REPATRIATION OF THE POLISH POPULATION FROM THE
IZMAIL REGION IN 1945-1946 (ACCORDING TO THE STATE
ARCHIVES OF THE ODESA REGION)

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Abstract: The article examines one of the previously unknown aspects of the
deportation and repatriation policy of the USSR government in the mid-1940s.
Based on the documents of the State Archives of the Odesa region, the
preparation and repatriation of Polish citizens from the Izmail region of the
Ukrainian SSR, who were deported to remote regions of the USSR at the
beginning of the Second World War, is analyzed. The author concluded that
preparatory measures in the Danube lands were carried out mostly in the
second half of 1945, after the signing on July 6, 1945 of the Agreement between
the governments of the USSR and Poland on the mutual evacuation of the
population. According to the considered applications by December 20, 1945
the lists of those wishing to leave the territory of the USSR were formed. They
included 2,634 people from three districts of the region, and this figure allows
us to define the Izmail region as one, which was home to one of the largest
groups of former Polish citizens deported to the USSR since the beginning of
World War II. According to the State Archives of Odesa region, they lived in 21
settlements of Tarutyn, Borodino and Artsyz districts, where they moved in
1944. Their temporary residence was mostly villages founded by German
colonists, who were deported by the Soviet authorities in 1940. The immediate
start of transportation of the controlled population began in early March 1946,
when the first group of people left the Danube region. As a result, by the
summer of 1946, the relevant authorities of the Izmail region had completed
the implementation of the Soviet-Polish agreement on mutual exchange of
population, and most of the Polish population had been repatriated to their
homeland.

Keywords: Second World War; deportation, repatriation; USSR; Izmail region;
Poland

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