


The Real Schindler?

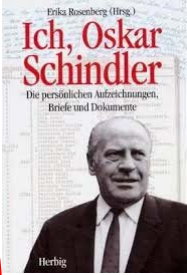


7 WINNER OSCARS
BEST FILM
BEST DIRECTOR - Steven Spielberg
BEST SCREENPLAY - Steven Zaillian
BEST ORIGINAL MUSIC SCORE
BEST COSTUME DESIGNER
BEST EDITING
BEST ART DIRECTION

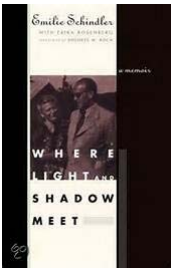
with **STEVEN SPIELBERG**
SCHINDLER'S LIST

Weblinks

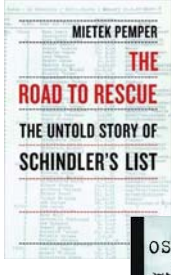
<http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/survivor/schindler.html>
<https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005787>
<http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/righteous/stories/schindler.asp>



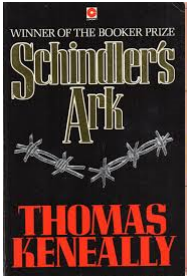
Erika Rosenberg (Hrsg.)
Ich, Oskar Schindler
Die persönlichen Aufzeichnungen, Briefe und Dokumente



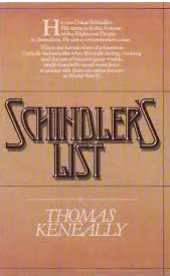
Emilie Schindler
WITH GLEN LANGRISH
WHERE NIGHTINGALES SHADOW MEET




MIETEK PEMPER
THE ROAD TO RESCUE
THE UNTOLD STORY OF SCHINDLER'S LIST



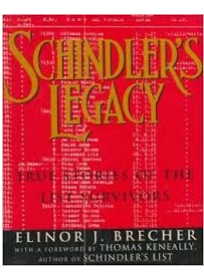
WINNER OF THE BOOKER PRIZE
Schindler's Ark
THOMAS KENEALLY



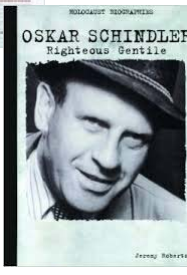
H
SCHINDLER'S LIST
THOMAS KENEALLY



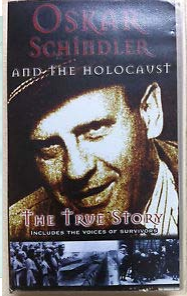
OSKAR SCHINDLER
The Untold Account of His Life, His Business, and How He Saved Jews from the Holocaust
DAVID M. CROWE



SCHINDLER'S LEGACY
FROM THE MEN OF THE LIST TO THE MEN OF TODAY
ELINOR J. BRECHER
WITH A FOREWORD BY THOMAS KENEALLY, AUTHOR OF SCHINDLER'S LIST



OSKAR SCHINDLER
Righteous Gentle
Jenny Roberts



OSKAR SCHINDLER AND THE HOLOCAUST
THE TRUE STORY
INCLUDES THE VOICES OF SURVIVORS

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Pre-war years

- Born 28 April 1908 in Svitavy
 - part of the Austrian Empire til 1918;
 - part of the new state of Czechoslovakia 1918-1938;
 - this part of Czechoslovakia was called the Sudetenland;
 - Germany snatched this territory from Czechoslovakia in October 1938
- Before 1938, employment included: selling farm machinery; manager of driving school; selling electrical equipment; poultry farm; work in a bank
- Married Emilie Pelzl 6 March 1928
 - Before 1928: Had son and daughter with another women by the time he was married to Emilie
- 1935: Joined the Sudeten German Party (Sudeten Nazis)
- 1938/39: joined the Nazi Party



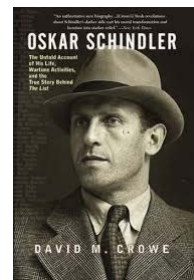
Source: <http://www.holocaustresearchproject.org/survivor/schindler.html>

Spy for the Abwehr

- 1 July 1938: Joined the German Military Intelligence Service
- Provided intelligence on location of Czech troops, defenses, etc
- 18 July 1938 arrested by Czech government for spying
- August 1938: “pleaded guilty to offences of betrayal against the state”
- October 1938: as a political prisoner, he was released from prison after German occupation of Sudetenland and resumed spying for Abwehr
- Began gathering intelligence about Czech-Polish border after his release to help the German Army prepare for the invasion of Poland
- May have been involved in acquiring Polish army uniforms and ephemera that allowed the SS to fake the appearance of a Polish attack on German border towns (specifically Gleiwitz)
- Mid-September 1939: arrived in Krakow, Poland after German defeat of city

David Crowe evaluates Schindler’s connections:

“Oskar Schindler’s success in protecting and saving his Jewish workers in Krakow and Brünnlitz centered around his close ties with Wehrmacht [German military] officers in Krakow, Berlin, and elsewhere. As previously mentioned, his ties within Admiral Canaris’s Abwehr [military intelligence] were essential to his work. Equally important, however, were his links to the Wehrmacht’s Armaments Inspectorate (Rüstungsinspektion) and Himmler’s Security Police, Sipo.” (David Crowe, *Oskar Schindler*, p. 79)



Some of these contacts included:

- General Maximilian Schindler, head of the Armaments Inspectorate in the General Government
- Oberstleutnant Ott, head of the Wehrmacht Armaments Inspectorate in Kraków
- Oberstleutnant Süßmuth, head of the Armaments Inspectorate Office in Troppau
- Erich Lange, Army High Command of the Ordnance Department (David Crowe, *Oskar Schindler*, p. 79-81)

Spy for Jewish Agency for Palestine

- Abwehr agent status enabled Schindler to travel to Hungary and Turkey starting in 1943
- May have helped in the following areas:
 - Illegally transferring money into occupied Poland to aid Jews
 - Determine Germany's exterminationist policies
 - Provide intelligence to determine best routes to smuggle Jews to safe havens

(Source: Crowe, *Oskar Schindler*, p. 103, 118, 151, 291-314)

One of Schindler's
Contacts in Budapest,
Hungary:
Rudolf Kasztner



Badge?



David Crowe: "Steven Spielberg made great visual use of this Nazi badge in his film *Schindler's List*. By using this important Nazi symbol, both artists [Thomas Keneally and Spielberg] were trying to imply that Oskar Schindler was a highly decorated Nazi Party member who later used this honor to help save "his Jews." ... Though none of the scores of survivors interviewed for this book remembers a Nazi badge on Oskar's coat lapels, ... the wearer of the Golden Party Badge [pictured below] could expect special treatment at theaters and restaurants." (*Oskar Schindler*, p. 45-46)





Oskar Schindler (third from left) at a party with local SS officials on his 34th birthday. Schindler attempted to use his connections with German officials to obtain information that might protect his Jewish employees. Krakow, Poland, April 28, 1942.

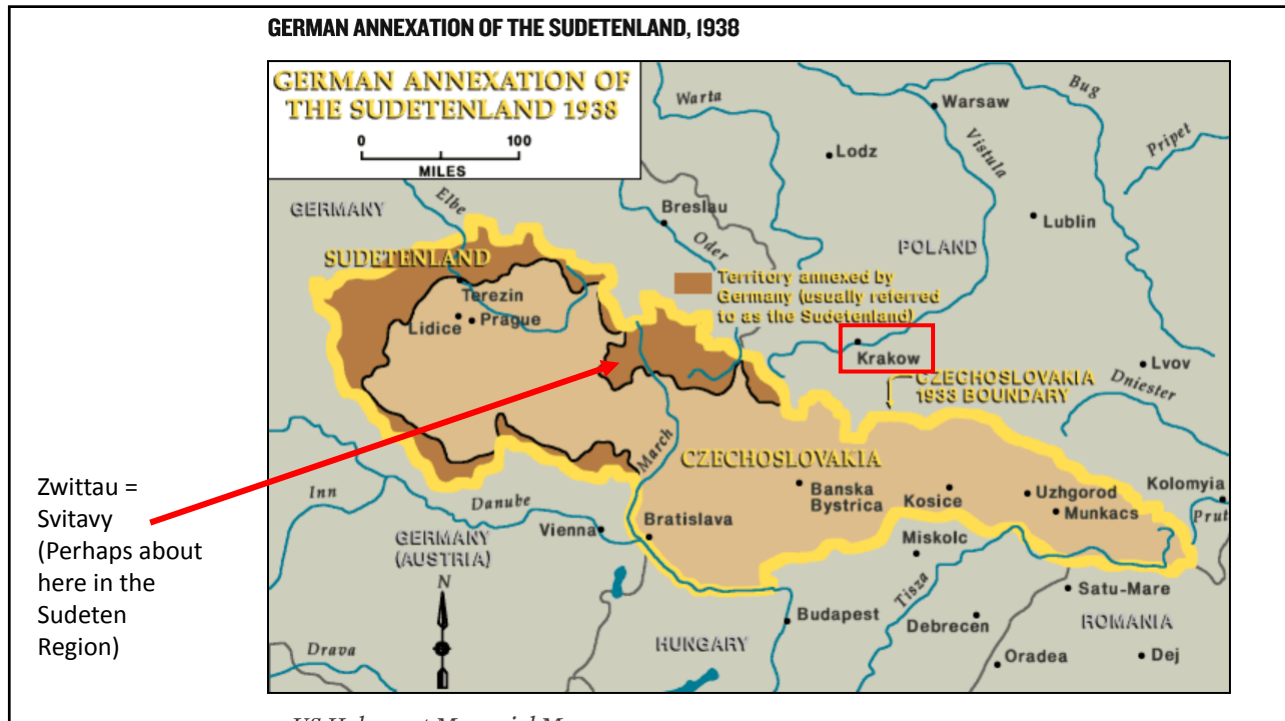
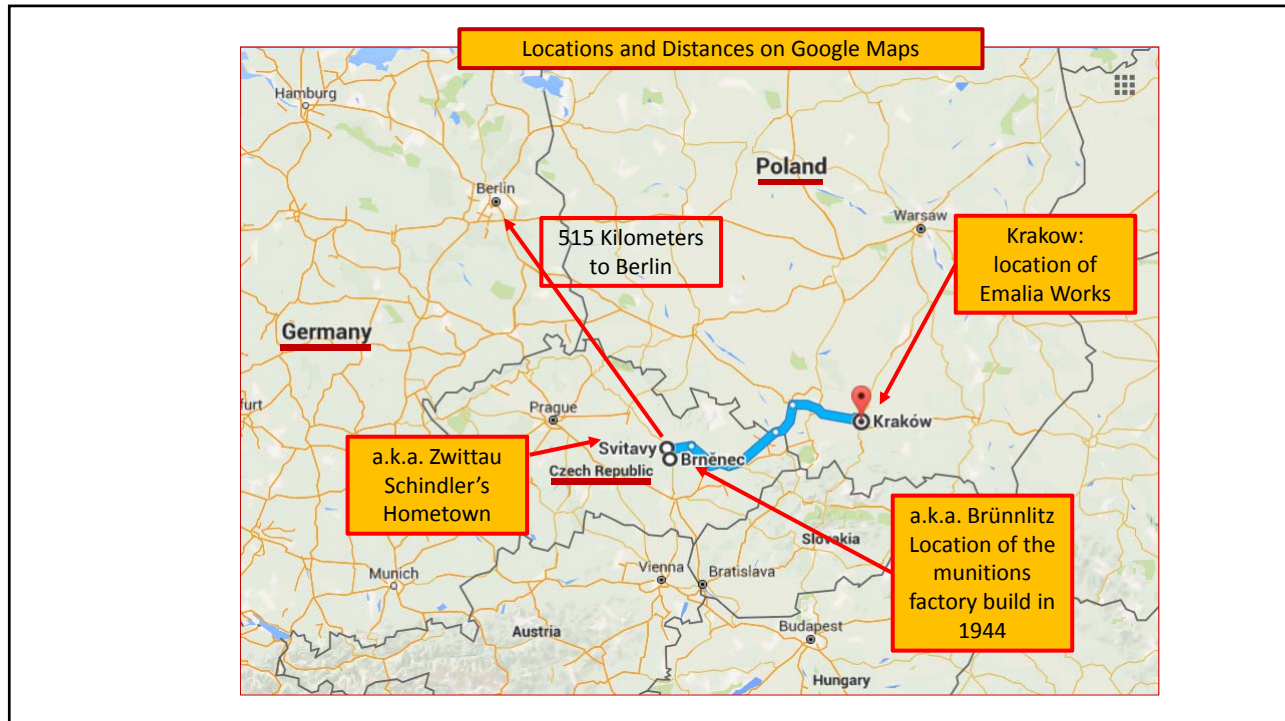


Scene from one of Oskar Schindler's parties in Krakow. At such events, Schindler (second from left) attempted to bribe Nazi officials for information about imminent deportations. Krakow, Poland, 1943.



<https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/gallery.php?ModuleId=10005787&MediaType=PH>





KRAKOW, POLAND: SCHINDLER'S FACTORY SITE

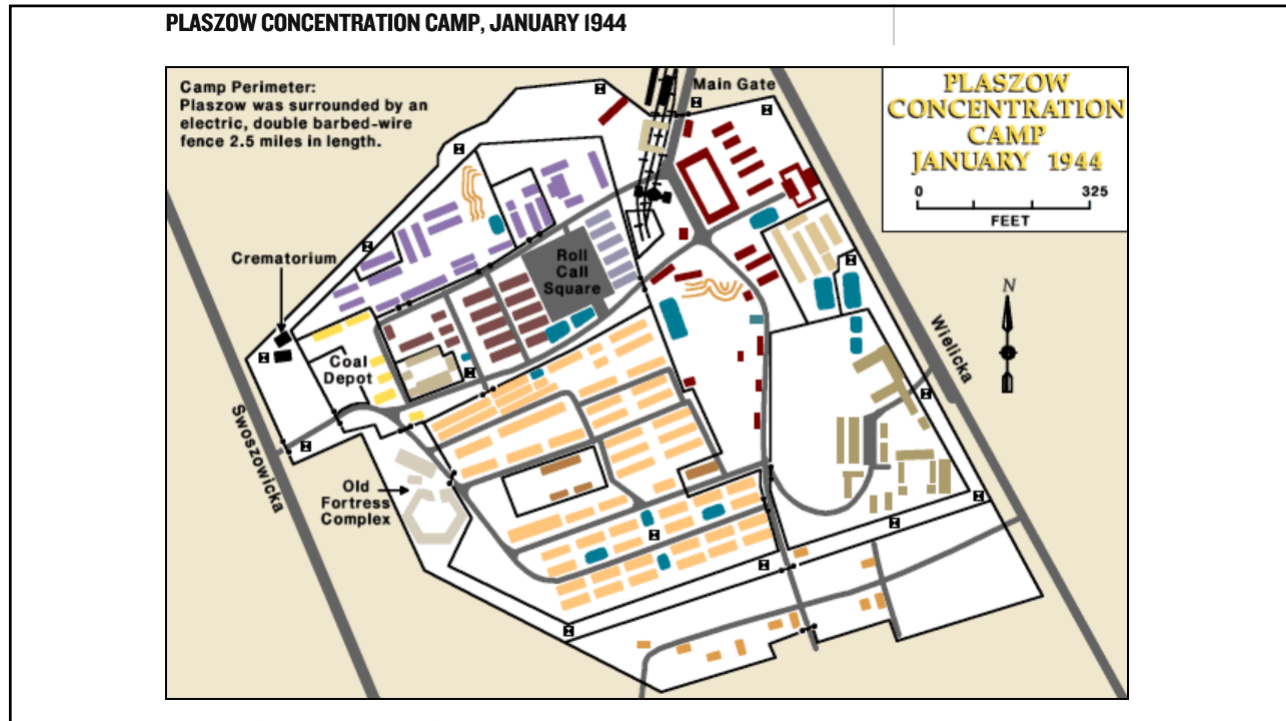


US Holocaust Memorial Museum



1. The old city of Krakow
2. Kazimierz – the Jewish Quarter
3. The ghetto in Podgorze
4. The Zablocie industrial zone
5. The Plaszow camp
6. Stalag 369 – the POW camp next to the village of Borek Falecki
7. The tram bridge on the Vistula
8. The old quarry
9. The new quarry, built on the grounds of the old Jewish cemetery
10. The railway tracks to Auschwitz

Source: http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/our_collections/schindlers_list/index.asp



Amon Goeth



Amon Goeth, commandant of the Plaszow camp. Plaszow, Poland, between February 1943 and September 1944.

– USHMM, courtesy of Leopold Page Photographic Collection; US Holocaust Memorial Museum

More than pots and pans

- Rekord Ltd (company acquired by Oskar Schindler in mid-November 1939 (p. 110-111))
- 1945 Financial Report: \$6 million enamelware in Emalia; \$2 armaments production (p. 276)
- Construction of Siemens-Bauunion GmbH (i.e. the armaments division) completed in summer 1944 after beginning process of paperwork and construction in 1943 (p. 276-277)
- The promise of armaments production, essential war materials, justified Schindler's demands for "his workers"

Source: Crowe, *Oskar Schindler*

Bruennlitz = Brünnlitz = Brněnec



In Czech Republic today



2004

Construction of Oskar Schindler's armaments factory in Bruennlitz. Czechoslovakia, October 1944.

– USHMM, courtesy of Leopold Page Photographic Collection; US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Itzhak Stern



- Movie character is a composite of Abraham Bankier, Mietek Pemper, and Stern.
- Stern headed the Society of the Protection of Health (TOZ), and in Kraków was responsible for the health of Jews.
- Important contact for Schindler once Stern was deported to Plaszow in 1943 (p. 103, Crowe, *Oskar Schindler*)
- Best symbolized when Stern was helping Jews get a *Blauschein*?

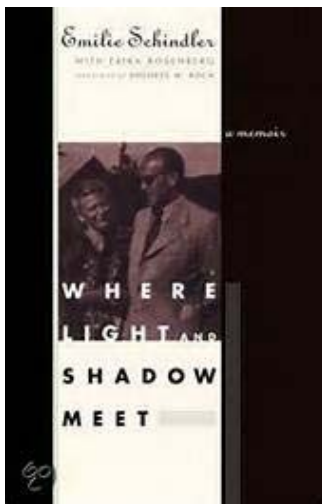
Mietek Pemper



Abraham Bankier



Emilie Schindler



- b. 22 October 1907; died 5 October 2001
- 1940-1944 mostly lived in Zwittau (Czech) away from Oskar
- Helped Oskar create and supply factory in Brünnlitz
- Abandoned by Oskar in Argentina in 1957
- Consulted by Keneally and Spielberg
- May 1994: Righteous Among the Nations Award (Yad Vashem)

