

File No. 1047. 11.3.1941.

Title: Surprise Attack.

Tracks: Crusades Prelude... Rulers Of The Sea.

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Lines: Stagg.

Voice: Do.

The most overjoyed people in Europe were probably the three hundred Norwegians rescued from the Lofoten Islands. At a London hotel they were welcomed by their King. English manager of a Lofoten fish-oil factory, Mr. William Hawes, was in the happy party. It was an exciting moment for all when King Haakon met the men and women who, as if by a miracle, had been brought from Nazi oppression.

In the ski-clothes and gay woollies of the arctic circle they listened to the speech of welcome by their King.

Half the men will go into the Navy of Free Norway, some into their merchant service, some will become airmen. The eight girls among them will serve their country as nurses or typists.

All spoke of their utter astonishment when rescue came.

Now the official pictures of this astounding raid. With guns loaded, men-of-war escorted the lighter craft. Soon after the northern daybreak and in perfect weather the

little ships nosed their way in to the four landing points. Both the German garrison and the inhabitants were still in bed. By loud-speakers compatriots told Norwegians that the Navy was there, and more than three hundred rushed to the quayside to be taken off.

To destroy the fish-oil factories was the chief object of the raid. Landing parties at once seized phone and telegraph offices. The first thing many Germans saw on waking was the muzzle of a tommy-gun. They'd gone to sleep top-dog and they woke under arrest. Among the 215 prisoners there were ten 'Quislings', the lowest form of life in any country.

While the prisoners were being rounded up the Norwegians were telling each other it was really true, and were losing no time boarding the ships that brought them to England and liberty. The heel of oppression had been kicked away by the British, and they could walk as free men once more.

(HALFWAY THROUGH LV) Mr. Hawes, was not the least excited man of the party - all gladly escaping from Hitler's New Order.

In Svolvær harbour and at other points eleven German-controlled ships were sunk. The Germans so lately in control were now prisoners. The fact that they were captured without a single British casualty shows that the Nazis' great conquests are very thinly

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LOFOTEN RAID....continued.

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held. The Germans were blindfolded merely to hide from them some new equipment on our ships. The prisoners included twenty airmen who'd been working on the naval air station Germany was building in the islands. Commander Kimmins a popular broadcaster, stands there behind the chief 'Quisling' and a German S.A. man was also among the captives.

While some German wounded were being swung aboard our soldiers blew up an oil factory.

Three petrol-storage tanks were set ablaze -- and notice the sunken ship, left of the picture.

Eighteen thousand tons of German shipping was destroyed, besides the petrol and the fish-oil plants. Kegs of oil were burst open and dumped, and nothing of value to Germany was left behind.

(GV TANKS BURNING) -----

(LF) This brilliant raid was 100% success. Fish oil is used to make explosives, and the fact that Germany could not defend the islands indicates that there are many chinks in her thin armour. It shows too that with us the offensive spirit is uppermost. The new type landing-boats used here will not rust in harbour. The last that our men saw of Norway was columns of smoke rising 6,000 feet. The enemy will long remain rattled as the result of the raid on the Lofoten Islands.
