

## Semyon Nezhynski



This is me as a student of the Leningrad Artillery College. The photo was taken in Leningrad in 1940. I sent this photo to my parents in Kiev. In 1939 I went to the 10th grade of the special artillery school #13. It was my decision and my father wasn't really happy with this choice of mine. This was a military school. We wore uniforms and had military discipline. By the way, there was a bas-relief installed on the building of this former artillery school - the building on Yaroslaviv Val Street that houses a drama college now: four boys wearing military uniforms leave for the front. The majority of schoolchildren were Jewish. Many graduates of our special artillery school perished during World War II. Many Jewish graduates became commanding officers and Heroes of the Great

Patriotic War during World War II. I finished this special school in 1940. Then I was sent to Leningrad Artillery College #3 where I was to study for another three years. We studied heavy artillery equipment: 152, 130 and 205 mm cannons. I did very well in college. The only problem was Russian since I spoke Yiddish and Ukrainian and used many Ukrainian words in my Russian. In this college my Russian improved. I lived in Leningrad for a year. We lived in barracks and followed the military discipline. We were allowed a leave on Sunday.