

KNUT RØED, later RØD (in Norwegian also the word for "red"), born 30 June 1900, graduated law school in 1927 and was employed by the Oslo metropolitan police in the same year.

Entered the NS (Nasjonal Samling = The Norwegian Nazi Party) in January 1941 and was made police inspector and head of the Oslo-Aker precinct of the Nazi-controlled State Police as of 1 July 1942.

Apart from serving as the head of the precinct, he conducted investigations of cases involving libels, insults against the NS, refugee cases and fly leaves.

Police inspector Knut Røed was in charge of the actions against the Jews in the Oslo and the Asker area on 26 October 1942 when all fit men were arrested and on 26 November 1942 when women, children and elderly and ill men were taken in. A total of 529 - 532 individuals (some names may have been entered twice on the lists) were taken on board the German ship "Donau" for deportation to Auschwitz. On the same day as the "Donau" left Oslo harbour, the "Monte Rosa" sailed with 26 Jews from the Grini camp, who were also deported to Auschwitz. On 24 February 1943 another 134 individuals were deported to the concentration camps on the "Gotland".

On this occasion Røed arranged for a case of toys for the children to be taken on the ship.

In a general order of 14 January 1943 Knut Røed demanded that all full Jews - as well as women married to "Arians" - be sought for and arrested. During the spring of 1943 Knut Røed initiated a number of enquiries about Jews who had tried to escape. Around 50 individuals were deported in small groups to Auschwitz.

Røed was also responsible for the confiscation of Jewish goods.

Among the 529-532 individuals who were deported on the "Donau", of whom 11 survived, 403 lived in the Oslo-Aker area where Knut Røed was head of the state police. In

all, 759 Jews were deported, 25 of whom survived.

THE HEAD OF THE STATE POLICE IN THE OSLO - AKER AREA, POLICE INSPECTOR KNUT RØED made a speech to the 126 policemen who were called in to the barracks for the action starting at 0600 hours on Monday 26 October 1942. He declared that the Jews should be arrested and taken to the head quarters of the State Police at 23, Kirkeveien in Oslo.

The operation on Thursday 26 November 1942 started ... at 0430 hours at 23 Kirkeveien. Simultaneously, 100 taxi cabs were made ready in Kirkeveien. The actual arrests started at 0500 hours.

The instructions to the 300 operatives that had been called in were signed by the State Police Oslo - Aker precinct where Knut Røed was in charge.

The Jews were to be arrested and taken directly to the quay of the transatlantic liners in Oslo harbour ( pier 1) where all should have embarked the "Donau" before 3 p.m. on the same day.

No Germans were involved in the operation.

The responsibility for the arrests on the 26 October 1942 rested with personel from the State Police, the crime squad and the Germanic SS-Norway, 126 persons in all. On 26 November 1942 60 officers from the crime squad, 30 from the Germanic SS-Norway and around 150 from the State Police, 300 persons in all, were responsible.

The Jews in Oslo lived in Frogner, Slemdal, Nordstrand, Grünerløkka and Kampen. The most densly populated areas, however, were Bjerregaardsgate and Waldemar Thranesgate in St. Hanshaugen, and Rostedsgate and Damstredet in Hammersborg.

The officers involved were divided into groups of three,

each being equipped with a taxi car and lists of all the members of four different families. The groups arrested one family at a time and took them in the taxi to the harbour where the "Donau" was waiting for them.

AS THE HIGHEST RANKING NORWEGIAN POLICE OFFICER, police inspector Knut Røed was present on the quay on 26 November 1942 where he personally handed over the arrested Jews to the Germans.

IN THE FIRST DISTRICT COURT VERDICT OF 4 FEBRUARY 1946 one of the most important charges against Røed was his role in the action against the Jews. The prosecutor asked for the minimal prison sentence of 3 years.

Knut Røed was found not guilty, a decision which was vetoed by judge Cappelen.

Judge Cappelen was of the opinion that Røed's prominent role in the actions against the Jews could not be overlooked or excused.

When THE CASE WAS TAKEN TO THE SUPREME COURT the State Prosecutor commented on the District Court verdict in the following way: "There is no evidence that the accused, when he was about to carry out these crimes, was faced with patriotic tasks of such magnitude or so closely tied to his position in the State Police that his decisive part in the actions against the Jews can be justified."

THE SUPREME COURT CANCELLED THE VERDICT of not guilty on 24 August 1946 and the case duly went back to the District Court.

In the verdict of the District Court on 9 April 1948, where the main charge against Knut Røed was his part in the actions against the Jews, Røed was again found not guilty, this time unanimously. On this occasion the case was not transferred to the Supreme Court.

THE COURT found that Knut Røed had carried out the actions he was accused of with no other intention than to camouflage his crucial work for the home front and, accordingly, was not guilty.

One of Røeds previous subordinates at the Oslo - Aker precinct stated that inspector Røed had informed him about the impending operation and in this way made it possible for people in the home front to know what was about to happen.

NONE OF RØED´ S FORMER SUBORDINATES were investigated or charged, as the civil servant, police inspector Knut Røed, had been found not guilty.

From early 1942 a group of police officers at the Oslo - Aker precinct of the State Police were enlisted in the home front. Knut Røed was not a member of this group, but was regarded by the members as a reliable source of information.

DURING THE ACTION AGAINST THE JEWS AT LEAST THREE MEMBERS OF THE ILLEGAL HOME FRONT GROUP CARRIED OUT ORGANISATIONAL TASKS:

- M. divided the work between the officers involved.
- Policeman K. answered questions and served as Røed´s aide.
- Policeman L. was in charge of the reception of the arrested Jews.

DURING THE COURT PROCEEDINGS THESE PERSONS TESTIFIED IN FAVOUR OF POLICE INSPECTOR KNUT RØD Policeman L., who had been in charge of the reception of the arrested Jews, stated in court that he "had been greatly assisted by inspector Røed".

KNUT RØED who had now changed his name to RØD , (in Norwegian also the word for "red") IMMEDIATELY APPLIED FOR RE-EMPLOYMENT IN THE OSLO METROPOLITAN POLICE . The police turned down his application on 18 May 1948.

Having consulted former colleagues and his defence

attorney, KNUT RØD sued the metropolitan police in order to get re-employment.

On 10 September 1948 Oslo Town court found that KNUT RØD had the right to be re-employed by the police.

The Ministry of Law appealed the verdict to the Supreme Court which unanimously upheld the Town Court verdict.

The decisive factor for the Supreme Court verdict was that the District Court in its verdict of 9 April 1948 unanimously had found that Knut Rød entered the NS in January 1941 solely as camouflage for HIS WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION; furthermore, the court had found that HIS POSITION IN THE STATE POLICE from 1941 to 1943 had made it possible for him to succeed in this ambition, and THAT HE THERE HAD CARRIED OUT EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD WORK .

In the newspaper Dagbladet of 17 March 1950 minister O.C. Gundersen was asked whether DAMAGES SHOULD BE PAID TO KNUT RØD. The minister stated that he did not know enough about the case and declined to comment on it.

KNUT RØD WAS RE-EMPLOYED BY THE OSLO POLICE ON 1 JUNE 1952 AND CONTINUED WORKING THERE UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT ON 30 JUNE 1965.

BY THAT TIME KNUT RØD HAD GAINED THE POSITION OF HEAD OF THE CRIME SQUAD and was, according to Dagbladet of 30 June 1965, praised by the Oslo police chief, J. Gjerde, for his good service to the police DURING 38 YEARS (1927-65). Rød was described as ONE OF THE HIGHLY EXPERIENCED AND COMPETENT POLICEMEN: As departmental head he had a key position through overseeing all reported crimes and dividing the cases among the relevant sections.

