

Stumpp Report #7 of 7

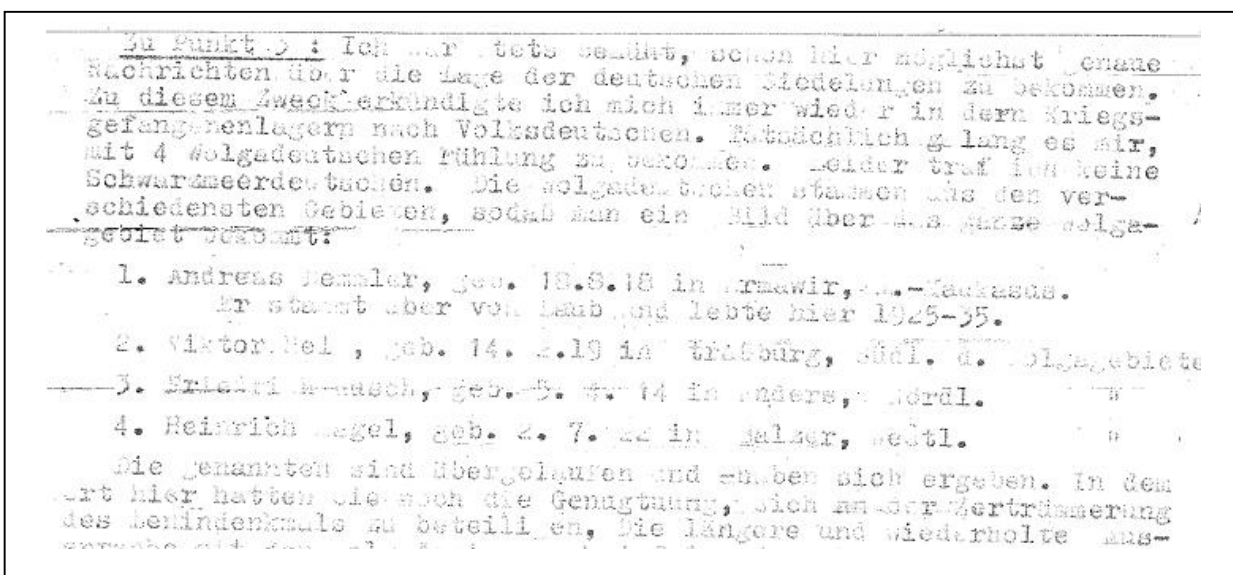
Source: DAI Microfilm T-81; Roll #599; Serial 817; Group 1035;
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At the outbreak of World War Two in 1939, the German Reich was invading Poland and annexing various Central European nations while the Soviet Union was busy annexing various parts of the 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 #7
by Special Commander Dr. Stumpp

In the reporting period, relatively few German settlements could be visited due to snow and road conditions. Around Dnjepropetrowsk are the oldest German settlements: Josefstal, Krenzgarten, Rybalak (Fischersdorf), Jamburg and Billersfeld, which were founded in the years 1789-1792.

Josefstal was founded in 1789. The local ethnic Germans come from the area near Danzig and only a small part from Württemberg. They still speak the unadulterated Low German (*Plattdeutschen*) dialect, including those from Württemberg. Josef **Contentius**, known throughout Russia, is buried in Josefstal, who has earned unforgettable merits for the development of agriculture and especially of show breeding. Josefstal has retained itself purely German.

Krenzgarten used to be a pure Mennonite colony (religious sect). Today, descendants of various German villages, but above all from Josefstal, live here. Some of the Mennonites moved to America in 1921, some of them were resettled by the Bolsheviks in 1930.

Billersfeld is a daughter colony of Josefstal and numbers 554 Germans out of a total of 790 inhabitants. 176 men were abducted from this village in September of 1941, of whom 150 are still missing today.

The formerly purely German colony of **Rybalsk** is now heavily intermingled: Germans 469; Ukrainians 482; Russians 101; Polish 4. Here almost all men have been banished or abducted in earlier years and the rest in the current war.

Jamburg used to be almost exclusively a colony of craftsmen. 75% of the men were engaged in the production of farm goods, which were sold as far as to Siberia and the Caucasus. Bees and silkworm breeding were also developed. Judging by the dialect, the inhabitants of Jamburg come from the Bavarian Eastern Mark border. The people of Jamburg proudly report that they knitted around 1,000 pairs of socks for the armed forces. Unfortunately, here, as in the other German villages, the decree on the closure of schools has also been put into operation.

Through ethnic German refugees and the inhabitants of the above-mentioned German settlements, I learned about the difficult fate of the Germans beyond the Dnieper [River]. There, many German settlements are completely depopulated. Only a few men who had been drafted have returned. The Bolsheviks could not carry out their diabolical plans here and there because of the rapid advance of the German troops, during the fighting in Seporoshje the Bolsheviks transported a train loaded with ethnic Germans to that place. The train was attacked by German airmen and most of the ethnic Germans were killed. In another case, a train with ethnic Germans was doused with gasoline and set on fire. It can already be said that most of the ethnic Germans have been deported east of the Dnieper. Nothing is known about the fate of these unfortunate people. The villages there are empty and only cattle, dogs and cats wander around without a master.

In the well-known and important industrial city of **Dnjepropetrowsk** lives a large number of Germans who immigrated from the countryside during the Bolshevik rule. These people were chased away and uprooted from their places and lived under constant pressure from the Bolsheviks. In the city, they had a great prospect of living in hiding and thus escaping banishment. Therefore, they lived mostly on the outskirts of the city under poor conditions. They did not identify themselves as Germans and hardly interacted with each other. There was hardly a family where a member, usually the father, was not banished. Dealing with such families was dangerous. Under these circumstances, it is understandable that the ethnic Germans in the cities often no longer speak German or only poorly. This is especially true for children who have only had Russian or Ukrainian lessons at school in recent years. It is only in a few families from healthy, rural families where the children speak good German.

It is obvious that these conditions would also have an influence on married life. In contrast to the German farm settlements, the percentage of mixed cases in the cities is unpleasantly high. On the one hand, the opportunity was there; on the other hand, such an increasing number of marriages were concluded from a predicament, so for example, to save the parents from banishment or to escape banishment themselves.

Due to the ethnic Germans recorded in Dnepropetrovsk so far (only a few isolated families are still not included), the situation is as follows:

Men: 441
 Women: 676
 Young up to 18 years: 805

1,992

Here are included also the foreign-born men and women as well as children from mixed marriages. Of 824 families, 483 are mixed marriages, that is 58.6 per one-hundred, and 341 are pure German families, that is 41.4 per one-hundred. In the case of mixed marriages, 265 Ukrainian men. or Russian men who have German wives and 219 German men have Ukrainian, or Russian wives.

The **age structure** of the ethnic Germans (including the mixed cases) shows an unpleasant picture. In detail, it looks like this:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1	29	24
2	40	10
3	34	26
4	32	34
5	37	30
0-5	172	124
6-10	87	75
11-15	120	85
16-18	61	81

19-20	34	25
21-25	50	52
26-30	886	92
31-35	72	91
36-40	61	86
41-45	32	79
46-50	32	56
51-55	22	42
56-60	21	55
61-65	25	37
66-70	15	31
71-75	4	17
76-80	5	7
81 & older	2	5
	881	1,041

Graph is enclosed. [Not available in the microfilm]

It is striking that in adolescence up to 18 years the male gender exceeds the female gender in number: 440 compared to 365. This is expressed even more in the age of 1-5 years: 172 boys, while only 124 girls. From the age of 19, but especially in the years of manhood of 25-60 years, the ratio is reversed: a greater number of women over against only a few men. The deep cut of 20-25 years on the graph is probably due to the hunger years.

Dnjeproptrowsk, 19 February, 1942

[Translation Ends]