

They stole millions in the most daring and audacious robbery in Danish history

Audacious! Denmark's Biggest Heist

| Shimon Rosenberg |

Residents of the Albertslund suburb of the Danish capital Copenhagen woke up one morning to shocking reports about garbage trucks in flames blocking most of the roadways and dozens of cars whose tires had mysteriously gone flat. "What's going on?" everyone wondered. "Is our city under attack?" It didn't take long to discover that this was just a diversionary tactic to cover up for a much more audacious assault going on at the same time—the greatest, most daring robbery in the history of Denmark.



August 10, 2008, 4:30 AM.

A police cruiser is returning from a routine patrol on the streets of Albertslund, a suburb just west of Denmark's capital city Copenhagen. The car tries to enter the underground parking lot of the police station. Suddenly, the car lurches to a halt. The officer behind the wheel is stunned to find that his way is blocked by a burning garbage truck which fills the entire width of the entrance.

The officer radios the station and reports the problem. Peter Nielsen, the supervisor on duty, quickly turns around to the video screens connected to the security cameras outside the building. Sure enough, there is a burning garbage truck from the M. Larsen



One of the garbage trucks engulfed in flames.



A firefighter tries to extinguish the flames.

trucking company blocking the entrance to the parking lot.

Nielsen glances at another screen and his eyes nearly pop out of his head. Another blue garbage truck, also engulfed in flames, is blocking the main entrance to the police station as well! Before Nielsen can orient himself the phones begin ringing off the hook. The two dispatchers cannot keep up with the flood of complaints. People are calling in from all across the municipality to report trucks in flames blocking most of the main roadways leading in and out of the district.

Not only that, but there are reports of dozens of cars all over with flat tires. There are several accidents on the highways caused by cars colliding after their tires suddenly went flat and their drivers lost control.

"What's going on here?" Nielsen calls out in dismay.

Before anyone can respond Nielsen swings into action. He picks up his walkie-talkie and declares a general alarm. "Every officer on patrol must drop what he is doing immediately. I don't need one or two cars; I need every single car. I need everyone!"

At that moment, the main phone line at police headquarters rings. "Police," an officer calls into the phone.

"Yes, hello. This is Rick from G4S." The police often field phone calls from G4S, the world's largest security company, which provides protection and alarm systems for numerous businesses across Copenhagen. G4S has direct access to police headquarters and the company calls whenever an alarm sounds at one of their locations.

This time the security company is reporting an alarm at Danish Value Handling (DVH), a company similar to Brinks that transports money. "Several alarms have been set off," the official reports, "and someone also physically activated an alarm button."

"Danish Value Handling?" the policeman calls in nervously. "When did the call come in?" "I got it at 4:38."

The officer spontaneously turns around to a group of screens connected directly to the security cameras at DVH. As he does, he



Kornmarks Street, where DVH is located, is a wide boulevard in the industrial sector of Albertslund, home to simple office buildings and warehouses.

lets out a gasp. "Oh G-d! They are there now! They are there! We're on the way!"

"Good, thanks," the official from G4S says as he hangs up the phone.

The officer orders one of the cars in the parking lot to head straight for Kornmarks Street, where DVH is located. Then he realizes that no one can drive anywhere since the parking lot is blocked. After contemplating the predicament for a second, the officer shouts, "We've got to free the way to be able to send out cars!"

There is an alternate way of leaving the parking lot, through a fire exit. However, that exit is locked and nobody can find the key. Meanwhile, the officers in the station observe the scene unfolding at DVH. They can see a white room with several tables. A thick cloud of brown dust hangs in the air and the entire floor is littered with shattered bricks. The rear wall of the room is decimated.

In the background is an armored vault the size of a small garage. The steel door is wide open and several tall and broadly built figures wearing black masks over their faces, blue-grey coveralls and bulletproof vests are hastily stuffing one sack after another. One of the intruders stands guard with a Kalashnikov rifle in his hands.

Mysterious Incidents

It was the end of Rene Pedersen's shift and he was about to prepare to leave when the alarm suddenly came in. The veteran

private security guard sat in the coffee room of G4S and sipped at his cup of steaming roast when the signal came in. Someone had broken into a warehouse belonging to Milton, manufacturer of gas ovens and boilers. Pedersen jumped into his white Toyota and set out for Kornmarks Street, where Milton's warehouse was located.

It was not the first time an alarm came in from Milton. Something eerie had been taking place at the warehouse in recent weeks. Every few days a fresh alarm came in, but each time Pedersen arrived there to have a look he found nothing.

The first alarm had sounded less than a month back in the predawn hours on the morning of July 19. Pedersen had rushed to the warehouse, but when he showed up there was no trace of anyone having been there. After a while, he decided it must have been a false alarm and left.

The very next evening the alarm sounded again. This time when the security guard arrived he noticed that a motion sensor in one room was smeared with a thick cream. But again nothing was missing.

One week later, on Saturday, July 26, at 5:51 PM, a security guard who was patrolling outside the warehouse noticed an open window. The following day, Sunday evening, an alarm sounded again, and later that same night yet another alarm came in.

When the warehouse manager arrived at work on Monday morning he immediately picked up the phone and called the police.