Mychajlo Zahorulko

MZ - It happened in 1932-33. At this time, this was the worst famine in Ukraine. In our village, I remember how many people they buried. They put them on carts and took them to the cemetery. And they buried hundreds of people there. This was in 1933. They took them in carts. We had a very large cemetery; they brought them in carts, dug big holes, and threw them in. We lived nearby, and I passed by there more than once. Sometimes you could hear that some of the people they brought were still alive. They begged, asking not to be thrown in [the grave], saying "we're still alive," but those who brought them [would say] "you won't live anymore," and threw them in the pits. I saw myself how they did this.

My parents hid a bit [of food] somewhere. What they tried to hide in the garden was found, but if they could manage to hide something. Also, acacia grew [in the village]. And we ate it, because we didn't have any other food.