

Etta Ferdmann With Her Cousins Charvie And Gita Ferdmann



From left to right: I, my cousin Charvie and my cousin Gita. The picture was taken in Narva in May 1941.

My parents got married in 1933. They had a traditional Jewish wedding with a rabbi and chuppah. I was born in 1934 and named Etta after my grandmother. My grandmother Yachna lived in a large, six-room apartment with her numerous children. The family was clustered together – all my grandmother's children were living there with their spouses and children. My parents also settled in that apartment after their wedding. Each family had a separate room. The only single person was my father's brother Mikhail. The whole family had meals together at a huge table. We were very friendly. Our family spoke to me in Yiddish or Estonian. My parents spoke either Russian or Yiddish. During family reunions with Grandmother, only Yiddish was spoken.

Father's sister Zelda married a Jew from Narva called Sinder. Their daughter Gita was born in 1932. Father's brother Samuel married a Jewish girl from Riga. Her name was Mira. In 1937 their son Chaim Mendle was born. He was named after Grandfather. His secular name was Charvie. He was a wonderful boy.

On 28th December 1941 my uncle Samuel's little son, Chaim Mendle, died. That day was my birthday. The kid was only four. He was the youngest and evacuation was the hardest on him. Of course, his death was a blow to the entire family.