundremmingen
Christian Gaessler, butcher, Sontheim
Johann Michael Wagner, wagon-maker, Baechingen
Martin Deisinger, shoe-maker, Giengen
Paul Buechele, weaver, Brenz
Georg Maier, tailor, Haunsheim

Georg Hommel, saddle-maker, Brenz
Johann Georg Keller, weaver, Baechingen
Jakob Friedrich Sessler, weaver, Baechingen
Joseph Schwarzmann, cooper (make and repair vessels), Gundremmingen
Matthaeus Schmidt, farmer, Gundelfingen
Johann Georg Buechele, farrier (shoes horses), Huerben
Michael Bauer, farmer, Gundremmingen
Jakob Bendele, weaver, Baechingen
Appollonia Keller, Baechingen
Johannes Lagger, Aislingen
Anton Beck, master tailor, Gundremmingen
Joseph Oberlander, shoe-maker, Gundremmingen
Christine Pfaudler, Baechingen
Anton Matt, weaver, Gundremmingen
Johannes Bantel, tailor, Haunsheim
Matthias Winkler, weaver, Haunsheim
Theresia Folg, Aislingen
Veronika Berger, Gundelfingen
Marianne Demmeter, Gundremmingen

In closing, I would like to quote a few phrases which a Teplitz family wrote in a letter:

"We celebrated Christmas with you. We heard the speech of Rudolf Hess and with you sang our old and ever new songs. It was actually as if we were gathered around the Christmas tree in a room with you. We recalled the great deed of Fuehrer in Sudetenland. At that time, we also had listened in. Our eyes also were filled with tears, because when all goes well with you, then it all goes well with us...."

"An Unforgettable Day for Baechingen"

Baechingen. Last Saturday was an unforgettable day for the entire population of our village. As it had already been announced, Mr. Wilhelm Wagner, of Sarata, Bessarabia (Romania), visited us. He also brought along his cousin, who, at present, is working as a cabinet-maker in Stuttgart. Both are in Germany for the first time and wished to take along very deep impressions of their original homeland. It was a special joy to the two to view the property of Mr. Mack, almost unchanged, which their ancestors left 125 years ago. Mr. Mack was also able to show them an old chair back with a date on it. A number of farmyards, with all outside buildings and installations, were viewed with great interest. Hereby, while doing this, they came to speak about the fact that in Sarata they did not yet enjoy electricity and that, therefore, especially the work of threshing is much more strenuous than with us. The piped water in the barns also appealed greatly to the Wagner compatriots, since they do not have any at their place. After this first tour, the gentlemen traveled to Gundelfingen to get to know the little town, from which Schwabians also emigrated to Sarata. They took with them a very favorable impression of the clean and quiet little town in which the exemplary clean streets especially attracted their attention. In the Baechingen parsonage, the compatriots could get an insight into a number of documents concerning the emigration of the ancestors.

The compatriots then spent the evening in the company of the entire population, in as far as the Hirsch Hall was able to accommodate them. After a short welcome by the local cultural custodian, Pg. [Party Member] Teacher Braune, the old folk song: "*Am Brunnen vor dem Tore*" was sung, which moved the guests as they sang along. After this, school children, in traditional garb, presented a number of poems about Germans living outside of Germany. The guests will remember for a long time the female student, B. Lindenmayer, who presented the poem: "*Schwabalaendle*", vigorously and with emotion. Mayor Grandl then handed over to the guest, as a remembrance gift, a photo album, put together by Pg. Jakob Grandl, with pictures of Baechingen and the Brenz valley. Then, after being requested on all sides, Mr. W. Wagner talked at length about his homeland and started by sharing his amazement about the unexpected cordial welcome which had been shown to him. Then he gave an overview of the historical happenings during the emigration time, painted a picture of the country and the people of his present homeland, and then answered many questions of the thirsting-for-knowledge Baechingen people. He told that one possessed more land there and, to be sure, fertile soil which did not have to be fertilized. The question as to what happened to the manure produced an astonishing answer. The manure was dried, cut into pieces like the peat here with us, and finds its way into the oven. Threshing without electricity is a very slow process. One drives the stone roller over the grain until it has been threshed. While doing this, one may not be surprised by a storm, otherwise, the harvest floats out of the yard. In spite of these hardships, to our way of thinking, the farmers there only fear one thing, namely, the drought. There, the winters are cold, however, the summers are very hot and rain poor. The grain easily may freeze out during the winter when the icy wind from the east blows across the steppe, and during summer a failed harvest may easily occur if the rain needed for growth is absent. Especially interesting was the illustration of the village Sarata in which 2,000 Schwabians live, whose ancestors all emigrated from our region. Large farmyards and wide streets give the village an impressive look. Narrow alleys are unknown there. When the speaker, in his Schwabian dialect which cannot be distinguished from ours, told that one also ate *spatzle* and *knoepfla*, dumplings and pancakes, bread and bacon, we were one in heart and soul. Now we started to compare this and that. Compatriot Wagner answered all

our questions but most impressive of his words was the extraordinary calm with which he spoke. His face and his manner told the attentive listener that this man was shaped by a life far removed from the motherland and far away from one's own culture. Therefore, it was a reassurance to us Baechingen folks, who got to really like the two guests in this short time, that compatriot Wagner could tell us that the relationship to his ethnic hosts was good and both sides were intent on showing mutual respect. It was a great joy for all gathered to hear from the words of the compatriot Wagner that the glory of the new Germany also reached to the Bessarabian Germans, that it reassured their concerns and fears and filled them with strong hope for the security of their future. The Baechingen people took leave of their guests with best wishes and sent greetings to their relatives in their homeland.