

Yankl Dudakas With His Friend Fyodor



This photo was taken during my service in the training unit in Vapniarka (Ukraine) on 31st May 1954. I am on the left, and I was photographed with my fellow military man, his name was Fyodor. Unfortunately, I've forgotten his surname. In 1953, when I was drafted into the army, I was already a party member. I finished the training course in Vapniarka and served in an Air Force unit in the town of Stanislav. I was an electric mechanic. I have only good memories of my service. I was surrounded by nice guys and faced no anti-Semitic incidents. I made good friends in the army. We corresponded and remained friends for many years. In the army I was actively involved in public activities as well. In 1956 the 20th Party Congress denounced Stalin and his crimes, and it was a collapse of my ideals. I can say, I lost any interest in further active involvement in public activities, and from then on I was a Communist only nominally.