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The stockbroker who saved 669 Czech children from the Nazis before WWII is awarded the Czech Republic's highest honor at the age of 105



Czech Republic's President Milos Zeman decorates sir Nicholas Winton with the highest Czech Republic's decoration, The Order of the White Lion in Prague, Czech Republic.

PETR DAVID JOSEK, AP

At a ceremony in Prague on Tuesday, Sir Nicholas Winton was awarded the Czech Republic's highest honor -- the Order of the White Lion.

Winton, now 105 years old, was recognized by Czech president Milos Zeman for helping save 669 Czech children -- most of them Jewish -- from the Nazis on the eve of WWII.

"It is so rare and so wonderful when a man who never gave a damn about honors gets one anyway," Bob Simon tells 60 Minutes Overtime.

As Simon reported last April, almost 50 years passed before Winton spoke about what he'd done. Until that point, the children knew nothing about who saved them or how.

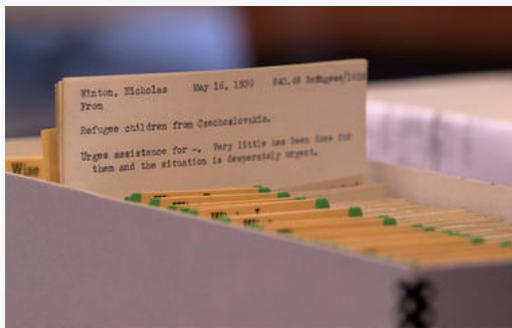
With the help of co-producer Vanessa Fica, producer Harry Radliffe tracked down several of the children Winton saved, including 14-year-old Alice Eberstark. Now in her late 80s, Eberstark lives in Bethesda, Md.



...RIED
60 MINUTES OVERTIME

At one point during her interview, Eberstark showed the 60 Minutes team several things her parents gave her just before she left on Winton's "kindertransport" with her two sisters. Some of the items were made by her mother, including an embroidered nightgown.

Just weeks after the story aired, a new discovery was made. An archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. found an original letter Winton had written to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, describing the plight of the Czech children, and asking that America grant them refugee status.



...PLEA TO FDR TO SAVE JEWISH
60 MINUTES OVERTIME

The U.S. officially denied Winton's request in a letter, which he kept in his personal scrapbook. Winton wasn't discouraged and went on to save 669 children by organizing rescue missions from Czechoslovakia to London.



INSIDE NICHOLAS WINTON'S SCRAPBOOK

"I think stories that show that one person can make a difference are worth telling," Radliffe told 60 Minutes Overtime. "Here's a guy who didn't have to get involved, who got involved, and look at what happened. The number of people who are alive today ... is extraordinary."

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A British man who saved 669 children, most of them Jews, from the Nazis has been awarded the Czech Republic's highest state honour.

Sir Nicholas Winton was 29 when he arranged trains to take the children out of occupied Czechoslovakia and for foster families to meet them in London.

The 105-year-old was given the Order of the White Lion by the Czech president during a ceremony at Prague Castle.

In a speech, he thanked the British people who gave the children homes.

He said: "I want to thank you all for this enormous expression of thanks for something which happened to me nearly 100 years ago - and a 100 years is a heck of a long time.

"I am delighted that so many of the children are still about and are here to thank me."



Sir Nicholas received the honour from Czech President Milos Zeman



He went on: "I thank the British people for making room for them, to accept them, and of course the enormous help given by so many of the Czechs who were at that time doing what they could to fight the Germans and to try to get the children out."

