

No 139

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P.1

“1933 Famine”

I am 69 years old. Our family lived in the village Holoskove, in the Kryve Ozero raion of Odesa oblast (now Mykolaiv oblast). We had 6 beehives. Thanks to this we survived, though we were swollen from hunger. Holoskave [Holoskove] is the village where the market took place.

(a picture of the area)

In Holoskove at the market, pots of aspic were confiscated from two women. At the clinic, the doctor Ravich [last name] and my mother Tentsunik (Tenshchunik) could not figure out what the aspic was made of. A patient, Baranovsky, confirmed that the aspic was made of human flesh. Baranovsky was a pig butcher and knew a lot from his own experience. Not long after, in the village Ternuvate in Pervomaisk raion the police uncovered 18 human skeletons in the attic of two houses and caught a few people who were involved in this “industry.”

In the village Onyskove, Hryhoriy Chechelnytskyi grabbed his 10-year-old son and began cutting his neck with a scythe at the trough, but the boy managed to wrestle away and began screaming. His father was weak from hunger and could not hold down his son. People congregated and began beating Hryhoriy. His brother, who was head of the village council and also named Chechelnytskyi, rushed there and hit him on the head with his gun. They dug a shallow hole and buried him alive, while he begged for them not to kill him and said “Don’t hit me, I just wanted at least for once to have

enough to eat.” A few times in the village Lushnovate they chased after the vet Sava Cherniienko to cut him up but he always escaped.

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We had a rifle, and our older brother went to the mill where he got lucky shooting rats, and this was our “meat dish.” We even knew that a soup made with sparrows and orach was tastier than one with crows. Crow soup tasted like black tar.

When the weeds flowered, they covered the fields, then the bees saved us. Less than half of the people were left in our villages.

I can tell you about the “Stalin menu” -- horses, dogs, cats, rats, sparrows, crows, orach, bark, reed root, and so on.

In the village Lushnovate the most tenacious “activist” was Denys Miniailo.

In Onyskove there was Bazyl Voloshanavsky. He was mentally ill (schizophrenia) and had a tambourine in his home because he used to play in a band. During the “total collectivization” he was forced into the *soz*<sup>1</sup>. They would take him to the village council [building], put him up against the wall and “shoot.” They clicked the rifle shutter and let him think that... And this is how he died, hugging his tambourine in his house.

During the repressions in 1937, I was the only one in our family who survived. My father was awarded St. George’s crosses and a sabre (a gift from Kotovski) for bravery. He perished in the Rybinsk labour camps. And the executioner Lazar Kaganovich lives in Moscow and receives his personal pension. And he’s living a long life—95 years. He is a cannibal. And the Soviet government and the party allow this.

(signature)

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<sup>1</sup> *Tovarystvo spilnoi obrobky zemli (SOZ or TSOZ)* - Association for Joint Cultivation of Land; was a form of agricultural cooperative in early Soviet Union. In a TOZ, only land and labor were common.