



Shoes on the Danube Promenade

Schuhe am Donauufer

Memorial in Budapest

documents, witnesses, letters about 8. January 1945
154 rescued persons

Ebook

Tamas Szabo

2012 Munich

Contact: dbforum@online.de

Acknowledgments

A statement of gratitude for assistance in producing this work. To all the outstanding people who have motivated me through e-mail, phone, interviews I owe an everlasting debt of thanks to:

Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi professor emeritus at the University Ottawa
witness in his Book „Chronicle of a Life”, 2006

Tibor Farkas, Melbourne, journalist, research about Pal Szalai

Jacov Steiner professor emeritus at the Hebrew University Jerusalem witness in letters to
Yad Vashem

Dr. Eva Löw and her sister Dr. Anna Klaber in Basel, witness

Maria Ember, journalist and researcher in Budapest, interviews in newsletter and her book
1990, 1992

Gabor Forgacs, Budapest, witness, archives, list of persons in Wallenbergs central office

Dr. George Kende, journalist in Jerusalem, witness in newspapers in Jerusalem, letters to
Yad Vashem

Professor Szabolcs Szita director Holocaust Museum in Budapest,
letters and interviews in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem

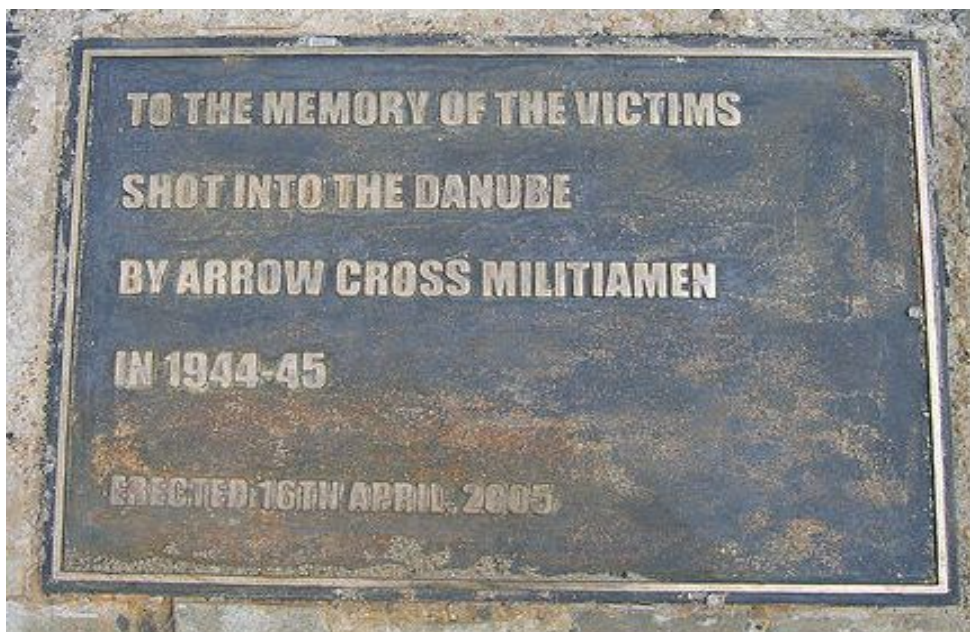
Professor Laszlo Karsai University Szeged, Hungary, letters and interviews in Jerusalem,
Yad Vashem

Fabienne Regard Docteur en science politique, historienne, Expert au Conseil de l'Europe
Strasbourg

Dr. Jozsef Korn lawyer in Budapest, thanks for contacts

Wallenberg Family Archives, Marie Dupuy (Marie von Dardel) niece of Raoul Wallenberg,
documnets from the years 1940 - 1948 and internet sources

Professor Tibor Vamos, former director from „The Computer and Automation Research
Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences", my employer in the years 2004 – 2006. Tibor
Vamos is the founder of the Holocaust Museum in Budapest, thanks for contacts



Jewish-Hungarian family stood on the evening of 8 January 1945 for the Danube in Budapest, with the faces to water. Each moment can shots slam. The man with the leather coat (Karoly Szabo) had appeared with a special brigade of the hungarian police prevented he assassinating hundred seventy.

historic frontpage

Mr. Károly Szabó
Clerk, Royal Swedish Embassy

Budapest

We gladly using the opportunity, to express our gratitude for your unforgettable services, you kindly gave to the endangered Jews of Budapest starting from first days of December previous year. As witnesses of those times, we aware, that the numbers of human lives you helped to save are simply unaccountable, during those times when to save Jews was real danger. We point it out in this of our letter, that you did all this for no personal gain and voluntarily, to be on our side during the greatest danger.

Please accept our gratitude for your help, you gave at January 8th 1945, when from the Royal Swedish Embassy's building, Üllői street 4, 154 persons, including Mr. Lajos Stöckler, leading member of the Jewish Community and eight of his family members were abducted, together with Mr. Szalai Imre, police emergency car and armed policemen hastened to save this group condemned to execution. We repeat, as witnesses of those times, that your act was dangerous to your own life, and the minimum we can do is to express the gratitude of the tortured people.

Budapest, February 26th 1945.

Sincerely
Undersigned: Lajos Stöckler

5 years unsolved case of [Karoly Szabo](#) at Righteous Among the Nations Department, director Irena Steinfeldt

Irena Steinfeldt incorrect about rescue action January 8. 1945 "... Stoeckler, but his statement, written immediately after the war, is the expression of thanks in general terms and does not contain any description of what it was exactly that Szabo did"

Exactly the rescue action,
exact date,
exact rescued 154 persons with 8 Stoeckler family members,
and the act was dangerous to Szabo-s own live .

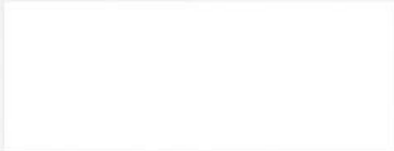
Documents Prof. Erwin Koranyi



uOttawa

ERWIN K. KORANYI, MD, FRCPC

Professor Emeritus, Psychiatry, University of Ottawa, Royal Ottawa Hospital
Professeur émérite, psychiatrie, Université d'Ottawa, Hôpital Royal Ottawa



Ottawa, January 4/2010

Dear Mr. Szabo; -

Please accept my apologies for the delay in answering your letter from Nov.30/09 ~~with such delay~~ but in the interim period I had an eye surgery and even now my eyesight is limited. This is why I correspond with you in English, for my computer is not set up to write in Hungarian.

Your letter of your heroic father touched me deeply. It soon will be sixty-six years that I seen him very briefly, yet, I remember him vividly, in his leather coat, arm in hand, facing the bunch of Arrowcross murderers, saving hundreds of lives, minutes before our execution! How could I forget the fortitude of that brave man confronting those fully armed killers in a burning city, house-to-house fights between the Soviet and Nazi forces in the final chapter of World War Two. If Karoiy Szabo would not have risked his life on that fateful dawn together with Raul Wallenberg, I certainly would not write this letter now. I surely could not let him out from my autobiography: *Dreams & Tears - chronicle of a life.*

I wish I would know more of the life of your brave father!

It will interest you, that my wife at that time, was also saved by your father. She is a physician and lives in Stockholm: Dr. Alice Breuer, Döbelsgatan 15/III, Stockholm 11140 - her telephone number: 468-215-868. Surely, she would like to hear of you.

With my very best regards:

Erwin K. Koranyi

7/20



uOttawa

ERWIN K. KORANYI, MD, FRCPC

Professor Emeritus, Psychiatry, University of Ottawa, Royal Ottawa Hospital
Professeur émérite, psychiatrie, Université d'Ottawa, Hôpital Royal Ottawa

Ottawa, February 1st, 2010

To the YAD VASHEM committee,
Jerusalem, Israel

YAD VASHEM
Jerusalem
POB: 3477

Copy
mailed
as "express"
Jan 1/2010

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee: -

I am 86 years old retired physician, a survivor of the Shoah and I live in Canada. I turn to you with the request to give your kind re-consideration posthumously to a Mr. Mihály Szabo, a close coworker of Raul Wallenberg in Budapest, 1944-45.

As a young man, myself and my ex-wife had been surrounded with death at every moment between March 19, 1944 - January 18, 1945. For a few weeks we lived at the Jokai street 1, a Swedish Satellite Embassy until the tragic day when the entire population of the building had been herded to the shore of the Danube and executed. A few of us succeeded to hide and thus survive the incident. But nowhere else to go, on January 8, 1945, we went to another Swedish Satellite Embassy at the Úllői street. Only a few hours later the Arrowcross killers appeared there, and a portion of the basement's population was taken to the Arrowcross Headquarter at the Teréz Körút 41 (?) There they already begun to take away our clothing, and it was clear that they are going to execute us at the shore of the nearby Danube river.

At the last moment a group of policemen appeared led by two police officers: PAUL SZALAY and KÁROLY SZABO, holding revolvers in their hands and took us back to the Úllői street Satellite Embassy. My contact with Karoly Szabo (whom I believed then to be a police officer) was very short but I recall vividly in his black leather coat, standing up against the Nazi killers, risking his life and saving all of us from sure death. I knew only few people in our group, as we just arrived there but I seen Lajos Stockler, member of the Jewish Council, who's life has been also saved. Later I heard other heroic stories about Karoly Szabo, but this has been a direct experience of mine and of my ex-wife, Dr. Alice Breuer.

I described the event in details in my Autobiography: "Dreams and Tears -chronicle of a life" in 2006 (pages:88,89,90) and I am sure that my book is available in the Yad Vashem. Just to be sure, I include a copy of it.

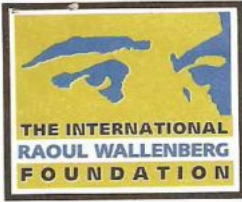
As to myself: I left Hungary by crossing the Iron Curtain in 1949, and never been back. I live in Canada since 12952; married in 1959. I was in private practice and taught at McGill; was invited as full professor by the University of Ottawa; lectured in Haifa, Jerusalem and Beer Sheva. In 1983 I went to Israel, worked at a tent-hospital in Mahanaim, in Kyriat Smona and in the Rambam.

You may obtain references from former Israeli Ambassadors of Canada: Amb. David & Adina Sultan (2-581-8298); Amb. Jitzchak & Malka Shelef 137-010-16424); Amb. Alan & Dalia Baker (2-534-0006) or from Prof. Emanuel & Nahama Guttman (4-337-473). My Rabbi is: Dr. Reuven Bulka (Machzikai Hadash (613-521-9701; my ex-wife: Dr. Alice Breuer (-418-215-868) Dobelnsгатan 15/III Stockholm 11140).

Sincerely yours:

Erwin K. Koranyi

8/20



New, York September 28, 2010

Mrs. Irena Steinfeldt
Director
Righteous Among the Nations Department
Yad Vashem
P.O.Box 3477
Jerusalem 91034, ISRAEL

Dear Mrs. Steinfeldt:

Ref.: Karoly SZABO – Hungary

Mr. Tamas Szabo, the son of Karoly Szabo, as well as Professor Erwin S. Koranyi, have recently written to us with regard to the rescue activities of Karoly Szabo, in Budapest, during the Holocaust period. They have enclosed copies of correspondence with your department, including your announcement from 2008 declining the Righteous title to Szabo.

With reference to this point, I wish to draw your attention to the testimony by Prof. Erwin S. Koranyi, of 1 February 2010, that constitutes a direct and personal account of his rescue at the hands of Karoly Szabo – a person clearly identified by Koranyi as his rescuer. We were told that this testimony was also sent to your office. You also have the testimonies of Tibor Klaber (21.2.2008), of Anna Klaber-Low (23.5.2006), and Eva Low (22.5.2008) – as well as a statement by Lajos Stockler, on behalf of the Budapest Jewish community, dated 8 January 1945, with regard to Karoly Szabo's help to Jews on the verge of being shot by members of the Arrow Cross. Taking all these documents in consideration it is clear that there are no doubts with regard to the identity of the rescuer, and the rescue acts performed by him on the streets of Budapest during the turbulent period of Arrow Cross rule. If you want us to send you copies of the aforementioned testimonies, please let us know, and we shall gladly comply.

In addition, I wish to include references of a 1948 book by the esteemed historian of the Holocaust in Hungary, Jenő Levai, on Raoul Wallenberg, where Karoly Szabo is mentioned on several occasions as involved in the rescue of Jews, as part of the team of persons assigned to Raoul Wallenberg. I believe this book has not been presented to you within the original petition to recognize Mr. Szabo. Please note that Levai's book is replete with first-hand documents that he compiled immediately after the war. It cannot therefore be classified as part of current literature on this subject that, understandably, is not acceptable as first-hand evidence by Yad Vashem, but should rather be considered as credible first-hand account by a reputed historian (you may check Jenő Levai's reputation with historians on the Holocaust in Hungary).

U. S. A. - International Headquarters
34 East 67th St.
NEW YORK NY 10065
Tel 1 212 737 3275
Fax 1 212 535 6262
irwf@irwf.org

GERMANY
in the Vaterunser-Gemeinde
Detmolder Str. 17 - 10715
BERLIN
(49-30) 82707744
irwf.de@web.de

ISRAEL
Antebi 3 - 94547
JERUSALEM
Tel 972 2 625 7996
Fax 972 2 623 4430
irwf@irwf.org.il

ARGENTINA
Av. Corrientes 1145 Piso 11
C1043AAL - BUENOS AIRES
Tel 54 11 4382 7872
Fax 54 11 4382 5272
irwf@irwf.org.ar

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www.raoulwallenberg.net

9/20

As we have been approached on this matter by those rescued by Karoly Szabo, and in view of the documentation presented to us, we felt an obligation to write to you with a request to reconsider the Commission's previous negative decision, and reopen this case for a renewed consideration.


With thanks and appreciation to your important work in the area of Righteous Among the Nations and in the hope that this case will soon be resolved in a positive manner.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Baruch Tenenbaum", written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Baruch Tenenbaum
Founder and International Chairman

Encl: Excerpts from Jenő Levai's 1948 study of Raoul Wallenberg

Cc: Mr. Tamas Szabo 
Prof. Erwin Koranyi

Abschrift:

Dr. med. Eva Löw
Spezialärztin FMH für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie

4059 Basel, 22.5.06
Unt. Batterieweg 162
Tel. : 35 77 81

A T T E S T

Am 24.12.44 versammelte uns R. Wallenberg – im schwedischen Schutzhaus, Ullöi u. 2 – 4, Budapest – wo wir ca. 100 jüdische Personen Zuflucht gefunden haben um uns mitzuteilen, dass von nun an jeder für seine Sicherheit selber sorgen muss, seine Möglichkeiten sind erschöpft, da mit den Pfeilkreuzlern keine Verhandlungen mehr möglich sind. Trotz seiner Mitteilung sind wir geblieben, da wir keine anderen Möglichkeiten hatten. – Kurz danach revidierte Wallenberg seine Mitteilung. Durch einen Ivan Nagy (Deckname für Karoly Szabo) und dank Ivan Nagy wird er, Wallenberg, seine Mission zuversichtlich bis zu Ende führen können.

Am 8.1.45 wurden sämtliche Juden – mit wenig Ausnahmen (von den Pfeilkreuzlern nicht gefunden, da sie sich in einem anderen Keller aufhielten) – von uniformierten Pfeilkreuzlern geholt, und in Gruppen aufgestellt, im Schnee marschierend, zum Donauufer geführt. Mitteilung: wir werden dort in den Fluss geschossen, wenn die Munition nicht würde genügen, so können sie mit deutscher Hilfe rechnen. – Kurz nach unserer Ankunft hielten plötzlich Polizeilastwagen beladen mit Polizisten an, angeführt von dem Polizeikommandant und Ivan Nagy (alias Szabo Karoly), die Aktion wurde gestoppt. – Wir sind nun "Damen und Herren" geworden, auch etwaige "Geschenke" (Diebesgut) wurde zurückgegeben; wir wurden mit dem Polizeilastwagen, geschützt von den Pfeilkreuzlern, ins schwedische Schutzhaus zurückgefahren.
Hintergrund: nach unserer Abfuhr verständigte Wallenberg Szabo Karoly über die Geschehnisse, der via Polizeikommandant die Aktion stoppte, bzw. Die Rettung organisierte. Bis zum Kriegsende bzw. Befreiung von Pest bestand eine enge Zusammenarbeit zw. Wallenberg und Szabo, wie Wallenberg uns sagte, Szabo ermöglichte ihm seine Mission erfolgreich zu Ende zu führen. Er wollte nach seiner Rückkehr nach Stockholm Szabo dem schwedischen König (der damals noch politische Macht war) vordtellen. Wegen der Verschleppung Wallenbergs durch die Russen kam nicht mehr dazu.

Eva Löw

5 years unsolved case of [Karoly Szabo](#) at Righteous Among the Nations Department, director Irena Steinfeldt

Irena Steinfeldt - incorrect statement:

"very difficult, especially the identification of the person(s) who was (were) responsible for their rescue. For obvious reasons under these circumstances no introductions were made, and therefore the survivors could only hear the name of their rescuer after the war."

Karoly Szabo was introduced by Wallenberg to the survivors exactly December 24. 1944, the rescue was January 8. 1945, Irena Steinfeldt has the exact witness Eva Löw from this introduction since Summer 2006 and Anna Klaber

Irena Steinfeldt can read german text from Dr. Eva Löw in original, without translations.

Six years after witness letter Dr. Eva Löw in Sumer 2006 – october 29. 2012

The Righteous Among The Nations Karoly Szabo
[http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/righteousName.html?
language=en&itemId=5932612](http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/righteousName.html?language=en&itemId=5932612)

Anna Klaber - Löw
Zum wisse Segel 18
4144 Arlesheim

Ergänzende Angaben zum Attest vom 23.5.2006

Angaben zur Zeugin:

Name: Anna Klaber - Löw
Geburtsdatum: 4.5.1924
Jetztige Adresse: Zum wisse Segel 18, CH-4144 Arlesheim
Beruf: Kaufmännische Angestellte, Hausfrau, Rentnerin

Wohnort zur Zeit des 2. Weltkrieges:
Budapest (Ungarn)

Lebenslauf zur Zeit des Krieges:

Gymnasiastin; ich wohnte mit meiner verwittweten Mutter und der älteren Schwester.

Nachdem die ungarischen Pfeilkreuzler die Macht übernommen hatten (Mitte Oktober 1944) Flucht in die schwedische Gesandtschaft nach Ofen (Buda). Später von Wallenberg übersiedelt in ein schwedisches Schutzhaus auf der Pester Seite.

Wohnadresse zur Zeit des 2. Weltkrieges:

Budapest: Margit körút 2-4; Hollán utca 9
Schwedische Gesandtschaft: Tigris utca 6
Schwedisches Schutzhaus: Uellői ut 2 -4

Angaben über den Retter:

Name: Szabo Károly
Alter: ca. 30 J.
Beschäftigung: Mechaniker
Der Kontakt zwischen Retter und Geretteten entstand via Raoul Wallenberg.

Was zur Rettung führte: s. Attest vom 23.5.2006

Aussage zur Motivation des Retters:

Szabo hat seine Tat selbstlos getan, ohne Erwartung eines Entgeldes.
Es wurden ihm weder Zahlungen, Belohnungen noch Vorrechte versprochen.
Er hat sich mit seiner Tat in Lebensgefahr begeben, weil es un-
rechenbar war, wie die Pfeilkreuzler reagieren würden.

Arlesheim, den 7. September 2006

Anna Klaber - Löw

Anna Klaber - Löw

Dr. med. Tibor Klaber

Facharzt FMH für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie
Austrasse 79, 4051 Basel Tel.: 061 272 10 30

Frau
Irena Steinfeldt
Director
Righteous Among the Nations Departement
Yad Vashem
Jerusalem

21. Februar 2008

Ref: Szabo Karoly – Hungary (11226)

Sehr geehrte Frau Steinfeldt,
sehr geehrte Mitglieder der Kommission,

mit grosser Betretenheit haben wir – meine Mutter Anna Klaber-Löw, meine Tante Eva Löw und ich – Ihren ablehnenden Bescheid vom 23.1.2008 und die darauf folgende E-Mail-Korrespondenz mit Herrn Tamas Szabo gelesen.

Die Wirkung auf meine Angehörigen ist demütigend und beschämend: Nicht nur mussten sie in ihrem Leben mehr als einmal um ihr Ueberleben kämpfen – jetzt soll es für die Ehrung ihres Retters auch noch darum gehen, ob dieser 10 Meter vom Schwedischen Schutzhaus oder 10 Meter von der Donau entfernt aufgetaucht sei.

Ich habe heute nochmals mit meiner Mutter gesprochen. Nach ihrer Erinnerung ist die Familie (meine Mutter, mein verstorbener Vater, meine Tante, meine verstorbene Grossmutter Löw) zusammen mit anderen von den Pfeilkreuzlern unter vorgehaltener Waffe vom Schwedischen Schutzhaus in die Kaserne der Pfeilkreuzler gebracht worden, welche unmittelbar neben der Donau stand. Dort hat sie gehört, wie die Pfeilkreuzler die bevorstehende Erschiessung vorbereitet haben. Sie erinnert sich, wie ein kleines Mädchen in der Gruppe gefragt hat: "Tut es weh?". Sie hat ihrer Mutter gesagt, sie sollten in die Donau springen, bevor die Schergen schiessen. Dann kam Karoly Szabo – persönlich und leibhaftig – und hat mit den Schutzbriefen die Gruppe gerettet.

Solche traumatischen Erinnerungen bleiben scharf und haben eine grosse Evidenz, was ich Ihnen auch als Psychoanalytiker sagen möchte.

Wir sind sehr erstaunt darüber, dass es die Kommission nicht für nötig befunden hat, mit den Ueberlebenden die offenen Fragen zu klären. Ich bitte Sie deshalb, auf Ihren Entscheid zurückzukommen und die Fragen zu stellen, deren Beantwortung erst zu einer gerechten Ein-

schätzung führen kann.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,



Tibor Klaber

Cc: Herrn Tamas Szabo, Gröbenzell
Herrn Prof. Dr. Jaakov Steiner, Jerusalem

5 years unsolved case of [Karoly Szabo](#) at Righteous Among the Nations Department, director Irena Steinfeldt

(1) Irena Steinfeldt incorrect about rescue action January 8. 1945 "... Stoeckler, but his statement, written immediately after the war, is the expression of thanks in general terms and does not contain any description of what it was exactly that Szabo did"

In Stoecklers statement: exactly the rescue action, exact date, exact rescued 154 persons with 8 Stoeckler family members, act was dangerous to Szabo-s own live ... what is here not exactly?

(2) Irena Steinfeldt other incorrect statement: "very difficult, especially the identification of the person(s) who was (were) responsible for their rescue. For obvious reasons under these circumstances no introductions were made, and therefore the survivors could only hear the name of their rescuer after the war."

Karoly Szabo was introduced by Wallenberg to the survivors exactly December 24. 1944, the rescue was January 8. 1945, Irena Steinfeldt has the exact witness from this introduction since Summer 2006, [Eva Löw and Anna Klaber](#).

(3) Irena Steinfeldt incorrect statement: "Szabo was acting under the instructions of Szalai Pal the superior from Szabo"

This is the totally new theorie of history constructed by Irena Steinfeldt: Szalai Pal was never the superior of Karoly Szabo, superior was the swedish embassy, Wallenberg.

Six years after witness letter Dr. Eva Löw in Sumer 2006 – october 29. 2012

The Righteous Among The Nations Karoly Szabo
[http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/righteousName.html?
language=en&itemId=5932612](http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/righteousName.html?language=en&itemId=5932612)

Shoes on the Danube Promenade

The Shoes on the Danube Promenade is a memorial created by Gyula Pauer and Can Togay on the bank of the Danube River in Budapest. It honors the Jews who fell victim to fascist Arrow Cross militiamen in Budapest during World War II, and represents their shoes left behind on the bank when they fell into the river after being shot.

The memorial

It is located on the Pest side of the Danube Promenade in line with where Zoltan Street would meet the Danube if it continued on that far, about 300 metres (980 ft) south of the Hungarian Parliament and near the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

"A Cipők a Duna-parton elnevezésű kompozíció a nyilasterror idején Dunába lőtt embereknek állít emléket. a szobrászművész hatvan pár korhű lábbelit formált meg vasból. A parti szegély terméskövére erősített cipők mögött negyven méter hosszúságú, hetven centiméter magas kőpad húzódik. Az emlékhely három pontján öntöttvas táblákon magyarul, angolul és héberül olvasható a felirat: "A nyilaskeresztes fegyveresek által Dunába lőtt áldozatok emlékére állítottatott 2005. április 16-án". forrás: MTI 2005. április 16., szombat

Translation: "The composition entitled 'Shoes on the Danube Bank' gives remembrance to the people shot into the Danube during the time of the Arrow Cross terror. The sculptor created sixty pairs of period-appropriate shoes out of iron. The shoes are attached to the stone embankment, and behind them lies a 40 meter long, 70 cm high stone bench. At three points are cast iron signs, with the following text in Hungarian, English, and Hebrew: "To the memory of the victims shot into the Danube by Arrow Cross militiamen in 1944–45. Erected 16 April 2005." (Source: MTI, Saturday, April 16, 2005.)

Népszabadság Online, 2005. április 15. 14:25 "Holokauszt-emlékművet avatnak szombaton, a holokauszt áldozatainak emléknapján Budapesten. A hatvan pár, öntöttvasból mintázott korhű cipő a nyilasterror idején Dunába lőtt embereknek állít emléket a Roosevelt tér és a Kossuth tér közötti szakaszon."

Translation: "A holocaust memorial will be dedicated on Saturday, the holocaust victim memorial day, in Budapest. Sixty pairs of cast iron shoes, cast in the styles of the 40's, stand in remembrance of the people shot into the Danube during the Arrow Cross terror. The memorial lies on the riverbank between Roosevelt square and Kossuth square." (source: Népszabadság Online, April 15, 2005.)

Prevented crime in January 1945

During World War II, Raoul Wallenberg and 250 coworkers were working around the clock to save the Jewish population from being sent to Nazi concentration camps; this figure later rose to approximately 400. Lars and Edith Ernster, Jacob Steiner, and many others were housed at the Swedish Embassy in Budapest on Üllői Street 2-4 and 32 other buildings throughout the city that Wallenberg had rented and then declared as extraterritorial to try to safeguard the residents.

On the night of January 8, 1945, all of the inhabitants of the building on Üllői Street were rounded up and dragged away to the banks of the Danube by an Arrow Cross execution brigade. At

midnight, Karoly Szabo and 20 policemen with drawn bayonets broke into the Arrow Cross house and rescued everyone there (see also front page of 1947 newspaper below). Among those saved were Lars Ernster, who fled to Sweden and became a member of the board of the Nobel Foundation from 1977 to 1988, and Jacob Steiner, who fled to Israel and became a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Steiner's father had been shot dead by Arrow Cross militiamen on December 25, 1944, falling into the Danube. His father had been an officer in World War I and spent four years as a prisoner of war in Russia.

Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi, psychiatrist in Ottawa, wrote about the night of January 8, 1945 in his *Dreams and Tears: Chronicle of a Life* in 2006, "in our group, I saw Lajos Stoeckler" and "The police holding their guns at the Arrowcross cutthroats. One of the high-ranking police officers was Pal Szalai, with whom Raoul Wallenberg used to deal. Another police officer in his leather coat was Karoly Szabo."

Pal Szalai was honored as Righteous among the Nations on April 7, 2009.

Schuhe am Donauufer

Die Schuhe am Donauufer (ungarisch: Cipők a Duna-parton) in Budapest wurden von Gyula Pauer und Can Togay als Mahnung an die Pogrome an Juden durch Pfeilkreuzler im Ungarn während des Zweiten Weltkriegs gestaltet.

Die Schuhpaare stehen am Ostufer, auf der Pester Seite der Donau, am Ende der Széchenyistraße etwa 300 Meter südlich des Parlamentsgebäudes, nahe bei der Akademie der Wissenschaften direkt am Wasser. Auf einer Länge von 40 Metern wurden sechzig Paar Schuhe aus Metall zum Gedenken an die Erschießungen von 1944 und 1945, als Pfeilkreuzler jüdische Ungarn am Donauufer zusammentrieben und erschossen, am Boden angebracht. Die Schuhe stehen oder liegen „wie zufällig“ übrig geblieben. Das Holocaustmahnmal wurde 2005 so gestaltet, dass es auf den ersten Blick nicht verrät, welches Geschehen dahintersteckt.

Im Unterschied zum Mahnmal für die ermordeten Juden Ungarns bei der Großen Synagoge ist es am Donauufer ein eher stilles Gedenken.

Verhinderung eines Verbrechens am 8. Januar 1945

Das Mahnmal erinnert indirekt auch an die Rettungsaktionen anderer Ungarn wie Károly Szabó, eines Angestellten der Schwedischen Botschaft, und der 20 namentlich unbekanntem Polizisten, die am 8. Januar 1945 mit ihm von Pfeilkreuzlern aus den schwedischen Botschaftsräumen zur Erschießung entführte jüdische Ungarn mit blankem Bajonett retteten und ihnen dann zur Flucht verhalfen. Bericht der Familie Jakobovits 1947: "Als die Rettung in letzter Minute kam, standen wir mit den Gesichtern zum Wasser am Donauufer."

Unter den 154 Geretteten waren auch Lajos Stöckler und seine achtköpfige Familie, die Familie Jakobovits, Edith und Lars Ernster, Jacob Steiner, Eva Löw und Anna Klaber. Der Vater Jacob Steiners wurde am 25. Dezember 1944 am Donauufer erschossen.

Lars Ernster wurde später Chemiker, Professor an der Universität Stockholm und Mitglied der Königlich Schwedischen Akademie der Wissenschaften und des Nobelpreiskomitees, Jacob Steiner wurde Biologe und Professor an der Hebräischen Universität Jerusalem, Eva Löw und Anna Klaber wurden Ärztinnen in Basel.

Zitat im Buch "Dreams and Tears: Chronicle of a Life" (2006) von Dr. Erwin K. Koranyi über die Rettung am Donauufer: "Die Polizisten haben ihre Waffen auf die Pfeilkreuzler gerichtet. Ein Polizeioffizier dabei war Pál Szalai, der mit Raoul Wallenberg kooperiert hat, ein anderer, im Ledermantel, war Károly Szabó. In unserer Gruppe unter den Geretteten habe ich auch Lajos Stöckler gesehen." Raoul Wallenberg wurde 1963 der Ehrentitel Gerechter unter den Völkern zuerkannt, Pál Szalai erhielt diese Auszeichnung am 7. April 2009.

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