

Changing film, camera four's up. Saying take three is up.

Why don't you just continue and tell me some of the amazing incidents that Raoul did.

Well, this one, I'm just shortening it down for you. That again, he went, and he had a big, black book. And this time, he went with Per Anger and another couple of even Swiss people, and of course, the Red Cross trucks.

And he would shout at the German in German that I am a diplomat, and I will be sure that I will not help your people if you don't let-- these are all my protected people. Anybody with my papers, turn around.

And my girlfriend with her mother and sister figured, we can be killed anyhow. And they turned around. They had no papers. And Raoul just gave them something. And they went on and they in the United States today.

And then he was starting reading out names out of this black book. And of course, everybody caught on, and they just came. And on the way home, Per Anger says to him, Raoul, I didn't know we have a book with all the names. And he started hysterically laughing. He says, you didn't know? And he opens the book, and not a single word in it. But that's how he was.

Then we already had hospitals. We had two hospitals what eventually was used by everyone because it was right in the middle. And if somebody was hurt from a bomb, they brought them in.

But Raoul was marvelous in learning names. And what he did first. And he never forgot a name. He learned all the main Hungarian Arrow Cross officers' name and where they were sitting, in which office, because they were all over. And one of the officers were right near by our hospital.

And he arrives to our hospital one day unshaven and hungry. And I was there, delivering mail to some patients, I remember. And he came in and there are these three little punks, 13/14-year-old, with a gun, and the doctor with his hands up, and the patient sitting.

And Raoul couldn't speak Hungarian, but boy, he could hit. And with all his might and half-German, half-Hungarian, he hit these guys. And of course, the guns fell down, and he says, get out of here and bring me your officer. Three minutes passed. The boys left because they got such a hit. I think one of them even had a bloody nose, but Raoul didn't care. And he pushed away the guns.

In walks an officer and Raoul looks at him, he says, Simon, what took you three minutes to get here? And the men were so surprised that how do you know my name, Mr. Wallenberg? He knew that he was Wallenberg.

He said, I know everybody's name. And I don't understand why you don't bring me medication when that's what I was asking for. And I think you better go because I understand that you killed a German Gestapo officer by mistake. And the guy says, no, I didn't. He says, oh, yes, you did. Because he died right here in our hospital. But before he died, he sent your name up to the headquarters, and they're looking for you.

Without a word, Simon disappeared. And we all, you know, relaxed. And the doctor says, Raoul, what did you just do? And Raoul starts laughing. He said, I did nothing. He said, I knew it was a Simon who was the officer, and we were lucky because it was Simon.

So the doctor said, Raoul, I never had a Gestapo officer here. Raoul sat down on the floor and started laughing. He says, of course not, but he killed so many people, one of them could have been an officer. You see, this was his mind. He was in danger. They could have killed him. Simon could have killed him. But no, he had to try with a big lie to help. And he did. And he was absolutely unafraid.

We heard it in the radio that all young girls in the age of 18 and 25 have to go in such and such a sports palace and clean up Budapest after the bombing. Well, we knew exactly where they're going to go.

And Raoul turned to us and says, let's get the pictures because all of you must have young sisters, and aunts, and so forth. And let's write the passes. And that time-- because we had to move all the time because Eichmann was after all of us, especially after Raoul. Raoul slept somewhere else every night.

And this time, we were over in the Buda side, in a very beautiful villa. And as they bombed all the time, we had only candlelight, and we had the black curtains. And we were putting the pictures on. And the ambassador was sitting there, Ambassador Danielson, signing each of them.

Around midnight, Raul arrives, again unshaven, tired, but with a big smile when he came to us. And said, well, how are we doing? By 3:00, we have to send out all these passes. And that time, we already had curfew in Hungary. Not just for the Jews, but for everyone. From 9 o'clock in the evening to 7:00 in the morning, no one was allowed out.

And I was very surprised why in a gorgeous, cold, icy night, with stars out, why don't they bomb us? Maybe they knew what we heard in the radio and they didn't want to bomb. No bombing. Quiet outside, beautiful. And I was the first ready with 500 of my passes.

But before we got ready, Raoul said, oh, I forgot to tell you a lovely, great news. But don't look up, it's not important. We have new neighbors in the other villa. And of course, we all looked up. He says, I told you, don't look up. It's only the German headquarters. Nobody cared.

So I had my 500 papers, and Raoul came over and put his hand around me. He says, good luck, kid. And I walked out. In that time, I was very young and very much in love with an Italian. And all I could think of was the war will be over, and the moon is out, and you know how young women are. And I'm carrying this 500 passes. And I delivered each of them.

And some of them was my friend who opened the door and says, Aggy, what are you doing out in the street? I said, don't worry about it. There is an angel who sent you the paper. I hope it saves your life.

And only when I got home, finally, and I sat down on my bed around 4 o'clock, and I said, oh, my god, what did I just do? I could have been killed by the Nazis. And then, just like Raoul would think, he says, the Nazis, they are great cowards. They wouldn't dare to be out in a night like that. And I went to sleep. At 6 o'clock in the morning, I woke up that my two girlfriends made it all the way back with these passes. And they came to our house.

Then we had-- Raoul was away again when he heard, the last day, that the Hungarian Nazi party are taking people down to the river. I don't know if you've been in Budapest, however, Budapest is two cities, and in the middle is the so-called Blue Danube. For me, it is the Red Danube. But that's what it was.

And they took people down there, the Hungarian Nazis. And they roped three people together. And they shot the middle one so they all fell in. And if they saw a movement, they shot again so they'd be sure. But many people by themselves somehow got out.

But it was a terribly cold winter, as I said. And the Danube was frozen, with big slabs of ice. So Raoul came home the third night. And there was no moonlight, no stars, just cold and dark.

And he turned to us the first time, usually only talked to the men and the Red Cross, and how many of you can swim? I have a big mouth, so I put up my hand, I said, best swimmer in school. He says, let's go. And as you saw me coming in like a teddy bear, that's how I was dressed, in a hat and a glove.

And we went down. On the other side, the Hungarians didn't even hear us coming because they were so busy roping and shooting. And we stood on the left way over. We had doctors and nurses in the cars, and then we had people outside to pull us out. Four of us, three men and me, we jumped.

And thanks to the icicles, the ropes hang on to it, and we saved people out. But only 50. And then we were so frozen

that we couldn't do it anymore. But without Raoul Wallenberg, we wouldn't have saved even one single person.

And you know, when 40 or almost 50 years going, sometimes, you think, do I dream this? Did it really happen? Until last year, I spoke in New Jersey. And I told them the Wallenberg story, and an old gentleman got up, and he said, young lady, hold it right there. Do you see this little hole?

And I said, yes, sir. He said, that's where the bullet hit me. And you pulled me out. And I looked at him, I said, no, I didn't. He says, yes, you were the only girl. Because we met you after in the hospital. And it was-- I was shaken up terribly.

But some of us, Raoul-- Per Anger had the same wonderful meeting one day when the Russians were in already, and they had the uprising. And some of the Jews escaped on boats. And he was already a consul in Vienna. And he suddenly thought, oh, why don't I do what Raoul did and help people out of the water? And he went down just with the little flashlight and helped people out.

And one lady came over, and saw him, and ran to him. And he said, Mr. Per Anger you saved me from the Nazis, now you're saving me from the Russians. Well, you see, we wouldn't recognize those people. But they knew us because we were so few.

But it is a wonderful feeling that because of Raoul, we could've done these things. And then his very last and huge-- and these arguments, I have with many people. They say, ah, he probably saved 5,000 people.

What is absolutely ridiculous. Because by that time, we had a real ghetto. And it was surrounded by the Hungarians-- all the houses around the main synagogue of Budapest. And there were 70,000 people in there. And the Russians were already at the outskirts of Budapest.

And Eichmann decided that this is the time that he should kill everyone. And he ordered to have the 70,000 people killed. And how we found out is some of these Hungarian Nazis, they wanted to help Raoul. Because they knew that the war is over. And he was like me, too. Oh, yes, I promise I help you. OK. But they came and one of them--

We've got to change. We've got to change film.

Sorry.

I want you to go back to the beginning of the 70,000 story. So I want you to start with when people speculate about how many he saved.

All right. So we had this beautiful, beautiful synagogue. And the houses around it became a ghetto. 70,000 people were pushed in there. Only thing it was that the Swedish government went in at least twice a week to deliver some food and medication.

And this one morning, one of the Hungarian officers who already thought that Raoul will help him after the Soviet comes in said, Raoul, Eichmann just ordered to kill the 70,000 people in the ghetto. And the guns are already standing there.

Raoul, without batting an eye, said, oh, boy, and we have two of our Swedish girls in there now. They just delivered the medication. Go back to your headquarters and tell them the Germans have called off the killing. And then he looked at us all, we were in the office, and he said, listen to me, what I'm going to do. Because he was always full of ideas. And dangerous ideas because he could have been killed.

He picks up the phone and he dials the German headquarters. And he says, I want to speak to General Schmitthuber. In beautiful German, he says, this is Lieutenant Kraus. So who dares to tell a Lieutenant Kraus that he can't speak to the general? And the general came to the phone.

And Raoul introduces himself again, this is Raoul Wallenberg. Well, he couldn't hang up on him. And Raoul said, I don't understand what you are doing. I understand you are a highly decorated First World War general. How can you take it on your heart to kill 70,000 innocent people?

Whereby he must have answered, Eichmann ordered. Now, Eichmann could have been standing right by the general. But Raoul had to try. And he starts laughing, and he looks at us, and do like this and that with his eye. He said, Eichmann told you? Didn't you know that he left town? I had lunch with him yesterday. Which was, of course, a lie.

Whereby the man answered, I didn't know. So I said to him, in not simple words, that if you don't call off the killing immediately, I as a diplomat will be sure that you will be the first one hanged before your office.

Within two minutes, he called off the killing. And therefore, 70,000 people, plus the two Swedish girl have been saved. So if he wouldn't have done anything more than that, that would have been enough, didn't it. But he did not. And that was that. And then, as you know, maybe before that we also had.

Stop for a minute because there's a-- all right. Let's go on from there and do another story. You want to do the having Eichmann to dinner?

Oh, yeah, that was a wonderful thing. One day he decided he invites Eichmann for dinner, but he was so busy, he completely and wholly forgot about it. So frantically, he called other diplomats. Do you have any food? Do you have any drinks? I forgot I invited Eichmann.

So they decided that they will go to another consul's place. No, he was then also third secretary Burg. And Raoul has been, of course, as usual just with an open shirt, very relaxed.

And the little man Eichmann arrived with about seven or eight guns around him and two men. And they had a very pleasant dinner. And they had a very pleasant drinks there.

And Raoul turned to him suddenly, and he said, look, Eichmann, I think what you're doing is crazy. You know that the Germans lost the war. Now, we were by candlelight, of course, they were. And he went to the window and pulled up the shade. And right then, they were bombing Budapest terribly. And he says, look, the whole beautiful city is burning. So give up your idea of killing the Jews. Because you will be killed anyhow.

And Eichmann's answer was, I know that if they catch me, I will be killed. But I took it to my head to kill everybody, and I will. But you're disturbing me. Whereby Raoul looked at him, he says, I don't disturb you enough.

And he said, but Mr. Wallenberg, don't forget, just a diplomatic passport doesn't really help. Diplomats are dying, too. And sure enough, in a few weeks, after a big, heavy truck rammed into Raoul's car. But thanks god, Raoul wasn't in it.

And Raoul picked up the phone and screamed at Eichmann, you ruined my best car. Whereby he answered, I wanted to kill you. He said, that's not so easy to kill me.

He wasn't afraid. The only thing he was afraid, yes, it was the bombing. Because there, he couldn't do a thing. And that, too, you know, we had two orphanages. Did you know that? That he had two orphanages. And in one of them there were 79 children. And they were so frightened when it was bombing. And so was Raoul.

But instead of being afraid then, he picked up the children, and he started to tell them stories. And he would imitate little animals so that the children forgot to be afraid. And that was the most wonderful thing, to see how he cared for these kids, and they caught him Uncle Raoul.

And this was his greatest and most horrible heartache, when one day he arrived home. Because we had these safe houses, what they called the international ghetto, what it wasn't. It was given to us, and not bought, by Christians and Jews who didn't wanted their houses and villas on both sides of the Danube to fall in Russian-- in German hands. And they gave that to Raoul.

And so immediately, these people with these passes were put in there, even if they were not comfortable. But at least they had Raoul Wallenberg, who came out twice a week. And there was medication and there was food. Otherwise, they were frightened and being there.

But it was taken care of by young Aryan-looking Jewish boys who were dressed up in Nazi uniform. And so was one of these wonderful orphanages. And one day, Raoul arrived. He's always visited the orphanage. And he found all the children killed. And the young guard from outside could tell the story because he was hit in the shoulder that these young punks came in and just started to shoot the kids.

But one little boy went under the chair because when he thought that he sees his mother last, the mother says, if anything happens, just try to hide. He went under the chair. And when it was all over, he climbed out. And he went out on the street. And the first person he met was his mother, who was by then in a Raoul Wallenberg safe house. He's also in this country today.

And the other one who survived was a woman whom I hope you already interviewed. She is now professor of humanities and English in Mercer College in New Jersey. Dr. Vera Gutkin. She has been saved twice by Raoul.

The second time, she had scarlet fever and she was in the orphanage. And Raoul had to give her some false papers. And she was in a hospital. That's why she wasn't killed. So these two people. And that was the only time I ever saw Raoul Wallenberg go down on his knees and cry bitterly. Because killing children was something he could have never imagined that anyone can do.

But then he got up again and he was as tall as seven foot. And he said, I'm fighting on because I want to save the young. Because the young are going to make peace. That was his idea.

And if anything, there was a young man who was then about 15. And his mother was taken. And they were crying. And he's today, he's a television and newspaper man in Israel. Teddy Lapin, I think, is his name, if I remember. And he cried very bitterly when his mother gone. And in about an hour, suddenly, his mother arrived back with all other women. And when they looked at each other, their mother, all she could say was Wallenberg.

And what happened, he heard about it that they taking women from-- they came in through the basement and they just carried people out. And they went to the Danube to kill them all.

And suddenly, the car arrives and this one man in a coat and hat-- they already knew that must be Wallenberg-- demanded that these are my people. And they are under my protection. And you Germans have absolutely no right to take them. And he brought them back home. So he was again with his mother.

And he did thousands of thousands of things. And never, never, ever thinking that he shouldn't do it. And now, you really thought that he has done everything. Now there was the Russians coming in.

And everybody told him, Raoul, don't go anywhere. But he said, yes, I want to go to the Russian headquarters because we need help for the people we saved. Now, there is a lot of stories about how he disappeared. But the real story I heard from the Swedish Red Cross man who was still in Budapest. And I met him later on.

Let's stop. Let's wait. We had to reload.

Change film, camera roll six is up, soon take. Seven is up.

I want to go back and I want you to explain to me what the Schutz-Pass was. What it was, and how you did it, and how big an endeavor it was. Remember that I have never heard of it before.

All right. As I told you before, that the first 80 of these real passes, passports, were given out. And Raoul was very annoyed. He said, that's not enough. And we have 280,000 people to save. And he said, I want to go to the Hungarian

headquarters and talk to them.

So he went to these Nazi people. And he offered them to take the Jews off their hand. Because they still could have trains going through Germany into Sweden. And he said, I put up big railroads and I just take them all out. And the Hungarians said, oh, that's wonderful, you can take 5,000 people. So he tipped his hat and said, thank you, and came home. And he said, 5,000 people, that's ridiculous. They will never allow us any other.

And he sat down, as he was a great draftsman and architect. And he has designed a paper in the Swedish colors, yellow and blue, with the Swedish crowns there. And he explained that what we will write on it.

And I already once translated it word by word to the New York Times, and yet they put it down all wrong. It says exactly that the bearer of this Schutz-Pass, what is protective pass, and the picture was up there with the person's signature, is protected by the Swedish government. And when and if we can go in a collective passport to Sweden, after two weeks, this paper will be invalid.

That's all what it says in German and in Hungarian. And yet you're constantly that this was a passport, the people were Swedish citizens. No.

So he went with this beautiful paper with the Swedish crown, the stamps on it from the Swedish embassy. And each of them were signed by the ambassador. Not by Raoul Wallenberg. Because that, too, they said, this was all fake and they were no good. It's not true. It wasn't fake. It was real. And with this paper, he went back to the Hungarians. And they said, all right, you can make out about 15,000.

Well, of course, we made out 30,000 to 40,000 of this. And people came up to the embassy by the thousands to bring their pictures to put on and to do. Now, thousands and thousands of people, yes, have been saved. How much money Raoul gave the Germans, we don't know. But he blew them up as big as the wall on the streets. And it said that anybody who has these papers should be left free.

Now, my two girlfriends, whom I told you came after being early morning there to report, the German officer must have heard that they had a German accent because they had a Hungarian father but they went back to Germany after he died. And he said them in German, you know what you can do with the paper? But the two girls turned around and ran, and he never shot after them. So they knew.

The Hungarians were sort of different. They did that with my father, who was there when the girls arrived. And he cried bitterly because he loved them like his own. And he said, I can't see all this crying anymore. So on his pajamas, he put on his winter coat. And he said, I'm going down to buy bread.

Within a half an hour, we got a little note what he scribbled and gave it to someone that he is in a Hungarian prison. So right away, I called Raoul, he was about going somewhere else, but he sent two diplomats with his car. And we went to look after my father all day. And we never found him.

Next day, they came very early morning, around 5:30, and we went again. Finally, we came to a huge, big sports palace. And the two diplomats go in. And I see them saying, Heil Hitler. And they're running back.

And they said, your father is home. Do we have a phone? I said, yes. So we called home, and papa was home. And he told us what happened. He went down, he had the pass in his pocket. And this Hungarian punk came up. He says, hey, you Jew, show me your paper. And papa pulled it out, and they said, what he can do with it? And took him in to the prison.

A German officer walked in. My father spoke perfect German. So he showed it to him. He threw him out. This went on about 20 times that day. The Hungarian took him back and German let him out.

Finally, the Hungarians won and marched them for eight hours to all this outskirts to the sports palace. They stood there all night, papa with his bread. And finally, in the morning, two German officers came. And they were telling each other

some jokes and they laughed. And my father thought, good, this is the moment I can talk to them. And he walked up and he said, look what the Hungarians did to me. And he was thrown out.

And before that, he gave his bread to an old man. And besides him was a young man who also had the same paper. And he was thrown out. And this time, papa made it all the way home. So whether again, whether Raoul bribed the Germans to do this. And not every German did, but the Hungarians absolutely didn't care.

Now, the fake came in very easily because there was a Polish gentleman who saved people for two years. A Polish Jew in Poland. And when he was finished, he figured somehow he makes his way to Hungary, maybe he can help. Because by that time, he knew we were occupied. And he had a tiny little printing machine. And he found that there was an angel in Budapest who is doing this.

Now, Mr. Danielson's handwriting was very easy to fake. And he started to make these passes. And he gave it out to people. And Raoul got wind of it and met him.

And first, very angrily, he said, how dare you are doing this? Because we can get in big trouble. And then he put on his big smile, he said, but if you can save one human life, go ahead and do it. So we have the feeling that maybe another 100,000 people got saved with the fake paper. Because it was just the idea, save the people. And we did as much as we could.

And of course, many people died with the same paper, too because the Hungarians don't care. So it was a very exciting time. And naturally, they only think-- what was really neat, it was the real ambassador's handwriting on each of them. He was with us. He didn't like to do it, but he had to do it because Raoul would make him do it.

And Raoul never signed those papers. What Raoul signed was our working papers, what you probably can see here. That is his handwriting. And he was just wonderful.

And that, too, we were told all the time now here that they didn't believe it. Oh, this working paper saved her life. No, it didn't. Because in that time, everyone, even a shoe shiner in Budapest, had to have a working paper. Because you could not just go around, whether you were Christian or Jewish. And many people died with this paper. And many people, as I was lucky, I lived with this paper.

Now, I want you to tell the story about the Danube. But I don't want you to refer back to telling it to me before. And I don't want you to talk about coming in like a teddy bear. I want you to tell it as though I've never heard it before, never met you before.

All right. So it was the coldest winter in Budapest for already since the beginning of October. So much so that the Danube was frozen, with huge, big slabs of ice. And this Hungarian Nazi party decided that the best way to kill people is to take them down on the side of the Danube in a dark night, and rope three together, and shoot them into the Danube. And they did that.

It was no moonlight, no stars. It was just a very black night. And Raoul wasn't around for two days. He was somewhere else saving people. And when he came home, he heard this, and he was besides himself, what will Eichmann think next?

And he turned around to us this time. And he said, how many of you can swim? So I put my hand up, and I said, I can. And we went down together to the Danube. We were all dressed in our winter coats, and hats, and boots.

And every time the Hungarians shot-- four of us, there was three men and myself-- we fell into the Danube the same time. And thank you for the big icicles, the ropes hung on to the icicle. And we knew where there is a rope, there is a body.

And we pulled the people out. And the Red Cross trucks were waiting with hot soup and change of clothes. And there were doctors and nurses. And then we went to our hospital.

But we only saved about 50 people because then we were so frozen that we didn't know whether we going forward or backwards. But 50 people, without Raoul Wallenberg, would not have been saved. But because of him, we did save those 50 people.

And I was lucky enough to meet someone a few years after who was in New Jersey. And he asked me if I saw the hole in his finger. And I said, yes. And he said, that's where the bullet hit me. But you pulled me out.

And I said, I didn't. He said, yeah, you were the only girl. We met you after in the hospital. So it was a very good feeling. Is that what you want to know?

I think we're about to run out.