

Sarra Shylman's Husband's Brother Izia Shyfris



My husband's brother Izia Shyfris. Signed on the backside: 'For the memory to my dearest Papa, Mama, Fima and grandmother from their son, brother and grandson Izia Shyfris on the days of his cadet's life. 16.2.45. The 1st day of my 24th year of life 24'. Mozhga, 1945.

I met my future husband Chaim Shyfris, a Jew, at a party. It happened in 1950. A year later we got married. We lived in our apartment: my parents, I and Chaim. We didn't have a Jewish wedding. Chaim was a Komsomol member and my father was a Communist and observation of any Jewish traditions was out of the question. We didn't even celebrate Jewish holidays.

Chaim was born in Kiev in 1925. His father Leib Shyfris came from Belopolie like my parents. He worked as a cabinetmaker. My husband's mother Bashyva Tachanskaya came from Belopolie. Her father Yakov Tachanski made bricks from clay and sold them. Shortly after the wedding Leib and Bashyva moved to Kiev. In 1922 their son Izia was born and 3 years later Chaim was born. My husband's grandfather Yankel Shyfris and grandmother Rieva Shyfris also lived in Kiev before the war. They had no education and were very religious. I don't know where they came from. They had passed away before we met. In 1941 they perished in Babi Yar. There were their prewar photographs that Chaim's parents took with them in evacuation.

Before the war Chaim studied in a Jewish school. He liked skiing and skating. The war began shortly after he turned 15. His older brother Izia was working at the biggest Kiev military plant 'Arsenal'. He was a turner. The plant evacuated to the rear and Izia managed to take his parents and Chaim to Votkinsk [Udmurtia, in Russia, 3500 km from Kiev].

At the end of the war Izia became a cadet of Higher Military Infantry School in Mozhga town in Udmurtia.[Russia]. After the war Izia married a Jewish girl. They had a son. I don't remember his wife or son's names. I remember that after the war Izia worked in commerce and then in 1970s he moved to the USA with his family and we had no contacts with them.