Barbara was born in Warszawa on June 10, 1931.

From what she told me; she had a very happy childhood.

Her parents were doing very well, they had servants and nannies for Barbara and then her sister. Her father was an architect and designed houses for wealthy people. Her mother had a factory that produced ribbons. They also had a car and a chauffeur.

Barbara’s mother wanted to have more children and decided to sell the factory to her brother-in-law and build a house with flats she could rent out. Although her husband designed and build the house, she was determined to pay for everything, even his fee, so the house was registered in her name only. The family moved to the new property in 1938 (fortunately, because the previous house was bombed during the war)

Of course, this idyllic life ended when Barbara was 8 years old, and World War II broke out.

At that time Barbara found out that she has an older, half-sister who moved with them at the beginning of the war (her son is at the funeral, he has come specially from Sweden).

During the war, Barbara’s father built with his team of builders hiding places for Jewish families, persecuted during the war and sent to concentration camps.

Barbara took letters from one family to another and from the Home Army informing families about the possibility of escaping to the UK or the USA. The Germans did not suspect little girls of such work.

Barbara was very devoted to her family and would do anything for them. Her two brothers, who were born during the war, were the apple of her eye.

Her mother had to work after the war, because her father was taken as a political prisoner to the notorious Wronki prison. He was there 7 years and not the same man came out. Barbara took care of her brothers until her father's return.

One of the families who hid in her father's hiding places liked Barbara so much that they called their daughter Barbara. Barbara, on the other hand, called her daughter Anna, after this new friend. The families were friends until their death in the New Year, many years later.

Their daughter visited my mother in England, so I also met me.

Barbara met her future husband at the prom, they fell in love and married in April 1950. Her daughter was born in January 1951.

Barbara was very resourceful businesswoman and began to produce gilded jewelry in the basement of the house. She hired a couple of family members.

It was possible for her and her husband to afford a car, a TV and decent holidays every year.

When the market for this commodity ended, she bought herself a Swedish sewing machine and began sewing for friends and family and then other customers. In Poland at that time, it was possible to buy material, but not ready-made clothes.

When Anna was 6 years old, Barbara became pregnant again. Because she was feeling sick, she started taking the medicine thalidomide – a German drug after which many children were born without legs and arms. Her daughter was born with the back of her head missing and died immediately after birth. It was a great tragedy for Barbara, and it took her a long time to recover.

Barbara was very keen for Anna to learn and only good results were recognized by her. Thanks to Barbara, Anna got a good matura exam and got a master's degree from the Warsaw University of Technology.

Barbara husband, Ludwik was in Cairo for a year, and she visited him there.

When Anna got married in England, Barbara and Ludwik came to the wedding and then made a tour of Europe.

Barbara also went to Paris for a few weeks at the invitation of friends and to Vienna to on invitation of her youngest brother.

In 2009, Barbara began to lose her sight, hearing and balance. It turned out that she had a tumor in her head, fortunately not malignant. The tumor had to be operated on.

The Polish doctors warned her that the operation was going to be very dangerous and did not prophesy that she would live another 12 years. Before the operation, she had the last rights.

Fortunately, after the operation she regained her sight and hearing, but not her balance. Her memory was also badly damaged, and some information she had lost completely, as if it had been removed. She was working her own business but after the operation she lost her numeracy skills.

Her husband took care of her as much as he could, but eventually told Anna that he no longer had the strength to look after Barbara. Anna and her husband suggested that her parents come to live with them in England.

Barbara was reluctant at first and the family did not want to let her go. Ludwik said that he was going to live with his daughter and Barbara could ask her family to take care of her.

Barbara knew that although she had devoted her whole life to her family it would not work the other way around and decided to move to England in April 2010.

She visited her family in Poland every year before 2019. Ludwik died in January 2018.

It was the last year 2018 when Barbara went to Poland – it was to bury her husband.

After that, she couldn't go to the local shops on her own and had help, to get her there in a wheelchair.

At home, she began to fall over more often, especially in the bathroom or when getting up from the bed. It was decided that the nurses would come twice a day to wash and dress her in the morning and evening.

In 2012, she had surgeries for melanoma on her leg, but after 5 years this cancer began to spread. Barbara told the doctors at the hospital, in the presence of an official interpreter, that she did not want any more treatment, surgery or scans.

During her stay in England, her pleasure was Polish television, the Polish church to which she went as often as she felt strong enough and the Polish club where she made friends with local Poles.

The parish priest always took care that if she could not go to church, he either came himself with communion or sent someone. Thanks to this, Barbara had a continuity of connection with God.

She also relied very much on her Personal Assistant – Krystyna, who took her for a walk in the wheelchair and read to her when Barbara was tired.

Half a year before her death, she began to say that her stomach seemed to be shrinking. She ate less and less. During the last Christmas she ate more than normal and then it all started, and it was obvious that cancer had develop in her stomach. When it burst there, she deteriorated very quickly, but she did not suffer and passed away peacefully.