

Elkhonen Saks' Sister Ite Saks



This is my sister Ite Saks as a school girl. The photo was taken in Valga in 1936. My sister took part in the Betar movement for several months. Ite never studied in a Jewish school. The reason was that Estonian Jews always argued on what language was more important, Hebrew or Yiddish. Father thought that Yiddish was more important and necessary. And in my school Hebrew was put in the first place. So father sent Ite to an Estonian school. Therefore she was somewhat pulled away from the Jewish problems. And she only joined the Betar in 1939 because she fancied someone there. Later she recollected that the Betar members were ready to go to Palestine and fight against Arabs. But World War II began and everything changed. In 1940 Ite studied in the last grade of high school. She joined the Komsomol, was immediately elected secretary of the school Komsomol organization and a member of the town Komsomol Committee. So she very actively

participated in the process of consolidation of the Soviet authority in Valga.