

Before we go back



NORWAY'S FIGHT SINCE APRIL, 1940

NINEPENCE NET



BEFORE WE GO BACK

A Pictorial Record of Norway's Fight against
Nazism, both inside and outside the Country

With a Postscript by

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"FOR US NORWEGIANS,
THE SEAS DO NOT DIVIDE BUT UNITE"

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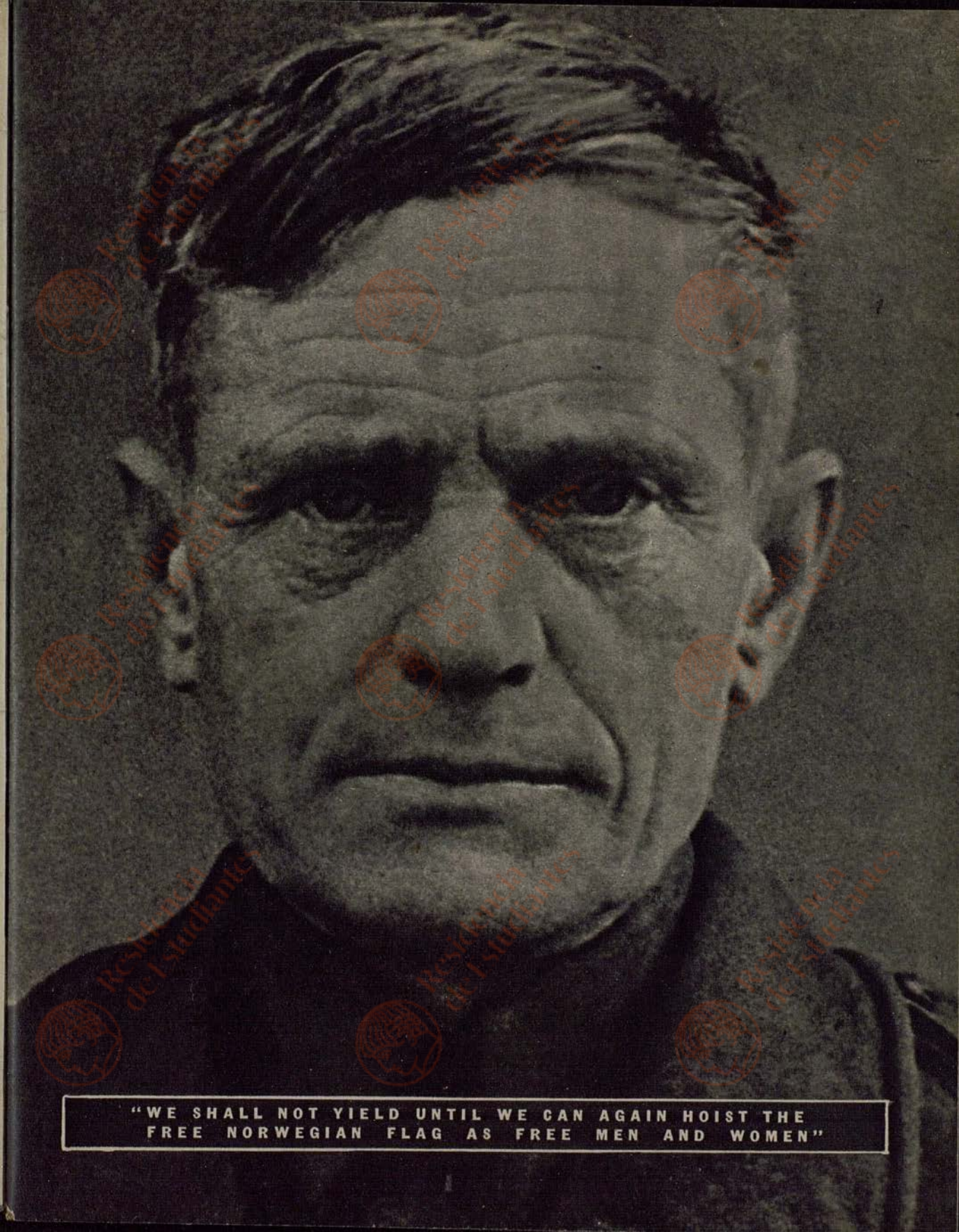


"TO-DAY THE FLAGPOLE STANDS NAKED"

Why did the Norwegians elect to fight, instead of accepting the "peaceful occupation" which the Germans offered them? The answer can be summed up in two words: "17th May." Each year Norwegians celebrated 17th May as the anniversary of that day in 1814 when the first Norwegian Storting (Parliament) decided that henceforth they would govern themselves, according to established laws, as a free people in a free country. When the German Nazis sought to destroy their national independence and their democratic laws and institutions, the Norwegians decided, at whatever cost, to resist.

Above The country mansion at Eldsvold where the Norwegian Constitution was promulgated on 17th May, 1814. "To-day," wrote Norway's great poet, Nordahl Grieg, "the flag-pole stands naked midst Eldsvold's green-clad trees."

Right General Ruge, Commander-in-Chief of the Norwegian forces during the fighting from 9th April to 9th June, 1940, seen here as a prisoner of war in Germany. In his last Order of the Day, General Ruge said:



"WE SHALL NOT YIELD UNTIL WE CAN AGAIN HOIST THE
FREE NORWEGIAN FLAG AS FREE MEN AND WOMEN"

HOW NORWAY BECAME ONE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

"If there is anyone who still wonders why this war is being fought, let him look to Norway. If there is anyone who has any delusions that this war could have been avoided, let him look to Norway. And if there is anyone who doubts of the democratic will to win, again I say, let him look to Norway."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

(16th September, 1942)

NORWAY WAS NOT ONLY the first country in Western Europe to be assaulted by Hitler; it was also the first country to be attacked with the new nazi weapons of surprise and stealth. There was no declaration of war; no "diplomatic" notes; no ultimatums; no "frontier incidents"; no warning presentation of German "demands"; not even a preliminary press campaign of hate and denunciation. There was simply sudden attack from all points with overwhelming strength at sea, on land, and in the air. The first warning of the German invasion was flashed to the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Dr. Koht, at 11.30 p.m. on the night of the 8th-9th April: less than 12 hours later all the principal ports, bases and towns, including Oslo itself, the capital, were in German hands.

One major flaw in the execution of the German plans was not noticed until some time afterwards. Oslo was to have been captured not in 10 hours but in 4 or 5: those few hours made a vital difference which affected the whole course of future events. If the first, seaborne, attack through the Oslo Fjord had not been stopped by the guns and torpedoes of the Oskarsborg Fortress—which sank the battle cruiser *Blücher*—the Germans would have been in Oslo in time to seize a great prize: King Haakon and the Norwegian Government,

the political leaders of the people. As it was, the airborne attack, which succeeded, came just those few hours too late—and the prey had escaped to the comparative safety of the inland valleys.

How much those few hours meant for Norwegian resistance, for the future of Norway, and even, to no unimportant degree, to the United Nations as a whole, can only to-day be fully appreciated. Had the Germans captured the King and the Government the people would have been deprived of their chosen leaders, the military forces and the civil administration would have been without advice and guidance, the popular resistance would have been disorganised, a great part of the Norwegian Merchant Fleet might have fallen into the hands of the Germans, and Norway would subsequently have been deprived of effective representation in the outside world.

With the few hours' grace given them by the officers and men of the Oskarsborg Fortress, the President of the Storting and members of the Government performed a great feat of organisation. Working at frenzied speed they got the twenty-eight and a half million pounds of gold and foreign securities out of the vaults of the Bank of Norway and away across the mountains to safety, they collected important official records and documents and piled them on to waiting cars, they gave orders to the commanders of the armed forces and instructions to heads of government departments, they arranged for the transport of the King, the Crown Prince and the leading officials, and finally they summoned all the members of the Norwegian Storting (Parliament) to meet the same afternoon at Hamar, about 60 miles north of the capital.

With the German troops hard on their heels and held off only by small, hastily

Stortinget bemyn-
diger Regjeringen til, inntil det tidspunkt kommer da Regjeringen og
Stortingets Presidentskap etter konferanse innkaller Stortinget til
neste ordinære møte, å vareta rikets interesser og treffe de avgjørel-
ser og de beføyelser på Stortingets og Regjeringens vegne som må
ansees for påkrevet av hensyn til landets sikkerhet og framtid.

"... the Parliament empowers the Government, until such time as the Government and the
Presidential Board of the Storting in consultation summon the Parliament to its next ordinary meeting,
to protect the interests of the Kingdom and to undertake on behalf of Parliament and the Government
such measures as may be considered essential for the security and future of the country." (Resolution
of the Storting.)

Stortinget, her den åpen den adgang å bevare Regjeringen
og derigjennom det internasjonale symbol på Norges uavhengighet og
selvstendighet, den eneste Regjering som har en internasjonal bemyndi-
gelse og fullmakt til å opptre, selv om den sitter i et fremmed land.

"... the way is open for the maintenance of the Government and thereby of the
international symbol of Norway's freedom and independence—the only Government which has
international authority and full powers to act, even if it has its seat in a foreign country."
(Statement by the President of the Storting, made with the full approval of the members.)

organised Norwegian forces, the Storting was able to hold, first at Hamar and then a few hours later at Elverum, what was to prove its last session before the night of Nazi rule closed over the land of Norway. But that session, which the Germans had done their best to prevent, was sufficient to achieve two important tasks: the elected representatives of the Norwegian people gave their endorsement to the widening of the Labour Government of Johan Nygaardsvold into an all-party Government, and they granted to the King and the Government full powers for the duration of the emergency, *even if those powers had to be exercised from abroad.*

These far-sighted decisions, taken—it must be remembered—on the very first day of the German invasion, were to prove of enormous value for the future conduct of Norway's

struggle against the Nazi aggressors. The continuity of government was thus ensured in the most constitutional way possible, and the Norwegian Government, when it was eventually forced to take up temporary residence in Great Britain, was able to speak for Norway in the counsels of the United Nations with the sure knowledge that it was carrying out the declared will of the Norwegian people.

The Norwegian struggle therefore began in the same way as it was to continue: as a fight for human rights based on the Law and Constitution of the Country; as a conflict between the spirit of "17th May", with its traditions of national independence and democratic liberty on the one side, and the evil spirit of Nazism, with its ruthless extinction of human rights and liberties on the other.

The full meaning of this fundamental conflict was to be brought out in the course of the first day or two following the German invasion. While German planes were destroying peaceful Norwegian towns and villages with fire-bombs, and German troops were laying waste the countryside, the German Minister in Oslo, acting on Hitler's orders, presented an impudent demand to King Haakon. He asked not only that the King should order all resistance to cease, but also that he should dismiss the Norwegian Government and appoint Vidkun Quisling as his Prime Minister. The King replied that this was a matter for the Government to decide, but he made it clear that he would rather abdicate than call to the highest office in the land a man who was almost totally without support amongst the Norwegian people. He rightly saw that to a Norwegian the second of the German demands was even more outrageous than the first. A small, comparatively unarmed country might, without loss of honour, yield to vastly superior force. But what a democratic country could not do, without sacrificing the very foundations of its way of life, was to hand over powers of government to a man who had not only behaved as a traitor but had been decisively rejected by the people when they had had the chance of expressing their will through the democratic machinery of the ballot-box. Appoint as Prime Minister a man whose political party—a cheap imitation of the German Nazi Party—had never been able to gain more than 2.2 per cent of the votes at a General Election! This was unthinkable. The King refused the demand, and his refusal was supported by the Government, which moreover resolved to continue the struggle to the bitter end. If they had had any doubts before about the wisdom of continuing so seemingly hopeless a resistance, those doubts were removed when they saw that the price of surrender was not merely occupation by a foreign power, but the violation of the democratic way of life which the Norwegian people had built up through centuries of effort.

When the reply of King Haakon and the Government to the German demands became known to the Norwegian people, the effect was electric. Everywhere young men volunteered for the fight, young women and the older folk joined in to do what they could, resistance was hastily organised, and the swift and easy advance of the German mechanised forces was converted into a grim struggle for each valley and upland. The people knew that they had something to fight for, and that knowledge gave tenfold power to the puny weapons they possessed. It enabled them to fight on for 62 days against hopeless odds, and it gave them the moral strength with which to continue the struggle—by other means—through the dark, long years of German occupation. Indeed one may say that the foundation stones of the whole Norwegian struggle were laid in those first few days when the two worlds of Democracy and Nazism were brought into dramatic conflict.

What were those foundation stones? First, the personality of King Haakon VII. He had come to Norway in 1905 as the free choice of a free people, he had carried out his duties as a constitutional monarch for 35 years with scrupulous regard for the institutions of an independent and self-governing community, and now, at the age of 67, he had stepped forward as the defender of the Law and the Constitution and as the example and exponent of a determined fight to the finish with Nazism and all its works. Sharing the dangers and sufferings of the people during the 62-days' campaign, never losing faith in the rightness of their cause and in its eventual triumph, this noble man, upright in mind as in body, became at one and the same time the natural leader and the symbol of his country's fight.

The second foundation stone was the Law and the Constitution itself. These instruments, derived in part from the ancient traditions of the free peasant democracy of mediæval Norway and in part from the humanistic ideals of the French Revolution, and enlarged by the experience of the



KING HAAKON VII OF NORWAY, PHOTOGRAPHED IN GENERAL'S
UNIFORM DURING THE FIGHTING IN NORWAY, APRIL 1940

modern movement towards true social democracy, provided the Norwegian people, in their time of trial, with a set of principles by which to test and challenge the actions of the Nazi aggressors and also with a source of moral power which could not be shaken even by the most terrible weapons of brute force. It was therefore a source of great strength that the Norwegian Government was able to operate freely on the basis of the Constitution and with full powers to take legal and administrative decisions in accordance with the unanimous vote of the Norwegian Parliament. The Norwegian people knew that, whatever temporary havoc the Nazis might create in the social and political structure of Norwegian society, the interests of their country would be safeguarded by their own chosen leaders, many of whom had served in the pre-war Government of the bluff and burly Labour Premier, Johan Nygaardsvold.

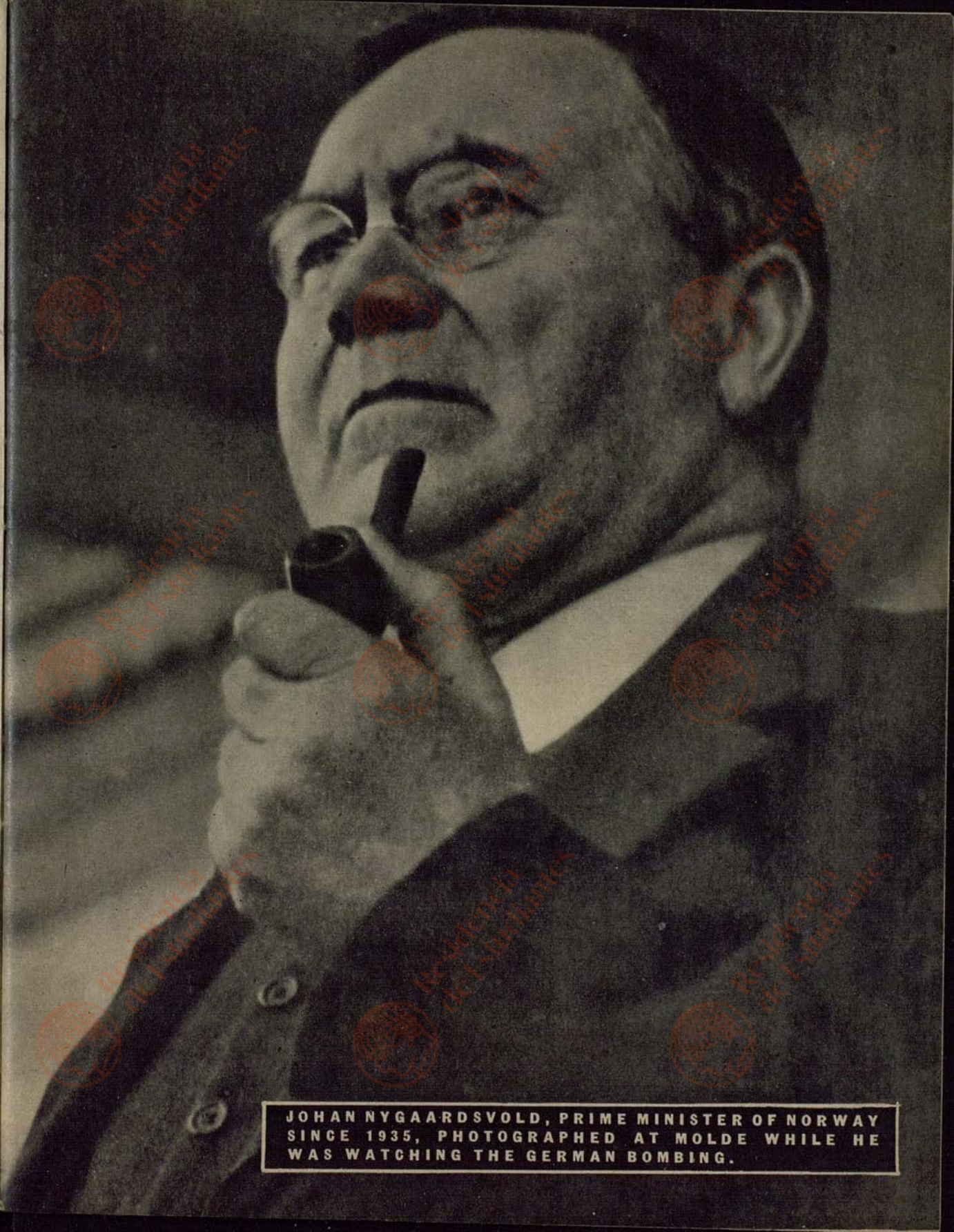
The importance of the freedom of action enjoyed by the Norwegian Government, not only to the Norwegian struggle but to the cause of all the United Nations, was shown by one of the first acts carried out by the Government after the German invasion. On 22nd April, while fighting was in full progress, the Government met at the farmstead of Stuguflaaten in Central Norway and decided to requisition the whole of the Norwegian Merchant Fleet outside enemy-controlled waters. By this act 4,000,000 tons of fast, modern merchant shipping, manned by some 30,000 seamen, was saved for the Allied cause, and enabled to play an absolutely indispensable part in the Battle of the Atlantic and indeed in all aspects of the fight for sea communications. Later, when the Government came to Britain on 9th June, 1940, it was able to take full control of the management of this vast fleet, as well as to build up new Air, Naval and Military forces in preparation for the reconquest of Norway.

Hitler's military victory was thus not the end, but the beginning of the real struggle

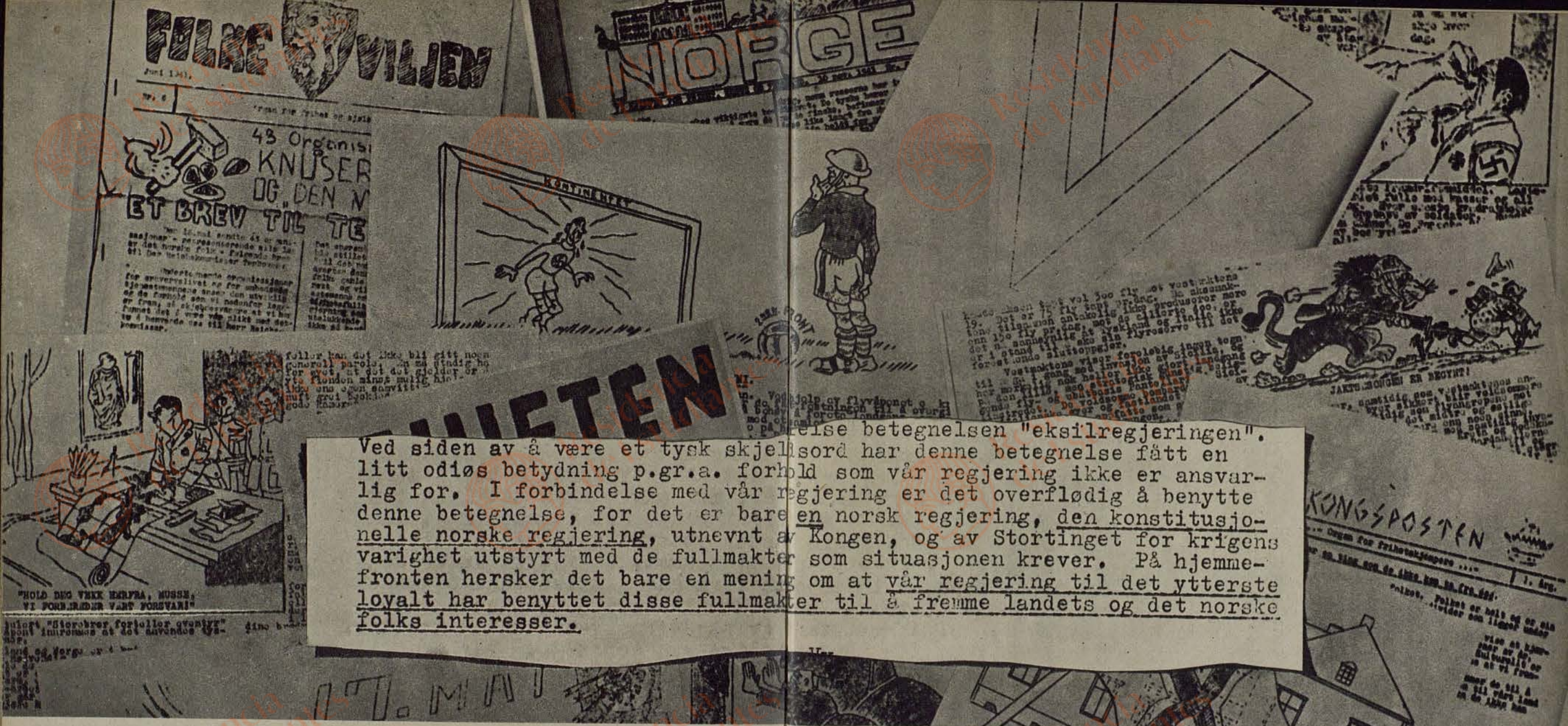
for the future of Norway. Abroad, on the "Outer Front", King Haakon and the Norwegian Government were able to give Norway an effective share in the active fight of the United Nations. Inside Norway, the patriots of the "Home Front" were able to build up so powerful a resistance to the German and Norwegian Nazis that, together with the resistance movements in the other occupied countries, they succeeded in converting Hitler's dream of a Continent "peacefully" working for the *Herrenvolk's* New Order into a nightmare of seething discontent and latent revolt.

Thus was created the third foundation stone of the Norwegian struggle: the unity between the "Home Front" and the "Outer Front". How important to this unity was the stand taken by King Haakon and the Norwegian Government can best be expressed in the words of one of Norway's leading underground newspapers, *Bulletinen* (Dec., 1943):

"Perhaps the most valuable contribution of all was the decision of the King and Government not to capitulate, but rather to go into exile and continue the struggle. The prospect often looked dark during the summer of 1940, with the homeland in the hands of the oppressors, with the collapse and capitulation of ally after ally, and, finally, with the fate of the last bastion, England, in the hands of a few fighter-pilots, with America far away and Russia, it seemed, even farther. But the King and his men did not waver. They gave the command to fight on, for freedom and justice . . . Thus the nation immediately obtained a stable centre of cohesion in the country's Chief of State, its legal Government and its military leadership. Free and unconstrained the country's leaders could lay down their policy and give their directives. Perhaps at that time not all of us here at home were aware of the significance of this fact. Now everyone realises that the policy which was chosen was the only proper one. It created both the Home Front and the Outer Front."



JOHAN NYGAARDSVOLD, PRIME MINISTER OF NORWAY
SINCE 1935, PHOTOGRAPHED AT MOLDE WHILE HE
WAS WATCHING THE GERMAN BOMBING.



Ved siden av å være et tysk skjellsord har denne betegnelse fått en litt odios betydning p.gr.a. forhold som vår regjering ikke er ansvarlig for. I forbindelse med vår regjering er det overflødig å benytte denne betegnelse, for det er bare en norsk regjering, den konstitusjonelle norske regjering, utnevnt av Kongen, og av Stortinget for krigens varighet utstyrt med de fullmakter som situasjonen krever. På hjemmefronten hersker det bare en mening om at vår regjering til det ytterste loyalt har benyttet disse fullmakter til å fremme landets og det norske folks interesser.

CLOSE contact between the "Home Front" and the "Outer Front" is maintained by means of the Norwegian underground press. The Nazis destroyed the free newspapers of Norway and confiscated all wireless sets, but patriots continued to supply their fellow countrymen with the real news through hundreds of stencilled news sheets. At the risk of death if discovered by the

Gestapo, young men and women listened on secret wireless sets to the news broadcast by the Norwegian service from London, and reproduced it, together with other news obtained inside the country through secret channels. Although working under difficult conditions the patriots managed—as the examples given above show—to embellish their news sheets with patriotic

designs and humorous sketches. The extract in large type above criticises those who refer to the Norwegian Government in London as an "exile government." It says:

"... There is only one Norwegian Government, the Constitutional Norwegian Government, appointed by the King and granted by the Storting full

powers for the duration of the war to take whatever action the situation demands. On the Home Front we are all agreed that our Government has used these full powers, in complete loyalty, in order to promote the interests of our country and of the Norwegian people."



German tourists visiting Norway before the war on a "Kraft durch Freude" ship.

"THEY CAME AS FRIENDS . . ."

BEFORE THE WAR the German Nazi Government sent thousands of German tourists to Norway on "Kraft durch Freude" ships. They were plentifully supplied with cameras which were busily clicking as the ships steamed in and out of the Norwegian fjords. When the trippers got back to Germany the Nazi Government "borrowed" the photographs. When German troops landed at numerous points along the Norwegian coast on the 9th April, 1940, they carried with them detailed plans based on these photographs. They also carried leaflets printed in Norwegian telling the people of Norway that "they came as friends, to protect them from British aggression."

The Norwegian people were not deceived. Under King Haakon and the Norwegian Government they fought back, with such

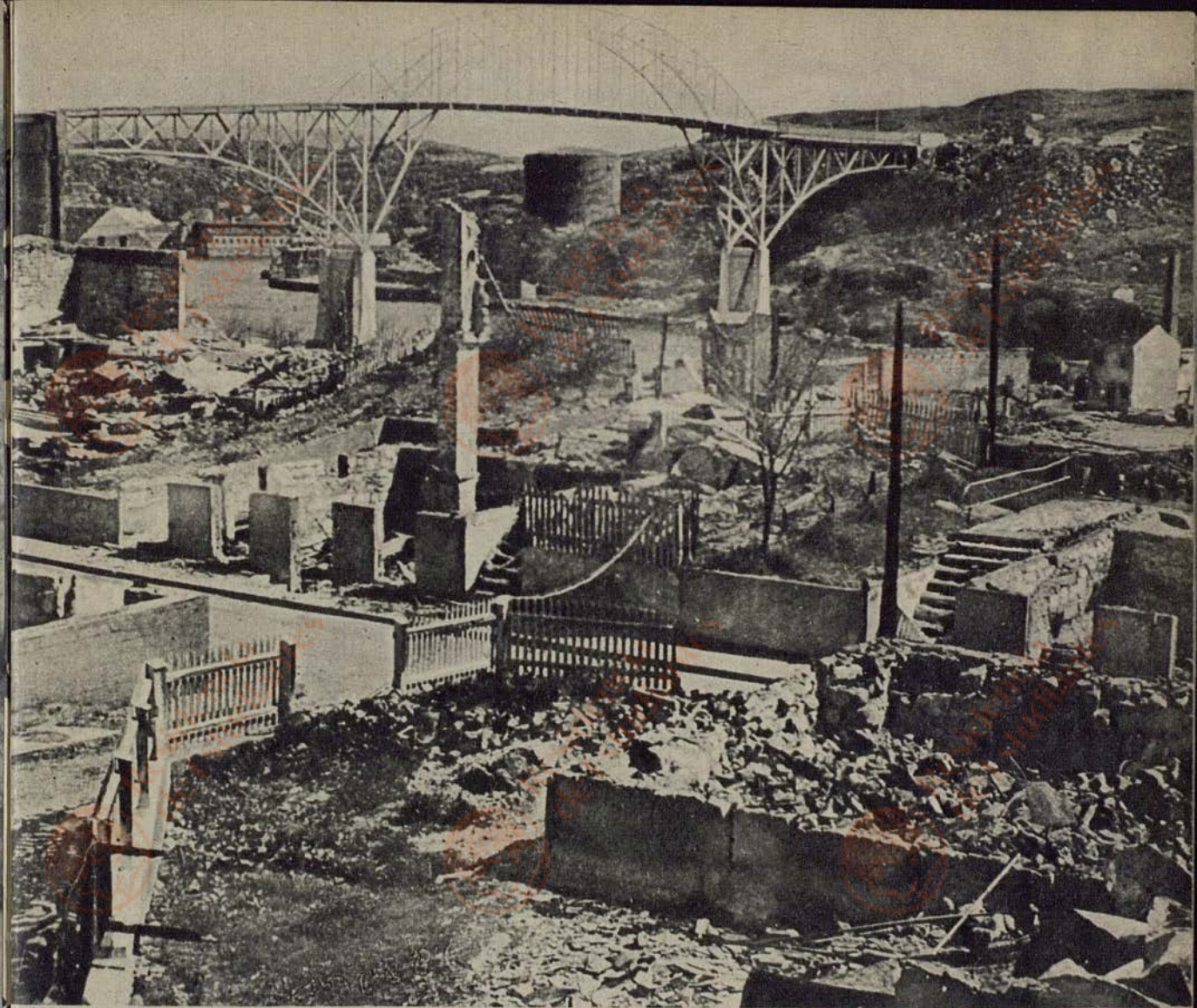
assistance as the Allies could give them at that time, for sixty-two days. The small Norwegian army, swelled with hastily assembled volunteers, fought back in the mountains and valleys. The Norwegian Air Force, operating with mainly obsolete planes from improvised airfields on ice-covered lakes, disdained to yield to the 2,000 modern planes of the Luftwaffe. Norwegian coastal batteries, destroyers and even tiny whaleboats, did their best to defend the coasts against the invader.

The Germans suffered severe losses in this Norwegian campaign, which they thought would be a "walk over." A third of the German Navy, comprising twelve warships with a total tonnage of 37,000 tons, was sunk in the Norwegian roads. Nearly 60,000 German soldiers were killed in the fighting or drowned at sea.

Below A German military graveyard in Norway.







Above The ruins of Kristiansund.

HITLER ordered the Luftwaffe to wreak vengeance upon the Norwegians for their obstinate refusal to surrender. Many of Norway's loveliest townships, although undefended and containing no objects of military importance, were completely devastated by ruthless attacks with high explosive

and incendiary bombs. The towns which suffered most damage were Kristiansund, Molde, Steinkjær, Namsos, Bodø and Narvik. Many small villages were also destroyed, and in North Norway alone nearly 30,000 people were homeless in the autumn of 1940.

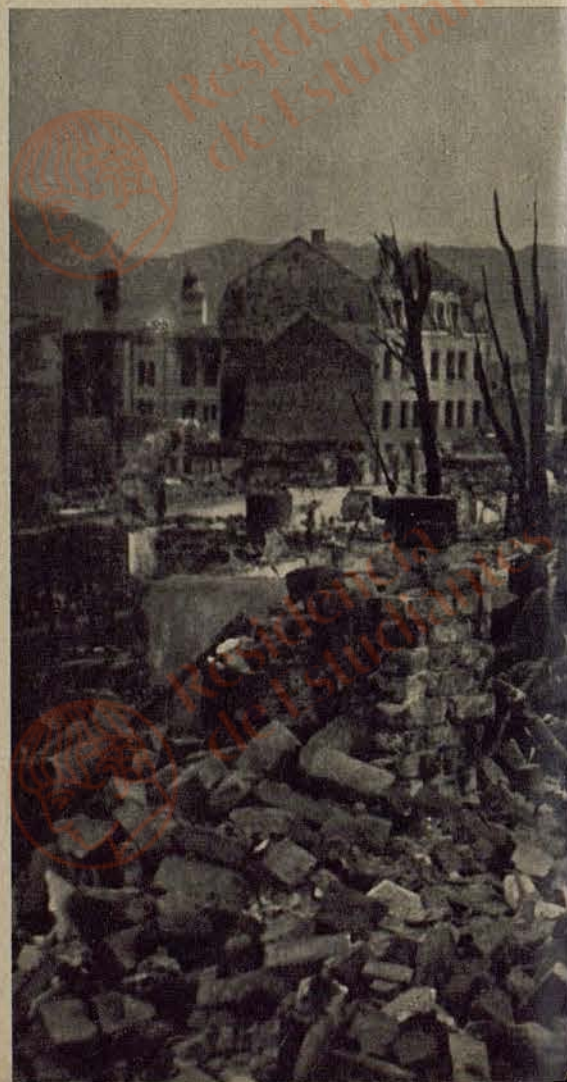
Left Kristiansund in flames after a Luftwaffe raid.



Before the war the west coast port of Bodø gave shelter to over 5,000 peaceful and happy citizens.

"They burnt our homes to ashes,
They maimed and killed our men.
Let every heart-beat tell it,
Again and yet again."

ARNULF OEVERLAND—*Norwegian poet, now in a German concentration camp*



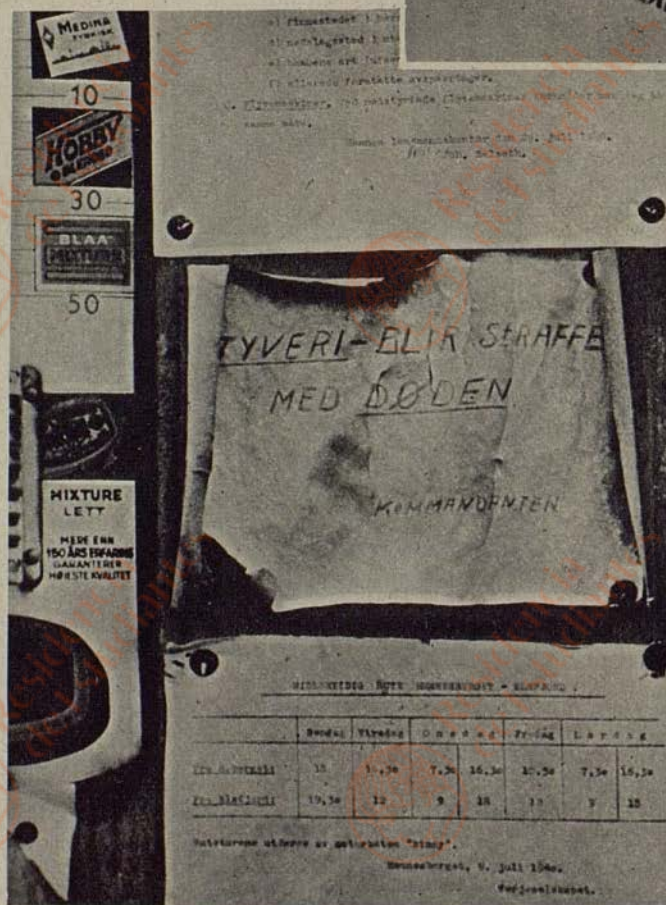
Right Citizens of Bodø look at what is left of their homes after the Luftwaffe has passed.

THE HERRENVOLK MOVE IN



Above

"We are the Masters of the World" says this boastful German poster displayed on the walls of Norwegian towns.



Left

But the "Masters of the World" are so afraid of their "subjects" that they try to terrorise them by introducing the death penalty for all kinds of trivial offences. This—rather dilapidated—poster says: "THEFT will be punished by DEATH. By order of the Kommandant."



But the Norwegians are not scared. Even the children turn their backs on a German patrol as it marches through the main street of a Norwegian town.





THE FOOD DISAPPEARS

NOW

Youngs Torvet under the German occupation. The Germans have stripped the country of meat, fish, eggs, milk, butter, cheese and other nutritive food stuffs. Now an Oslo housewife may have to queue all night to get half a pound of margarine in the morning—if she is lucky.

THEN

Oslo's principal open-air shopping centre—Youngs Torvet—before the war.



“THE NEW ORDER”—AND THE REPLY

Above Representatives of the “New Order”—the German Reichskommissar, Josef Terboven, and the traitor Vidkun Quisling—stalk through the streets, protected by armed bodyguards

Right The patriots reply with defiant slogans—“All for Norway,” “Long Live King Haakon VII,” “Down with Quisling,” and the V sign.



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THE HOME FRONT ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE



ALL SECTIONS of Norwegian society have played their part in the Home Front, which embraces the 98 per cent. of the Norwegian people who are resolutely opposed to the Germans and their quisling puppets. Over three years ago—in November 1940—the 300,000 members of the Norwegian sporting organisations refused to allow their clubs to be nazified and declared a complete boycott of all Nazi-

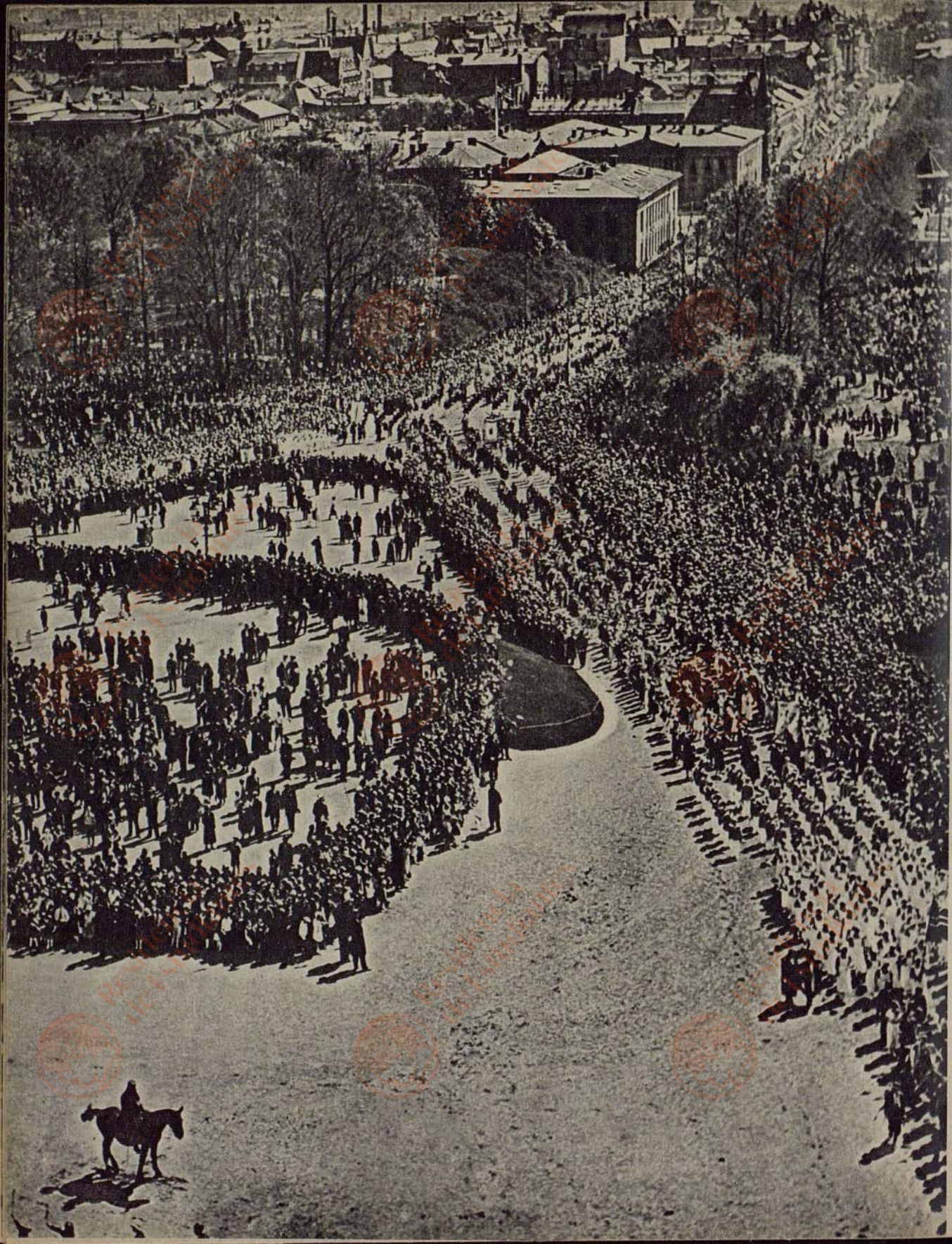
controlled sports contests. Ever since the boycott has been maintained with unbroken solidarity, despite intense Nazi pressure and the confiscation of club property by the quislings.

Patriotic sportsmen sometimes hold "illegal" sports meetings amongst themselves, but meetings organised by the Nazis attract only a bare handful of competitors and practically no spectators.

Above The famous Olympic Ski Champion brothers—Sigmund (left) and Birger Ruud. Birger told the Gestapo: "I would rather burn my skis than take part in Nazi-organised sport." He was arrested and held in a concentration camp.

Right A few quisling athletes running in front of empty stands at Oslo's biggest sports stadium. The empty seats symbolise the strength of Norwegian opposition to the Nazi "New Order."







BEFORE the war Norway's National Day—17th May—was a festive day for the whole people. Symbolising the principle that “the future belongs to the young people,” children's processions played a prominent part in the celebrations. To-day, the Nazis have forbidden the celebration of the 17th May—appropriately enough, because it is they who have temporarily destroyed Norwegian independence and Norway's democratic Constitution.

Left On a typical 17th May in pre-war Norway crowds gathered before the Royal Palace in Oslo watch the children's procession coming up Oslo's main street, the Karl Johan Gate.

Above This picture, smuggled out of occupied Norway, shows how even to-day Norwegian children celebrate the 17th May in defiance of the Nazi ban.



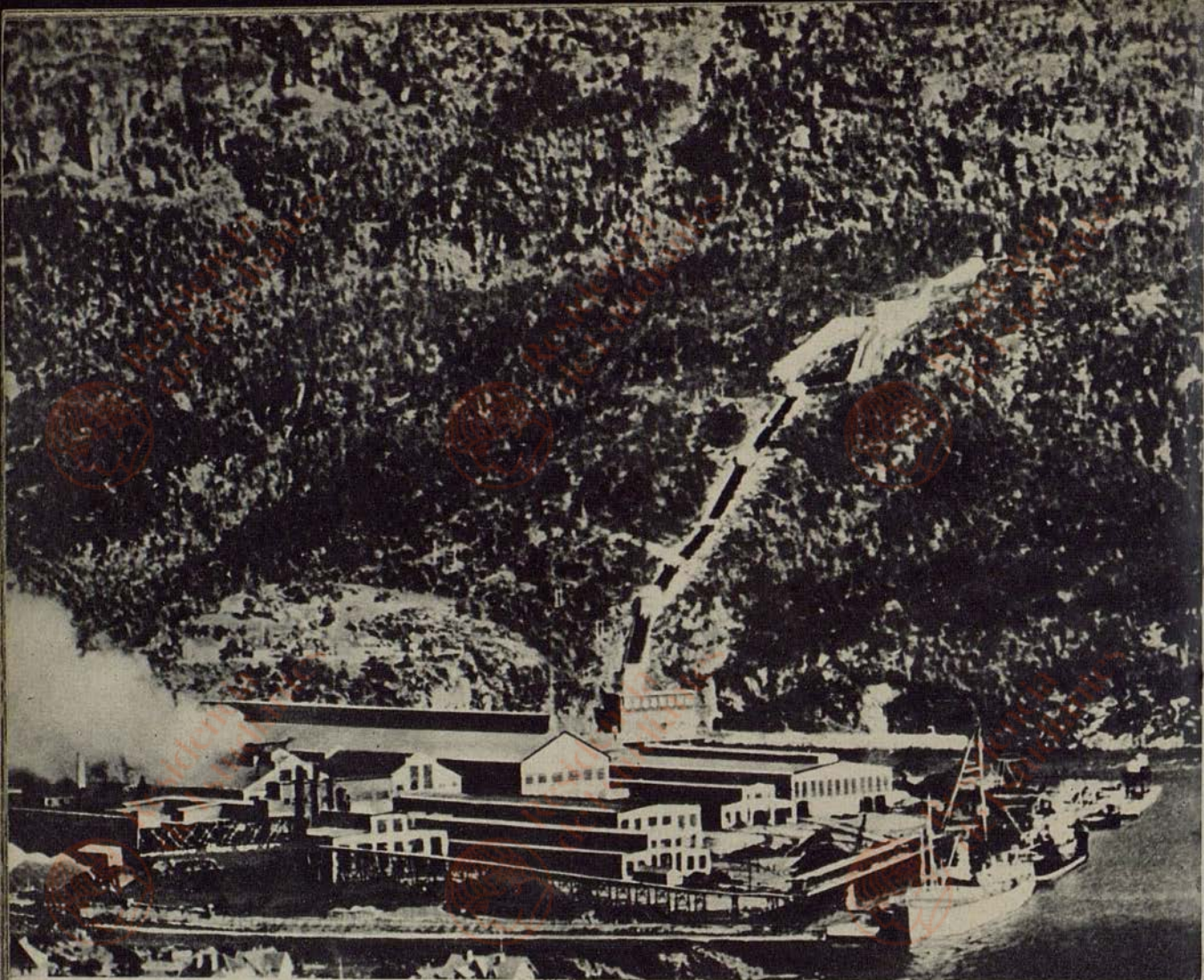
The Nazis staged a grandiose exhibition of the Hitler Youth Movement in Oslo, but it was boycotted by Norwegian children.

THE Nazis were not satisfied with destroying or seizing Norwegian property. They wanted to conquer the minds and souls of the people as well. Finding the adults too obstinate they thought they might have better success with the children. In preparation for introducing a Nazi Youth Movement in Norway they staged a big exhibition of the "Hitler Youth" in Oslo in February 1941. When children refused to attend the exhibition voluntarily they were ordered to march there in classes under their teachers. Some

classes marched through the Exhibition Hall with their heads down, while others did not arrive at all, but marched up to the Royal Palace and shouted "Long live King Haakon." Nazi Stormtroopers took revenge by breaking into the schools and beating up teachers and even young children. The patriots replied by a school strike which was equally supported by teachers, parents and children. The strike spread from Oslo to Bergen, Trondheim and other towns and there were frequently exciting demonstrations.

Right Police cars trying to clear streets in Bergen during demonstrations associated with the "school strikes" in February 1941.





Large Norwegian hydro-electric power station and aluminium factory at Sauda.

THE PLUNDERING GOES ON

THE CONQUEST OF NORWAY provided the Germans with other benefits besides naval bases from which to attack Atlantic and Murmansk convoys. There was fish for food and oil, timber for paper, cellulose and troop barracks, valuable minerals such as molybdenum and iron and sulphur pyrites, and well-developed modern metal and chemical industries based

on "white coal." The ample water supplies, converted into 1.4 million kws. of electrical energy, also provided power for general industry and agriculture as well as lighting and heating for Norwegian homes.

The invading Germans plundered these rich resources to provide supplies for their war machine. Norwegian industries were switched over to the production of war goods



Lorries ready to transport Norwegian labour conscripts to North Norway, while their families wait to say good-bye.

and those that were unsuitable for conversion were deprived of supplies of power, raw materials and labour. As a result Norwegian families have had to go short of all kinds of domestic goods, in addition to having their electricity supply cut off for several hours daily.

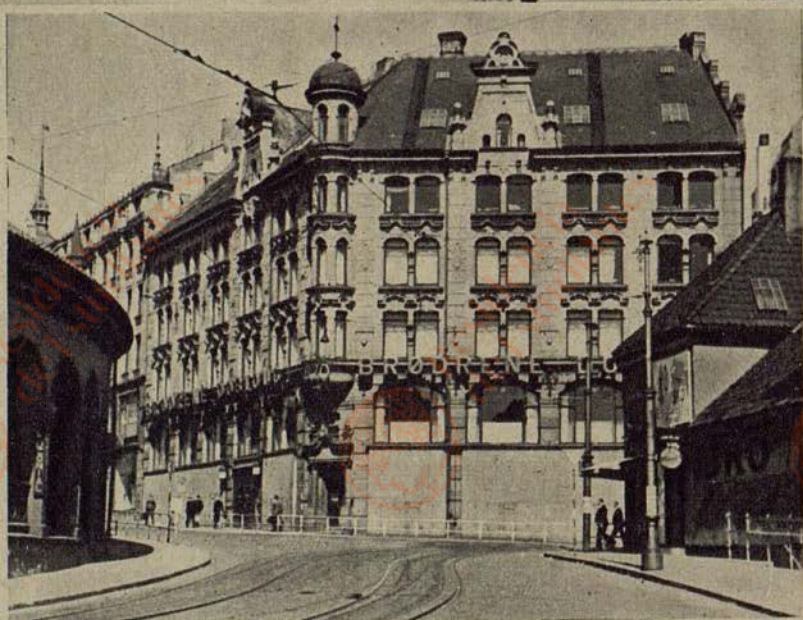
Norwegian labour has also been conscripted by the Nazis. Men between the

ages of 18 and 55 have been forcibly taken from their homes and compelled to work in slave labour gangs on the construction of strategic roads and railways, airfields, naval bases and coastal fortifications. Young women, too, have been conscripted and compelled to work in fish-packing factories and even as cleaners in German military barracks.



Above

Norwegian families turned out of their homes at a few hours' notice to provide billets for German officers.



Below

Confiscated radio sets go to Germany.

Centre

One of many large Oslo stores compulsorily closed down to provide workers for German coastal fortifications.





EVEN the plundering did not make the Norwegians lose their sense of humour which became one of their most effective weapons against the Germans. Here the fiddler plays a mournful dirge but everybody is very gay. This mock funeral procession is a joke at the expense of the Nazi rulers of Norway. The "coffin" on the hearse is really a wireless set which is being taken with solemn ceremony to the local police station

after the Germans have ordered all Norwegians to hand in their receivers to the authorities. The reason was that the Germans could not stop Norwegians from listening to their compatriots who were broadcasting from the B.B.C. in London. Nor could they compel them to tune in to the Nazi-controlled Oslo station. But the Norwegians soon found other means of learning the truth.



A modern Norwegian girls' school in pre-war Norway.

THE Norwegians have not taken all the Nazi assaults on their freedom lying down. They have fought back not with arms but with passive resistance and stubborn non-co-operation. The resistance of the Norwegian teachers and children has become known all over the world. The teachers refused to allow Nazi doctrines to be taught in the schools. They refused to become compulsory members of the Nazi "Teachers' Association." The Germans became furious ;

closed the schools, arrested 1,300 teachers, brutally ill-treated several hundred of them and made them work as dock labourers in the frozen north. But nothing could break the spirit of the teachers—or the children. To-day education continues in Norway under great difficulties, mostly in private homes. But if the children have learnt nothing else, they have learnt one great lesson : that without freedom and truth life has no meaning.



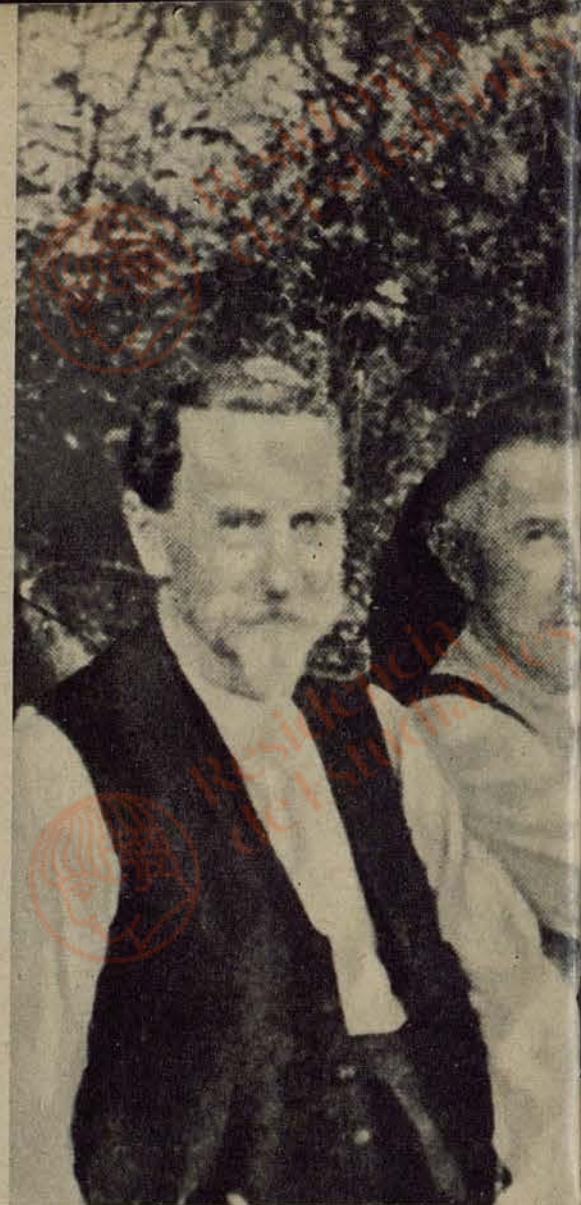
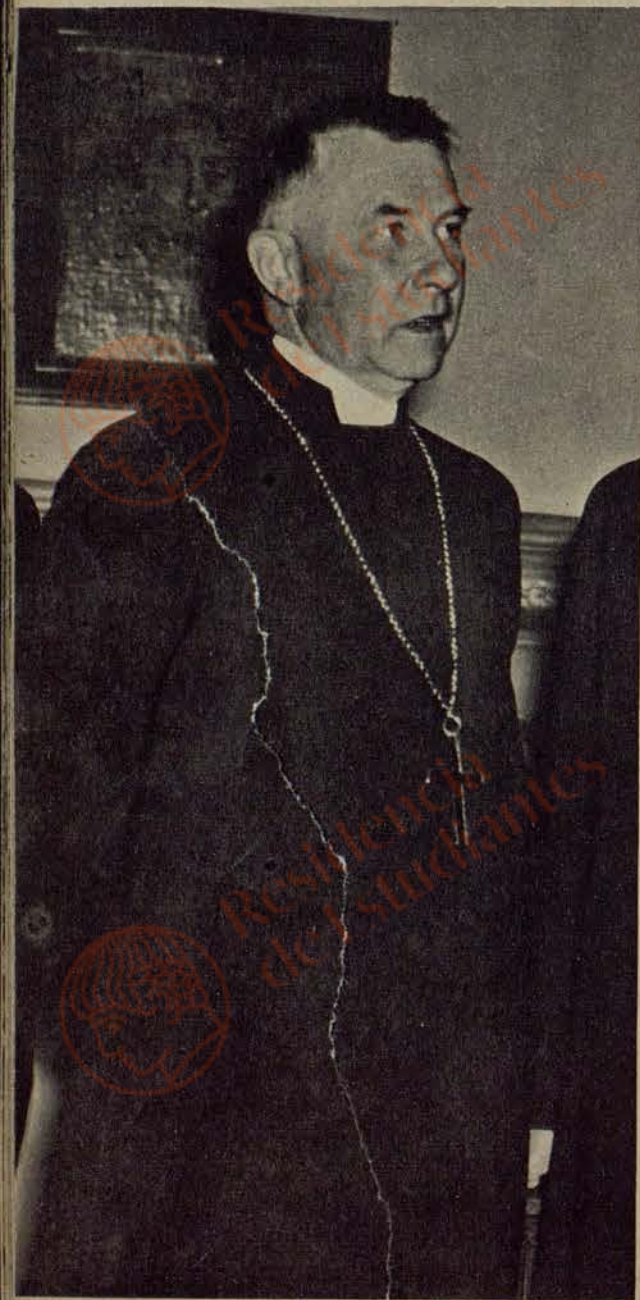
A Norwegian "school" to-day—in a private house.

Norwegian teachers being
transported to hard labour
in the Arctic North.



Below

Dr. Elvind Berggrav, Bishop of Oslo, and leader of the struggle of the Norwegian Church against the Nazis.



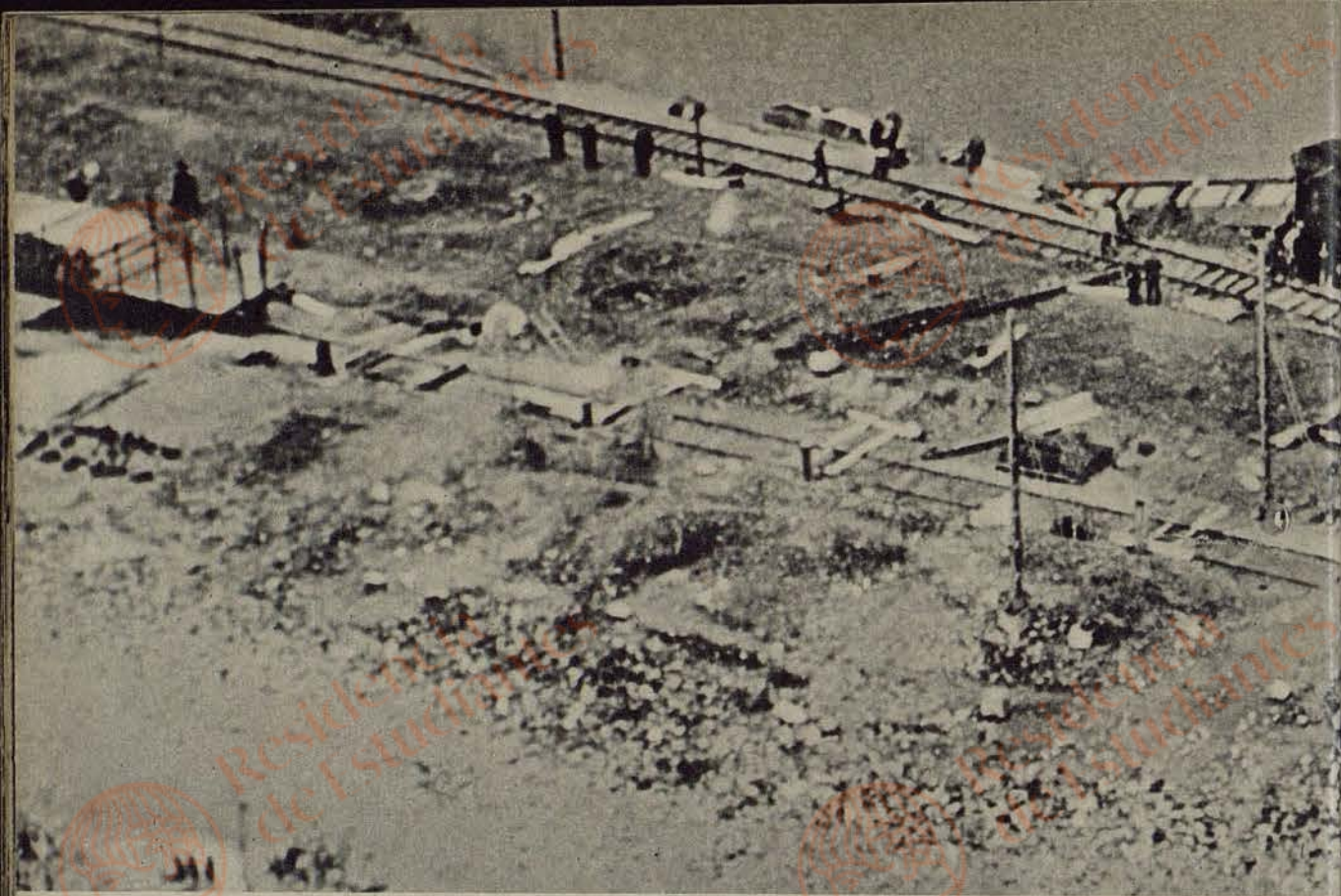
THE Norwegian clergy have played an important part in the struggle of the "Home Front." Following the example of the bishops, all the deans and pastors, with the exception of a few quislings, resigned their state offices on Easter Sunday 1942. Under the leadership of a "Provisional Church Council," declared "illegal" by the Nazis, the Norwegian Church has steadily resisted Nazi



The seven bishops of the Lutheran State Church of Norway, who resigned their official positions in February, 1942, as a protest against Nazi interference with religious freedom. This picture shows them in one of their informal conferences after their resignation, deciding their next move against the Germans.

aggression against the Church, the school and the home, and has on several occasions courageously denounced such acts of Nazi ruthlessness as the persecution of the teachers, the deportation of the Jews and the conscription of workers into the slave labour gangs.

Some thirty pastors have been arrested, and scores of others have been forbidden to preach and even exiled to small islands, but even the Nazis have been forced to admit that the Norwegian Christian community is solidly aligned against them.



German troop train derailed near Drammen in



South Norway as a result of an explosion on the line.

NORWEGIANS do not talk very much about active sabotage. The main slogans of the Home Front are "Passive Resistance" and "Work slowly and Work Badly!" But from time to time strange things *do* happen in Norway. German troop trains are derailed, power stations are blown up, Nazi headquarters are set on fire. One of the most effective pieces of sabotage was the firing of the Oslo Labour Exchange in March 1943, as a result of which all the records of compulsory labour mobilisation were destroyed and the German plans to conscript some 75,000 additional workers were delayed for many months. This act of sabotage was carried out by men who drove past the Labour Exchange in a lorry, flinging petrol bombs and hand-grenades

through the windows. The Germans offer large rewards for information leading to the capture of saboteurs, but these bribes have no effect on the people who stand solidly linked together in opposition to the tyrants. Posters secretly printed and pasted up at night by the patriots warn the Nazis that the day of reckoning is coming.

Left £6,000 reward offered by the Germans for information about the saboteur "Osvold."

Right A poster with the Norwegian answer: "The Day is Coming!"



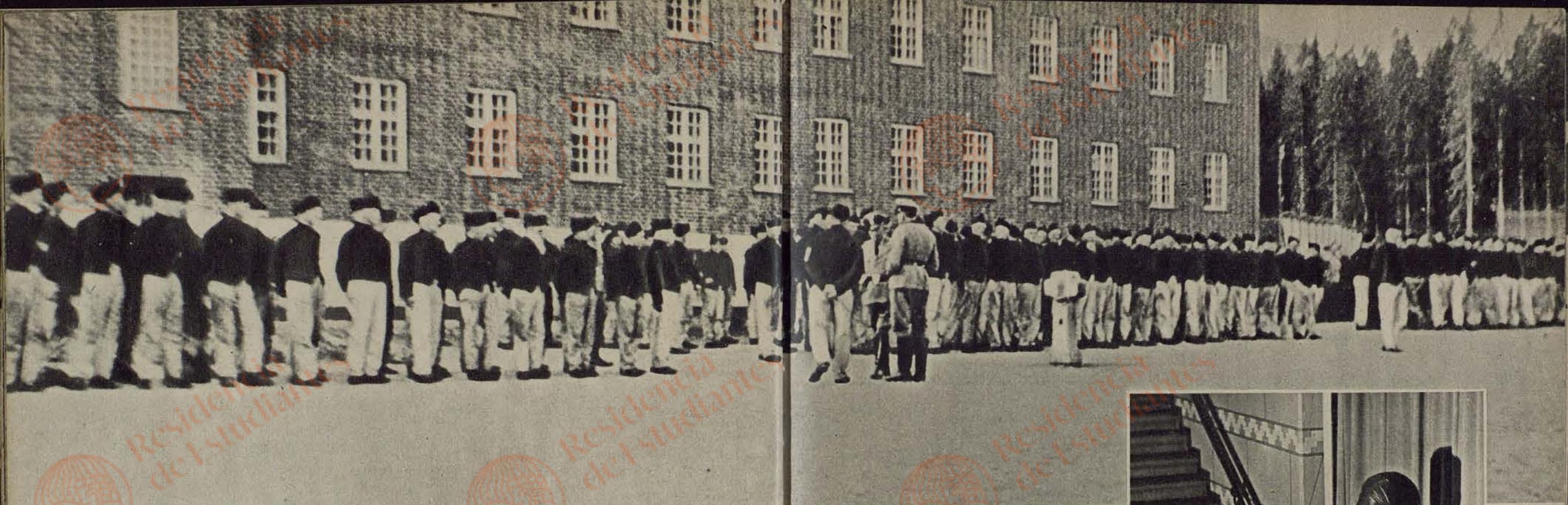


German guard drives Russian prisoners with his rifle butt.

NORWEGIANS are not the only ones who suffer in Norway at the hands of the Nazis. Prisoners of war and conscript labourers of thirteen different nationalities are quar-

tered in Norway—usually employed on German defence works. Many of them, especially Russians, Poles, and Yugoslavs, have been brutally ill-treated by the Nazis.





Norwegian political prisoners at the notorious concentration camp at Grini, near Oslo.

THE PRICE THEY PAY

THE Norwegians have had to pay a heavy price for their refusal to submit to the Nazi dictatorship. When the Nazis discovered that they were not accepted as friends by their "Nordic brothers" they soon ceased to behave like decent human beings and gave full rein to the Gestapo and its apparatus of Terror. Since September 1941, 225 Norwegians have been executed by firing squads, while another hundred have died from torture and ill-treatment. Over twelve thousand have been arrested and sent to concentration camps. Over two thousand of these prisoners have been deported to

Germany, as also have Norwegian officers, students, and Jews.

To-day Norway is practically ruled by the Gestapo. Their agents are everywhere, spying upon the people, ransacking their homes, combing the coast towns and the inland villages for young men who seek to escape to Britain, tracking down the organisers of the clandestine press, dragging men and women off to their "interrogation rooms" in order by third degree methods and worse to try to extort information from them about the activities of the underground movement.

ADOLF HITLER sent his legions to Norway to convert the country into a puppet Nazi state and incorporate it into the "Great Germanic Reich." Vidkun Quisling, the Norwegian traitor and leader of the tiny Norwegian Nazi party, was given the task of helping the Germans to nazify Norway. His countrymen turned upon him and his gang of cranks and criminals with bitter scorn. They rejected the "honour" of becoming lackeys of the *Herren-volk*. They stood firmly by their democratic way of life and their respect for the rule of law. Hitler might place his bust in the Norwegian Parliament House, but he could not destroy the spirit of Norwegian democracy.



Bust of Adolf Hitler—"Leader of all the Germanic peoples"—in the Norwegian Parliament House.

RETRIBUTION



Johan Gotteberg, as local quisling dictator of the little parish of Vaagsoey.



Johan Gotteberg photographed the day after he was captured by British and Norwegian commando troops. On the left, a page from Gotteberg's diary with his favourite text, from Matthew xxv, 21: "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

Kel, du gode og
tro fjerer. Du
har varet fro over
like, jeg vil sette
dig over meg eh.
(Matt. 25, 21)

WHEN THE NAZIS CAME TO NORWAY a few frustrated, ambitious little men like Johan Gotteberg, thought that their opportunity had come to satisfy their thwarted cravings for power by lording it over their fellow countrymen. Since then many of them, like Johan Gotteberg again, have been sharply disillusioned and have revealed themselves as the weak and spineless creatures they really are.



Corpse of a German officer lying outside an army hut in Norway. Like many others he has found the climate—and the people—too much for him, and has shot himself.

WHILE the spirit of the Norwegian patriots, despite increasing Terror, has steadily risen higher, that of the Germans and quislings has sunk almost to zero. Faced with the cold contempt of the people and witnessing the failure of all their plans for the nazification of Norway, they have become more and

more reckless, corrupt and demoralised. Suicides and desertions are frequent amongst both German officers and men, while the quislings try to escape into Sweden or endeavour, without success, to "row for safety" by turning on and accusing their fellow traitors.

ROUND THE WORLD TO JOIN THE FREE NORWEGIAN FORCES

AFTER THE FALL OF NORWAY in June, 1940, the mass escapes to freedom began. Fishing smacks, sailing boats and even dinghies slipped out of the fjords past the German guards and set a course to Britain, some even to Iceland.

Thousands more, unable to take the shortest route across the North Sea, struck eastwards to Sweden, and thence across Russia to Japan—before that country's entry into the war—China, India, Turkey and Africa, before proceeding either direct to

Britain, or by way of America and Canada. Sometimes they travelled as much as thirty thousand miles just to reach Britain from Norway.

They used planes, trains, ships, cars, horses; some hitch-hiked their way across

continents, others walked great distances. Many of them were forced to give up the fight in Norway. Their goal was to reach the free Norwegian forces—Army, Navy, Air Force or the Merchant Marine—so that they could continue the fight against their oppressors.

ACROSS 400 MILES OF TUNDRA

AS THE WAR PROGRESSED it became more and more difficult to reach the outside world from Norway. Traffic across the North Sea was brought almost to a standstill because of the shortage of boats and the increased German vigilance. Those who crossed into Sweden found that because of the German occupation of large parts of Russia they were unable to go further. At the present moment there are some 20,000 Norwegians in Sweden who have one ambition—to join the fighting forces.

The determination to achieve this object was so great in the case of two young Norwegians, aged 19 and 21, that they undertook one of the most hazardous journeys of the war. They went 400 miles on foot through the forests, swamps and barren mountains of Northern Finland until they reached Russia. When Russian soldiers found them, bearded and half starved, they were floating across a lake on a lopsided raft made of tree branches. They told such an amazing story of suffering, fortitude and tenacity that at first the O.G.P.U. refused to believe so impossible an adventure.

The two boys, who had been working as lumberjacks in the South of Sweden, began their journey by taking a train to the North where, dodging the frontier guards, they entered Finland. They carried as little equipment as possible, and for food they had to rely on what they could steal from lonely farms.

Torrential mountain rivers, strewn with great chunks of ice had to be crossed. "We cut poles," said one of them afterwards, "and leaping on to the ice floes we punted across as best we could. At other times we built rafts. More than once we were flung into the water and only a miracle saved us from being swept to our death. We had to plough knee deep through bogs; then across mountains, through forests and great tracts of boulder-covered wilderness."

At one stage of the journey they watched a long convoy of German lorries filled with

troops and equipment travelling north; a few minutes later there came another convoy going south. This time it consisted of Red Cross vehicles filled with wounded. This road was the main highway to Petsamo.

The two boys continued to push on eastwards. By now they had but six days' supply of food left. "We tramped over snow-covered mountains for 12 days," said one of them. "We crossed innumerable rivers. There was never any sign of human dwellings and when our food was exhausted we lived on bilberries boiled in salt water, and occasionally on sorrel plants when we were lucky enough to find them."

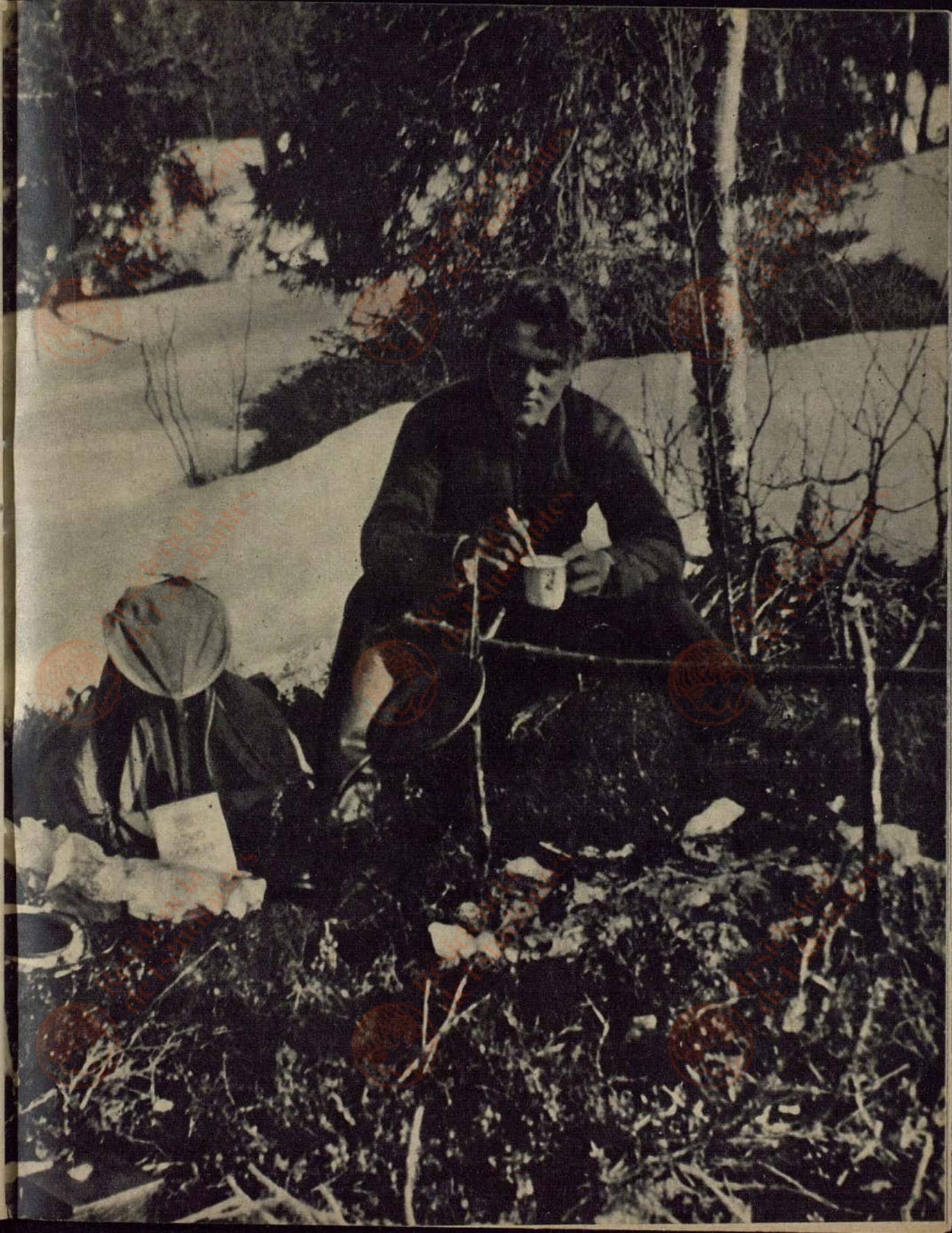
They had encounters with grisly bears, nearly blew themselves up with an old mine—a legacy of the Finno-Russian war of 1939—but always kept their faces towards the east. "We sailed down one river on a raft for days, sometimes barely escaping with our lives as we shot between the boulders that stuck out of the water," they recounted. "Finally we became so weak that we were unable to pull the raft into the shore, and it was two days before it drifted aground of its own accord. We found some sorrel plants, and then slept.

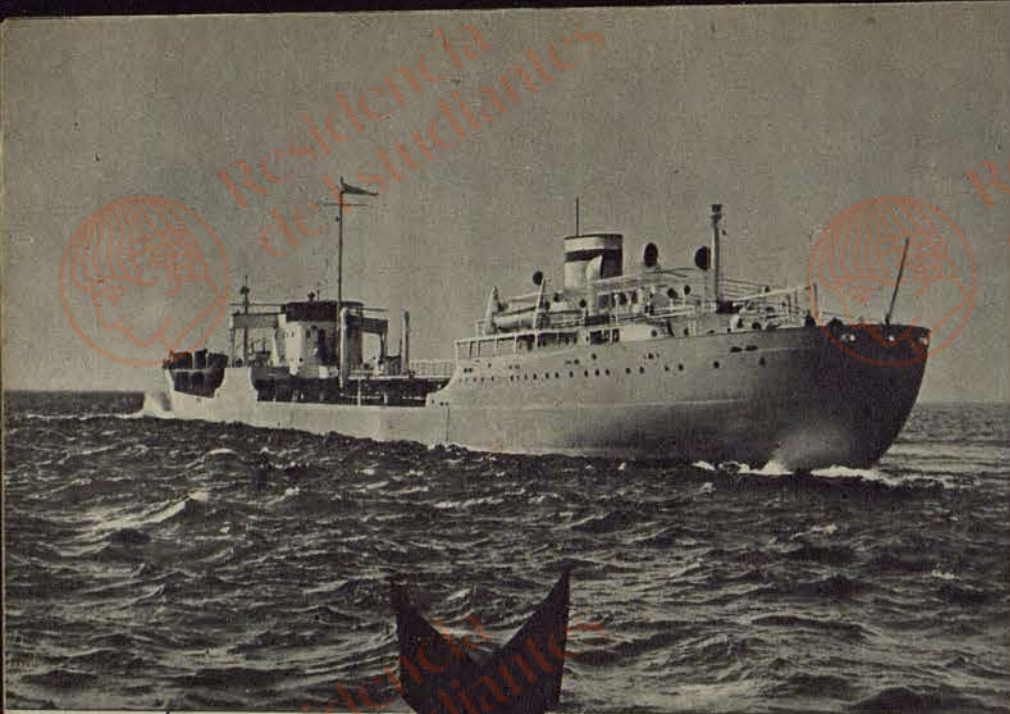
"When we awoke we were too weak to walk, so we crawled forward on our hands and knees until we reached the edge of a lake."

Then, somehow, these two half-starved boys constructed another raft of broken tree branches. They clambered aboard and drifted out into the lake, hoping for the best. That is how the Russian troops found them.

When they had rested and finally convinced the Russians that they had achieved such an "impossible" journey, the two Norwegians went to Archangel to await a boat to bring them to Britain. When they arrived in London they were received in audience by King Haakon and Crown Prince Olav.

Then they hurried off to join the Royal Norwegian Air Force.

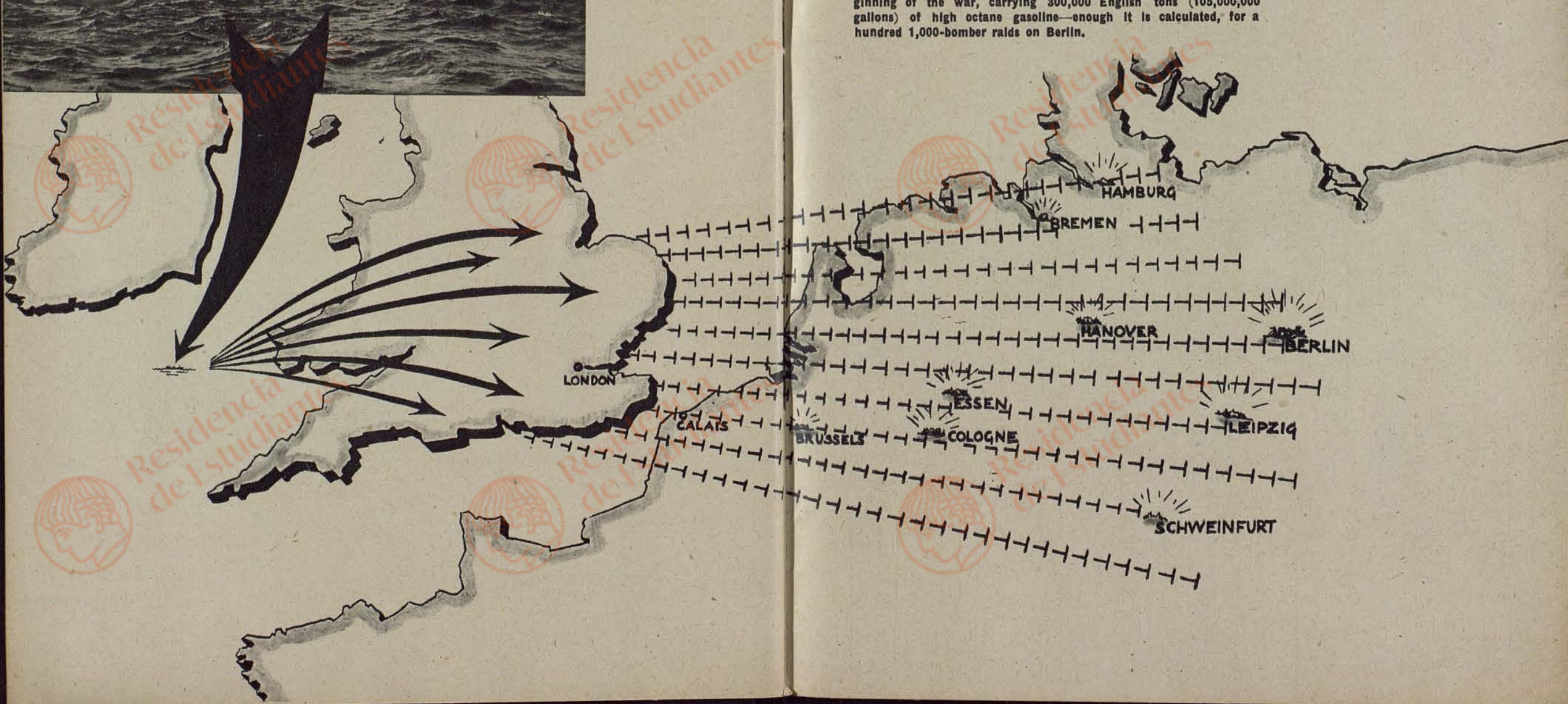


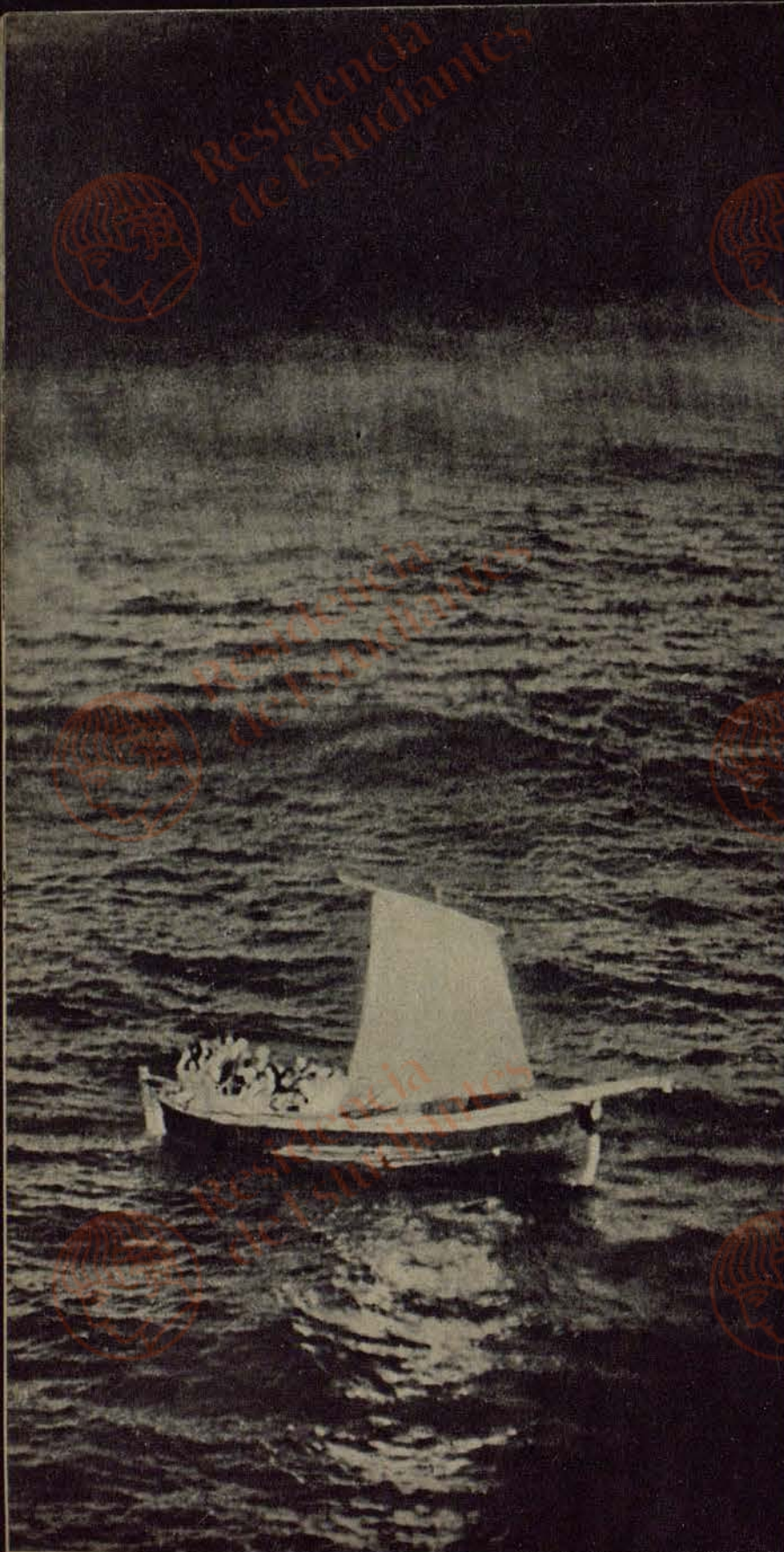


FREE NORWAY FIGHTS

NORWAY'S GREATEST CONTRIBUTION to the war is its Merchant Fleet. Before the war Norway's Merchant Fleet of 4,834,000 gross tons was the fourth largest in the world, her tanker fleet third. About five-sixths, or over 4,000,000 gross tons comprising more than 1,000 ships manned by 30,000 seamen, was saved and joined the Allies.

Up to September, 1943, a Norwegian tanker—the "Tanker Champion of World War II"—had crossed the Atlantic 45 times since the beginning of the war, carrying 300,000 English tons (105,000,000 gallons) of high octane gasoline—enough it is calculated, for a hundred 1,000-bomber raids on Berlin.



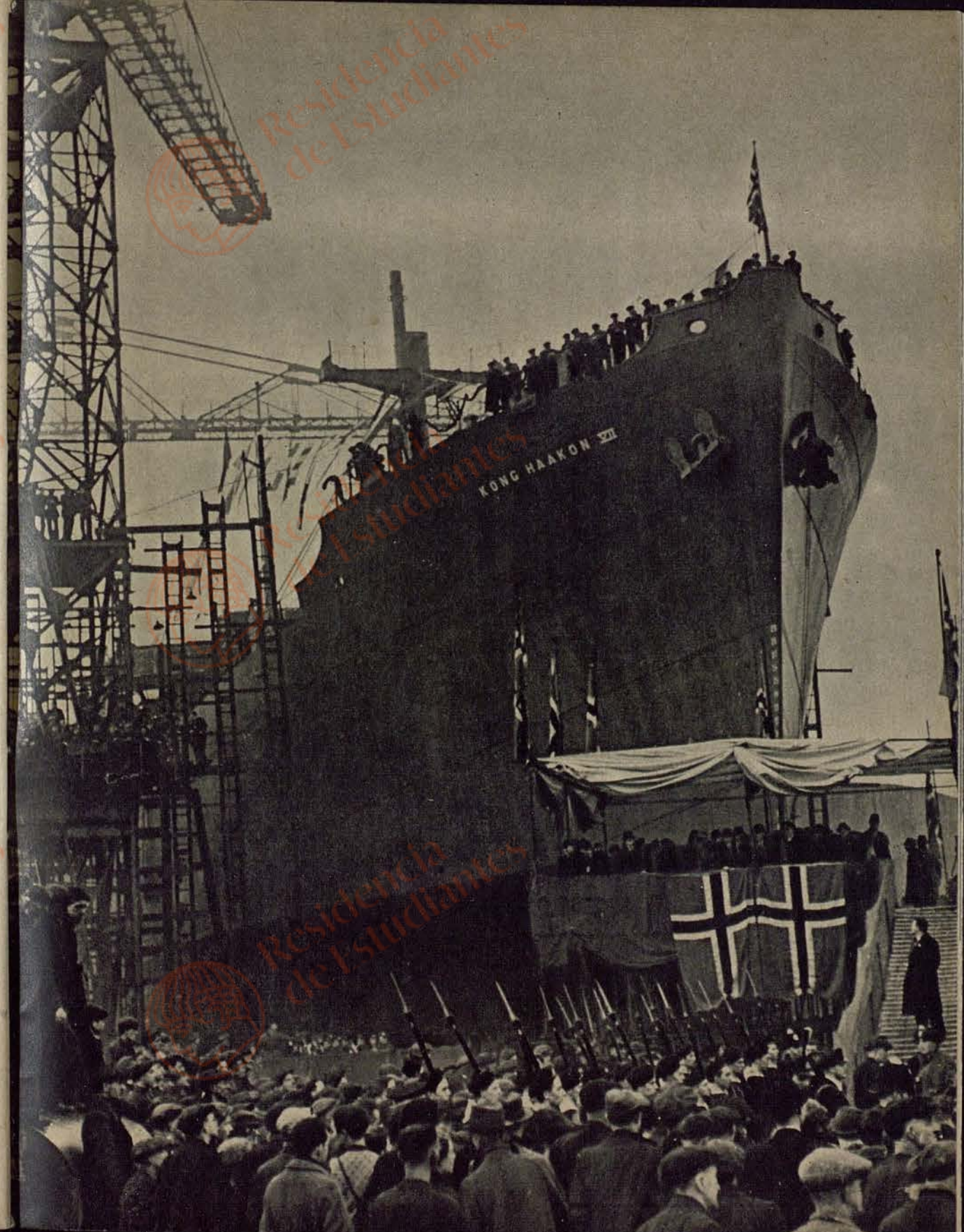


LOSSES

Over 400 Norwegian merchant ships have been sunk or captured since 1940, and over 3,000 Norwegian seamen have lost their lives.

REPLACEMENTS

19 vessels have been received from Great Britain and 8 vessels from the U.S.A. (for operation only, with title remaining in U.S.A.)





NORWEGIAN WINGS

The Germans have learned to respect fighter pilots of the new Royal Norwegian Air Force.

SOON after the evacuation of Norway, the handful of Norwegian airmen who escaped to Britain—there were 120 by August, 1940—established a training centre in Toronto, Canada, for the new Royal Norwegian Air Force. It became famous throughout the world as "Little Norway" and Norwegian recruits flocked to it from all parts of the globe.

Two seaplane and two fighter squadrons were soon equipped and sent to their war stations. One squadron was in Iceland for over two years before joining the second seaplane squadron in Britain.

After the two fighter squadrons were transferred to a busy southern station early in 1942, they quickly became two of the top scoring squadrons of Fighter Command. Norway's Air Force has now grown so much in size that it occupies second place amongst those of the European Allies. The Royal Norwegian Air Force as a whole has now passed its two hundredth German plane shot down.

Together with those who are serving in R.A.F. bomber squadrons Norwegian airmen have more than repaid Germany for what they did to Norway in 1940.



NORWAY'S "LITTLE SHIPS"

Manned by sailors who know the intricate Norwegian coastline, they frequently attack German shipping right inside Norwegian waters.

Most of the pre-war Royal Norwegian Navy was lost during the war in Norway in 1940, but not before it had given a good account of itself against the overwhelming German forces.

Only two old destroyers, one submarine and ten fishing protection and other auxiliary ships succeeded in escaping to Britain, and they formed the beginning of what is now numerically the fourth largest navy among the United Nations.

It comprises over 50 vessels—destroyers, submarines, corvettes, M.T.B.'s, etc.—and these ships are operating from the Arctic

Seas to the Indian Ocean, protecting vital convoys and carrying out offensive sweeps. They have many U-boats and other enemy craft to their credit, and Norwegian warships have taken part in commando actions in Norway, and the landings in North Africa. One destroyer, the "Stord," played a gallant part in the sinking of the "Scharnhorst." In order to make sure that its torpedoes would hit the mark it went in so close to the German warship that, in the words of the commander of the companion destroyer, "it looked as though she were going to ram her."



PARATROOP AND COMMANDO UNITS are the most popular amongst Norwegian soldiers.

Most of the available Norwegian man-power has been directed into the service to which it is most naturally suited—the Navy, Merchant Navy or Air Force—but the Army, though small, will form a useful nucleus of the Allied force which will eventually invade Norway.

Since it was re-formed in Britain the Norwegian Army has been stationed in Scotland, Iceland, and Spitsbergen.

In Iceland, apart from routine guard

duties, some of the men have helped to train American troops in the art of winter warfare. In Spitsbergen they have fought the Germans on two occasions, the last time being when the German battle fleet raided the islands.

Others have seen action in the raids on the Lofoten Islands (twice), Oeksfjord, Maaloey, Vaagsoe and Stord. In the main, however, the task of the Norwegian Army has been one of training and waiting

POSTSCRIPT

by

PHILIP NOEL-BAKER, M.P.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTRY OF WAR TRANSPORT



THE WORLD will not forget Hitler's brutal, treacherous assault on Norway and Norway's proud, desperate and prolonged resistance.

Here in England we remember what that resistance meant to the cause of freedom in the fateful year of 1940. We remember by how narrow a margin we came through the perils of those spring and summer days. We remember how our Navy had to protect our shores from invasion, and our shipping on all the seas; how our Army reformed, after the fall of France, with unbroken spirit, but without its arms; how our Air Force won the Battle of Britain on its last reserves; how our convoys, almost without protection, had to bring oil

and food and raw materials across the oceans; how they had to go all round Africa with troops and tanks and aircraft to keep the Axis from conquering Egypt and the Middle East.

Looking back, how can we assess the results of Norway's resistance? How might history have been changed, if Norway had not helped us to increase our margin; if the Government and King Haakon had not answered Hitler's challenge with a defiant "No"?

We know, with certainty, that the two months of fighting inside Norway gave us great results. The *Blücher*, the *Karlsruhe*, the *Königsberg* and many another German warship, would have been an added

danger to our convoys, had they not been sunk in the Norwegian fjords.

Scores of Nazi transports lie beside them beneath the waves. The naval cost to Hitler was heavy indeed. General Ruge's Army, formed from volunteers, after all its arms and depots had been seized, inflicted heavy losses on the Nazis in its two months of fighting in the forests and the hills. General Fleischer's 6th Division led the way in the victorious battles by which Narvik was re-won. And the Norwegian Army forced Hitler to use his Air Force, and his parachute divisions, and thus gave Britain warning of what might come. Certainly Norway's war in Norway helped powerfully to weaken Hitler, and to gain for us experience and time.

When it ended, General Ruge said, in his last Order of the Day: "The war will continue on other fronts; Norwegians are there in the struggle." The Norwegian Government, the Navy and the Merchant Fleet came here to England, to carry on the battle by our side.

The bitterest battle of the war has been the battle of the convoys. The Norwegian Merchant Fleet, with its five million tons of shipping, its thousand ships, its thirty thousand seamen, has been fighting every hour since 1940 on the most vital and most dangerous of all our fronts. They helped us to save Britain, to save Egypt, to save Malta; they helped us to drive the enemy from Africa and from Sicily a year ago. I remember the story of eight survivors from a sunk Norwegian ship; as they scrambled on a raft, the U-boat surfaced close beside them; at the same moment, a British destroyer came in sight.

The U-boat crash-dived; the destroyer came to rescue the Norwegians; but they all shouted: "Get the U-boat first," and they waited for many hours, in a stormy sea, until the pirate submarine had been destroyed. The spirit of the Norwegian seamen has always been like that.

And what can I say of the magnificent airmen in this long Norwegian war outside Norway, which has never stopped since 1940? Their contribution to the cause of freedom, and its cost to Norway, has been immortalised by the death of Nordahl Grieg in the German skies.

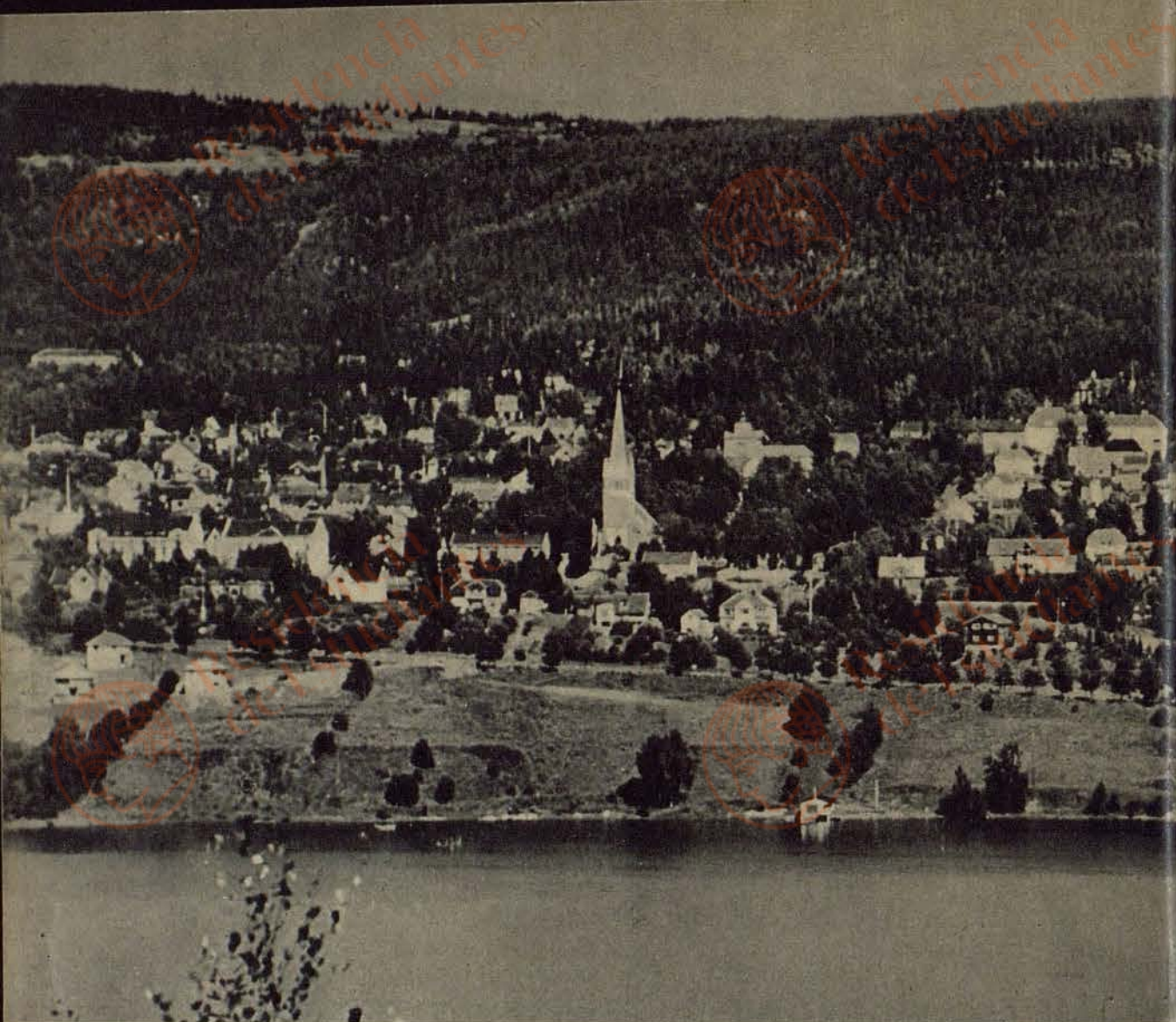
In his last Order of the Day in 1940, General Ruge also said: "We who have stood together in the fight are pledged not to yield until we can again hoist the free Norwegian flag as free men and women." We know that they have never yielded. We know that the struggle inside Norway since 1940 has been the hardest fight of all. We know what it has cost. And we know what it has cost the enemy. We know that everyone has played his part: the Trade Unions, the University, the schools, the pastors, the Sportsmen's front, the women.

In September, 1940, the Norwegian Government said: "If the Norwegian people hold fast to their Constitution and their freedom, the day of victory will soon dawn." Four years—how long it seems! To exiled Norsemen here in England, it is a lifetime; to those in Norway, longer still. But four years are not long in the history of Norway, which began twenty centuries ago. With all their loss and suffering, they will not seem too high a price for the new world, happy, prosperous and peaceful, which we shall build together when the war is won.



NORWAY'S FUTURE—THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Some of the future citizens of Norway enjoy a joke with their King, who has come to visit them at the Norwegian school in Drumtochty Castle, Scotland, where they are preparing themselves for the task of building a new and better Norway when peace and freedom are restored to their land.



A typical Norwegian township with its "homes for human beings" scattered amidst the fir-clad hills.

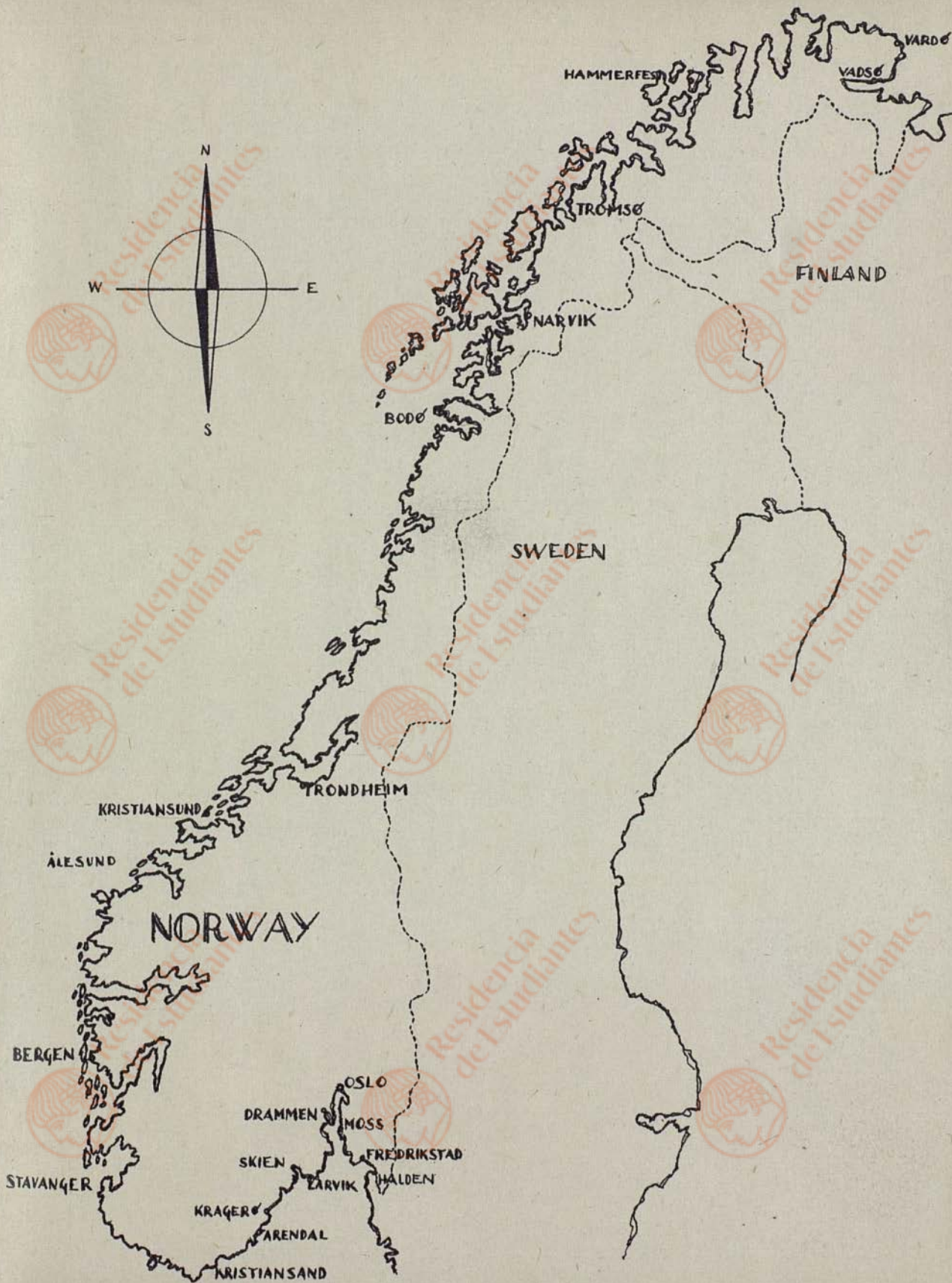
Soon the Norwegians will go back. Leaving the British Isles, where they have enjoyed the warm hospitality of their Allies, the men and women of the "Outer Front", led by King Haakon VII and the Norwegian Government, will return to join with the men and women of the "Home Front" in rebuilding their war-scarred homes and their democratic institutions.



Yes, we love with fond devotion
This, the land that looms
Rugged, storm-scarred, o'er the ocean,
With her thousand homes.

From the NORWEGIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM







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