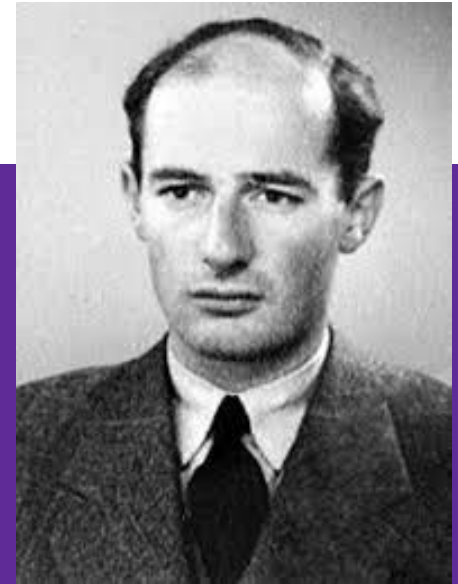


Raoul Wallenberg (Rescuer)

Holocaust Final Project by: Sophia Pruneau



Place of Birth and Family Information

- Born on August 4, 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden
- Born to a prominent aristocratic banking family
- Father (Raoul Wallenberg): was a young naval officer when he married Maj Wising in 1911
- Mother (Maj Wising): daughter of a celebrated neurologist
- Raoul Wallenberg was diagnosed with cancer and died three months before Raoul was born.
- Raoul was born in the Victorian comfort of his grandmother's summer home in Kapptsa, near Stockholm. Raoul lived with his mother and grandmother during his early years.



Stockholm, Sweden

Family Information

- Wallenberg family was very distinguished both in Sweden and around the world
- Raoul's father was an officer in the Swedish navy and his paternal grandfather, Gustav, was the Ambassador to the Swedish embassy in Japan
- Raoul's uncles, Jacob and Marcus Wallenberg, were successful bankers and founded the Enskilda Bank in Sweden
- Other Wallenbergs were diplomats and bishops of the Lutheran Church
- Raoul's grandfather on his mothers side, Per, was Sweden's first professor neurology.
- Maj remarried in 1918, when Wallenberg was 6 years old to Frederick von Dardel. The von Dardels had two children, Nina and Guy, who grew up with Raoul as close siblings.



Occupation and Life Before the War (College/ Education)

- While growing up Wallenberg's grandfather took care of his education
- In 1930, Raoul Wallenberg graduated from secondary school with top grades in Russian and drawing
- He immediately went on to complete his nine months of compulsory military training. Following his service, Gustav Wallenberg sent him to France for a year at the University of Poitiers to perfect his French.
- In 1931, Wallenberg decided to follow the tradition established by other men in his family: he pursued a college education in the United States (University of Michigan)
- Wallenberg loved America. In February 1935, he completed his B.A. in architecture. He graduated with honors and won the American Institute of Architects silver medal, given to the student with the highest scholastic standing.



Where Raoul went to college
(Michigan)

Occupation before the War

- After leaving Ann Arbor, Wallenberg lived and worked in South Africa for six months, then went to Palestine, where he worked as an apprentice to a friend of his grandfather, a Jewish banker from Holland. Gustav was still hopeful that his grandson's future lay in the family's financial empire.
- In 1936, Wallenberg began working for a Dutch bank in Haifa, a city in present-day northern Israel.
- While living in Haifa, he heard firsthand accounts from German-Jewish refugees about the plight of Jews under Adolf Hitler
- By the early 1940s, Wallenberg had taken a job with a Stockholm-based food-exporting company. Its owner, a Jew, could no longer safely travel through much of Europe, which by that time was under Nazi domain. Wallenberg replaced him on such trips and thus became acquainted with Budapest, the capital of Hungary.



Rescue Efforts

- Wallenberg did not live in ghettos at any point. He was never sent to any camps either. Instead he saved Jews.
- With the support of the World Jewish Congress and the American War Refugee Board, the Swedish Foreign Ministry sent Wallenberg to Budapest in July 1944 to help protect the 200,000 Jews who remained in the capital.
- In July 1944, Wallenberg, then 31 years old, arrived in Budapest. He promptly opened a Swedish embassy office close to the city's major Jewish ghetto and hired 400 individuals, many of them Jews who had been granted diplomatic immunity, to operate the facility.
- During the following months, Wallenberg's office provided protective passports to approximately 20,000 Jews. These passports allowed their bearers shelter under the domain of the Swedish crown, protecting them from deportation.



Hungarian Jews being deported

Rescue Efforts

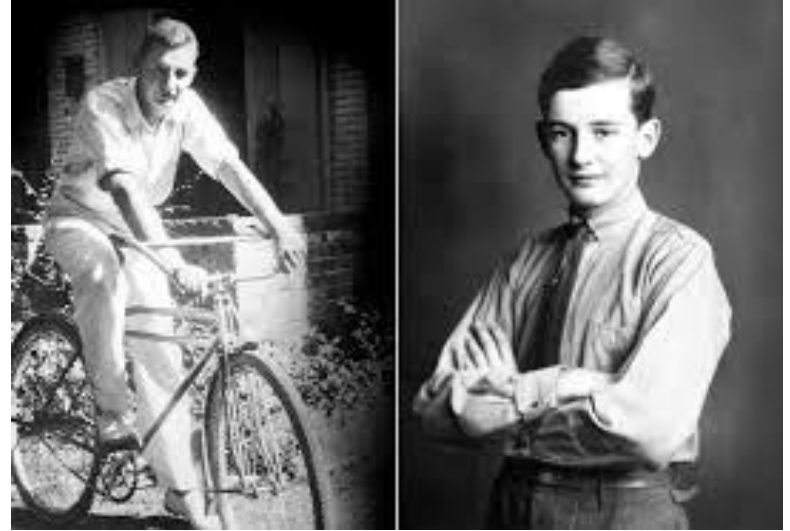
- Wallenberg also established dozens of safe houses that served as hideouts for thousands of Jews. He ordered that the Swedish flag be flown over these houses, thus converting them into official Swedish embassy annexes and shielding their inhabitants from the Nazis.
- From October 15, when the Arrow Cross seized power, to the liberation of the capital three months later, Wallenberg saved Jews through a variety of means—by issuing thousands of protective documents, by establishing the International Ghetto of protected houses, and by securing their release from deportation trains, death march convoys, and labor service brigades—all at significant risk to himself.
- Altogether, Wallenberg saved around 100,000 Jews.



Swedish Safe House

Did Wallenberg survive the war? How?

- Essentially, Wallenberg did survive the war. In January 1945, he was detained by Soviet forces and was never heard from again, but he did not die until July 17, 1947. The reason as to why the Soviets took him is still unknown.
- It was found that he died from a heart attack at the age of 34. It was later revealed that he was imprisoned by the Soviets and he died in Moscow's Lubyanka prison.
- Although, these are the main reports on what happened to him, many other people have different ideas about what could have happened. Some humanitarian organizations and individuals believe he is still living. His disappearance will always be a wonder to the outside world.



Disappearance

- For the next 11 years after Wallenberg died, his immediate family never gave up hope of locating him and from the moment he disappeared pressed their case relentlessly.
- In 1957, the Soviets broke their official silence on Wallenberg's fate. They revealed that he survived the war, but later died of a heart attack.
- That remained the official line until the fall of 2000.
- In April 2001 the Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States published an eight-page "Chronology of the Raoul Wallenberg Case". Included in this chronology are details of every reported sighting of Wallenberg and encounter with him in Russia by his fellow prisoners since 1945. The last was in a prison camp 150 miles from Moscow in 1987.
- It was not until 1980 that Elenore Lester, in a now-famous article for the *New York Times Magazine*, brought Wallenberg's story to the attention of the world. The following year, President Reagan made Raoul Wallenberg an honorary citizen of the United States.
- In 2015 a representative of the Wallenberg family asked the Swedish government to issue a death certificate for Raoul Wallenberg. The government published notices seeking information about his whereabouts. No responses were received. On October 26, 2016, Sweden declared Raoul Wallenberg dead, seventy-one years after his disappearance. The official date of his death is formally listed as July 31, 1952, five years after the last credible evidence that he was alive at the end of July, 1947.

Most Important Lesson or Message from Raoul

- If it weren't for Raoul Wallenberg, tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews would not be saved.
- Raoul Wallenberg stood up and rescued Jews, instead of sitting back and watching events unfold. Because of this, Wallenberg is a hero who should be remembered forever.
- As the final chapter on Wallenberg's fate continues to be written, recognition of what he achieved in Hungary continues to grow. In Israel, he is honored at Yad Vashem—Jerusalem's memorial to Holocaust victims—as the most outstanding of the “Righteous Gentiles.”

