

**Volume 2**

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**Raoul Wallenberg: Angel of Life – II**

**Lead: Near the end of World War II, using unorthodox methods, the Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg helped save thousands of Hungarian Jews from death in the concentration camps.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: By the early months of 1944, Nazi atrocities against the Jews could no longer be ignored. With mounting horror allied and neutral governments began to take tentative steps help those threatened by the Nazi**

## **Final Solution.**

**Since the defeat of Germany was becoming obvious, Sweden, its neutrality no longer threatened, with a long tradition of humanitarian service, sent Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish businessman from a rich and prominent family to Budapest to assist in saving Hungarian Jews. Taking money sent by Jewish groups and the United States and Swedish governments, Wallenberg arrived in the Hungarian Capital in the early days of July, 1944. He was nearly too late.**

**Since arriving the previous year, S.S. Lieutenant Colonel Adolf Eichmann of the Gestapo and his**

**Hungarian allies had almost cleaned the outer provinces of Jews, deporting over 400,000 to their fate in just a few months. Eichmann now relished the prospect of taking on the Jews of Budapest.**

**Often five trains a day left for Auschwitz each car packed tight. With an efficiency, born less of hatred of the Jews than the grim ambition that gripped many in the Nazi hierarchy, Eichmann was rounding up bodies faster than Auschwitz could gas them or trains could be found to ship them. Germany, in full retreat from the Russia, needed rolling stock to ship its heavy equipment back from the front. When locomotives and cars became scarce, Eichmann appealed to Berlin**

**which gave him the trains. Even with the Russians on the door-step, it was considered more important to ship Jews to the gas chambers than to repel the Russian Army. Next time: Wallenberg's method of operation.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

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**Stanglin, Douglas, Mortimer B. Zuckerman, et.al. "Lost Prisoner of the Gulag Still Holds Moscow Hostage, *U.S. News and World Report* 106 (June, 26, 1989), 34-36.**

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