



Impact Statement

Yaharth Wasnik, Grade 12

The Miracle of Schutz-Pass, 2026

Acrylic painting on canvas board, 24 x 30 inches

PM SHRI School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Bhandara, Maharashtra, India

Unsung Hero: Raoul Wallenberg

My Unsung Hero is Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish Diplomat stationed in the Royal Swedish legation in Budapest, Hungary in the years of 1944 and 1945. A confident and courageous man dedicated towards the protection of Jews during the peak of Holocaust. The most inspirational thing I find about him is working for the thing that you feel is right, whether it be in the harshest place ever. Being a young person trying to do his best is what attracts me. He saved tens of thousands of Jews, which included many women, innocent children, youth and olds, who were to be deported to concentration camps and eventually killed. His act of extraordinariness convinced me to make my artwork about him.

Raoul was born in the family of businessmen and diplomats in Sweden. He studied Architecture at the University of Michigan, US. After that he was sent for work in Palestine where he lived with German Jews fled from Nazi Germany. He learned the fate of Jews there. With time, he was appointed as Foreign Trade Representative in the Central European Trading Company under Kálmán Lauer. At that time the explosion of holocaust started in Hungary. It was felt by the Swedish Foreign Ministry, the American War Refugee Board and the World Jewish Congress to lead the mission to save Jews by Wallenberg. He was sent as Secretary in the Royal Swedish legation in Budapest where he first started his action. The Mission was one, to Save the Jewish citizens as many as Possible. He started to distribute the Schutz-Pass (Protective pass) to the victims of that humanitarian crime done by Nazi party with support of the Arrow Cross party in Hungary. He also made numerous safe houses where the Jews were kept under the protection of the Swedish Authority. With continuous actions with his volunteer team, he was able to distribute and hence save as much as 100,000 people!

The artwork I've made shows Raoul standing tall, confident and courageous, giving Schutz Pass and showing the direction of the safe house to a Jewish woman, her innocent child and her neighbor. All three were expelled out of their colonies and societies. They were meant to wear the yellow star of David symbolizing them as Jude (Jew). With the Miracle Power of Royal Swedish Authority, they are in a transforming state, from distress to hope. The child is surprised to see the Schutz pass's royal decree. Its Swedish authority is symbolized through the Kronor (Triple Crown), the Royal Emblem of Sweden. The line from real Schutz pass "Bis Abreise steht der Obengenannte und seine Wohnung unter dem Schutz der Kgl. Schwedischen Gesandtschaft in Budapest." literally translates to "Until departure, the above-named person

and his residence are under the protection of the Royal Swedish Legation in Budapest" undersigned by Wallenberg. It is made of acrylic paint on canvas board.

From Raoul, I've learned not to get afraid or give up because it's dangerous, or it's hard or tough. It all depends on how we do, if we want to make it happen then we must push our limits. We can only reach the summit if we can overcome the barriers, just like him, confident in his aim. I hope that I will display the artwork in school, where students, teachers and staff could get to know of this Unsung Hero and learn about the high levels of work one like Raoul can do for humanity.

References:

<https://rwi.lu.se/about/about-raoul-wallenberg/>