

...a man with a mission...



RAOUL WALLENBERG

Wallenberg was a man with a mission: save Hungarian Jews! In 1944, the young Swedish diplomat was sent to Budapest by the American government to achieve this end. Immediately, he set about his mission using 2 techniques. Firstly, he designed impressive passports, decorated with the official seal of Sweden, stating that the bearer was under Swedish government protection. He then rented buildings to house those holding his passports, claiming that those living there had diplomatic immunity. In all, he issued passports to an estimated 20,000 people, who lived in 32 "Swedish Houses" in Budapest.

Using daring, bluff and bravado, he would foil the Nazis in order to save Jews. He stormed deportation trains and interrupted death marches, pulling out those holding his passports or issuing passports on the spot. When Nazis tried to enter his safe houses, he simply ordered them out. In January 1945, in his most daring exploit, he halted an attempt to liquidate the Budapest ghetto, an action which, in itself, saved an estimated 70,000 Jews.

Wallenberg disappeared into Russian custody in 1945. Although his fate was unknown for many years, it now seems that he died in a Russian prison in 1947. His courage, brilliance and daring in saving 100,000 Jews has ensured his eminent status as Righteous Among the Nations.

*Courage to care*