

The Little Leontina Arditi With Friends



This is a photo of me with friends in the children summer camp in Dupnitsa. The photo was taken in 1944, but before 9th September 1944. As a child I didn't attend Hashomer Hatzair. But we, the Jewish children, were taken to a Jewish summer school. We, the Jewish children, were taken to a Jewish summer school. We were fed; our heads were cleaned from the lice, and we weren't in the streets - so that our mothers could be calm while working for a piece of bread. I used to play the violin at these summer schools; we gave performances and we were entertained with art and literature all day long. The persons in charge were boys and girls from Hashomer Hatzair, teenagers. One of them was the great Bulgarian writer-to-be, the fabulist Albert Dekalo. Then he was 19 and I was 11 or 12. This happened in 1943 well before our deportation.