



SCHINDLER'S LIST

KRAKOW

- Before World War II Krakow, Poland, was an important center of Jewish culture, but there was also a lot of antisemitism.
- The story takes place in Krakow where 26% of the population was Jewish.
- During the early stages of the Holocaust (1940), Jews were locked into a place called the Krakow Ghetto by a large wall. Krakow by a large wall.
- Even though Jews were imprisoned, they thought of the walls as a sort of fortress against anti-Semitism.

OSKAR SCHINDLER

- Oskar Schindler was a German from Czechoslovakia.
- Born in 1908.
- Raised a strict Catholic.
- There were Jews in his class at school.
- He lived next door to a rabbi growing up.
- Before the war, he was a small time salesman and generally unsuccessful.



WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS SCHINDLER

People called him:

-A swindler

-“Der grosse Lebemann” (Emilie Schindler, his wife), “a man who loves to live life to its fullest.”

-Charming, vain, handsome, womanizer, alcoholic, flamboyant, gambler, risk taker.

-Loved living life on the edge, and to be the center of attention.

-Liked to play the playboy spy.

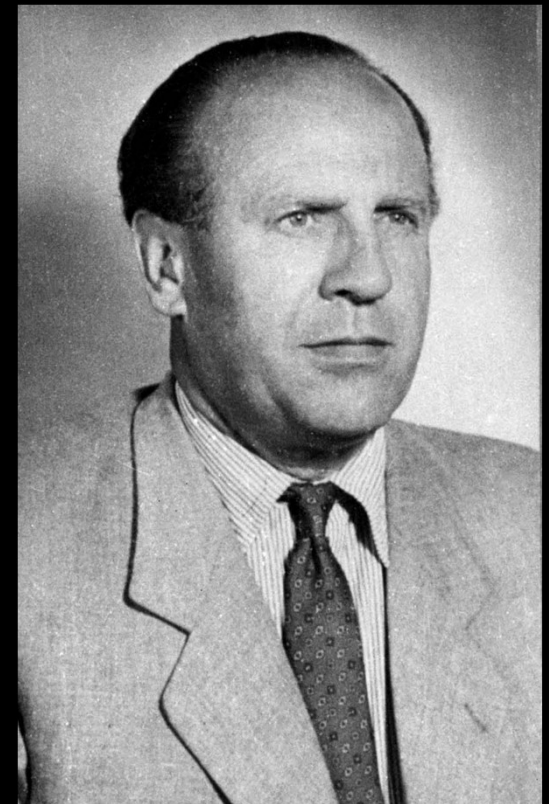
HOW DID THE GERMANS SEE HIM

He was a member of the Nazi Party since 1939. He was a loyal agent for military intelligence. He was used as a spy. He provided for the war effort.

He provided Polish army uniforms to German provocateurs who attacked a German border radio station the night before the invasion of Poland. The station was said to have been overrun by “Polish” soldiers. Actually, it was Germans dressed as Poles. This provided an excuse to invade.

SCHINDLER DURING THE WAR

- Was arrested repeatedly (three times by the SS).
- Usually arrested for black market fraud.
- His connections always got him out.
- He ended up being the only German to save more than 1,000 Jews from the death camps.

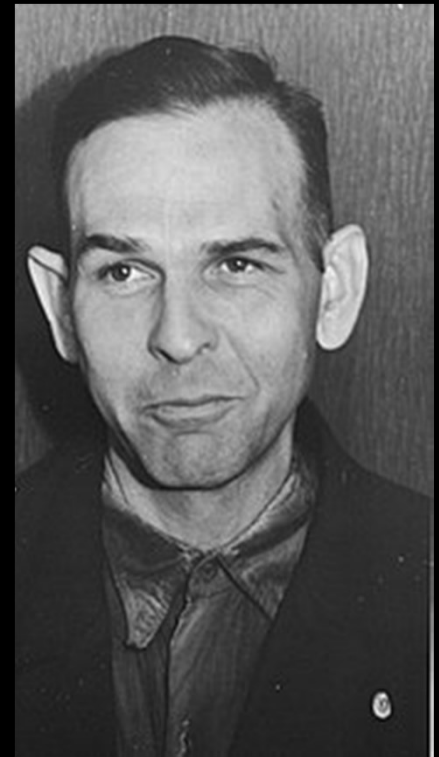


SCHINDLER'S MOTIVATION

- This is a point of some debate among the Schindler Jews.
- Some said he was an opportunist who saved the Jews because it was self-serving, or because he loved to outwit the SS.
- Others believed his motivation to be purely to save lives.
- But for most of the Schindler Jews, they simply know that he saved them and that is all that matters.

THE CHANGE OF HEART

- One survivor claims he witnessed Schindler's change of heart.
- After seeing Goeth (pictured at right) shoot two girls shortly before they died from hanging, Schindler got ill in front of everyone, turned to the survivor and stated that he would never work for the Germans again.



HE DID SHOW "HIS JEWS"
KINDNESS

He permitted them to observe holidays.

He went to great lengths to make them feel safe.

He slept in the factory himself, although a villa was available in Brinnlitz.

He provided extra food and medicine.

Some of this is portrayed in the film.

HISTORY VS. THE FILM

At the end of the war, Schindler had to flee because the Russians would have shot him without a trial.

Some of his Jewish workers smuggled him out as a camp survivor.

Unlike the film portrayal, however, he escaped in a Mercedes full of valuables.

These were later looted and stripped from him and he arrived with nothing in the American zone.

AFTER THE WAR

- He lived in different parts of West Germany.
- He lived for a time with Jews in Argentina.
- His grand schemes never worked out.
- He was at his best during war time.
- He lived in Israel for a time and was celebrated, and bestowed the title of righteous gentile. A tree was planted for him in the avenue of the righteous.
- When he returned to Germany, he lived in poverty and obscurity.

THE LIST

- The list had 297 women and 800 men on it.
- The first list made was not very accurate and hastily made.
- Schindler added 80 names from a “frozen transport,” a transport from an Auschwitz subcamp. They were left in the cold for 10 days with no food or water.
- So he saved more people than just his workers.

THE LIST

The list was actually made by Marcel Goldberg, the greedy Jewish policeman in the film.

This was the source of much bitterness.

Only those who bribed him got on the list.

Schindler said, he did not have the time to constantly check up on him.

Some survivors threatened Schindler because of this.

THE FILM

- It took more than a decade to prepare to make the film.
- The film was shot in the actual historical locations.
- The interior and exterior of Schindler's apartment.
- The interior and exterior of the prison.
- Almost every place was authentic.
- The Plaszow camp was recreated.
- The shot in Auschwitz had to be shot outside the gate because of resistance to having a film shot inside.

STEVEN SPIELBERG

The world's most commercially successful film maker.

Perhaps best known for *Jurassic Park* and *Indiana Jones*.

For him, the film was a personal reawakening of his Jewish faith.

He found a great deal of anti-Semitism exists in Poland still today. There were several incidents.

POLAND

Very few Jews live in Poland today.

Because of the anti-Semitism that still exists there, Jews do not want to return.

Unfortunately, Hitler was especially successful in murdering most of the Eastern European Jews.