

Eli Dortort (born Eli Klemfner)

Eli Dortort was born on August 30, 1920 in Poland and describes his family and childhood; escaping his hometown a few hours before the Germans invaded; traveling with some Russian soldiers to Kiev and then to Starobielsk where he volunteered for the Polish Army; his unit being sent to Israel, where he deserted and worked in a kibbutz; staying in the Kibbutz for a year before he joined the British Army and was sent to Italy. In Italy, Dortort made “electric installations” and engaged in some combat. He was later sent to Teheeran and Egypt. After the war, Dortort returned to Israel and fought in the War of Independence in 1948. He stayed in Isreal until the late 1950s, when he moved to the United States. Dortort settled in New York City where he met his wife and had a daughter.