

COMMENTS

OCI - 0001 087

FROM: YELIZAVETA V.

USA

Dear Commission Members:

You are asking that people write their opinions regarding the distribution of money. I believe that people who, during WWII, were in fascist occupied areas, and those who were evacuated, suffered equally. Of course, the people who lived in the German occupied areas concealed themselves and changed their names. Their life was difficult. However, the experience we had after leaving our city was not easier. We left our city on August 13, 1941, right when the Germans were in its suburbs. We were trying to get out of the encirclement for three week, hiding ourselves in forests during the day and moving at night. We were hungry and poorly clothed. My mother was pregnant. My brother was 4, and my grandmother was 83. We walked for 300 kilometers, until we at last came out of the encirclement, and then went to Novosibirsk by freight train. We were bombed several times on our way there. Everything we experienced through this period cannot be forgotten. That is why we dream of these horrors even after fifty years. We lived in cold and poverty in Siberia until 1944. It is terrible to recall what we children experienced. Did we not experience the Holocaust? I believe that all of the people who experienced this should receive compensation. The amount of compensation may be decreased, but we should not be considered non-victims. This is many of my compatriots' and my opinion.

Respectfully,

V