

Russians did not at all have the same views of Jews and presumably couldn't therefore understand that a person had devoted his soul to save them. Therefore it was of importance to Wallenberg to explain his rescue operation.

The Russians probably believed that Wallenberg and another reason for his rescue efforts. They probably suspected him to be an American spy too. Most certainly they were skeptical to Raoul Wallenberg's contact with the Germans also.

Raoul Wallenberg and his driver Vilmos Langfelder never returned from Debrecen. According to reliable testimonies they were arrested and sent to Moscow. They were arrested by NKVD, and organization that later changes its name to KGB. Wallenberg and Langfelder were placed in separate cells in the Lubjanka prison according to eye witnesses.

Wallenberg wasn't the only diplomat in Budapest though that aroused the Soviets suspicion. The Swiss legation had also run extensive rescue operations for the Hungarian Jewish population. The Russians arrested a secretary of their legation together with a clerk and sent them to the Soviet Union. However the Swiss succeeded in getting them extradited with Soviet citizens detained in Switzerland.

It would take some time though until authorities in Stockholm got concerned over Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance. In a letter to the Swedish ambassador in Moscow, the Russian Vice Foreign Minister Dekanosov declared that "the Russian military authorities had taken measures and steps to protect Wallenberg and his belongings."

The Swedes, of course, expected Raoul Wallenberg to come home soon. When nothing happened Raoul's mother, Maj von Dardel, contacted the Russian ambassador in Stockholm, Aleksandra Kollontaj, whom explained that she could be calm, since her son was well kept in Russia. To the Swedish foreign minister Christian Günthers wife, Aleksandra Kollontaj said at the same time that it would be best for Wallenberg if the Swedish Government wouldn't stir things up. Kollontaj was called back to Russia meanwhile, and the issue took a new turn.

On March 8, 1945 the Soviet controlled Hungarian radio announced that Raoul Wallenberg had been murdered on his way to Debrecen, probably by Hungarian Nazis or Gestapo agents. This created a certain passiveness with the Swedish Government. Foreign minister Östen Udén and Sweden's Ambassador in the Soviet Union presumed that Wallenberg was dead. In most places however, the radio message wasn't taken seriously.

Many persons have drawn the conclusion that Sweden had an opportunity to negotiate for Wallenberg's release after the war but that the Swedish side missed the chance.

From 1965 there is a speech from Sweden's prime minister at the time, Tage Erlander, which is included in a collection of documents regarding the research around Raoul Wallenberg. Erlander concluded that all efforts that had been done shortly after the war were without results. In fact, the Soviet authorities had even denied knowledge of Wallenberg. Between 1947 and 1951 nothing new occurred. But when foreign prisoners started to be released from Russian jails many testimonies came regarding Raoul Wallenberg's faith after January 1945.

February 6, 1957, the Russians announced that they had made extensive investigations and found a document most likely to be regarding Raoul Wallenberg. In the handwritten document it was stated that "the for you familiar prisoner Wallenberg passed away this night in his cell". The document was dated July 17, 1947 and signed Smoltsov, head of the Lubjanka prisons infirmary.

The Russians regretted in their letter to the Swedes that Smoltsov deceased in May 1953, and that Abakumov had been executed in connection with cleansing within the security police. The Swedes were very distrustful toward this declaration, but the Russians have till this day stuck to the same statement.

Testimonies from different prisoners who had been in Russian jails after January 1945 tell, in contradiction to the Russian information, that Raoul Wallenberg was imprisoned during the whole 1950's.

In 1965 the Swedish Government published a new official report on the Wallenberg case. An earlier white book had been released in 1957. According to the new report Erlander had done everything in his power to find out the truth about Raoul Wallenberg.

Now the Wallenberg case went into a phase when nothing much happened. The stream of war prisoners from the Soviet Union decreased, and the testimonies were few. By the end of the 1970's though the case was brought up again. According to the Swedish foreign department two very interesting testimonies were the basis for a note to Moscow requesting the case to be reexamined. The answer from the Kremlin was the same as earlier—Raoul Wallenberg died 1947. On the grounds of additional material considered reliable, foreign minister Ola Ullsten sent another request in the beginning of the 1980's regarding Raoul Wallenberg to the Russian chief of government Aleksej Kosygin. The reply was the same as usual—Raoul Wallenberg died in 1947.

Is Raoul Wallenberg alive today? During the 1980's the interest for Wallenberg grew around the world. In 1981 he became an honorary citizen of the United States of America, 1985 in Canada, and 1986 in Israel, and all over the world the large opinion that still think he's alive, demand that he be released from his Russian captivity.

In Sweden and other countries—mainly U.S.A.—Raoul Wallenberg associations work endlessly to find answers to what happened to Raoul Wallenberg. In spite a large number of secret documents opened after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 Raoul Wallenberg's fate remains a mystery.

After his incomparable help efforts Raoul Wallenberg was put into a life long imprisonment, a cruel destiny for a man who sacrificed everything to give his fellow man a chance for a life in freedom. He is still celebrated and honored around the world for his heroism, courage and his fight for human rights.

In honor of his efforts to rescue the innocent from the scourge of Nazi oppression, the United States Postal Service has honored this great international hero and honorary American citizen with a stamp. On April 24, I was proud to stand with other Americans while the stamp was issued during ceremonies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, of which I am a proud member of the board.

Joining me was my friend and colleague, Congressman TOM LANTOS, the only Holo-

caust survivor ever elected to Congress. Acting on legislation sponsored by Congressman LANTOS, President Ronald Reagan approved a special act of Congress making Wallenberg an honorary American citizen—a distinction awarded to only two other individuals—Sir Winston Churchill and Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India who was so named just this year. The Postal Service issued a stamp honoring Churchill in 1965. It is appropriate that we honor Raoul Wallenberg with a U.S. stamp. In this age devoid of heroes of his caliber, he is the original upon which other heroes should be modeled.

The new postage stamp features a profile portrait of Wallenberg on the telephone. In the background, a group of Holocaust survivors look over his shoulder. A Schutzpass is included in the upper left corner.

Burt Silverman, the designer of the stamp, is an established artist whose work has appeared on the cover of *The New Yorker Magazine*.

A TRIBUTE TO SARAH HEGARTY

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, It is a great honor for me to pay tribute today to a young woman who is a fighter and a winner on the soccer field, on the basketball court, and in life.

Sarah Hegarty, a student at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School in Milwaukee was in intensive care last year for more than 6 weeks following emergency surgery for intestinal complications, and has spent 6 months in the hospital since March 1996. Last week, the former all-conference soccer player and starting guard on Divine Savior's State championship basketball team was crowned queen of her prom. And while Sarah continues to patiently wait for a small-bowel transplant, she manages to live and enjoy life to the fullest extent possible.

I commend the following article which appeared in Sunday's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel about this courageous young woman to the nation's attention. Indeed, we can all learn a great deal from Sarah Hegarty's determination and persistence.

SARAH WAITS FOR THE BEEP

She hasn't had a bite to eat since March 20, 1996.

Sarah Hegarty, the prom queen of Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, has used fluids and a feisty disposition to stay alive.

At the prom, the announcement of her election as queen was given a roar of approval.

"I was in shock," Sarah said.

Shocking Sarah, who is 16, takes a lot because Sarah has had to contend with her life being jolted apart in the past 13 months: A former all-conference soccer player and starting guard on a state independent championship basketball team, Sarah was in intensive care for six weeks last year after an emergency operation for an intestinal obstruction that nearly killed her.

She has had 12 surgeries and has been under general anesthesia 23 times because she had to be anesthetized just so medical personnel could change her surgical dressing. For 12 hours every day, liquid nourishment

is fed into her through a line that has been inserted in her chest.

While her classmates ate dinner at the prom, she drank water.

While her classmates danced, she did, too, but a few minutes at a time.

"I'd have to take breaks every five minutes," she said. "I'd dance and then I'd sit down and have a glass of water."

Sarah is a competitor, with full speed the only marking on her dial. If you call her fiery, make it a conflagration, not just a spark. When she has a goal, don't get in her way because you can't stop a Sarah at full throttle. As expected, the prom couldn't wear down her exuberance, and Sarah had a great time, which lasted until 3 a.m. That's when she arrived home and hooked herself up to her nourishment, which she couldn't disconnect for 12 hours.

"Maybe it's the spunk, the tough side of her in sports, that has helped her in her coping," her mother, Dolly, said.

WAITING FOR THE BEEP

The family is governed by a beeper—when it goes off, they know they have to head to the airport. After a small-bowel donor is found, Sarah and her family will have six hours to get her into transplant surgery at a hospital at the University of Nebraska in Omaha. An air ambulance is available, 24 hours a day.

"Despite it being a nightmare, she manages to cope with it better than anyone else," her mother said. "It's her feisty spirit," she said and laughed. "Which sometimes drives me crazy."

Sarah immediately recalled her mother getting angry in Sara's pre-illness days when a soccer referee would card her, meaning the ref was warning her or throwing her out of a game for a 90-mph infraction.

Sarah also recalled a technical foul she received in a basketball game after she absolutely, no question about it, cleanly and superbly blocked a shot that a conference star was trying to make. The ref, obviously biased in favor of the star, called a hacking foul on Sarah, and Sarah slightly questioned his brain power, or maybe it was his ability to find his whistle without help.

"He gave me the technical right away," Sarah said, "because I'd been talking to him earlier" about calls so highly questionable that even the ref's mother would have objected.

So this last year has not been easy for Sarah, as she missed school and sat on the bench while her teammates handle the referees. Her illness has stopped her from doing anything but cheer.

"It's been frustrating," Sarah said.

Asked about the transplant, she said, "I can't wait."

"We're anxiously awaiting Omaha," her mother said.

They have been told that a transplant may not be found for 6 to 9 months. Meanwhile, Sarah keeps doing what she can, as long as she doesn't stray far from beeper and nourishment.

"I'm connected 12 hours a night . . . and sometimes, if I'm thirsty, I'll go on it during the day," she said. "I carry around a backpack and I keep it in there," she said, indicating the equipment she needs to connect to the line into her chest.

Prior to the prom, when friends told Sarah that she had been elected to the prom court, "I started laughing," she said. "I thought they were joking."

The announcement of queen is not made until prom night, so she and her date, Kevin Tante, 16, a student at Marquette University High School, were startled. There were tears and cheers and one bop: Sarah's best friend, Mary Friar, shouted, "Yes, yes, yes,"

pumped her fist in the air and accidentally bopped the person standing next to her.

When someone becomes as ill as Sarah has been, it tilts the world within touch: Her illness has become a battle for everyone close to her, including friends, teachers, four sisters and a brother, and, of course, her parents, Dolly and Jerry. Sarah has been unlucky in what happened, but lucky that a crowd showed up to help her.

"Literally hundreds of people visited her in the hospital," Mrs. Hegarty said.

Sarah has spent a total of six months in hospitals, and she's looking forward to her next stay. She wants the transplant now. This minute. Blow the whistle, ref, and let's get going.

This teenager and prom queen and hard-driving athlete who hasn't eaten in more than a year has already made a list. She has marked the name of every restaurant she's going to charge into when she gets home from Omaha.

IN HONOR OF OLDER AMERICAN'S MONTH

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the month of May has been designated Older American's Month. The 335 senior centers in New York City will join with over 10,000 senior centers nationally and the Council on Senior Centers and Services in coordinating the Older American's Month celebration in New York City.

Senior centers and programs are vital in meeting the educational and social needs of our Nation's seniors. Centers provide a sense of community and fellowship necessary for seniors often living alone. Senior programs add immeasurably to the quality of life as well as emotional and physical well-being. I also know the value of senior centers from personal experience—they were a great benefit to my grandparents.

By naming this month Older American's Month, we are acknowledging the vital work that goes on every day to create safe havens and nurturing environments for seniors. I know all my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in applauding their efforts and wishing all our seniors centers many more years of success.

COMMENDING MRS. CLEO CHANDLER

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, when Jan and Dean wrote their 1963 classic hit song "Little Old Lady From Pasadena," little did they know that nearly three decades later, Cleo Chandler would bring the familiar lyrics to life—racing not a "Super Stock Dodge" but a 1965 Chevy Chevelle in the International Hot Rod Association's stock eliminator class.

Cleo began her drag racing career in 1983, at age 68, when her son gave her the car as a Christmas gift. Apparently, after receiving

the car, Cleo was so determined to become a drag racer that she would practice starts in her driveway. However, rumor has it that because her driveway was so short, Cleo would have to immediately hit the car's brakes to bring it to a stop before speeding into oncoming traffic. Sure enough, when Cleo finally made it to her first race, she got to the starting line, hit the accelerator, took off—and, true to her conditioned response, immediately hit the brakes.

Since then though, the 81-year-old great-grandmother has managed to score an impressive racing record. In 1992, at age 76, she won her first national event and has appeared in four more IHRA national event finals. Cleo has set three IHRA world records in stock eliminator class and was chosen Stock Car Driver of the Year in 1993 by Car Craft magazine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Cleo for all of her accomplishments. She is truly an inspiration and proof to us all that you never get old if you are young at heart.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY THRESHER AND ALLEN WINCHESTER—TWO MISSOURI SCHOOL TEACHERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to pay tribute to two very special teachers from the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri.

First, there's Mrs. Cindy Thresher. Mrs. Thresher is Missouri's 1997 Teacher of the Year recipient. She has taught for 29 years—the past 16 years at Lucy Wortham James Elementary School in Saint James School District.

Mrs. Thresher is known for her hands-on approach to teaching and learning, a style that sometimes requires students to create unique learning environments. For example she has transformed her classroom into a rain forest, a desert, and the surface of the moon. In these projects she involves other faculty members, visitors from the community, and most importantly, parents.

For the past 3 years, Mrs. Thresher has led several statewide school improvement initiatives. She's a member of the original group of teachers and educators who helped write the "Show-me Standards"—Missouri's statewide academic standards.

Today I also want to pay tribute to Mr. Allen Winchester, a government teacher at Gideon High School. Mr. Winchester has inspired and pushed students to play an active role in taking pride in and attracting new business to their community.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper even highlighted his achievements in Gideon. Mr. Winchester has always stressed to his students, "We have all the potential in the world. We just have to think big. If you think you can succeed you will. You just can't quit. If you can't climb over a brick wall, keep hitting it until it falls. Change the way people think." With this tenacity he is finding success by bringing the real world into the classroom.

Mr. Winchester refers to his teaching style as "authentic learning," which he says trains