

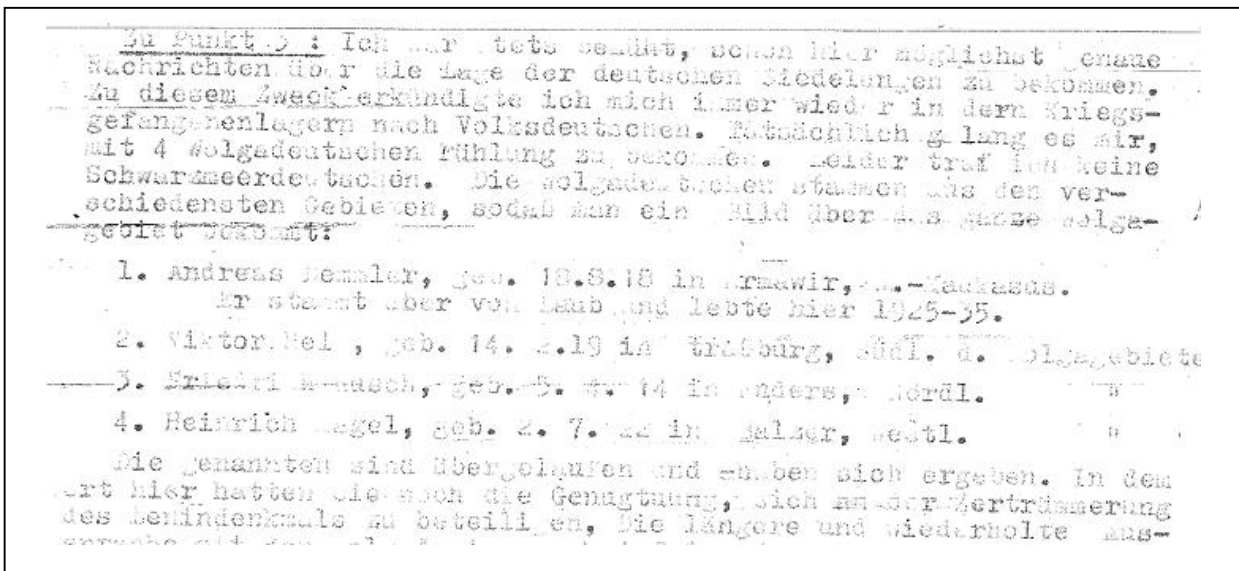
Stumpp Report #1 of 7

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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 #1
of the adviser (*Referenten*) with the Commanding Officer Rear Supreme
District South

On 14 August, I received my marching order to the Commanding Officer Rear Supreme District 103. I was assigned to Department VII (Military Administration), where I was given the Ethnic German Department [DAI]. Since we are not yet in areas populated by Germans, I could not yet begin my actual task. My activity therefore covered the following areas:

1. Interpreting services
2. Preparation of the deployment of the reliable people (*Vertrauensleute*)
3. Enquiries with German-Russian Prisoners of War on the German situation in the Soviet Union
4. Contact with the Ukrainian population in order to learn as much as possible about the general situation.

As to Point 1: Nothing in particular to mention.

As to Point 2: I have drawn up guidelines for the deployment of the meanwhile increased number of reliable people to 90 and questionnaires for the first inventory of the Germans in Russia. The material has been sent to Dr. Broneske, who is entrusted with this question. From him also came the confirmation that it had arrived, had been approved after a consultation and had been given in Bruck. The documents and maps I have repeatedly requested have not yet been received. Especially urgently I need maps about the Volhynia Germans around Shitomir. I hope to come to this area around 25 August. The reliable people for this area have already been requested on 31 July, but have not yet arrived up to this time. Of course, a way would have to be found that the requested men are immediately put on the march, otherwise it is extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible, to do a planned job. There is great interest in these reliable people, especially in the Agriculture Department.

So far, I have assumed that all the men on the list will be drafted and that we will certainly be able to count on them. According to Dr. Broneske, a large part has moved in and is essential. We have now requested the reliable people for the Großliebental and Worms areas. If the deployment is currently out of the question, then these men can be used in other areas, all the more so since one has to reckon with a shortage.

If, in fact, instead of the 90 reliable people envisioned, only 20-30 are coming, I will have to take a different approach. It was envisioned that these reliable people would remain in their territory for as long as possible. It is proposed to leave only the district deputies in the area and free them for new areas after their work has been completed. This is associated with various difficulties and disadvantages, but has the advantage that these people are trained.

As to Point 3: I always tried to get as accurate news as possible about the situation of the German settlements. To this end, I repeatedly announced myself in the prisoner-of-war camps for ethnic Germans. In fact, I managed to get in touch with 4 Germans from the Volga. Unfortunately, I did not meet any Black Sea Germans. The Volga Germans come from different areas, so that a person gets a picture of the whole Volga region.

1. Andreas Dommler, born 18 August, 1918 in (-)rmawir, North Caucasus. However, he comes from (----) and lived here from 1925 to 1935.
2. Viktor (-el-), born 14 February, 1919 in Straßburg, southern part of the Volga District.
3. Friedrich Rusch, born 5 April, 1914 in Enders, northern part of the Volga District.
4. Heinrich Nagel, born 2 July, 1922 in Balzer, western part of the Volga District.

Those mentioned have defected and surrendered. In the area here they still had the satisfaction to participate in the destruction of the Lenin monument. The longer and repeated discussion with the Volga Germans has given the following clear picture, which can apply to all colonies on the Volga. Nagel knows the villages around Balzer, Rusch the ones around Katharinenstadt, so that the descriptions apply to at least 35-40 villages and can be generalized.

1. The German settlements have all been preserved purely German. Only a few Russian families (2-4) have settled in some villages. For example, in Straßburg 2 as a worker in the cheese dairy and 1 as a keeper in the tractor station. There are no Jews in the German villages on the Volga. Mixed marriages are therefore extremely rare. In the home villages of the Volga Germans surveyed, no case of mixed marriage is known. On the other hand, everyone says that, unlike in the past, it is much more common for marriages to become divorced again and again. This seems to be the case especially in larger villages that are stained by state culture. Among each other, the colonists speak German, as they say Low German (*plattdeutsch*), in reality it is the Hessian dialect. Rusch and Nagel can hardly speak Russian, even though they served in the Russian army.
2. In all German villages, the collective farm system (*Kolchossystem*) was forcibly introduced in 1929. Until this year, life was bearable. Now the time of need began. 1929 was the year when thousands of Volga Germans (the same applies to Black Sea Germans) were banished. All 4 agree that more than half of the inhabitants have been sent into exile, entire rows of houses have become empty. These houses were demolished and collective farms built or simply allowed to fall into ruin. Places of exile indicated were Kotlas, Vour. Wologodsk and Kazakhstan. The people had to clear the land here and make the land arable. A number of new settlements must have emerged here. In addition to the banishment of the "kulaks," deportations took place:
 - a. of Hour Brethren (*Stunden-brüedern*) and Prayer Brethren (*Betbrüedern*) in the years 1936-1937
 - b. because of necessity stealing in the years 1931-1936. The people took food from collective farms or from the field out of necessity and hunger and were sent into exile for several years.

- c. of political opponents
 - d. against violation of work discipline, that is, violations at work of often only small infractions.
3. It is agreed that the greatest years of hunger were not 1921-1922, but 1931-1936, with the years 1933-1934 repeatedly being portrayed as the worst years. Those years must have been terrible. 15-25% and even more of the population starved to death. Nagel states for Balzer about 1,500 people. From his family, 5 starved, the parents and 3 siblings. People sat at the farmyard gates and sucked their fingers with hunger. Dogs, cats, rats, earth hares were eaten. In Rorka, a woman butchered her two boys. She was shot and her daughter was thrown into prison.
 4. The churches are all converted into clubs. In Balzer it is demolished. At home, however, devotions are still held in many ways, with religious songs being sung. When I asked if people would go back to church if it was allowed, they both replied at the same time: "Oh, yes, yes." And how about the youth? "Yes, very quickly (*ganz kell*)."

Dommler was also able to make some statements about the German settlements in the Crimea. There, too, they have held on to being German. From his old mother, who has now returned from Russia, I know that this is true of the German villages near Odessa.

It can therefore be established with certainty that farmer Germanism has preserved itself totally in blood, language and way of thinking of all the Germans. With very few exceptions, there can be no question of them being Bolsheviks. They have remained the good Germans who will be properly guided, who will again achieve great things in the economic field, as their ancestors once did.

A blood mixture and partial Bolshevization took place mostly among the urban Germans.

It should be seen to that the ethnic Germans get out of the prison camps as quickly as possible. Fortunately, it can be said that they are immediately separated and receive better treatment and food. That would have to be considered, whether it would not be better to group them together in a special camp, as long as they cannot be released into their homeland. They have also expressed the wish: to be sent to Germany, to the homeland of their fathers, in order to work. So if Bolshevism does not destroy the ethnic Germans now, we will still find the most valuable forces that can be used for economic reconstruction. In any case, the Volhynia Germanism has not been destroyed to the extent that one had to fear in general. I hope to be able to report on this in detail in the very near future. I attach great importance to finally coming to the German areas in order to be able to report from direct experience.

Some impressions about the **Ukrainian population** should also be of interest:

In the area we have come to so far, only Ukrainian is spoken. The population makes a depressed and downtrodden impression. The clothing was very bad and the diet completely inadequate. Above all, there was no bread and meat available. In general, people say that the Jews and

commissars took everything and so the population starved. The houses are in ruin, currently without windows and roofs, in short: an unimaginable poverty. Work in the field is poorly done. Nowhere is the harvest taken care of. Mowing is done with sickles and scythes, most of which come from Germany. The machinery has been destroyed, for instance, by the Bolsheviks. The harvest also looks good as it has not been in the last 15-20 years. By the way, the Volga Germans report that the harvest last year and this year was also very good for them.

All welcome us as the liberators from a heavy yoke. The German is respected. Above all, they are also grateful that the Germans have given them Sunday and the Church again. On Sunday, the church here was overcrowded. The hidden images of saints decorate the church again. Most carry crosses. Either the old ones, which they brought out of hiding, or those they bought from the church. There sat a woman and sold a cross for 4 chicken eggs. They asked me to get crosses from Germany.

A woman came up to me and whispered quietly in my ear: "Take the Jews away, it is a vulgar (*gemeines*) people." They are expecting everything only from Germany.

signed: Dr. Stumpp

[Translation Ends]