

Interviewee: Volodymyr Kulish, born in 1926, in the city of Kremenchuk, Kremenchuk raion, Poltava oblast.

Interviewers Ariadna Okhrymovych:

Date: October 7, 2010

Description: Bogdana Torbina

00:00:40 – Interviewee introduces themselves.

00:01:25 – Interviewee describes his city of Kremenchuk.

00:01:55 – Interviewee describes his family.

00:04:30 – Interviewee recalls his parents hiding food in their home.

00:06:10 – Interviewee talks about taking leftover food scraps to their neighbor and her children.

00:06:50 – Interviewee talks about his family's food rations gradually decreasing and describes what his family ate.

00:07:30 – Interviewee says that his family didn't have any bread or meat during the famine.

00:07:40 – Interviewee says that people were scared to buy meat because the meat could have been meat of dogs and cats.

00:08:40 – Interviewee tells a story of witnessing their neighbor's family's grandmother killing her grandchild out of hunger induces hysteria. The grandmother thought that the baby was a pig.

00:12:19 – Interviewee tells a story of his mother's sister's husband from the village of Taburishe, Vasyl Bilenkiy, who travelled to Georgia with his 12 children in 1932.

00:14:21 – Interviewee says that on the border of Ukraine, Vasyl met with the Red Army.

00:15:00 – Interviewee says that when travelling home by train, Vasyl's children began dying from hunger.

00:15:25 – Interviewee says that Vasyl witnessed nurses carrying out the corpses of children and adults off of the train.

00:16:46 – Interviewee says that when Vasyl returned to his village, 10 of his 12 children died of hunger in 5 days of train travel (interviewee was a bit confused/doubted this story).

00:20:10 – Interviewee says that the Red Army on the Ukrainian border let people in but did not let them out.

00:21:30 – Interviewee says that upon returning home, Vasyl would go to a pond to gather and eat edible seaweed.

00:23:10 – Interviewee says that people would also gather and eat turtles.

00:26:40 – Interviewee talks about his father who was a food purchaser for a buffet in the city's port.

00:27:20 – Interviewee says that his father would steal bags of potatoes from work and bring them home.

00:28:51 – Interviewee says that tourists were told to not visit the city because of a disease epidemic in an attempt to hide the Holodomor.

00:30:00 – Interviewee says that all schools in the city were closed in 1933.

00:32:50 – Interviewee recalls searching for food in the city, specifically mulberry.

00:37:30 – Interviewee talks about the local markets (Torgsin).

00:40:20 – Interviewee said that his family had no bread during the Holodomor, they only had potatoes, pickles, and some porridge.

00:41:00 – Interviewee says that children were not very active during the famine, they didn't run around or move a lot because they were hungry and tired all the time.

00:41:50 – Interviewee says that his mother would not allow him to leave his home out of concern for his safety.

00:42:50 – Interviewee says that all dogs and cats disappeared in 1933.

00:43:10 – Interviewee says that no one from his family swelled from hunger.

00:43:20 – Interviewee describes the corpses that he saw on the streets of his city.

00:44:20 – Interviewee says that no one talked about the Holodomor out of fear.

00:45:15 – Interviewee recalls seeing trucks with wheat being transported out of the city.

00:46:40 – Interviewee says that it was illegal for people to harvest wheat.

00:47:18 – Interviewee tells a story about a starving girl who died from eating unripe wheat.

00:53:33 – Interviewee talks about journalists and party members who came to visit the port in the city in which his father worked in.

00:58:25 – Interviewee talks more about his family and their lives.

00:59:00 – Interviewee says that his father's brother worked for the NKVD and partook in destroying churches.

01:01:00 – Interviewee talks about his parent's religious beliefs.

01:01:32 – Interviewee talks about his father joining the party.

01:05:00 – BREAK IN INTERVIEW

01:05:05 – Interview about Holodomor ends.

01:05:05 – Interviewee recalls where he was at the start of the war.

01:05:50 – Interviewee recalls himself and his father being approached by Germans and ordered to prepare for departure to Germany.

01:07:00 – Interviewee describes his arrival at a camp in Germany.

01:07:20 – Interviewee says that he was working at a factory with his father in a city near Hannover.

01:07:35 – Interviewee describes the work that he did at the wood processing factory.

01:09:20 – Interviewee talks about enlisting in the German army.

01:10:20 – Interviewee explains that he joined the army because of very poor living conditions at the camp.

01:10:36 – Interviewee says that his father died in the German camp.

01:11:35 – Interviewee talks about the Jewish community in his home city.

01:12:05 – Interviewee recalls Germans marking and arresting Jews in his home city.

01:14:00 – Interviewee tells a story about a Jewish Ukrainian family who were arrested and executed by the Germans.

01:15:25 – Interviewee recalls going to Berlin to register for the army.

01:17:30 – Interviewee talks about serving in the military.

01:20:00 – Interviewee describes his battalion.

01:21:00 – Interviewee says that nearly everyone from his battalion returned home after capitulation.

01:22:40 – Interviewee says that he decided to come to Canada following the war.

01:23:00 – Interviewee says that Soviets wanted to return to the Soviet Union because they didn't think that they would be punished since they were civilians (not POWs).

01:23:45 – Interviewee says that he was in danger of repatriation.

01:24:00 – Interviewee recalls hiding from officials.

01:28:20 – Interviewee talks about how long he stayed at different camps following the war.

01:31:30 – Interviewee shows a portrait of his mother.

01:31:55 – Interviewee talks about immigrating to Canada and working at a mine.

01:35:50 – End of Interview.