

Karl Andersen

June 19, 1925 — Jan. 3, 2010

Karl Einar Andersen of Pine Knoll Shores passed away on Jan. 3, 2010, at the Service League of Greenville Inpatient Hospice after a courageous battle with cancer.

A memorial service will be held at Ascension Lutheran Church, 2512 W. Nash St., Wilson, NC 27896 at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9.

Karl was born near Odense, Denmark on June 19, 1925. During World War II he served in the very active Danish underground group, "Holger Danske," until the end of the war. As the British Forces entered Denmark immediately after the war ended he served for a period of time with the British Intelligence. After the Danish Army was reestablished, he then served in the Danish Occupation Army in Germany.

In August of 1949, he immigrated to the U.S.A. to learn about the tobacco business. He trained by working seasonally for different tobacco companies for two years in North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Maryland. He then joined International Tobacco Company in Greenville, where he worked for many years as vice president. In 1968, Hail & Cotton Tobacco Company, Inc. of Louisville, Ky., bought International Tobacco Company and in 1970 a buying, processing and sales company was established in Rocky Mount, which became Hail & Cotton International, Inc. Karl served as president.

He retired in 1997 as senior vice president of Intabex Hail & Cotton International, Inc. Karl also served as past president of Cottobac International, Inc. of Italy and past president and chairman of the Tobacco Association of the United States.

In 1951, Karl and his wife, "Teenie" Elsa Janis Kittrell, fell in love at first sight. In 1952, they married and were fortunate to celebrate 57 anniversaries.

He is survived by his wife, Teenie; a daughter, Janis Andersen Sexton; son-in-law, John Sexton; and granddaughters Heather and Anna of San Luis Obispo, Calif.; a son, Karl E. Andersen Jr.; daughter-in-law, Vickie Alexander Andersen; granddaughter, Jensen Kristina of Greenville; a son, Kenneth R. Andersen; daughter-in-law, Dr. Susan Hollar Andersen; and granddaughters, Elizabeth and Leigh of Wilson; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Edith and Tabor Hill of Middleburg, Fla.; and sister-in-law, Melba Ilgen of Gainesville, Fla.

In Denmark, he is survived by two sisters, Gerda Andersen and Ingeborg Sorensen; a nephew, nieces, grandnieces, grandnephews and cousins with whom he returned to visit often. He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Margrethe H. Andersen and Karl Morten Andersen of Denmark.

In lieu of flowers, memorials suggested are: Hospice of Carteret County, P.O. Drawer 1619, 302 Medical Park Court, Morehead City, NC 28557; McConnell-Raab Hope Lodge, 930-A Wellness Drive, Greenville, NC 27834; Ascension Lutheran Church, 2512 W. Nash St., Wilson, NC 27896; or to the Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church, 201 E. Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512.

Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneral-home.com.

Karl was born
in Denmark - had
as a teenager
Served in the
Danish Underground
and the German
Occupation Army.

In 1949 he
immigrated to
the U.S.A. and
worked in the
Tobacco Industry -
living in Wilson
a good part of
his life.

Karl E. Andersen, Sr. (1925 – 2010)

The Underground / Resistance Forces in Denmark and Norway during World War II

Note: Karl was born in Denmark June 19, 1925. He was a member of the Danish Underground at the very early age of 18 years. Later he was a member of the British Intelligence and part of the Danish Occupation Army in Germany after the war ended. He immigrated to the United States in 1949 and in a few years became a naturalized citizen. He became a highly respected executive in the tobacco export industry. This is his story written by him in 2008, and submitted by his wife. He died January 3, 2010.

World War II started in Europe September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland.

England and France immediately declared war on Germany.

Nothing much happened until April 9, 1940 when Germany, in one day, invaded both Denmark and Norway. I will always remember waking up on the morning of April 9th to the noise of aircraft. My father and I went out on the balcony and the sky was black with German transport planes. There were no fighter planes as they were not needed. Denmark had no Air Force.

Germany's reason for this occupation was that Denmark exported large quantities of food products to England, and Germany needed these products badly. They wanted Norway with its long coastline and deep fjords in order to have bases for their navy from which they could control the important North Atlantic waterways.

The Germans treated us very well for the first year, but small Underground groups began to start small attacks on German equipment such as putting sugar in their gas tanks, damaging German aircraft whenever possible, and stealing their gas supplies. At the time I was 16 years old and we formed such a group in our boys' school. When I was 18, I moved to Copenhagen and by then the Underground was fully formed and in full operation on a much larger scale.

In Denmark we had two groups: Holger Danske of which I soon became a member and which was the conservative group, and BOPA which was the communist group. Activities were divided between the two groups. Holger Danske's primary object was to smuggle Jews out of Denmark to Sweden which was a neutral country. English and later American bombers flew over Denmark on their attacks on the North German ports, and many had been badly damaged during these attacks. Therefore many planes fell down in Denmark, and in almost all cases the crews were able to parachute out. Our job was to find these airmen before the Germans could find them. We would smuggle them also to Sweden from where they could return to England

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also

on Swedish planes. Our job was to liquidate German spies who mostly were Danish women. This was always done on the most busy streets in Copenhagen in the middle of the day.

BOPA concentrated on blowing up railways and factories who manufactured items for
2012-02-15 Germany, like parts for U-boats, etc.⁶⁴ However, when there were large attacks, our two groups⁶³ operated together. We were all very well armed since English planes on a regular basis dropped arms, grenades, explosives and radios to us on pre-arranged places and times during dark nights. We also smuggled Husqvarna machine guns from Sweden.

It was dangerous work considering there were only 500 men in each of the two Danish groups. Many were caught and executed by German firing squads. Some were sent to German concentration camps and none were ever heard from again.

We operated in individual groups of six, so no one knew many outside of our group. The reason was that when someone was caught by the Gestapo or the SS they could not divulge many names when forced to do so. To prevent getting caught, each member of a group each morning would telephone the next member and so forth until the ring was complete and we all knew that no one was missing. The same was repeated in the evening. If one was missing, the rest of us would immediately move to another place. All of us slept with a machine gun and two hand grenades in our beds.

With more and more of us being caught because of spies, our totals were down to about 300 for each group of Holger Danske and BOPA, it became most important to find the spies and liquidate them as quickly as possible.

When the war finally ended in May 1945 with the defeat of Germany, all of us who still survived were very happy. If Germany had not been defeated, all of us would have been dead long ago.

Our last job was to disarm the German army in Denmark, but we had to stay under arms for another period of time because U.S.A. was afraid Russia might use this opportunity to attack our countries, and include us in the new Russian empire. Fortunately, this did not happen.

About England:

The proud English people, (whose country was the former world empire), would rather have died than be occupied by Germany. Consequently, the Home Guard was established and all able bodied men and women joined and vowed to fight to the death.

The Germans had invented the rocket powered U-2 missile. Day and night they sent explosives all over southern England together with many air force bombers. However, the brave English Spitfire fighter pilots eventually did enormous damage to the German bombers. The average lifetime for the English fighter pilot was SIX weeks!

The U.S.A. finally joined the European war in early January 1942 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941.

BUT, had it not been the determination of England and all the English people, England would have by then been occupied by Germany, and the U.S.A. would not have been able to send troops, planes, or any military equipment to any place in Europe.

Therefore, if not for England and all the determined and brave English people, all of Europe would have belonged to Hitler's Germany.

England won the European World War II and saved entire Europe!

Post Script by Betty Ray McCain:

Karl and his wonderful wife, "Teenie" Anderson, moved to Wilson where they were both model citizens and participated in many volunteer and church activities. "Teenie" has lived there since Karl died and is much beloved by all of us as was Karl. Karl had a very responsible job in the tobacco business and traveled the world selling N.C. tobacco. His multi-lingual facility was most helpful.