



Oskar Schindler

■ Schindler was born on 28 April 1908 in Moravia. When he left school he started various businesses. In 1939 Schindler joined the Nazi Party. He was one of the many businessmen who tried to profit from the German invasion of Poland in 1939. Schindler took possession of a factory in Krakow from a Jewish industrialist.

1 Oskar Schindler was a German industrialist who saved the lives of almost 1,100 Jews during the Holocaust. Schindler gave them jobs in his factories. Steven Spielberg made a film about Oskar Schindler's experiences during the war. The film won 7 Academy Awards.

■ At the end of the Second World War, Schindler had no money. He had spent all of his money on bribes and buying food on the black-market for his workers. Schindler was a very poor man and he lived with money from the Jews that he had helped. Schindler died at the age of 66 in Frankfurt, Germany in 1974. He is buried at the Catholic Cemetery at Mount Zion in Jerusalem.

■ The original list with the names of the Jews Schindler had saved called 'Schindler's List' was found in 1999 and is now in the Holocaust Museum of Yad Vashem in Israel.

■ Schindler needed people to work in his factory. He asked the Nazi's if he could have 1000 Jews to work for him. The names of these workers were on a piece of paper which the Jews called Schindler's list. These people were protected from the Nazi's and Schindler's accountant said 'the list means life'. During the 1942 raid on the Krakow Ghetto Schindler was horrified by the murder of many of the Jews who worked for him. Schindler began to protect his workers by bribing Nazi officials. Many of them were unskilled but he said they were still important for his factory.

■ In 1967, Schindler was honoured at Israel's Yad Vashem memorial as a "righteous among the nations", an honour by Israel to non-Jews who saved Jews during the Holocaust at great personal risk.

