

# Raindrop - Backstory

Early 1920s: Russian scientists want to investigate whether a community of humans, with the necessary resources, can supply itself and exist on its own. The gained results shall be used to develop emergency plans for a possible Second World War. This study is part of a series of tests which also includes the creation of super soldiers and paramilitary warfare. Everything happens in the utmost secrecy. The Thule Society in Germany carries out similar research.

1926-1929: Single field tests are started, but they all fail. The test objects lapse into primitive behaviour. Further practical experiments are discontinued.

1931: A group of scientists under the guidance of Alexej Zabrenko, who has been nominated for the Nobel Prize, have determined the cause of the failures. Many more people have to live in a bigger area and have to be provided with free time, varied activities and an educational system to successfully realize the project. The Kremlin declines funding the project due to the cost.

1933: The situation becomes more urgent. Hitler is in power in Germany and the danger of a new war is more present than ever before. Permission to build the complex is now granted. Only Zabrenko's Team as well as an employee of the Kremlin, Mischa Semenov, and his representative know about the operation. Not even Stalin has notice of it. The forced laborers which built the complex are sent back into the Gulag, where their knowledge is worthless.

1936: The complex is finished. From all parts of Russia people who aren't missed by anyone are brought to the complex. Zabrenko himself takes part in the study to control it if necessary - and to collect data. He is the general practitioner of the complex. After some teething troubles, the people have adapted to the conditions. Zabrenko is the only one who keeps in touch with the outside world. His team of scientists analyzes the data. They don't know where the complex is located. The area around the complex is mined to prevent an escape.

1938: After two years the people have indeed grown together to a social unit, but the benefits of the research are minor. Hitler meanwhile deploys German troops of the Wehrmacht in Austria as a first step for the Anschluss to the German Reich. In Russia the money for the research is to be used for the arms build-up, but the employee of the Kremlin doesn't want to give up the project yet.

1. September 1939: Events get out of control. Nazi Germany invades Poland. All the money which has been given to the secret projects so far is now put in the arms industry. All project overseers are summoned to the Kremlin. On the way to the Moscow Kremlin, a truck crashes into the car of Mischa Semenov. He and his driver are instantly killed. His representative who should in this case assume his duties, was denounced one week ago by opponents in the party for collaborating with the Germans, he was sent into a Siberian forced labor camp immediately. The last will of Semenov is carried out, henceforth the Finance Minister is instructed to stop the payments for the research team of Zabrenko and the plans of action are sent to General Jegor Kosloff, who will evacuate the complex.

18. September 1939: The letter reaches the military outpost of Kosloff but General Kosloff had died the previous day during the invasion of Poland, shot by a Polish sniper. The successor of Kosloff stows the letter away unopened.

8. September 1997, somewhere in Russia. 58 years have passed since the complex has been cut off from the outside world. You wake up in an abandoned tunnel, without even a name ...