

# Under the floor, behind cupboards...



OLGA NOWAK

Under the floor, behind cupboards, in tunnels and under cow sheds: these were some of the places Olga Nowak found to hide Leszek Nadler (Nowak), his mother Cyla, sister Alka, aunt and uncle Aniela and Gustaw and cousin Dodek. Between 1941 and 1944, at any one time, one or more members of the family would find sanctuary with this remarkable woman.

In the Polish town of Boryslaw – now the Ukraine – Olga was working at the Town Hall when the Germans invaded in 1941.

Her job provided her with precious food rations, which she supplemented with food from her parents' farm 120 km out of town, enabling her to feed the group, without arousing suspicion.

Olga fully understood the risks she took in hiding Jews, but she simply never thought she would be caught. When Leszek needed her help, she knew in her heart that she should do what she could.

After the war, Olga and Leszek married and in 1951, came to Australia. Today, Olga is surrounded by a loving family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who exist because of her courage to care.

In 2003, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem honoured her as Righteous Among the Nations.

*Courage to care*