

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Life in Ukraine, 1899 - 1940

Personal Experiences

O. H. 291

ILARION DOMBCZEWSKY

Interviewed

by

Randall Dicks

on

August 14, 1974

## Ilarion Nicholas Dombczewsky

Ilarion Nicholas Dombczewsky was born on August 11, 1899, in Iabloniv, Galicia, in the Western Ukraine. The son of Ukranian parents, Arian and Maria , Ilarion attended school in Lvov, the capital of Western Ukraine, and graduated in 1917. Immediately after graduation, Ilarion enlisted in the Austrian-Hungarian Army. After attending Officer Training School, he was sent to Italy and saw action during the First World War. After receiving a serious wound, Ilarion viewed the remainder of the War from a hospital bed. When the War was over he went back to the Ukraine but was still too ill to take part in the resistance against the Polish takeover of the Ukraine. He then studied medicine in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and received a degree on June 22, 1928. Thereafter he practiced medicine in the small town of Husakiv until the beginning of the Second World War.

Ilarion witnessed the takeover of Russia by the Bolsheviks and upon their entrance into the Ukraine he fled to Germany before the commencement of Russian-German hostilities in 1941. He then traveled to Austria where he practiced medicine for the duration of the War. After the collapse of Germany, Ilarion was sent to a camp in Germany where he continued

to practice medicine until he was able to flee to the United States in October, 1949.

Marion Dombczewsky and his wife, Anna, have lived in Mahoning County since 1957. They are members of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Dr. Dombczewsky is a member of the American Medical Association, Ohio State Medical Association, and the Mahoning County Medical Association. He is fearful of the growing power of the Soviet Union internationally and has a strong dislike for the Communist system due to his experiences. His interests include history, literature, and music.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Life in Ukraine, 1899 - 1940

INTERVIEWEE: ILARION DOMBCZEWSKY

INTERVIEWER: Randall Dicks

SUBJECT: Education, World War I, Poland, Medical Studies,  
Escape

DATE: August 14, 1974

DI: This is an interview with Dr. Ilarion Dombczewsky by  
Randall Dicks. It is August 14, 1974.

First, Dr. Dombczewsky, where and when were you born?

DO: I was born in the western part of the Ukraine. It was  
named Galicia. It belonged to Austria-Hungary before  
the First World War. Then it belonged to Poland. It  
was a part of the Polish Republic. As you know, before  
the Ukraine belonged to Poland it was divided into two  
parts. A great part belonged to Russia, Eastern Ukraine  
belonged to Austria-Hungary. The capital of Western  
Ukraine is Lvov, or in German it is Lemberg. In Polish  
it is Lwów. After the First World War, 1918, it was a  
part of the Polish Republic. Before the Polish took it,  
they had a war with the Ukraine. We wanted to establish  
a free Ukrainian state; and therefore, we didn't want  
to give it to the Polish Republic and we fought. It was  
very hard, very cruel fighting. Everything was all right  
but we didn't get any help from the western countries  
because the Polish people had more immigration and more  
influence in the United States of America and France and  
so on and so on and they told them that the Western  
Ukrainians were fighting for Communists, but it was not  
true. They were fighting for their own independence.

Then France helped the Polish government. They gave the  
Polish government, I don't know how many, four or five  
divisions of the new equipped army and then they came to  
our country and they won the battle and we lost.

In the Eastern part of the Ukraine, as you know, there was

a revolution, called the Russian Revolution and there was established in 1917 a Ukrainian government. It was called the Ukrainian Republic. Then Russia didn't recognize it. The Bolsheviks came and took the Ukraine and united it with the whole of the Soviet Union. I think you know this from Dr. Kulchytsky. What more do you want to know?

Before the First World War there were two big countries, Austria-Hungary and Russia. The Ukraine was divided into two parts. One part belonged to Russia and the second part belonged to Austria. It was the same with Poland. It belonged to three countries, three governments, Russia, Austria, and a small part to Germany. The biggest part of the Ukraine belonged to Russia. Every organization, Ukrainian and Polish people, wanted independence after the First World War. The Polish people were oriented partly on Russia and partly on western countries like France, England, and the United States of America, and so on.

DI: When were you born?

DO: I was born on August 11, 1899, in a small city of Iabloniv in Western Ukraine. That's a part of the mountain people who are called the Hutsuls. It's in the Carpathian Mountains. I was born there and my father was postmaster there. Then when I was six years old, we moved to the western part of Galicia near the capital, Lvov. Then when I was in high school, I was in Lvov. When I was fourteen years old the First World War started. I remember that my mother was very happy that we were small boys and not soldiers. She was sure the War would last two or three months and be finished. Finally, the War was very long and I was a soldier also in the Austrian-Hungarian Army and I was fighting in the northern part of Italy against the Italians, the Italian government. I had nothing to do with the Italians, but I was a soldier and I had to do these things. I was enlisted in the Army when I was seventeen and a half years old in 1917.

I finished officer school. Then I was sent to the Italian front. I was there for several months and I was wounded. Then I became sick and I went to a hospital in Hungary. Then I went to Vienna for one month before the end of the War. I was freed for one year. I got a leave for one year because I was exhausted. I was sick and couldn't do anything. But, I think I was home for one month and the War was finished.

The capital, Lvov, was established in Western Ukraine, a National Republic at that time. Poland started fighting

us and it was over. I told you about this war.

Finally, I have to say something about Austria-Hungary. Austria-Hungary was a country of many different ethnic groups. On the east there were the Polish, Ukrainian part of Romania, and there were the Hungarians, but Hungary was in federation with Austria and they had all rights when the empire ended. Then it was Czechoslovakia, Croatia, and German Austrians, then Poland and the Ukraine were established. But the Ukrainians were defeated by Poland and they belonged to Poland.

I was a Boy Scout since I was eleven years of age and it helped me very much because I didn't drink or smoke. In our Boy Scouts smoking was prohibited. It's not like here and in Western Europe, we couldn't smoke. Then during the War it was very helpful to me because I was prepared. I was eating in the fields and so on. It helped me very much.

In Italy, in northern Italy, it was very hard. It was cold. There was snow and frost. We didn't have enough food. We didn't have enough covers and clothes. It was terrible. We slept on the snow, covered with one blanket. Sometimes at night when I went to sleep, I was tired, I couldn't sleep and in the morning I couldn't believe what happened to my cover. Then I saw it was completely covered with snow. It was a terrible life.

Then I remember we had fighting for a big mountain, Mount Grappa. On the hills of Mount Grappa, on the top were the Italians and we were right in the middle of this mountain. At night we couldn't move because they saw us and they started shooting.

We got food only once in twenty-four hours, at night. We got maybe one glass of soup, but it was not real soup, it was grass soup because there was hunger in Austria-Hungary. We got a small piece of meat and a piece of bread, but we didn't get a big piece of bread, only a particle because the people who brought us the bread were hungry also and they ate it. They couldn't leave us foodless. The only thing left was grass.

Then I was educated in Lvov, in Ukrainian this means "gymnasium". That's like high school. It's higher. They start, I think, it is about three years of college here. When I was in Lvov, I finished high school, but it was a high school in which you took what we call a "matura". It means we had an examination in all of the gymnasium. I did that three months earlier because I went to the army. I enlisted in the army.

When the Ukrainians took over Western Ukraine, in Galicia and in Lvov, they proclaimed that from this time--I think it was November 1, 1918--there was established a West Ukrainian Republic in the city of Lvov. Then they took over, they took power. I was very sick at that time. I had a very bad flu. I was living close to the railroad station and it was on the periphery of Lvov. It was not in the center, but like Youngstown and Austintown. The Polish people couldn't pass through this part of Lvov. There was fighting there. It was very hard fighting. These Polish people, these soldiers, young students, came to me and they wanted to shoot me, but I was very sick. Then the Polish people, the Polish Army, not the Army, but the Polish soldiers took Lvov and I wanted to go to the Ukrainian Army which was around Lvov. I was caught when I wanted to go there and they, the Poles, wanted me shot, but I was lucky because the commander of this part of the city was my friend from the Austrian Army and he saved me.

My father was a postmaster, in Labloniv, where he was born, and then in the capital, Lvov. The Polish did not admit him to work and he was unemployed, without work. Then, finally, they took him but not in Lvov. They moved him to the western part of Poland. It was a city of Dembitsa and then to Krakow, later Dombrovva, and then he was old and left his job. He got a pension.

Before the War, I told you I finished matura, my high school, and during the War I took one semester of medicine in Louv. When Poland took over, they wouldn't admit me to medicine, so then I went to Czechoslovakia and I was studying in Prague. I was graduated in Prague in 1928. Then I came back to Poland and they told me, "Well, you are a doctor of medicine, but not a Polish doctor!" In 1928, I went to Poznan, that was in the western part of Poland, it belonged to Germany before, and I had to go for an examination for medicine. It took me two years and then I got a Polish diploma of medicine and I was working, but first I got my internship and my residency at the General Hospital of Lvov. But I was not paid. Forty doctors in the whole hospital were paid, and they were only Polish people. The Ukrainians didn't get anything, no payment. In forty payments there were forty Polish people, ten for Jews and only four for Ukrainians. All Galicia was Ukraine. It was a graphic territory and we were secluded by the Polish very badly, not as bad as the civilians because they did not have any strength. But anyway we were persecuted before I could study in Lvov and my parents were living in Lvov. It was very good. Of course, my father moved to the west but my mother stayed at Lvov.

Finally, I was graduated in Prague, then I went to Poznan and I was graduated again for the second time in 1930 and then I took my internship and my residency in the hospital in Lvov. My mother was living in Lvov; therefore, I could work in the hospital, because otherwise I had no money to stay there.

They didn't pay anything, only when I was on call, I got bed and food for one day or for one night. Not like here, the interns get money and the residents get more money and so on. It was very difficult, as I told you, it was such a terrible discrimination. The black people in America are complaining of discrimination but you can't compare even the discrimination we had in the Polish state, in Poland. It was terrible.

Then I finished my residency and what to do? To stay in Lvov was impossible because there were too many positions in Luov. Then I went to such a small town, it's name was Husakiv. I was working there for some years, until the War in 1939, the Second World War. I was living near Prsemiszl when war was started and Bolsheviks were coming. Then I could go very easily to the western part of Galicia, to be under the German government, but I thought it was created Ukrainian Social First Republic. I was sure they had some rights, and I had to stay there to help them and I didn't go. I didn't leave my place. I stayed there.

But I made a very big mistake because you couldn't even imagine what happened when the Bolsheviks came to our country. It was terrible. First of all, they were hungry, they wore very bad clothes. Even the army, I felt, had not such a good life. They were very hungry; their horses were very hungry; they were looking very badly. First of all, they went to our stores and they bought everything that was available, everything, everything. But they had nothing.

I remember one school inspector, he was a high ranking school officer, he had no shoes. He bought old shoes from our farmer, old shoes, and he paid for these shoes, I think, four hundred rubles. He showed everybody how happy he was because he got old shoes. It was terrible. You couldn't get anything to eat or any clothing.

I remember the wives of these high ranking officers, captains and colonels and so on, they bought such a nice silk nightdress and they didn't know it was for night. They went to a dancing party in this nightdress. (Laughter) You can't believe that, but it's true.



How poor were these people? Very poor. We asked them, "Have you lemons, have you grapefruits or have you some oranges?" They said, "All right, you have very nice factories of lemons." They didn't even know that lemons grow. They never saw lemons in Russia. They were sure there was a factory of lemons. They always told you, "Oh, we are very rich. We have everything." But somebody told them to say that to other people. It was terrible. They were poor.

When they came I was established as a physician in a clinic and my wife was a teacher. She was teaching there, and we started our work. Do you know what is the NKVD? It is such a terrible police. This officer, this chief NKVD in this town, came once to my apartment. I invited him to go through my home, but he stayed only in the kitchen. Then he sat down and I sat down and then he asked me, "What is your name?" I said, "You know my name." He said, "What are you doing?" I said, "I am a physician." "You are a physician? . . . human physician?" He asked everything. I was worried because I knew the things he had done and everything. The next day he came again and asked the same questions. I think he came to me about ten times, every morning at the same time, and he asked me the same questions. Every time I was sure he would arrest me because it was known that it was very dangerous there.

Then one time I was walking to the clinic, and I got called from the NKVD to immediately come there. Then I went. I thought I would be arrested. I came to him and he told me to sit down. A gun was on his table and he was playing with the gun. He asked me different questions and then he told me, "You may go." So I went and continued my work. My waiting room was full of patients, but in spite of this, I had to go immediately because he called me. Then I returned and finished my work.

He was on a village wagon with one horse, and then he told me, "Sit down on this wagon and we will go." Then we went to a village. It was the first village from Husakiv, where I was working. I was not afraid, but I wondered why I went there.

The day before these old people came into my clinic and got an injection against typhoid fever. I was thinking that maybe somebody died of this injection and I was in trouble.

Then he brought me to a big building and I wanted to go to the building and he told me, "No, don't go to the building, you have to go to the barn." Why to the barn? I came to the barn and one beautiful horse was dead, such

a beautiful horse was dead. I told him "Why have you brought me here?" "Well, you have to do an autopsy on this horse and say why this horse died."

I thought maybe this horse was poisoned. I learned later that he took two very nice horses from this farmer and he was running very fast and his horse died from running. He told me that his horse was poisoned. If I would have said that this horse was poisoned, he would arrest this whole family and send them to Siberia. You know, my position was very bad, if I would say that the horse was not poisoned, then I would go to Siberia. (Laughter) Do you understand? Then it was his fault and at once he would be freed from his fault because he did that because of his first trip. Then they will think that he was such a very good worker because he found the enemy of the people and he will send his enemy's family to Siberia.

My position was very bad and I explained to him, "I am not an animal physician; I am a human physician. I can't do anything with this horse. I don't know that." He said, "All right. There's nothing to do then but to say this horse died of poison." Then I thought, "Well, I can't say that."

Then we had to do the autopsy and I asked him to help me because I couldn't do that myself. I finally did the autopsy. It was in the morning and they told me at twelve o'clock they would come back and I had to be ready. At twelve o'clock they came back. I said, "Sorry, I'm not ready." I told them I'd be ready at about three o'clock, but I can't tell you whether the horse was poisoned or not. We had to send these things to the laboratory to Lvov. Finally, it was all right. He didn't arrest me and he didn't take these people.

One night there was a very, very bad frost. It was very cold. I don't know, maybe it was below thirty or thirty-five degrees. It is cooler in my country than it is here. Then at nighttime I heard such a rumble before my house and I looked through the window and I saw many, many vehicles, maybe a hundred or more, hauling these people, my neighbors, from this village. All were arrested and all these people were sent to Siberia, the whole village. They always came at night and took these people. I learned they couldn't take anything with them, only one dress. These old people and children went dressed or not dressed. Even people who were dying, the very sick, they took them also. Then I learned they took them to the railroad station. It was not in my city. It was called Mostyska, and in such bad frost. They took them into animal wagons and they took them to Siberia. I'm

sure that about ninety percent of these people died.

When they came they arrest, first of all, the police, the Polish police. Then they arrested and sent them to Siberia. Then they arrested the lawyers, all lawyers, judges or not. Everybody was arrested. In the beginning they didn't arrest and send physicians and teachers to Siberia because they needed them. But slowly, finally they sent everybody. Every educated man, every well-to-do, even rich people, were sent to Siberia. Every farmer who had ten acres of field was sent to Siberia. It was really sad. It was really terrible.

They came at night and called you and you had fifteen minutes time in which to be ready. You couldn't take any of your belongings, only one small package. They took these people. It was terrible. You can't imagine it.

I couldn't sleep one night. Every night I was prepared that they would call me and take me to Siberia. My wife, as I told you, was a teacher in the same town. A friend or ours, he was a communist, but he was living in the same country, his feelings were communistic feelings, and he didn't know what this meant, communism; this means Russian Communists. He didn't know; nobody knew. I was sure that we had a Ukrainian Republic then. Of course, it was a communist Republic, but a Ukrainian Republic. It was true, but in reality everything was false. We had no republic, nothing, only to show the people in Europe and in America that everybody was free there, everybody had a republic. There was nothing. This was a republic in name only.

Anyhow, I made a mistake. They had always such an interest in these teachers and so on. They always investigated everything and so on. My wife was teaching and finally the door was open and in came one of these people, an NKVD, a police officer or a soldier came in and he didn't say a word. He sat down and he was listening to what this teacher was teaching. You can imagine the feeling of this teacher. He was sure he would be arrested. It was always so.

Then they had spies, children spies, and they asked my wife questions because one of her good pupils was also a spy and she didn't know that. Finally, when she was going home, she saw that he was talking to the police officer. They always had such meetings, always, always. In these meetings, the people were always sitting in the middle part of this room and all around there were these members of the NKVD. They were looking and listening

to who was saying what and who is smiling and who is angry and so on.

Then they told everybody to say something, and once, before election, they told me who I would like to have. There was a communist party and then another party and I told them I felt the best thing was to make a compromise. When they heard compromise, my God, it was terrible. They thought that in the Soviet Union the communists have no compromise, only communist, that's all. Since that time, I was in danger.

Once during a meeting, a school meeting, this friend of mine said to my wife, "Your husband may be in danger, he should disappear immediately." They wanted to arrest me. Really I disappeared immediately. I went to Lvov and then I went to the German part of Galicia and Germany and then I was free. Otherwise, I would have been arrested. That was terrible. You couldn't even imagine people in America and in Western Europe and I don't blame you because I was living far from them and I didn't know that. I couldn't even imagine if something happened there. It was terrible. Did you read Solzenheitzen's book?

DI: Not the new one, no.

DO: You have to. When you read the beginning you saw who was arrested and their families would be arrested and killed. Read this carefully. Don't think it's something wrong. It was everything. You couldn't even imagine. When I left my country, I had some money and some thousand dollars. It was a lot of money at that time. I had golden dollars and so on and so on.

When I went to the bridge, I was very happy because I left this communist paradise. I was very happy and I went there. The German people told me that before I could go someplace, they told me to take a bath, and put my own belongings in one place. I did that and when I went to the bath they took all my money. Before they asked me, not just me, they asked everybody, if somebody had dollars or gold or so on, all right, and they would buy that. They will buy, they will pay for it. They will pay for one dollar five German marks, but the dollar at that time was worth one hundred German marks. I would give it to them because I don't like risk, but I didn't hear them. They took everything, all my money. My wife, she would open her mouth and they looked to see if she had gold in her mouth, and then in her ear. And these women, police guards, told her to do some gymnastics, or some exercise to see if she didn't put something in her genitalia. It was terrible. They took everything from us.

We were sure something was left, but they took everything; all my money, and they took ten golden dollars I had stuffed in a chicken. I checked this chicken and it was not there. It was cut. No, they took everything. They took x-rays of everything and they took everything. I was left without one cent. But I had family, and they gave me some money.

Then I got a position in Austria. It was on the border of AuStria and Czechoslovakia. I got a position of county physician because their physician was sent with their army. He was an officer. The people there were good. They had lots of wine because they had wine grapes. I didn't starve, and starvation at the time was terrible. Before I got this position I had to pay something. I worked there and I was very satisfied there, but again, the Russians were coming. I couldn't stay there because I fled, immediately I would be hanged or sent to Siberia. I had to flee. I had to go to some different place. But these German people, these German police, told me I had to get permission to leave the place. "Why?" "Because you are a doctor and we need you. You have to cure these people and bring them help." They told me I coldn't go. It was terrible. I was sure that I would die. But then when the Communists were very close to this village where I was working, I was transferred to a different place. Then I thought I was going to leave. Then I left this place to go to a different place, but I didn't go. I fled to the West, but I had papers that I was moved to this place. It was terrible. How I am alive, I don't know.

When we were in Germany, after the War, the Soviet NKVD police, the Soviet officers, came there because they had an agreement with America to take these people. Fortunately I was not their citizen, I was a Polish citizen before the War and this saved me. Then I worked in a camp in Germany. It was very bad also because we had no food, we had very little food. We had no coal to warm us. There was central heating, but it didn't work. You know what happened there? America sent some people there with food, with everything. What did these American people do? They sold this food and this coal on the black market and they made money. We were starving. There are different people, some people want to make money, they don't care if somebody's dying or starving. The government and these institutions sent to us many, many good things, but these directors sold them on the black market.

Then I was in Germany from, I left my country in 1945 and came to the United States in October 1949. It will be twenty-five years.

When I was in Germany and the War was finished I was sure nothing would happen to me. I was hungry, I had no clothes, but I was free. In the Soviet Union I wasn't free for one minute, not one hour.

I forgot to tell you, when I fled from my village, from Husakiv to Lvov, I had my family there. The Soviet Union had very nice bands, theaters, and they had very nice operas. The performance was finished and it was late. There were no buses there at that time and we walked. It was far from there, this place, and we walked. Then you see, one truck was there, one truck was there all over. These trucks, NKVD, took people at night and sent them to Siberia, every night, every night. During the whole night we couldn't sleep. We were thinking about what would happen to these people. I think two or three times the truck stopped at this house where I was sleeping. I was sleeping with my uncle. I was sleeping and I was sure they would come to take us. If they came to take somebody, for example, if they came to take my uncle, they took everybody who was in the apartment. They didn't ask if you didn't belong to this family. They took everybody. If they would come for my uncle, they would take me also. This truck stopped, but they didn't come to our house. They went to a neighbor's house and the whole time I was shaking. I was sure I would be arrested.

When I went to Germany during this time, there was no war between the Soviet Union and Germany. They were cooperating. The Germans got food from the Soviet Union and so on. They were cooperating. There came German missions to the Soviet Union and took German people. They had been living there for years, but they were of German descent. Their great-grandfathers maybe were from Germany. These people were of German descent. Everybody who was of German descent could go back to Germany. What we did, we were not German descendants, but we got some papers that said that our grandmothers were German. With these papers we went to this mission, it was a German mission and a Soviet mission. The German mission gave us permission to go to Germany and the Soviet mission released us. All the time I was scared that they would know me there, but everything was all right, and we went to Germany. Otherwise, I think I would be dead at least thirty years.

When I came to America I told the people how it is like there. What does the Soviet Union mean? What does everything mean? Nobody thought this. Everybody thought this propaganda because our university professors and so on were Communists also. I don't know, I don't care if they were or not. But I say too, this whole university, not all, but

many of the university professors in America read these books and this nice program. It is very nice, this book, it is beautiful. It is like Christian religion, so it is very good, a very nice thing. But it really is terrible. Everybody is a slave there, everybody. Nobody knows what will happen to them tomorrow like these high generals of the Soviet Union who were killed before the Second World War, Yaku and Tukachevsky. Nobody knows what will happen tomorrow.

The farmers are completely enslaved. They are like slaves. One of them was here with some colored people. Everybody in the Soviet Union should have a passport, everybody. If a man even went out for two or three days someplace, he should go to the police and say he is here. If he leaves this place, he should tell the police he is going there or there for two or three days. Then he may go. He is coming and he says he has come from this place and he shows his passport and he has a note on his passport, he came and then he leaves after two days, he has to go again. That is terrible. These farmers, they have no pass. They can't leave at all. They are worse than slaves, worse than animals. It is terrible. They were working for nothing. If they were hungry, they had to steal something. If they were caught, they were sent to Siberia. The people in the west don't believe this. When I was working in Germany as a physician, I told these people that were very rich, take everything you have, four horses or six horses. Everything you have you can take, all valuables and go from here. They didn't believe me. Like people in America, I told these young ladies--their husbands were in the Army, the German Army--to leave this place because the soldiers are like wild people. Everyone will abuse you. They didn't believe something could happen. Now I heard it was terrible there because they had a lot of wine and these soldiers were drunk. They did terrible things. It was like a nightmare. It was like something you couldn't even imagine and I can't even believe now that twenty-five years ago that something like this could have happened. Everything the immigrants say here and what they write in the papers, everything is true. The Americans don't believe it.

Before the Second World War it was very bad in the Soviet Union. If the American wouldn't have helped them, they would have had nothing with which to fight. The airplanes, the military airplanes were flying so slow, so slow really. They had the old type of airplanes, and now America helped them. We are very afraid of Nixon's meeting with the Soviet Union. They are getting stronger and stronger and America is getting weaker and weaker. If something happens, I am afraid for myself, I am an old man, but I have my

family, children, and grandchildren. I would feel terrible.

This is not propaganda. I will tell you that before the War, in my youth, I was a socialist. I was very happy that the Communists were coming, and therefore I didn't go, I stayed. When they came I learned what it meant. I was with them eight months and in these eight months I didn't sleep not one night. I was not a rich man. I was a physician, such as a small town physician. I didn't sleep not one night. Every night I was waiting for them to arrest me. It was terrible. As I told you, I know people who are Communists, but I say what is true. Now my own people, we are afraid with this contact of the Americans and the Soviet Union. Now President Ford said the same thing about befriending these people. They are working for themselves; they are false. Do you remember when there was this Middle East War? Do you remember what happened? There was mobilization in America. The Soviet Union wanted to go fight there and take it. They can't trust you. Everything they sign is worth nothing. Today they sign and tomorrow they do differently. I am afraid now they will help the Soviet Union and if you read in the newspaper, twenty years ago America was very strong and they had nothing, and how they have very good spies here. Even spies can take any newspaper. You take now these toys, these military toys, they are being constructed, they make them like real ones, these things. We are starting to be afraid of what will happen in America if it really comes to war. You can read in the newspapers we are becoming weaker and weaker. Twenty years or twenty-five years ago, America was very strong and they [Russia] were very weak. Now it is the opposite, they are very strong. They are getting stronger, stronger and stronger, and America is getting weaker and weaker. You can't compare an American soldier to a Soviet soldier. They are used to fighting without food, without anything. If they had a piece of bread, they could fight for twenty-four hours, and the American soldiers, they eat good food, wear good clothes, they have everything. I am very scared, really I am scared, not for my life, but what will happen to my children. If you go from America someplace, there may be a threat from the Soviet Union. You can't trust anything these people do.

But they have good music, they have good dancers and they have good athletes. Why? Because, here in America, these people, these Olympians, they are amateurs, but over there are all professionals. They don't do anything there, only train, train, and train, and so they have so many gold and silver medals. The same with these ballets, they are all professionals. They take their most



qualified people from the whole country and they pay them good. They are very high paid, the musicians and these people, because they want to show to everybody and to the foreign countries how they are culturally.

You know, it didn't bother me because in Poland we had a very good life, personal life, not political life. We had a very bad political life, but the personal life was good. As a physician it was very good, I had my home, I had everything I needed. But there was in Poland a very big difference between farmers, workers, and so-called intelligensia, these professionals. These professionals were paid good, and these farmers were paid terrible. It was very cheap. Workers were paid very badly. It's not like in America where the workers are paid very good, better than these white-collar people. They are paid very good. Here in America the strong can get a lot of money. It was a very big difference between the professionals and farmers.

Then when the Soviet Union came, these poor workers and farmers were very happy. They would have a good life. These commissars, they came and had meetings every day and they explained to the people how they would live like paradise and they could take everything from the rich farmers or from the very rich farmers and they took it. It was not long before everybody was enslaved. The government took everything. The people lost everything.

The Bolsheviks were very good propagandists. They went among our people and they told them, "All right, if the Soviet Union will come here, then you'll get everything, not like your government, you'll get everything." And they were sure that they would get everything, but they were enslaved. Everybody that had worked against them, was sent to Siberia. Then one year they took everything from the farmers. Eight million people died. Can you imagine, eight million people? You came to the village and everybody was dying, the people had nothing to eat. They ate grass. Eight million people died.

Ukraine, itself, is very rich, it has the richest soil in Europe. We have coal, lot's of coal. We have lots of iron ore, we had some petroleum also in the western part of the Ukraine. We have sulfur, we have maganese. It was a very rich country; and therefore, these people were fighting for it. We had too many neighbors; one neighbor was on the northest, the Soviet Union. The second neighbor is Romania. Then you have Hungary, then you have Poland, and everybody wants to take some part of the Ukraine because it was a very rich country. Before the Second World War, the biggest part belonged to the Soviet

Union. The smaller part, about six million of the population of Ukraine, belonged to the Polish. One part was Czechoslovakian. It was not much, maybe one million or less. And one part took Romania. It was divided among the Soviet Union, Romania, and Czechoslovakia, and Poland. They took part of our country. They are all afraid because if we would be united, we would be very rich and strong because our country is wealthy. We would be very strong. They were afraid of us.

This is my diploma from Poland. They are afraid to put Ukrainians in, they never put Ukrainians in the schools. They were afraid of this name Ukraine. They never called you Ukrainian, they called you Ruthenian. They were always afraid and therefore they always wanted to do harm to us. For example, our people couldn't be admitted to the Polish universities. In our country which is ninety percent Ukrainian, there is a Polish university, but very few people could be admitted to such a university. Then we went to Czechoslovakia, Germany, France, and Lithuania, and so on, and we studied there. When we came back, they told us, "All right, this diploma is nothing to us." People who had money, they were admitted again to the University, like me, and they studied. Those who had no money could not get any position, nothing. Those who had no fields were beggars. What they did, these people, they started some business. In the beginning they got some fruit and they sold it. Then they got some money and it went higher and higher. Many people were good businessmen because they couldn't get any jobs because of the government. It was terrible.

What nationalities are your parents?

DI: My mother is Finnish.

DO: From Finland?

DI: Yes.

DO: And your father?

DI: English and Scottish.

DO: Oh, well you have nothing to do with this. I didn't want to hurt your feelings, if you were of Russian descent or Polish descent, but you are not.

END OF INTERVIEW