

Efim Shpielberg 's Mother's Older Brother Isaac Tuman (on The Right) And His Friend



This is my mother's older brother Isaac Tuman (on the right) and his friend. This photo was taken in Odessa 1918.

My mother's older brother Isaac Tuman was born, I think, in the middle of the 1880s. I don't know where he studied. He spoke Yiddish like the rest of the family. He was short, but he had strong fists. During a pogrom in 1905 there were stories about him. His house was one of the first houses in the street and once pogrom makers came to his house where he lived with his wife Tsyliya. He lifted two bandits by their collars, banged them one with another and threw outside. Then other pogrom makers told everyone that there was an extremely strong zhyd [abusive word for a Jew] in a house in this street that wouldn't hesitate to kill. There were daring Jewish residents in Moldavanka. They were brave and could stand for themselves. There were fewer victims among them than elsewhere in Odessa during pogroms.

Before the Great Patriotic War my uncle was a worker in a carton factory. During the Great Patriotic War he evacuated to Tashkent in Middle Asia [3,200 km from Odessa, in Uzbekistan] with his wife. They had no children. Uncle Isaac died in the late 1960s at the age of 74. His wife died a year later. It happened so that I had to make all arrangements to bury uncle Isaac and aunt Tsyliya in the Jewish cemetery in Slobodka where all our relatives were buried.