

Lida Bilous

Interviewer - *Because you lived in Belarus, people came across the border, because there was no food?*

LB - Many people came. Yes. Many people came, and traded embroidered cloths, or shirts, for a piece of bread. If we had a piece of bread, my mother would give it to them. We too did not have a lot of bread, because what could a single woman make in that system at the time? My sister was born after my father was exiled.

We had already been dekulakized. My father and grandfather were exiled to Lake Baikal. We were left alone. They took our house, and we lived in a bathhouse.

Interviewer - *In a bathhouse?*

LB - In a bathhouse. My mother asked me, when people came, that I give them two potatoes each. I would take them out of a basket, and when people found out they could get two potatoes, the basket was empty right away.

I remember very little. Exhausted people would come; I didn't know at the time where they came from and where they were going, because I was little; what does a four year old know? I helped my mother; I would hand out those potatoes - two potatoes each.