

Oskar Schindler



Oskar Schindler was a German businessman. He helped save the lives of more than 1,000 **Jews** during the Holocaust of World War II (1939–45). Schindler married his wife, Emilie, in 1928.

In 1935 Schindler joined a pro-Nazi party and began spying in Czechoslovakia for the German military. After Germany occupied Poland in 1939, Schindler went to Kraków, Poland. He opened a **factory** there. By 1942 nearly half of his workers were Jewish. The same year the Nazis decided to kill all the Jews in areas controlled by Germany.

At first, Schindler kept his Jewish workers safe by **bribing** German officials. In 1944 Schindler's factory was moved, close to his **hometown**. Before the move, Schindler, Emilie and his **staff** made a list of Jewish workers he said he needed for the new factory. Eventually, about 1,100 workers arrived at Brnenec. They spent the remainder of the war building **ammunition** that was made to fail. The Jews he saved came to be called Schindlerjuden.

The war ended in Europe on May 8, 1945. Schindler and Emilie **fled** the next day with the help of the Schindlerjuden. He eventually moved to West Germany and spent the rest of his life supported by donations from the Schindlerjuden.

Schindler was declared a Righteous Gentile (a non-Jewish person who helped Jews during the Holocaust) in Israel in 1962. Schindler died on October 9, 1974, in Hildesheim, West Germany, and was buried in Jerusalem.

Schindler's story was mostly known only among Holocaust survivors until Schindler's Ark by Thomas Keneally was published in 1982. The novel was used as the basis for the film Schindler's List (1993).

VOCABULARY

Find the definition. Match with the letter.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---|
| a) Bribe | _____ | a supply or quantity of bullets and shells |
| b) Factory | _____ | a group of officers assisting an officer in command of an army formation or administration headquarters |
| c) Hometown | _____ | run away from a place or situation of danger. |
| d) Staff | _____ | a building or group of buildings where goods are manufactured or assembled chiefly by machine |
| e) Ammunition | _____ | persuade (someone) to act in one's favor, typically illegally or dishonestly, by a gift of money or other inducement. |
| f) Fled (past of flee) | _____ | the town of one's birth or early life or of one's present fixed residence |

READING COMPREHENSION

Write True or False

1. Schindler's wife name was Emilie. _____
2. Schindler opened a factory in Kraków, Poland. _____
3. Schindler did not have any Jewish worker in his factory. _____
4. Some German officials accepted bribes from Schindler. _____
5. The protected Jews were called Schindler's Ark. _____
6. The war ended in 1950. _____
7. Schindler went to West Germany and continued helping the Jews. _____
8. A film called Schindler's List was released in 1993. _____