

Interviewee: Halyna Zhelem. Born on April 13th, 1926, in the village of Polohy, Poltava oblast.

Interviewer(s): Ariadna Ochrymovych, Orest Zakydalsky

Date: October 21, 2008

Description: Bogdana Torbina

00:00:46 – Interviewee introduces herself.

00:01:33 – Interviewee describes the size and demographic of her village.

00:03:04 – Interviewee introduces her family members.

00:04:28 – Interviewee discusses the social class of her family.

00:06:54 – Interviewee describes the dekurkulization of her family.

00:09:03 – Interviewee explains that her mother was not permitted to join the kolhosp because of her family's kurkul status.

00:09:10 – Interviewee recalls her family being stigmatized for being kurkuls.

00:09:45 – Interviewee describes search brigade confiscations.

00:11:29 – Interviewee recalls people hiding food from search brigades.

00:12:46 – Interviewee describes how search brigades confiscated food from her family.

00:14:28 – Interviewee recalls her mother cooking spoilt peas during the Holodomor.

00:14:53 – Interviewee talks about children stealing food from the kolhosp during the Holodomor.

00:17:07 – Interviewee recalls that her mother worked as a house cleaner in exchange for food.

00:19:10 – Interviewee describes her father's search for employment and how he exchanged valuables at the Torgsin for food.

00:24:00 – Interviewee mentions that her father found work in Poltava.

00:25:25 – Interviewee discusses rumours in her village that a sausage factory made sausages out of dead horses and people.

00:25:50 – Interviewee recalls acts of cannibalism in her village.

00:26:59 – Interviewee describes how her family moved often after being kicked out of their home following dekurkulization.

00:27:59 – Interviewee recalls that her family received a house from the kolhosp in 1937 after her older brother was accepted into the kolhosp.

00:32:21 – Interviewee discusses famine mortality during the Holodomor.

00:34:30 – Interviewee recalls that mothers in her village gave up their children to orphanages so that they could survive the famine.

00:34:44 – Interviewee mentions that her mother wanted to give her away to her aunt during the Holodomor.

00:36:03 – Interviewee talks about repressions and her father being arrested and sent to prison in Poltava.

00:44:18 – Interviewee returns to the subject of search brigades confiscating goods from her home.

00:48:00 – Interviewee mentions that her brothers worked at the kolhosp.

00:50:16 – Interviewee describes propaganda and anti-kurkul sentiment at her school.

00:53:15 – Interviewee explains that her family voluntarily left for Germany to work when the war started.

00:53:32 – Interviewee discusses religion in her village.

00:58:06 – Interviewee provides further details about famine mortality in her village.

01:01:22 – Interviewee recalls children being punished for collecting wheats stalks.

01:03:09 – Interviewee describes what her family ate during the Holodomor.

01:05:41 – Interviewee changes to English.

01:05:41 – Interviewee discusses collectivization, dekurkulization, and kurkul discrimination.

01:11:14 – Interviewee talks about her father hiding food and exchanging valuables for food at the Torgsin.

01:13:58 – Interviewee describes what her family ate during the Holodomor.

01:16:25 – Interviewee talks about her father going to Poltava.

01:19:56 – Interviewee recalls her brother's friend who passed away during the Holodomor.

01:21:27 – Interviewee mentions that her mother's employment.

01:22:56 – Interviewee talks about collecting milk.

01:24:59 – Interviewee recalls fearing that her mother would abandon her.

01:26:40 – Interviewee describes propaganda at school.

01:28:57 – BREAK IN INTERVIEW

01:29:01 – Interview about Holodomor ends.

01:29:33 – Interviewee says that Germans allowed her family to return back to the home which they were kicked out of following dekurkulization.

01:30:54 – Interviewee reiterates that her family voluntarily evacuated along with the German retreat.

01:31:24 – Interviewee describes working at a grape farm in Austria.

01:31:44 – Interviewee recalls her mother working at a textile factory in Austria.

01:32:23 – Interviewee recounts her escape to Straubing, Germany, following the advancement of the USSR.

01:34:37 – Interviewee explains that her and her family ended up in the American zone following capitulation.

01:37:07 – Interviewee talks about the falsification of documents to escape repatriation.

01:40:37 – Interviewee describes her and her family coming to Canada in 1951.

01:46:01 – End of Interview.