

## **BRODZIAK, Anastazja**

- 004Anastazja Brodziak was born in Armenia on December 28, 1915. Her parents returned to Poland, when she was four years old. She came from a Catholic, blue collar family.
- 020Her family moved from place to place through the country and eventually they settled down in Volhynia. Her father worked there as a farm laborer.
- 030They lived in a small town inhabited mostly by Jewish population. Brodziak never noticed any antisemitism in her family or among her school friends.
- 051In 1929 her parents moved to Warsaw and Anastazja attended high school where most of the students were Jewish. She never noticed any discrimination of Jewish students there. Jews and Christians lived in perfect harmony. They never poked jokes on anybody's faith. This kind of behavior was out of question.
- 076Eventually she changed schools to get teacher qualifications and she graduated in 1935 from teachers' seminary.
- 087From 1936 she worked in Polish White Cross for educational programs with soldiers. She taught illiterate soldiers basic academic skills. She taught 21st Infantry Regiment at the Warsaw Citadel.
- 099Later she enrolled in an education curriculum at the Free University in Warsaw.
- 120In April of 1939 she married a student of School of Foreign Affairs. Her husband was to start work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Fall of 1939. The outbreak of the war changed the course of his life.
- 139In the Fall of 1939, he started work at the Post Office with a very low salary. From the very beginning Mrs. Brodziak and her husband worked for the Polish Resistance.
- 150In 1942 her husband received an order from his underground movement commander to take care of a Jew named Julian Kulko, a refugee from Lvov. The Brodziaks shared their apartment with him for some time, but a janitor was suspicious and they moved Mr. Kulko to Anastazja's mother's place. He lived there until Warsaw Uprising in 1944.
- 169Anastazja had four siblings. In June of 1942, Anastazja's father and one of her little sisters were killed in a train accident. Her mother had to raise three children on her own.
- 177Anastazja and her husband moved to the part of Warsaw called Goclawek. About that time they were approached by a Jew, who was in trouble and asked for a place to stay for him and his wife. He had been beaten up by thugs who wanted money, which he did not have. That couple lived with Anastazja and her husband for few months. Anastazja's husband recommended him for work in the Post Office.
- 203Their name was Henryk Korski and Karolina Korska. They used false documents. Anastazja does not know their real names. They survived the war. Mr. Korski worked in the Post Office till the Warsaw Uprising in 1944.
- 211Later Anastazja's husband has been ordered by the Underground to help two Jews. They stayed with Anastazja and her husband for few days and waited for documents and place to live.
- 218At this time somebody among neighbors informed the Gestapo about the Jews. When the Gestapo searched the house they didn't find the Jews, because they already moved to another hiding place. The Gestapo interrogated Anastazja about dark haired women being seen coming and going. Anastazja acted very cool and self confident during

- interrogation. Afterwards she went through a nervous shock. She got stomach cramps and was unable to speak for many hours.
- 255 Later her husband ran across his old friend from Military College. He was a Jew, his name was Najkruk, but he used false name Michal Jaworski. He asked Anastazja's husband for giving a room to his wife Zofia and their two year old son Jerzy. All of them used name Jaworski. Jaworski himself was in Guerrilla and often stayed overnight with his family. They survived the war and are living in Warsaw. Both Jewish families whom Anastazja and her husband gave shelter become their good friends.
- 298 Anastazja and her husband took part in the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. Her husband and one of her brothers were killed in the fights in Old City. Anastazja and her detachment went to POW camp.
- 308 During the war time Anastazja was a courier of the Underground Army. She had to report to Miss Halina Guc, who lived at Miedziana Street in Warsaw and pick up passport photos and personal information about individuals, who needed false documents. Anastazja had to deliver these documents to another member of the Underground in an opposite part of the city called Prague, at Mala Street. That person, whose name she did not know and did not want to know, was in charge of false identification cards called Kennkarten. Filled out documents Anastazja returned to Miss Guc. Miss Guc was arrested in June 1944 and taken to Ravensbruck.
- 343 Anastazja had to carry those documents with herself using street cars as means of transportation. Street cars were often searched by Germans and her work as a courier was very dangerous.
- 353 Once she was in immediate danger during a round up of a street car. She moved up to a front section of a train reserved for German riders and left the car not questioned, believed to be a German woman.
- 375 After the fall of the Warsaw Uprising women soldiers were treated as POWs and were sent to specially formed POW camps for women.
- 393 Anastazja's group was put in Fein Bostell (?) and Bergen-Belsen, located next to the concentration camp. Later they were moved to Oberlangen near the Dutch border.
- 409 On April 12, 1945 the POW camp was liberated by 2nd Armored Regiment under General Maczek. The women were included into the Polish Army and Anastazja was assigned to the 1st General Maczek's Regiment as an education officer.
- 448 The roundups were very common in the occupied Warsaw. The Germans used to close street exits and detain people to send them to Germany for forced labor, or to concentration camps or to the Warsaw prison Pawiak.
- 515 Jewish population was isolated from the very beginning of the war and put into ghetto. The walls were built and Jews were forbidden to be outside the Ghetto. Anybody looking like a Jew, who was noticed on the street of Warsaw was killed on the spot.
- 582 Hew husband's cousin married a Jewish woman. She was recognized and killed on the street.
- 656 After the war Anastazja didn't see any acts of antisemitism. She has many Jewish friends. If they were harassed, she would be first to know.
- 705 In 1984 Zofia Jaworska nominated Anastazja Brodziak and her deceased husband as the Righteous Gentiles from Yad Vashem in Israel. In 1985 Anastazja received the Medal of the Rightous Among the Nations for her and her deceased husband. In April, 1986

Anastazja went to Jerusalem to plant an olive tree in Yad Vashem. The families whose life she saved paid for her journey. It was the most valuable recognition she ever got.