

Interviewee: Maria Firman, born on September 21, 1923, in the village of Khyzhyntsi, Vinnytsia raion, Vinnytsia oblast

Interviewers(s): Ariadna Okhrymovych, Iroida Wynnyckyj

Date: August 17, 2008

Description: Daria Glazkova

00:00:50 – Interviewee introduces herself.

00:01:13 – Interviewee discusses the income status of her family and their farm.

00:04:15 – Interviewee talks about starting elementary school at the age of 7.

00:04:45 – Interviewee discusses the size of the village.

00:05:30 – Interviewee talks about people from Odesa who settled down in the village of Khyzhyvtsi.

00:06:20 – Interviewee talks about the route she took to school.

00:07:20 – Interviewee discusses her school building.

00:08:35 – Interviewee talks about the numbers of people who perished in Khyzhyvtsi during the famine.

00:09:05 – Interviewee talks about how people were buried during the famine.

00:09:20 – Interviewee estimates that half of the village inhabitants perished during the famine.

00:09:35 – Interviewee talks about the lack of space for burying of more people.

00:10:20 – Interviewee talks about the members of her family who died of starvation during the famine.

00:11:00 – Interviewee recalls a witness account of the famine provided at an occasion by her neighbour.

00:12:00 – Interviewee talks about her parents dying at the age of 31 and her younger sister dying at the age of 4.

00:12:50 – Interviewee explains what people would eat during the famine.

00:14:10 – Interviewee lists the names of her family members.

00:15:10 – Interviewee discusses her brother getting killed as a soldier in the Soviet-Finnish war.

00:17:08 – Interviewee talks about the beginning of collective farms in Khyzhyvtsi.

00:17:50 – Interviewee talks about the propaganda campaigns which were intended to force people to join collective farms.

00:18:25 – Interviewee discusses how her father was arrested for refusing to obey an order of taking down church bells.

00:19:10 – Interviewee talks about the presence of a priest at the funeral of her father in early 1933, but there was no priest at her mother’s funeral later that year.

00:20:45 – Interviewee talks about having her family’s livestock taken away.

00:22:10 – Interviewee talks about being taken to an orphanage after the death of her parents.

00:23:00 – Interviewee talks about poor sanitary conditions at the orphanage.

00:24:30 – Interviewee discusses food availability at the orphanage.

00:25:22 – Interviewee talks about her other family members who survived or died during the Holodomor.

00:25:40 – Interviewee talks about her father’s participation in Petlura’s army.

00:26:30 – Interviewee talks about having to leave school early to start working.

00:28:15 – Interviewee discusses crime in the village.

00:28:35 – Interviewee talks about arrests of those who refused to hand over their provisions.

00:29:40 – Interviewee talks about people who were taken to Siberia for refusing to hand over their food.

00:32:15 – Interviewee talks about her siblings’ lives during the famine.

00:32:30 – Interviewee talks about sharing her ration received at the orphanage with her siblings who were left at home.

00:33:45 – Interviewee discusses cases of cannibalism in her village.

00:36:10 – Interviewee recalls how her school graduation ceremony was cancelled because Kyiv was bombed by the Nazi army.

00:37:30 – Interviewee talks about her plans to evacuate to Russia in the early days of war.

00:38:10 – Interviewee explains how her mother died.

00:39:00 – Interviewee talks about her mother being beaten up by the foreman of the collective farm for collecting some spikelets to take home.

00:40:30 – Interviewee talks about her little sister dying right by her side.

00:41:15 – Interviewee discusses how prolonged starvation affected her ability to remember the events of those years.

00:41:45 – Interviewee talks about the size of her family’s property.

00:42:25 – Interviewee talks about her father refusing to join the collective farm.

00:44:00 – Interviewee talks about her extended family member getting arrested for refusing to join the collective farm.

00:45:00 – Interviewee talks about churches being allowed to hold religious services when the village was governed by the Nazis.

00:46:10 – Interviewee discusses how the Nazis entered the village.

00:49:00 – Interviewee discusses her time working at a food store in Vinnytsia under the Nazi government.

00:51:00 – Interviewee talks about being forced to the hard physical labour of paving roads with bricks.

00:52:00 – Interviewee talks about being forcefully taken to Germany from Vinnytsia.

00:58:00 – Interviewee talks about working at a textile factory in Germany.

01:00:07 – Interviewee talks about the provision of food for the textile factory workers.

01:02:00 – Interviewee discusses her escape enroute back to Ukraine.

01:06:00 – Interviewee talks about hiding at the place of a German woman.

01:08:10 – Interviewee discusses her life at the Polish Displaced Persons camp.

01:10:00 – Interviewee tells a story of having to say that she is Russian to be accepted in the Polish displaced persons camp.

01:12:00 – Interviewee discusses the time when she worked as an assistant at an ambulance.

01:13:45 – Interviewee talks about priests in the displaced persons camp.

01:18:50 – Interviewee talks about moving to the United Kingdom.

01:23:15 – Interviewee talks about meeting her future husband in the UK.

01:25:10 - Interviewee discusses moving to Canada with her future husband.

01:28:10 – Interviewee talks about her life in Canada.

01:30:50 – Interviewee talks about the village she was born in, Khyzhyntsi.

01:31:10 – Interviewee talks about the members of her family who died of hunger during the famine.

01:32:00 – Interviewee talks about how much land her family had.

01:33:10 – Interviewee discusses collectivization and how people were forced to join the collective farms

01:34:00 – Interviewee talks about food requisitioning by Soviet officials.

01:35:10 – Interviewee discusses her father’s arrest after refusing to take down church bells.

01:37:00 – Interviewee discusses how her family always had enough food before 1933, when Soviet officials began requisition provisions.

01:41:00 – Interviewee describes how her mother died.

01:41:50 – Interviewee talks about being taken care of by her uncle’s family.

01:44:30 – Interviewee discusses how her little sister died.

01:46:00 – Interviewee talks about eating grass and mushrooms her family could find.

01:49:50 – Interviewee talks about her aunt not wanting to discuss the years of famine due to the emotional trauma suffered.

02:08:16 – End of Interview.