

Interviewee: Fedir Horobec, born May 4, 1926, in the village of Kocherzhyntsi, Uman raion, Cherkasy oblast.

Interviewer(s): Ariadna Ochrymovych

Date: March 19, 2009

Description: Danusia Tsehelska

00:37 – Interviewee introduces himself.

01:41 – Interviewee discusses his sisters and the process of dekurkulization.

03:46 – Interviewee describes his village.

04:19 – Interviewee recalls living with 5 other families and that people survived by stealing.

05:19 – Interviewee describes food substitutes such as leaves and a hedgehog, as well as some survival strategies.

06:46 – Interviewee recounts his father refusing to join the kolhosp, dispossession his family experienced as a result, and jail time in Murmansk.

07:21 – Interviewee recalls a theft incident that involved his parents.

08:32 – Interviewee describes living in Murmansk during the Famine, dispossession, and dekulakization.

09:25 – Interviewee talks about living with his mother and sisters. Even though the authorities took their house, his mother still did not agree to work in the kolhosp.

10:42 – Interviewee recounts his mother leaving the kids in the apartment to sell things at the bazaar. He would feed himself and his sisters dried fish. But they got sick and passed away.

11:49 – Interviewee describes the struggle to bury his sisters.

12:45 – Interviewee mentions starting school in Murmansk.

13:19 – Interviewee describes relatives in Voroni and reflects on death and survival.

15:29 – Interviewee recalls beggars roaming around but they would rarely visit his family because they knew they were poor.

16:59 – Interviewee cannot remember much from the time. He never asked his father anything, and his father was afraid to tell him.

19:28 – Interviewee describes the village bazaar (*Torgsyn*) where his mother exchanged jewelry and fine goods.

21:38 – Interviewee talks about the farm animals they owned.

22:20 – Interviewee recalls eating birch tree leaves and adding nettle to soup.

24:06 – Interviewee cannot recall seeing or hearing about pet-eating. He would shoot down birds to eat even before the Famine.

25:07 – Interviewee explains that he survived thanks to his parents’ employment.

25:35 – Interviewee only remembers hearing about priests getting sent off to Siberia. Reiterates the communist system’s overreach in teaching children to ‘tell the truth about their parents’.

27:37 – Interviewee cannot recall seeing kolhosps.

28:42 – Interviewee explains that he could not trust anyone. Speaks of theft and fighting.

30:15 – Interviewee recalls an uncle who took care of him while his parents were in jail.

31:06 – Interviewee reiterates that they had a private room in Murmansk. Believes that Murmansk was built by criminals.

33:22 – Interviewee describes his travel to Murmansk by train.

36:27 – BREAK IN INTERVIEW

36:35 – Interview about Holodomor ends.

36:35 – Interviewee describes his time living in Tanrok until the war. Speaks to discrimination he experienced in school.

38:15 – Interviewee talks about the Germans encircling Tanrok.

38:47 – Interviewee recounts his father digging trenches until he escaped.

39:42 – Interviewee compares Nazi systems and Soviet systems.

41:13 – Interviewee recalls being driven out to Leipzig for work in a factory during the war with his father and two brothers.

43:16 – Interviewee talks about how Germans treated them.

43:26 – Interviewee describes wearing an OST to represent the ‘eastern workers’.

43:53 – Interviewee discusses the end of the war, escaping from the Soviets, and eventually landing in Canada.

45:24 – Interviewee talks about Soviet deportation committees.

46:25 – Interviewee describes his time in Canada and his family.

46:58 – Interviewee explains the importance of speaking your native language.

48:20 – Interviewee describes working on machines while in Leipzig.

49:29 – BREAK IN INTERVIEW

49:47 – Interviewee talks about the language barrier while working in Germany.

50:03 – Interviewee recalls leaving in 1946 and living in barracks.

52:08 – Interviewee talks about coming to Canada with his family.

52:30 – End of interview.