



9 DPA SERIES: THE NAZI HOLOCAUST FAILED IN DENMARK — The "Jewish action" would begin the evening of October 1, 1943. The Nazis knew that most Danish Jews would be home celebrating Rosh Hashannah, the Jewish New Year. If the plan went well, all the Jews in Denmark would be arrested by morning. (Hitler brushed aside Foreign Minister Ribbentrop's reservation that harmful repercussions could result.) On September 11th, the German plenipotentiary told a German shipping official in Copenhagen, G. F. Duckwitz, about the roundup. The shocked Duckwitz informed the Danish Social Democratic Party. Warnings not to be home the evening of October 1

pastoral letter condemning the raid was read out in the churches. The Danish bishops declared: "Whenever Jews are persecuted as such on racial or religious grounds the Christian Church is in duty bound to protest against this action." Complaints were heard from the Danish police, trade unions, organizations representing lawyers, teachers, and other professional groups. Public schools and the universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus closed for a week in protest. Years later Adolf Eichmann bitterly described the Danish occupation: "That small country caused us more difficulties than anything else." The Photo Aid above shows the synagogue in Copenhagen after it reopened on June 22, 1945.

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Box 956, Mount Dora, Florida 32757
Courtesy: The Museum of Denmark's
Fight for Freedom, 1940-1945
Copenhagen, Denmark