

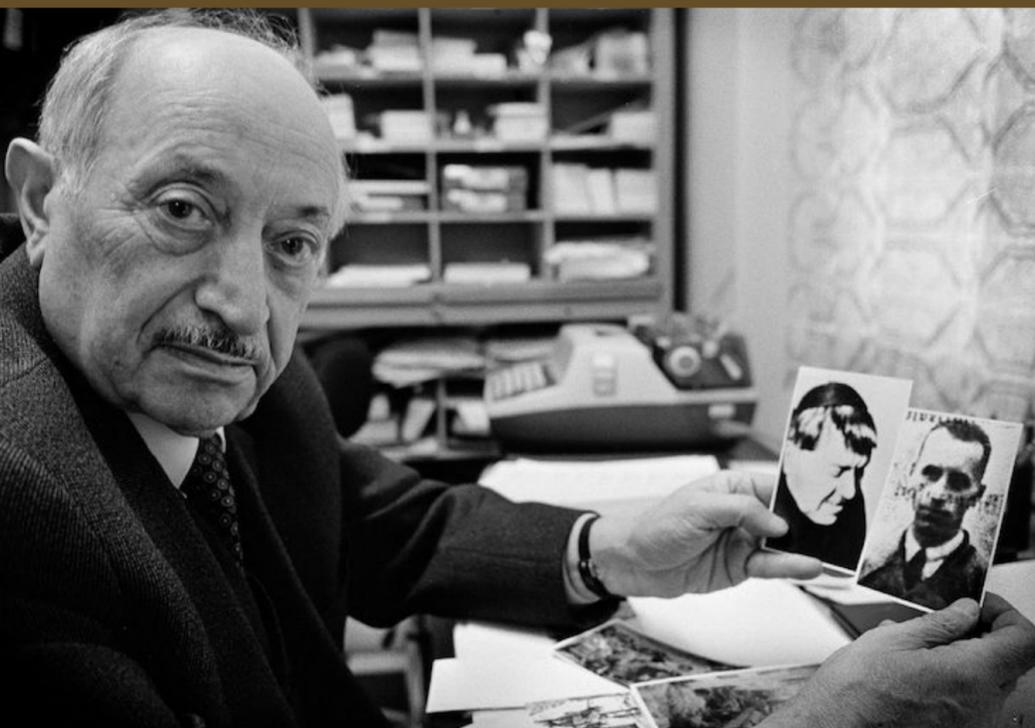
President Harry S. Truman

On July 20, 1944, the same day as an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler, delegates including Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri arrive at the Democratic Convention in Chicago to nominate President Franklin D. Roosevelt for a fourth term.

Unbeknownst to the public, a few weeks earlier Roosevelt's cardiologist informs the White House that he has only a year to live. This makes the VP selection critically important. The White House secretly reaches out to an astounded Truman, who agrees to run for Vice President. Roosevelt goes on to defeat Henry Wallace.

Nine months later, Roosevelt dies and Truman, a man with little experience in foreign affairs, suddenly assumes responsibility of uniting the Allies, winning the war, and restoring the shattered global economy. Under his leadership, America leads in defeating the Axis powers, in establishing the United Nations and launching The Truman Doctrine.

Despite overwhelming opposition from within his own Administration, led by Secretary of State George Marshall, Truman makes the bold decision to support the creation of a Jewish State. At a critical stage of the UN vote on Palestine, his office directly called diplomats urging their countries to vote for partition, a move which plays a decisive role in the final UN vote. As historian Michael Bar Zohar put it, "If Roosevelt had completed his term of office, it is doubtful whether a Jewish State would have come into being."



Simon Wiesenthal

Simon Wiesenthal was an architect by profession. But when the Nazis invaded Europe and murdered six million Jews, including 89 members of his family, this Holocaust survivor became their advocate demanding justice on their behalf. When the whole world went home to forget, he alone remained behind to remember.

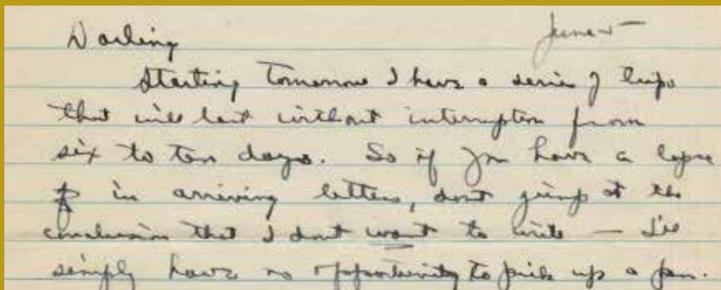
He became their permanent representative. It was a job no one else wanted.

With sheer determination alone, Simon brought more than 1,100 Nazi war criminals to justice. Not just ordinary criminals, but mass murderers like Franz Stangel, the commandant of Treblinka death camp, Gustav Wagner, the commandant of Sobibor death camp, Walter Rauff, the inventor of the mobile gas vans who counted amongst its innocent victims the infirm and the handicapped; and Karl Silberbauer, the Nazi who had arrested Anne Frank. Every survivor walked a little taller and felt more secure because Simon Wiesenthal was out there defending their honor and the honor of all those who perished.

From the archives of the Simon Wiesenthal Center

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

The most guarded secret of WWII was the Normandy invasion. To protect it, the Allies deception included inflatable rubber tanks and planes installed at different locations far from the Normandy coast. To provide further cover for the pending invasion, on the eve of D-Day, June 5th, 1944, Eisenhower writes his wife this letter (now in the archives of the Simon Wiesenthal Center):



*Darling,
Starting tomorrow I have a series of trips that will last without interruption from 6 to 10 days. So if you have a lapse in arriving letters, don't jump at the conclusion that I don't want to write - I simply have no opportunity to pick up a pen...*

Letter to the Troops on the Eve of D-Day Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade... The eyes of the world are upon you... people everywhere march with you. You will bring about... the elimination of Nazi tyranny... and security for ourselves in a free world. I have full confidence in your courage... We will accept nothing less than full Victory!...



Prime Minister Winston Churchill

In July 1891 when Churchill was 17, he told his friend Murland Evans, "I can see changes coming over a now peaceful world... London will be attacked... and it will fall to me to save the capital..."

And so it happened soon after Hitler became Chancellor of Nazi Germany, Churchill warned the Parliament:

"Only a few hours away there dwell a nation... preaching a gospel of intolerance... Now they are rearming... they are looking for weapons... Nothing can save England if she will not save herself..."

The Battle of Britain Speech

"The Battle of France is over: the Battle of Britain is about to begin... upon it depends our own British Isle... the whole fury and might of the enemy must soon be turned on us... If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free... But if we fail, then the whole world including the United States... will sink into the abyss of a new dark age... Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties... that if the British Empire... lasts for a thousand years men will say this 'was their finest hour'."

VE Day Speech, 1945

"My dear friends, this is your hour. We were the first to draw the sword against tyranny. The lights went out and the bombs came down... But every man, woman and child in the country had no thought of quitting... I say that in the long years to come, the world... will look back to what we've done... they will say 'Do not despair, do not yield to violence and tyranny, march straightforward and die if need be - unconquered'."