

Impact Statement

Jordan Bryan, Grade 12.

A Shot of Hope, 2018.

Acrylic, marker, pen on paper, 16 x 12 Inches.

Capital Christian High School, Sacramento, CA

Unsung Hero: Eugene Lazowski

Eugene Lazowski was a soldier and doctor of the Polish Underground Army during World War II. He was well-known amongst the Rozwadow Ghetto as a doctor that would help Jews. Jews would come to his yard and hang a white cloth on the fence to signal their need for his help. Lazowski was even more renowned amongst Jews that were being sentenced to concentration camps. Eugene Lawoski saved thousands of Jews' lives during World War II through a breakthrough in his research on Typhus. Lazowski discovered that injecting dead Typhus cells into a person's bloodstream does not affect the patient's health but causes the patient's blood to be read as positive for Typhus. The Germans had an intense fear of the Typhus disease, and Doctor Lazowski used this fear to create a Typhus Epidemic that led to thousands of Jews being exported from German lands.

I had the original intention of making my project, named A Shot of Hope, reflect the posters that circulated during World War II. Instead, I decided to leave my canvas blank, except for the pencil marks and small paint smears. I thought I could use the white canvas as a representation of the white flag the Jews tied to Lazowski's fence to ask for help. While I made that change, I kept the idea of using World War II posters as my inspiration. Many of the posters I've seen from those times had an American, British, or German leader posing in bold colors with some sort of message floating above their head. Therefore, I decided that I would fashion the symbols of Lazowski's experience in the underground army as his body and added one of his titles above his shoulder.

I shaped Lazowski's head by arranging the letters of his name in a way that the silhouette of a head was made. The discoveries that Lazowski made were his own and a product of his intelligence, hence his name forming the shape of his head. The right shoulder is a helmet with a red cross. It represents both his position as a doctor in the army and as a member of the Red Cross. The right arm includes a syringe and the word "TYPHUS". The right side of his body reflects his career as a doctor and how he saved so many lives. The left shoulder and bicep was formed with the flag of the Polish Underground army. The right forearm and hand is the Star of David. The left side of his body represents who he served during World War II.

The most prominent part of A Shot of Hope is the red and blue Polish medicine badge. It is symbolic of Lazowski's position as a protector. The shape of the badge is a shield and is symbolic of his occupation as a defender of those who cannot protect themselves. The literal meaning of the medical badge reflects how Lazowski used his medical discoveries to save thousands of lives from death and concentration camps. I wanted to emphasize the character of Lazowski as he was both a protector who shed blood and a doctor who saved it. I shared my project by hanging it in the biology classroom for a week. The piece also contained a statement about who Lazowski was and what he did that was so important. I am trying to get permission

from the hospital where my mother works to have an exhibit of my project and those of my fellow art students who chose those in the medical field for their unsung hero project.