

Trudy Gold | Hungary and Rescuers | 05-13-21

- So Trudy, I think before, before I hand over to you, it would be remiss not to mention what's going on in Israel.

- I agree.

- Oh my goodness, absolutely shocking. Sorry, just hold on one second, I'm so sorry. Sorry, David? Oh my goodness. I see he doesn't... David, I'm on right, I'm on my... Okay, so sorry, that was my son. I'm just trying to like....

- [Trudy] Is he okay?

- He's persistent. Very persistent. So, yeah, it would be remiss not to mention what's going on in Israel. I had a very interesting conversation today and insights as to how it started. No one knows where it's going, where it's leading, and that's just really so tragic. And just to say our thoughts and our prayers are with everybody in Israel, with Israelis, with you guys. We're thinking about you, we're praying for peace. I know it's very difficult. And that's it. Do you know, I mean, it's very tough.

- Yes Ephraim was actually lecturing from Jerusalem last night.

- Right.

- Which really brought it home. I mean, oye.

- Very many friends, many close friends, many relatives, many people we love, we care about. We care about the country and we can just pray for peace and please God, there'll be, you know, things will..

- A resolution, there has to be a resolution.

- [Wendy] Wow.

- It's so tragic.

- So...

- And a lot of part of our family, I mean the lockdown, family are in Israel.

- Exactly. So we are with. Trudy?

- [Trudy] Yeah.

- I'm going to hand over to you to add whatever you'd like to add.

- Thank you, Wendy. Okay Judi, am I on view now?

- [Judi] Yes, you are, Trudy. Before you start there's a comment from Aviva just saying, "Hello, Trudy, could you please repeat what you said last week about the death marches between Hungary and Austria?" So if you want to have a look at her note before we start.

- Oh, can I do that in the question time?

- [Judi] Yes.

- If you don't mind, Aviva. Let me explain. Because obviously we are in a very, very painful, difficult period just as at the moment in Israel. So many of our friends and compatriots are going through such a tough time. And I'd just like to echo what Wendy said, that our thoughts and prayers for peace over there is so, so important. And let's just pray that we come out of this terrible dark time.

Now, when we come to this particular area of history, can I just say I have had the most extraordinary emails from people who were so closely connected with this terrible, terrible time. And I also want to mention that some of the issues that I should be dealing with, I'm dealing with on Monday, or Tuesday I beg your pardon, when I'm looking at Slovakian Jewry. Because today it's an incredibly complex time and it poses us so many questions and it arouses so much controversy in people.

And I'm very glad that Tommy Komoly is joining us. And that he of course, is the nephew of Otto Komoly, who was head of the Rescue Committee. And he's going to give us some insights at the end of the programme. Because the first thing I want to say, and let me make it very clear, let's remember the great words of Yehuda Bauer. Yehuda Bauer said that, "In the end, all the people who were involved in trying to rescue in their own way were heroes."

And I know that later on we will be looking at the Kastner case. And what I think is such a tragedy is that what has happened out of the terrible tragedy of what the Nazis and the Hungarian Arrow Cross did, is that we ourselves have almost turned blame on one against the other. And it's filtered through to the state of Israel. And, look, if you want to think about it, the Nazis were the perpetrators. Eichmann disobeyed orders to go back to Hungary to help in the deportations, number one. Number two, could the camps have been bombed? Well, what was the will to bomb the camps?

And I've had a few emails from people giving me examples of after how after 1944 the railway lines could have been bombed. Why weren't they bombed? Again, that's another question mark that will never fully be answered. There must be a dozen books that go one way or the other

way. But what I do know is that in the end, the will wasn't sufficiently there.

Then we talk about was real rescue possible? Well, again, that's a very, very difficult question to answer. Bauer's analysis was that some could have been rescued, you would never have rescued all of them. That the Nazi and the Arrow Cross will was just too strong. I'm not sure how I stand on this, but what I do know is that the allies had, and the church, had incredible knowledge of what was going on.

I've already many times pointed to December 17th, 1942 because I see that as a watershed. Why do I see it as a watershed? Because that's when the nine allied governments came together and they announced the declaration where they talked about the murders. I last week talked to you about how much information was being disseminated in Britain, America, Switzerland. And also I mentioned to you last time that you'd had escapes from Auschwitz. So it's not just knowledge of the killings, it's now knowledge of the camp of Auschwitz. And two, well four, people escaped.

And on Tuesday, I'm going to be talking in more depth about Rudy Vrba and Anton Wexler. And I had an email today telling me that, in fact, Rudy's first wife, who I had the pleasure of meeting a long time ago and who wrote her autobiography, she died in Highgate a couple of months ago. So may she rest in peace. But I will be talking about the fact that people escaped, bringing back irrefutable evidence. And also you have the testimony of Rabbi Weissmandl, the Slovakian Rabbi, who I'll be talking about next week. So basically, I'm bringing together a mosaic of the most terrible time in history. But I do want to pinpoint some of the heroes.

*Visuals are displayed throughout the presentation.*

And can we please start with a picture of Otto Komoly? Okay, this is Otto Komoly, who is Tommy's uncle. It must be very strange for you to see him on our screen. And I'm going to give a little background to him because, as I said, he was the head of the Rescue Committee and he was murdered by the Arrow Cross. He is the one member of the Rescue Committee that everybody seems to admire. He seems to be an absolutely extraordinary man. He was born on the 26th of March, 1892, and was murdered probably on the 1st of January, 1945. He was educated, he was an engineer and an architect. Now, his father is very interesting. His father was always a Zionist. And he attended the first Zionist Congress in Basel. Otto himself was a Zionist all his life. And actually in 1939 he had papers for Palestine, but he decided he had to stay in Hungary with his people. He wrote two books on Zionism. One in 1919, "The Future of the Jewish People", and another one, "The Zionist View of Life" in 1942.

So a Hungarian-Jew committed to Zionism. And he came from a certain stratum of Hungarian-Jewish society. He was highly decorated in the first World War. And his military decorations gave him high status in Hungarian society. He mixed with, I suppose one would call, the intellectuals of non-Jewish society. He was very friendly with Hofi's son. He was incredibly well connected. He was obviously a very sophisticated man who walked the world.

Now, as I said, he decided to stay behind because he was a man of influence and he hoped he'd be able to use his influence to help the Jewish people. So this is in 1939. So as we've already discussed, under Horthy up until when the Nazis marched into Hungary in 1944, ironically Hungary became a kind of escape place for Polish Jews, other Jews, allies who had been... People coming to Hungary, about 100,000 fled into Hungary. And Otto Komoly was at the centre of trying to look after these refugees, to feed them, to cloth them. He was very much a fixer as well.

Now, the situation tightened, as we've already established, after the German invasion. If you remember, what happened was in March 44 Admiral Horthy, whose record is very, very difficult. I was talking to Tommy about it, and Tommy believes in the end he thinks history has judged him too lightly. But Horthy, remember he went along with all the German commands. And now, when the Germans invade, he is forced to appoint their puppet, the Hungarian diplomat who had been the ambassador to Berlin. And that's when you have those appalling deportations of Jews in the countryside.

Over 436,000 men, women, and children are actually sent to Auschwitz. 12,000 to 15,000 a day. And according to Rudy Vrba's report, which was already circulating, the railway lines had been built almost up to the Crematorium to prepare for Hungarian Jewry. So they are being murdered. But what about the Jews of Budapest? So much evidence had come out that the Americans had set up a rescue. The Americans had set up the War Refugee Board which I talked about last week. There's so much evidence that by March, 1944, the allies are beginning to make statements.

So Komoly has already set up the Aid and Rescue Committee. He has joined the Vice president, is Rudolf Kastner, Brand is on it, all the sort of important dignitaries of Hungarian Jewry. And I think we've got to accept they all want to try and help. Now, to help you need money. And one of the problems was that money, how on earth can money be got? It has to be in the main, the main source of money was the Joint. Up until 1930... Up until the middle of 1943 once America enters the war, the Joint, the incredible Joint Distribution Committee, which you may remember had been established by Jacob Schiff with a grant of \$50,000 back in 1914, it was one of the main rescue organisations. And the Joint had a representative in Switzerland, a man called Saly Mayer. Now he had been very helpful in helping Jews, but he didn't have much money at his disposal. He's also going to be involved in an extraordinary attempted deal which I'll talk about on Tuesday known as the Europa Deal.

Now, he is reliant on money that comes through from the Joint. You will recall that Brecken Bridge Loan had done everything to stop the refugee board sending money. And it's not until the middle of 44 that a certain amount of funding is sent. Now, why do you need funding? You need funding to buy food, to buy clothes. They're housing refugees. And at the same time the Jews outside of Budapest are now being deported to their deaths. And this is the situation that is facing Komoly and the rescue team.

When, of course, Adolf Eichmann makes the extraordinary Blood for Goods Deal. We will never really know the truth about the rescue deal, the Blood For Goods Deal, because what we do know is that Himmler is beginning to put out feelers to the allies. Himmler, Eichmann's boss, very much wants in the end to split the allies and create a pact with America and Britain to defeat the Soviets. Was it always a pipe dream? Was it a fantasy? But the point is, Eichmann never had that view. Whilst he is negotiating with Brand and with Kastner he actually goes off to tour Eastern Hungary and to go to Auschwitz to see how the preparations are going. We have this from Rudolph Hoss' testimony, and of course it was later brought up at the Eichmann trial.

So the point is, and I've already covered this with you, and I will be referring to it again on Tuesday, Brant went off to try and convey the offer to the allies. With him went a very shady character called Bandi Grosz. And Bandi Grosz was, if you like, a double triple agent. He was a Jew and he was the one who was going to put out feelers to the Nazis. Now, where were the feelers? Where was it happening? It was actually happening in Sweden. Neutral Sweden where later on we're going to see that there are many conversations between Himmler and Jewish officials and, of course, the allies. It was Dalius who was involved in the negotiations, Count Folke Bernadotte, who was head of the Red Cross. So this is a very, very complex part of history because will we ever have all the complete records on this?

In the end, these negotiations came to nothing. If you remember, the Allies had said very firmly, "We will not deal." And the Russians were, in fact, informed by the Allies. this is what Himmler was proposing. But what happens is that Kastner demands a pledge And remember that... Oh, I shouldn't say the demands. He asks a pledge from Eichmann. You see, he already knew through Rabbi Weissmandl the Slovakian Aid Committee, that Nazis could be bribed. And Wisliceny was the man who made the introduction with the Zionists and with Eichmann. And he got a lot of money from it. Where do you think this comes from? This comes from Switzerland, from the Joint, from the Jews who still had money. So he believed that the Nazis could be bribed. He asked Eichmann for a pledge. And Eichmann does agree to release Jews.

And here we have the most heartbreaking comments. This is on the 2nd of May. Tommy Komoly very kindly sent me some of his... His uncle kept a diary and he sent me some extracts. And I'm just reading, this is an extract from Tuesday, the 2nd of May. "Getting up at 6:30 postcard to Zuzi Freed. In the afternoon. Dr. Kastner communicates that the Germans gave commission for the transportation of the 600." If you remember, there were two trains. "Demanding list, et cetera. Possibly if it can de depart at the end of next week. List compiled by me and Segali. Home by 9:30 constant fatigue, ongoing worrying, I can't stop the nonstop onslaught of people, the inevitable injustice of selection."

And then he goes on to say, "Regulations concerning exclusions in the paper." And he gets up very early. And if you look at some of his diary, it's absolutely heartbreaking. He talks about the people he meets and it goes on and how they're all fighting, fighting, fighting. Now, anyway in the end, Kastner's train did depart. It went via Bergen-Belsen. And in the end 1,684 people were

saved. And I want to say from the outset, because I know there've been comments from some people saying that Kastner only saved the rich Jews, this was not true. Kurt Becker, who I gave you his biography last week. He was aid to Eichmann. He was a very venal man. And he demanded that 50 Jews who he'd given concessions to, who had each paid \$25,000 to him to be allowed on the train. And because he asked for \$2,000 for every passage on the train. Himmler only wanted \$1,000. But in the end, the rich paid for the poor. And if you look at the people who went on the train, you'll find that it's a complete cross section.

The problem was that Kastner was a very arrogant man. And he said, "I wanted a Noah's Ark." There were a lot of children, there were a lot of orphans. There was the Satmar Rebbe who, Teitelbaum, he made it to America. He never came back to testify when Kastner sued a man called... The name's gone. In the Kastner affair. It was actually a case brought by Kastner. He was accused of libel by a Hungarian. He accused a Hungarian Jew of libel. The libel was that Kastner actually did nothing to warn the Jews and he was completely at fault. We talk about that later on. But the point is, what is obvious from looking at the lists that Kastner allowed a wide range of people to go on the train. And he tried to take them from all sorts of areas.

But can you imagine the kind of decision? And Otto Komoly was in charge of the committee that chose who went on the train. You know, it's interesting. Joel Brand's wife went on the train. Komoly's wife could have gone on the train. Remember he could have got to Palestine in 39 with his family, he chose to stay and help. His wife could have got on the train, she refused. She wanted to stay with him. One of his daughters did go on this train, Kastner's pregnant wife and his mother-in-law went on the train. His father-in-law, Fisher, refused to go. So you've got to be careful when you talk about this. One of the savage indictments against Kastner is that when he visited Cluj, his hometown, he didn't warn people. Because you will remember, of course, that Ivicelle said, and he came from that area, that they were not warned. Now the point is, Bauer debates that. He said there were lots of radios, Philip Freudiger debates that they were warned, but did they believe. And this is an area that I think will continue as an area of controversy.

Because those who were hostile to Kastner said that they were guarded by so few people in Cluj, and it was very near the Romanian border. Why on earth didn't he spread the alarm? I've seen interviews with people who said that if they knew what awaited them at the end of the journey, mothers would've run at guards with knitting needles, you would do anything to protect your children. Rudy Vrba went on saying that to the end of his life. But I want you to remember, we're in hell now. And this is not a hell made by any of the Jewish people. This is a hell made by the Nazis and their collaborators.

So after the German invasion of 9th of March 44, Komoly himself became head of the International Red Cross Department that was particularly in charge of helping Jewish children. And it's at this stage with the help of Swiss, Swedish, Portuguese, and Spanish. Remember, these are all neutral countries. He created safe havens for children and he saved 6,000 children and 600 helpers. And on the political front, he was doing everything he could to using all his personal connections. Remember, he's a friend of Hofi's son. And under his leadership the

committee managed to organise non-Jewish protests against the fascists. Because don't forget there were good people in Hungary too. However, as you know, in October when Horthy, after all the protests come through... No sorry, it's in August. Horthy manages to find his voice. He arrests the head of the government and the three major deporters. But it's at this stage that his son is kidnapped and the Arrow Cross take control under Szalasi. And we talked about that.

And now all hell breaks loose because now you have this terrible party. And I want you to remember the Hungarians are losing the war. The Germans are losing the war. You have the situation where the Soviet army has already crossed into Hungary. And now you have the situation when murdering Jews is almost more important than winning the war. And in order to talk about what's happening, I'm going to switch to the biography of Raoul Wallenberg. But just to say that what happened to Komoly and to read the accounts is absolutely heartbreaking. And also the accounts of a man who helped him, a man called Laszlo Szamosi.

Now, Laszlo Szamosi is a very interesting character because he's been written out of the story. And I've had some emails from people saying, "Why hasn't this hero been considered?" And, in fact, there is another man called Giorgio Perlasca, who I'll come onto a minute, who seems to be taking the credit. But this man, this extraordinary character, Laszlo Szamosi he tells a heartbreaking tale because he was a driver. Before the war he'd been in property, he was a fixer, and he was a driver for the Spanish. And what had happened... You've got to remember the Soviet army is approaching. I'm now talking about December of 1944, and what happens with Otto Komoly, he's gone into the Ritz Hotel where the Red Cross agents are so that he can have further communications with them. And on the 31st of December, the Arrow Cross turn up at the Ritz Hotel, and Szamosi actually talks about how he was go...

This is his entry. He wants to get there. He knows that something's going to happen to Komoly. And this is an extract from his diary. Because of the siege of Budapest, there are bombs falling. "The bomb incident." This is his diary. "The bomb incident made it impossible for me to take Otto Komoly to the embassy as we have arranged. In the afternoon." To the Spanish embassy, we're talking about. "When I was feeling a little better, I called the Ritz to apologise to Komoly, and we arranged to meet the next day. With Otto Komoly there was a young man named Isvan Kiss, as well as Weyermann, the Swiss Red Cross delegate. And they were busy deliberating. The next morning I learned that a few minutes after my call a couple of Arrow Crosses arrived and in Weyermann's presence they asked Komoly very politely to accompany them. They needed certain information, they said. But it was 10:00 in the morning and Komoly had not returned. This was a terrible shock. I knew Arrow Crosses have been after the poor Otto for quite some time. And once in his hands... I ran to sea in order to find a way to locate Otto. We never saw him again."

And of course, tragically Otto Komoly was murdered by the Arrow Cross on the 1st of January, 1945. And Otto's nephew Tommy will be talking a little after the presentation. But now I want to go onto Raoul Wallenberg because, remember, we've already talked about the allies protesting. And the Swedish, the Swiss, the Spanish, and the Vatican and the Red Cross now are doing

everything they can to help. I gave you the pronouncements of Ferenc Szalasi, the Arrow Cross leader. Although the war is coming to an end, he is still, he and the Arrow Cross, are murdering Jews. So I'm going to talk about Raoul Wallenberg. You know what justice is there in the world? Some of the great heroes, they do not receive justice in this world. But this man is, I think, one of the great heroes. So let's talk a little bit about him.

His dates, he was born in 1912. We don't really know absolutely when he perished, it's probably, though, by 1947. So he was born into one of the most famous illustrious families in Sweden. And for over two centuries they had provided financiers, bishops, diplomats for the Swedish state. Now, he'd been born posthumously. His father, 22 year old naval officer, married a society girl called Maj Wising. The whole of Swedish aristocracy was there. Tragically eight months after the wedding he died and a boy was born named Raoul for his father. Maj remarried seven years later and had two more children, a boy and a girl. Now, it's Raoul's paternal grandfather, Ambassador Gustav Wallenberg... I've talked to you before, when you look at rescuers, what was it about them, what was it in their lives? And what happened certainly with Raoul Wallenberg, his grandfather seems to be the most important person in his life. He took a very close interest in his education. He attended a very famous public school in Stockholm. He was a brilliant linguist. He had German, French, and English perfectly. And he was also a brilliant sportsman.

This is a quote on him from a friend. "We both belonged to the upper class. He was very proud of his family, spoke of himself as a Wallenberg and an eighth part Jewish, which he found special. And he seemed to regard this as a guarantee of success." And under his guide, his grandfather, obviously he's a diplomat. He was incredibly well-traveled. The Wallenbergs were very, very privileged. And he travelled widely. He was very much open to all sorts of ideas, all sorts of cultures. He went to France for a year, and money isn't his problem. He studied French. He then studied architecture in America at the University of Michigan. He was a brilliant student. He travelled America, you can see he's a good looking man. He's very popular. His his grandfather though, said he wanted him to pursue a commercial career. So actually those of you in South Africa, he spent six months in Cape Town learning business technique.

Then he went to Heifer to work for a Holland Bank. And it was in Heifer that he first saw a Jew being attacked by a gang of Arabs. And it really, really upset him. But he found the work very, very boring. He wrote to his grandfather. "Possibly, I'm not cut out for banking. Architecture is another thing." He said, "A banker should have something of the judge in him and a cold, calm, calculating outlook. I feel that I am so unlike them. I think I have the character for positive action rather than to sit at a desk and say no to people." Now, so shortly after his return to Sweden, his very beloved grandfather died. And now he could choose his own profession.

Unfortunately, his American qualification wasn't valid in Sweden. So after enough a number of unsuccessful ventures, he becomes a junior partner and a director of an import export business run by a refugee called Kalamán Lauer, a Jew. And I think this is also very important in rescuers. In the main, they knew Jews as people. Because once you start to dehumanise, do



you ever see people and his business partner who has a huge affection for his Jewish. We know that he had a wide social life. But we also know from people who he met at this time that he was desperately concerned about the dark clouds of the 30s. And he made many business trips all over Europe. And he also, after war breaks out, remember, he is a neutral. Sweden is neutral.

Ironically, they made a fortune out of the war. And he went to various cities in Nazi occupied Europe. He went on business to Budapest where he made contact with Kalamann Lauer's relatives. Now, after the establishment of the War Refugee Board, the United States, they're now deciding they're trying to help. Now if you remember, the War Refugee Board had been set up because a couple of guys at the Treasury, including Josiah DuBois, have promised to really expose the American government for not doing anything. And it's at this stage the War Refugee Board secured the agreement of the Swedish government to send a diplomat who would use all the channels open to him to help with Hungarian Jewry. And the Swedes were asked to choose a person. They chose Count Bernadotte who, of course, was head of the Red Cross. And later, interestingly, was a negotiator in Israel during the first Arab-Israeli War. More about that later on in the course.

The Hungarians vetoed him. And it was at this stage that Lauer, who was on the selection board, recommended his junior partner Wallenberg who was a very strong individual. He said, "Yes, I'll go, I'll do everything I can, but I need certain assurances." I should have a free hand. I want money for anything I need to do, including bribery." He was worldly. You see, Kastner was worldly, Joel Brand was worldly. They knew that you needed to be able to operate. If I need to consult with the Swedish foreign office I don't want to have to do it through diplomatic channels. I want to do it directly. I don't want to be bothered by red tape. Rescuers in the main are not the kind of people who can deal with bureaucracy. You know, if you read Kafka on this, it's bureaucracy that I think is a real problem in terms of freedom of speech. But that's a very controversial area I've just brought up.

That he must have proper status. They must know that they're dealing with someone who is upstanding. He would be a first secretary, he wanted a proper salary. They must understand that he had power. He should have the right to contact anyone he wanted in Budapest. He should have the authority to deal with the Hungarian Prime Minister or any member of the government he chose without the ambassador's permission. He wants to operate freely. He wanted the ability to send dispatches straight to Sweden, not through the diplomatic channels. He wanted to be able to seek audience with anyone, including Horthy, to ask for his intercessions. He was authorised and he asked for the authorization to put up refugees, Jews under threat, in houses belonging to the litigation. And one of the first things he did... The Prime Minister of Sweden and the King of Sweden, agreed to all his demands and what he wanted to do. He asked to be allowed to set up a Swedish passport, a protective passport. It actually had no standing in international law. But he's going to create Swedish safe houses.

Important to remember that the Swiss are going to do the same under Carl Lutz. The Spanish are going to do the same under a man called Angel Sanz Briz. These are safe houses that are

under the protection of neutral powers. The Hungarian foreign office authorised Wallenberg to issue 1,500 passports. And by negotiation and bribery, 15,000 of them were issued. He was totally unorthodox, he was totally unconventional. He had as much money as he needed. He's going to establish hospitals, nurseries, soup kitchens, food, medicine, and clothing. He's going to work very closely with Otto Komoly and also with the driver, Laszlo Szamosi, who is the driver of the Spanish. They're going to be ferrying food because particularly after the Arrow Cross...

And remember, and the other man who's helping is the papal delegate, a man called Cardinal Roncalli. Later on one of the greatest Popes of the modern period, Pope John on the 23rd, he's issuing baptismal certificates. Tragically the Arrow Cross said it didn't matter whether you were a practising Jew or whether you were a convert, but they're trying. Here you have some incredible individuals now trying to save whilst the world is standing by.

Now, in August, Adolf Eichmann is forced out of Budapest. Horthy, remember, has decided to take Hungary out of the war. However, there's the Arrow Cross Coup on the 15th of October. And five days later, Eichmann comes back into Budapest. He disobeys Himmler and he goes back. And, of course, he begins the Death Marches. So, and I mentioned to you that in December, 1944, there was an extraordinary incident where Wallenberg attended a supper party at the home of a man called Lars Berg who was a Swedish diplomat. And the other guest was, of course, Adolf Eichmann. And as I said to you, somebody really should write a play on that. Somebody who's got the talent, because they're both idealists. Yes, Eichmann was an idealist, an idealist for evil. He wanted to wipe the Jews off the face of the earth.

Anyway, the Arrow Cross government. So what you have is all these diplomats now. These good people are giving out passes to try and save as many Jews as possible. The Arrow Cross government establishes on November the 29th, 1944, a ghetto. Look, the Soviets were almost at the gates of Budapest. And it consisted of several blocks of the old Jewish quarter around the Dohany Street shore. The area is completely isolated. Now, Wallenberg reports on the situation.

And I'm now reporting this is what Wallenberg himself actually wrote. "Since my last report the situation of Hungarian Jews is notably deteriorated. About 40,000 Jews comprising 15,000 members of the Jewish forced labour camps and 25,000 other persons of both sexes were apprehended in their homes or in the streets and forced to set out for Germany on foot. The distance to be covered was approximately 240 kilometres." This is Wallenberg's report on the Death Marches.

Somebody has asked a question on it, and these are being masterminded against Himmler's orders by Eichmann. "Since the marches were arranged the weather has turned cold and rainy. People sleep in the open without the slightest shelter. For most of those, they have no more than food for three or four times, many of them have died. The undersigned was able to establish that seven persons died one day and seven the previous day. The secretary of the Portuguese legation saw 42 corpses in one road. Those not able to march were shot on the spot. At the frontier they were received by Eichmann. Thrashed and ill treated and led to work in

fortifications of trenches. 20,000 members of the Jewish force labour were taken to the frontier by train."

And then he goes on to talk about the setting up of the ghetto. "The Jews are being crammed into a central ghetto, supposed to accommodate 69,000 people but probably much more. Further into an international ghetto for 17,000 already harbouring 33,000."

And this is where you have the safe house. "Of these 7,000 are in Swedish safe houses, 2000 in Red Cross, 23,000 in Swiss houses." This is the amazing Carl Lutz. Who I don't really think I'll have time to give justice to. Suffice to say that when the Arrow Cross were actually murdering, one of the ways they murdered Jews, anyone outside the ghetto they would capture, they would hang them or they would take them to the river. They were tied up in groups of three. And then they would shoot, to save bullets, they would shoot the one in the middle. That would push the others into the river. And of course they have that amazing memorial there. He actually went to the banks of the Danube, Carl Lutz. And there was a woman who was bleeding in the water and he actually got in and saved her and got her into the Swiss car, the Swiss diplomatic car. And the Arrow Cross was so astounded they didn't do anything and he saved her life.

Anyway, so. "Several thousand Jews under Swiss or Vatican protection were dragged away to be deported." This is the other point, they're breaking everything. "And to transfer to the central ghetto. Four to 12 Jews share a room. A Dysentery epidemic has broken out. This department inoculates all protected Jews against typhus and cholera. Jewish property has been badly looted as the Jews were only allowed to take with them what they can carry. The food situation will shortly be catastrophic. A great number of Jews were kidnapped by the Arrow Cross, who will treat them and torture them on their premises before pressing them on for deportation. In the department there are 335 employees as well as 40 doctors, house wardens, all these together with their families live on the premises. 10 departments are used for offices and accommodation."

He's saving as many people as he can. "The hospitals were set up housing 150 beds, a soup kitchen, results achieved." And remember, he's reporting home. This is December the eighth, the Secretary of the ligation. This is a report he sends to Sweden. The department succeeded in a retaining passes from the ministry. All Jews employed in forced labour but in possession of foreign documents can be sent back to Budapest. 15,000 Jews are returned. Columns on route to the border were sporadically supplied with food and medicines. Some 206 persons were collected from the deportation assembly centres by ambulance and bought back. It was possible to rescue about 2000 persons from deportation through intervention and some kind of another."

He's giving out Schutz passes as they are being deported. "This has to stop as the German members of the commando threatened to use violence. As far as we know only 10 Jews with Swedish safe conduct, who up to now have been shot in and around Budapest." Early in December 44, Eichmann was recalled to Berlin and Himmler said, "If up till now you've been busy liquidating Jews, you will now on, as I order it, take good care of them." Even so the horror

goes on. And this is a report from Wallenberg.

This is from the 3rd of January, 1945. He's talking about how the Jews have been herded into two ghettos and how appalling the situation was. "On January the second the Arrow Cross demanded that the starving Jews of the international ghetto be moved into the general ghetto." And that's what leads to his report. And it's at this stage, remember how late it is? He is begging, he's writing back to the Swedish government saying that something has to be done. And if they march the Jews from the international ghetto to the general ghetto, thousands will die. Now, the march is prevented. It is a dispute as to who actually prevented the march. What happened was most people believe that it was Wallenberg who went to the German... Because what you have is you have 500 surrounding the ghetto and Arrow Cross and 200 Hungarian police. And basically Wallenberg threatens the German general that if they don't... Because their idea is they're going to go into the ghetto and liquidate everyone.

But remember it's January now. Budapest is under siege by the Soviet army. They say to the German general, "If you don't do this, then we will destroy the ghetto." Well, what happens is it doesn't happen. The siege of Budapest lasts 50 days and they're encircled by Soviet and Romanian troops. Remember, the Romanians had changed side. The first encirclement, remember, was on the 26th of December. And it's completely surrounded by the 13th of February. And tragically on the morning of the 17th of January, most of Budapest's been liberated. Wallenberg sets out with his driver to visit to the Soviet commander Marshall Martinovsky.

He's about 200 Ks outside of the city. And he wants to propose a relief plan for the rehabilitation of the Jewish community. And somebody on the chat, on our group actually, said that he was with his girlfriend. And a friend who is the mother of the person who wrote to me to say that he told them to go out into the streets because the Soviets were here and the Soviets were liberating them. And of course, because a lot of them have been hiding, not just in safe houses. There were thousands of people hiding in bunkers and there were Hungarians hiding Jews. Can you just... I've tried to give you the impression of civilization collapsing under the evil Arrow Cross regime. And with about half a dozen extraordinary people, some Jewish some not, all trying to save. And he commented to as he comes out of the bunker. He's going to meet the Marshall to come up with a relief plan. And he commented to the people around him.

He notes his Soviet escort and he says, "I don't know if they're protecting me or watching me. I'm not sure if I'm a guest or their prisoner." So basically he was taken into custody. He was accused of being an agent of the Joint and of working for the Americans. Don't forget the Cold War is going to go on. And it was almost impossible to get proper information about him. There were so many sightings and not sightings. But we now know, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, he was probably murdered in 1947. So can we go back to Wallenberg's picture, if you don't mind?

Yes, and of course, Carl Lutz, he survived a great hero. Maybe in another session we could

concentrate more on some of these rescuers. And also can we see the picture of Angel Sanz Briz, if you don't mind. So that's Carl Lutz. That is in fact a Spanish diplomat who saved. And I'd like to bring up somebody else. Now, this is Giorgio Perlasca. Can we see Giorgio Perlasca? Now, he's controversial because he claimed to be a great rescuer and certainly he has been honoured.

The question is now, and there is a new book coming out, and I've had two people on our programme say, "Be careful of this man." And according, and really, much of the work that he claims was, in fact, done by Laszlo Szamosi. I'm not going any deeper into this. And can I just say, I know how controversial this period is. So let me sum up for you.

Wallenberg was a hero. Even though there are people who say that his family, his brother and his sister and his mother, they tried so hard to find him. And it's a tragic story what happened to them. But there are those who say that the Wallenberg family, they had a bank and that part of the family really didn't want much to happen because they had been up to their necks in working with the Nazis. And this is one of the issues. Whose hands are clean? Were the Swiss clean? Well, I'll be bringing on someone to talk about the Swiss banks later on in the course.

Were the Swiss Clean, were the Swedes clean? Who knows? But what I do know is that Lutz and Wallenberg, Angel Sanz Briz, and Otto Komoly were all heroes as far as I'm concerned. And if we're going to take Bauer, as far as he was concerned, Brand was a hero. Kastner, so complicated. And of course that spills into Israel. And I think this is one of the big tragedies. That really when I see Israeli politicians in the past, I'm not talking about the Arab-Israeli conflict, tearing themselves apart. This is all about Jewish powerlessness, is it not? And I'd like to finish before I hand over to Tommy with Bauer's words. Because it was Bauer who said "In the end, they all did their best."

So Tommy, I hope I've given justice to your uncle. Can I ask you to give us a few thoughts on it, please? Thank you, Tommy, you're on.

- Thank you very much. And thank you for giving me a bit of space here. I think first of all, I certainly don't want to go into any of the facts that Trudy so eloquently presented. Maybe I'd like to give a few snippets from my uncle's life. Which I only gleaned when I went through his private diary. He also had, for a period from mid August to October, a published written diary which is much more official. But his private diary reveals the person behind all the events. And I just give you a few snippets out of that.

As Trudy said, what really makes him truly outstanding in that period is that where his accusations during and after the event have been flying freely around. I have not come across a single negative statement about him and the activities that occurred around him. The next point is when I read the diary, his family does keep turning up in the diary. His wife is very ably assisting him in all kinds of ways. But the rest of the family turns up almost like footnotes. A sister committed suicide, a brother was taken away into a labour camp and he barely, at the last

moment, managed to save him. My father was in a similar situation and he couldn't help him. His sister-in-law was on the foot march. And despite all efforts by him and people he knew she couldn't be saved. A favourite aunt of his died, he couldn't even go to the funeral. So these were the kind of little events around his private life. And with all of the things going on around around him, I noticed that before the train left with his daughter, he would get home at half past 10:00, 11:00 in the evening and he would sit down and play chess with Leah, his daughter as kind of the one remaining chance for a little bit of a family contact. I was really touched by that.

Then I mentioned another thing. I kind of analysed them. I'm an engineer and I like to do technical things. He has something like 500 characters in the diary. And out of those is not only do you see the usual Jewish individuals, official and friends of all kinds. But you also see that there were 28 contacts with the young Zionists who later turned out to be part of, however meagre it was, but they were the only people representing resistance. They were forging documents. They were going around in false Arrow Cross outfits saving some people who have been detained. They were the only people who really tried to achieve something. And on the other side of the coin, he mentions something like, I think, 80 plus people from government, from army, from police, religious leaders, diplomats.

So he really exploited every avenue that was possibly available at the time in practical terms. In what later in the kind of Holocaust documentation they referred to as Line A, the Hungarian line. Line B was the German line which Kastner and Brand were exploring. And in terms of his own effort physically, he keeps mentioning all kinds of symptoms that nowadays would stop us from continuing our everyday activities. He is carrying on. Hungarian historian called Judit Bodnar explored the same diary I'm talking about. And she analysed some days when in order to attend to his duties he would cover somewhere between 10 and 40 kilometres in town in order to see all the people and visit all the places that he had to visit during air raids. The sirens would go and he would carry on walking. Some occasions turn up when he describes sleeping on a desktop because he gets stuck in somebody's office. Or alternately people who come to see him don't have anywhere to go and he's sharing his apartment with them. So these are all the items that I wanted to mention.

In conjunction with Kastner, just one passing comment. Trudy already made various references and will do something more about Kastner. But I find it interesting that whereas the odd word of criticism he comes up with in the notes will be around the Palestine office, which is represented by a man called Moshe Kraus. And there have been serious differences in terms of that office behaving like it was still peace time and administration comes before action. And one or two similar comments equally about some of the Orthodox faction in Hungary. And the or the Jewish council that was working with Eichmann. But Kastner whom he meets 2, 3, 4 times a week, and he documents to some extent these meetings, is never a bad word about Kastner. So that is my comment about the Kastner situation.

In terms of talking about the situation there and one very important area that Trudy mentioned several times about people talking about why did Jews not resist? And when they heard about

the Arsis situation, why did they not do something? I just want to share with you a very brief story that I heard from my mother. And I need to add that my mother only told me that story in the 70s because these were not to be talked about. And that concerned the fact that when we were in one of the protected houses she was arrested on the street and marched with about another 200 or 300 women to one of the collection camps, to the trains. And there were three or four of the armed Arrow Cross guys around them. And she realised that she was being taken to death, basically. And not only that, but I was left with about 30 or 40 total strangers who wouldn't look after me and I would perish.

So she decided to make a run for it. And these Arrow Cross guys fortunately, although they had guns, they had not been trained. And when they were trying to shoot her they kept missing. And as she was trying to run away as you, excuse me. As you would under such circumstances, she turned back to see what was going on behind her. And all of the rest of the women were standing there motionless. Probably half or two thirds of them could have got away. But by this time the whole atmosphere in Hungary in the Jewish community was that you obey orders because as long as you are alive, you have hope. And nevermind trying to protest or well, resistance just didn't occur in their vocabulary at the time. And when you hear anybody talking about what could have happened and would've happened, nothing could have happened. It's a simple.

- Tommy, thank you. Can we... There's loads of questions. Will you stay and let's see what the questions are now? I'll look at the questions.

- My one little plea before I...

- Yes, oh yes please, Tommy, this is important.

- I'm happy with that. I've already had one very exciting note from somebody who says that she has some information for me and we exchanged email addresses. But what I'm engaged in at the moment, knowing that Otto Komoly has got virtually no recognition. In Israel there is a little bit. In Hungary there is a one square foot plaque on the wall of the Synagogue. Otherwise he's not commemorated. And I would like to fill that gap. I'm working, I'm not sure if it's going to be a book or possibly I'm hoping a documentary film. And if anybody has any information either personally or from your parents or uncles and aunts from that period about the Red Cross activities or, in fact, about Otto's role in it, I'd love you to communicate. Judi will take emails if that keeps it simple. And I think after that I'll stop and wait.

- Tommy, thank you. But stay, in case, for the questions. And I think it just also shows just how extraordinary our group is now that we have people all over the world. And let me again say let's pray for our friends in Israel. But in terms of the kind of stories that we are sharing now, I think we're creating extraordinary documents. So let me thank Tommy. Let's look at the questions.

## Comments and Q&A

Here we go. Oh. Oh, this is from Judy thanking us from Israel.

And this is from Alan Wallerman from from Tel Aviv. "We're under constant attack running to the shelters, but we're feeling pretty safe but concerned this may escalate."

This is Rachel, "Sorry, Trudy, but the Germans are the perpetrator and the Hungarians, they're willing helpers." Yes.

This is Anna. "Rescuers knew the dangerous risks and took dangerous risks. Rescuers were risking their lives."

This is from Catherine, "In the "World of War" documentary, an Anthony Eaton was interviewed. He said there were two main factors that affected the decision to bomb the death camps. There was a limited bombing range, there was a risk of bombing peer camps by mistake." Catherine, there are lots of stories about this, but maybe we go back to it.

This is from Tibo Gross. "Me and my wife are children of Hungarian survivors living in Chicago." He wants the email. Yes, of course. If you write to Judi, she'll send it to me.

Raoul... Yes, Angela, yes, I know. Angela,

"I wonder"... Oh, this is Ken Geemes. "I wonder how that fits into my mom's story. She said she was in a basement with Wallenberg and I think it's girlfriend when there house to house fighting between Russians and Germans. Wallenberg said, "We have to go and welcome our liberators." No one except his girlfriend would leave the basement. After that no one saw him again."

And this is from Angela, "Raoul Wallenberg together with Paya Anga and Carl Lutz moved their embassies. The Swedens switched to the Esterhazy Palace as the Nazis approached Budapest from the west. On January the 25th, Raoul Wallenberg left the Esterhazy palace in order to meet the Russians who had reached the Pest side of Budapest. He was never seen again." I think we better get those, I think we better do a bit of checking up on those. Ken, maybe you can do that?

Professor, Komoly pronounced as "Kom-loy", is that right?

- Correct.

- Thank you, I told you I can't speak Hungarian.

Q: "I understand that the Nazis", this is from Christopher, "Regarded Slavs as non-arian. So on to mention, how did they regard the non-Jewish magyars?"



A: Look, as far as they were concerned, these people were not the arian super race, but they did business and they did business.

So this is from Ellie Straus. "My family is the Schiff family, and Jacob was a cousin." Wow, Ellie, your ancestor was a real hero.

Esther says, "In the weekly parish we learn about the importance of using the name when we count. How dehumanising to be numbered." Yes, this is one of the tragedies.

This is from Ken, who's an expert on all of this and who will be lecturing to us soon. "Madison Grants the passing of a great race refers to the Nordic Alpine and Mediterranean races. Not sure where Magyars fits in. It's a good question." I suppose it depends entirely on whose crazy race theories you're looking at. I'm just not that...

This is Monica, "Chazerie Frestauchi is a survivor online. He saw Raoul Wallenberg rescuing Jews at the brick factory where they'd been rounded up. Have we ever heard what happened to him? Also, there's a movie about Hannah Szenes, "Blessed Is The Match." She was on a rescue mission. Yes, I mentioned the wonderful Hannah Szenes last week. And, of course, she was part of the parachute brigade that were parachuted. Three of them were parachuted by the British. The British would allow that to happen. They were parachuted from Palestine. And she was arrested and, of course, tortured. And she was a great poet and a great hero.

This is from Ellie again. "Eichmann regretted not having done a good job in Holland. My mother heard him say, "This time I'm going to make a clean sweep." or something like that in that vein." In fact, Wisliceny gave evidence that Eichmann actually said he would jump into his grave happy that he'd murdered 5 million. Unbelievable.

"Read a book called "In The Name of Humanity." This is from Bernice. "Where some religious Jews actually met with Himmler when he wanted to have a separate piece with the allies. This happened in Switzerland." I'm not sure about that. Bernice, can you come up with the name of the book?

"It was Gruenwald who sued Kastner." Thank you Aviva, I lost the name. Yes, Gruenwald was a Hungarian survivor.

This is from Abigail Hirsch. "Recently an excellent Israeli documentary exposed the whole Kastner fiasco." I haven't seen it, but Ellie has mentioned there's another one seven years ago called "Killing Kastner". Yes, it's a very interesting film.

This is from Kay Fodder "My mother's family name were Hirschs from Capos Va. Have I pronounced that right, Tommy? "Any relationship?"

- Sorry, which one?

- A town Hirsch family from Capos Va.

- It's quite some way from Budapest.

- Right. This is from Ken Geemes again, "I wonder." He's in contact with Angela. This is interesting. "Angela, I wonder how that fits in with my mom's story. She said she was in a basement with Wallenberg and I think his girlfriend. When there was house to house fighting between Russians and Germans Wallenberg said, "We have to go up and welcome our liberators." No one writes.

So Malchiel Gruenwald was sued by Kastner. I love it, if I can't remember something there's a lot of people online who can help.

And this is Kay Fodder. "There was a play of Hannah suggests Hannah Szenes' diary at the New York Holocaust Museum. Any idea how that survived?" No.

Q: "Did the Satmar Rabbe warn his followers? How did he get on the train?"

A: He was chosen. "Why did he leave his.. The Satmar Rebbe Teitelbaum was a very controversial character. Can we leave it at that?"

Yes, Anna Palkov, "The activities of the International Red Cross during World War II also controversial." Urgency to save Jewish lives, and of course the Red Cross film in Theresienstadt. The fact that when the Nazis made a film at Theresienstadt proving they were looking after them, it was a holiday camp. That completely pulled the wool over the Red Cross eyes.

This is from Roberta Solo. "My grandmother was dragged along with other adults from one of the Swedish houses and taken to the Danube to be shot by the Arrow Cross. Raoul Wallenberg arrived and stopped the shooting. In her eyes it felt like a miracle." Oh, what a wonderful story, Roberta. And isn't it tragic that he had such an awful end?

This is from Susan Sinek. "My aunt and uncle were on the train, never talked about it. I think they felt guilty. Their daughters including the one who was born on the train, never knew the story. We just knew they escaped to Switzerland. Only much later she told her granddaughter the story, and then we found out how they left Hungary. The son of the doctor who delivered my cousin on the train lives in New York and managed to locate my cousin as he had a list of who was on the train. And they met which is amazing." Yes, isn't it tragic? So many survivors feel guilty for surviving and it's such a wrong placed emotion, isn't it?

This is from Ellie. "My parents and aunt and uncle were on the train. They were in Bergen Belsen for six months. I was born in Switzerland after the war. My parents didn't say much. "Killing Kastner" shed's light on all that. There was a mark of Cain on those who escaped on the

train." Oh, it's so tragic.

This is from Miriam Kagan. "Excellent biography of Raoul Wallenberg by Swedish journalist, Ingrid Carlberg."

This is from Robert Reeves. "My mother and grandmother were saved from a holding camp by Wallenberg who provided them with Swedish protective status because of my father's Jewish employer's wife, who was Swedish. How my mother convinced a guard to take a message from the camp, I'll never know. One day a few limousine showed up and had temporary protection visa for a few people. My mother was listed, but not my grandmother. My mother put up a fuss and convinced Wallenberg to give my grandmother one." Oye. "

Q: What happened at the dinner party where Wallenberg met Eichmann? You didn't say."

A: The chap who gave it, did write about it. There was a play about it. Evidently Wallenberg challenged him on Nazi philosophy and basically completely won the argument.

Yes, Yana, Yes, exactly. A lot of people thought he'd survived to the 80s because there were so many sightings of them. All proved to be untrue.

This is Ellie Strauss. "I met Carl Lutz's granddaughter and got her book. He was a colourful figure, but a real humanist. He did much more than people I know." I think, yes. Carl Lutz, I also met his granddaughter. Yes, all these people, we need to study the rescuers.

Q: "What did Himmler mean saying to Eichmann, "Take good care of them?"

A: Well, Himmler had changed his mind. You see, he knew that if he could strike a deal with the allies, he'd have to act like he was not killing Jews anymore. It's as vile as that. Of course, the allies wouldn't negotiate and they didn't negotiate. And they decided it was not sensible to betray the Russians. The Russians wouldn't negotiate. Ironically, the negotiations were carried through by Himmler's masseur, would you believe. It's a very dark story.

This is from Georgina. "I was in a Swiss protected house. The Arrow Cross, it came in on November. Took 38 people out of the apartment and took them to the Danube and shot them. Only mother and I survived due to my mother's bravery to say that a seven year old child was ill and the Arrow Cross guys let us alone." Oh, Georgina, oh.

And this is Ken. "Blessed that you and your mother survived. Such a tough story. My dad who survived while his first family, daughter and wife, were sent to Auschwitz had terrible survivor guilt." Oye.

I'm not answering anything about George Soros.

"Laszlo Szamosi, my grandfather was far more than a driver, but like Otto Komoly, a fixer of sorts. He and my grandmother maintained some children's home and he used to go to the

Spanish embassy. After its attache Angel Sanz Briz fled it to issue Schutz passes. He also worked with Wallenberg to rehouse Jews. Perlasca play a very minimal role. Posing as the Spanish attache to help Szamosi in return for refuge at the Spanish embassy. He did, indeed, co-opt out Szamosi's story." Yes, this is from Asa Iga. I think it's very important that your grandfather is also recognised because from what I've heard from Tommy, I found it very difficult to find information about him and I had to turn to Tommy for this. And of course the other one has been honoured. I believe a book's being written. This is something that, sometimes you know the problem with history, all that we can do is rely on the sources and some of the sources are missing. This is a story. His story is obviously one that really must be told.

"Oh, this is a sad thing from Jerusalem and world media and politicians refuse to accept the truth and internationally distort what is happening. Surely it's time for us not to say we need peace, but we need recognition by the world. After what you've discussed about the Holocaust, we're entitled to live in our own land with security." Never forget what Howard Jacobson, who's a brilliant writer, said. He said, "They can't forgive us the Holocaust." And something else, what the late, great Rabbi Sack said, "First they hated our religion, then they hated our race, now they hate our nation." Aye, aye, aye.

Q: "Please explain why you think that disagreements arguments in Israel is about Jewish powerlessness."

A: Because we blame Kastner, the left blame the right, the right blame the Jews. There was the most pernicious libel about the Kastner affair. It came out of Russia. It's something I'll be talking on later on in the course. How antisemitism affected the left. You see, in 1948, Russia backed Israel. They thought they'd had a socialist state, but gradually all sorts of things happened that made them change their minds. The emerging new Arab nations that might be allies of theirs, Israel doing a deal with Germany. And gradually what entered the Russian press, which of course was state agencies that Kastner did a deal, that Zionists were dealing with the Nazis and that Alazarov was dealing with the Nazis. Now, the truth was, and I'm saying this now, I'm going to speak personally. If I thought I could save my family, I would've dealt with the devil. Yes, there were negotiations, but did that make that collusion? No, I do not believe it did.

And this is from Jerusalem. Yes, never to be forgotten. Please explain that. So that's what I think about Jewish powerlessness. I think that because so many appalling things happened, none of them, in the end, could save their own people. Be it Weissman, Jabotinsky, Begin. Or, Begin unfortunately had died in 19... I beg your pardon, Jabotinsky died in 1940. None of them could actually save their own people. And I think that was the mark on Israel.

Ben Zakkai to Bar Kokhba. It's a long detailed talk. We will talk about it.

And this is from Kay Fodder. "My mother was saved three times by a gentile, a peril of his and his family's life."

And this is from Abigail Hirsch. "There were Hungarians hiding and sheltering Jews. My mom

told me about it." Yes, you see, this is the point. There always are good people, always. The problem I think, is there's such a negative stereotype of the Jew in the western world, in the old Christian world, that it's very, very difficult. It's interesting because if you look at Hindu, India, or even China, the Jew is almost an afterthought. It's only in the world of monotheism that we are so central and it's left a very, very deep scar.

Oh, Carol missed the beginning of the lecture. Otto Komoly was a great hero. He was head of the Rescue Committee and Tommy is his uncle.

- The other way, it is.

- Thank you.

This is from Abigail Hirsch. "Eichmann and the German command sheltered in the Dohany Synagogue and also in the Kazinski Synagogue thinking they will not be bombed."

"Tommy, do you have memories of your uncle?" Well, I can answer that because he was killed in 1945.

"In 1967, my mother-in-law sent a report from Budapest about the trial of the judge who sentenced Hannah Szenes to death. Reuters also details an interview with a woman who was in the cell with Hannah Szenes." Yes.

"Sorry, correction." What's the correction, 1947? 1947, thank you Jules.

"Anyone remember the Prince family from T-O-L-C-S-V-A? How do you pronounce that, Tommy?

- [Tommy] What's that?

- T-O-L-C-S-V-A. Oh, wait a minute, there's an answer.

- Tolsva.

- Tolsva. "My grandmother Elizabeth, my grandfather Erno survived. Their two sons, Tibault and George died. My mother Katanin survived."

This is from Judy. "My grandmother was on the train to Auschwitz, but went to Stutthof. Saved because she was the head mistress of Jewish girls school in Debench. Oh, it's so extraordinary, these stories.

Yvonne, "My son married a non-Jewish woman. They have two children aged 10 and eight. When is the right age to tell my grandchildren what happened to your our family? How do you

ever start?" Yvonne, that is one of the biggest, most important questions and I beg you to have time because Wendy and I are thinking of having these kind of debates with serious educators. At the moment Holocaust studies is taught in most schools to 13, 14 year olds. I'm talking about schools outside Israel, of course. I think it's an incredibly difficult issue. I've known Jewish primary schools in England where they've taught it earlier and it has to be done incredibly sensitively. Quite often good teachers do it through literature and go in gently that way. It's very, very, very problematic.

This is from Leah. "My mother was asked to testify against Eichmann and refused. She didn't want to open up old wounds."

"Yes, an article in the New York Times disputes Wallenberg's Death in 1947." Yes, it's still not certain. Ken's answered it, we don't know.

Q: "Trudy, will I be discussing Holocaust denial at some stage?"

A: I will be bringing in an expert to do so. I know, but I don't know enough and I'll be bringing someone in on that.

And this is from Paul Monk, "Erno Mankowski and edited by Nina Monk. It covers the details of the timeline Kastner's train, which enabled my family to survive the Holocaust after a stay in Bergen-Belsen. It was the Diary of Erno Mankowski, who was my cousin and passed away." Yes, of course, because the trains were sent to Belsen. Tommy, are you out typing an answer for Gita?

- Yes. 36 is a secret.

- Okay, it's a secret.

Now this is from Ellie Strauss. "The best place to learn about the Holocaust is in Germany, it's mandatory for school children." Ellie, we got a problem. There is an extraordinary rise of the right in Germany and I'm talking to Wendy about bringing someone in on that. It's taught beautifully and wonderfully by some educators, but it's also becoming a big problem. Wolfgang Kaiser, who used to run the Vansay House, he's a friend of mine, he's a brilliant educator. He's married to an Israeli. I think he should be talking about that. But it's complicated.

Our LA Holocaust Museum gives students tours to the fifth and sixth grade. Look, I have a real problem on this because one of the... I used to sit on the ITF, which is now IRA. One of the reasons it was set up was to fight antisemitism. It has not been successful. What do we want Holocaust education to do? I know what I want it to do. I want it for people to understand more Jewish history, to understand who the Jews are. Not just dead Jews because they came from lives. And because the level of antisemitism is so up in the world, has Holocaust education made a difference? There's a huge issue about Holocaust memorialization and I think this is another issue that hopefully we can deal with on the Lockdown University.

- It's Judi, should I..

- I think we should stop there, don't you? And Tommy....

- Indeed, yes?

- I think we should stop there. What can I say? I think from the questions we've had... And can I thank you so much for speaking to us, Tommy? And there are so many questions. Obviously there are so many of you who are involved in this terrible story, so I think we better stop here. And Judi, thank you very much. So should we cut it there?

- [Judi] Yes, thank you Trudy. Thank you Tommy, for joining us today. And thank you to all our participants. Stay safe wherever you are.

- Yes, and can I just reiterate all of you in Israel in particular, stay safe. Our hearts are with you know that. God bless.