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Aristides de Sousa Mendes a Hero

The Holocaust was one of the worst events in the history of the world. Millions were killed and taken from their homes. Many more Jewish people would have been killed if it wasn't for Holocaust rescuers. One of those brave rescuers was Aristides de Sousa Mendes.

Many Jews from France wanted to cross the French border and go into Spain. To do this though, they had to have transit visas, which the French government forbade anyone to give out. According to the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, "Sousa Mendes agreed to give visas to the rabbi and his family, but said that he could not give out any more without his government's approval". This shows that Sousa was willing to help a family in need, but couldn't help all of the people in need because of the government. After much thought though, Sousa decided to give transit visas to everyone, even though his government forbade it.

Sousa also got his family involved with helping the Jewish. His wife helped the Jews that were ill and gave them food and water. His two sons prepared the visas, while Sousa gave them out. This saved many Jewish people's lives, and the family continued doing this even after the Germans arrived. Now, if the family was caught by the Germans, they would be killed, but that didn't stop them from helping anyone they could.

Because Sousa helped the Jewish people, he was denied benefits and looked down upon. Sousa risked his own life to help thousands of Jews in France escape to Spain. Sousa and his family, moved to Portugal during the war, and were living in poverty. Sousa died in 1954, knowing that he had saved thousands of lives. Sousa is a true Holocaust rescuer and hero.

Work Cited

"ARISTIDES DE SOUSA MENDES I FRANCE ." The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, jfr.org/rescuer-stories/sousa-mendes-aristides-de/.