

Interviewee: Wasyl Wasko, born on February 15, 1923, in the town of Pyriatyn, Poltava oblast.

Interviewer(s): Oksana Zakydalsky

Date: December 16, 2008

Description: Oksana Vynnyk

00:00:36 – Interviewee introduces himself and talks about his family.

00:01:33 – Interviewee mentions that his father was arrested and shot during the collectivization in 1929.

00:04:29 – Interviewee recalls that after the arrest of his father the family was expelled from their house and all their property was confiscated.

00:05:42 – Interviewee explains that residents of the towns had better access to food and peasants came to towns to procure food.

00:06:05 – Interviewee asserts that he saws hundreds of corpses on the streets of his town.

00:06:23 – Interviewee explains why the town population had better access to food.

00:07:12 – Interviewee mentions that he had been not attending school for several months in early 1933 because of malnutrition.

00:09:48 – Interviewee describes how his uncle, a railway worker, helped his family to survive the famine.

00:10:50 – Interviewee recalls the Red Army troops stationed in his town and that despite food shortages, they did not experience starvation.

00:11:21 – Interviewee confirms that many residents of the town died from starvation.

00:11:42 – Interviewee explains that food on the market was expensive, and people sold their belongings to buy food.

00:12:05 – Interviewee describes how his mother brought all her valuables to the Torgsin to buy food.

00:12:44 – Interviewee confirms that other peasants brought their valuables to the Torgsin.

00:13:35 – Interviewee recounts how corpses were loaded onto the cart and removed by the burial brigades.

00:14:25 – Interviewee mentions that some family friends were also arrested.

00:15:43 – Interviewee explains that the worst phase of the famine occurred in the spring of 1933 and it ended in the summer of 1933.

00:18:17 – Interviewee recalls that in the fall of 1933, the stores started to sell bread.

00:19:07 – Interviewee remembers how he and his older brother lined up for bread.

00:19:40 – Interviewee describes his life after the famine.

00:20:10 – Interview about Holodomor ends.

00:20:37 – Interviewee discusses some of his experiences during and after the Second World War.

00:34:27 – Interview about Holodomor resumes.

00:35:04 – Interviewee confirms that people ate cats and dogs during the famine.

00:35:17 – Interviewee confirms that there were cases of cannibalism.

00:36:26 – Interviewee discusses his family's persecution after the arrest of his father.

00:36:53 – Interviewee describes the famine as the most traumatic event (even in comparison to his imprisonment in the Dachau concentration camp).

00:38:35 – Interviewee states that the famine was intentionally planned by the Soviet authorities.

00:39:58 – Interviewee describes his experience in the Dachau concentration camp.

00:42:12 – Interviewee asserts that grain was taken from the town mill to Russia.

00:43:25 – End of interview.