

## **German Settlements in the Korosten District**

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[Words in the square brackets are the translator's comments]

[Translation Begins]

### **Comprehensive Report Concerning the 32 German Settlements in the Korosten District, Shitomir General Region, including the Germans in the Scattered Settlements and Ukrainian Small-market Town of Goroschki and Korosten**

By Dr. Karl Stumpp

The Volhynian Germans were settled about the same time as the Black Sea Germans. The first community of Korez was founded in 1778, the still existing community of Annette-Josephine in 1816. The founding of most of the German settlements which are still in existence today took place in the time period of 1860-1870.

When it comes to information and additional to-the-point descriptions concerning the historical development, settlement mode of operation and the world war era, Friederich Rink is one of the best qualified on things German in Volhynia. 85% of Volhynian Germans came from northern and eastern Germany and only 15% from southern Germany. The statistics on where people originated from is totally different than that of the Volga and Black Sea Germans. Compared to the Black Sea Germans, the World War and the Bolshevik era had a far deeper influence on how the settlement operated, the way of life and also the makeup of the inhabitants in the German settlements. This manifests itself in the present situation and structure of the settlement.

1. In 1915, all Volhynian Germans were "resettled" in Siberia. This banishment took a toll on at least 50,000 German lives.
2. With the introduction of the collective, the private farm-yards (in earlier times there were hardly any communal settlements) were all joined together as one and the houses constructed of wood were removed, that is, taken apart and then put together again in the communal settlement.
3. In 1935, in an expanse of 100 km, only one massive settlement existed. Thousands of German families were sent to the Russian interior. Especially in the adjacent frontier of the district all was devoid of Germans. However, more toward the eastern half of this zone, the

inhabitants of foreign origin ever increased in what was once only German settlements. Only beyond the 100 km zone could one come across more-or-less whole German settlements.

Of the 32 German settlements in the Korosten District, only in 19 are the Germans still a majority. The number of mixed marriages is so much higher as compared to that of the Black Sea area: 18% over against 8%. Especially high is the percentage in the small Ukrainian market towns and the scattered settlements: 46.1% as compared to 11.3% in the German settlements. Favorable are the ratios in reference to families without a male head of the house: In the Korosten District 37.7%, in the Black Sea area, west of the Dnjepr around 49%, east of the Dnjepr 70-80%, and in some places 100%.

The casualties in the Korosten District, during the Bolshevik reign, are summarized as follows:

- I. **Those Murdered** (see Table A, Column 47-50):  

Men-5	Women-6	Youths-6	Total: 17
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- II. **Those who Starved to Death** (see Table A, Column 38-46 & Table F):  

1933/34	Men-152	Women-55	Youths-121	Total: 328
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In 1921-22, in contrast to the Volga and Black Sea Districts, no one experienced starvation because they had a good harvest that year. There was also a good harvest in 1933, but the grain was all confiscated from the farmers which created an artificial time of hunger. The result is that at least 3 times as many men died of starvation than women.

- III. **Those who were Banished 1929-41** (Table A, Columns 52-55 & Table D)  

Men-1,053	Women-366	Youths-650	Total: 2,069
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While generally the highest levels were reached in 1938, the Korosten District, in all of Volhynia, reached its zenith in 1935 (see above & Table D). In truth, the numbers for the banished increased substantially especially in 1935. Exact figures cannot be given since in many villages only a few former German inhabitants remained and so it was not possible to obtain an accurate count. Also, it was impossible to determine who was banished of those living in the scattered Ukrainian villages.

- IV. **Dragged Off [Deported] in this Present War** (Table A, Columns 56-67 & Table D)  

Men-53	Women-13	Youths-6	Total: 72
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Total number of German casualties in the Korosten District amounts to this:

1. Murdered	17
2. Starved 1921-22 & 1933/34	328
3. Banished 1929-41	2,069 (actually, this number is much higher)
4. Deported in this war	72
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Total	2,486

In the diagram concerning the list of inhabitants with percentage of age groups within the population (Table G), the age is calculated to today's ranking, not accounting for the loss of Germans through starvation, banishment, etc. This means we formulated a picture as if those casualties had not happened during the Bolshevik era.

The segments in the ages 5-10 (1933/34 starvation years) and 20-30 (War and Revolution years) are shocking. The diagram does not agree with the overall figures since the age of the banished and the starved could not always be ascertained.

The casualties because of banishment is significantly less for the men, in comparison to that of the women, but greater than in the Black Sea area. The number of children from mixed marriages, by 1916, is in a steady increase and, in the last 5 years, came to about 28% of the total births.

Table B portrays the economic conditions, land management, animal husbandry, crops and collective output.

The collective land, which is to a large extent occupied by people of foreign origin, covers a similar area to that of the land (*Eigentumslandes*) previously leased in the once exclusively German settlements.

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