

## THE DARING ISRAELI SPY OPERATION TO CAPTURE NAZI MURDERER ADOLPH EICHMANN

### THE ARCHITECT OF "THE FINAL SOLUTION"

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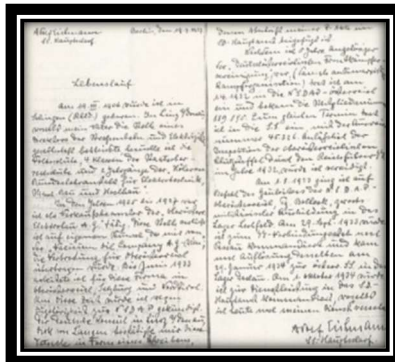


ADOLPH EICHMANN

**Eichmann, a chief mastermind of the Holocaust,** escaped to South America after World War II. Israel's secret service was determined to root him out—and make him pay.

### END OF THE THIRD REICH

After the defeat of the Third Reich in May 1945 Adolf Eichmann, the RSHA specialist on Jewish matters, was arrested by the American forces near Ulm, along with his long-standing adjutant SS-*Obersturmführer* Rudolf Janisch. The two men were taken to the prisoner-of-war camp at Weiden in the Upper Palatinate.



*Eichmann's handwritten resume 1937*

At Weiden, a POW camp Eichmann changed his identity with ease, he was arrested as a Luftwaffe Corporal Bart or Barth, then realizing that officers were exempt from compulsory labour, he became SS-*Untersturmführer* Otto Eckmann.

Eichmann and Janisch were moved to another camp at Ober-Dachstetten, in Franconia, Janisch was removed to another camp, fearful of discovery and alone Eichmann considered committing suicide.

The evidence provided by many former associates within the SS at the International Military Tribunal held in Nuremberg, meant that it was only a matter of time before he was apprehended, and brought to justice, for his part in the destruction of European Jewry.

With the help of Senior SS officers in the camp, he was provided with false documents that identified him as Otto Henninger from Breslau, traveled to Prien, where he was sheltered by a widow Nelly Krawietz, the sister of a former SS man in the Ober-Dachstettien camp.

Eichmann and Nelly Krawietz traveled to Hamburg, where they parted, Eichmann continued to the small town of Eversen, which stands on the great Luneberg Heath, where he lived and worked as a woodsman, for the next two years, before looking after chickens near Altensalzkoth.

Fearing the net was closing in on him Eichmann, left the chicken farm and like numerous Nazi fugitives followed the well-established “rat line” that led from Germany, through Italy to Argentina.

### HIDING IN ITALY

At the beginning of 1950, Eichmann made contact with ODESSA, the organization of former SS men, who enabled him to flee to Italy, via monasteries. ***In Italy, he was given aid by Catholic priests and bishops with pro-Nazi sympathies and reached Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1950.***

Eichmann had been issued with an ID Certificate in the northern Italian town of Termeno in 1948, the ID was numbered 131 and bore the name Ricardo Klement, it was valid for two years, and this was probably the reason why he fled in 1950.



**Eichmann's Red Cross Passport**

Armed with the forged ID and a ***Red Cross passport number 100940***, which was issued in the Italian port of Genoa on 1 June 1950, with the help of a ***Franciscan priest Father Eduardo Domoter.***

### TO ARGENTINA

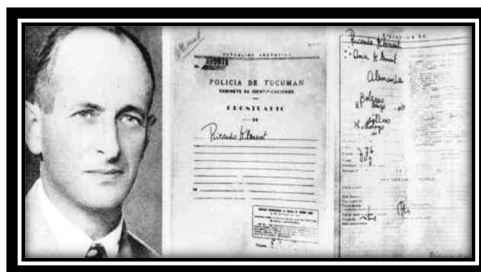
Eichmann and two other former SS men boarded the SS Giovanni C which left Genoa for Buenos Aires, Argentina on 17 June 1950, the ship docked in Buenos Aires on 14 July 1950.

Eichmann secured employment with a construction company called CAPRI that specialized in hydro-electric power plants, in the remote province of Tucuman, from August 1950 to April 1953.

In December 1950 Adolf Eichmann wrote a coded message to his wife Vera, advising her in code that he was alive and well, and that she should make arrangements to join him in Argentina.

Vera, and the three Eichmann children Klaus, Horst, and Dieter slipped away to Italy, and like the head of the family, boarded a boat in Genoa, the SS Salto, for Argentina. They disembarked in Buenos Aires in early July 1952, ***where they were met by Adolf Eichmann posing as their uncle Ricardo.*** Vera cried with joy on seeing her husband.

In spring 1953 CAPRI's hydro-electric project in Tucuman collapsed and he moved himself and his family to a small house at 4261 Chacabuco Street in the Olivos district in Buenos Aires, where they lived for over six years.



***False identification papers used by Adolf Eichmann while he was living in Argentina under the assumed name Ricardo Klement***

Eichmann tried his hand at various jobs, a transport manager, a manager of an agora rabbit farm, a warehouseman, and in March 1959 he obtained a job as a welder and mechanic at the Mercedes Benz plant at Gonzalez Catan. The plant was located in a northern industrial suburb of Buenos Aires.

In 1953 Vera gave birth to a fourth son, named Ricardo Francisco Eichmann, whom Eichmann doted on, his three other sons regarded Eichmann as a strict father, but they admired his ability to deal with practical issues, he could turn his hand to anything.

Eichmann maintained various friendships with former SS comrades who had also escaped to Argentina, one of them Otto Skorzeny and it was through Skorzeny that Eichmann met Wilhelm Sassen, half-Dutch, half-German who had served in the Waffen-SS during the war.



*Otto Skorzeny*

Sassen a journalist met with Eichmann over five months during 1956 and recorded sixty-seven tape reels, which produced a script of 695 pages, covering the Final Solution and Eichmann's role in it. The project though ended with Eichmann dissatisfied over Sassen's less than faithful transcriptions so he started to make a handwritten version. Extracts of the Sassen version were published in Life Magazine.

In 1958 Eichmann bought a plot of waterlogged land in the Bancalari district of Buenos Aires, and with his sons built a house, which bore the address 14 Garibaldi Street.

Just as Eichmann thought in his new remote dwelling, he was more secure, the net was beginning to close in on him, from a source ironically close to home.

During 1956 Klaus Eichmann struck up a relationship with a pretty young woman Sylvia Hermann, whose father Lothar, had also settled in Argentina. But his path had been very different from Eichmann's, as he was half-Jewish, and had fled Germany in 1938 after being incarcerated in a Nazi concentration camp.

Lothar Hermann conversed with Klaus Eichmann but then the family moved away. Lothar spotted a newspaper article about the impending war crimes trial in Frankfurt, and Eichmann's name appeared in the article. Surmising that Klaus Eichmann was the son of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, he took decisive action.



*Mossad Chief Isser Harel*

Lothar Hermann wrote to the judicial authorities in Frankfurt, who passed on the letter to Fritz Bauer, the Attorney General of Hesse, a former concentration camp prisoner, who had fled first to Denmark, and then Sweden, after the Germans invaded in 1940.

Bauer sent all the information he had to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Walter Eytan, the Director General of the Foreign Ministry, arranged a meeting with Isser Harel, the Director of the Israeli Secret Service.

Though Israel was a new nation, it had already developed a skilled intelligence service. A special unit of that service was called Mossad. The unit was formed to track down and kill enemies of the state but dedicated its first few decades to the capture of terrorists and war criminals. The head of Mossad, Isser Harel, immediately took charge of the hunt for Eichmann.

He chose a special team of 30 agents, several of them survivors of the Holocaust, to assist in the operation. The Israeli government decided that Eichmann should not be assassinated, but brought back to Israel to stand trial. To further complicate the matter, once Eichmann was found, he would have to be kidnapped and smuggled to Israel, a violation of Argentinean legal sovereignty.



Simon Wiesenthal

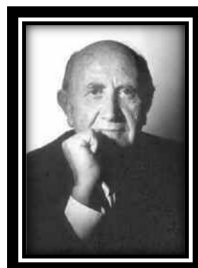
Because many Nazi sympathizers found refuge in South America during the war, the Israelis knew that a diplomatic extradition would be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. Harel overcame his initial skepticism to send a Secret Service agent to see Bauer personally in West Germany, this was achieved on 6 November 1957, and Bauer gave this representative Eichmann's address.

In April 1959 Simon Wiesenthal noticed an obituary notice for Frau Maria Eichmann in a Linz newspaper, and amongst the mourners was listed Vera Eichmann, in addition to this in February 1960 a newspaper carried the death notice of Eichmann's father Adolf Karl, and Vera Eichmann and the boys were listed amongst the mourners.

Wiesenthal also passed this latest information on to the Israelis who were now pursuing Eichmann with a lot more vigor. Zvi Aharoni, a Mossad agent went to West Germany to look at Eichmann's file, and Harel consulted with David Ben Gurion about the news that Eichmann was alive and living in Argentina, Ben Gurion agreed that it would probably be provident to achieve this covertly, kidnap Eichmann and bring him to Israel to stand trial.

#### THE IDENTIFICATION OF EICHMANN

Zvi Aharoni flew to Buenos Aires arriving on the 1 March 1960 with false papers and made contact with some workmen at Eichmann's old address on Chacabuco Street, but drew a blank. Aharoni's next steps were to deliver a present via a "local messenger" to Nikolas Klement at the Chacabuco address, the workmen suggested that the person should contact Tito who had once lived at the address and was working locally.



Peter Malkin



Rafi Eitan

Both members of the "Snatch Squad"

Contact was made with Tito who confirmed the present could have been for his father or his brother, and had given the lighter to his brother, and at the same time had provided precise directions on where Eichmann lived.



*The hidden home of Adolf Eichmann in San Fernando, Argentina, circa 1960.*

Aharoni drove along Route 202 and found the one-story house, a flat-roofed house, and on 16 March he tried to photograph the house and its occupants, posing as American property developers, but this risky venture failed.

Aharoni instructed two of his local volunteers on Sunday the 3 April 1960 to try and engage Eichmann in conversation, as he worked in the garden. With the precious photographs developed locally, Aharoni had them in his possession when he flew back to Israel via Europe.

#### THE CAPTURE



*Eichmann dressed in an Argentine-styled "Poncho"*

Harel was now setting the wheels in motion to capture Eichmann, he had appointed a senior intelligence officer Rafi Eitan, to lead the task force. **At the end of April Aharoni and four other Mossad agents arrived in Argentina.** Over the next fortnight, more Mossad agents arrived, including a doctor, a forger, and a technician who was an expert in safe houses, constructing cells, etc.

Harel flew to Argentina at the beginning of May 1960, after seeing David Ben Gurion, for a final briefing, to head this historic mission, which was fraught with danger.

Initially, the task force maintained surveillance of Eichmann's family home and established the daily pattern of Eichmann's movements. They were able to establish that the bus dropped him off at 7.40 pm, every workday evening. Eichmann left the bus every day in the dark, and made his way to his house on Garibaldi Street, along a deserted street.

On Wednesday 11 May 1960 the task force took up their positions around Eichmann's house, two cars were waiting, one in Garibaldi Street itself, whilst another was parked nearby, partly concealed by a railway bridge. The car in Garibaldi Street contained the members of the "snatch squad," Ahahoni was at the wheel, and with him were Rafi Eitan, Zeev Keren, and Peter Malkin.

The bus was late that day, at around 8 pm it arrived and Eichmann stepped off the bus, unaware of what was to follow, and that his long period as a fugitive from justice was about to end.

Keren simulated a breakdown and raised the bonnet of the car, as Eichmann approached, Malkin pounced on him, and in the struggle that followed the pair, the pair fell over and toppled into a ditch by the side of the road. Eichmann screamed like a wounded animal, struggling violently, but he was overpowered as the snatch team re-grouped to bundle him into the car.

Eichmann was pushed onto the floor at the rear of the car, and bound and motorcycle goggles covered with tape were placed over his eyes. The car drove off at speed, Eichmann was covered with a blanket, and Eichmann was warned not to resist further, and he replied, "I have already accepted my fate."

Eichmann was driven to a safe house, examined by a doctor, just in case Eichmann had poison, dressed in pajamas and the initial interrogations commenced. After some hesitation and lies Eichmann confirmed his true identity, and after a few days Eichmann agreed to stand trial in Israel, after first stating he would only stand trial in Argentina or Germany.

On 20 May 1960 Eichmann was drugged by the doctor and driven to the Ezeiza Airport supported by two Mossad agents, the plan was to switch Eichmann with a steward on the El-Al flight that had arrived the day before bringing the Israeli representatives to the Argentinean independence celebrations.



*The remains of Eichmann's home at 14 Garibaldi St.*

The car was waived through security, the Mossad agents wearing flight crew uniforms aroused no suspicions, and Eichmann was half-carried onto the aircraft, and strapped into a seat.

The aircraft a four-engineered Bristol Britannia took off just before midnight on the 20 May 1960. Following a stop at Dakar for re-fuelling and at 7:35 am on the 22 May 1960, Adolf Eichmann set foot on Israeli soil, to face justice.



#### **ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL: May 22, 1960**

When he arrived in Israel Eichmann was taken to a fortified police station at Yagur in Israel, where he spent nine months. The Israelis were unwilling to take him to trial based solely on the evidence in documents and witness testimony, so the prisoner was subject to daily interrogations, the transcripts of which totaled over 3,500 pages. The interrogator was Chief Inspector Avner Less of the national police.

Using documents provided primarily by Yad Vashem and Nazi hunter Tuvia Friedman, Less was often able to determine when Eichmann was lying or being evasive. When additional information was brought forward that forced Eichmann into admitting what he had done, Eichmann would insist he had no authority in the Nazi hierarchy and was only following orders.

Inspector Less noted that Eichmann did not seem to realize the enormity of his crimes and showed no remorse.



His pardon plea, released in 2016, did not contradict this: "There is a need to draw a line between the leaders responsible and the people like me forced to serve as mere instruments in the hands of the leaders", Eichmann wrote. "I was not a responsible leader, and as such do not feel guilty."

**THE TRIAL BEGINS:** April 11, 1961



*Eichmann during Trial*

**THE TRIAL ENDS:** August 14, 1961

**THE GUILTY VERDICT WAS READ ON:** December 12, 1961



*During the reading of the guilty verdict*

**FINAL APPEAL REJECTED:** 8:30 PM May 31, 1962

**EICHMANN HANGED:** 1 June 1962 (4 hours after final appearance denied)

Adolf Eichmann refused to admit any guilt for his war crimes in his last-ditch letter pleading for clemency, newly released papers reveal. The letter was sent to then-President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi two days before the Nazi's execution in 1962.



*Eichmann stands alone in the Prison yard during his trial*

Eichmann was hanged at a prison in Ramla hours later. The hanging, scheduled for midnight at the end of 31 May, was slightly delayed and thus took place a few minutes past midnight on 1 June 1962. The execution was attended by a small group of officials, four journalists, and the Canadian clergyman William Lovell Hull, who had been his spiritual counselor while in prison.

**His last words were reported to be:** Long live Germany. Long live Argentina. Long live Austria. These are the three countries with which I have been most connected and which I will not forget. I greet my wife, my family, and my friends. I am ready. We'll meet again soon, as is the fate of all men. I die believing in God.

Rafi Eitan, who accompanied Eichmann to the hanging, claimed in 2014 to have heard him later mumble "I hope that all of you will follow me", making those his final words.

Within hours Eichmann's body had been cremated, and his ashes scattered in the Mediterranean Sea, outside Israeli territorial waters, by an Israeli Navy patrol boat to make sure he had no final resting place.

#### ADOLPH EICHMANN'S LETTER REQUESTING HIS PARDON RELEASED



JERUSALEM- Jan 27, 2016 Holocaust mastermind Adolf Eichmann asked Israel's president for a pardon two days before his execution, according to a letter unveiled on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Eichmann's handwritten request, in which he said he was just following orders in implementing Hitler's "Final Solution," and then-Israeli President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi's letter denying the request, were unveiled Wednesday by President Reuven Rivlin in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Eichmann was convicted in Israel of war crimes and crimes against humanity in 1961 and hanged the following year. It is the only time that Israel has used the death penalty.

Eichmann stated: "The judges made a critical mistake when assessing my personality because they cannot place themselves in the time and situation I was in during the war years," Eichmann wrote in the letter. "It is untrue that I was such an important personage that I could oversee or would independently oversee the persecution of the Jews. A line must be drawn between the leaders who are responsible and people like me, who were forced to be tools by the leadership. I was not in charge of things, and therefore I do not feel that I am guilty. And I ask of you, honorable president, to use your right of pardon and order that this death sentence not be carried out."

Also put on display Wednesday were clemency requests from Eichmann's wife and his five brothers: "Being acquainted with our brother's nature, his education and the position of our family, we can say with conviction that the impulses of our brother do not conflict with the ethical principles of social order," they wrote. "It is only out of an obligation to his oath as an officer that he felt obliged to follow the rules and regulations set out by the country's leadership at the time, which forced him into a situation that was impossible to face."

In rejecting the request, Ben-Zvi wrote: "After considering the pardon requests submitted regarding the Adolf Eichmann case, and after I gave my attention to all the materials available to me, I reached the conclusion that there is no justification for giving Eichmann a pardon or mitigate the punishment passed down by the Jerusalem District Court on December 15, 1961, and which was approved by the Supreme Court on May 29, 1962. Thus, I am informing you that I have decided to refuse the requests and not use my powers to pardon and reduce punishments in this case."

In addition, the handwritten text of then-Attorney General Gideon Hausner's opening statement was released.

"When I stand before you, judges of Israel, to lead the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, I do not stand alone. With me here are six million accusers," Hausner wrote. "But they cannot rise to their feet and point their finger at the man in the dock with the cry 'J'accuse!' on their lips. For they are now only ashes - ashes piled high on the hills of Auschwitz and the fields of Treblinka and strewn in the forests of Poland. Their graves are scattered throughout Europe. Their blood cries out, but their voice is still. Therefore will I be their spokesman? In their name will I unfold this terrible indictment?"



## **"OPERATION FINALE" MOVIE**

THE TRUE STORY OF 'OPERATION FINALE'

**SEE THE OPERATION FINALE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/true-story-operation-finale-180970153/>

Director Chris Weitz explores the 1960 hunt for Nazi war criminal Adolf  
Eichmann in the new feature film



*Ben Kingsley plays the part of Adolph Eichmann*

**SEE THE MOVIE TRAILER**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGBNA7I9K8E>

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