

German Hectare Communities in Bessarabia - 1940

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[Translator's Notes: Explains how hectare communities came into existence in 1920 and lists the names of both the pure German and the mix nationality hectare communities that developed up to 1940. This document is apparently an appendix to a report which is not identified.]

(1 hectare/ha = 2.471 acres)

[Begin Translation/Transcription]

Enclosure 7

German Hectare Communities in Bessarabia

The so-called Hectare Communities owe their origin to the land reform of 1920. There was no such thing in the communities of Bessarabia before this time.

With the establishment of these communities, it took on the name of "Hectare Community" in the following manner:

In the process of the implementation of the land reform, families were allotted from 3 to 6 hectares of land, based on land expropriated from the farm villages under consideration. Out of this process of granting hectares of land, terms like the following showed up: Hectare farmer (*Hektarbauern*) (in Russian—*Hektarschtschik*), hectare village (*Hektardorf*) and hectare community (*Hektargemeinde*) [*Gemeinde* can be translated, according to context, either as community, or congregation]. And so 13 new small villages sprang up among us in 1920-1923, which are all recognized today as church congregations and are known as hectare communities. These newly founded places are dispersed among church parishes as follows:

Albota Parish:	Paraschowka and Unter-Albota
Andrejewka Parish:	Neu-Seimeny
Kischinev Parish:	Neu-Kureni
Klöstitz Parish:	Hoffmannsfeld and Neu-Borodino
Mathildendorf Parish:	Neu-Josefsdorf and Neu-Mariewka
Neu-Sarata Parish:	Bergdorf and Rosental
Posttal Parish:	Luxemburg, Popasdrü and Strassburg I
Nusstal near Balaban (Albota Parish) did not form a congregation	

Besides the 13 listed hectare communities, there are another 24 villages which are also called hectare communities, but in many respects, differ from the first ones and so constitute a separate group. First of all, these communities are not newly founded. They already came into existence

at various times before the war and were specifically on rented lands (*Pachtländern*) holding long term leases. With the implementation of the land reform, these properties were also expropriated and the farmers located on the seized land of these villages were given 6 hectares per family.

The two types of hectare communities also clearly differed outwardly from each other. Whereas the beginning of those on the leased land differed very little from the other villages, the newly founded hectare communities hardly resembled that of the German villages. They were small settlements made up exclusively of sod houses.

These communities, as a rule, consisting of 15 to 50 families, were made up of only small farmers having to make do with 3-6 hectares of land, which is a far too small a farm for us, and, furthermore, their farm equipment was, and still is, very poor. The individual is here not in a position to deliver to his family even the most basic necessities from his farm, and only seldom is there an opportunity to get other work. And so these poor people have to make do with a miserable existence. It is under such circumstances also further not surprising when community life is neglected here. Until 1931, most communities had neither schools nor prayer houses. Consequently, these communities were without ecclesiastical service and the youth without school instruction. The hectare communities located on the former leased land were, to that extent, in a better position since they were allowed to remain in their own villages, in their prayer and school houses at the implementation of the land reform. Also, for the most part, these people had sufficient farm equipment at their disposal much earlier.

Our hectare communities also differed one from the other in that some of them lived in closed pure German settlements, while others lived together with other nationalities. Consequently, this arrangement means that in the mixed communities the danger of de-germanizing is much greater than among those occupied purely by German folks. Purely German hectare communities are: Paruschowka, Neu-Seimeny, Neu-Hannowka, Alt-Oneshti, Hirtenheim, Neu-Oneshti, Rischkanowka, Strembeni, Scholtoi, Neu-Borodino, Hannowka, Helenowka, Neu-Josefsdorf, Neu-Mariewka, Bergdorf, Fürstenfeld I, Romanowo, Strassburg II, Schabolat, Maraslienfeld and Neu-Kureni.

Mixed hectare communities are (beyond those 7 already listed): Unter-Albota, Tschemtschelly, Bratuleni, Neu-Strymba, Hoffmannsfeld, Peterstal, Reulingen, Fundu-Sarazika, Popasdru and Blumental.

Significantly different from our communities are the German villages in the northern part of the Kischinev Parish (near Bältzi) and they are: Scholtoi, Neu-Strymby, Rischkanowka and Bratuleni and a group of three villages together: Alt-Oneshti, Neu-Oneshti and Strembeni (some 70 km in a westerly direction from Kischinev). The settlers of these communities originate from what was at one-time Austria, most of them from Bukovina which one today still considers to be Austrian. On the average, these people are shorter than us in the south and they dress differently.

[End Translation/Transcription]