

Leaving Sangerowka in September 1940 for Re-settlement in Germany

By Elli Wise - as told to her by her aunt

In Kiele/Black Sea, they boarded a ship, travelling on the Danube River for 20 days and nights until they reached Semlin, Austria, where they were registered and housed in camps for a few days. From there they were transported to Dubenitz/Sudetenland and then to Litzmannstadt/Lodz in Poland. Here they were assigned and housed in different villages or farms. Unknown to them at the time was that the native people had been chased from their homes to make room for the Bessarabian re-settlers.

They lived there from 1942 until January 1945 when they had to flee from the on-coming Russian soldiers. They travelled with horse and wagons for three to four weeks on snowy and icy roads, now and then bombs exploding around them, killing many of the fleeing people. They stayed in Goerne (then East Germany) for ten years and in 1953 were able to flee to West Germany.

From Goerne they fled to Berlin and stayed there a few days. A family at a time was flown out on American military planes and transported to Munich. From Munich they were sent to a camp in Trauenstein, Camp St. Blasien (Black Forest) for six months, then to a camp in Backnang for three months.

From there they were put into a camp in Schorndorf/Waiblingen, where they stayed for four years. In 1957/58, they found living quarters on their own.

(Note: The re -settlement contract between Hitler and the Russians called that all people had to be healthy and "pure" Germans. All handicapped or ill were said to have been killed.)