

Capt Carl Johan Bruhn 185078 **Special Operations Executive**

Parent unit Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)

Carl was born on 12 July 1904 in Frederiksberg, Denmark, the youngest son of Ditlev Nicolaus Bruhn and Ingeborg Bruhn nee Salicath. In 1932 he married Anne Evelyn Connan LRCP MRCS in Singapore.

Educated at Frederiksberg High School, Carl was initially apprenticed as a merchant in Køge, before training as a forester in Bregentved near Haslev. In 1929 he travelled to Malaya to manage the Westenholz Rubber Plantation. Following his marriage, Carl returned to Denmark where he managed a sawmill near Vordingborg before he moved to London and commenced medical training.



Carl qualified as a doctor in 1941, and volunteered for service with the SOE. Following a chance meeting with the Head of the Danish SOE Section, Commander R C Hollingworth, in the Danish Club in London, Carl was recruited to lead "Operation Chilblain". The aim of "Chilblain" was to forge links with local resistance fighters and establish an SOE section in Denmark.

At 20:40 on 27 December 1941, Carl and his Wireless Operator departed RAF Stradishall, Suffolk, on board a 138 Sqn Whitley destined for the drop zone at Torpeskov, east of Haslev, South Zealand. To mask the drop, the aircraft first dropped four 250lb bombs on the Masnedøværket at Storstrømsbroen.

Dropped blind from 300 feet in the early hours of 28 December, Carl's parachute failed to open as the snap hook on his static line came away from its anchorage point inside the aircraft and followed him to the ground. It was known that cable static lines had a tendency to "whip" but it had never been foreseen that the result of such whipping could possibly cause the static eye-splice to part from its anchorage point. As a direct consequence of this accident all snap hooks are to this day fitted with a locking device.

The loss of Bruhn was a bitter blow to the SOE, who had tailored the Danish operation around him, his intimate knowledge of the forests of the drop zone and his contacts in the locality.

Carl is buried in Solbjerg Park Cemetery, Frederiksberg, Denmark

Carl is commemorated on Wall Panel 272 (Not Yet Erected)

Photo Source: Findagrave