

## KNUD DYBY

A non-Jewish member of the Danish Underground, Knud Dyby helped smuggle Jews to safety in Sweden.

*“In order to be a saboteur and a member of the Underground, I think you had to be adventuresome or you had to be an inventor; you had to be a little of everything. Also a fighter.”*

Knud Dyby, born in 1915 in Randers, Denmark, was a member of the Danish Royal Guard and the Danish/Swedish Refugee Service and the Danish Police. Policemen were required to report to the Nazis, but in fact they were able to collaborate with the Resistance, though at great personal risk.

During 1940-1945, the years of the Nazi occupation, the Danish Underground was able to use fishing boats to smuggle some 19,000 Danish refugees, including 7,500 Danish Jews, to safety in neighboring Sweden. When many Jews returned to Denmark after the war they found their homes had been cared for and their jobs and businesses were waiting for them.

The Resistance Movement also aided Danish saboteurs and politicians, German deserters, refugees from the Baltic countries, and British and American airmen

Knud's interest in boating helped him make contacts at the Copenhagen harbor. The fishermen, unlike other boat owners, were allowed to keep their vessels because the Germans relied on the fish they caught. Most of the refugees were smuggled in those boats, frequently hidden under the floorboards or hidden by fishnets. Children being smuggled to safety were often sedated in order to keep their cries from attracting German attention.

The Resistance Movement was very organized. At the entrances to the harbors, scouts were set up to warn of the approach of Gestapo units. Coded messages were used to communicate details about voyages. A laboratory in Copenhagen created a powder that blocked the human scent from the Germans' search dogs. During the winters, the stormy weather and the darkness helped in the smuggling process.

In 1941, the danger caught up with Knud when, after being reported for his Resistance work, he had to go into hiding under an assumed name. 2,200 of his fellow policemen were arrested by the Nazis and sent to concentration camps.

Knud Dyby immigrated to the United States in 1946 and worked as a printer, designer and inventor. Like so many other Danish citizens, he modestly attributed his acts of courage and caring to a common sense of humanity. A private man, he did not speak publicly about his war experiences until 1985 when he began to address groups about his activities. He has been recognized by both the Jewish and international communities for his courage.