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STATSMINISTEREN
Arkiv

A statement from the Prime Minister of Norway for the Paper

"Victory"

Norway is fighting the Germans on two fronts - the home front and in the firing line. For the time being it is the home front which undoubtedly carries the brunt of the German onslaught, but the forces in the actual fighting line are being called upon for increasing efforts.

All the reports from Norway agree that the Norwegian population is standing up against the growing German pressure with determined and increasing strength. When the Germans saw the Norwegians could not be won over by sweet words and fantastical lies, they threw off the mask and reverted to their still better known methods of threats and force, of prisons and concentration camps. They realise that if they can succeed, by hook or by crook to incorporate this, the most Nordic of all European states, in their Greater Germanic dream state, an important victory will have been won, as important as a first class victory on the European battlefields.

But the Norwegian realises what is at stake. The Germans have not succeeded. And they will not succeed. On the contrary, it can be stated that the opposition to all German efforts is daily becoming stronger and better organised. Thanks to the Norwegians' strength and courage, their incorruptible love of independence and their unbending will to be free - this phase of the attack on Norway is now being defeated.

This victory is of the greatest importance. Without an undefeated home front the Norwegian in the fighting lines could not carry through their fight.

In the fighting line the most important contribution is still given by the Norwegian merchant fleet. As the war is spreading over new countries and oceans, and as it becomes fiercer the importance of the 1000 Norwegian merchant ships, now many armed, with their army of 30,000 sailors, is becoming more and more vital for the continuation of the war to a victorious conclusion.

But beside the Merchant Fleet, the Norwegian fighting force is being reorganised on sea, land and in the air. The few naval ships that survived the fighting round Norway have since been supplemented with new ships; a number of destroyers as well as motor-launches have been taken over by the Norwegian Navy; and a number of Norwegian whale catchers, small strongly built and fast vessels, have been equipped for war service. They are all now doing active service under Norwegian command and flying the Norwegian flag.

The Norwegian army force in the British Isles is, of course, not very big. It consists mostly of recruits from the navy who are obliged to return to their ships when they are needed. But it is well equipped and well trained, and will form a useful nucleus in that new expeditionary force which will one day return and invade Norway.

Across the Atlantic a new Norwegian airforce is being formed. To "Little Norway", the air training camp in Canada, the pick of Norwegian youth from all over the world is now flocking. The first fifty planes, commissioned by the Norwegian Government, are already delivered. And one day, in the not too distant future, I hope they will fill the air over Norway with a noise that will drown for ever the bitter and disturbing memories of those days when the German bombers had it all to themselves. The day of reckoning will then be nearer.