



# EWZ Indexes: How to Research Family Search EWZ Records Online

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National Archives II, College Park, MD)

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## Reference Documents for this Talk

All are available for download on the convention page.

1. **EWZ-SGGEE 2021** (PDF - this presentation)
2. **Invenio Instructions** (PDF – how to use Invenio and find records at Family Search)
3. **Invenio Hits** (PDF – Examples FYI)
4. **EWZ Family Search** (Excel file showing Stammblatt ranges of towns)
5. **2008SepJournal-EWZ** (PDF - Supplementary instructions for researching EWZ records from Soviet areas)
6. **NARA Supplement** (PDF - Supplementary information from NARA on Stammblatt ranges and also names in EWZ57)

# EWZ

1. What is it?
2. Will it help my genealogical research?
3. How do I access and understand these records?
  - This talk will explain how to find specific EWZ records that Family Search has made available online using the Invenio online resource in Germany.

# 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 (EWZ57: now of little use for your purposes)







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

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 – Stammblätter (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 including Polish Volhynia and Galicia)
- Soviet Union (western portions where Nazi troops progressed deep enough to reach them like Stalingrad)
- 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 Stammblatt 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)
- 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 online???

- This is a collection of 68 microfilms with EWZ58 Stammblätter including low quality photos of most applicants.
- Locations of people being resettled were Polish Volhynia, Galicia, eastern Poland, Austria, Sudetenland (Czechoslovakia) and Lithuania.
- Stammblatt ranges are 11,000 – 308,000 and 500Ks (Lithuania).
- 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?

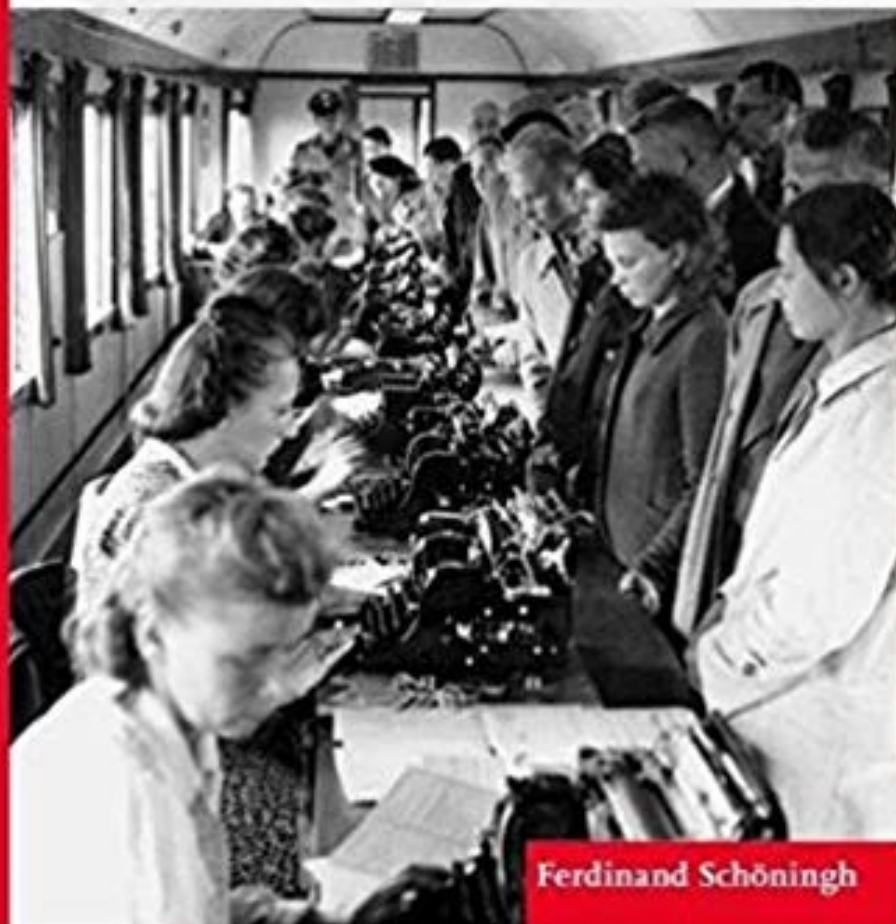
- EWZ58 records are ordered by Stammblatt number that roughly follows chronological order. In most cases people processed in tandem will have sequential Stammblatt numbers. Without knowing the Stammblatt number it becomes difficult to find anyone in this collection.
- Processing of Germans in Poland 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 key to finding people in EWZ58 is knowing their Stammblatt number. There are two reasonable courses of action:

1. Either go to the National Archives II or have someone retrieve the records for you from EWZ52.
2. (Preferred method) Use Invenio to hopefully find the people you are interested in with their respective Stammblatt numbers given.

<https://invenio.bundesarchiv.de/invenio/login.xhtml>

Instructions to use this site are given in the PDF document “Invenio Instructions”

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## What if I don't find someone in Invenio?

- Try searching for other relatives (parents or siblings).
- Other SGGEE resources that might help (EWZ\_Family Search spreadsheet, MPD (Lublin area only)
- 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 (see PDF document  
“Sep 2008 journal article”)



# National Archives II





# Thank You

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