

German Settlements in the Kriwoj-Rog District

Source: DAI Microfilm T-81; Roll #607; Serial 825; Group 1035;
Item 1411; Frames 5397059-5397061
Translated by Allen E. Konrad – March, 2007
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[Translation Begins]

Comprehensive Report Concerning the 11 German Settlements in the District of Kriwoj-Rog, Including the Scattered Germans in the Surrounding Ukrainian Villages and *Apostolowo*

By Dr. Karl Stumpp

This group of settlements deals exclusively with daughter colonies, which were founded in a time period from 1863-1883, and new settlements founded in the Bolshevik era.

Nikolaital, the oldest settlement, was founded by Mennonites. These folks emigrated to America in 1850. Colonists from Prischib District purchased the land and inventory and settled down here. In 1918, the "Marusja" gang burned to ashes all but 4 houses in the village. The village was rebuilt in 1919-1920.

Simonsfeld (catholic) and **Marienhain** (evangelical) were both founded in 1863. The inhabitants came from the Prischib District. The Palatinate (*pfaelzische*) dialect was spoken in the catholic village of Simonsfeld and in the evangelical village of Marienhain they spoke the Swabian (*schwaebische*) dialect. The land was rented from Count (*Grafen*) Semjon Woronzoff in 1862. The name Simonsfeld was chosen after the name of Count Semjon and Marienhain after the name of his wife Maria.

Neu-Kronental was founded in 1869 by German colonists from the Prischib District. The land was purchased from the Russian nobleman Swistunow. The village was destroyed in 1919 by the Machno bandits and then rebuilt during the Bolshevik era. Compared to the one time beautiful farm houses, today there stand only miserable huts.

Both the **Steinfeld** and the **Gruenfeld** settlements were founded in 1874 by Mennonites from the Chortitza District. The land was purchased from the Russian nobleman Schljachtin.

Felsengut, founded in 1886, is a daughter colony of the German settlements of Neu-Danzig, Kronau and Prischib. The land was purchased from the Russian Suchanow and for that reason also has the Russian name of Suchanowo. In 1918, the "Marusja" gang burned 15 of the best farm-yards.

Ebenfeld was a Jewish colony at one time. Now it is settled by Germans from the surrounding villages and that is why there is a high percentage of mixed marriages.

Neu-Lebental, also known as Rosa-Luxenburg, was plotted on the land belonging to Neu-Kronental.

The inhabitants of the 1924 established **Hochfeld** came from Gruenfeld, Repetino, Kronau and others.

Marienfeld was also plotted on the Neu-Kronental land. The inhabitants came from Marienfeld, who were originally from the Prischib District.

The number of families, in these 11 German villages, without male head of households is somewhat lower than in the other districts: 41.6%. However, on the other hand, the percentage of mixed marriages, compared to the Dnjepropetrowsk District, is proportionately higher: 10.8%, which is can be attributed to the scattered and strongly mixed settlements (Ebenfeld, Felsengut, Gruenfeld and Steinfeld).

The casualties during the Bolshevik era present themselves like this:

I. **Those Murdered due to the Machno Bandits in 1919** (see Table A, Column 47-50):
 Men-16 Women-0 Youths-3 Total: 19

II. **Those who Starved to Death** (see Table A, Column 38-46 & Table F):
 1921/22 Men-47 Women-24 Youths-72 Total: 143
 1933/34 Men-24 Women-08 Youths-08 Total: 40
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 Total: 183

III. **Those who were Banished 1929-41** (Table A, Column 52-55 & Table D)
 Men-429 Women-13 Youths-08 Total: 450

IV. **Dragged Off [Deported] in this Present War**
 Men-108 Women-03 Youths-07 Total: 118

Total casualties from the 11 settlements amount to this:

1. Murdered	19
2. Starved 1921-22 & 1933/34	183
3. Banished 1929-41	450
4. Deported in this war	118
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Total	770

Due to the total appropriation of land by the collectives, as in other places, here too the Germans work much less land than in the era of private ownership. This is most obvious in the older communities, so evident in Neu-Kronental. The 7 communities had 19,848 hectares of landed

property; however, now 11 communities work only 12,622 hectares (add to that 609 hectares of farm-yards), whereby it must be taken into consideration that this also includes the additional systematic settlement of the Ukrainians.

The graph concerning the list of inhabitants with percentage of age groups within the population shows the overall pictures of the severe casualty of men and the dent made in the population by the years of starvation and the Revolution.

Shitomir, March 1943.

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