

**RG-50.391.0005**

**Oral history interview with Henny Sundø**

**Summary**

Henny Sinding Sundø, discusses the start of the persecution of Denmark's Jews in October, 1943 when she was 22 years old, having recently returned from language study in England. Sundø's father was an official serving in the Danish Lighthouse Service (Fyrvæsenet), who helped her become an apprentice there. She discusses the role played by the Service in helping Jews escape, and the role of one of its vessels, the Gerda III, it controlled for provisioning lighthouses. She describes:

- The key role of the crew in first suggesting the rescue, then finding those Jews in hiding, and her father's tacit authorization of the vessel's diversion.
- Her guiding Jews to the vessel at night over the course of three weeks, and the route first to Sweden, and then on to the lighthouse.
- And, the importance of giving sedatives to the children to ensure quiet.
- She discusses her unclear sense that some higher German officials knew what was going on.
- Sundø estimates that the vessel saved about 600-700 Jews before it then began to ferry over others, such as refugees from Poland, Resistance fighters, and downed British and American airmen. She went on to discuss her ongoing role in the resistance, including:
  - Scouting out sabotage targets, going into hiding after an unsuccessful attack and subsequent escape to Sweden from Zeeland in February 1944, and her work in Sweden with the Resistance and Danish Brigade.
  - Her reaction to hearing the news of the end of the war in May 1945, and her return via Helsingborg, Sweden to Helsingør, Denmark.

(Ms. Sundø's interview appears to be recorded over a separate interview. Her interview ends at 31:00 minutes, but at 32:13 a recording appears of an unidentified man, also talking about the Danish resistance. A summary of his comments is included below.)

Fragment of interview with unknown Danish male talks about sabotage in Denmark and its successes, which included the need for fewer air strikes. He goes on to talk about:

- The Danish Freedom Council which became an unofficial element of the Danish government after August 29, 1943, and one of its leaders, Frode Jakobsen.
- Methods to minimize the impact of information released by captive resistance fighters under torture, and the Nazi methods of torture.
- Descriptions of various escape routes from Zeeland and Jutland, and the receipt of weapons from Danes in Sweden.
- The debate between how much resistance should have been offered to the German invasion in 1940 through to the government resignation in 1943.
- Cooperation between the Resistance and the Danish Royal Air Force in the bombing of various Gestapo offices around the country, including Odensee, Copenhagen (the Shellhus building), Jutland and Zeeland on March 21, 1945.
- The role of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in 1944 as directed by the Special Operation Executive (SOE).
- Efforts to rescue downed Allied airmen and returning them to safety in Sweden.
- Efforts of (unintelligible name) who was active in the finances of the Resistance.
- The mining of Jutland's west coast and the related visit of Field Marshall Irwin Rommel (humorous anecdote).