

Stumpp Report #5 of 7

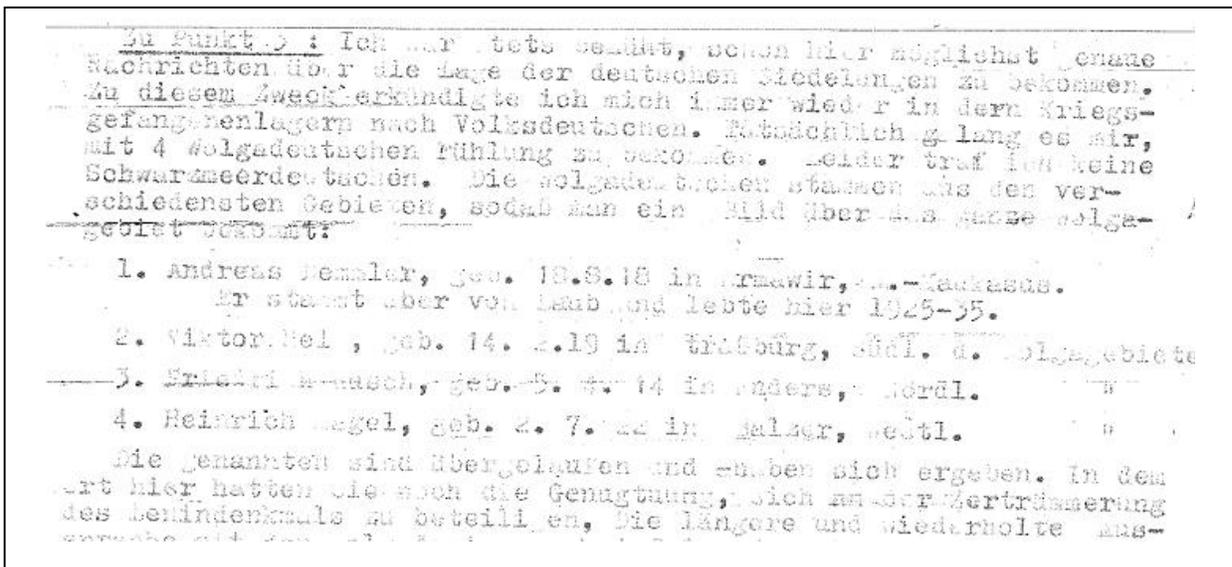
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At the outbreak of World War Two in 1939, the German Reich was invading Poland and annexing various Central European nations while the Soviet Union was busy annexing various parts of the Balkan nations. A Non-Aggression Pact was signed 23 August, 1939 which allowed for each country to extract their ethnic people from the territories annexed by the other. Then, on 22 June, 1941, Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, whose armed forces pushed their way across the Volhynia and Volga Regions on their way to the outskirts of Moscow. Since these two regions had been populated by ethnic Germans for a couple hundred years, the German Reich appointed Karl Stumpp to head a task-force to investigate the condition of the ethnic Germans who had been living under communist rule.

What now follows is my attempt to translate the reports Karl Stumpp drew up as he and his entourage travelled through German occupied land within the Soviet Union. Unaware of whether his reports are already translated into English, I decided to struggle with the documents preserved in the DAI collection. As you can see from the photo below, the typed pages are difficult to read. If the typewriter keys were not cleaned of ribbon residue, and the carbon paper for duplicates and triplicates was over-used, what copies I had to read were in poor condition. So there will be times when I may have misread a letter, or could only determine a portion of the blurred word, or just had to leave a blank in the typing, but try to come up with a translation of the unknown word which best fit the context of the sentence. Words within [square brackets] are those of the translator.



[Translation Begins]

Report #5

(26 September to 10 October, 1941)

by Dr. Stummpp

From 26 September—10 October, 1941, I traveled together with Lt. Dr. Vohrer to the German settlements between the Bug and Dniester [Rivers], especially the oldest settlements near Odessa. In Ingulez-Rudni, the ethnic German Willhauk from Kronau reliably reported to us for the first time about the mood of the Ukrainian workers in the iron ore mines there. Most of these workers welcome the invasion of the German troops. The workers did not follow the orders of the Bolsheviks. In the event that a withdrawal of the German troops would ever come into question, these workers want to move with the Germans. The iron ore mines were destroyed here and elsewhere before the departure of the Soviets. The miners now work in the kolkhoz to earn their bread.

Traveling further on we came to a mixed Dobraja (Dobrenka) settlement where Jews lived next to the Germans. The colonists stem from the Catholic settlements of Landau, Sulz, Speyer, and so forth. We noticed that the Germans lived for the most part in poor residences on the outskirts of the village and the Jews in beautiful houses in the center. The colonists told us that they had been exploited by the Jews and that there was always a great tension between the Jews and the Germans. Now the German families have moved into the empty houses of the Jews. Above each front door hangs a command with the following content: "Germans live here. If you attack them or their property, you will be shot." An old 77-year-old Ukrainian woman stops us, crosses herself, laments her suffering in recent years and thanks us, making the sign of the cross again and again on herself, for the liberation from the Bolsheviks.

Continuing on the trip, we came to the German village of **Neu-Danzig**. The village has been treated rather harshly as there was fighting here for three days. 40 of the now expelled men have not yet returned. The inhabitants have immigrated here from various other German colonies. This colorful formation is also expressed in the construction of houses. There are also still contrasts in the community and no uniform village spirit is yet developing.

It is known from the press that the city of Nikolajew has been well preserved. However, before leaving, the Bolsheviks set fire to all the better hotels. 200 Germans are said to have been abducted from Nikolajew. Despite all efforts, it has not yet been possible to clarify whether they were shot or sent further to the East. 900 ethnic Germans lived in Nikolayev, in the neighboring Kherson 220. Our onward journey takes us to the Catholic Beresan District and to the 3 large Protestant (*evangelischen*) communities of Worms, Rohrbach and Johannestal. The villages all still exist as closed German settlements. The amount of the foreign population is insignificant. The number of mixed marriages is also relatively low ([see Appendix](#)). In this area, the famine was worst in the years 1931 and 1933. As an explanation, it was given that the soil here was bad and hardly anything could be obtained from the neighboring villages. In Landau, for example, 450 ethnic Germans have starved to death, in Johannestal 98. In general, it was emphasized again and again that many more would have starved to death if the help from Germany had not

come through the *Westen* Company. This company provided food for the needy, such as beans, millet, rice, lard.

The old long-time village clerk Christian Maier from Johannestal gave a very interesting report about the origin of the village. He had built up an excellent archive here, which was arranged chronologically and presented the history of the village since its foundation. This archive was taken away in 1927 by a Soviet official, brought to Nikolajew and destroyed there. It must unfortunately be stated that the demand for the archives and church books in all German colonies showed that they were almost completely destroyed in earlier years and now, before the departure of the Soviets, mostly burned. Only in Landau are some church books preserved and in Hoffnungstal a large part of them.

A teacher who had to dig trenches in northern Crimea reports that he himself saw three long trains (*Züge*) with German colonists from Crimea sent to the interior of Russia. The ethnic Germans had told him that they were the last. They had to take food with them for 10 days and when they asked the Soviet officials where they were sending them, they got the answer: That you will find out at the right time. In the meantime, news has already arrived from the other side that the Germans have been resettled from Crimea. A letter from a comrade of mine indicates that before their withdrawal, the Soviets conducted themselves terribly in Eigenfeld and the surrounding German villages and murdered many Germans.

Our journey onward took us via Rohrbach, Worms, Waterloo to Rastatt and München. In Rohrbach, people were just at harvesting the grapes. The vineyards are so overgrown with weeds that you can hardly see the vines. The grapes are very small and hardly worth keeping. In recent weeks, the ethnic Germans have been continuously called upon to dig tank entrenchments and protective trenches, so that they have not had time to take care of the vineyards. For the same reason, the harvest could not be completely brought in everywhere. The harvest yield was pleasingly good this year. Initially, 1 hectare yielded 20, even up to 30 *Doppelzentner* of wheat [1 *zentner*=50 kg; *doppelzentner*=100 kg]. Since the harvest had to be interrupted because of the work on the trenches, a part perished due to rain or failure of the grains due to over-ripeness, so that the yield fell, in part, to 10 *Doppelzentner*. Due to a lack of draft animals, the grain could not be set up or hauled in everywhere. The threshing work is progressing only slowly due to a lack of machinery and, above all, of fuel. Farmers are very concerned about autumn sowing. Here, too, there is a lack of draft animals, tractors and fuel.

Worms is home to the deaf-mute institute, which is known throughout the Black Sea region. The building is still undamaged today and is now used as an elementary school. When I entered the school building, the children were singing the songs: "Off to the Battle" (*Auf zum Kampf*), "Germany, Germany above all else" (*Deutschland, Deutschland über allen*) and "The Horst Wessel Song" (*Das Host Wessel Lied*). Enthusiastic and excited, they listened to my stories about Germany and its Führer. Schooling has begun in most colonies. The school buildings are fine. It is pleasing to note that there are teachers everywhere, for example, in Rohrbach 11, in Worms 8. It was mostly among the younger year-groups (*Jahrgäng*) who received their education in Odessa and later in Chortitza. Only a very small part of the teaching staff was really ridiculous, these teachers have disappeared. The vast majority remained behind and can be used immediately in the school service after a corresponding retraining. The retraining must

be both political and professional. The teachers make a very good and brave (*aufgewackten*) impression and are certainly willing to undergo such retraining. The most urgent task will be to provide schools with teaching materials and, above all, teachers with the appropriate manuals.

It is surprising to note that in the vast majority of German settlements, despite years of famine and exile, the German population has not decreased, but increased compared to 1914 (see [Appendix](#)). It must be emphasized that there has been a strong migration from the colonies to the cities and surrounding Ukrainian villages. Moreover, a whole series of new German settlements emerged. The external image of these newly created German settlements is fundamentally different from the old villages. One example is the village of Friedenheim near Rohrbach, which was established in 1928. The houses are all small, low and uniform, but make a clean and friendly impression.

In the composition of the German population, it is noticeable that there are many women and children, but few men, especially at the age of 21-69 years. Straßburg has 394 men, 578 women and 360 young people under the age of 18. Kandel 757 men, 1,041 women and 1,672 young people. Selz 592 men, 579 women and 1,199 young people. The result for 100 German villages with a total of 8,010 inhabitants is as follows: men 1,723, women 2,658, children under 14 years 3,629. All the villages listed so far and following are located in the territory occupied and administered by the Romanians. The Special Detachment (*Sonderkommando*) of the Ethnic German Central Department (*Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle*) [VOMI] has succeeded in getting the Romanian troops to leave the German villages and these settlements to receive their own administration. Everywhere there are already German mayors (*Bürgermeister*) and for several municipalities gathered together with a senior mayor (*oberschulze*). In the colonies, self-protection men are trained and deployed everywhere, most of whom are recruited from younger school-year classmates (*Jahrgänger*). These receive military training and are also equipped with weapons. Unfortunately, it must be noted that the behavior of the Romanian troops has taken on intolerable forms. The confiscation of grain and cattle necessary for the troops was carried out almost everywhere in senseless removal, even theft. In the houses, the locks are broken, people take away not only the products necessary for food, but also laundry, sewing machines, bicycles, barrels, and so forth. It has happened that pigs and cows have been taken away and slaughtered in a number far beyond the necessary level, so that the meat spoiled. This behavior of the Romanian troops has caused discontent and great resentment among the German population. In general, it is expressed that they do not want to remain under Romania under any circumstances, but want to come under the protection of Germany under all circumstances.

The external image of the German settlements is changing from day to day. The somewhat neglected houses, now smeared with (gray) soil during the war, are all beautifully whitened and given a look as before the World War. The swastika flag flies at almost every house or courtyard gate. Pictures of the Führer are hanging in the schools and village chancelleries. The church steeples were demolished everywhere and the churches were converted into clubs, cinemas, grain magazines. Now church services are taking place everywhere again.

Fortunately, for the whole area between the Bug and Dniester [Rivers], it can be stated that the order that all men aged 16-60 years have to leave the villages and be taken across the Dniester was not carried out. Because of the rapid deployment of the German and Romanian troops, the

men in a large part of the German villages did not leave their home settlement at all. Where it happened, they hid in the corn and grain fields and returned to their home village. In some villages, above all, some young people are missing, who had to haul off with wagons the Soviet officials, especially the Jews, and have not yet returned. Some arrests were also made, for example, in Alexanderhilt 7 and in Neuburg 25 men were arrested.

In the German settlements around Odessa, the kolkhoz cattle are mostly driven off, but each family has a cow. It is interesting and valuable to note the following facts: In 1933, the Soviets also wanted to take away the only remaining cow from the families. The “women's uprising” broke out throughout Russia as if on a command, the women demonstrated against these plans and the Soviets were forced to reverse their measure. 1933 was the great year of hunger. Despite the fact that the harvest was very good this year, a terrible hardship broke out because the last kernel of grain was taken away from the people. If not more people have starved to death, it is due to this “women's uprising”, thanks to which one cow remained in the family. In a special location were the German villages west of Odessa in Barbei – Valley: Alt-Freudental, Peterstal, Josephstal, Mariental, Neuburg, Alexanderhof, Grossliebental, and Kleinliebental. It looks worst in Alt-Freudental. There is almost no house here that has not been affected or completely destroyed by the fighting. The village has been overcrowded with Romanian troops. There were no chickens and no white bread in the whole village. The population fed itself exclusively on maize. Supplies will last until the end of December at the latest. The population was still constantly alarmed by Russian air raids. Also, these villages were within firing range of the Russian artillery. It was particularly bad in this regard in Grossliebental and Kleinliebental. The latter would have to be praised during our stay. Our onward journey took us further north to the German villages of Kassel, Glückstal and Neudorf. Here there was already complete peace and the people were doing their work. Glückstal was fiercely contested, with 80 German soldiers buried there. There are no ethnic German victims, as they were always outside the village during the campaigns. Two difficult questions arise again and again:

1. People do not want to work in the kolkhoz anymore in memory of the years that happened. It takes a lot of effort and educational work to convince them that the work in the kolkhoz is still necessary for the time being. Under all circumstances, the ethnic Germans want to own and cultivate their own land again.
2. There is a general and understandable desire to get back into their own homes, from which the owners have been expelled in recent years. The difficulty is that other families now live in these houses, for whom residences cannot always be procured.

The general landscape changes to the extent that you get further and further south. While in Volhynia it was the hop fields that dominated the landscape, now it is the maize and sunflowers, flax and hemp fields as well as tobacco plantations. Unique were the orchards, which dominated the landscape in the valley from Glückstal to Bergdorf. Here it became quite clear what you can get something out of the often still undeveloped slopes in the Ukraine through generous planning.

Our onward journey to Kirowograd (Jelisawathgrad) led us to the German settlement of Alt-Danzig, which was completely closed off from the rest of the German territory. This seclusion

had an extremely detrimental effect on the community. The German population fell from 400 to 150, of which 12 are mixed marriages with a total of 50 people.

Kirowograd itself is home to 451 ethnic Germans, the vast majority of whom are made up of German domestic families from the German colonies. Under Bolshevism, they lived on the outskirts of the city in poor huts and led a completely enclosed life, so that one knew nothing of the other. The children only had interaction with Russian children, so that they sometimes speak Russian better than German and can neither read nor write German. Now these German families have all been relocated to good residences and work for the most part in the military as interpreters, cooks, cleaning up women, car drivers, and so forth. During our stay, a special grocery store was set up for the Germans and all equipped with an identification as to their ethnicity. The strong mismatch between men and women aged 21-60 years is also revealed here in the city:

Age	Men	Women
21-30	23	41
31-40	33	55
41-50	15	41
51-60	12	21
over 60	9	24

Appendix

Numerical breakdown of the German Settlements in the Odessa region – as of October 1941

Population movement among Germans											
Nam. German Settlement	Soul count 1914	# Ger. Families 1941	Soul Count 1941	Expell-ed	In the Mi-li-tary	Banish-ed 1929 1937	Starv-ed 1921 1932	Mixed Mar-riages	Ukr. Fam-ilies	Crop Yield Wheat Barley in <i>Doppel-zentnern</i>	
Dobroja	--	--	152	3	10	--	--	--	40	--	--
Karl Lieb-knecht (kolkhoz)	--	40	--	--	--	--	--	--	(neu-?)	--	--
Neu-Danzig		126	380	40	1	--	--	--	8	20	17 Rye—12
Sulz (1,674=754 Men, 947 Women & 909 Children)	1,821	384	1,674	1 (300) ¹	35	1921:184 1933:273	6	17 Russ. 20	--	--	--
Grünfeld		52	270	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Johannestal	1,773	293	1,190	(300) ¹	26	1921:20 1933:78	--	-- 11 ²	10 --	15 --	10 --
Friedenheim		48	240(27) ¹	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rohrbach	2,146	--	2,480	--	64	1933:74	--	Gypsies. 4 Ukrain. 8	--	7	--
Worms	2,167	468	2,169	4	22	93	1921:9 1933:240	2	--	8	7
Waterloo	995	220	1,400	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Neu-Rastatt 1941: in all 2,228	3,961 --	--	532 --	-- 6	-- 32	-- 420	-- many: 12 to dig trenches 1937	-- 2	--	--	--
Alt-Rastatt	--	--	1,696	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kassel	1,644	535	2,336	1	40	18	about 30	8	Jews 7	16	14

Population movement among Germans

Nam. German Settlement	Soul count 1914	# Ger. Families 1941	Soul Count 1941	Expell- ed	In the Mi- li- tary	Banish- ed 1929 1937	Starv- ed 1921 1932	Mixed Mar- riages	Ukr. Fam- ilies	Crop Yield Wheat in <i>Doppel- zentnern</i>	Barley
München Out of 1,106: 249 Men, 271 Women, 593 Youth (0-14)- 483; (14-18)-110	1,928	--	1,106	2	6	--	1933 87 1921 over 100	5	3	11	--
Hoffnungstal	2,284	490	2,017	--	52	--	--	5	5	9	6
Kleintal		28		132	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
Alexander- hilf	898	330	1,300	7	12 arrested	--	--	3	2	--	--
Neuburg	801	245	970	(71) ¹	--	--	--	6	3	--	--
Hoffnungs- feld	326	135	560		6	--	--	3	2	--	--
Glückstal	1,832	550	2,250	--	19 all return ³	--	3	22	6	--	--
Neu-Glückstal		160	703	56 2	-- --	--	-- 75	--	--	--	--
Strassburg	2,304	445	1,952(202) ³ M. 1,294 W. 578 Y. 980	30	140	-- --	-- --	21 --	39 others 34	now 18	8
Neudorf	--	551	2,215	4	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
Kandel	2,497	--	3,491 M. 757 W. 1,041 Y. 1,672	--	--	--	--	2	12	--	--
Neu-Blumen- Feld	--	--	183 M. 48 W. 51 Y. 90	--	--	--	--	--	24	--	--
Lichtenfeld	200	--	52	--	--	--	--	--	31	--	--
Neufeld	--	--	204 M. 41	--	--	--	--	--	7	--	--

			W. 50								
			Y. 113								
Ebenland	--	--	16	--	--	--	--	--	19	--	--
									others 10		
Neuland (Schewtschenko)	--	--	222	--	--	--	--	--	4	--	--
Katharinental (Burdowe)	--	--	157	--	--	--	--	--	12	--	--
Selz	2,910	--	2,670 (M. 592, W. 879, Y. 1,199)	--	--	--	--	--	86	--	--
Neudorf	1,880	--	2,215								
Bergdorf	1,497	--	1,565								
Glückstal	1,796	--	2,610								
Neu-Bessarabka	--	--	160								
Krontal	--	--	122								
Dezenerow	--	--	123								
Kotowka	--	--	98								
Brinsa	--	--	116								
Friedenstal	598	--	663								
Klein-Bergdorf	298	--	293								
Hermannstal (Wischina)	240	--	345								
Klein-Glückstal	--	--	188								
Sofiental	213	--	272								
Alt-Danzig	--	--	150	--	--	--	--	--	11 (Czech Families)		
									(50 mixed marriages)		

- (1) (130) = Expelled persons who have all or partly returned in the meantime. The not in brackets number indicates those who have not yet returned.
- (2) 10 men have Russian wives, of these 4 have a German mother and one a Russian father.
- (3) during the retreat, as a cattle driver (kolkhoz cattle) dragged along and not yet returned.
- (4) 1930-1931, 100 families were banished, 1937-1938 – 174 souls.

[Translation Ends]