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[Redacted]

- 25X1 1. In August 1941, [redacted] Kolkhoz imeni Stalina, was occupied by German troops. [redacted] no advance warning of their arrival and no attempt was made to evacuate [redacted] people on the kolkhoz awakened one morning to find themselves in German hands. The kolkhoz chairman and a few of his assistants fled eastward but the other people remained on the kolkhoz. Although [redacted] Yerki, was never in the battle area, [redacted] heard rumors about German atrocities and pillaging and were apprehensive [redacted] however, [redacted] treated well by the Germans and [redacted] better than under the Soviet regime.
- 25X1 2. When the Soviets retreated they took the kolkhoz's only truck; the tractors were left behind. At first the Germans seized all the tractors, but soon returned them and later even gave the kolkhoz a new German tractor which excelled the Soviet one in performance. The kolkhoz continued to operate as before but with some notable changes. A new kolkhoz chairman was selected and given considerably more authority than under the Soviets. A German commandant was in charge but he appeared usually less than once a month. Work continued in the fields with more enthusiasm because working hours were shorter, permitting kolkhoz members to work frequently on their private plots of land. These private plots, limited to 1/10 of a hectare under the Soviets, were increased by the Germans to a total of from one to one and one-half hectares.
- 25X1 3. Kolkhoz workers were permitted to keep all their livestock and poultry. Although the Germans took most of the grain raised by the kolkhoz, they left much more for distribution among kolkhoz workers than the Soviets did. In addition to this, the German administration was much more lenient than that of the Soviets.

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-2-

Taxes, quite heavy under the Soviets, were negligible under the Germans. Little heed was paid to kolkhoz workers who brought grain home from the fields, a criminal offense under the Soviets punishable by inordinately severe sentences, such as several years of forced labor for taking a kg of grain.

4. Needless to say, the people [redacted] at first fearful and apprehensive of the Germans, were overwhelmed and pleased at the treatment afforded them. At no time were any atrocities committed; in fact, there was barely a harsh word [redacted]
- [redacted] A church, which had been converted into a club by the Soviets, was reopened with no objections or interference on the part of the Germans. More food, even white bread, was available than before. People felt freer and talked openly about the probable end of the despised system of collectivization. They were quite certain that when the Soviets returned they would not reestablish a strict system of collectivization. Just as they had erred in imagining what kind of treatment they would receive at the hands of the Germans, the kolkhoz workers were wrong again in thinking that the Soviet system would change.
5. When [redacted] liberated by the Soviet Army in the Spring of 1944, the kolkhoz members were naturally quite happy to be back among their own people. This feeling, however, changed to one of bitterness when the Soviets set about to abolish the changes instituted by the Germans. [redacted] "liberators" immediately restored the kolkhoz to its previous status: the private plots of land were reduced to their former size of 4/10 of a hectare, all livestock and poultry were confiscated and removed from the kolkhoz, the high taxes, reduced to a minimum under the Germans, were again imposed, and working hours were increased to the former level of sunup to sundown. Soviet justice also caught up with those "collaborators" who, instead of fleeing with the Germans as some had, remained behind, never dreaming how harshly they would be treated. Numerous people [redacted] who had worked as a grain elevator guard under the Germans, were shot, and still others were deported /location unknown/. The church, in accordance with the Soviet policy adopted during the war, remained open, but the priest, one Father Nikolay, was given a 15-year prison term for collaborating with the Germans. "Our kolkhoz was truly 'liberated' by the Soviets," said many of the workers, as they saw friends and relatives either shot or imprisoned and watched their standard of living, so high during the German occupation, drop to a bare-existence level. [redacted]
- [redacted] the Kolkhoz imeni Stalina emerged from the war ravaged not by the Germans but by the Soviets, and the people were left with an even greater hatred of the system of collectivization than they had felt before.

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