

Sander, Valentin File No 15757-p

ARCHIVAL/HISTORICAL REFERENCE

Regarding archival file No. 15757-p, of the collection of "discontinued" cases available in the Odessa Region USBU (KGB Department) Archives

1. Surname ___ SANDER
2. Given name and patronymic ___ Valentin, son of Ludwig
3. Date of birth ___ 1914
4. Place of birth ___ Selz
5. Place of residence (address) ___ Selz (before and during the occupation), currently-since June 10, 1944 – at the - Vesely khutor of Razdenaya region.
6. Occupation ___ stable-man in kolkhoz “Put Illicha,” Selz district.
7. Trade union ___
8. Social status ___ member of Colfarm
9. Social and political past ___ poor peasant
10. Social origin ___ poor peasant
11. Nationality and citizenship ___ German, USSR
12. Education ___ illiterate
13. Party-membership ___ non-party
14. Military registration category ___
15. Property status ___
16. Preceding repression inflicted upon the accused ___

17. Family Unit____

Father SANDER, Ludwig, born in Selz, died in 1921;

mother SANDER, Mariana, born in Selz, died ?, "I do not remember her, I was a small child when she died";

wife Maria (née Roms, daughter of Anton), born in Selz, evacuated by the Germans in April of 1944;

son SANDER, Victor, born in Selz in 1941, currently dwelling in the Vesely Khutor of Razdelnaya region;

son SANDER, Anton, born in Selz in 1942, evacuated (with his mother) by the Germans in April of 1944;

daughter SANDER, Erna, born in Selz in 1943, evacuated (with her mother) by the Germans in April of 1944;

sister SANDER, Catharina daughter of Ludwig, born in Selz, currently dwelling in the Vesely Khutor of Razdelnaya region;

sister SANDER, Eva daughter of Ludwig, born in Selz, lived in Odessa before the occupation, current status and place of residence are unknown;

mother-in-law Roms, Catharine daughter of Valentin, currently dwelling in the Vesely Khutor of Razdelnaya region.

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Physical description of Valentin Sander

Height - average (165-170 cm)

Stature - average

Shoulders - lowered

Neck - long

Hair - brown

Eyes - gray

Face - rectangular

Forehead - low, upright

Brows - arched

Nose - small, upright, base - raised

Mouth - small, angles - lowered, lips - thin

Chin - inclined, dimpled

Ears - triangular, protrude outward at the top, the lobes are knitted

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The case on charges against SANDER, Valentin (son of Ludwig) in crimes specified in article 54-1-a of UkrSSR Penal Code is solely based on the fact that being in the occupied territory, he as an ethnic German, received a German passport (Ausweis).

The decision of UkrSSR NKVD Razdelnaya district authorized agent sub-lieutenant Afanasiev to present the case is dated June 8, 1944. It particularly states that SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig while residing in the territory temporarily occupied, "on 20 March 1942 received a German "Ausweis" passport and was among those known as the "volksdeutsche" being under protection of German occupational government." This indicated a crime as specified in article 54-1-a of UkrSSR Penal Code.

There is a similar decision of Odessa region UNKVD Section on the Struggle against Banditry, where the assistant authorized agent Ermolenko has been assigned to the case; it is dated 08 July 1944. This shows that a month later, the case arrived at the regional center for consideration. The new charges that were brought – were the same as the previous charges.

In Afanasiev's decision dated 09 June 1944 it reveals that "higher officials" approved the apprehension of Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER on 10 June 1944. It continues on to state that "SANDER, Valentine son of Ludwig residing at the territory temporarily occupied by German aggressors; assisted them in the establishment of the fascist regime, being included among those called the "volksdeutsche," had a close connection to the occupational government and enjoyed special protection from the Occupiers." In accordance to the stated charges, the resolution was passed stating "to arrest and confiscate all the property belonging to him."

On 06 June 1944, the apprehension and search warrant #69 was issued against Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER who was residing in khutor Vesely Kut of Razdelnaya district, Odessa region. There is a personal written acknowledgment on the reverse side of the order:

"Notified of the order on 10 June 1944," and signed by SANDER.

There also is another acknowledgment written on the decision dated June 10, 1944 for his detention as a preventive punishment: "Notified of the decision," personally signed by Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER.

Two of the original records remain in the file they are dated June 6, 1944. These two records pertain to the searches made by authorized agents of the Volontir regional NKVD Department (of Bendery uyezd, Moldavian SSR). The first record is regarding personal effects and it has only one recorded item, it is a "German passport #110003/2282." The second record has a hand written note stating, that in searching the SANDER place of residence in khutor Vesely Kut that: "No items identified by the inventory list were found."

The file also includes a statement given by the Potashenkowo village Soviet council regarding, SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig residing in the village Potashenkowo attesting that "there is no forbidden property in his household."

In the first interrogation (dated 12 June 1944) Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER, in his deposition stated that before the war and during the occupation he resided in Selz. Additionally, that in 1942 the German Occupational Government confiscated his soviet passport and in return, he received the German "Ausweis" passport. This action by the Occupational Force automatically identified him as a "volksdeutsche." He additionally volunteered that "in early 1944 when the Red Army was approaching the village of Selz, all of the villagers were ordered to evacuate. We left the village of Selz in a direction, which was unknown to me and took us to the village of Maiaky. Upon arriving in Maiaky our group was intercepted by the Red Army and we were ordered to return to Selz. In April of 1944 I was evacuated to Vesely Kut, where I worked as a simple colfarmer." Additional information from Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER's depositions shows that at the time of his arrest that he was responsible for two dependents. One being his under age son Victor (born in 1941) and the other his mother-in-law Roms, Catharina daughter of Valentin, born in 1891 (there is a file with the number of #15761-p on Roms, Catharina daughter of Valentin). Further statements from these depositions and the archival reference data, show that SANDER's wife and two younger children had enough time to cross the Dniester river before being intercepted by the Red Army. They therefore continued their journey towards Germany. There is no information available regarding their destiny, as also is the case regarding Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER's son Victor who was living with him before his arrest. The records also state that Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER had no close relatives who had received government awards or serving in the Red Army.

The interrogation records of the witness's Anton son of Georg Klein and Valentin son of Casper Eisenzimmer confirm that they also as ethnic Germans had received the German passports. Note: there are two files in the collection, #23399-p on Klein, Anton son of Georg and #23181-p on Eisenzimmer, Valentin son of Caspar, both were Selz colonists. These two witnesses confirmed that they had been warned "that without the Ausweis ... the German authorities would not allow anyone to leave the village, this even for the important function of threshing." They additionally verified that there was a special store in the village where a person holding a German passport, would be able to receive 8 hectares of land and one horse.

The interrogation records of Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER dated 19 June 1944 stated that he pleaded guilty "in receiving a German "Ausweis" passport on 20 March 1942 and was among the ethnic group known as the "volksdeutsche". Additionally, that he was placed under protection of German occupational government and thereby was granted some special privileges from the arrangement." The same formulation is included in the decision regarding to bring charges against Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER dated 19 June 1944. Based on these facts, it was decided "to prosecute SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig as accused in accordance with article 54-1a of UkrSSR Penal Code."

There is a document in the file dated 15 June 1944 regarding medical inspection of Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER with the notation that he has "full blindness of right eye" and further notation that he was – “capable for work.”

The documents then state that, Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER was transferred from the Razdelnaya district to Odessa. As mentioned above, beginning on 08 July 1944 the case consideration was held at Odessa region UNKVD Section on Struggle against Banditry.

By the end of August several rulings were made; these were, to introduce SANDER, Valentin's “Ausweis” passport as an evidence to investigation case #965 (dated 20 August 1944), calling for an interrogation for the patronymic clarification (23 August 1944) and bringing charges to the case (dated 25 August 1944).

During his interrogation on 25 August 1944, Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER states, that as a "volksdeutsche" “... I received 16 hectares of land which had formerly belonged to the "Illich's Way" collective farm. I did not receive any horses from the German occupiers. However, I did buy two of them on my own, one in 1941 and another one in 1943.”

The recorded facts of the charges were decisive in the decision of bringing another charge on (25 August 1944) although this one was somewhat harsher, "SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig ... being the USSR citizen ... elected to betray the soviet fatherland and exchanged his soviet passport for a German passport...”

An indictment charging SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig was prepared on 28 August and approved on 30 August 1944. It specially states; “That the evidence surrounding the case has been received at the Razdelnaya district NKVD department. Furthermore, that Selz villager SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig during a temporary occupation of the Razdelnaya district territory, he elected to betray the soviet fatherland, received a German (ausweis) passport and surrendered his soviet passport. Where upon he accepted the citizenship of Germany and was known by the Germans as a "volksdeutsche"... Was under protection of the Occupation Forces.. . He then was allotted 16 hectares of land and was also exempted from paying taxes ... In March of 1944 he participated in the attempted evacuation to Germany, but was captured by the advancing Red Army and was ordered to return to Selz ... Pleaded guilty.”

A further recommendation on the case was: “Investigation case #965 on the charge of SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig according to article 54-1a of UkrSSR Penal Code is to be directed to the USSR NKVD Special council. The recommended sentence... a measure of punishment to SANDER - 10 years of corrective labor camps sending him to the NKVD camp of Chernogorsk, without confiscating his personal property, this because of the lack of any value property.”

There is a reference at the indictment saying that for the time being, the accused SANDER is incarcerated in the Odessa prison #1 and that there is evidence on the case – it being his German passport (Ausweis).

There, also is Odessa region public prosecutor’s sanction put on the indictment and it is dated, 05 September 1944. Also, with the instruction, “To carry into consideration of the Special council ... 13 October 1944.”

The extract from the record #47 of the USSR NKVD Special council is dated December 11, 1944 and states that sentencing was passed:

"HEARD:

210. The case #965 of Odessa region UNKVD on charge of SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig, ...

Accused by article 54-1a of UkrSSR Penal Code.

RESOLVED:

For betrayal of the fatherland, to commit SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig to the Chernogorsk special corrections labor camp for the term of SEVEN years commencing on 10 June 1944 and to confiscate his personal property.

UkrSSR NKVD #8/4-54753, 29.XII.1944

/Chernogorsk special camp/"

There is the reference in the file as for dactylogram (fingerprinting) procedure that Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER was processed through the Odessa prison on 05 September 1944.

There also is an envelope where the ausweis and the single page indictment had been kept (as seen from the writing on the envelope), it now is empty.

On 15 March 1967 Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER addresses an application to the USSR General Public Prosecutor Rudenko, the letter distinctly states the following:

"I was born in the village of Selz, resided and worked in Padoshenko a village of the Razdelnaya district, Odessa region until the day of my arrest, 07 April 1944.

Before ... and during the occupation I worked in agriculture.

The NKVD agents arrested me on 07 April 1944 in Padoshenko ... I was sentenced to seven years of commitment to the NKVD Chernogorsk special camp. In reality, I was not guilty on any of the charges. I have served my sentence in the Chernogorsk special camp working as a shaft sinker at the trust "Khakasugol" mine.

I was released from the Chernogorsk special camp on 08 April 1951. Since then I have been working as a stoker at a crosstie workshop. I have been a disabled worker of category II since 1956."

... "The only guilt of mine is the fact that by nationality I am a soviet German."

And further... Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER petitions "... to request my criminal case within the prosecution directorate, reconsider it and direct to the proper court for its discontinuance due to the absence of a committed crime, and provide full rehabilitation for myself as being innocently and unjustifiably repressed."

Address of the sender: 6, 2nd line, 9th headframe, Chernogorsk, Khakassia autonomous region, Krasnoyarsk region.

On 10 April 1967 Odessa region public prosecutor, Yasinsky along with the Odessa region Court Presidium filed a 'protest' in the public prosecution direction, which particularly states:

"... it is recognized that the exchange of SANDER's passport was coercively made by occupational government, as all local Germans were obliged to do so. Having received a German passport, SANDER did not cooperate with the occupational government and did not direct any traitorous activity but rather just worked at his homestead."

And the public prosecutor further requests: "To overrule the decision of the former USSR NKVD Special council dated 11 December 1944 regarding SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig, with discontinuing the case due to the absence of a crime body."

The Odessa region Court Presidium decided on 03 June 1967:

"To satisfy the Odessa region public prosecutor's filing.

To overrule the decision of former USSR NKVD Special council dated December 11, 1944 regarding SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig, with discontinuing the case due to the absence of a crime body."

The last document in the file is a copy of rehabilitation certificate, which was sent to Valentin son of Ludwig SANDER on 10 June 1967. It states that the Odessa region Court Presidium has reconsidered the case; on which the charges were filed against him on 03 June 1967 and it then has the next paragraph regarding the resolution.

"To overrule the decision of the former USSR NKVD Special council dated 11 December 1944. This decision is regarding SANDER, Valentin son of Ludwig, who on the day of his arrest worked as a colfarmer at the "Illich's Way" a collective farm of the Razdelnaya district, Odessa region - with discontinuing the case due to the absence of a crime body."

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