

Interviewee: Valerian Revutsky, born on June 14, 1910, in the village of Irzhavets, Poltava oblast

Interviewer: Ariadna Ochrymovych

Date: February 24, 2009

Description: Daria Glazkova

00:00:50 – Interviewee introduces himself.

00:01:05 – Interviewee talks about the size of his village.

00:01:20 – Interviewee discusses the place of his staying during the famine.

00:01:50 – Interviewee discusses his participation in a harvesting brigade since so much of the local population had perished.

00:03:25 – Interviewee talks about methods of communist propaganda used in Irzhavets.

00:05:05 – Interviewee discusses how he would share his ration with starved local population.

00:05:20 – Interviewee talks about being punished with hard labour for sharing his rations with those deemed “the enemies of the people”.

00:06:20 – Interviewee discusses the role of NKVD troika (special troika) who were appointed to Irzhavets from Kyiv.

00:06:40 – Interviewee provides a witness account of the interrogation of the Head of the Village Council.

00:07:20 – Interviewee talks about local officials being dismissed from their positions for not fulfilling the state’s grain plans.

00:08:15 – Interviewee discusses the local resistance against the communist party officials.

00:09:40 – Interviewee explains that in other villages, people would set sheaves of wheat, which were prepared to be taken by the officials, on fire to show their resistance against grain requisition campaigns.

00:11:15 – Interviewee recalls seeing a young girl carrying a cart with her dead mother on it who had died of starvation.

00:12:05 – Interviewee explains his inability to throw anything away.

00:12:30 – Interviewee recalls seeing empty houses of dead villagers.

00:13:10 – Interviewee discusses famine in Kyiv.

00:13:30 – Interviewee talks about people lining up for food at Kyiv stores.

00:14:15 – Interviewee explains that there was enough grain in the stores to sell to people.

00:14:20 – Interviewee explains that the famine of 1932-1933 was artificial and planned, and that it was a “genocide of the Ukrainian people”.

00:15:05 – Interviewee discusses how exactly the lines for food were dispersed by officials.

00:15:25 – Interviewee explains that those who lined up at the stores were hopeful to get at least some food as they were starving.

00:15:40 – Interviewee talks about people dying at the streets of Kyiv.

00:16:50 – Interviewee discusses receiving daily food ration of 200 grams of bread as a student.

00:18:05 – Interviewee talks about the lives of his parents during the Holodomor.

00:18:30 – Interviewee discusses the daily ration received by his father who was a conservatory professor.

00:19:20 – Interviewee talks about experiences of his extended family during the famine.

00:20:15 – Interviewee discusses “mock foods” made by people during the famine.

00:22:50 – Interviewee talks about the fate of his extended family in Russia where he claims there was no famine.

00:23:15 – Interviewee talks about being a witness of 1921-1922 famine.

00:23:45 – Interviewee explains that the famine of 1921-1922 was a consequence of the food tax imposed by the communist government.

00:24:10 – Interviewee discusses humanitarian support available during 1921-1922 famine.

00:24:40 – Interviewee claims that the famine of 1921-1922 nor people’s starvation was not caused by poor harvest.

00:25:50 – Interviewee explains that the difference between the famine in 1921-1922 and the one in 1932-1933.

00:26:20 – Interviewee discusses *Torgsyny* (Torgsins) in Kyiv.

00:27:20 – Interviewee elaborates on his experience as a member of a Soviet propaganda brigade.

00:29:25 – Interviewee talks about being forced to join a propaganda campaign as a student.

00:31:10 – Interviewee discusses negative attitude towards the communist government among students who were forced to be involved in propaganda campaigns.

00:32:00 – Interviewee recalls seeing cars loaded with grain in Kyiv guarded by the NKVD.

00:33:05 – Interviewee discusses arrests of citizens who expressed negative opinion regarding the communist government's policies.

00:33:30 – Interviewee talks about an incident when a person he knew got arrested for stating that his relatives died of starvation and expressed his view that the famine was artificially created for the purpose of starving Ukrainian peasants.

00:34:40 – Interviewee discusses the fact that peasants who would come to cities looking for food, would be attacked by officials.

00:35:25 – Interviewee discusses being forbidden to talk about what he saw in rural areas while touring as part of propaganda brigade.

00:36:00 – Interviewee talks about how those who expressed negative opinion of the government would lose their party membership.

00:36:35 – Interviewee discusses the fate of those who were excluded from the communist party.

00:36:50 – Interviewee talks about the Great Terror of 1937.

00:37:30 – Interviewee discusses being branded as a non-supporter of the Soviet state.

00:37:45 – Interviewee talks about his fear of staying in Kyiv where he was suspected of having opinions against the Soviet government; he transferred to Moscow University to escape potential attacks in Kyiv.

00:30:00 – Interviewee talks about his stay in Kyiv during World War II.

00:30:15 – Interviewee discusses being arrested by the Gestapo in Kyiv.

00:38:45 – Interviewee talks about a translator from Galicia who helped him to escape the Gestapo prison.

00:39:15 – Interviewee discusses how the experience of the Holodomor affected people's perception of the Nazis.

00:39:25 – Interviewee talks about his experience of coming to Canada and settling down in Toronto.

00:40:30 – Interviewee discusses becoming a professor of Slavic Studies at the University of Toronto.

00:41:02 – Interviewee talks about travelling through Germany after the War.

00:41:30 – Interviewee talks about working in fields in München.

00:42:20 – Interviewee talks about receiving stipend from the Canadian Government which allowed him to attend university.

00:42:50 – Interviewee talks about receiving a position at the Slavic Studies Department at the University of British Columbia.

00:43:15 – Interviewee discusses working at the Slavic Studies Department the University of Victoria.

00:44:50 – Interviewee talks about the impact of the famine on the mentality of the people who witnessed it, namely that people became less compassionate to each other.

00:46:00 – Interviewee gives estimate figures of how many people perished in Irzhavets.

00:47:59 – End of Interview.