

Estera Migdalska With Her Class In The USSR



These girls are pupils of the 7th grade class B at the school in Proskurov. It was a school for girls. It wasn't a Jewish school; however, we were almost only Jews there. We had one girl from Bulgaria and one from Russia too. I'm sitting first from the left, first from the right it's Lisia Polak. She was my best friend. In 1946 I was taken care of by Aunt Roza Gershleibovna Sudman and I left with her family from Balanda to Proskurov. In Proskurov, we lived in a single house, but everyone had a place, a room, for themselves. The house had no sewer system, it was awful, old. Roza's parents were Orthodox Jews. In principle, they observed all the rules and bans. Roza's father was some kind of an activist at the community. Aunt Roza, though they had the money to pay for it, completed only seven grades and was unable to enlist for any high school because Jews weren't admitted. Her younger brother and younger sister several years later completed their high schools and graduate studies without difficulty. Soon, sometime in 1946, Aunt Roza's husband returned from the war. He was taken at the same time and enlisted for the same work squads as my father, but he said he had never met him. He worked as the director of a scout center, he was a teacher. He was very fond of his family, a very warm man. He genuinely accepted me, I really don't know how, because the whole thing, i.e., their taking me into the family, had happened during his absence. I remember he was very proud that I was doing well at school. I went to a normal Russian school in Proskurov. I don't know whether there were any Jewish schools in Russia at the time, in Proskurov there certainly weren't any. Klava went to the same school as I did. In fact, in the whole town there was only one Ukrainian school and one Russian one. The Ukrainian one was actually closer to home, but there I'd have to speak Ukrainian, which I didn't know.