

Martin Metzon: Resistance Efforts

Timestamp <i>mm:ss</i>	Transcript
00:00	Well I was involved with several groups, and the biggest job was not only to print the papers but to get them distributed. So one evening, I had picked up a whole briefcase full of papers, and was on my bicycle on the way home.
00:19	And one of the streets there was standing a guy by the sidewalk. And says, "careful there's a German roadblock two blocks up." So I was able to turn off. That was one of the people from the underground that was standing there so I was able to drive around the roadblock.
00:36	Otherwise if he wouldn't have been there I would have been going right into the roadblock.
00:41	<i>(interviewer)</i> you were a young man, you had a job, you had a fiancé. Why did you become involved?
00:48	You had to. You were a Dane and you had to fight the Germans. It was the best ability you could. I wanted to know why they arrested some communists and put them in concentration camp.
00:59	And certainly want to know why they also caught some people working with underground who's papers in sabotage, and they were arrested and some of them were executed.
01:09	<i>(I)</i> and did the Danish people respond to these arrests?
01:13	Well, the only way they responded to it was, certainly there was the sabotage actions grew more and more, especially the railway sabotage and the [Judland] to prevent the transport up to Norway. And also to factories working for the Germans.
01:34	<i>(I)</i> What kind of sabotage on the railroad?
01:37	Bombs, just the breaking up the railroad tracks.
01:45	<i>(I)</i> Did you participate in those kinds of activities? Yeah a little bit. <i>(I)</i> What did you do?
01:53	Just being out on some of the sabotage actions in Copenhagen. One of them I was really lucky. Our group was going out and do a sabotage at a, well it was actually a cleaning place and they cleaned all the German uniforms.
02:16	And did some [?] so we were going to blow up that factory and at the last minute I couldn't go, but the group got ambushed that night and got past the I don't remember if anyone got killed but most of them got arrested, so I was lucky, at the last minute I couldn't make it.

Martin Metzon: MineKontrol

Timestamp <i>mm:ss</i>	Transcript
00:00	Danish "MineKontrol" that's what we had on the sleeve of our uniform. What happened then was, as I'd mentioned that the Germans had those mine fields all along the coast and each of our groups got a certain area that we were supposed to control the Germans.
00:16	Since I was able to speak German I was the translator for our group to negotiate with the Germans. In the morning the Germans would bring their plans for the specific area, showing exactly how the mines were placed in that. And we would go over it and look at it and then they would go in and pick up those mines.
00:41	And certainly a lot of them were booby trapped so quite a few of those German soldiers doing the job were killed picking up those mines because they were booby trapped.
00:52	<i>(interviewer)</i> Now where were these soldiers from? They were brought up from Germany it was mostly fairly young kids, 17, 18 year old. Who probably didn't go to the front yet but were sent up from Germany just for that purpose.
01:05	That was part of the armistice agreement with Germany that they had to do that, we weren't going to do that, we were going to control it but we were not going to pick up their mines.
01:14	<i>(I)</i> And what were the mines like? Well there were basically two different mines, there was the artillery mine which was looked like a can of, can of vegetables or something. And if you stepped on it, then it was explosive inside and then there were all kinds of metal fragments around.
01:34	Then when you step on it, it would jump up about half a meter or yard or something and then it would explode and all the metal pieces would fly all over the place and they were very dangerous mines.
01:47	The other ones was the tank mines, they were big plates and they could easily destroy one of those German tanks. So, but then in the evening we would count the mines that the Germans had picked up and then it was our job to blow up those mines.
02:08	So we put them together, that was our education you know as engineer troops and certainly some of us had learned some of it already beforehand, so we put it in a big crater and blew it up.
02:19	And then the next morning the Germans, like if it was an artillery mine, had to march across that field that had been cleared. And if they had marched back and forth a couple of times then we were sure there were no more mines then that piece was given back to the Danish population.

Martin Metzson: From Zealand to Sweden

Timestamp <i>mm:ss</i>	Transcript
00:00	Now then, the farmer on his own risk, went to the coast and established connection with underground and some fishermen and they made then the appointment that he would drive us up there to the coast the next day and then we would be met by the fishing boat.
00:24	And certainly, the money would be exchanged for the transport and all that. And so we had to drive from here up to the coast approximately here. And then we had to walk the highway piece.
00:40	Now first of all this guy had one of those old generator trucks because you couldn't get gasoline. And he drove us up to the coast there with no headlights on just, I mean he took a tremendous risk himself.
01:54	Then we had to walk a little piece on the highway there, and there was a big lighthouse which shined on the highway, and we had to go into hiding every time. But then we made it through to the beach and met the fishing boat.
01:07	And then we went across to approximately here to a place called [Hergermess] in Sweden after a few hours.
01:16	<i>(interviewer)</i> Okay let me back up a little bit here. Okay (I) What was the response, do you know of the Danish people to the newspaper article?
01:25	The Danish news, Danish population did everything they could to help the Jews out of the country and to hide them. Very, very few traitors but certainly there were always some, but generally you know the Danish population was 100% percent behind the Jews to get them in hiding and get them out of the country.