

Yefim Shulyakovsky



This photo of my elder brother, Yefim Shulyakovsky, was taken at the end of World War II in Berlin.

My elder brother Yefim was born in 1907. He started to work as a tutor at the age of 13 or 14, as his teachers recommended him to pupils who lagged behind. He visited them at home, taught them, received payment and gave it all to Mom. Grandpa Shulyakovsky told him, 'Never become a teacher.' Grandpa had experienced this work; he worked as a teacher all his life.

We had a seven-year education system at that time and there were evening courses, for those who wanted to complete nine-year education. Yefim finished such evening educational courses and left

for the district center to work as a teacher. Later he became the Head of the Rayono. Then he moved to Minsk, graduated from university and worked at school as a teacher and a headmaster simultaneously. Later he took a post-graduate course in Leningrad. He worked at the post-graduate department of the Device Construction Institute and taught history. After he graduated from the post-graduate department, he was assigned to Sverdlovsk. He married Yefrosinia Ivanovna, a Russian woman. She graduated from the Pedagogical Institute. They didn't observe Jewish traditions in their family.

When the war broke out, Yefim worked at Sverdlovsk University. He wrote me a letter, 'I am leaving for the front line as a volunteer.' As head of the Sub-faculty, he had the right not to go to the front line, but he volunteered. Later he wrote, 'Mom and Nina must have perished, so you should better come and live with Frosya.' When Mom found me we left for Sverdlovsk together. He was on training near Sverdlovsk. Mom talked to him on the phone and told him, 'Kill these Fascists without sparing yourself.' Yefim started as a common secret service man, but he had a very good command of both Polish and German. He finished the war as head of the Division Reconnaissance Department in the rank of colonel. He took part in action and was slightly wounded. He wrote to us that his colleague was at the hospital in Sverdlovsk, they had been together, but that guy was wounded, so we should visit him. Later Yefim was assigned to Voronezh.