



# Raoul Wallenberg - One person can make a difference

Rotary Club of Toronto Eglinton,  
January 23, 2019

• *To me, there is no other choice. I've accepted this assignment and I could never return to Stockholm without the knowledge that I had done everything in human power to save as many Jews as possible*





Swedish Legation,  
Budapest, July 1944

- Per Anger



*Le soussigné déclare par la présente que la photographie collée sur ce passeport représente l' R porteur du passeport, et que sa signature est autographe.*

*Stockholm au Ministère des Affaires Étrangères le 30 juin 1944*

*Per Anger*  
Chef de Section.

*Signalement.*

<i>Taille</i>	<i>176 cm.</i>
<i>Cheveux</i>	<i>châtains</i>
<i>Yeux</i>	<i>mauve foncé</i>
<i>Barbe</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Visage</i>	<i>ovale</i>
<i>Signes particuliers</i>	
<i>Né</i>	<i>4/8 1912 à Stockholm</i>

*Stamp: KUNGL. UTRIKES DEPARTEMENTEN*

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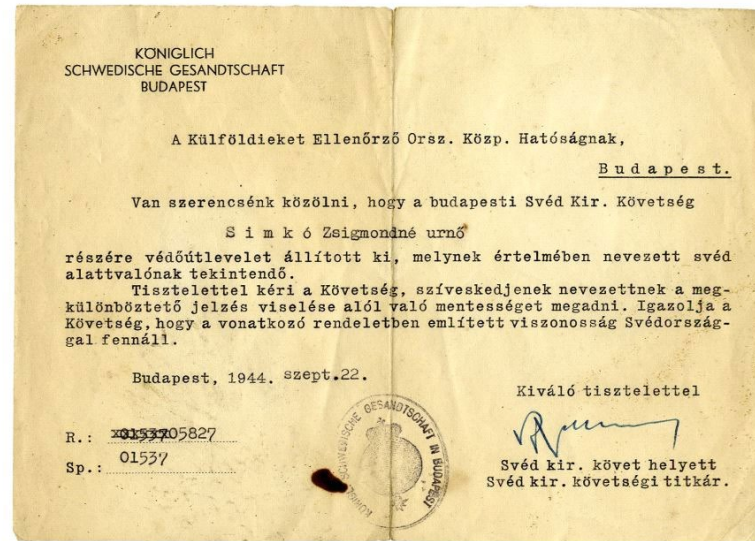
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# Schutz-Passes & Protected Buildings



## Swedish Housing

- Nazis wouldn't allow Jews to cross Germany into Sweden
- Wallenberg purchased or rented 32 buildings in Budapest
- Housed at least 20,000 Jews awaiting "emigration" to Sweden

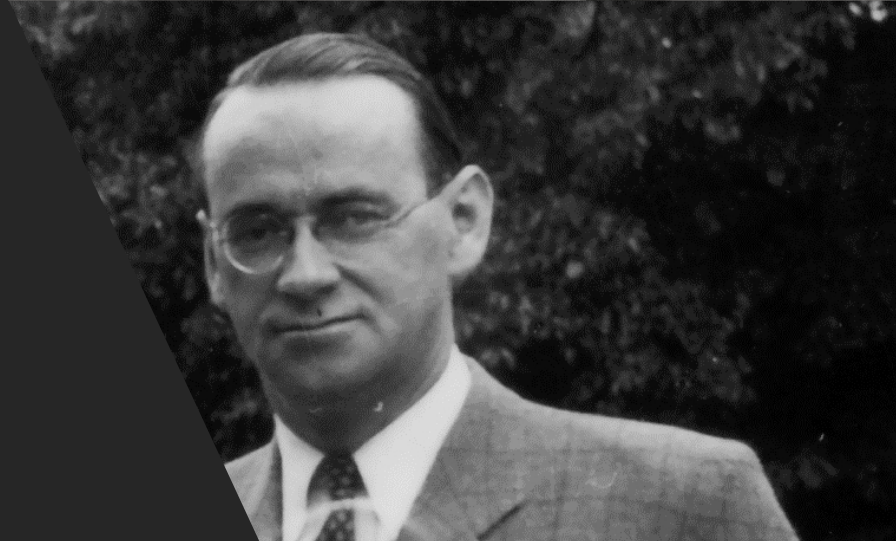






# Raoul Wallenberg was not alone

- At the height of activities fall 1944 , more than 350 people were involved in saving Jews in Hungary, including
  - Giorgio Perlasca, Italian businessman, claiming to be Spanish Consul General (top)
  - Carl Lutz, Swiss Consul General (bottom)
  - Garlos de Liz Texlira Branquinho, Portuguese diplomat
  - Carlos Sampaio Garrido, Portuguese diplomat





## Team Work

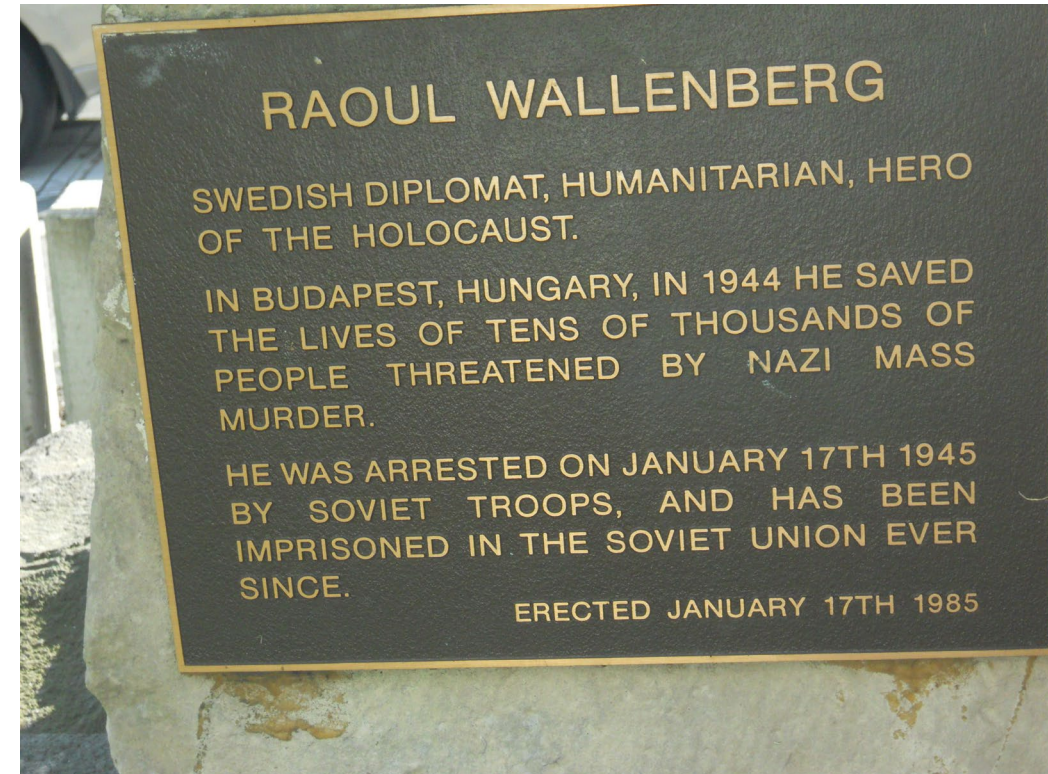
- Carl-Ivan Danielsson, Per Anger, Lars Berg
- Karoly Szabo
- Vilmos Langfelder
- Laszlo Peto



# January 17, 1945 ...

"I'm going to Malinovsky's ... whether as a guest or prisoner I do not know yet."

*Raoul Wallenberg's last recorded words*



# Recognition

## Honorary Citizen of

- USA
- Canada
- Australia
- Israel
- Hungary







# More recognition

- Budapest
- Toronto
- Stockholm
- many more cities worldwide





# Epilogue

RAOUL WALLENBERG

BUDAPEST HUNG  
SWEDISH DIPLO  
LAST SEEN UND  
MISSING  
PRESUMED

The deeds and values are celebrated throughout the world

- The Canadian Parliament decided in 2001 to name January 17 every year Raoul Wallenberg Day
- In Sweden, August 4, his birthday, is Wallenberg Day
- Numerous scholarships and awards for human rights and humanitarian actions are presented around the world every year.



# A Diplomatic Failure ...

Sweden's actions to assist Raoul Wallenberg from the Soviet imprisonment can only be described as a Diplomatic Failure.

- The Russians informed the Swedish Foreign Office January 16, 1945 that Soviet Forces were protecting Wallenberg. No official response from Sweden.
- Soon Soviet Union hinted that Wallenberg must have died in an accident. His whereabouts were not known to the Russians
- No official Swedish request for information on Raoul Wallenberg until 1952
- The Soviet Union claims Raoul Wallenberg died of heart failure in a prison in July 1947
- German POWs returning from Russia in the mid-50s report of meeting a Swedish diplomat in prison.
- Wallenberg's parents commit suicide in 1979.
- At a meeting in Moscow 1989, KGB presents Wallenberg's brother and sister a box with Wallenberg's passport, phone book and other personal item.
- In 2003, a Swedish Government report on Sweden's handling of the Raoul Wallenberg file describes it as A Diplomatic Failure.
- In 2016, Swedish Tax Authorities declare Raoul Wallenberg dead. Day of death, July 17, 1952





# The Lesson

What did we learn from Raoul Wallenberg?

You don't have to be rich to make a difference – a lot of Europe's wealthy did nothing. You don't have to be famous – he was virtually unknown outside the business world. You don't need to be a person of influence – he did not know Nazi leaders before he started.

But what is essential is an incessant drive to make a difference. You do need to act out of conscience, even when it does nothing to advance your personal interests. And you need to devote your entire energy and will to the task at hand; you never know how much time is available; it is precisely the power of one individual, the power that we all have within us to make a difference, that was demonstrated by Wallenberg.

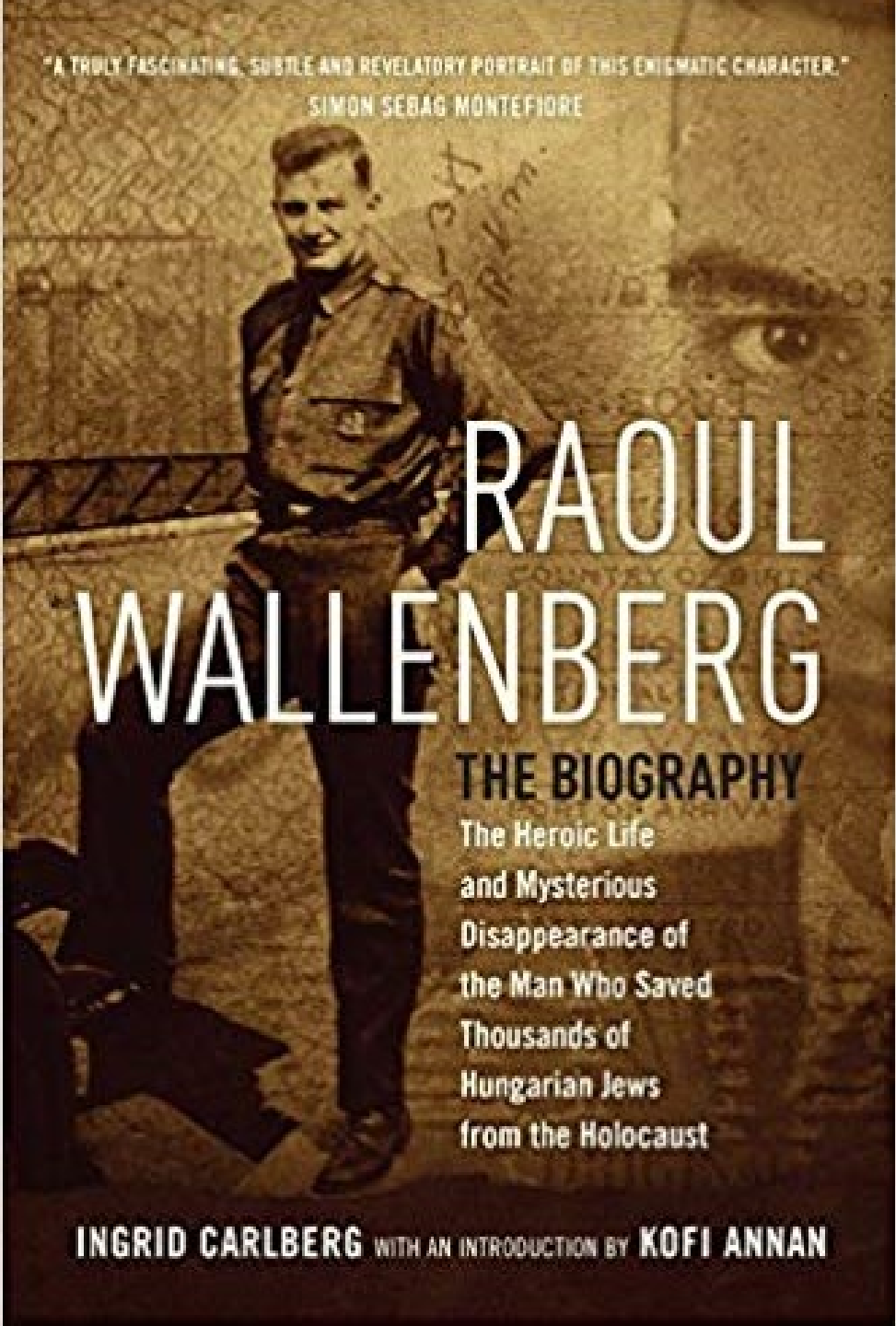
That is the lesson of Raoul Wallenberg – a lesson all people of conscience, young and old, can and should heed.





"A TRULY FASCINATING, SUBTLE AND REVELATORY PORTRAIT OF THIS ENIGMATIC CHARACTER."

SIMON SEBAG MONTEFIORE



# RAOUL WALLENBERG

## THE BIOGRAPHY

The Heroic Life  
and Mysterious  
Disappearance of  
the Man Who Saved  
Thousands of  
Hungarian Jews  
from the Holocaust

INGRID CARLBERG WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY KOFI ANNAN

## To find out more ...

- Some sources of information on Raoul Wallenberg
  - <https://sweden.se/society/raoul-wallenberg-a-man-who-made-a-difference/>
  - <https://rwi.lu.se/about/about-raoul-wallenberg/>
  - <https://www.raoulwallenbergcentre.org/raoul-wallenberg/>
  - <https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/wallenberg.html>
  - <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/raoul-wallenberg-3>