

## Heroes of the Holocaust Isearch paper

### Search Process:

What can one man do, Raoul Wallenberg saved 100,000 Jews. And going in I didn't know this or anything about heroes of the holocausts, and before this project I never heard the names of some of the heroes I read about. On the first day of research I started by simply googling Heroes of the Holocaust, and the first website on the list was Shalomshow and it listed many heroes and a short description of what they did. Using this site and Wikipedia I narrowed my choices down to Raoul Wallenberg and Oskar Schindler. The next day I decided to do my project on Raoul Wallenberg mostly because there was more information on him, also I found that his story interested me a bit more than Oskar Schneider. Then I had to decide what to do for the 3D portion, and the idea I came up with was to make a border checkpoint because Raoul Wallenberg made a ton of fake passports helping people to cross these checkpoints without incident. Going into this project I didn't have much interest, but as time went on I got more interested and started looking farther into the life of Raoul Wallenberg. On the third day of research I could not find enough information on the border checkpoints, so I decided to change my plan. On further research I found that Wallenberg saved the remaining people in the Budapest ghetto from Hitler's final solution by telling the German commander in charge that if he went through with the firebombing he would make sure that the German commander was killed for war crimes. And at this point I decided to replicate that Budapest ghetto in Minecraft. The following days I spent looking up answers to my five questions: who was Raoul Wallenberg, how did Wallenberg stop the Germans at the Budapest ghetto from carrying out Hitler's final solution, what was the size of the Budapest ghetto, and the number of people in the Budapest ghetto. After that I started building. One major difficulty I had,

Other than changing my project idea, was when building the some of the angled streets threw of my scale on some of the building.

#### Research Findings:

Raoul Wallenberg was a true hero; saving 100,000 Jews was not an easy or safe task. He went to Budapest for one reason and that was to save as many Jews as possible. He started by setting up his office and taking 400 Jewish volunteers and giving them all diplomatic immunity, this means they did not have to wear their yellow star and most importantly the Germans were not supposed to deport them or kill them they were supposed to be considered Swedish citizens. Once his office was set up he started by giving 650 Jews real protective passports but that was not enough for Wallenberg. He started to make fake passports approximately 20,000 of them. He would pass them out whenever he got a chance even if it meant risking his own life. At one point he went to the train station and started to hand out passports to Jews who were about to be sent to Auschwitz, the guards started to yell and he just ignored them and then they started shooting above him but he just went on handing out passports and when he was done he told anyone with a passport to leave the train and head to the cars nearby. And that's where his next way he helped Jews came in. Before he came to Budapest and before he was a diplomat he went to University of Michigan and studied Architecture, and this helped him in Budapest put 35,000 people into buildings that had max capacity of 5,000 or less and he had 32 of them. These buildings were all basically giving the diplomatic immunity. Most of these buildings had were labeled as a Swedish institution or even just had a Swedish flag hanging from it. Not all German soldiers were happy with what Wallenberg was doing so he would help encourage these men with a bribe here and there. But that did work forever, A Hungarian National party was formed October 15, 1944. known as Arrow cross they Murdered 15,000 people, and Wallenberg's passports dint always stop them and neither did his housing project. Dec. 24 1944, a group of 60 Jews were taken from there safe house and

were taken to a nearby river where they were tied in pairs of three and one was shot to drag the others under. When Wallenberg learned of what was about to happen he and some of his staff that knew how to swim went to do what they could, they saved 50 of 60. Also when the Arrow Cross organized a death march he and others would follow and hand out food and clothes and also more passports. Two days before the Soviets arrived in Budapest Wallenberg heard from one of his spies that the German commander Major General Gerhard Schmidhuber was planning to kill the remaining 70,000 Jews in the ghetto. So Wallenberg sent a letter to the general basically saying that if he went through with that plan he would make sure he was tried and killed for war crimes. Knowing that the war was almost over the general stopped the mass murder of the remaining Jews. When Wallenberg arrived there was about 200,000 Jews in the ghetto and he saved about 100,000 Jews. The ghetto itself was only in use for eight months, and had over 200 buildings and one synagogue. No food was allowed in and since there were bodies everywhere and overcrowding was very common a disease could spread through the ghetto like a wildfire.

#### Reflections:

This project has changed my view on the Holocaust a bit. Doing this project has shown me that not everyone sat in homes hoping the problem just would go away, there were people who went out of their way to help others and risked their life by doing so. During the Holocaust was a very dark point in the history of Humanity, but when one person does something good others begin to think, well if he can do it why can't we, and in the case of Raoul Wallenberg he started handing out passports other countries saw that what he did was working and they started to maybe not at the same scale but every bit counted when you're trying to save lives. and this shows that Humanity was not as bad during this time period it just needed a little push in the right direction. And it wasn't all of Humanity that caused the Holocaust it was a broken country with a crazed man at its head and that should not speak for all of

Humanity during this time. Though people should have done something sooner that does not mean all of humanity is bad. Even in Night it seems that Elie Picks the worst of situations to elaborate on and not the good. Though not much good happened during his book, that is all more reason to expand on those point because when we talk of the Holocaust we only talk of the bad and not the good. And that isn't always a good thing we should remember the people who risked their life to help others and we should not forget them because we think the dark part of history is more important than the good.