

**Covering letter to the memoir *Yánkele's Tragic End* by Fayvl Yavitsh Alvin
(Philip Alwin) submitted for the Mikháleshik Yizkor Book
Translated by Lena Watson from the original Yiddish text**

**(see also original Yiddish text of the memoir, and the English translation by
Lena Watson)**

Dear friend Hirshe-Dovid Katz,

I made every effort to get this tragic story ready for you with its correct course of events. Since this is a true story, I strained my memory so that I didn't depart from the truth even by a hair's breadth, God forbid. And even though I was just a kheyder boy, aged 7 or 8, I remember the course of this tragic event as clearly as if it happened no further back in time than yesterday. If another man turns up and tells this same story differently, it will be false and a lie. I was in the group of boys that were with Yánkele. When Itsik stabbed Yánkele with the dagger, I wept and cried for help, but it was too late. You can and may edit the description, but please do not change the contents, God forbid. I have a favor to ask of you: when you receive this and read it, please write to me about it straightaway. I hope we stay in touch about other projects.

I also want to tell you that my son has had a visitor, no other than Bernard Mendelovitch. He stayed with us for two weeks, and it's now been several weeks since he left.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a healthy and happy year together with your family.

Respectfully,

Fayvl Alvin