

Interviewee: Anna Melnyk born on September 14, 1914, in the village of Karyl's'ke, Novhorod-Sivers'kyi raion, Chernihiv oblast.

Interviewer(s): Ariadna Ochrymovych, Orest Zakydalsky

Date: October 7, 2010

Description: Bogdana Torbina

00:00:32 – Interviewee introduces herself.

00:01:12 – Interviewee describes the size and demographic of her village.

00:01:40 – Interviewee talks about her family.

00:02:15 – Interviewee talks about her family's social class.

00:02:25 – Interviewee explains that her father was dekurkulized in 1932 after building his own home.

00:04:04 – Interviewee discusses the dekurkulization of her family.

00:05:20 – Interviewee explains that authorities would torture people to find out where they hid their bread.

00:07:05 – Interviewee states that her family was kicked out of their home and their house was demolished.

00:07:44 – Interviewee mentions that her family ended up living with her neighbors.

00:07:54 – Interviewee describes working as a handmaid.

00:08:40 – Interviewee explains that their neighbors would give her family food for working their garden.

00:09:46 – Interviewee recounts how her father left to work in Russia and would sometimes send his family bread.

00:11:54 – Interviewee states that Ukrainians were not allowed to go to Russia during the Holodomor, but some would cross the border in secret in search of food.

00:15:22 – Interviewee describes what her family ate during the Holodomor,

00:17:23 – Interviewee recalls her mother exchanging valuables for food at the Torgsin.

00:18:50 – Interviewee states that her grandmother and aunt died of hunger.

00:19:22 – Interviewee recalls her father being arrested in October of 1937 and was imprisoned for 10 years.

00:21:07 – Interviewee states that her father was sent to Lower Taihil in Russia.

00:21:23 – Interviewee recalls that her mother would send food packages to her father, but they were never received.

00:21:51 – Interviewee talks about her mother visiting her father in prison.

00:24:41 – Interviewee describes the physical impacts of famine on her and her siblings.

00:25:15 – Interviewee recalls people dying in her village.

00:25:47 – Interviewee recounts the dekurkiltization of her neighbours who were expelled from their home.

00:27:28 – Interviewee explains that she avoided collecting wheat stalks for fear of being imprisoned.

00:28:03 – Interviewee recalls people eating dogs, cats, mice, horses, and birds.

00:29:44 – Interviewee explains that no one was allowed to talk about the Holodomor out of fear of being arrested and deported.

00:30:37 – Interviewee reiterates that no one in her family talked about the Holodomor.

00:30:51 – Interviewee describes working as a handmaid.

00:34:31 – Interviewee explains that the Torgsin stores were started by Americans.

00:36:04 – Interviewee states that she did not go to school during the Holodomor.

00:38:08 – Interviewee discusses the mass burial of the dead as well as those still alive.

00:40:35 – Interviewee states that her mother's side of the family suffered dekurkiltization and were deported to Siberia.

00:42:19 – Interviewee recalls the deconstruction of her church.

00:45:27 – Interviewee talks about people fishing in the Desna River.

00:47:31 – Interviewee says that the harvest prior to the Holodomor was good.

00:48:30 – Interviewee tells a story from a newspaper about a woman who was arrested for talking about the Holodomor to the Politburo.

00:52:30 – Interviewee recalls people being arrested for talking about the Holodomor.

00:57:30 – BREAK IN INTERVIEW

00:57:34 – Interview about Holodomor ends.

00:57:41 – Interviewee mentions that her father died during the German invasion,

01:01:42 – Interviewee discusses the German invasion.

01:03:15 – Interviewee discusses the German retreat.

01:04:09 – Interviewee recounts being forcefully taken to Germany for work.

01:04:54 – Interviewee explains that she and her husband did not want to go back to the Soviet Union after the war ended.

01:05:52 – Interviewee discusses the persecution of Jews by Germans.

01:07:55 – Interviewee recalls trying to escape repatriation.

01:14:55 – Interviewee explains that she moved and lived in Ellwangen for 5 years.

01:16:38 – Interviewee says that her family immigrated to Canada in 1950.

01:17:38 – End of Interview.