

No 142

315 960 City of Hlobyno
Poltava oblast
170 Karl Marx Street
Aleksieieva, Yevheniia Vasylivna

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252 047, Kyiv 47
50 Prospect Peremohy
Newspaper "Silski visti"

I am Aleksieieva, Yevheniia Vasylivna, née Kolomiets, Ivha Vasylivna. I was born in 1921. My father died early (at 28 years old). My mother, not having her own home, having nowhere to go with her three children, abandoned us in the village Petrivka-Romenska, now in the Hadiach raion of Poltava oblast. We lived with a guardian until spaces were found in children's orphanages

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located in the villages Yakhnyky, Luka, Lokhvytsya, Svyrydivka, in Poltava oblast.

My first brother was sent to the village Luka. I was then 6 years old but they registered me as 8 years old because they did not accept children younger than that, and children under 8 were sent to Yakhnyky. Later there was the orphanage in the village Svyrydivka and then until 1935 I was in the one in Lokhvytsya, behind School Number 1 near the monument to Skovoroda (it stood there then) by the wooden theatre, and later in

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the state farm in the village Pisky.

So in "Silski visti" No (14796) there was an article "The 1933 Famine." My sisters and brothers and I (children of orphanages) were brought there in train cars. And those kids lived there no longer than a week since the famine forced us to search for food.

About 42-43 of the orphans died every day in 1932-1933. I remember to this day how a big hole was dug out in the garden and dead children were dumped into it, dead from hunger, from the cold or from various diseases that nobody

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was treating.

It is difficult to write without sadness and stress, my hands are quivering.

I am a veteran of the Great Patriotic War (I volunteered) and veteran of labor (38 years of experience). We worked almost for free, without weekends, vacations, or maternity leave, and we earned next to nothing for retirement (and butter, sausage, etc. cost 8 rubles [*karbovantsiv*]). These products are not for us pensioners.

You don't need to bother publishing this in the newspaper, as most of our letters get lost somewhere, and at least I have told you a bit about my "happiness."