

Tsvilenva, Varvara

Varvara Tsvilenva rescued the Skoblo family of Leningrad - the father Isaac, mother Vera, the children Leonid and Ina, and the grandmother and niece. The family survived the first year of the Leningrad siege, and then traveled to Kislovodsk in the Caucasus. Varvara Tsvilenva, who also worked in the same institute as the mother of the family, was travelling in the same railway car. In August 1942, the Germans occupied Kislovodsk and ordered the Jews to report for "evacuation to a new place of residence". The parents asked Varvara to hide their children, and she agreed. Varvara had no source of income and had to care for her elderly mother. She introduced the children as the children of her brother who was serving in the Red Army. She arranged for forged papers for them, and was given help by an ethnic German in her efforts to hide the children. Varvara herself was saved from a forced labor transport thanks to her work in the institute. After the liberation of the Caucasus region in January 1943, Varvara brought the children to a relative. Varvara maintained close links with the children after the war as well.