

Tin Smith in Finland

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Carl Rantala was a tin smith in Helsinki. In 1941 the Soviet Army invaded Finland defeating the Finnish government. The Soviets tried to rule with an Iron fist. The Soviets didn't know that the Finns had an agreement with Germany from 1940. This gave Germany the right to send troops to Finland. In 1941 the Finnish military joined with Germany for the invasion of Russia in June. The German invasion failed and Finland was once again under Soviet rule.

In 1944 a peace was reached. By 1947 Finland held onto its independence with an uneasy peace with Russia. Carl was trying to make a living in this post war Finland. His work with tin had come to a stop. Most all the available material had been used in the war. Without the resources to work with, Carl was forced to find other ways to live by.

It was June of 1948 when Carl met Gustaf Scuhrovec. Scuhrovec had a small company left over after the war that sold imported jewelry. Most of his stock had been confiscated by Russian and German soldiers during their occupations. Gustaf had the good sense to hide a good amount of gold before the occupation started. He wanted to leave Finland before he was found out. His plan was to get into Sweden. The problem was that the gold was too heavy to carry by himself. Gustaf knew that Carl had been a tin worker. Carl Rantala could fashion the gold to look like something else less noticeable as it was transported out of Finland.

Carl was the grandson of Stephen Regulies, one of the founders of the Finnish Stavrosian Families in Helsinki. Stephen was the patriarch of their First Life organization with celebrations held on Lake Pyhajarui, near the town of Tampere. Carl took the offer from Gustaf and he started to cobble by hand the gold to look like latches and hinges the kind that would have been used on fishing boats. They were able to move much of the gold into Sweden.

It took Carl over a year to complete the transformation, pack, and then ship everything. Once it was done all that remained was for Carl was to meet Gustaf in Sweden. Carl traveled to the Finnish town of Kolari. Unfortunately, he was stopped at the border, searched and was found to have a fake passport trying to cross into Sweden. It's not known what happen to Carl after that day. No records of his arrest have been recovered. No other information of Carl's whereabouts were ever found. Gustaf Scuhrovec opened a jewelry shop in Jokkmokk, Sweden. He became a mildly successful import/export jewelry business.

His only known associate was a man called Stephen Rowbshear. NOTE: It's been said that Rowbshear had a striking resemblance to Carl. There is no photographic proof. Both men would be in their 80's if they are still alive.

There were no records of registration found held in Stockholm. There was found a registration for the family named Regulies in New York.
Letter submitted to the S.G.L. by Anna Raglas of Connecticut.

S.G.L. Researcher
C. Smith

<http://stavrosianalienancestry.com/stavrosianarchives.html>