

Images are displayed throughout the presentation

- So Trudy, today, May the 10th, isn't it the, the anniversary of the burning of the books?

- 88 years ago the Nazis burnt the books.

- Yeah, exactly.

- [Trudy] The suppression of knowledge.

- Absolutely. So, I think maybe this is a good opportunity just to say to everybody that, I know that there was an incident again yesterday because I received many emails, and so did Trudy, about a very obnoxious comment that was made to our presenter by one of the participants. And I just want to say that while we, I absolutely do believe in freedom of speech, this platform is really an opportunity for all of us to experience different point of views and to be tolerant of different point of views. And what I would just like to add is that I'm not going to get, I'm not going to have anyone, I would never agree of a hosting an antisemitic presenter on a continuous basis. It might happen on occasion that I might have a misjudgment on a one-off presenter. It could happen. I hope it doesn't, but it could, but not on a continual basis.

And I found it very offensive that one of our participants would post a rude comment about one of our faculty. So please, I want to say, once again, I want you to be respectful of different points of views. I want you to be respectful and mindful, not mindless, about what you post and the comments that are made. Because we're a family and we need to learn to be accommodating and to learn from each other. So over to you, Trudy. I'm sure you'd want to add to this because it has ramifications. Words are not harmless. Words are hurtful. Do you want to take, Trudy?

- Yes, yes, Wendy, I would totally like to echo your sentiments. I mean, one of the whole purposes of the Lockdown University was really to spread enlightenment, to spread ideas, to create a community where the narrative would always be respectful of each other. And can I assure you, as someone who has known that presenter for 30 years, he is one of the most special people I have ever known, and one of my closest friends. So let me, be assured he hasn't got one bone in his body that I don't approve of in his views. We argue about a lot of things, but not about anything like that.

- [Wendy] And we're all tied to have different viewpoints.

- Absolutely, and in fact, Wendy, the area that I'm coming onto today is a very, is a contentious area. There is a health warning on it because of course we're continuing with Hungary. And as I said to you last week, in many ways it is the most, all the losses of life were tragic, but in many ways it is the most tragic because it is, it happened so very late. And it poses so many different

questions. I mean, if you think about it, Hungarian Jewry are not attacked until April 1944, when, as we've already discussed, the Shoa was an open secret, not even a secret anymore. And it also poses all kinds of questions. It's not just what the Allies didn't do, it's left all sorts of ramifications about the Jews themselves, Jews in so-called positions of power, could they have done more?

And it's an issue that completely, completely- When you talk about disagreement, it led to a fracture in Israel, which of course culminated in the Kastner trial in the '50s, which we'll be talking about at another date. I'm not talking about the Kastner trial today, except to say that I hope that as you listen to this, I was reading Yehuda Bauer because he, I suppose, when I've got a knotty problem to deal with, of all the historians I deal with, it's Bauer and it's Bauer's wisdom.

Bauer was a Slovakian Jew, and I'm going to read what he said about Hungarian Jewry even before we start. And he's talking about the question of rescue, on a large scale, could Hungarian have been saved, could Hungarian Jewry been staved? And his analysis is on a large scale, no. Did rescue occur? Yes. And in Hungary it actually achieved some limited success due to, and this is going to be fascinating, the convergence of Nazi interests, the persistence of some extraordinary Jews, help from bystanders, and, more important and I'll be dealing with them next week, help from the righteous ones, characters like Wallenberg, Carl Lutz, whose names must be blessed forever.

And this is what Bauer goes on to say, "It is time to desist from accusation and to concentrate on explaining motivation, options, possibilities. That way we may be able to face the reality of the Holocaust, which is essential if we want to overcome the trauma." Remember Bauer was a Slovakian Jew, he's in his nineties, I think he's about 96 now, he is a brilliant man, and he's so close to this, and he spent his life studying it. And this is what he had to say about Hungarian Jewry, "It was a great Jewry, it produced great minds and action minded people. Most of them were murdered with the active help or through the passivity of their non-Jewish neighbours. Some were rescued.

Let us remember them and let us remember the Kastners the Brandts, the Komolys, and leave also a bit of compassion for the Stearns and the Freudigers." I'll be talking about all these people either today or on Thursday. They hated each other's guts, by and large, as Jewish leaders do mostly, but most of them did their best. And that's a very important essay that Yehuda Bauer wrote in a book called "Genocide and Rescue" that was edited by, also another great historian, the late David Cesarani. So I really wanted to start with that.

And for clarity, because this is a very complicated, not only is it very dark and difficult to deal with, it's a complicated subject. So what I'm going to do first is actually look at what happened in Budapest to the Jews of Hungary. And then I'm going to address the subject of what the Allies actually knew and was rescue possible? Questions like, was it possible to bomb the railway lines? What was possible? So I want to address them, bearing in mind, of course. And since the

Shoa, there've been so much division between the various Zionist factions, the non-Zionist factions, Kasztner of course, and the issue that completely, it cut Israel in two.

In the end, the way I analyse it, they didn't, none of them had the power to save. That's the problem, that is the real problem. And it's a lesson of course, that Israel, I suppose, has learnt and some would say has over learned. This is the lesson of powerlessness. Because as I've said to you many times, we know that German and Austrian Jewry could have been saved in its entirety if the Allies had opened the gates. And who knows about the others.

So let's begin. Can we go back to a picture of Horthy, if you don't mind, Judy? The very elegant Admiral Horthy, yes. Now, if you remember, we got to the point where Horthy wanted to pull out of the alliance by March 1944, because it was obvious that the Germans were losing the war. And this is a very good point to remember what is going on in the world. We're not far away from D-Day. Stalingrad is over, the Russians are on the march. And what becomes extraordinary is that in the end, amongst some of the Nazi hierarchy, the urge to murder was more important than winning the war.

And this is where you begin to understand idealism of a evil kind, because some of these characters were idealists of a perverted evil dream. And it always, I'm terrified of ideology, maybe because I've studied the Shoa for so long, I don't like closed systems of any kind. What I like is flexibility of thought and flexibility of the mind. And perhaps studying this particular dreadful episode could help us.

So Horthy thinks it's nearly over. It's at this stage, of course, that, as we discussed last time, Adolf Hitler sends his troops in. Horthy has no choices. He's met at, as his train pulls in, he is met by a German guard. He is still the head of state, but he, of course, Sztojay is very much now the, remember he had been the, he'd been the German ambassador to Berlin and Hitler trusted him. So he is now head of state. He had to, he let the Arrow Cross out of prison, but he's the head of state. And of course it was him.

Eichmann moves into Budapest, but it is him with his three associates who begin that terrible roundup of the Jews of the countryside. And I have many questions on that. It's about geography. The reason they went for the Jews of the countryside first, the concentration, the ghettoization, and then the deportation was why? Because the Russian army was on the march. They wanted to murder the Jews before the Russians took over. So it's the Jews in the countryside that are murdered.

And there's so much evidence now, and I'll be talking about that later, that there are huge protests from the West. King George protests, Gustav of Sweden. There are protests from the Red Cross. Even Pius XII appealed to Horthy. And the Catholic Primate of Hungary informed Horthy he would denounce the deportations unless Horthy acted. Roosevelt began to threaten as well. He actually threatened to bomb Budapest.

So consequently Horthy is in a very difficult position. And this is what is Istvan Bethlen, the man who had previously been prime minister, the more liberal, he'd said deportation, and I read you this last week, but I think, as I say to you quite often, it's good to repeat. "Deportation sullied the name of Hungary and the looting of Jewish property has become the source of the most atrocious corruption, robbery, and theft in which very considerable portions of the Hungarian intelligentsia are also involved. The whole Christian Hungarian society will soon be irreversibly contaminated."

That's a very, very important paragraph. Why? Because it's pointing out, and it's so important to remember this, these aren't gutter up movements. This is the intelligentsia. This is the throwing away of all moral restraints by some people who regarded themselves as religious Christians. Over the border in Slovakia, the head of state was actually an ordained minister. So, but I'll be dealing with that when I deal with, when I run a session on the Vatican, et cetera.

Anyway, June the 26th, Horthy realises, enough. He's against the deportations. There's a lot of controversy about the figure of Horthy, but he never ordered them. The power was taken away from him. But he came, he did decide through the army, he had loyal Hungarian divisions under General Backe, who took up positions in the capitol to enforce compliance. And he decides to stop the deportations. They are to stop on July 7th. In fact the overzealous went on for another two days. They don't finish. And remember, these deportations were 12,000 to 15,000 people a day. And to kind of imagine those sort of numbers is beyond, it's beyond imagination. I don't know a thousand people. Think about it. It's the numbers, the numbers, the numbers.

And he had the three major perpetrators dismissed. He's emboldened and he replaces the government with senior army officers. Eichmann is recalled by Himmler. Himmler's got his own ideas by now, think where we are. It's now the 29th of August. That is when Eichmann leaves Budapest. What's he got on his mind, Adolf Eichmann? What's Himmler got on his mind? The July Plot of July the 20th, 1944 to kill Hitler fails.

Himmler begins all sorts of negotiations with the Allies. It's still a very shadowy, controversial area, this, and there are so many contradictory accounts, but it does appear that this is when Himmler begins to negotiate with the Allies. Now, which Allies? His dream was to persuade the Americans and the British to join with him as the head of the German state in a war with Russia.

And ironically there were one or two American and Brits who didn't think that was such a bad idea. So know that that's going on in the background. So he orders him out of Budapest. Horthy tries for an armistice with the Allies, but remember, he's violently anti-communist. Also, August '44, Romania withdraws from the Axis Alliance. Romania changes sides. And it was in this stage that the Germans decide they need Hungary.

So how are they going to force Horthy to be compliant? They send in a German soldier, a man of action, one of the characters, one of those shadowy characters, that Gerald, that Ian Fleming writes about to kidnap Horthy's son and force him into acquiescence. Horthy's son was

kidnapped. He was sent to Dachau. Horthy recants the armistice and was forced to abdicate.

He signs the document, because what is now going to happen is Ferenc Szalasi, can we see his face please, Judy? He is going to become the new head of state. This is what Horthy wrote, "I merely exchanged my signature for my son's life. A signature wrung from a man at gunpoint can have no validity."

And what happens is, on the 17th of October, Horthy was escorted by Skorzeny to Schloss Hirschberg in Bavaria where he was guarded. He was in great comfort, but he was guarded. And this is the Arrow Cross. So who was Otto Skorzeny, the man who kidnapped? And I think, because he's going to have such a fascinating post-war history, I want to bring him into the picture. And you'll have a picture of him a little later on.

His dates are 1908 to 1975. He came from a middle-class background in Germany. He was multilingual. He was one of those adventurers, I suppose. He was a sportsman, a great fencer. In the University of Vienna, sorry, he was Viennese, he was not German. He was a member of the German National Students Group. He had won 15 fights. You know, the honour of students to have the Schmiss, even Herzl had a Schmiss.

1931, think of all the horror that's going on in Europe. He joins the illegal Nazi party. He has a minor role in the Anschluss. He actually saved the life of the Austrian president and he stopped him being shot by Austrian Nazis. He was a reckless character. He becomes a civil engineer. He volunteers for the Luftwaffe, but he was too tall, he was six foot four, and too old. So what happens to him? He joins Hitler's bodyguard regiment.

At the invasion of Russia he's there, he's awarded the Iron Cross, he's wounded. Whilst he's recuperating in Berlin he developed the ideas of very, of unconventional commando tactics. He wanted to train partisans to fight deeply in enemy lines. He was very friendly with Ernst Kaltenbrunner, who was the head of the Gestapo, and through him worked with Walter Schellenberg who was head of the SS foreign intelligence source.

So he trained other Germans in sabotage. So he's really this derring-do kind of James Bond figure, but on the wrong side. But not only did he kidnap Horthy's son, he also rescued Mussolini. He was part of an attempt at Tehran to kill the big three. He made an attempt on Tito's life. He was involved in disinformation in the Battle of the Bulge, dressing German soldiers who spoke perfect English in British and American uniforms.

And at the end of the war he was involved in Operation Werwolf, which was a sabotage mission to keep Germany in the war. He was captured. He was interned for two years at Dachau for violating the rules of war. And what was he accused of? Wearing enemy, wearing an enemy uniform and posing as a British or American officer.

Now Yeo-Thomas, who was a member of the British SOE, he spoke in his defence. He said,

"We did exactly the same things." And he escaped, probably with American help.

He hid out, he hid out with Hjalmar Schacht's niece. Now you know who she is, of course. She was a very beautiful countess and the daughter of Hjalmar Schacht who had been head of the Reichsbank, one of the best economists and one of the richest men in Germany. He got divorced so he could marry her. He had a passport to Madrid. He got out through the Vatican. He went into the engineering business. And in 1952 he probably worked for the CIA. He became an advisor to General Naguib. He was sent to Naguib by a German general, Reinhard Gehlen, who was working for the CIA. And what he did was he recruited a lot of members of the SS to fight for Nasser, who takes over Naguib. He also trained Arab commandos, including Yasser Arafat. He travels to Argentina to advise Peron on his army, and also to provide a proper bodyguard unit for Eva Peron. It's fascinating, you know, Evita, they were up to their next in Nazism, Peron and and Eva Peron. And you know, when she went to the Vatican, it was all about an exchange of money, but more about that later.

Now, he was recruited by Mossad and there's lots of conflicting stories about this. They needed him and he didn't want to have a price on his head. So what happened was, this is at the time of just before Suez, is it's the time of NASA and the Helwan rockets. And he supplied names and addresses of the Nazi scientists. He mailed letter bombs for the Israelis. And he was really important in stopping the Helwan rockets because NASA was working on bubonic plague warheads to drop on Israel. He assassinated the top German scientist in Egypt, a man called Heinz Krug. When he retired he bought a farm in Ireland and property in Mallorca.

He, in semi-retirement, he created something called the Paladin Group, which was an international assault group, which was involved in all sorts of derring-do operations. When he died he was buried in a Roman Catholic funeral in Madrid where dozens of former Nazis attended and gave the salute. I thought I'd include him because what do we make of someone like Otto Skorzeny? He was a total opportunist. He was a reckless personality. But I just thought, we're dealing with such a dark period, I just wanted to give you, I'm not saying light because he's not light, but if anyone on the programme is a filmmaker, if ever there was a story for a film, I think it's the story of Otto Skorzeny.

But anyway, let's get back now to the horror, I'm afraid. And following the Nazi occupation, of course, this is the man who, this is the man who now is head of the Hungarian government under the Germans. He turns it into a puppet state of Nazi Germany. By the 16th of October 1944 he was leader, the leader of the national government. 16 members, ministers, half were members of the Arrow Cross. And he recommended the deportation of Jews and organised the so-called ghetto.

Now I'm going to read to you. When he took power, this is what he, this was the official taking of power that was broadcast on the radio. And there were posters put up all over Budapest. This is the Arrow Cross statements. Now remember, this is Hungarian, these are Hungarians. "I order all officials of the civil administration and all police officers to do their utmost to safeguard and

maintain good order, discipline, and public safety. The orders issued and published by means of posters have been inspired by an overriding sense of responsibility to maintain public services and necessities and a life as nearly as normal as possible, as well as being guided by certain principles and necessities. As regards to the Jewish question, I am in a position to state that we will definitely solve it. This solution, even if it be inexorable, will be such that the Jews deserve in view of their past and present behaviour. The solution of this problem is the business of the state."

Remember, this is October, November 1944. The war is almost over. "I wish to warn all Jews and those who serve their interests, that every authority in the state is keeping a close watch on them. I do not differentiate between Jews belonging to the Catholic, Protestant, or Israelite churches. I deal only with the Jewish race. I will not acknowledge the validity of safe conducts or foreign passports issued."

This is when I'm, later on, probably on Thursday, I'll be talking about the extraordinary Wallenberg and Lutz, and all the others who actually were issuing foreign passports. "If any Jew attempts to do anything against the Hungarian state, the army of our allies, or the civil population, or to commit any crimes whatsoever, I will inflict such reprisals upon the Jews of Hungary as will go full satisfaction to our nation and our allies."

Now, who was this man? He, back in '33, he was the son of a soldier. He had a very mixed ancestry. He had a military education. He'd been an officer in the as Austro-Hungarian Army. He'd been decorated on the front line. He, he became interested in politics. He went further and further to the right. And back in '33 he'd summarised his views in a 46 page paper, "Plan for the Rebuilding of the Hungarian State."

Now, he couldn't abide the extraordinary Jewish success story in Hungary. And don't forget, when we discussed it, I said, look, Jews made up nearly 24% of the population of Budapest. To a large extent they were the intellectual and professional life. And it caused a problem for people who didn't see Jews as member of the Hungarian nation. The tragedy for the Jews was that, in fact, the majority of Jews, particularly in Budapest, saw themselves as Hungarian. The Zionist party was quite small.

Of course, the further east you went, and I mentioned this before, the further east you go into Hungary and into Transylvania, and those areas that have been given back to Hungary. There you have far more religious and Hasidic community. Tragically, nearly every one of them had been wiped out by the time this man has taken power, they saw themselves as apart. But for the Jews of Budapest, definitely, and the Jews of the big cities, they saw themselves as loyal Hungarians.

Now October, 1944, Adolph Eichmann disobeyed orders, he disobeyed Himmler's orders because Himmler wanted it stopped. At this period Himmler is beginning to dismantle the death camps. It's fascinating because Eichmann, and this actually came up at the trial, they found, and

the documents have been found, Eichmann disobeyed Himmler's orders. You know, there's a lot of debate as to whether Eichmann was an idealist in that evil sense, or whether he did it for profit, et cetera. I personally believe that he was absolutely obsessed. And next week I'm going to talk about the meeting between him, on Thursday I'll talk about the meeting with him and Raoul Wallenberg. Can you imagine, there was a supper party that they both attended? And evidently, because the person who gave, who was there, actually gave, a Swedish diplomat, he gave a report on that particular meeting between Wallenberg and Eichmann.

Another unbelievable story, because here you had two idealist, one for good and one for evil. He's very much, Eichmann is welcomed back by the Arrow Cross. They can't deport the Jews east anymore. Why? Because the Russians are on the march. Don't forget that Auschwitz itself was liberated on the 27th of January, 1945. But way before that you'd have the death marches. You know, that's the tragedy, the death marches back west. So what he arranged, where he arranged, for thousands of Jews to be forced marched, many women and children, mainly women, actually, 210 kilometres in a Hungarian winter, frog march back from Budapest to Vienna, 210 kilometres. Appalling and many died.

Now, what happened to him is, of course he fled the city the 24th of December, just before its incomplete encirclement by the Russians. So basically, and of course what happened to Eichmann is something that we will be dealing with later on in the programme. So the Arrow Cross, the Arrow Cross, remember how late it is. November the 29th, 1944, they established a ghetto, several blocks of the old Jewish quarter. And those of you who visited Budapest, do you remember I showed you, or those of you who haven't, I showed you a picture of the wonderful Dohany Street Synagogue, and the ghetto was around the Dohany Street Synagogue next to which of course had once been Theodor Herzl's home and also the Orthodox Kazinczy Synagogue.

So the Neolog Dohany, the Orthodox Kazinczy, and the ghetto, 70,000 Jews were frog marched into the ghetto, into one square mile. They were completely isolated. No food was allowed in, rubbish, waste. So thousands are going to die of starvation and disease. The Arrow Cross were particularly cruel. They murdered patients in the Jewish hospitals, two Jewish hospitals. They murdered residents of the Jewish poor house. They looted Jewish property. Then of course, the Soviets surround the city in January, and by the 13th of February, they completed the occupation.

By April the 4th the last German units left Hungary, 1 million Hungarians fled with them. And what is absolutely extraordinary about all of this is that of course many of the wanted war criminals in Europe after the war were Hungarians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Poles, because after the war you have the Cold War. Those of you who travelled to America will remember, I dunno if you remember this, that it always used to say on your visa form, were you ever a member of the Communist Party? It was only much later that it asked if you were a member of any fascist party.

And many thousands escaped west as anti-communists, of course, because straight after the

war, we move into the era of the Cold War. Anyway, going back to Horthy on the 29th of April, 1945, that is the day before Hitler committed suicide, Horthy's SS guards fled. He actually was liberated and then arrested by the American Seventh Army. By late September of '45 he was reunited with his son at Nuremberg. He was released, he was able to rejoin his family in Bavaria. He then goes to live- He testified at Nuremberg war crimes trials, he was supported financially by the American ambassador and by Pius XII who he knew very well, and evidently a few wealthy Jews, a very, very complicated character, Horthy.

And to this day he is one of those characters that people can't make their minds up on. But in a way, what has happened when we look, and I think that's why I wanted to start by reading you that extraordinary statement by Yehuda Bauer, because the Nazis did it. The Arrow Cross did it. Horthy was an, I personally believe that Horthy was an antisemite. Was he a mass murderer? Or was he just a bystander? Was he a collaborator? You have to make your own minds up about this. And this is one of the few reasons, sensible reasons, I give for studying this terrible period. Of course, it's to honour our dead. And I know from some of the most extraordinary notes I've had from some of you on the group that it's so close to many of your families. So of course we must honour them forever. But there is another reason. Because just maybe we can unlock the secrets of how people behave.

Now, my second question, could Jews be saved by the Allies? Now, I mentioned that as early as March the 24th, 1944 there'd been appeals by Roosevelt, by Pius XII, by King George, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury Temple was an extraordinary man. And he appealed to Christian Hungarians in the BBC broadcast. This is Anthony Eden in the Commons. Anthony Eden is a very ambiguous character, but this is what he said in the House of Commons, "The British government has up to now done everything in its power to improve the situation. And will continue in this course of action as we have now been informed. His Holiness the Pope has taken diplomatic steps in the matter. Gustav V of Sweden has sent a personal letter to Regent Horthy."

Now what about the Americans? Could anything have been done to rescue the Jews of Hungary? Now, the War Refugee Board, the Americans actually, Roosevelt established the War Refugee Board in January 1944 to aid civilian victims of the Axis powers. There was increasing pressure on America to help "the abandoned Jews of Europe." And that's a quote, "the abandoned Jews of Europe."

The Bergson group, this is of course the Irgun, was very involved. And those of you who were present when I gave the presentation on Ben Hecht, you will remember that they put on all sorts of pageants all over America. A lot of Hollywood stars like Paul Muni, bringing the world's attention to what was going on. January 1944 there was a pageant to the 2 million Jews of Europe, murdered Jews of Europe, that went coast to coast.

So the Bergson group got quite a lot of support from characters like Eleanor Roosevelt. Also, there was pressure from two rather special characters in the Treasury. And the first one I

mentioned, John Pehle, who was the Director of the Foreign Funds Control, and Josiah DuBois. The problem was one of the ways that you can rescue Jews is can you, can you actually bribe the SS? And we're going to prove probably now on Thursday that the SS could be bribed. Now the problem was that the Treasury Department, after a, you see, up until America entering the war you will remember that when Patrick talked about Varian Fry, money could be raised in America from the Joints, the extraordinary Joints, which was so helpful to Jews. Really, it was set up in 1914 by Otto Schiff, the great philanthropist, to help Jews in Palestine. But it was one of, it was one of the most important, and it still is, the most important charity organisations. And they would raise money to get into Europe to try and save Jews.

Now what happened was DuBois, Josiah DuBois, who was the non-Jewish Secretary to the Treasury, he was an extraordinary man. He had discovered there was an incident where 70,000 Romanian Jews, whose evacuation could have been procured with a \$170,000 bribe. It was obstructed by the Treasury and the British Ministry of Economic Warfare. And it was the frustration at that that led DuBois and Pehle to present a report. The man who was blocking in the treasury was a man called Breckinridge Long. He was described as a confederate aristocrat, Princeton, very much the WASP establishment. He'd been involved in creating the League of Nations. He was craft, he was actually credited with drafting Wilson's slogan, "He kept us out of the war." He joined the State Department. He was a very close friend of FDR, and he maintained an incredibly tight stance on immigration. He believed he was under attack from quote unquote "radicals" in the Jewish press.

This was a government memo of his in 1940, "We can delay and effectively stop for a temporary period of indefinite length the number of immigrants into the US Ultimately effect-" And the problem was the effect of this policy was that during the American involvement in the war only 90% of the quota placed for, which was to help refugees under Axis control. America had a quota that it would allow a certain number in. Only 10% of those allowed under the quota were allowed in. If you think about it, in the end, 190,000 people could have been saved. So this is the man in the Treasury Department. This is the man in the State Department. And it's the Treasury now that is going to try and unblock it.

And what happens is DuBois writes a report. It's a very damning report, "Report to the Secretary on the Acquiescence of This Government in the Murder of the Jews," 13th of January, 1944. The report was very, it was political dynamite because it's an election year. And it actually describes the inactivity of Roosevelt's government once it had known about the Shoa. It was particularly critical of Breckinridge Long. And, as I've just said, they realised that they could have saved Jews from Romania. The Treasury had granted the World Jewish Congress special funds to send money to Switzerland in July '43. But the State Department delayed it for eight months. And Josiah DuBois also found evidence that the Americans, in collusion with some people at the British Foreign Office, were suppressing evidence of the murder of the Jews.

Now it's at this stage that Roosevelt establishes the War Refugee Board and the War Refugee Board now had money behind it. And it had enlisted the corporation of foreign bodies,

particularly from Sweden and Switzerland. The Vatican also gave a certain amount of assistance, more about that later, and also wanted help from the International Red Cross. There was a problem with the Red Cross because it didn't deal with Jews per se. It dealt with them either as German or Austrian or Swedish or Swiss or Hungarian. So consequently it was a very, very difficult point. And also they worked with the World Jewish Congress and the Joint. And they allowed \$15 million to be transferred, mainly to Switzerland. And as a result, in 1944, 982 refugees were brought in from Italy, from all sorts of different countries. They were sent to the Canadian-American border. They were omitted outside the immigration quota, which had never been filled. And it was the War Refugee Board that was lobbying for Roosevelt to condemn, which he did on March the 24th, 1944.

So this is a pretty shadowy record if you think about it. You've got Breckinridge Long in collusion, and I'm using the word collusion, in collusion with the Foreign Office, trying to stop rescue attempts. Obviously the British don't want too much pressure on Palestine. The Americans don't want radicals in. Josiah DuBois later on was, at the time of McCarthyism, it was suspected that he was a communist. He was never a communist. He was a liberal and a humanitarian. And towards the end of his life, the other man who helped, John Pehle, he said it was too little and it was too late. So basically what you had was in America, at least America did set up an agency, but too little, too late. And also, when we talk about apportionment of guilt, there's a lot of issues with people like Rabbi Stephen Wise, that many of the American Jews felt that they should keep their heads down, not push too far.

And all these issues in the end have, I think, become more important to the Jewish community than concentrating on who the real monsters were. I mean, you've got one in front of you, that was a real monster. He was actually, in the end, arrested and executed. But look at what he did.

Now also in Europe itself, there were various rescue groups. Now, this is an extraordinary story. The rescue groups, it had all begun in Slovakia when a rabbi called Rabbi Weissmandl. Can we see his picture please, Judy? Rabbi Weissmandl had actually found out he was working with- Slovakian Jewry was a particularly terrifying case because the Slovaks who had a priest as their, as their head of state, were actually giving the Germans money to take away their Jews. But Rabbi Weissmandl realised that the SS could, in certain circumstances, be bribed. There were a couple of SS men who they found out could be bribed. And Weissmandl and a woman called Gisi Fleischmann, Weissmandl was a very religious man, Agudath Israel. He had a very interesting life. He came from a rabbinic family. He was a brilliant scholar. He actually came to England to the Bodleian to work on manuscripts, on Hebrew manuscripts. He went back in 1939 to Hungary, beg your pardon, to Slovakia, to help. And he became involved in the rescue operations. But as I said, he found out that certain SS could be bribed. And he set up the Slovakian Rescue Committee.

And he also was responsible for putting forward proposals for the bombing of Auschwitz. He actually was responsible for, in the end, in June the 24th 1944, the request to John J. McCloy for the Americans to bomb the railway lines leading to Auschwitz. Because what the Germans

did to prepare for Hungarian Jewry was to build the railway lines right, almost right up to the gas chambers. And he, this is what McCloy says, "I suggest the air operation is impracticable for the reason it could be executed only by the diversion of considerable air support essential for the success of our forces. The War Department fully appreciates the humanitarian importance of the suggested operation. However, after consideration of the problem, it's considered that the most effective relief to the victims is the early defeat of the Axis."

On the 9th of August 1944, the New York office of the World Jewish Congress, they also asked for the destruction of the gas chambers and the crematory. By this time, and I'll obviously have to deal with this on Thursday, two men had escaped from Auschwitz, Alfred Wetzler and Rudy Vrba, and they brought back their report, which is going, they made it to Slovakia. And they bring, and they send their reports to Hungary where there's a rescue committee.

And this is what they asked, "Which would have a certain effect now Germans, because the Germans are now exhuming and burning corpses in an effort to conceal their crimes. This could be prevented by the destruction of the crematoria and the Germans might possibly stop further mass extermination."

This is on the 14th of August, how McCloy responds, "Diversion of our considerable air support essential to the excess of our force would not warrant the use of our resources at this time."

Now, so, 16th of May, back in the 16th of May, this is August, but the, back in the 16th of May 1944, Weissmandl had sent a telegram from Bratislava. Remember he goes back, he leaves England, the safety of England, to go back to Slovakia where he came from. He also, by the way, was instrumental in persuading Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld to take Orthodox Jewish boys as part of the Kindertransport. And those of you who live in England will remember the great Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld who would go round the houses in Orthodox areas, banging on doors and say, "You take a child, you take a child."

So another hero, Rabbi Weissmandl, so he sends a telegram from Bratislava to the Swiss Orthodox Jewish leaders. Remember, Switzerland is a great, is a great place for all the kind of messages to come through. You've got the Joint there, you've got the World Jewish Congress there. And they, if you like, are a great transmission base, both to the Jews in Palestine, to the Jews in America, the Jews in England, and to anyone who will listen. So he sends this telegram to the US. This is as early as May, "Bomb the railway lines." And he comes up with a plan. If you bomb the railway lines between in Slovakia, it will impede the transport by rail to Auschwitz of Hungarian Jewry. He'd already heard of the, that they had begun to be deported. And he sent a second message on the 24th of May. It reached Isaac Sternbuch, the representative in Switzerland of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, who sent the message to Jacob Rosenheim, who was president of Agudat Israel, the world organisation in New York, who sent it to the War Refugee Board. And the message was passed on. And unfortunately nothing was done.

On the 2nd of June, Leland Harrison, the US State Minister in Switzerland, this is an American

official in Switzerland, sent a message to the State Department, "15,000 Jews daily deported since May the 15th." And the American consulate in Jerusalem sent a message to the American Secretary of State. So what I'm saying to you, and the same thing is happening in England, you will remember those appalling messages, remember the films I showed you on how the foreign office dealt. Look, Churchill actually gave the order to bomb the camps. It was lost. He gave the order in July '44, he gave the order to Eden. The brilliant Martin Gilbert found the document. It was lost. It never reached Bomber Command. And what is absolutely heartbreaking is that when Martin Gilbert, Sir Martin Gilbert had an interview, I think it would've been in the late '70s now, with "Bomber" Harris, he said he could have done it and he would've done it if he knew the requests came from the victims themselves.

So the point is requests are coming out of Europe from Slovakia through Rabbi Weissmandl, through to Switzerland. And the other point that I'm going to make is they are the ones who are going to alert the Rescue Committee in Hungary. Because of course, and we've already discussed this when we discussed Joe Brandt, a rescue committee was set up in Budapest. It had already been set up in the early, in the early years of the war to help Polish Jewry, et cetera, who were fleeing into Budapest.

So I hope, I'm trying to be as clear as possible. It's a terribly, terribly, not only is it incredibly painful subject, but it's an incredibly intricate subject. So that's why I've divided it into sort of chunks. So I've looked at what happened in Hungary. Remember when the deportations begin, they end, and then of course you have a respite, then the Arrow Cross take over and the Arrow Cross, the Jews are deported under Eichmann west, they set up the ghetto. And the other thing, you have all these Arrow Cross gangs murdering Jews, thousands of Jews, who were thrown into the Danube. And, of course, you have that extraordinary memorial on the banks of the Danube to the murdered Jews. So the blood of war.

What I intend to do on Thursday is I'm also going to, I'm going to look a little bit more at the Rescue Committee and heroes such as Otto Komoly, but I also am going to look a little bit at the personality of Kasztner. And the question we have to ask ourselves is, because you will remember a couple of weeks ago, I talked about the "blood for goods" deal. When Adolf Eichmann actually offered the Jews of the, he offered the Allies concessions. He offered to sell the Jews of Hungary for concessions. Was it real? Whether it was real or not, and there's an awful lot of debate on that, the majority of historians believe it was a trick.

But what is also true is towards the end of the war Himmler wants out. Eichmann and Himmler remember, are at loggerheads now. But Himmler is the superior. What was the real story? And Kasztner is going to ask for a pledge. And that pledge saved 1,683 Jews. But the bulk of Hungarian Jewry has already perished and the Jews of Budapest, at a time when the war is nearly at an end, and I think that is the horror story. But also on Thursday we're going to talk about some unbelievable people because we've looked at bystanding, we've looked at good people like John Pehle and like Josiah DuBois, we've looked at the amazing Rabbi Weissmandl. We will also look at heroes because there were heroes.

And this is the key, what makes a hero? What makes somebody so appalling? And the other thing I want to talk about is a couple of Nazis, Becker and Miscellany, because they did it for money, they could be bribed. And that's, I can never pronounce names, I apologise. And that's, and they did do it for money. And that's where the story becomes, I don't know, in many ways, you know, "blood for goods." How much money does it take to save somebody's life?

And on that note, I'm going to take questions. Sorry, I have a tablet. So today is Yom Yerushalayim.

Q&A and Comments

This is from Aviva, "The last time you mentioned that Hungarian Jews were not Zionist. I would like to mention my great-grandfather was one of the 24 members of the Makkabea Movement. The Makkabea, the first Hungarian Zionist association founded in Budapest, was based on Herzl's political Zionism-" Oh yes, of course.

And from Reisman, "There was wheat sown in Hungary pre-war," yes, that's from Helen Reisman, yes, of course, but I'm saying, yes, but about 5% of the community. And this is from Faena, they're recommending the book, "The Invisible Bridge." So yes, people are liking the book.

Dora Does can't see my image during the lectures. That's not necessarily a bad thing, Dora. And I know most people can. This is people liking the, our faculty, Wendy. And Hannah is agreeing. No, Gita, no, we're not going to talk about it anymore. Yes.

"It's the anniversary in 1940 of Churchill becoming Prime Minister," yes.

Oh dear, Audrey's asking for the Jews of Shanghai. Now, and, of course, the book by Jonathan Kaufman, the last "Kings of Shanghai." Look, Audrey, we've made decisions. We made a decision, Wendy and I and the faculty, we decided we would, look, we could spend years looking at the Shoah. But what this is also, we want to look at, look, what we will work on is a bibliography. Once the lockdown, once the website is up, myself and my colleagues will prepare an extensive bibliography. So areas that we haven't necessarily covered, we'll give you a very good reading list. And also there are lots and lots of films. We've had to make choices. I'm beginning to realise that I better do a lecture on Slovakia because it is very important. So every area is important, but we really did have to make choices. More and more of you are talking about freedom of speech. There are some, Sandy Lesner has given two Hungarian books. And as my pronunciation is appalling, I'm not even going to pretend. So you can see it yourselves.

Oh, this is from Barbara, "My father who died in 1984 was the cantor at South Manchester Synagogue for 40 years. His first position was in Szombathely, 1910. I would love to know something about Jewish life at that time. Barbara, we will, we're going to have to provide you

with books. I mean, and don't forget, look at the genealogy sites.

And this is Judy saying, "It was fired on from Gaza."

And Audrey's saying, "To you and all my brothers it will be safe." Yes, sounds, sirens sound in Jerusalem.

Okay. Okay, Tommy, Aviva, please let me have your email. Let, Tommy Carmody, remember he is the nephew of Otto and he really knows so much about this.

Q: Robert Turner, "In the interest of tolerance, can we talk about how reliable are the allegations that Soros was a collaborator?"

A: I really don't want to get into that. I, you know, I'm talking about the Shoa. There are so many more important issues. I really feel that.

Sue, I talked about Yehuah Bauer. Yehuda Bauer, I believe is the, well, he's still, thank God he's still alive in his 90s. He is, he was, he was the, he's still Emeritus at Yad Vashem. He's probably the greatest Holocaust historian of our time. If you, the two people I rely on most are Bauer and Wistrich, I also rely on Cesarani and Martin Gilbert. It depends on the area, but I find that Bauer has incredible wisdom.

This is from Anita, "There was a wonderful piece on 60 Minutes last night about the Ritchie Boys, mostly German Jewish refugees who fled to the US before '41 and became part of the German army." Yes, I'm going, yes, you've got to remember, and we talked about that in Palestine. Yeah, Jews who had languages were so useful to the Allies.

This is from Della, "Unrest in Jerusalem on Jerusalem Day is very sad. Trouble stirred up by warring Hamas and Jewish fanatics. Seven rockets aimed at Jerusalem. Jewish problems never cease. Let's hope we can have a quiet night," from Della. There's an alert for nine o'clock on the news.

Daisy is still confused about Horthy. It is a confusing story. Look, he wasn't, he's not- Look, he is, is he a bystander or is he a collaborator? That's, he's certainly not a major perpetrator, I think. Salassi, thank you, I am so bad at pronunciations.

This is from Bob, "Remind me who the speaker is talking about. My Hungarian father got it into Palestine illegally in 1937," yes.

Q: "Did they not think that anyone would come after them after the war since it was clear they were losing it?"

A: Monique, you're, you are applying reason. These were fanatics. You know, when people get

caught in a fanatical ideology, they have no flexibility of thought. That's the tragedy of it all. If only we can get people to be rational in their behaviour.

This is from Yvonne, "My mother who survived the Holocaust said, 'I wanted to be Hungarian, but they wouldn't let me.'

Q: "If Hungary was an ally of Germany did their troops fight alongside the German army?"

A: Yes, yes, something like 150,000 Hungarian soldiers died fighting on the Russian front.

Also, "Ukrainians were some of the worst perpetrators," yes.

The Einsatzgruppen, well, look, we're, we're in fact, I think it's this week Efraim Zuroff is giving a talk on the Latvians in collaboration. I'm afraid when you look at the Baltic states and you look at Hungary, there was a huge number of collaborators. Mind you, there was an SS division in Holland. The Arrow Cross. Yes, you're talking about the Arrow Cross.

"Brigadier General Billy Mitchell was part of the Bomber Mafia. They believed in strategic bombing. Strategic bombing was difficult. So much depended on weather, et cetera, these young pilots-" Yeah, but what I found fascinating was what "Bomber" Harris said, that they would've agreed to do it if they'd known it come from the, from the victims themselves. So who knows? I'm just telling you what Martin Gilbert wrote.

Q: "How many Jews got out of Hungary prior to the invasion of the Nazis? Was it impossible to get out after 1939? Did they feel safe in Hungary?"

A: Well, where are you going to get out to? Yes, of course people got out because borders are porous. But you've got to remember the majority of countries had a very tight quota. Szalasi was tried by the Hungarians after the war. Remember, there was a communist government in Hungary.

Q: How many people were in Budapest ghetto?

A: 70,000.

This was from Lucy, "My Hungarian family survived in hiding in the cellars during the siege of Budapest." There were some incredible people, like when I talk about what Wallenberg did and Lutz and the Portuguese and the Spanish and an Italian, they did amazing things. They saved thousands and thousands of people.

"Please clarify the name of the Nazi officer who kidnapped Horthy's son and ended in the Mossad." Peter, that was Otto Skorzeny. And the name of the leader of the Arrow Cross is Szalasi, if I've pronounced it correctly. Please discuss, well, yes, Horthy, Horthy wanted out and

that's when the Arrow Cross took over.

Q: "How did so many Hungarian Jews end up in Australia?"

A: I think, oh, I don't want to give you a wrong answer, Bev. It's at the back of my brain. I think I know the answer to that.

This is from Betty. "My mother bribed a guard at Bergen Belsen with a diamond bracelet and the guard, pretending to whip my father, let him escape." Yes, yes, yeah.

Anna Picov, "Very tragic the ongoing pro and con arguments in United States by political leaders, State Department, and War Department leaders, religious leaders, and the public at large, regarding saving the Jews of Europe." You know what I think, Anna, this is all about powerlessness. You know, people, they can puff themselves up and think that they're the chairman of this and the chairman of that and they got in and they have real influence. But in the end, they didn't have the power to save.

How much is \$170,000 worth today? Look, I don't, look, I'm beginning to see people getting into politics. Obama, Iran. Heather is, what I want to do is eventually when we get to that period, there will be discussions. But please, this is what I said, look, we are trying to stick to historic period. What Wendy wants to do more than anything else is to provide a unified group where we can respect each other's views. And I don't want to get into extreme positions. By the time were brought the majority were not Jewish. Quite a few of them were, but yes, Ruth Gruber wrote her book about it. Yes, she managed the rescue, Joan. And in fact, there's a film. I haven't seen it yet, but it's on Prime. who escaped with them was recaptured and returned to Auschwitz.

This is from Bernie Stone, "My husband was taken from a yeshiva in Prague after the war by Rabbi Schonfeld and sent to Ireland with other children. The picture of some of the boys, including my husband, is in the Jewish Museum in Dublin." Love, yeah.

Yes, this is from Josephine and she said, "Elie Wiesel in his book 'Night' describes how as late as Shavuot 1944 no one in the Hungarian countryside knew about the camps." You see, this is another very, this is another very contentious issue.

And look what Tommy has said, "To be precise what he describes is that they refused to listen to the Zionists who tried to spread the information." Tommy, where's the truth in all of this? Is it somewhere in the middle? My mother was in the transportation and she had no idea. She was 24. Upon seeing the chimney smoking was told her parents had been gassed and burnt. Was the first time she knew." Yeah. This is very much the opinion of Rudy Vrba the man who escaped from Auschwitz with Wetzler because he saw the railway. He went, he was a Slovakian Jew and he escaped in April '44, March '44. And he saw the railway lines being built.

Q: "Would the railway and death chambers have been destroyed if the victims were white

Christians?"

A: I don't know. Because you know, in fact, if you think about it, there are Christians persecuted all over the world today and nobody's doing much about it, are they?

Q: "Surely Churchill should have followed up on his request or asked for an update?"

A: That is a very, very good question. And Martin Gilbert would've defended him vociferously. His book, Martin, his book on Churchill and the Jews is fascinating. And, in fact, in a month or so, William and I are going to take the luxury of spending two sessions on Churchill. William will give lecture on Churchill and I'll give a lecture on Churchill and the Jews.

Yes, this from Mir- Yes, this is from Miriam...

Q: "Did Vrba and Wetzler escape from Auschwitz to Switzerland?"

A: No, they, they actually went back to Slovakia. And of course the news was disseminated.

"'Budapest 44' is a wonderful description of how Jews work behind the scenes via the Rescue Committee." Yes, we are going to talk about the Rescue Committee.

Q: "How can we be sure that Churchill ever released and formally issued his order?"

A: Well, he gave the order to an Anthony Eden. Can we? Who knows?

Q: "Are you going to deal with people who hid the Jews in the sewers of Budapest? My late husband's uncle was saved in this way by his non-Jewish wife."

A: Yes, this is the point. There were amazing people who risked their lives and for people they loved. And these are, what about people who risked their lives for people they didn't know?

Q: "What was the population of the Jews in Hungary?"

A: Of the leftover after Trianon, this is Tommy, bless you, about 700,000. With the addition of Slovakian and Polish refugees, about 1 million.

Q: "Surely we should be advised to the background of the USA officials who refused to do anything, why they took that line. Was it antisemitism?"

A: I think with Breckinridge Long it's not difficult to answer that question. I would say yes.

Q: "Will you be referring to the excellent Spielberg documentary 'The Last Days' dealing with five Hungarian survivors?"

A: Yes, that is a very, very good documentary. I suppose that's something else we should do when the website is up, actually give you a list of documentaries. Yes, I remember when Spielberg launched the documentary in London. It was very, very powerful and some of the Hungarian survivors were there.

And this is Eileen saying how much she appreciates the, the, I've lost my place, oh dear. Sorry, sorry, sorry. Sorry, I know you see my hand going all over the place, but this is all I can do.

And Tommy Carmody said, "And it says memorial to Hungarian victims. No mention of Jews. And it was erected in 2005, 60 years after the event. So much about present day Hungary." This is from Eddie Straus, "I heard bits and pieces of this from my mother. Ultimately her close relationship with Freudiger," who was a very important dignitary in Budapest, "and Stern saved her life. She got her sister and husband on the Kastner train. She also knew Ralph . Thank you for putting this amazingly sad story together." You see, the Kastner train. I've often wondered if, you know, no, we'll talk about it. Who would we save?

Q: "Did Vrba change his name? We knew Vrba's wife who was a realtor in-"

A: No, I didn't think he did. He became a professor in Canada. Mordowicz, he escaped at a different time, Mary, He also escaped, yes. He brings a report, but he didn't escape with Vrba and Wetzler.

Q: "Who was the man who replaced Horthy?"

A: Szalasi.

Q: "Was Churchill's order meant for the historical record to be enacted?"

A: I don't quite know what you mean, Judith.

We don't know, Donnie, whether Eden was involved in Churchill's order to bomb and getting lost, we don't know.

Q: "Why did the Allies and others not send Jewish refugees to Switzerland until the war ended? Did the Swiss simply refuse?"

A: It's not quite as, it's not quite as easy as that. In fact, Switzerland has a very, very chequered history. But from '44 onwards there were more reports in the Swiss newspapers of what was going on than any other, of all the press combined in the West.

"I was in the ghetto as a toddler with my two grandparents."

Q: "Are your two previous talks taped?"

A: Yes, they are, and they will be available when the website is up.

Yes, this is from Abigail, "The Swiss story is so ambivalent." Oh yes it is, isn't it?

Q: "When will you be talking about Wallenberg?"

A: Hopefully on Thursday.

Oh, this is from the "Music Box." Yes, that was a film made in 1978. You know, fiction/faction. Look, there's a whole lecture to be given on the filmography of the Shoa and how gradually feature films were made about certain truths.

This is from Leah, "My great aunt worked for the underground, forging passports in Budapest. I'm wondering how to find information about her. She survived the war and immigrated to Israel, but died. I would love to research her. Any suggestions?"

Tommy Carmody, "Try David Gore in Israel. He's now 95. Wrote a book, 'Brothers in Resistance.'" Tommy, you're going to have to prepare a list for me, please.

Jillian is asking why Churchill's order didn't go through. Loads of orders are lost.

This is from Michael, "My father-in-law's life was saved as a Jew in the Hungarian Army by a Hungarian count who saved the names of many Jews. This Count's name is in Yad Vashem, but I cannot remember it." Yeah, they were good people. You see, if we could work out what makes somebody turn to the light, what a different world it would be.

Susan Chattis, "To be blunt, the US was run by WASPs was during the war, and frankly in no interest in saving Jews." Be careful, Susan. Not every white Anglo-Saxon Protestant is an antisemite. You know, we've got, we can't, we mustn't stereotype them anymore than we stereotype ourselves. There is a problem in the Christian world, in the old world of Christendom, about the Jews. We know that. And I think that's one of the reasons so few people did help, that you've got this negative stereotype of the Jew that goes back to the, really, to the origins of Christianity. And I'm not blaming Yeshua of Nazareth for that, by the way. So, but, when you talk about prejudice, just think how many people- You know, the whole issue of stereotyping. Say you don't like me. That doesn't mean every elderly woman, every elderly Jewish woman is also at fault. That's stereotyping. We've got to be careful.

Tony's struggling to accept a single written order was lost. Yep.

This is from Georgina, "My father was taken away on the 18th of October after Horthy announced that he would take Hungary out of the war. He believed it, didn't return to his forced labour. Arrow Cross took him away and we never saw him again." I'm so sorry.

No, Anita, I'm not going to talk about the Ritchie Boys. We cannot do everything. But there's this film, I believe, and as I said, we've had to make choices. There are a lot of you that's getting really cross about Churchill and the order.

Q: "Can you recommend a comprehensive book study about the Allies' failure to rescue European Jewry?"

A: I'm going to turn around to my shelf and I can see about 12 of them. That's why, wait till we've got the bibliography up.

This is from Agnes, "I'm a Holocaust survivor. I was eight years old when I was liberated from the Hungarian ghetto. Unfortunately, I find the presentation very confusing. Not really speaking about the Hungarian Jewish life during the end of the war." I'm going to be talking about that when I talk about Wallenberg. Agnes, I'm afraid this is a very difficult presentation to give because we have to pull together so many different strands. I'm trying to be as clear as possible. Look, what did Yehuda Bauer say? It was a great community. Hungarian Jewry produced some of the most extraordinary people. But even if they were, they were people and they lost their lives. I talked about the ghetto and the terrible situation.

This is from Elizabeth, "Not to continue to beat a dead horse, but the issue yesterday was nothing to do with freedom of speech. It was a person misunderstanding what was said." Okay. "Which was particularly egregious given the content." Right, let's put it to bed. Let's put it to bed. Nobody was hurt in any way. Maybe a few feathers were ruffled. Can we just say that we can agree to differ? We will respect each other's views Civility, I like this. Can we leave it, though? Because I think when you are dealing with issues to the kind that we are dealing with today, I think, let's leave it.

Naomi, "Bauer and the second historian," I rely on Robert Wistrich. If I have to choose one historian on the history of antisemitism, it's Robert Solomon Wistrich. Cesarani I often rely on. It depends on the subject, but believe me, you will get a bibliography.

And this is Howard, "Yes, it was the Swiss policeman who asked the Nazis to stamp J on the German passports so they could distinguish them." Yes, of course.

This is from Susan, "My aunt and uncle were on the Kastner train. My cousin was born on the train. They ended up in Bergen-Belsen. She was given a birth certificate saying she was born there. They thought they were going to Israel and eventually ended on the second train that ended up in Switzerland and then on to Australia." Yeah. I must say this is an extraordinary group. We have so many shared memories.

This is from Leonard Vinick, "Breckinridge Long was an avowed Jew hater as well as his ancestors."

This is from Rosana, "Any chance of spelling or printing the names?" Actually, Tommy did that. Yeah, Tommy did that on Thursday. Tommy Carmody, can I ask you to do it again? Helen's reading a memoir by Dr. Edith Eva Eger called "The Choice."

I think, this is from Abigail, oh, this is from Leah, "My father was forced against his will into Hungarian constructive labour. The battalion was captured by the Russians, was considered traitor and collaborator and treated dreadfully."

Abigail Hirsch, "Today's Yahrzeit for Hungarian Jewry" from Tokai.

I think we better stop, you know, I know there's so many questions, but I will come back to this on Thursday. Wendy, I think I, that's-

- [Wendy] Sorry, I had to, yes, I actually am on to my next, I'm going to another meeting, so yes, Trudy, thank you very, very much.

- All right, and God bless.

- [Wendy] Yes, thank you very, very much. All right, we'll chat soon. Bye-bye everybody, thanks for joining us.

- God bless, bye.

- [Wendy] Thanks, bye.