

Alexandra Tyshchenko

AT - They took everything from us, and dekulakized us.

Interviewer - *In 1930?*

AT - In 1931. By 1931, we didn't have anything. A big cart with hay on it came, and we children were all put on the cart. My father ran away, so that he wouldn't be deported. They took us out of the village, about 30 km, to Diykonova Balka. A wealthy deacon used to live there, and he had been deported to Siberia, I'm not sure what they did with him. And we lived there, there was a building, with small sheep and pigs, and we lived there.

Interviewer - *What did you live on? Because it was only the mother and children, yes?*

AT - Yes.

Interviewer - *What did you live on?*

AT - This was in the spring already. We would go to collect grass. Before that we collected wheat stalks. We ate weeds, leaves from cherry, apple and pear trees. When the young trees grew we tore off the leaves and ate them.

FADE OUT

[The kulaks] who were left, who weren't sent to Siberia, who had escaped, they were hiding. Some hid with their families, some hid by themselves. The women who stayed at home - they took everything from them. Everyone lived in fear. They waited, "maybe they'll come take me away, maybe they'll dekulakized me. Maybe me." Everyone was scared. It wasn't free, no. Everyone was scared.