

THE RIGHTEOUS WERE ALSO BUSINESS PEOPLE



An image of the round-up of Jews in Hungary

GIORGIO PERLASCA: AN ITALIAN IN HUNGARY

In areas not under Italian control, such as Hungary, individual Italians were notable for their humanitarian efforts. Giorgio Perlasca was a meat importer working with the Spanish Embassy in Budapest (1944-1945) when he saw first-hand the Nazi round-up of Jews. In league with the Spanish officials, Perlasca helped issue Spanish identity doc-



Giorgio Perlasca was a Fascist volunteer in the Spanish Civil War. While in Hungary he became a de facto official of the Spanish consulate. In that capacity he was able to protect thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation to Auschwitz.

uments to Jewish victims. When the Spanish ambassador abandoned Budapest, Perlasca claimed his title and rescued between 5,000 – 10,000 Jews from the Hungarian police and Germans. Perlasca was finally recognized for his work in 1990 when he was given honorary Israeli citizenship and honored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

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