

# BILAG 3.

## Einar Riis

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**Einar Riis**, (October 19, 1922, Oslo, Norway – May 30, 2006 in Arvika, Sweden) was a former Special Operations Executive agent during WW2, fighter pilot, consul and husband of Amelia Riis.

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## Opposition to Nazism

As a child, before World War II, Riis was opposed to Nazism to the point of skipping school to avoid being taught by an openly Nazi teacher.<sup>[1]</sup> During the war, Riis was active in sabotage against the occupying German forces.<sup>[2]</sup> The front cover of the memoirs of Max Manus, *Det vil helst gå godt* shows a drawing of Riis and Manus during a sabotage operation at the harbor.<sup>[1][3]</sup>

In the later stages of the war, Riis fled to Canada via Sweden. At Little Norway Riis trained to become a Spitfire pilot.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

## Consul in Italy

After the war, Riis moved to France then Italy. He served as an honorary consul for Norway in Rome.<sup>[4]</sup> Einar Riis married Amelia in 1956.<sup>[5]</sup>

In Italy, Riis was involved in the aviation business. He was part owner of the company which lost the aircraft in the Aerolinee Itavia Flight 870 disaster in 1980. Former advocate of Riis, Herman Berge, sued the heads of state in Monaco and France on the behalf of the Riis estate in 2008, against the wishes of Riis' widow Amelia,<sup>[6]</sup> who viewed Berge's actions as a stab in the back.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Riis inheritance case

The Riis couple became embroiled in a long civil case regarding an inheritance dispute between Amelia and her brother with a the shipping company AS Falkefjell. The case was apparently settled when Riis would acquire the bulk carrier *Sognefjell* in 1974 from Falkefjell. Before the ship was delivered to her the 1973 oil crisis had damaged Falkefjell's economy, and offered the *Sognefjell* as Collateral to the company's lender Den norske Creditbank (DnC). While arbitration proceedings were ongoing, DnC cliamed the *Sognefjell*.<sup>[8]</sup>

In 2001, the city court in Oslo awarded Riis 10 million Norwegian krone from the government for the losses and mismanagement of the inheritance case. With interest, the total award was at 43 million krone.<sup>[5]</sup> The Norwegian minister of justice, Odd Einar Dørum indicated interest in a settlement rather than an appeal,<sup>[9]</sup> and a settlement was reached in 2002.<sup>[10]</sup>

The trials were a heavy toll on the family. The aviation business in Rome folded due to the Riis' need

to constantly travel back to Norway in order to attend court proceedings, and the couple needed to sell several assets to sustain their case.<sup>[8]</sup>

In the wake of Einar Riis' death in 2006, the family's former advocate Herman Berge demanded the majority of the compensation, 28 million krone, the Riises had received.<sup>[11]</sup> The byfogd (a kind of judge) in Oslo found that Riis had been manipulated by Berge into paying him several millions of krone, and ordered property for a value of 8.6 million confiscated.<sup>[12]</sup>

## References

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