



Researching Our German Roots in Poland and the Russian Empire

## Family Search online EWZ Records

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(40 minute drive from the  
National Archives II, College Park, MD)

# EWZ

1. What is it?
2. Will it help my genealogical research?
3. How do I access and understand these records? – This talk is more focused on EWZ records that Family Search has made available online.

# EWZ – What is it?

Einwandererzentralstelle

Einwanderer – immigrant

Zentralstelle – center

Immigration Central Office

# Some Helpful EWZ Vocabulary

**Umsiedlung** – resettlement

**Warthegau** – the region around the Warthe River in Posen where many Germans were resettled to

**Stammblatt** – ancestral page

**durchschleusen** – process through the system

**Einbürgerung** – citizenship

**Einbürgerungsurkunde** – certificate of citizenship

**verschleppen** – to displace (take away)

**Kartei** – index cards



Nach dem Feldzug der 18 Tage  
began die bisher  
**großzügigste**  
**Umfiedlungsaktion**  
der Weltgeschichte.

Alle Volksgruppen, die Draußen  
ihre Aufgaben erfüllt haben, rief  
der Führer zurück in die Heimat  
ihrer Väter. Sie helfen jetzt mit  
beim Ausbau und der Festigung des  
großdeutschen Reiches. In besonderem  
Maße werden beim Aufbau des  
Dachlandes ihre kolonialisatorischen  
Fähigkeiten wirksam werden /



Bundesarchiv, R 49 Bild-0107  
Foto: o. Ang. | 1939/1941 ca.



## Reichsgau Wartheland (1939 bis 1945)

# How we got EWZ Records

- In 1945 as the war was ending US troops discovered a treasure-trove of documents related to activities of the Nazi party.
- Most documents provide details on members of the Nazi party, SS officers, and even personal information on Germans applying for various certificates (marriage, business, etc) = RuSHA series
- The EWZ records were included in this cache of documents.
- It is estimated 80,000 EWZ records may have been destroyed before the arrival of the US troops.
- All records were duplicated on microfilm which can be found at the Berlin Document Center and at the National Archives II in College Park, MD.



## EWZ Microfilms

Full Applications (alphabetical)

EWZ 50 – USSR (pre-WW II boundaries)

EWZ 51 – Romania

EWZ 52 – Poland (includes Polish Volhynia & Galicia)

EWZ 53 – Baltic States

EWZ 5410 – Yugoslavia

EWZ 5420 – France

EWZ 5430 – Bulgaria

EWZ 57 – E/G Kartei series (alphabetical)

EWZ 58 – Stammbblätter (ancestral pages, usually includes a photo of the applicant )

## EWZ Microfilms

Full Applications (alphabetical)

EWZ 50 – USSR 110K files on 843 films

EWZ 51 – Romania 82K files on 700 films

EWZ 52 – Poland 100K files on 701 films

EWZ 53 – Baltic States 73K files on 587 films

EWZ 5410 – Yugoslavia 23K files on 150 films

EWZ 5420 – France 14K files on 223 films

EWZ 5430 – Bulgaria 700 files on 6 films

EWZ 57 – E/G Kartei series (alphabetical) on 1,964 films

EWZ 58 – Stammbblätter (ancestral pages & photos)

741 films

## Alphabetical Ordering of EWZ 50-54 and EWZ 57 (Kartei) Records

Ordered in this sequence:

1. Last Name\*
2. First Name
3. Date of Birth

\* Married women filed under their married name.

## EWZ – Will it help my genealogical research?

Did any of your relatives live in these locations at the outset of World War II ?

- Poland (eastern half)
- Soviet Union (western portions where Nazi troops progressed deep enough to reach them)
- Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Baltic States

# EWZ – Will it help my genealogical research? (continued)

What if my ancestors moved to North America long before World War II?

- Did they have siblings, cousins, aunts/uncles, etc that remained in these regions of eastern Europe?
- Have you thought of hunting for long forgotten relatives your family lost contact with? Rare surnames can yield some interesting leads.
- Perhaps looking at people still residing in the towns your ancestors lived in may reveal new connections.

## Who was processed through EWZ?

- Persons of primarily German descent (or in fortunate circumstances spouses of a German).
- Everyone 15 years or older was given a certificate of German citizenship. Children were recorded with their parents or guardians.
- The parents of all people processed are included on their Stammbblatt including birth dates, birth places, and death locations if applicable (either from records or by memory of the applicant).
- Later EWZ records from the USSR may also include grandparents.

# EWZ - How do I access and understand these records?

## Microfilm Access

- ~~Family History Library (EWZ57 and 58 only)~~
- Family Search website (subset of EWZ58 records, EWZ57 in process)
- National Archives II, College Park, MD (everything)
- Berlin Document Center (everything but very restricted access)

## Online Database Resources

- Odessa Digital Library (pre WW II Soviet Union, nearly complete)
- Galizean German Descendants (concentrates around Galicia but expands to other regions sporadically)
- SGGEE Master Pedigree Database – much of the Lublin area

(see <http://volhynia.com/res-ewz.html>)

## What exactly has Family Search posted???

- This is a collection of 68 microfilms with EWZ58 Stammblaetter including pictures of each applicant.
- Locations of people being resettled were Polish Volhynia, Galicia, Poland, Austria, Sudetenland (Czechoslovakia) and Lithuania.
- Stammbblatt ranges are 11,000 – 308,000 and 529,401 – 529,400.
- This microfilm collection is not the same as those in the National Archives (NARA) or Berlin Document Center, but the records are the same as those found in these latter microfilm collections. Therefore, the Family Search Film or DGS cannot be used to correlate them with specific NARA microfilms.



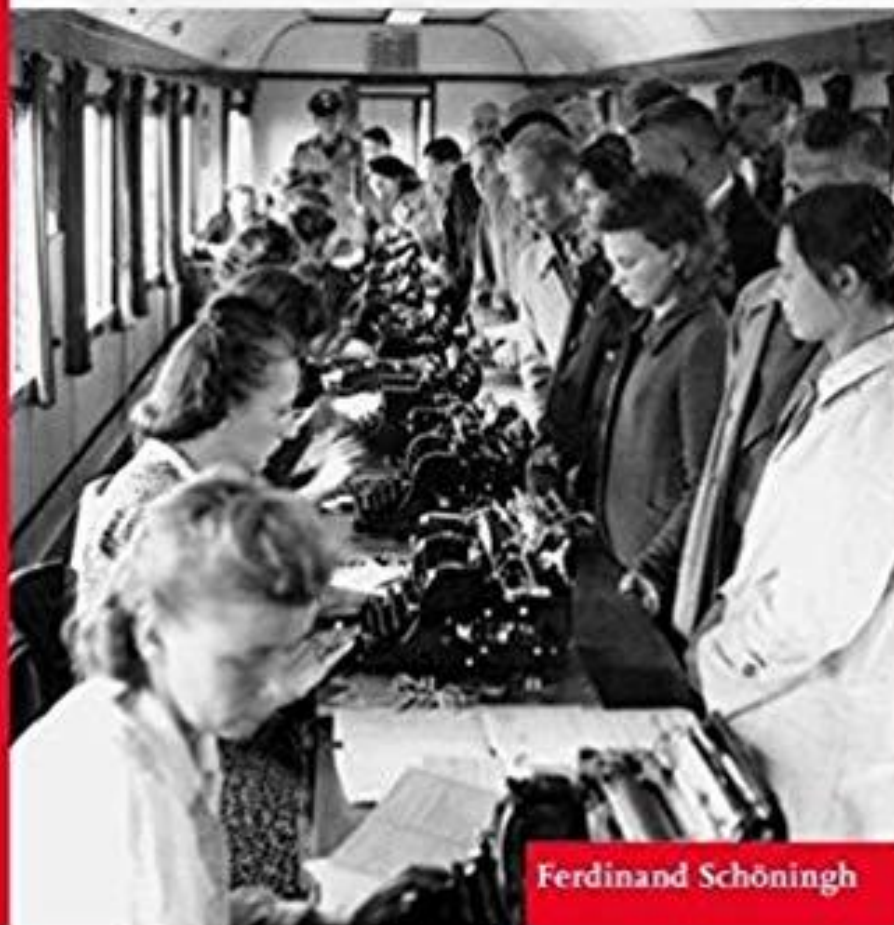
## How can I find family in these online records?

- That is challenge and the reason for this presentation.
- EWZ58 records are ordered by Stammblatt number that roughly follows chronological order. In most cases people processed in tandem will have sequential Stammblatt numbers. Without knowing the Stammblatt number it becomes difficult to find anyone in this collection.
- Processing of Germans in Poland occurred in an orderly fashion by locality. Entire towns were processed at once (summer 1940) and neighboring towns were processed in tandem. Since one of the major efforts by Team Lublin was to extract EWZ records, we already know the Stammblatt number for many people in this region – thus their online records can be found easily. Team Lublin has assembled a spreadsheet showing Stammblatt ranges for towns covered by this effort. Note all individuals from this project are in the MPD.

# NS-Volkstumspolitik und die Neuordnung Europas

Rassenpolitische Selektion der  
Einwandererzentralstelle des Chefs der  
Sicherheitspolizei und des SD 1939-1945

Andreas Strippel



Ferdinand Schöningh

(continued)

## How can I find family in these online records?

- The processing of people from Polish Volhynia and Galicia (winter of 1939-40) was rather unordered and seemingly impetuous. This was the outcome of the Nonaggression Pact between Stalin and Hitler. Germans were given freedom to leave the now Soviet-occupied land and return to German-occupied regions to resettle.
- Fathers from these regions are often found separated from their families in these records. There can be a general grouping of people based on the vicinity they came from, but finding an entire village grouped together is not usually seen.
- According to NARA, Polish Volhynia and Galicia are found interspersed in 11 spans throughout Stammblaetter 11,001 – 167,000. Estonia and Latvia are also interspersed in this range, but apparently not included in the Family Search collection.



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## How can I find family in these online records?

The key to finding people in EWZ58 is knowing their Stammblatt number. There are three courses of action:

1. Start looking through all the online records and finding people you are interested in or from the same locality – then concentrate your search around that Stammblatt range. This is well over 100,000 records to dig into.
2. Wait until Family Search posts all of EWZ57 online. EWZ57 is the alphabetical key to find Stammblatt numbers of anyone.
3. Either go to the National Archives II or have someone retrieve the records for you from EWZ52.

## Berlin Document Center Series 5800, EWZ Collections: Stammblaetter

The EWZ Stammblaetter (loosely translated as "family forms") consist of family data for more than one million ethnic German applicants and their dependents who were considered for naturalized Reich citizenship by the EWZ, 1939-1945. The typed forms are reproduced on 743 16mm rolls of accessioned BDC microfilm, NARA Publication **A3342**, series **EWZ58**, and are arranged by EWZ case numbers. This numerical arrangement makes it difficult to locate any particular name without first consulting the previously described EWZ56 or EWZ57 series to obtain the applicant's EWZ number. A roll list for the Stammblaetter series follows this introduction. The Stammblaetter vary in format, but typically include all or some of the following information:

- a. EWZ case number (upper left corner or top of form) and a separate Vomi number
- b. Names, dates and places of birth for the applicant, his/her spouse, children, parents
- c. Marital status of the applicant, with the date and place of marriage, if married
- d. Religion of the applicant, his/her spouse, parents and spousal parents
- e. Occupation of the applicant
- f. Nationality and last place of residence of the applicant and his/her parents
- g. Photograph of the applicant bearing his/her EWZ number (reverse side of form)
- h. EWZ processing information, such as date transported and latest address or camp

Unlike the E/G Kartei, the Stammblaetter were usually prepared only for applicants over the age of fifteen. As with the other EWZ collections, the percentage of Stammblaetter that survived (of the total number created) is unknown. There are gaps in the number sequences, meaning either that some Stammblaetter are missing or that those missing numbers were not used. Roll I001 has many forms which are missing from the main sequence. *Some reproduced examples of Stammblaetter follow this introduction.*

The EWZ reserved whole blocks of numbers for use in specific geographic areas, such as Bessarabia, Galicia, Wolhynia, the Bukovina, the Dobrudja, the USSR, etc., making it possible to find applicants from a given region or country (see list below). In some locations, the EWZ processed entire villages using consecutive case numbers. A NARA project to index all Russian villages by Stammblaetter numbers is partially complete; other regions may also later be indexed.

### **EWZ Numbers Used in Specific Countries or Regions** (as of 16 April 1942)\*

Estonia and Latvia (1939)	0001 – 10,921	85,001 – 85,950	119,522 – 119,949
	20,100 – 31,000	89,001 – 102,500	159,001 – 159,999
	60,001 – 68,000	105,000 – 108,000	162,802 – 163,000
	73,293 – 81,591	111,103 – 113,500	163,200 – 163,855
Galicia, Wolhynia and Narew district	11,001 – 20,000	81,700 – 84,000	120,001 – 158,600
	31,001 – 59,999	103,001 – 108,100	160,001 – 164,380
	68,000 – 71,000	111,000 – 112,000	164,800 – 167,000
	73,001 – 74,000	113,001 – 118,500	

North and South Buchenland and the Dobrudja	311,601 – 322,100 325,001 – 332,700 333,001 – 362,300	363,001 – 387,500 390,501 – 392,900 393,001 – 397,200	398,001 – 400,000
Bessarabia and Dobrudja	400,001 – 408,200 410,001 – 437,900 441,001 – 449,500	450,001 – 467,000 478,001 – 483,500 485,001 – 485,200	489,001 – 500,000
Litauen (Lithuania)	500,001 – 520,000 522,001 – 531,600	533,000 – 537,???	538,001 – 543,700
Generalgouvernement Ost (Eastern Poland)	183,001 – 210,545 211,001 – 213,200 216,001 – 216,600	217,001 – 217,600 218,001 – 220,900 221,001 – 221,670	223,???
Generalgouvernement West (Western Poland)	109,000 – 110,999 210,500 – 210,999	217,542 – 218,000 221,500 – 229,499	223,174 225,001 – 225,052 230,000 – 250,999 305,000 – 307,999
Baltic Refugees	295,001 – 304,000		
Special Resettlers	304,001 – 305,000	(Finland, South Africa, South America, etc.)	
Greek Germans	304,201 – 304,400		
Serbian Germans	322,001 – 324,000		
Bulgarian Germans	408,138 – 409,000		
USSR (see note)	520,001 – 522,000		

\*Source: *The Holdings of the Berlin Document Center: A Guide to the Collections* (BDC, 1994), p. 41-42, from information given by an EWZ employee, SS-Untersturmführer Rudolf Backofen.

Other geographic blocks of EWZ numbers that have been identified are the following:

Untersteiermark/Oberkrain (Slovenia, Yugoslavia) 800,001 – 812,106  
Ukraine, USSR

Note: The Soviet Union became the largest area of EWZ operations after the German invasion in June 1941. Stammblaetter numbers 799,384 – 800,000 and 900,001 – 1,046,998 (and possibly others) were subsequently assigned to ethnic Germans in the USSR who became candidates for resettlement.

## Berlin Document Center Series 57: EWZ Collections, E/G Kartei

The **E/G Kartei** serve as a consolidated registry for all persons processed by the EWZ and its affiliated organizations for naturalization during World War II. The collection consists of approximately 2.9 million alphabetically arranged data cards used and supplemented by the BDC. Most of the original cards consist of E-Kartei (EWZ-Kartei), two-sided cards with general information on every applicant age 15 and older, and G-Kartei (Gesundheitskartei), two-sided cards with biographical data, a photograph, genealogical chart, and summary results of health examinations. Two other types of original cards, though fewer in number, are ADERST-Kartei, similar in content to the E-Kartei but limited to ethnic Germans from south Tyrol, and Rassen-Kartei, for ethnic German residents of France (not to be confused with the other EWZ collection of **Rasse-Kartei**).

These have been supplemented by English-language index cards created by the BDC, generally for applicants who did not receive an EWZ number, did not have their own EWZ file, or whose principal file is found only in a specialized collection (e.g., ethnic Germans serving in the Wehrmacht, SS, police, or the Organisation Todt).

The E/G Kartei are reproduced on 1,964 16mm rolls of BDC Accessioned Microfilm A3342, series EWZ57. The rolls are not numbered in a single sequence, but in successive alphanumeric sequences which follow an alphabetical arrangement, as follows:

I001-I146: Aab, Anna - Bogner, Peter  
J001-J152: Bogner, Reinhold - Dick (Dyck), Lina  
K001-K153: Dick (Dyck), Katharina - Gersak, Cäcilie  
L001-L142: Gersak, Elisabeth - Hess, Filomena  
M001-M148: Hess, Regina - Kasserer, Caser  
N001-N166: Kasseroler, Alfons - Krug, Eugenie  
O001-O157: Kruk, Florentine - Mang, Eva  
P001-P157: Mang, Ferdinand - Oberhausen, Hildegard  
Q001-Q147: Oberhausen, Jakob - Regauer, Josef  
R001-R150: Rege, Adolf - Schlittenhardt, Walder  
S001-S146: Schlittenkopf, Katharina - Stahl, Gustav  
T001-T141: Stahl, Harald - Wasowicz, Josefa  
U001-U159: Wasowicz, Kasimir - Zyzniewski, Ludomir

Roll breaks by individual name (only the first name on each roll) are indicated in the accompanying roll lists.



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## What if I don't find someone where I expect them?

- For Polish Volhynia and Galicia you don't know where you can expect to find them among over 100,000 records.
- For Poland, if they are not found in their town of residence in 1940 there can be several explanations.
  - 1) They were traveling or visiting friends/relatives in another town or elsewhere.
  - 2) They were enrolled in certain Nazi services (Selbschutz, Sicherheits Polizei, already in the military, others)
  - 3) REMEMBER – People should be found with their towns of residence in 1940 – not where they were born. Married women will be associated with the towns of their own families – not necessarily the parents' town.

Note: If a male head of household was already serving in the military, they were likely processed later in which case more information on his family may be found after resettlement (additional children).

What can I do if my family was from Russian Volhynia?

Odessa Digital Library (ODL) – courtesy of  
Germans from Russian Heritage Society (GRHS)

<http://www.odessa3.org/search.html>

In the September 2008 SGGEE Journal I have an article on how to research EWZ records on ODL. (these are records that were from Soviet territories at the start of World War II)

How to Search and Understand the EWZ Records on the Odessa Library - Karl Krueger

# National Archives II



Thank You