

Nina Polubelova With Her Cousins



This is me and my cousins taking a stroll in one of Riga's parks in 1940. From left to right: the son of my father's brother Samuel -Valentin Levin, me, the son of my father's sister Rosa - Lucien Zilberman and the daughter of my father's younger brother Vulf - Sarah Levina. On Sabbath and Jewish holidays we went to see my grandparents. My father's brothers came there with their families. I was close with my cousins and always was happy to see them. On Sabbath my grandmother lit candles and prayed over them. Then everybody sat at a festive table. I remember my grandfather blessing the bread before starting a meal. On Jewish holidays my father, his brothers and my grandfather went to the synagogue, and my grandmother went there with her daughters-in-law and grandchildren. After the synagogue everybody came to their parents' place. My grandmother was a great cook. I remember how tasty her dishes were. The holidays were marked with all rules being observed. In 1940 before Latvia was annexed to the USSR, my father's

sister Rosa Zilberman, her husband and son Lucien came to see us. Paris had been occupied by the Germans and they fled from Paris miraculously. They moved in with my grandparents, who lived in a large apartment by themselves. I made friends with Lucien.