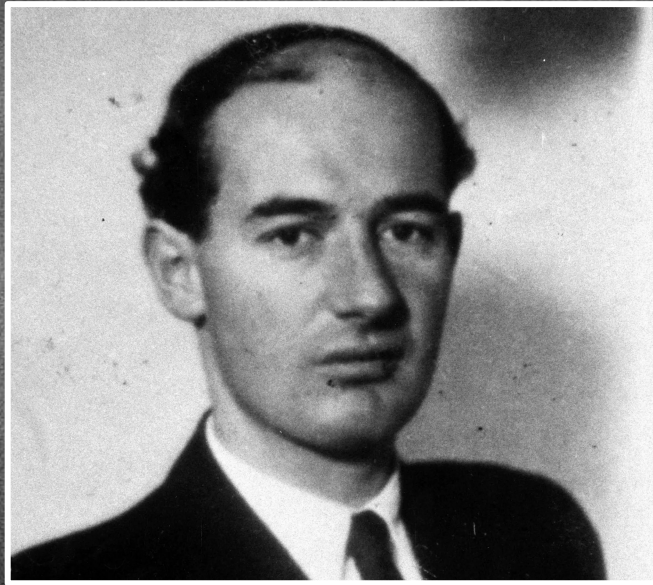


Raoul Wallenberg

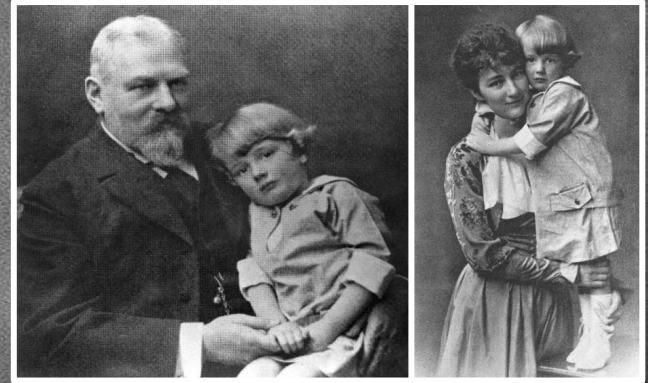
1912-1947



By: Gurmannot Samra

Who was Raoul Wallenberg?

- Raoul Wallenberg was known as a Swedish rescuer in Budapest.
- He was born in Lidingo, Sweden in 1912, in a banking family. His father's name was also Raoul Wallenberg and his mother's name was Maj Wising.
- Wallenberg was a Swedish businessman and diplomat (someone who represents a country).



Wallenberg arrives in Budapest

- Raoul Wallenberg arrived in Budapest on July 9, 1944 with a list of Jews he was to help. He also had 650 protective passports for Jews that had some connection with Sweden. (Protective passports were passports that were made to protect jews.)
- However, then he began to work even harder and started issuing thousands of protective letters. He also started buying houses that he put under the Swedish flag and then housed Jews in those houses for extra protection.
- Around 4,500 Jews had these protective papers. The papers protected them from being forced to do labour jobs and they were also exempted from wearing the yellow star of David.

Wallenberg Arrives in Budapest

continued....

- In October, 1944 the situation in Budapest took a really bad turn. The “Arrow Cross” (which was a far right Hungarian party) took power and established a reign of terror. Jews were being killed in streets, some were dragged to the Danube river, where they were shot or drowned in the freezing water.
- The number of Jews with protective letters rose up quickly. Raoul Wallenberg used many different methods, including bribery and blackmail to succeed in his rescue operation.

Protecting Jews

- Raoul Wallenberg soon employed about 340 people in his office and he began to issue many more protective papers.
- And together with other organizations Wallenberg set up the International ghetto (a place that protected Jews). It was protected by neutral countries.
- Young Jews who looked “Aryan” served as guards. Some of them were very brave and wore “Arrow Cross” uniforms.



Wallenberg and Eichmann

- With the “Arrow Cross” ruling in Budapest, Adolf Eichmann returned to Budapest on October 17, 1944. (Adolf Eichmann was one of the major organizers of the Holocaust - “The Final Solution.”)
- Eichmann immediately started the deportation of all the Jews in the city and the protective letters were declared void.
- After a lot of protesting by Wallenberg and his colleagues the plan to deport the Jews to the camps was put to hold. Adolf Eichmann not wanting to give up, ordered a “death march” (which is when prisoners are forced to be taken to a place and are left to die alone) of tens of thousands of people to the Austrian border.



Wallenberg and Eichmann

continued....

- Wallenberg and representatives of other neutral countries followed the marchers in their vehicles. They distributed food, clothing, and medications to the Jews. He was also able to free many Jews from the death march by claiming they were his “protected” Jews.
- He continued to distribute food, clothes, and medications even after the Arrow Cross guards threatened him with their guns.



Never Seen Again

- When the Soviets entered the city, Wallenberg was taken away by Russian Soldiers supposedly to meet with the top Soviet general Malinovsky. This was on January 17, 1945. People say that he must have felt danger because when he was led to the Russian vehicle he said, “I don’t know whether I am being taken as a guest of the Soviets or as their prisoner.” Wallenberg was 32 at the time and was never seen again.
- In the first few years of his disappearance, the Soviets said that they had no knowledge of a person named Raoul Wallenberg. However, the people who were also taken away to Soviet prisons claimed that they had met him in various prisons. In 1956, the Soviets finally stated that he had died in 1947.

Recognizing Raoul Wallenberg

- On November 26, 1963, Yad Vashem recognized Raoul Wallenberg as Righteous Among the Nations. In total he saved about 7,000 to 9,000 Jews.
- Wallenberg's mother asked not to receive the honours in his name because she believed that her son would return one day. However, after her death in 1979 a tree in Wallenberg's honour in the Avenue of the Righteous at Yad Vashem.
- In 1987, Wallenberg was awarded honorary Israeli citizenship. He was also awarded honorary American citizenship by the United States Congress.
- Video - [Raoul Wallenberg](#) Watch Until - 1:14



The background of the image is a dense, out-of-focus collection of dark-colored wooden letters and numbers scattered across a wooden surface. The letters are of various sizes and orientations, creating a textured, abstract pattern. A white rectangular border is centered on the image, framing the text.

Thank you

Works Cited

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