

Nadia Tkachenko

NK - These brigades came to us and founded the collective farms.

Interviewer - *Describe how they came.*

They came from the county [captial], Lysenko, with declarations that people had to fill in with their family names, first names and patronyms, and sign, saying they are voluntarily giving their property - that is, land, animals, tools - because in the village the land was worked with horses and oxen, there were no tractors - to the collective farm. They wrote, "I am giving this to the collective farms - the famous *kolhosp*, and signed. And if you didn't want to join the collective farm, you could farm independently - you can have your own land. But you had to pay the tax, the collection of your harvest that you had to hand in. So those that didn't join the collective farm - they were called *odnoosibnyky* [independents] - they only lasted for a year. They were taxed so much and had to meet [such a high] quota, that they didn't have enough to pay with. And they were put on trial for not fulfilling the [quota]. So they were tried, and by decision of the court, exiled from the village. So that there wouldn't be a subversive element. So they were exiled, and deported to the Far East, to Siberia. Kulaks were deported without a trial - if you had 5 hectares of land and his own homestead - this was already a kulak. Then, when the famous requisitioning began, the brigades came with metal rods, sharpened at the end, and used them to search the hay, thatched roofs, everything, to make sure the villager wasn't hiding any food. Those rods were called *shompoly*. So they stuck those rods everywhere; they took everything to the last grain.

My brothers [worked as miners] in the Donbas. Miners got rations, and my brothers dried bread, macaroni, from their rations, and sent it to us. The first package arrived for us in the village, but later they were prohibited from sending any more; they sent us two packages, and then they were prohibited. I don't know what they told them, but they were forbidden from sending any more to the village. They completely isolated the village. You couldn't leave the village, only if you were taken on to work somewhere. Otherwise you weren't allowed to leave the village.

I only know how the dead were collected; they were collected in a cart, not a wagon. They were buried in the cemetery; some were buried in the ditches. When an entire [family] had died, and the last one was dying, there was nobody to bury them.