

The Lord looks with satisfaction upon you and the work that you always fulfilled with such loyalty and dedication. Nobody appreciates your industry and constant readiness to help in the promotion and orderly administration of the East German Mission in the war years 1940–42 more than your brethren in the mission leadership. . . . When you return to your loved ones, the spirit of missionary work will radiate among them, and they will have ample opportunities to hear of your experiences and to remember the hours you spent in the service of the Lord.¹³

Ilse Reimer and Fritz Ebert married in Kolberg that June and moved to Stettin. They survived the war and were parents when peace returned to Germany.

It is highly probable that all members of the Kolberg Branch were evicted from their homes in the year that followed the war, during which time the territory was ceded to Poland. With



Fig. 2. Former missionary Ilse Reimer married Fritz Ebert in Kolberg on 20 June 1942. (I. Reimer Ebert)

the members gone, the Kolberg Branch slipped into obscurity by the summer of 1946. No members of the Kolberg Branch are known to have died during World War II.

NOTES

1. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," CR 4 12, 257.
2. East German Mission Quarterly Reports, 1938, no. 10, East German Mission History.
3. *Ibid.*, no. 14.
4. *Ibid.*, no. 17.
5. *Ibid.*, no. 19.
6. *Ibid.*, no. 43.
7. *Ibid.*, no. 47.
8. *Ibid.*, 1939, no. 56.
9. Wynn S. Andersen, interview by the author, Brigham City, Utah, October 19, 2006.
10. The term "tracting" describes the process of taking their message from door to door.
11. Ilse Reimer Ebert, autobiography (unpublished), 16; private collection.
12. *Ibid.*, 16–17. For stories from her mission experience, see the East German Mission chapter.
13. Herbert Klopfer to Ilse Reimer, April 6, 1942; private collection; trans. the author.

PRENZLAU BRANCH

Situated at the northern tip of the Unteruckersee Lake, the city of Prenzlau is located about thirty-three miles southwest of Stettin and one hour by rail northeast of Berlin. When World War II approached, the city was home to about twenty-three thousand residents and a small branch of Latter-day Saints.

The Prenzlau Branch held its meetings in rented rooms at Steinstrasse 415 on the main floor of the first Hinterhaus. As of this writing, there were no eyewitnesses available to describe the setting. A list of meetinghouse addresses for the East German Mission compiled on January 31,

1943, shows that the address had changed to Vincentstrasse 267. Again, there is no available description of the rooms.

Prenzlau Branch¹	1939
Elders	2
Priests	0
Teachers	1
Deacons	0
Other Adult Males	7
Adult Females	20
Male Children	3
Female Children	6
<i>Total</i>	39

The history of the East German Mission includes the following three entries regarding the branch in Prenzlau:

Saturday, 19 March 1938: Fifty-one persons attended a program in Prenzlau, commemorating the organization of the Relief Society.²

Wednesday, 16 November 1938: A meeting was held with Pres. Rees and the German and American missionaries of the Stargard and Prenzlau Branches; 146 members and friends were in attendance.³

Sunday, 11 December 1938: A branch conference was held, including a genealogy lecture by district president Erich Berndt; attendance was five adults and sixty-two children.⁴

Smaller branches in the East German Mission were usually visited by members of the district presidency and by traveling elders. There is every reason to believe that Prenzlau was not neglected. It is also very probable that some of the members regularly took the short train ride to Stettin to attend semiannual district conferences during the war.

The Prenzlau Branch survived World War II. No members are known to have lost their lives during the war.

NOTES

1. Presiding Bishopric, "Financial, Statistical, and Historical Reports of Wards, Stakes, and Missions, 1884–1955," CR 4 12, 257.
2. East German Mission Quarterly Reports, 1938, no. 14, East German Mission History.
3. *Ibid.*, no. 47.
4. *Ibid.*, no. 49.

STARGARD BRANCH

The city of Stargard was located nineteen miles east of Stettin in the province of Pomerania and had a population of about twenty-five thousand in 1939. The railroad line from Kreuz to Stettin made travel between Stargard and Stettin very convenient, so members from the small branch could attend district conferences in Stettin.

Stargard Branch¹	1939
Elders	1
Priests	1
Teachers	1
Deacons	1
Other Adult Males	8
Adult Females	21
Male Children	2
Female Children	1
<i>Total</i>	36

The history of the East German Mission includes several notes on the Stargard Branch. The following are of interest:

Sunday, October 16, 1938: Wilhelm Pobanz was appointed first counselor to the branch president and Philipp Bauer Jr. second counselor.²

Tuesday, November 15, 1938: A special meeting was held with Pres. Alfred C. Rees. The Stettin Branch choir of eighteen members attended and furnished music.³