

Lernen aus der Geschichte e.V.

<http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de>

**Der folgende Text ist auf dem Webportal
<http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de> veröffentlicht.**

Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

Dear Mr. Bernhard Lehmann and the students of class 11a of Paul Klee secondary school

My name is Wladimir Grigoriewitsch Dumanski. I am very grateful for your efforts and your involvement. Of course, I am already old, 73 years old, but I would like to see the place again where I worked. As a 16-year-old I had to work very hard in Germany.

Today, I receive a 50 DM pension a month, the money is just enough to survive. It is very nice of you to bear the costs of my journey and I hope everything will go well.

Now I would like to answer your questions.

I was born in the Ukraine, in the area of Cherson in Wesokopolsk district. In 1944, when the Germans were retreating from the Soviet Union and the front line was only 7 km away from our town, I was deported by the Germans on 7th March 1944.

The Germans got all the people from the area out of their houses, all men and children were brought to the train station, where there was a train with two freight wagons. All people were loaded into the wagons. Before the day dawned, they brought us to Nikolajew, where another wagon was added, only then did we find out that they wanted to take us to Germany.

The first stop was in Przemysl in Poland, where we stayed in quarantine for two weeks and were deloused. From there we were brought to Munich, where we stayed in quarantine for another two weeks.

Then I was brought to a transition camp in Augsburg and after two days the Germans brought us to Langweid.

We were a total of 72 people. There we were housed in a camp at a farm. Then we started to work.

I worked for the Reichsbahn (the German railway system) on the line from Augsburg to Donauwörth, we were responsible for repairs on this line. We worked until the end of April 1945, when the Americans came.

They brought us to Augsburg with trucks, from Augsburg we were brought to the town of Zeldemelk in Hungary. There, we stayed in quarantine for a month, the KGB, the Russian secret service, inspected us there and asked questions.

From there we came to the town of Ungene in Moldavia, from there it was up to us to find our way home, everyone went their own way. At home I once again ended up with the KGB and was questioned, they treated me like a traitor. This was repeated a few times. But then they left me alone when they realised that I was not a traitor.

When I found out about the compensation, I wrote to the archives in Germany, to find proof of my forced labour in Germany, but it was in vain. There was no proof to be found in Langweid either.

When I returned in 1945, I saw nothing but destroyed houses, there was hunger and it was cold. Today we are badly off too, these are not good times.

Thank you very much for everything.

Wladimir Grigoriwitsch Dumanski