

## MARIA SPIEWAK & DANUTA TRYBUS (and others)

Dr. Sabina and sister in the ghetto in Piodsgraf. Mother passive and grandfather said God won't allow destruction. Somehow, Sabina and sister got fake passports from partisans and went to work in Germany. They were friends with sisters Spiewak and Trybus (not Jewish) who were 14 and 16. They worked as couriers and arms smugglers for the underground between Piodsgraf and Warsaw. They carried cyanide pills for use if caught. They belonged to underground group Armija Krayova formed at start of war. Another group, socialist Army of Ludova, started 1942. Partisans occasionally tried to help Jews and some Jews (Dr. Tannenbaum, Feinsky ,Zubrovsky) were members. After liberation in 1/45, Sabina came back to Piodsgraf, but most/all family members gone. Of 24,000 only 2000 Jews survived and in 1986, only one Jew remains there. Most were sent to Treblinka and killed. Spiewak and Trybus' mother sent to concentration camp in Germany. Father worked for the Germans. Germans took arrested partisans to the Warsaw and Lodz ghettos and executed them there. Trybus caught by Gestapo and imprisoned until war's end in Czestochowa. Sisters reunited after the war. Their mother sent to Sweden to recover from TB and typhus and returned to Piodsgraf 11/45. A brother apparently was in Buchenwald. Sabina's family (sister Helen Bigos and Sabina) had escaped the ghetto and were hidden by partisans until they got the fake passports to go to Germany as Polish workers.

Spiewak/Danuta honored by Yad Vashem and by Adat Jeshurun synagogue in MN for sheltering Jews and belong to Organization of Righteous in Poland and have been to the Jewish Historical Society in Warsaw. They feel it is important to collect oral histories.