

ARREST OF FRAU AMELIA STREICHERT

Case 14470, Fond 1513
Former Party Archives, Zhitomir, Ukraine

1. Statement, dated 1935, Zhitomir. Decided to imprison Amelia Streichert, in Dopr. Born 1894, inhabitant of Neuheim, Marklevsk District, for systematic propaganda among the Germans.
2. Order of Arrest, No. 39, issued January 3, 1935, for arrest and search warrant. Lives in Neuheim.
3. Record of Search, January 3, 1935. Found envelopes (3) addressed to Germany and (1) addressed to America (Author's note: probably Canada). Also confiscated other correspondence and her passport No. EV 061339.
4. Biographical Statement dated January 6, 1935: Born 1894 in Korez, Poland. Address, Neuheim, Marklevsk District. Peasant, member of the collective farm, well-off, daughter of a kulak, USSR citizen, ill-educated, has a house and a cow; also has heart problems. Family: Benjamin (14), David (12), Selma (10), Sefrin (8), Margarita (6) and Maria (4).
5. Statement of Beginning the Investigation, 1935. Accused of being an agitator among the German population; also has connections with foreigners.
6. Statement of Accusation, January 10, 1935. Accused and charged under Article 54-10, for systematically carrying out German Fascist agitation and connections with contraband revolutionary elements.
7. Interrogation, January 10, 1935. Excerpts as follows:

Question: Who is your family?

Answer: Miachael Mueller, my father, was a well-off peasant, with 15 hectares of land, three cows, two horses, pigs, a house and shed. My husband, Hermann Streichert, was a peasant and had seven hectares of land, a house and one cow before the Revolution. My father lives in Zhitomir with my sister, Maria (25), who serves as his housekeeper. I have a sister, Eschner, Ottilie (30), whose husband is a carriage driver. They live in Zhitomir; Adina (27), my sister, also lives in Zhitomir. Lydia Lamprecht (37), a sister, lives in Canada, as well as Samuel Mueller (35), a brother. I have been a member of the Baptist community since she was 15 years old. (Author's note: It is interesting that Amelia makes no mention of her brother, Heinrich, who had been arrested and sent to a Gulag. That would only have made her case worse).



David and Olga Streichert, Amelia Streichert (third from left) and Waldemar Streichert.

Question: What relatives do you know close to the Polish border?

Answer: Gottlieb Ausberg, a kulak, in Yavenuk (?) and Gustav Krause, who lives in Karlswald. I know Ausberg because I went in 1933 to search for my husband, Hermann, who had moved around for food and disappeared in Shchaslavl (Author's note: actually Schepetowka), Poland. Having no money to return to my home, I had to work for Ausberg four days and then returned home. After this Ausberg came to Neuheim to marry, but couldn't find a wife and returned home. Krause, I know since the time of WW I, when we were together in Siberia. In Poland, I have an uncle, Johann Mueller (70), who lives in the colony of Kolowert.

Question: Have you received any money through the German Consulate or Baptist organization?

Answer: I have not received any money through the German Consulate, but in 1934, I received money from the head of the Canadian Baptist organization, Wilhelm Kuhn three times, \$5. 00 each time.

Question: Who besides you received money from the Canadian Baptist organization?

Answer: From Canada, Emil Mueller, a well-off peasant, Eduard Riske, also a well-off peasant, arrested, and Martha Mueller, a widow and member of the collective farm, a Baptist. She also received money from Germany.

Question: Whom do you know among the inhabitants of the Neuheim village and who is the organizer of the list of people who need help?

Answer: Besides Martha Mueller, the following people needed help: Maria Ritzman, a widow, member of collective farm, a Baptist; Wilhelm Streichert, cousin of my husband, Langer and Steingruber, members of the collective. I went

to Zhitomir to receive this money. Among the persons now arrested are Wilhelm Streichert and Eduard Riske.

8. Information given by the Village Council of Neuheim, January 16, 1935. Streichert has lived in Neuheim since 1918 (born. in Alexufka, Pulin District). She has five children and receives money from abroad. She was arrested by the NKVD.

9. Interrogation of the Witness, Lydia Kalb, born. 1915 in Neuheim, party member.

Question: What do you know about Steichert, Amelia?

Answer: I know Amelia Streichert, inhabitant of the village of Neuheim as a smuggler. Her husband was killed in 1933-34 when he tried to cross the Polish border. Before he left the village, he was involved in smuggling. Streichert is a member of the Baptist community, the head of which is Eduard Riske. She received help from Germany and said life in Germany is better than here and that when the Germans come, life will be better here, too. She carried out anti-counter revolutionary activity among young people. She worked poorly in the collective and missed work a lot.

10. Interrogation of Witness, January 17, 1935, Eduard Stubert, born. 1892 in Marklvesk District, head of the collective farm, member of the Communist party. Married, wife and three children.

Question: How long have you known Streichert, Amelia and what do you know about her?

Answer: I know Amelia Streichert since 1934 when she worked at the collective farm and missed a lot of work. Her husband was a smuggler and disappeared. She receives help regularly from Germany. Many inhabitants of Neuheim addressed their needs to her for help. There was a village trial at the Neuheim School of the Virschman brothers, Ivan and Heinrich, and Heinrich Heibert during which the judge fell asleep. The men escaped and ran to Streichert's place. The teachers of the school accused Streichert of propaganda and of receiving help from Germany. Streichert is not a socially reliable person.

11. January 16, 1935, Interrogation of the Witness, Rudolph Brandt, born. 1915 in Saratov, member of the collective farm and member of the Party. Poor, bachelor.

Question: How long have you known Amelia Steichert?

Answer: I have known Amelia Streichert since she worked at the collective farm, since 1934. She worked very poorly. Her husband was killed in 1933 for trying to cross the border. Her father, a big kulak, was arrested in 1931 and now lives in Zhitomir. She receives money from Germany. She always visited Zhitomir, her father and brother.

12. Statement from the doctor that she was examined and is healthy enough to work, dated January 12, 1935.

13. Verdict of the NKVD (no date given, just the year 1935) that in view of the fact that she is a smuggler and dangerous to the Soviet government, she be sent out of the country and exiled.

14. Interrogation of Amelia Streichert, January, 1935.

Question: Who are your relatives?

Answer: My husband was killed in 1933 at the RR Station Izjaslov, where he went to buy some food products. After my husband's death, I was left without any means for my livelihood and my husband and I had children to support. Last winter I worked as a cook, then at the collective farm. I had relatives in Canada. There lived my sister, Lydia, and my brother, Mueller, Samuel, who moved there nine years ago. In Germany lives my uncle.

Question: Have you received any financial help from your relatives abroad?

Answer: I received help from Canada, from my brother and my sister, in the amount of \$5.00. Also, I received \$5.00 from Wilhelm Kuhn, though I didn't write any letters to him. I think my brother gave Kuhn the money I received from him. I didn't receive any help from Germany or write any letters there.

Question: During the search, we found envelopes addressed to Germany. To whom were they addressed and who gave you the addresses?

Answer: I wrote to Gottfried Wessel for financial help. Wessel is an uncle (Author's note: This is incorrect. Wessel was a pastor in Novo Rudni, who was pressured to return to Germany in 1933). I did not get a reply from him. I received Wessel's address from _____(?) A man by the name of Steingruber gave her the address.

Question: When did you know Arnold Steingruber?

Answer: I met him occasionally during the Christmas holidays at the House of Prayer. I did not have any talks with him, nor did I visit him.

Question: Who received German Marks?

Answer: Riske, Steingruber, Langrad, Maria Mueller, Adolph Buyer, Gustav Schmidt, and Robert and Eduard Kuhn.

Question: Who among them visited the German Consulate in Kiev?

Answer: I only know that Steingruber received help once from the German Consulate and from Canada.



Railway station from which Amelia and her family was shipped to Eastern Volhynia in 1935

13. Verdict, February 13, 1935 in Zhitomir. "I, the investigator of the NKVD examined the case of Streichert, Amelia of the village of Neuheim, who is charged under Article 54-10, and found that there is not enough evidence to continue the case and therefore recommend to the Zhitomir prosecutor that the case be closed and she set free."

15. Statement from the Prosecutor, March 23, 1935. "Taking into consideration that there is not enough evidence to continue the case, I order the case to be closed and Streichert, Amelia set free."

Extracted from the file by Donald N. Miller
February 2003.