

Interviewee: Maria Lysenko born on March 28, 1926, in the city of Kremenchuk, Poltava oblast.

Interviewer(s): Ariadna Okhrymovych:

Date: October 21, 2008

Description: Bogdana Torbina

00:00:39 – Interviewee introduces herself and her family.

00:01:25 – Interviewee talks about her parents' professions.

00:01:44 – Interviewee talks about her father's family.

00:02:25 – Interviewee describes the dekurkulization of her father's family because they were wealthy.

00:02:32 – Interviewee describes the expensive wedding gifts her parent's received from her father's family.

00:03:09 – Interviewee recalls a significant flood that occurred in 1931.

00:03:32 – Interviewee states that hunger started in 1932 and 1933 and insists that it was known to be man-made since the harvest of 1932 was very bountiful.

00:04:08 – Interviewee recalls her father describing how despite the collected grain begin left to sit at train stations in all weather, anyone who attempted to take some was executed on the spot.

00:04:34 – Interviewee discusses the introduction of Communist founded stores (Torgsyn).

00:04:45 – **BREAK IN INTERVIEW**

00:05:10 – Interviewee resumes discussion of the Torgsyn and describes how her father traded valuables for bread and corn.

00:05:52 – Interview describes the meals her mother prepared from the corn.

00:06:18 – Interviewee talks about hunger in the village and describes how her mother brought the grandmother to live with them for a short time.

00:06:50 – Interviewee states that her grandmother died of hunger after asking to be returned to her village of Omilnik. Her grandfather had already died of hunger.

00:07:40 – Interviewee explains that they sold any possessions they had that could be exchanged for food at local stores (Torgsyn).

00:09:33 – Interviewee explains that there were instances where parents would abandon their children since they could not feed them. The children would later die of starvation.

00:10:03 – Interviewee mentions that she was prohibited from leaving the house due to fears of child cannibalism.

00:10:44 – Interviewee recalls her mother making food after returning with grain from the Torgsyn.

00:10:56 – Interviewee explains that in the spring of 1933 villagers were no longer punished for digging up grain and other food.

00:12:06 – Interviewee recalls that in 1933 people were provided with free bread and that by fall of 1933 the state began providing assistance.

00:13:00 - Interviewee describes having to stand in queues early in the morning to received food. Often the stores ran out of bread before the queue completed.

00:14:30 – Interviewee mentions that they went to school from September 1933 onwards.

00:15:36 – Interviewee explains that in 1937 many people who were deemed a threat to the regime were arrested and their families were kicked out of their homes.

00:16:15 – Interviewee mentions that her father worked as an engine driver in 1941 when the war began.

00:17:13 – Interviewee recalls witnessing a deceased woman lying on the street.

00:18:07 – Interviewee recalls witnessing a mother and her son drop dead on the street.

00:18:58 – Interviewee recalls witnessing deceased people in the fields of her grandmother's village.

00:19:35 – Interviewee explains that no one in her family was allowed to talk about the Holodomor until Stalin's death.

00:21:50 – Interviewee mentions that 3 of her mother's sisters died of starvation during the Holodomor.

00:22:17 – Interviewee explains that everyone in her father's family survived because they had many valuables to exchange for food.

00:25:08 – Interviewee recalls the destruction of the church in her village.

00:26:02 – Interviewee mentions that people were punished for going to church.

00:33:18 – Interviewee describes her family's social class.

00:33:55 – Interviewee recounts going to school and learning about Stalin.

00:34:56 – Interviewee says that she and her siblings were hungry everyday from fall of 1932 to 1933.

00:35:49 – Interviewee describes the beginning and progression of the Holodomor.

00:37:55 – Interviewee recalls her parents trying to plant seeds in their yard during the Holodomor.

00:41:02 – Interviewee discusses her neighbor's children who she suspects survived by hunting dogs.

00:43:02 – Interviewee explains that children weren't allowed to walk the streets alone due to the fear of kidnapping.

00:43:20 – Interviewee discusses child abduction.

00:47:46 – Interview about Holodomor ends.

00:47:46 – Interviewee recalls the beginning of World War II.

00:50:03 – Interviewee states that her father's job at the start of the war was to evacuate livestock and valuable tools to Kazakhstan.

00:51:05 – Interviewee explains how she ended up being forcefully taken to Austria.

01:00:09 – Interviewee describes her journey to Austria.

01:03:44 – Interviewee describes how she was recruited to work.

01:05:55 – Interviewee describes working as a maid for a wealthy Austrian widow of an officer.

01:14:48 – Interviewee recalls being punished by the widow for breaking a glass.

01:15:19 – Interviewee recalls a police officer reprimanding and fining the widow for mistreating her.

01:20:46 – Interviewee recounts going to Viden for vacation.

01:22:30 – Interviewee talks about being settled in a worker camp during her stay in Viden.

01:23:11 – Interviewee recalls that when the war was ending there was an order to remove workers from their hostesses.

01:23:32 – Interviewee discusses being sent to work at a restaurant and later an aviation factory.

01:24:20 – Interviewee describes the living conditions at the aviation factory barracks.

01:24:55 – Interviewee talks about being sent to the Austro-Hungarian border to dig anti-tank trenches.

01:26:07 – Interviewee mentions their managerial role in the kitchen.

01:27:07 – Interviewee explains that Soviet workers in Germany and Austria were deemed traitors by the Soviet regime.

01:29:49 – Interviewee mentions being sent to another aviation factory in the mountains.

01:34:28 – Interviewee explains that by the end of April there was an order to go to a resettlement point to be sent back to the Soviet Union.

01:36:33 – Interviewee says that Ukrainians would often attempt to leave with people of other nationalities to avoid returning to Ukraine.

01:38:29 – Interviewee talks about wanting to go back home.

01:40:34 – Interviewee recalls being called a "German" by a Soviet officer on the way home.

01:42:32 – Interviewee describes coming back home to her family.

01:43:27 – Interviewee recalls that she was brought in for questioning upon returning home but was not discriminated against since she worked in Austria.

01:45:33 – Interviewee talks about going to school after returning home.

01:50:12 – Interviewee mentions that she worked as an accountant at a children's hospital after finishing school.

01:51:55 – Interviewee discusses marrying her husband.

01:52:41 – Interviewee talks about her two daughters.

01:55:51 – Interviewee describes communicating with her family while she was working in Austria.

01:59:34 – Interviewee describes the size and demographic of her home city.

02:06:31 – End of Interview.