

Impact Statement

Hari Jeon, Grade 10

***These Are My Children*, 2025**

Acrylic, Watercolor on paper 16 x 21 inches

South Forsyth High School, Cumming, GA

Unsung Hero: Roslī Nāf

Among the many heroes provided, I had set my mind on the strict Roslī Nāf. Red Cross nurses were interesting in history, and I already had wanted to learn more about them. I was already curious about the history and influence of all who participated in war. Roslī Nāf was at first, simply the first Red Cross Nurse I found. Reading about Roslī Nāf, it solidified my own thoughts of a hero: someone who is caring and passionate, someone who fights with a set heart. I present this hero, who is now someone I admire, and cannot stop myself from continually reading more on her, to push forward feelings of confidence and passion.

Nāf is a hero from the 1940s, the time of the Holocaust and Germany's invasion over France. She became the head director for Chateau de la Hille, where Nāf took charge in taking care of the Jewish children there. The heroism comes into play when policemen come to take the children away and send them to concentration camps. From my first round of research online, I only found that Nāf biked from Chateau de la Hille to the concentration camp and argued with the guards in front of the gates. To properly bring this Hero to light, I needed more details. Inge: A Girl's Journey Through Nazi Europe, is a book that I bought to read, after finding out that it was a book written by one of the many children Roslī Nāf brought back home. Although I started reading for information on the nurse, the point of view being from that of a child pulled me into a state of zeal. In the events that the children were taken away to concentration camps, I found myself putting my own hope in Roslī Nāf. The details were that she argued with the policemen from the very start before they took the children away. She was a fierce warrior, formulating a plan as soon as she realized the children were being taken to a concentration camp. Nāf did indeed bike the majority of the way, to the point that her tire blew. She had to end up taking a bus and did indeed argue further with the guards. As Inge recounts the details, I felt chills as I read what Nāf declared, "You arrested thirty-nine of these children and two of our adult staff. These are my children, and I have come to take them back." However, what was not as known in the minimal number of other websites and short articles on her, was that Nāf herself ended up becoming a resident of the camp with the kids, and yet even then, the children felt hope and security to be around Roslī Nāf. The children put their trust in Nāf, which, in their situation and their livelihood up to this point, is gratifying. Roslī Nāf did not just save these kids, she cherished them.

The first most striking fact about Năf, to me, was how she biked in order to get to where her children were held. This detail was unique compared to the actions of other heroes. Her biking was active and held a sense of emergency to me, so I decided to paint her, on her bicycle, but with a glaring look in her eyes. Năf's eyes in the painting are supposed to hold an intimidating look, for I wanted to depict the feeling I felt when learning her personality, that she was going in for battle. I enjoyed bringing to life the happiness of children. These children, who put their trust on her, are on her shoulders to symbolize her support for them. She carries these children to a place of safety and a sense of security. The train at the back is open because the children are being freed and there is a light shining behind the silhouettes of the kids akin to light from a tunnel and to bring about the hope they felt. It is also worn down and tearing to showcase defeat and bring in the thought of history. Năf is a hero from the 1940s and is yet to be recognized.

I myself have a desire to be outspoken and address what I believe is right or wrong directly. Năf inspires me to reach out and share my voice. I am ambitious; I have a passion to learn about the globe: history, culture, traditions, etc., so I can connect and bring about something to our world. In a way, we can open our eyes. This art piece is my first step into speaking out and bringing about a light. When I talked about Năf and shared her story to my family and some of my classmates, they all had no recognition of her name but were each impressed by her deeds. Each hero from the list should be recognized, and I'm going to start with Swiss Red Cross Nurse, Director of Chateau de la Hille, Roslī Năf.

Reference:

"Inge: A Girl's Journey through Nazi Europe." *David Gumpert*, 28 Nov. 2015, www.davidgumpert.com/inge-a-girls-journey-through-nazi-europe.