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TOCTB FANIS MERLE in Lit.  
From Carin  
LEIBA PABOIKAS - in Ukmerge

Alex.Shaket@ipst.ed, 08:29 AM 5/11/96 , No Subject

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Dear Carin

I ask my father to recall all about David and his family as far as possible. Unfortunately Rafa doesn't know a lot, only general facts of David's biography. Here is translation of my father's letter.

David was born in 1902 in Panevezhis- town in Lithuania. On that time Lithuania was part of Russia and Panevezhis was in the Pale of Settlement, were periodically occurred Jewish pogroms. Beyond the Pale of Settlement Jews couldn't live except merchants belonging to the top guild, doctors, lawyers, scientists. But there was 3% quota for Jews in the field of education.

David was smart child. In age of 12 he knew Torah by heart and read chapters in a Synagogue.

When WW I began (1914), all Jewish people ( as "German spies") were evicted into central Russia. David's family found themselves in a small town-Tombov. In 1916 David got a job in a printing plant as a typesetter because his Russian language became pretty good.

After the October revolution in 1917 David joined to bolsheviks without any hesitations.

This is easy to explain. Bent for freedom and independents live in every Jew from the over 2000 years history of Jewish Diaspora. Bolsheviks divided people by classes, not by nationality. Besides, slogans such as "Land for peasants. Plants for workers.", "Peace to huts. War to palaces." etc. turned not only young David's head, but millions of serious people also.

In 1919 David's family came back to Lithuania. (By that time-the three Baltic states: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became an independent republics. Later, in 1940 the Baltic republics became a Soviet Union Republics incorporated in the USSR, and only six years ago (1990-1991) they regained its independence with the collapse of the Soviet Union.) David went to the Red army where he became a political instructor, because he was well educated. During the Civil War (1919-1924) he was wounded in chest, but after hospitalization he came back to the army again.

After the Civil War David was assigned for training in Moscow where he became an instructor of the marxism-leninism in a rank of a battalion commissar.

In 1930 David married Etilda (Tina) Goldfarb, and they moved to Leningrad, (St. Petersburg until 1917; Petergoff- from 1917 until 1924; Leningrad- from 1924 until 1992; St. Petersburg- from 1992 again) where were born Rafa (1931) and Ita (1937). In Leningrad David was an instructor in a tank-school. In that time chess became his hobby.

In the peak of Stalin's terror (1937-1938) David was saved by the commander of the tank-school (who was repressive afterwards).

In 1940, (when Lithuania became a Soviet Republic) one year before the WW II, David visited his father. As David recalled, he couldn't read in Hebrew at all. But he could write and spoke in Idish and kept those abilities a long time. (He was in correspondence with his sister Golda in Idish till her