

A black and white portrait of Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz, a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a suit and tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz

Ekam Toor 6-2

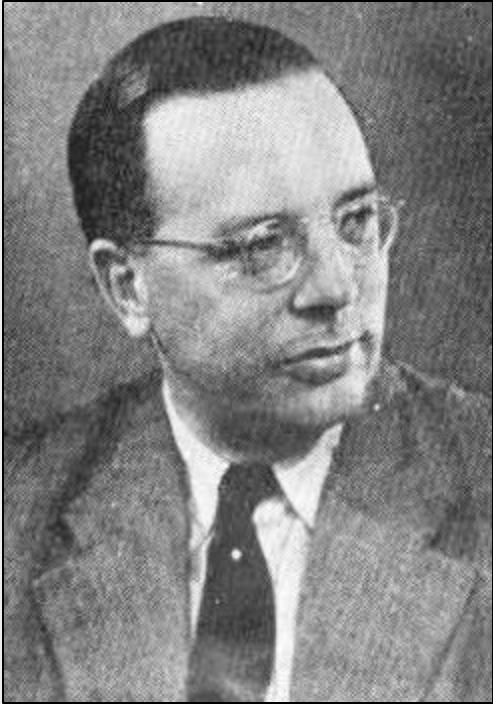
ELA

Who was Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz?

- Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz was born September 29, 1904 in Bremen, Germany. His parents names were Ferdinand Duckwitz and Emilie Gireau
- Georg was a Danish man like his parents. Georgs family was a rich and noble family in Hanseatic city.



Early Life



- After Duckwitz finished college, he started a career in international coffee trade (producing coffee in countries and consumption of coffee in countries).
- In 1939, the Nazi Foreign Ministry assigned Duckwitz to work as an expert in maritime in the Germany embassy, Copenhagen.

Duckwitz learns of Hitlers plan

- Duckwitz liked having strong connections with the Danish leaders and after 1942 he became a trusted companion of the Nazi Reich Representative for Denmark, Werner Best. Werner Best was a former Chief of the Gestapo.
- In April of 1940, Germany occupied Denmark, but there were no immediate threats toward the Danish Jew community. Werner Best stuck to his fair and average policies for the Jews, until Hitler demanded the “Final Solution” into action immediately.

The Rescue Operation

- On September 28, 1943, Best informed Duckwitz about the plan to deport Denmark's Jewish community of 6500 people to the concentration camp Terezin. Duckwitz informed his Danish government politician friends who notified the leader of the Danish Jew community.
- Doing so, this made it possible for them to carry out their plan to transport 6500 Jews in ships and seas to safety in their neighboring country, Sweden. By October 2, when the Gestapo set out to put their plans into action, most of the Jews in the country had gone. Because of their rescue plan, only 500 Jews, most of whom were elderly and sick, were caught and deported to Terezin.



After the War



- Duckwitz was never caught by the Nazi's.
- He had a successful career in West Germany, including being the ambassador to Denmark until he retired in 1970.
- Duckwitz died on February 16, 1973 at the age of 68 in Bremen.
- On March 29, 1971, Yad Vashem decided to recognize Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz as a Righteous Among the Nations.

Conclusion

- Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz was a great and brave man to risk his own life to save 6500 Jews.
- If Hitler had ever found out that Duckwitz saved all the Danish Jews, he would have been sentenced to death.
- After the war, Duckwitz lived a very successful life, being the ambassador of Denmark until 1970, when he retired.
- We should honor Georg Ferdinand Duckwitz along with everyone else who helped the Jewish during the Holocaust.

Thank You

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