

Mina Gomberg's Father Ilia Roitman



My father Ilia Roitman at Purim in Kiev in 1914. My grandfather gave him a bicycle as a present and took this picture. My father was born in Kiev in 1909. His father, Joseph Roitman, was a tailor and had many clients. The family lived in a small apartment, but they were a wealthy family. There was no luxury in this apartment, and the toilet was in the yard. They all had comfortable beds, a big cupboard and a wardrobe. They could afford to buy chicken on holidays, but most of the time they had basic food: vegetables, beans and bread. My grandfather arranged his workplace in one of the rooms. In the middle of the 1920s, after residential restrictions were abolished, my grandfather and

his family moved to a bigger apartment in Kiev. They became poorer because not many people could afford to pay for new clothes, and as a result my grandfather had fewer clients. My father finished cheder and a Russian secondary school in Kiev. After finishing school he entered some technical college, but he only studied there for a short time. The family was pressed for money, and he had to work to support them. My father worked as a laborer wherever he could find a job.