

= Simon Wiesenthal =

Simon Wiesenthal ( 31 December 1908 ? 20 September 2005 ) was an Austrian Nazi hunter and writer . He was a Jewish Austrian Holocaust survivor who became famous after World War II for his work as a Nazi hunter .

He studied architecture and was living in Lviv ( Lwów ) at the outbreak of World War II . After being forced to work as a slave labourer in Nazi concentration camps such as Janowska , Plaszow , and Mauthausen during the war , Wiesenthal dedicated most of his life to tracking down and gathering information on fugitive Nazi war criminals so that they could be brought to trial . In 1947 he co @-@ founded the Jewish Historical Documentation Center in Linz , Austria , where he and others gathered information for future war crime trials and aided refugees in their search for lost relatives . He opened the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna in 1961 and continued to try to locate missing Nazi war criminals . He played a small role in locating Adolf Eichmann , who was captured in Buenos Aires in 1960 , and worked closely with the Austrian justice ministry to prepare a dossier on Franz Stangl , who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1971 .

In the 1970s and 1980s , Wiesenthal was involved in two high @-@ profile events involving Austrian politicians . Shortly after Bruno Kreisky was inaugurated as Austrian chancellor in April 1970 , Wiesenthal pointed out to the press that four of his new cabinet appointees had been members of the Nazi Party . Kreisky , angry , called Wiesenthal a " Jewish fascist " , likened his organisation to the Mafia , and accused him of collaborating with the Nazis . Wiesenthal successfully sued for libel , the suit ending in 1989 . In 1986 , Wiesenthal was involved in the case of Kurt Waldheim , whose Nazi past was revealed in the lead @-@ up to the 1986 Austrian presidential elections . Wiesenthal , embarrassed that he had previously cleared Waldheim of any wrongdoing , suffered much negative publicity as a result of this event .

With a reputation as a storyteller , Wiesenthal was the author of several memoirs containing tales that are only loosely based on actual events . In particular , he exaggerated his role in the capture of Eichmann in 1960 . Wiesenthal died in his sleep at age 96 in Vienna on 20 September 2005 and was buried in the city of Herzliya in Israel . The Simon Wiesenthal Center , located in Los Angeles , is named in his honor .

= = Early life = =

Wiesenthal was born at 11 : 30 pm on 31 December 1908 , in Buchach , Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria ( then part of Austria @-@ Hungary , now Ternopil Oblast , in Ukraine ) . His father , Asher Wiesenthal , was a wholesaler who had emigrated from the Russian Empire in 1905 to escape the frequent pogroms , violent campaigns against Jews . A reservist in the Austro @-@ Hungarian Army , Asher was called to active duty in 1914 at the start of World War I. He died in combat on the Eastern Front in 1915 . The remainder of the family ? Simon , his younger brother Hillel , and his mother Rosa ? fled to Vienna as the Russian army took control of Galicia . The two boys attended a German @-@ language Jewish school . The family returned to Buczacz in 1917 after the Russians retreated . The area changed hands several more times before the war ended in November 1918 .

Wiesenthal and his brother attended high school at the Humanistic Gymnasium in Buchach , where classes were taught in Polish . There Simon met his future wife , Cyla Müller , whom he would marry in 1936 . Hillel fell and broke his back in 1923 and died the following year . Rosa remarried in 1926 and moved to Dolyna with her new husband , Isack Halperin , who owned a tile factory there . Wiesenthal remained in Buczacz , living with the Müller family , until he graduated from high school ? on his second attempt ? in 1928 .

With an interest in art and drawing , Wiesenthal chose to study architecture . His first choice was to attend the Lwów Polytechnic ( Polish : Politechnika Lwowska ) , but he was turned away because the school 's Jewish quota had already been filled . He instead enrolled at the Czech Technical University in Prague , where he studied from 1928 until 1932 . He was apprenticed as a building engineer through 1934 and 1935 , spending most of that period in Odessa . He married Cyla in 1936

when he returned to Galicia .

Sources give differing reports of what happened next . Wiesenthal 's autobiographies contradict each other on many points ; he also over @-@ dramatised and mythologised events . One version has Wiesenthal opening an architectural office and finally being admitted to the Lwów Polytechnic for an advanced degree . He designed a tuberculosis sanatorium , along with some residential buildings during the course of his studies and was active in a student Zionist organisation . He wrote for the Omnibus , a satirical student newspaper , and graduated in 1939 . Author Guy Walters states that Wiesenthal 's earliest autobiography does not mention studies at Lwów . Walters quotes a curriculum vitae Wiesenthal prepared after World War II as stating he worked as a supervisor at a factory until 1939 and then worked as a mechanic in a different factory until the Nazis invaded in 1941 . Wiesenthal 's 1961 book *Ich Jagte Eichmann* ( " I Hunted Eichmann " ) states that he worked in Odessa as an engineer from 1940 to 1941 . Walters says that there is no record of Wiesenthal attending the university at Lwów , and that he does not appear in the *Katalog Architektów i Budowniczych* ( Catalogue of Architects and Builders ) for the appropriate period .

= = World War II = =

In Europe , World War II began in September 1939 with the Nazi invasion of Poland . As a result of the partitioning of Poland under the Molotov @-@ Ribbentrop Pact between Germany and the Soviet Union , the city of Lwów ( now Lviv ) was annexed by the Soviets and renamed Lvov . Wiesenthal 's stepfather , still living in Dolina , was arrested as a capitalist ; he later died in a Soviet prison . Wiesenthal 's mother came to live with Wiesenthal and Cyla in Lvov . He bribed an official to prevent his own deportation under Clause 11 , a rule that prevented all Jewish professionals and intellectuals from living within 100 kilometres ( 62 mi ) of the city , which was under Soviet occupation until the Germans invaded in June 1941 .

By mid @-@ July Wiesenthal and other Jewish residents had to register to do forced labour . Within six months , in November 1941 the Nazis had set up the Lwów Ghetto using Jewish forced labour . All Jews had to give up their homes and move there , a process completed in the following months . Several thousand Jews were murdered in Lvov by Ukrainian nationals and German Einsatzgruppen in June and July 1941 . In his autobiographies , Wiesenthal tells how he was arrested on 6 July , but saved from execution by his former foreman , a man named Bodnar , who was now a member of the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police . There are several versions of the story , which may be apocryphal .

In late 1941 , Wiesenthal and his wife were transferred to Janowska concentration camp and forced to work at the Eastern Railway Repair Works . He painted swastikas and other inscriptions on captured Soviet railway engines , and Cyla was put to work polishing the brass and nickel . In exchange for providing details about the railways , Wiesenthal obtained false identity papers for his wife from a member of the Armia Krajowa , a Polish underground organisation . She travelled to Warsaw , where she was put to work in a German radio factory . She spent time in two different labour camps as well . Conditions were harsh and her health was permanently damaged , but she survived the war . The couple was reunited in 1945 , and their daughter Paulinka was born the following year .

Every few weeks , the Nazis staged a roundup in the Lvov ghetto of people unable to work . These roundups typically took place while the able @-@ bodied were absent doing forced labour . In one such deportation , Wiesenthal 's mother and other elderly Jewish women were transported by freight train to Belzec extermination camp and killed in August 1942 . Around the same time , a Ukrainian policeman shot Cyla 's mother to death on the front porch of her home in Buczacz while she was being evicted . Cyla and Simon Wiesenthal lost 89 relatives during the Holocaust .

Forced labourers for the Eastern Railway were eventually kept in a separate closed camp , where conditions were a little better than at the main camp at Janowska . Wiesenthal prepared architectural drawings for Adolf Kohlrantz , the senior inspector , who submitted them under his own name . To obtain contracts , construction companies paid bribes to Kohlrantz , who shared some of the money with Wiesenthal . He was able to pass along further information about the railroads to the underground and occasionally left the compound to obtain supplies , even clandestinely obtaining

weapons for the Armia Krajowa and two pistols for himself , which he took along when he escaped in autumn 1943 .

According to Wiesenthal , on 20 April 1943 , Second Lieutenant Gustav Wilhaus , second in command at the Janowska camp , decided to shoot 54 Jewish intellectuals in celebration of Hitler 's 54th birthday . Unable to find enough such people still alive at Janowska , Wilhaus ordered a roundup of prisoners from the satellite camps . Wiesenthal and two other inmates were taken from the Eastern Railway camp to the execution site , a trench 6 feet ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) deep and 1 @, @ 500 feet ( 460 m ) long at a nearby sandpit . The men were stripped and led through " the Hose " , a six- or seven @- @ foot wide barbed wire corridor to the execution ground . The victims were shot and their bodies allowed to fall into the pit . Wiesenthal , waiting to be shot , heard someone called out his name . He was returned alive to the camp ; Kohlrantz had convinced his superiors that Wiesenthal was the best man available to paint a giant poster in honour of Hitler 's birthday .

On 2 October 1943 , according to Wiesenthal , Kohlrantz warned him that the camp and its prisoners were about to be liquidated . Kohlrantz gave Wiesenthal and fellow prisoner Arthur Scheiman passes to go to town , accompanied by a Ukrainian guard , to buy stationery . The two men escaped out the back of the shop while their guard waited at the front counter .

Wiesenthal did not mention either of these events ? or Kohlrantz 's part in them ? when testifying to American investigators in May 1945 , or in an affidavit he made in August 1954 about his wartime persecutions , and researcher Guy Walters questions their authenticity . Wiesenthal variously reported that Kohlrantz was killed on the Soviet Front in 1944 or in the Battle of Berlin on 19 April 1945 .

After several days in hiding , Scheiman rejoined his wife , and Wiesenthal was taken by members of the underground to the nearby village of Kulparkow , where he remained until the end of 1943 . Soon afterwards the Janowska camp was liquidated ; this made it unsafe to hide in the nearby countryside , so Wiesenthal returned to Lvov , where he spent three days hiding in a closet at the Scheiman 's apartment . He next moved to the apartment of Paulina Busch , for whom he had previously forged an identity card . He was arrested there , hiding under the floorboards , on 13 June 1944 and taken back to the remains of the camp at Janowska . Wiesenthal tried but failed to commit suicide to avoid being interrogated about his connections with the underground . In the end there was no time for interrogations , as Soviet forces were advancing into the area . SS @- @ Hauptsturmführer Friedrich Warzok , the new camp commandant , rounded up the remaining prisoners and transported them to Przemyśl , 135 miles ( 217 km ) west of Lvov , where he put them to work building fortifications . By September Warzok and his men were reassigned to the front , and Wiesenthal and the other surviving captives were sent to the Kraków @- @ Płaszów concentration camp .

By October the inmates were evacuated to Gross @- @ Rosen concentration camp , where inmates were suffering from severe overcrowding and a shortage of food . Wiesenthal 's big toe on his right foot had to be amputated after a rock fell on it while he was working in the quarry . He was still ill in January when the advancing Soviets forced yet another evacuation , this time on foot , to Chemnitz . Using a broom handle for a walking stick , he was one of the few who survived the march . From Chemnitz the prisoners were taken in open freight cars to Buchenwald , and a few days later by truck to Mauthausen concentration camp , arriving in mid @- @ February 1945 . Over half the prisoners did not survive the journey . Wiesenthal was placed in a death block for the mortally ill , where he survived on 200 calories a day until the camp was liberated by the Americans on 5 May 1945 . Wiesenthal weighed 41 kilograms ( 90 lb ) when he was liberated .

= = Nazi hunter = =

Within three weeks of the liberation of Mauthausen , Wiesenthal had prepared a list of around a hundred names of suspected Nazi war criminals ? mostly guards , camp commandants , and members of the Gestapo ? and presented it to a War Crimes office of the American Counterintelligence Corps at Mauthausen . He worked as an interpreter , accompanying officers who were carrying out arrests , though he was still very frail . When Austria was partitioned in July

1945 , Mauthausen fell into the Soviet @-@ occupied zone , so the American War Crimes Office was moved to Linz . Wiesenthal went with them , and was housed in a displaced persons camp . He served as vice @-@ chairman of the area 's Jewish Central Committee , an organisation that attempted to arrange basic care for Jewish refugees and tried to help people gather information about their missing family members .

Wiesenthal worked for the American Office of Strategic Services for a year , and continued to collect information on both victims and perpetrators of the Holocaust . He assisted the Berihah , an underground organisation that smuggled Jewish survivors into the British Mandate for Palestine . Wiesenthal helped arrange for forged papers , food supplies , transportation , and so on . In February 1947 , he and 30 other volunteers founded the Jewish Historical Documentation Center in Linz to gather information for future war crimes trials . They collected 3 @, @ 289 depositions from concentration camp survivors still living in Europe . However , as the US and the Soviet Union lost interest in conducting further trials , a similar group headed by Tuvia Friedman in Vienna closed its office in 1952 , and Wiesenthal 's closed in 1954 . Almost all of the documentation collected at both centres was forwarded to the Yad Vashem archives in Israel . Wiesenthal , employed full @-@ time by two Jewish welfare agencies , continued his work with refugees . As it became clear that the former Allies were no longer interested in pursuing the work of bringing Nazi war criminals to justice , Wiesenthal persisted , believing the survivors were obligated to take on the task . His work became a way to memorialise and remember all the people that had been lost . He told biographer Alan Levy in 1974 :

When the Germans first came to my city in Galicia , half the population was Jewish : one hundred fifty thousand Jews . When the Germans were gone , five hundred were alive . ... Many times I was thinking that everything in life has a price , so to stay alive must also have a price . And my price was always that , if I lived , I must be deputy for many people who are not alive .

= = = Adolf Eichmann = = =

Though most of the Jews still alive in Linz after the war had emigrated , Wiesenthal decided to stay on , partly because the family of Adolf Eichmann lived a few blocks away from him . Eichmann had been in charge of the transportation and deportation of Jews in the Nazi Final Solution to the Jewish Question : a plan , finalised at the Wannsee Conference ? at which Eichmann took the minutes ? to exterminate all the Jews in Europe . After the war , Eichmann hid in Austria using forged identity papers until 1950 , when he left via Italy and moved to Argentina under an assumed name . Hoping to obtain information on Eichmann 's whereabouts , Wiesenthal continuously monitored the remaining members of the immediate family in Linz until they vanished in 1952 .

Wiesenthal learned from a letter shown to him in 1953 that Eichmann had been seen in Buenos Aires , and he passed along that information to the Israeli consulate in Vienna in 1954 . Fritz Bauer , prosecutor @-@ general of the state of Hesse in West Germany , received independent confirmation of Eichmann 's whereabouts in 1957 , but German agents were unable to find him until late 1959 . When Eichmann 's father died in 1960 , Wiesenthal made arrangements for private detectives to surreptitiously photograph members of the family , as Eichmann 's brother Otto was said to bear a strong family resemblance and there were no current photos of the fugitive . He provided these photographs to Mossad agents on 18 February . Zvi Aharoni , one of the Mossad agents responsible for Eichmann 's capture in Buenos Aires on 11 May 1960 , said the photos were useful in confirming Eichmann 's identity . On 23 May Israeli Prime Minister David Ben @-@ Gurion announced Eichmann was under arrest and in Israel . The next day Wiesenthal , while he was being interviewed by reporters , received a congratulatory telegram from Yad Vashem . He immediately became a minor celebrity , and began work on a book about his experiences . Ich jagte Eichmann : Tatsachenbericht ( I Chased Eichmann : A True Story ) was published six weeks before the trial opened in spring 1961 . Wiesenthal helped the prosecution prepare their case and attended a portion of the trial . Eichmann was sentenced to death and was hanged on 1 June 1962 .

Meanwhile , both of Wiesenthal 's employers terminated his services in 1960 , as there were too few refugees left in the city to justify the expense . Wiesenthal opened a new documentation centre

in Vienna in 1961 . He became a Mossad operative , for which he received the equivalent of several hundred dollars per month . He maintained files on hundreds of suspected Nazi war criminals and located many , about six of whom were arrested as a result of his activities . Successes included locating and bringing to trial Erich Rajakowitsch , responsible for the deportation of Jews from the Netherlands , and Franz Murer , the commandant of the Vilna Ghetto . In 1963 Wiesenthal read in the newspaper that Karl Silberbauer , the man who had arrested famed diarist Anne Frank , had been located ; he was serving on the police force in Vienna . Wiesenthal 's publicity campaign led to Silberbauer being temporarily suspended from the force , but he was never prosecuted for arresting the Frank family .

In spite of Wiesenthal 's protests , in late 1963 his centre in Vienna was taken over by a local community group , so he immediately set up a new independent office , funded using donations and his stipend from the Mossad . As the 20 @-@ year statute of limitations for German war crimes was about to expire , Wiesenthal began lobbying to have it extended or removed entirely . In March 1965 the Bundestag deferred the matter for five years , effectively extending the expiration date . Similar action was taken by the Austrian government . But as time went on , it became more difficult to obtain prosecutions . Witnesses grew older and were less likely to be able to offer valuable testimony . Funding for trials was inadequate , as the governments of Austria and Germany became less interested in obtaining convictions for wartime events , preferring to forget the Nazi past .

= = = Franz Stangl = = =

Franz Stangl was a supervisor at the Hartheim Euthanasia Centre , part of Action T4 , an early Nazi euthanasia programme that was responsible for the deaths of over 70 @,@ 000 mentally ill or physically deformed people in Germany . In February 1942 , he was commander at the Sobibor extermination camp and in August of the same year he was transferred to Treblinka . During his time at these camps , he oversaw the deaths of nearly 900 @,@ 000 people . While in U.S. detention for two years , he remained unidentified as a war criminal because so few witnesses had survived Sobibor and Treblinka that authorities never realised who he was . He escaped while on a roadwork detail in Linz in May 1948 . After he made his way to Rome , the Caritas relief agency provided him with a Red Cross passport and a boat ticket to Syria . His family joined him there a year later and they emigrated to Brazil in 1951 .

It was probably Stangl 's brother @-@ in law who informed Wiesenthal of Stangl 's whereabouts in 1964 . Concerned that Stangl would be warned and escape , Wiesenthal quietly prepared a dossier with the assistance of Austrian Minister of Justice Hans Klecatsky . Stangl was arrested outside his home in São Paulo on 28 February 1967 and was extradited to Germany on 22 June . A month later Wiesenthal 's book *The Murderers Among Us* was released . Wiesenthal 's publishers advertised that he had been responsible for locating over 800 Nazis , a claim that had no basis in fact but was nonetheless repeated by reputable newspapers such as the New York Times . Stangl was sentenced to life in prison and died of heart failure in June 1971 , having confessed his guilt to biographer Gitta Sereny the previous day .

= = = Hermine Braunsteiner = = =

Known as " the Mare of Majdanek " , Hermine Braunsteiner was a guard who served at Majdanek and Ravensbrück concentration camps . A cruel and sadistic woman , she earned her nickname for her propensity to kick her victims to death . She served a three @-@ year sentence in Austria for her activities in Ravensbrück , but had not yet been charged for any of her crimes at Majdanek when she emigrated to the United States in 1959 . She became an American citizen in 1963 .

Wiesenthal was first told about Braunsteiner in early 1964 via a chance encounter in Tel Aviv with someone who had seen her performing selections at Majdanek ? deciding who was to be assigned to slave labour and who was to immediately be killed in the gas chambers . When he returned to Vienna he had an operative visit one of her relatives to clandestinely collect information . Wiesenthal soon traced Braunsteiner 's whereabouts to Queens , New York , so he notified the Israeli police

and the New York Times . In spite of Wiesenthal 's efforts to expedite the matter , Braunsteiner was not extradited to Germany until 1973 . Her trial was part of a joint indictment with nine other defendants accused of killing 250 @,@ 000 people at Majdanek . She was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1981 and died in 1999 .

= = = Josef Mengele = = =

Josef Mengele was a medical officer assigned to Auschwitz concentration camp from 1943 until the end of the war . As well as making most of the selections of inmates as they arrived by train from all over Europe , he performed unscientific and usually deadly experiments on the inmates . He left the camp in January 1945 as the Red Army approached and was briefly in American custody in Weiden in der Oberpfalz , but was released . He took work as a farm hand in rural Germany , remaining until 1949 , when he decided to flee the country ; he acquired a Red Cross passport and left for Argentina ; he set up a business in Buenos Aires in 1951 . Acting on information received from Wiesenthal , West German authorities tried to extradite Mengele in 1960 , but he could not be found ; he had in fact moved to Paraguay in 1958 . He moved to Brazil in 1961 and lived there until his death in 1979 .

Wiesenthal claimed to have information that placed Mengele in several locations : on the Greek island of Kythnos in 1960 , Cairo in 1961 , in Spain in 1971 , and in Paraguay in 1978 , the latter eighteen years after he had left . In 1982 , he offered a reward of \$ 100 @,@ 000 for Mengele 's capture and insisted as late as 1985 ? six years after Mengele 's death ? that he was still alive . The Mengele family admitted to authorities in 1985 that he had died in 1979 ; the body was exhumed and its identity was confirmed . Earlier that year Wiesenthal had served as one of the judges at a mock trial of Mengele , held in Jerusalem .

= = = Simon Wiesenthal Center = = =

The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles was founded in 1977 by Rabbi Marvin Hier using large donations from philanthropists Samuel Belzberg and Joseph Tennenbaum . Hier 's organisation paid Wiesenthal an honorarium for the right to use his name . The center helped with the campaign to remove the statute of limitations on Nazi crimes and continues the hunt for suspected Nazi war criminals , but today its primary activities include Holocaust remembrance , education , and fighting antisemitism . The center 's Holocaust museum , the largest in the United States , opened in 1993 . Moriah Films , the center 's media division , has won two Academy Awards , including one for the documentary Genocide ( 1982 ) . Wiesenthal was not always happy with the way the center was run . He thought the museum was not dignified enough and that he should have a larger say in the overall operations . He even wrote to the Board of Directors requesting Hier 's removal , but in the end had to be content with being a figurehead .

= = Austrian politics and later life = =

= = = Bruno Kreisky = = =

Shortly after Bruno Kreisky was inaugurated as Austrian chancellor in April 1970 , Wiesenthal pointed out to the press that four of his new cabinet appointees had been members of the Nazi Party . In an address in June , Kreisky 's Minister of Education and Culture Leopold Gratz characterised Wiesenthal 's Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime as a private spy ring , invading the privacy of innocent parties . In an interview a week later , Kreisky himself described Wiesenthal as a " Jewish fascist " , a remark he later denied making . Wiesenthal discovered that he would be unable to sue , because under Austrian law Kreisky was protected by parliamentary immunity .

When his re @-@ election in 1975 seemed unsure , Kreisky proposed that his Social Democratic

Party should form a coalition with the Freedom Party , headed by Friedrich Peter . Wiesenthal was in possession of information proving that Peter had been a member of the 1 SS Infantry Brigade , a unit that had exterminated over 13 @, @ 000 Jewish civilians in Ukraine in 1941 ? 42 . He decided not to reveal this information to the press until after the election , but forwarded his dossier to President Rudolf Kirchschläger . Peter denied having participated in , or having knowledge of , any atrocities . In the end , Kreisky 's party won a clear majority and did not form the coalition .

In a press conference a short time after the election and Wiesenthal 's revelations , Kreisky said Wiesenthal used " the methods of a quasi @-@ political Mafia . " Wiesenthal filed a libel lawsuit ( although Kreisky had the power to declare immunity if he so chose ) , and when Kreisky later accused Wiesenthal of being an agent of the Gestapo , working with the Judenrat in Lvov , these accusations were incorporated into the lawsuit as well . The suit was decided in Wiesenthal 's favour in 1989 , but after Kreisky 's death nine months later his heirs refused to pay . When the relevant archives were later opened for research , no evidence was found that Wiesenthal had been a collaborator .

= = = Kurt Waldheim = = =

When Kurt Waldheim was named secretary @-@ general of the United Nations in 1971 , Wiesenthal reported ? without checking very thoroughly ? that there was no evidence that he had a Nazi past . This analysis had been supported by the opinions of the American Counterintelligence Corps and Office of Strategic Services when they examined his records right after the war . However , Waldheim 's 1985 autobiography did not include his war service following his recuperation from a 1941 injury . When he returned to active duty in 1942 , he was posted to Yugoslavia and Greece , and had knowledge of murders of civilians that took place in those locations during his service there . The Austrian news magazine Profil published a story in March 1986 ? during his campaign for the presidency of Austria ? that Waldheim had been a member of the Sturmabteilung ( SA ) . The New York Times soon reported that Waldheim had failed to reveal all of the facts about his war service . Wiesenthal , embarrassed , attempted to help Waldheim defend himself . The World Jewish Congress investigated the issue , but the Israeli attorney general concluded that their material was insufficient evidence for a conviction . Waldheim was elected president in July 1986 . A panel of historians tasked with investigating the case issued a report eighteen months later . They concluded that , while there was no evidence that Waldheim had committed atrocities , he must have known they were occurring , yet did nothing . Wiesenthal unsuccessfully demanded that Waldheim resign . The World Jewish Congress successfully lobbied to have Waldheim barred from entering the United States .

= = = Nobel Peace Prize nomination = = =

Wiesenthal was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 , the fortieth anniversary of the end of the war . Rumour had it that the Nobel Committee would give the prize to a Holocaust @-@ related candidate . Fellow Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel , also nominated , began a campaign in hopes of winning the prize , travelling to France , Ethiopia and Oslo for speaking tours and humanitarian work . Rabbi Hier of the Wiesenthal Center urged Wiesenthal to lobby for the prize as well , but other than delivering a lecture in Oslo , Wiesenthal did little to promote his candidacy . When Wiesel was awarded the 1986 prize , Wiesenthal claimed the World Jewish Congress must have influenced the Committee 's decision , a claim the WJC denied . Biographer Tom Segev speculates that the loss may have been because of the negative publicity over the Waldheim affair .

= = = Retirement and death = = =

Wiesenthal received many death threats over the years . After a bomb placed by neo @-@ Nazis exploded outside his house in Vienna on 11 June 1982 , police guards were stationed outside his home 24 hours a day . Cyla found the stressful nature of her husband 's career and the dragged

@-@ out legal matters regarding Kreisky to be overwhelming , and she sometimes suffered from depression .

Wiesenthal spent time at his office at the Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime in Vienna even as he approached his ninetieth birthday . The last Nazi he had a hand in bringing to trial was Untersturmführer Julius Viel , who was convicted in 2001 of shooting seven Jewish prisoners . Cyla died on 10 November 2003 , at age 95 . Wiesenthal retired shortly afterward . " I have survived them all . If there were any left , they 'd be too old and weak to stand trial today . My work is done , " said Wiesenthal . Wiesenthal died on 20 September 2005 , at age 96 , and was buried in Herzliya , Israel . He is survived by his daughter , Paulinka Kreisberg , and three grandchildren .

In a statement on Wiesenthal 's death , Council of Europe chairman Terry Davis said , " Without Simon Wiesenthal 's relentless effort to find Nazi criminals and bring them to justice , and to fight anti @-@ Semitism and prejudice , Europe would never have succeeded in healing its wounds and reconciling itself . He was a soldier of justice , which is indispensable to our freedom , stability and peace . "

In 2010 the Austrian and Israeli governments jointly issued a commemorative stamp honouring Wiesenthal . He had been a lifelong stamp collector , and his collection sold at auction for nearly ? 500 @, @ 000 after his death .

= = Dramatic portrayals = =

Wiesenthal was portrayed by Israeli actor Shmuel Rodensky in the film adaptation of Frederick Forsyth 's *The Odessa File* ( 1974 ) . After the film 's release , Wiesenthal received many reports of sightings of the subject of the film , Eduard Roschmann , commandant of the Riga Ghetto . These sightings proved to be false alarms , but in 1977 a person living in Buenos Aires who saw the movie reported to police that Roschmann was living nearby . The fugitive escaped to Paraguay , where he died of a heart attack a month later . In Ira Levin 's novel *The Boys from Brazil* , the character of Yakov Liebermann ( called Ezra Liebermann and played by Laurence Olivier in the film ) is modelled on Wiesenthal . Olivier visited Wiesenthal , who offered advice on how to play the role . Wiesenthal attended the film 's New York premiere in 1978 . Ben Kingsley portrayed him in the HBO film *Murderers Among Us : The Simon Wiesenthal Story* ( 1989 ) .

Wiesenthal has been the subject of several documentaries . *The Art of Remembrance : Simon Wiesenthal* was produced in 1994 by filmmakers Hannah Heer and Werner Schmiedel for River Lights Pictures . The documentary *I Have Never Forgotten You : The Life and Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal* , narrated by Nicole Kidman , was released by Moriah Films in 2007 . Wiesenthal is a one @-@ person show written and performed by Tom Dugan that premiered in 2014 .

= = Autobiographical inconsistencies = =

Wiesenthal wrote a number of books , some of which contain conflicting stories and tales , many of which were invented . Several authors , including Segev and British author Guy Walters , feel that Wiesenthal 's autobiographies are not reliable sources of information about his life and activities . For example , Wiesenthal would describe two people fighting over one of the lists he had prepared of survivors of the Holocaust ; the two look up and recognise each other and have a tearful reunion . In one account it is a man and wife , and in another telling it is two brothers . Wiesenthal 's memoirs variously claim he had spent time in as many as eleven concentration camps ; the actual number was five . A drawing he made in 1945 that he claimed was a scene he witnessed in Mauthausen had actually been sketched from photos that appeared in *Life* magazine that June . He particularly over @-@ emphasised his role in the capture of Eichmann , claiming that he prevented Veronika Eichmann from having her husband declared dead in 1947 , when in fact the declaration was denied " at the instigation of the authorities . " Wiesenthal said that he had retained his Eichmann file when he sent his research materials to Yad Vashem in 1952 ; in fact he sent all his materials there , and it was his counterpart , Tuvia Friedman in Vienna , who had retained materials on Eichmann . Isser



Harel , director of the Mossad at the time , has stated that Wiesenthal had no role in the capture of Eichmann .

Walters and Segev both noted inconsistencies between Wiesenthal 's stories and his actual achievements . Segev concluded that Wiesenthal " lied as often as he did " because of his storytelling nature and survivor guilt . Daniel Finkelstein described Walters ' research in Hunting Evil as impeccable and quoted Ben Barkow : " Accepting that Wiesenthal was a showman and a braggart and , yes , even a liar , can live alongside acknowledging the contribution he made " .

= = List of books and journal articles = =

= = = Books = = =

Ich jagte Eichmann : Tatsachenbericht ( I Chased Eichmann : A True Story ) . Gütersloh : S. Mohn ( 1961 )

Writing under the pen name Mischka Kukin , Wiesenthal published Humor hinter dem Eisernen Vorhang ( " Humor Behind the Iron Curtain " ) . Gütersloh : Signum @-@ Verlag ( 1962 )

The Murderers Among Us : The Simon Wiesenthal Memoirs . New York : McGraw @-@ Hill ( 1967 )

Sails of Hope : The Secret Mission of Christopher Columbus . New York : Macmillan ( 1973 )

" Mauthausen : Steps beyond the Grave " . In Hunter and Hunted : Human History of the Holocaust . Gerd Korman , editor . New York : Viking Press ( 1973 ) . pp. 286 ? 295 .

The Sunflower : On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness New York : Schocken Books ( 1969 )

Max and Helen : A Remarkable True Love Story . New York : Morrow ( 1982 )

Every Day Remembrance Day : A Chronicle of Jewish Martyrdom . New York : Henry Holt ( 1987 )

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= = = Journal articles = = =

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