

Ivan Marchenko

IM - My father was dekulakized in the winter of 1930. My father fled, because his neighbor had told him, "Pavlo, leave your home, because tomorrow they're going to come to dekulakize you. At the meeting of the village council, it was decided that you be dekulakized. And if they find you they'll kill you. Flee to Kharkiv." My father got dressed right away and walked to Kharkiv, 40 km, at night through the fields. So he fled.

Interviewer - *When was this?*

IM - This was at the beginning of 1930. They came, dispossessed us, we children were thrown out of the house. In January, it's very cold in Kharkiv and they didn't let anyone take us in from the snow until the evening.

In 1932 the Famine started. I was in the village, and my mother and father were in Kharkiv already. The Famine started, and there was no food. So every day in the summer my grandmother sent me to tear grass and orach. Usually cows would eat grass and orach. She cooked this grass, and fed herself and us two children.

You know, I was seven years old then, and the harvest was normal. But people knew this was a Famine, and that the authorities had ordered that everything be taken away from the population. Neighbors and people who came by talked about this with my grandmother - that's what they talked about - Famine, and that our people are dying. My grandmother would tell me who had died and was being taken to be buried. There was a grave dug at the cemetery, and the dead were taken there and buried in a common grave. I know this.