

SPITZBERGEN EXPEDITION.

Issue No. 1100..15..9..1941

Title: Geronimo.

Lines: Bidwell.

Voice: Mellor.

TRACKS: Carnival Overture (Dvorak)
Magnificent Fraud.

To lonely Spitzbergen, so far North that the war had passed it by, the arrival of an Allied expedition brought the end of an era. Germany's attack on Russia dragged Spitzbergen, 300 miles north of Norway, into the zone of war. To forestall German plans, a force composed of British, Canadians and Norwegians was landed at several points. It was planned to evacuate the inhabitants and destroy everything that could be of use to the Germans. Besides the Norwegians, there had been a large Russian population of coal-miners, but they had already left.

(LV TROOPS LOADING TRUCKS) Norwegians helped the sappers to load their gear on to a light railway before they set out to start demolition.

(GV PAN VALLEY) The work began in a lonely valley where the radio station - most northerly in the world - had played a big part in Nazi raids on Britain. On its weather reports they based their plans. Canadian sappers fixed things so that they'll have to guess in future. They're dynamite on jobs like this.

(HALFWAY THROUGH GV SMALL BUILDING GOES UP) In the next scene watch carefully and you'll see an amazing picture of blast.

Meanwhile, at the ports people were assembling, willingly leaving their homes to help the allied cause. Canadian soldiers lent a hand. Among the 700 or so to leave were about 70 children.

(CU WOMAN IN SHAWL) From the quays the islanders boarded invasion barges and other craft to go out to the ships which were to take them to Britain. Many of the men had escaped from Norway to Spitzbergen, hoping eventually to reach England and join the Norwegian forces. For them, this was the answer to their prayers.

(TV BOATS PULLING AWAY) With the last boat-load away, it was time to complete demolition. Stacked awaiting shipment was 150-thousand tons of coal. It must be destroyed. The rich mines supplied half-a-million tons a year to Germany. The coal has a high oil content which can be easily extracted. Incendiaries were used to start the fires. For their
(continued on back)

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For their/

operations in the North of Russia around Murmansk a nearby supply of high-grade fuel for their ships would be invaluable to the Nazis.

(SV SHOVELLING COAL) Other parties set fire to the huge wooden staithes from which coal is loaded into ships.

(AFTER AIR SHOTS) At Barentsburg a big stock of oil added its billowing black clouds to the smoke of destruction.

(SHOT ON LAUNCH) Their work completed, the last party of sappers left, satisfied that Spitzbergen was a derelict waste whereon questing Nazis would find nothing whatever of use.

(GV ON SHIP) Onboard the ships the Norwegians were already settling down finding everyone trying to make the parting as easy as possible for them.

(OFFICER WITH KID) The Canadian Brigadier in charge of the operations was a host in himself. For the Canadians the expedition was a veritable godsend.

In the half-light of the midnight sun the ships sailed, leaving Spitzbergen silent and still until victory restores its prosperity once more under the proud flag of Norway.