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Oral history interview with Ebba Lund

Summary

Dr. Ebba Lund, a daughter of a middle-class conservative family, described the initially differing attitudes of Danes regarding the German occupation, which changed to broader resistance in August, 1943, when the government resigned. She also describes:

- Changes in Germany's occupation policy for Denmark that often could be anticipated by actions first taken in Norway.
- The deaths of imprisoned Norwegian Jews who died on an unnamed ship that sunk for unstated causes while taking them from Norway to Germany.
- The actions of Denmark's Holger Danske group, headed by Jørgen Kieler, as the roundup of Jews started after Sept. 29, 1943, including her connections with shipping companies from the island of Christiansø, east of Bornholm, and funding from various estate owners and industrialists.
- The secret gathering of Jews in the north part of Copenhagen harbor or at her parents' home in advance of their escape, the payment arrangements for the ship captains, an example of purposeful disregard by the Wehrmacht to prevent escapes, and how the red cap she often wore often attracted Danes who knew she could help Jews.
- Her estimate that she helped about 500-800 people in 20-25 boats escape on ships from the North Harbor.
- Her estimate that about Denmark had a total of about 8000 Jews at the war's onset, but only about 1000 were sent to Theresienstadt concentration camp with most surviving the war.
- Her actions in 1944 were less about smuggling Jews out and more about carrying documents to Sweden.
- The important symbolic role that the King played when Denmark had no formal government.