

Tomasz Bereza, *Przesiedleni z nad Sanu – zamordowani nad Horyniem. Losy Polaków deportowanych przez Sowietów z obwodu drohobyckiego w ramach „oczyszczania” pasa przygranicznego (1940–1944)*, Rzeszów-Warszawa 2020, pp. 248 + 24 il.

Summary

In the spring of 1940, the population living near the border of the Soviet occupation zone was forced to leave their habitats. The operation of "cleansing" the 800-meter wide border strip of people and buildings (excluding towns) was forced. The plan for the Drohobych Oblast (an administrative unit established by the Soviet occupation authorities) was to remove 36,205 inhabitants from 7320 households belonging to 88 villages and hamlets, 81 of which were located on the San River. The buildings in the border zone were dismantled or destroyed. People intimidated by the repressions of the Soviet security forces practically did not resist.

About 13,000 inhabitants of "zone 800", including about four thousand Poles, were resettled from Drohobych Oblast to Volhynia, where they were placed in the houses of Polish settlers deported to Siberia or in households abandoned by former German colonists.

At the turn of 1942/1943, the Bandera faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and its armed arm, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, took extensive action against Poles in Volhynia. Terror was ethnic in nature. The fact that the displaced people had already been repressed by the Soviet authorities in the form of deportation was of no importance to the Ukrainian nationalists, but it made the Poles from the San River, who were sent to the eastern part of Volhynia, one of the first victims of genocide - at least 288 of them were killed there by ukrainians.

Choosing a lesser evil, the resettlers tried to leave their increasingly hostile surroundings and return to their homeland. The first refugees from Volhynia arrived in April 1943, later their number grew rapidly. The traumatic experiences and moods among the resettlers had a significant impact on the escalation of national antagonisms in the areas between Lesko and Przemyśl.

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