

# The interviewee and his family

*Full name* Avi Dobrysh

Where and when were you born? Tartu, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1934

Where else did you live? Tallinn

Your educational level? Graduated from the Construction Department of Tallinn Polytechnic Institute in 1959

What sort of work do/did you do? Construction engineer

How religious was your parents' home? How were you raised? My parents were not very religious, but they observed Jewish traditions. Father went to the synagogue during Jewish holidays, at home we marked Sabbath and Jewish holidays, and we observed the kashrut.

What is your mother tongue? German

What other languages do you speak? Estonian, Russian, Finnish *If you were in an army, tell us which army and the dates* None

## Where were you during the Holocaust?

Evacuation: Chuvash Republic (todayRussia), Kyrgyz Republic (today Kyrgyzstan), from 1942 – Egorievsk (in the vicinity of Moscow, today Russia)

What did you do after the Holocaust? Came back from evacuation to Tallinn, studied and then worked

## Siblings

*Their names* None

#### Spouse

Name? Aleftina Dobrysh (nee Zavadovskaya) Faina Dobrysh (nee Kaminskaya)

Where and when was he/she born? Aleftina: Kalinin (today Tver, Russia), 1939 Faina: Zaporozhye (today Ukraine), 1954

Where else did he/she live? Aleftina: Tallinn, New York (USA) Faina: Tallinn

Is he/she Jewish? Aleftina: half-Jewish Faina: no

What is his/her mother tongue? Aleftina: Russian Faina: Russian

#### His/her educational level?

Aleftina: finished 7 grades of compulsory school Faina: graduated from Foreign Languages Department

Occupation? Aleftina: sales assistant Faina: French language teacher at the Economic University of Estonia, Business Club

Tell me anything you know about his/her siblings (Name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, name of wife and children, whether their family is Jewish and whether it is religious). Aleftina: no siblings Faina: no siblings

#### Children

Their names? Ilona Dobrysh (from 1<sup>st</sup> marriage) Daniela Dobrysh (from 1<sup>st</sup> marriage) Daniel Dobrysh (from 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage) Alan Dobrysh (from 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage)

Were they raised Jewish/do they identify themselves as Jews? My children were not raised Jewish and do not identify themselves as Jews.

Where and when were they born? Ilona: Tallinn, 1961 Daniela: Tallinn, 1963 Daniel: Tallinn, 1985 Alan: Tallinn, 1986

Where else did they live? Ilona: New York (USA) Daniela: New York (USA)

Their educational level? Ilona: graduated from college Daniela: graduated from college Daniel: student of Tallinn Polytechnic University Alan: student of Tallinn Polytechnic University

Their occupations? Ilona: manager Daniela: no information Daniel: student Alan: student

How many grandchildren do you have? Ilona: 2 children Daniela: 1 son

## Father

*His name?* Isaac Dobrysh

Where and when was he born? Pskov (today Russia), 1909

Where else did he live? Pechory (today Russia), Tartu

Where and when did he die? Perished during the battle for liberation of Saaremaa island (Estonia), 12<sup>th</sup> October 1944

What sort of education did he have? Finished 5 or 6 grades at school

What sort of work did he do? Seller and traveling salesman in the store of merchant Bakst

#### How religious was he?

Father was not particularly religious, but he followed Jewish traditions. He went to the synagogue on Jewish holidays, marked Sabbath and Jewish holidays at home, observed the kashrut.

What was his mother tongue? Russian Army service: which army and what years? Soviet army: 1942 – 1944

# Tell me about his brothers and sisters. (name, date of birth and death, occupation, place of residence, family, etc.)

name	place and date of	occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
	birth/death		and origins of	of children	they were
			spouse		
Hirsh Dobrysh	Pskov (today	Owner of a	? Dobrysh	2 sons, born in	Hirsh observed Jewish
(m)	Russia), 1906 -	store	(nee ?)	1932 and 1936	traditions, went to the
	Tartu 1985		? – Tallinn 1980s		synagogue on Jewish
					holidays, marked
					Jewish holidays at
					home.
Lena Emelianova	Pskov, 1913 –	Painter	Ioan Emelianov	Asya Emelianova	Lena observed Jewish
(nee Dobrysh) (f)	Tallinn, 1983		Tallinn ? – Tallinn	(f)	traditions, went to the
			1990s	Tallinn, 12 <sup>th</sup>	synagogue on Jewish
				October 1944	holidays, marked
					Jewish holidays at
					home.

Where was he during the Holocaust?

1941 – 1942: evacuation, Chuvash Republic (today Russia), then Kyrgyz 1942 – 1944: mobilized in Estonian corps of Red Army

# **Paternal grandfather**

Your paternal grandfather's name? Abram Dobrysh

Where and when was he born? No information

Where else did he live? Pskov (today Russia), Pechory (today Russia), Tartu

Where and when did he die? Tartu, 1930 or 1931

What sort of education did he have? No information

What sort of work did he do? Tailor

#### How religious was he?

Grandfather was religious and followed Jewish traditions. He went to the synagogue on Jewish holidays, marked Sabbath and Jewish holidays at home, observed the kashrut.

What was his mother tongue? No information

# Army service: which army and what years? No information

#### Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
	birth/death	and origins of	of children	they were
		spouse		

No information

Where was he during the Holocaust? Died before

# **Paternal grandmother**

Your paternal grandmother's name?? Zaretskaya (kept maiden name after she got married)

Where and when was she born? No information

Where else did she live? Pskov (today Russia), Pechory (today Russia), Tartu

Where and when did she die? Tartu, 1930 or 1931

What sort of education did she have? No information

*What sort of work did she do?* Housewife

How religious was she? No information

What was her mother tongue? No information

## Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

name	place and date of occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
	birth/death	and origins of	of children	they were
		spouse		

No information

# Where was she during the Holocaust? Died before

## Mother

Her name?

Miriam Dobrysh (nee Meyertal) (Jewish name: Miriam -Deborah)

Where and when was she born? Tallinn,1913

Where else did she live? Tartu

Where and when did she die? Tallinn, 1984

What sort of education did she have? Finished German lyceum in Tallinn, during war studied in the college in Egorievsk (today Russia)

What sort of work did she do? Official

How religious was she?

Before the war she followed Jewish traditions, went to the synagogue on Jewish holidays, marked Jewish holidays at home.

What was her mother tongue? German

Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

Name	place and date of	occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
	birth/death		and origins of	of children	they were
			spouse		
Isaac Meyertal	Tallinn, 1905 –	Engineer	No information	None	Isaac observed
(m)	Tallinn, 1971				traditions, went to the
					synagogue on Jewish
					holidays, marked
					Jewish holidays at
					home.
German Meyertal	Tallinn, 1907 –	Chemical	? Meyertal	Marina Meyertal (f)	German observed
(Jewish name:	Tallinn, 1967	engineer	(nee ?)	Darovsk (today	traditions, went to the
Hirsh) (m)			Germany, ?,	Russia), 1941	synagogue on Jewish
			currently living	Eric Meyertal (m)	holidays, marked
			there	Tallinn, 1955	Jewish holidays at
					home.
Pavel Meyertal	Tallinn, 1910 –	Chemist, in	No information	No children	Pavel observed
(Jewish name:	Tallinn, 1979	food industry			traditions, went to the
Pesach) (m)					synagogue on Jewish
					holidays, marked
					Jewish holidays at
					home.
Sheine ? (nee	Tallinn, 1916 –	Housewife	No information	Son was born in	Sheine observed
Meyertal) (f)	Riga ghetto		? – Riga, 1941	Riga ghetto, 1941	traditions, went to the
	(today Latvia)			and died there in	synagogue on Jewish
	1941			the same year	holidays, marked
					Jewish holidays at
					home.

Where was she during the Holocaust?

Evacuation: Chuvash Republic (today Russia), Kyrgyz Republic (today Kyrgyzstan), from 1942 – Egorievsk (in the vicinity of Moscow, today Russia)

If she survived, what did she do after? Came back to Tallinn, worked

# Maternal grandfather

Your maternal grandfather's name? Zalman Meyertal

Where and when was he born? Place unknown, 1880

Where else did he live? Tallinn

Where and when did he die? Tallinn, September 1941 (executed in Tallinn prison)

What sort of education did he have? No information

What sort of work did he do? Cobbler

#### How religious was he?

Grandfather was religious. He followed Jewish traditions. He went to the synagogue on Jewish holidays, marked Sabbath and Jewish holidays at home, observed the kashrut.

What was his mother tongue? No information

# Army service: which army and what years? No information

## Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

Name	place and date of occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
	birth/death	and origins of	of children	they were
		spouse		

No information

## Where was he during the Holocaust?

Remained in Tallinn, was arrested and imprisoned by Germans in Tallinn prison, executed in 1941

# Maternal grandmother

Your maternal grandmother's name? Roche-Leya Meyertal (nee ?)

Where and when was she born? Tartu, 29<sup>th</sup> November 1884

Where else did she live? Tallinn

Where and when did she die? Tallinn, 20<sup>th</sup> January 1958

What sort of education did she have? Grandmother was illiterate.

#### What sort of work did she do?

She started working at the age of 13, rolling rolled cigarettes, then became a housewife when she got married. During the war she sold things on the market and rolled cigarettes.

#### How religious was she?

Grandmother was religious .She followed Jewish traditions. She went to the synagogue on Jewish holidays, marked Sabbath and Jewish holidays at home, observed the kashrut.

What was her mother tongue? No information

#### Tell me about his brothers and sisters.

Name	place and date of	occupation	biographical data	biographical data	describe how religious
	birth/death		and origins of	of children	they were
			spouse		
? Meyertal (m)	Tartu, before	Entrepreneur	? Meyertal	No information	No information
	1884 – Tallinn,		(nee ?)		
	1960s		? – Tallinn,		
			1970s		

#### Where was she during the Holocaust?

Evacuation: Chuvash Republic (today Russia); then left for the settlement of Darovsk, Kirov oblast (today Russia), where the wives of her elder sons were exiled.

*If she survived what did she do after?* Came back to Tallinn, was a housewife