

# The exhibition – English version

## Bakgrunn, familie og oppvekst

### Background, family and early years

- Name: Vidkun Abraham Lauritz Jonssøn Quisling
- Born: 18th July 1887
- Place of birth: Fyresdal in Telemark
- Parents: Jon Lauritz Qvisling and Anna Caroline Bang
- Siblings: Jørgen(m), Esther(f) and Arne(m)
- Grew up in Fyresdal, Drammen and Skien
- Schooling: Successfully completed Latin school in Skien

## Det militære som levevei

### A military career

- Basic officer-training
- In 1907, Vidkun Quisling completed Army officer training college
- In 1911, Vidkun Quisling completed Military college
- In 1913, Vidkun Quisling Studied Russian
- In 1918, Vidkun Quisling was appointed Military Attaché to the Norwegian legation in Petrograd (later named Leningrad and now St. Petersburg) which looked after Norwegian interests in Russia
- In 1919, Vidkun Quisling took over the post of Military Attaché to the Norwegian legation in Helsinki - Finland

## **Nansens internasjonale hjelpekomité**

### **Nansen's international aid committee**

- In 1922, Vidkun Quisling went to the Ukraine to work for Nansen's international aid committee for Russia
- In 1923, Vidkun Quisling went to Kharkiv to work for Nansen's international aid committee
- In 1923 – 26, Vidkun Quisling lived and worked mainly in Oslo and Paris
- In 1925, Vidkun Quisling approached the Norwegian labour party and the Norwegian communist party, offering his services in respect of military matters. Both parties rejected his offers.
- In 1929, Vidkun Quisling moved home to Norway to stay

## **En fører blir til**

### **A "führer" evolves**

- In 1930, Vidkun Quisling wrote the article "Political thoughts on the occasion of Fridtjof Nansen's death"
- In 1931, Vidkun Quisling and Frederik Prytz formed "Nordisk folkereising i Norge" (Nordic rise of the people in Norway)
- In 1931, Vidkun Quisling became minister of defence in a farmers' party government
- In 1933, the farmers' party government fell from power

## **Føreren Vidkun Quisling**

### **The “führer” Vidkun Quisling**

- In 1933, Vidkun Quisling founded the “Nasjonal Samling” or NS (National Unity)
- In 1933, NS received 3.5 % of the vote in the parliamentary election  
NS stood together with “Bygdefolkets Krisehjelp” (Rural people’s crisis-aid) in those constituencies where NS had greatest support
- In the local elections of 1934, NS received 2.75 % of the vote in towns, and 0.82 % in rural areas
- In the parliamentary election of 1936, NS had 1.85 % of the votes throughout the country
- In 1936, a split appeared in NS
- In the local elections of 1937, NS received 1164 votes in rural areas and 258 votes in towns
- In 1939 Vidkun Quisling met Adolf Hitler in the Reichs Chancellery in Berlin and was promised German support
- In 1940, the NS publication “Fritt Folk” (A Free People) became a daily paper as a result of financial support from Germany

## **Statskupp og landsforræderi**

### **Coup d’état and treason**

- On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1940, Vidkun Quisling pronounced himself head of state in Norway
- On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1940, the coup d’état was a reality
- On 15<sup>th</sup> April 1940, Vidkun Quisling was required to hand over power to a temporary administrative council

## Quisling som Hitlers redskap i Norge

### Quisling as Hitler's instrument in Norway

- In the autumn of 1940, Nasjonal Samling gained a leading role in Norway
- All other political parties were forbidden
- On 25<sup>th</sup> September 1940, Vidkun Quisling was appointed head of the government by Josef Terboven
- During the handing over of power at Akershus fortress on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1942, Vidkun Quisling was installed as ministerial president in Norway by Josef Terboven
- The Nazification of Norway met with considerable resistance
- In 1943, Vidkun Quisling ratified his first death sentence
- Deportation of Jews was started

## Overgivelsen

### The surrender

- On 9<sup>th</sup> May 1945, Vidkun Quisling reported to the police at Møllergaten 19 in Oslo, and was arrested

## Rettssaken

### The trial

- On 20<sup>th</sup> August 1945, the trial of Vidkun Quisling started in Oslo
- On 10<sup>th</sup> September 1945, the sentence “death by shooting” was pronounced. Vidkun Quisling maintained his innocence and appealed against the verdict
- On 13<sup>th</sup> October 1945, the high court rejected the appeal
- On 24<sup>th</sup> October 1945, Vidkun Quisling was shot at Akershus fortress

## **Vidkun Quislings bakgrunn**

### **Vidkun Quisling's background**

From 1879, his father was pastor in the parish of Fyresdal. When Vidkun Quisling was four, his father became the resident curate in Drammen, and from 1900, dean of Skien and pastor in Gjerpen, one of its parishes.

Like his brothers and sister, Vidkun Quisling was educated at the Latin School in Skien, receiving good results on his leaver's certificate – a good foundation for further education.

## **Vidkun Quislings militære data**

### **Vidkun Quisling's military details**

Successfully completed Latin school in 1905.

Highest level of army officer training in 1908.

First Lieutenant in the field artillery in 1908.

Military college in 1911.

Aspirant to the general staff from 1911-1915 and 1918-1923.

Served with the inspector general of the field artillery 1916 - 1917.

Various positions at the Norwegian legation in Petrograd and Helsinki from 1918 till 1921.

Service leave 1923-1928.

Dismissed in 1928

Vidkun Quisling chose to train as an army officer and had the best results ever to have been achieved at the Norwegian military college.

During the summer months, he was stationed at different military posts – most usually Gardermoen, and for the rest of the year attached to the general staff – first as a lieutenant and later as a captain.

He studied Russian, the custom being that an aspirant to the general staff dedicate himself to a specific country.

Vidkun Quisling was dismissed from his position in the field artillery in August 1928, but retained his rank and standing. He went over to the reserves as a captain, and on a reduced salary. From 1930, he was a non-salaried major.

Representative in Russia for the international aid commission 1922—1923.

Various tasks for the League of Nations 1924—1926.

Looked after, on behalf of Norway, British interests in Russia 1927—1929.

Appointed Commander of the British Empire – later revoked

*“I chose to become an officer because I was influenced by my historical reading and by the dissolution of the union with Sweden.*

*What interested me was the art of war; it was the strategy and the history of war.*

*I passed through college and, I say this not to boast, but in order to mention these things: I received the best marks ever given by the college as long as the college had existed - a hundred years”*

Quisling’s defence speech

**En fører blir til og Quislings selvilde**

**A “führer” evolves, and how Quisling viewed himself**

**“Political thoughts on the occasion of Fridtjof Nansen’s death” by Vidkun Quisling  
appeared in “Tidens Tegn” (Sign of the Times)  
24th May 1930**

In this front-page article, Vidkun Quisling contended that the Nordic race was “the most valuable of all the world’s races” and the corner-stone of civilisation. The Scandinavian states should unite and could become a new super-power in northern Europe.

He further, aimed for a reorganisation of parliament and that it be comprised of representatives from different groups within trade and industry, following the pattern of Mussolini’s Italy.

These ideas, he claimed, were in the spirit of Fridtjof Nansen, and he hoped to be associated with whoever might take up the mantle of that national hero.

Vidkun Quisling and Frederik Prytz formed the “Nordisk folkereising i Norge” (Rise of the Nordic people in Norway) in 1931. This was an elite organisation which, through a system of exclusive clubs within the economic sector, administration, army and navy, would prepare a new constitution and at a given time, erupt as a new power structure in Norway. This constitution was inspired by fascist thinking.

In May 1931 Vidkun Quisling was appointed minister of defence in Peder Kolstad’s farmers’ party government.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June 1931, the chief of police in Skien requested military assistance after something like a hundred constables from the state police had had to flee from a furious crowd at Norsk Hydro's harbour-works at Menstad (battle of Menstad).

The demonstrators were trying to stop the black-leg workers, who were in turn protected by the state police. After the government had resolved to send troops, Vidkun Quisling ordered a company of guards numbering 118 men to Skien, equipped with six machine guns and fifty gas bombs. Four naval vessels were sent to the quay at Menstad. All told, 390 members of the armed forces assisted the police.

The Kolstad / Hunseid government left power in February 1933

Political development:

His experience of the Soviet Union caused Vidkun Quisling to move towards the right in the political landscape at the end of the 1920s, and take an anti-Bolshevik stand against the Soviet Union. It was among other things, the advent of Stalin's regime of terror, forced industrialisation and collectivism which influenced him. At the same time, he adopted a politically racial awareness. In the article "Political thoughts on the occasion of Fridtjof Nansen's death" in 1930, he demanded the combat of Marxism and a conscious racial policy. His meeting with representatives of the party and government in Nazi Germany convinced him that the inevitable war would be a contest with Bolshevism and Judaism. This was an important line of thought which guided much of his behaviour during the war.

**Quisling og hans selvbilde:**

**How Quisling viewed himself:**

*I have grown up in a narrow mountain valley which at that time was still a wild landscape and where there perhaps lived a partially wild people. **I have grown up amidst Viking graves, amidst bible stories and sagas.** I belonged to an old lineage and I was always **inculcated with ancestral pride and family saga**, and likewise obligations towards my kinfolk. **Bjørnson and Ibsen are of the same lineage as I, - It is not, at any rate, waste-water in my veins.** Neither is the name Quisling any foreign name: it is **an old Nordic name and means one who is a branch of the royal lineage.** Nor is Q a foreign, Latin letter, but an ancient Rune character. – I do not say this to emphasize anything concerning myself. – I have grown up under these conditions and **secured a love for my country which is almost beyond description.***

Quisling's defence speech

**God that is me** – Note in the margin of “Universismen” MS

**I shall – as the first – prove that God exists, ..... [In] short, that God is not a derived, abstract concept, but a living collective being** - “Universismen” MS

**The task I have undertaken in this book, is the greatest one can set oneself: to light a new light for mankind, to create a new perception of the world and life in relation to experience and science** – Preface to “Universismen”

**The Nygaardsvold government has stepped down. The national government has taken over the governing powers with Vidkun Quisling as leader of the government and foreign minister.** – Quisling broadcast on Norwegian radio 9<sup>th</sup> April 1940

**I also saved Sweden from being drawn into the war** – Defence speech from the trial

**I believe I have recognised and worked for this new kingdom of God ...** - Defence speech from the trial

**... I was in fact treated, yes, as more than a king in Germany.** – Defence speech from the trial

**but I have had a feeling that I was to share the fate of St. Olav and Christ.** - Some days before he was to be executed – in a letter to his brother, Jørgen

**“I am no prophet, but things I have said before have come into being. And I tell you now that what Norway was, it will again become in spite of difficulties. Norway will grow to become part of a large political union, and will be involved in creating the spiritual and material foundation for a new civilisation. Norway shall not only be free, it shall be great”**

Quisling speaking at the Colosseum in Oslo – 12<sup>th</sup> March 1941

### **Universismen**

#### **“Universismen”**

Vidkun Quisling dreamed of having a large and comprehensive philosophical work published. It never got past the planning stage. Disconnected thoughts were written down on 930 pages. The work has been called “Universismen”. The 930 pages are divided into piles, none of which are coherent or better worked out than any of the others. They are only rough drafts, sketches and a multitude of repetitions. One can sometimes find coherent drafts of up to about ten pages. (Else Margarete Barth, wrote of the MSS)

### **Samarbeidet med Fridtjof Nansen**

#### **The collaboration with Fridtjof Nansen**

Vidkun Quisling led the Kharkiv office of Nansen’s international aid committee. This engagement lasted six months, until August 1922.

During his stay in Kharkiv, he married Alexandra Varonine who worked at the telephone exchange of Nansen’s office. They were married without their families’ knowledge the day after she turned 17.

In the new year of 1923 Vidkun Quisling received a new offer from Fridtjof Nansen, and again he went to Kharkiv.

In the summer of 1923, Vidkun fell in love with the 23 year old Maria Paseshrikova. She too was employed at Nansen-aid's telephone exchange. Vidkun Quisling and Maria were married in September. His first wife, Alexandra, then in Crimea, moved to a guest house in Paris.

Between 1923 and 1926, Vidkun Quisling lived in Oslo and Paris. He attempted to carry out a repatriation programme for the League of Nations' commission for refugees in the Balkans, but was unsuccessful. He also tried to arrange for the repatriation of Armenian refugees in the Soviet republic of Armenia.

During the winter of 1925, he had a number of meetings with leaders of the Norwegian labour party and Norwegian communist party. These later claimed that Quisling had offered to establish a "Red Guard" following the Soviet model, for the labour party, and to infiltrate the general staff as a spy for the communist party. Both parties rejected the services offered. In the summer of 1926, he went to Moscow. Here, he was Fredrik Prytz' contact with the authorities, on behalf of the Norwegian-Russian forestry company "Russ-Norvegoles". This association with Prytz had a great influence on Vidkun Quisling's political orientation.

The following year, he gained a temporary position with the Norwegian legation which was run by Andreas Urbye. He was to look after Great Britain's diplomatic affairs at the time that communications between London and Moscow were broken.

In December 1929, Vidkun Quisling moved home to Norway, taking Maria with him.

### **Nansens internasjonale hjelpearbeid**

### **Nansen's international aid work**

From 1920, Fridtjof Nansen was a member of the Norwegian delegation to the League of Nations. In 1920, the general secretary gave him the task of overseeing the repatriation of prisoners of war. Approximately 450 000 prisoners were returned to their homes. Also in 1920, Nansen started his effort to counter the famine in what was to become the Soviet Union. Having been appointed high commissioner, he made an agreement with the authorities to put into effect plans which concentrated on the Ukraine and the Volga region. He was also responsible for assistance given to about 2 million Russian prisoners of war. In 1921 – 1922, he organised the exchange of many hundred-thousand Greeks and Turks. In 1922, Fridtjof Nansen was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work.

### **Samarbeidet med Fridtjof Nansen**

#### **The collaboration with Fridtjof Nansen**

In 1922 Quisling went to the Ukraine as Nansen's representative for relief work.

Two appraisals of Quisling's work in the Ukraine:

#### **Hans Fredrik Dahl:**

Taken from: "Vidkun Quisling. En fører blir til." Aschehoug & Co, Oslo 1991

"1.4 million people were, in the famine-stricken year of 1922, regularly fed under the somewhat inadequate management of Nansen's international aid-committee, of whom approximately 200 000 were in the Ukraine."

In all, according to a general summary, the lives of 1 million Ukrainians were saved in 1922 by the joint efforts of ARA and Nansen-aid, 200 000 of these being under Quisling's administration.

"Quisling had a special and superior role within Nansen's international aid-committee, as the local representative in the largest district to be placed under any single administration."

**Oddvar Høidal:**

Taken from: “Quisling – en studie i landssvik”. Revidert utgave, Orion Forlag AS, Oslo 2002

“There has been much disagreement concerning his work in Russia under Nansen, and this, naturally, is associated with Quisling’s later activities. Those who support him have always attached excessive weight to everything with which their leader was associated, whereas his critics have tended to belittle his importance. Quisling himself was always keen to illuminate his own position in as flattering a light as possible.”

“Quisling’s job as leader for the Kharkiv office was limited. He had to put decisions into practice and follow instructions given from above. He received the goods which were earmarked for his district, delivered them to the local authorities, and tried as far as possible to ensure that aid reached the victims for whom it was intended.”

“His aid work in the Ukraine in 1922 did not extend over any prolonged period. It was terminated late in August, by which time he had spent half a year in the Ukraine.”

In August 1922, Quisling went home to Norway.

In January 1923, he resumed his work in the Ukraine, in order to finish his project, since the work of Nansen’s international aid-committee was now coming to an end.

In August 1923 he was dismissed from the general staff. In 1928 he applied for a discharge from active service as an officer, and in 1930 he was commissioned as a major in the reserve forces.

Fridtjof Nansen’s letter of recommendation of Vidkun Quisling:

*Lysaker, 14<sup>th</sup> March 1925*

*Captain V. Quisling was, during my relief work for the Russian famine, my representative in the Ukraine, and led the work in that part of Russia in an excellent manner, winning much recognition from all sides. It was admirable, what he achieved under such difficult conditions and with comparatively small means. Using his organisational ability and*

*discretion, he got everybody interested in the work and in an intelligent manner, gained the trusting support of the authorities for the operations, and he enjoyed unconditional trust from all sides.*

*When I initially approached the government to get permission for Captain Quisling to participate in our work, the Minister of Defence distinctly maintained that it was, in his opinion, very desirable for a Norwegian officer to be included in this operation as he in so doing might, among other things, acquire knowledge which would be useful for Norway, and I was expressly promised that Captain Quisling should be granted leave of absence to participate in our relief work, without this having any damaging effect on his military position and career.*

*The same [assurance] was indeed repeated by the Minister of Defence when I, on another occasion, applied for permission for Captain Quisling to assist me in my work.*

*After returning home from Russia, Captain Quisling has been sick for a time, and I understand that he has now fallen far behind in his military career. It seems very regrettable, that he, after his devoted work in Russia, should have difficulty in moving ahead as an officer, which runs contrary to the distinct terms of his engagement in the services of the Russian relief work where he has carried out such outstandingly efficient work, as I have mentioned above, and has additionally acquired valuable knowledge concerning Russian conditions, which no doubt can be of great use.*

*Fridtjof Nansen*

*I endeavoured to help the starving. It was like this: Dr. Nansen made an agreement with the Soviet government, and various associations were covered by this general agreement, various charitable organisations, and later, the big American relief effort led by President Hoover was included, and it became a large and comprehensive organisation which helped millions of people. I would contend that I offered myself there in a most benevolent and unselfish manner and that I have saved — how many people, I cannot say, but that it's into the hundreds of thousands, that at least is certain.*

*Quisling's defence speech*

## **Føreren Vidkun Quisling**

### **The “führer” Vidkun Quisling**

The party, “Nasjonal Samling” was founded with Vidkun Quisling as leader, later “chieftain”, and finally “Fører” (führer), just as Hitler.

Following the pattern of Hitler’s Nazi party, NS introduced the “heil”- greeting, the term comrade-in-arms, and attempted to uniform their members in grey-brown shirts. An elite military division called “Hirden” (from a term used in the middle ages to describe a bodyguard) was also established.

Despite great expectations from its leader and members, the Nasjonal Samling gained little support in the parliamentary elections and the two local elections in which the party stood. A change of direction towards Nazi ideology resulted in many leaving the party, and Vidkun Quisling was left with only a few hundred avid supporters. In the summer of 1939 he went to Berlin. The meeting with a number of influential people in the party and government strengthened his belief that the inevitable war would be a contest with bolshevism and the Soviet Union.

Ten weeks after war broke out on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939, Vidkun Quisling went to Berlin with a peace plan of his own design, which he seriously intended presenting for the German government. Vidkun Quisling met the German naval chief, Grand Admiral Erich Raeder. Raeder was at that time concerned with drawing Hitler’s attention towards Scandinavia in order that they should secure bases in the war against Great Britain.

Vidkun Quisling met Adolf Hitler for the first time in the Reichs Chancellery in Berlin on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1939, and again on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Hitler, his attention now directed towards the north, immediately ordered his High Command to undertake a study of a possible military occupation of Norway. Vidkun Quisling received a promise of support for the strengthening of NS, and received in the new year, a large sum of money, enabling the party newspaper “Fritt Folk” to be issued daily.

## **Dannelsen av Nasjonal Samling**

### **The formation of “Nasjonal Samling” (National Unity)**

The autumn and winter of 1932-33 marked a breakthrough for National Socialism in Germany. Given this background, one can understand Vidkun Quisling’s speech favouring a strong and national government of the realm with extensive powers. He wished to build a coalition with the farmers’ party and other nationalistic groups as a foundation for such a government. When this didn’t work, the new “Nasjonal Samling” (NS) was founded at the beginning of May 1933. On 16<sup>th</sup> May, the agenda of the “Nasjonal Samling” was made public. It established that the movement should be no ordinary party, but “a movement outside the parties”. On 28<sup>th</sup> July 1933, the Nasjonal Samling was formally registered as a political party. The party was thereby able to participate in the parliamentary election that autumn.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 1940, the Nasjonal Samling became the only lawful party in Norway.

The party worked throughout the years of occupation to “reorganise the Norwegian society”. In order to do this, they placed party members in key positions of society. The Nasjonal Samling controlled Norway.

All told, about 55 000 people were members of the NS for longer or shorter periods during the occupation, with a peak in November 1943 of 43 000 members.

## **Hirden**

**“Hirden”** (Derived from the word “hird” which in the middle ages was a bodyguard)

Hirden started as a special division of Nasjonal Samling for men between 18 and 45 years of age. It existed from 1934 until 1945.

From the outset, the organisation consisted of those members who were most active within the party, but in 1941 membership of Hirden became obligatory for all members of Nasjonal Samling.

Hirden performed guard duty at political rallies and speeches and wore uniforms.

### **Ettpartistat, førerprinsipp og terror-regime**

#### **A single party state, the “führer” principal and a regime of terror**

When Nasjonal Samling became the only lawful party in the autumn of 1940, the mayors of all counties and municipalities had to be selected by Quisling, following the führer principal. Many public employees were sacked and NS groups were established in all public offices, which exercised control in accordance with the new leadership.

All public departments with power, from the high court to the rural police, came under the charge of NS. The same applied to all public media companies such as newspapers, magazines and publishers.

In local communities, NS members carried out active surveillance and informed upon those who opposed Quisling: “jøssingene”. Many were reported to the German security police. The German security police had a number of prison camps spread throughout the country. The largest was Grini on the outskirts of Oslo, where more than 50 000 Norwegians were imprisoned during the course of the war.

Torture was employed during interrogation, and executions were carried out without any proper judicial proceedings. Quisling’s single party state and Nasjonal Samling developed to become a regime of terror, with the aid of German bayonets.

*“I had used the name Nasjonal Samling. It had no connection with the German national socialistic (sic) party. I had not even read its programme when I shaped it. They were quite independent thoughts, it was quite independently shaped on the grounds (sic), and I believe it is the right programme for the Norwegian people.”*

Quisling’s defence speech

### **Quislings møter med Hitler**

#### **Quisling’s meetings with Hitler**

Quisling had had sporadic contact with the German national socialist party (NSDAP) ever since 1930. He followed the developments in Germany with great interest, and already before becoming a cabinet minister, he enthusiastically collected the newspaper listings of different fascist groups, both in Germany and in other countries.

When Nasjonal Samling dissolved in 1937, Quisling made a much greater effort to win favour with the Germans. Two representatives of the NS were present at the Nazi congress in Nuremberg in the autumn of 1938.

In a telegram to Hitler on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 1939, he paid homage to the effort “der führer” exerted for “our Germanic and Nordic brethren”. He paid further homage to Hitler as the “hero” who had saved Europe from Bolshevism and Jewish rule, and who had given new life to the principle of “blood and spirit” – something without which European civilisation could not exist.

In June 1939 Quisling was in Berlin and among other things, was given money by the German military counter espionage and intelligence organisation, Abwehr to promote German propaganda in Norway.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December 1939, Quisling met Hitler for the first time. Quisling maintained that Norway was in the clutches of “Marxist and Jewish democrats”. He also stressed the strategic importance of Germany saving Norway from being forcibly taken by Britain. Hitler was positively inclined towards the idea and ordered the Wehrmacht’s High Command to assign a small group of staff to make preliminary investigations as to “how one might gain possession of Norway”.

In the new year NS received large sums of money, enabling the party newspaper “Fritt Folk” to be issued daily.

Vidkun Quisling was in Germany from 5<sup>th</sup> July until 20<sup>th</sup> August 1940. On the 16<sup>th</sup> August, he had a meeting with Hitler. Quisling suggested that the Norwegian parliament should be dissolved, and that an NS controlled government be installed, which should work towards a union between Norway and Germany.

On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 1940, Quisling again visited Hitler, together with Reichskommissar Josef Terboven. Hitler confirmed that the Reichskommissar must accept that Quisling was to take over rule of the country in the foreseeable future. Hitler gave Terboven the responsibility of carrying out privy council negotiations in a satisfactory manner, which implied that NS was to be ensured a majority. At this meeting, it was also made clear that the privy council should only be a temporary institution which soon would be replaced by a purely NS government with Quisling as leader.

In February 1942, Vidkun Quisling was appointed Ministerial President after instructions were received from Berlin, indicating how much power the new government was to have.

When Quisling arrived in Berlin on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1942, he was met by a guard of honour from the Waffen SS as fitting for a head of state.

After the talks between Hitler and Quisling, Joseph Goebbels wrote in his diary:

“As far as I’m concerned, I have the impression that Quisling is indeed only a quisling, and I can feel no empathy with him. He is dogmatic and a theorist in whom one cannot expect a statesman’s abilities”

In a report to the German department of internal affairs, delivered to Martin Bormann on 26<sup>th</sup> September, it said that Quisling's politics in 1942 had been a complete failure, and had only led to resistance, with 95% of the population being hostile towards the NS.

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 1943, Quisling and Hitler met at Schloss Klessheim in Austria. Here, all Quisling's thoughts of political co-operation with Germany, and a Germanic union in Europe, were rejected. That is to say, everything upon which Quisling had built his politics during the war. The only thing with which he was left, was a promise that the national entity of Norway would not be wiped out after the war.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January 1944, a meeting of the leaders was held between Hitler and Quisling at the field headquarters, Wolfsschanze (Wolf's Lair) in East Prussia. Vidkun Quisling suggested compulsory mobilisation of three Norwegian divisions in the fight against Bolshevism. This was turned down, and he was informed that the Waffen SS should continue to be a common European army based on voluntary recruitment.

The last meeting between Hitler and Quisling was from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1945. Once more, Hitler dismissed Quisling's wish to become an independent leader of a sovereign state. Quisling requested small arms for trusted members of the NS, and Hitler promised to send 10 000 pistols.

### **NS støtte til Tysklands krig**

#### **NS support for Germany's war**

Under the motto "Germany's fight is Norway's fight", Quisling established in January 1941 the "Regiment Nordland" with 800 Norwegian volunteers under German command, as part of the SS-division "Wiking". This was followed in June of the same year by "Den norske legion": a legion of 2000 men who, wearing German SS uniforms, fought on the eastern front. Other military divisions, police companies and nurses were recruited. About 7 000 Norwegians in all enlisted for service. 5000 were selected and about 1000 fell. In addition, the

NS recruited workers for the slave and concentration camps established for Russians and Serbs in Norway. “Hirden” was a valuable recruiting source for the Germans, and in all 8 – 9 000 NS members served there.

### **Frontkjempere**

#### **“Front fighters”**

These were Norwegians who enlisted to serve Germany in the Waffen SS. Many of these were sent to the eastern front. Front fighters were recruited to assist in Finland’s fight against the Soviets. There were in all, 7 000 Norwegian front fighters. Almost 1 000 were killed.

### **Tvangsmobilisering og arbeidstjeneste**

#### **Conscription and labour service**

Besides recruiting volunteers to serve the German cause, Quisling’s government worked to make Norwegian conscripts and resources available to Germany. In 1943 Quisling suggested the compulsory enlistment of 50 000 men, increasing to 75 000 men to serve on the eastern front the following year. The Germans considered this was asking for total rebellion in Norway and turned it down.

In 1943, Quisling’s government, following the initiative of the Reichskommissariat, passed the “national labour effort law”. Labour exchanges should engage all unemployed persons in farming and forestry. Many thousands registered voluntarily, and in 1944 these were organised into a workforce which was taken over by the NS, assuming a clearly military profile.

The resistance organisation called for a boycott and instituted incidents of sabotage to prevent the conscription. Many followed the cry and went into hiding (“boys in the woods”) and the efforts of the NS became a total fiasco.

## **Statskupp og landsforræderi**

### **Coup d'état and treason**

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1940, Vidkun Quisling wrote a government proclamation, in which he cancelled the mobilisation against the invading German forces and said that resistance was “tantamount to criminal destruction of life and property”. A communiqué through “NTB” (the Norwegian news agency), announced that: “If this [resistance to the German invasion] does not stop immediately, it may lead to legal proceedings for murder being taken against those responsible and participating”.

Vidkun Quisling presented a government which was comprised of his most loyal supporters. A communiqué was sent to the Norwegian news agency, which he himself read aloud on Norwegian radio, at 7:30pm and again at 10 pm.

The coup was met with horror in all circles. Even members of Vidkun Quisling’s own party reacted strongly. The British press introduced “quisling” as a synonym for traitor, and the concept spread throughout the world. Even German officers, who had arrived in the country by the hundred, avoided the traitor as far as possible.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April he was required to hand over power to a temporary administrative council for the occupied territories, installed by the Germans.

## **Overfallet den 9.april**

### **The assault, 9<sup>th</sup> April**

At about midnight on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, the first Norwegian fell. This was Captain Leif Welding Olsen on the watch boat POL III which patrolled the outer Oslo fjord, but the boat had already managed to send a warning, saying that an unknown war vessel had violated Norwegian territory.

The German assault on Norway had started.

The coastal towns of Arendal, Kristiansand, Egersund, Bergen, Trondheim and Narvik were taken.

Thanks to the warning received from POL III, the Oscarsborg fortress in the Drøbak strait was prepared. With canon fire and torpedoes, the cruiser “Blücher” was sunk and the invading German fleet drew back. This gave the government time to issue a mobilisation order calling for military resistance and the government, along with the parliament and king were able to flee from the Germans on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> April.

German planes landed at Fornebu on that same morning, carrying troops who, having secured the airport, marched down Karl Johan, the main street of Oslo in the afternoon.

### **Quislings statskupp 9.april**

#### **Quisling’s coup d’état, 9<sup>th</sup> April**

On 9<sup>th</sup> April, with German assistance, Vidkun Quisling announced on Norwegian radio, among other things:

“Since England has violated Norway’s neutrality by laying mine fields in Norwegian territorial waters without meeting any resistance other than the usual insignificant protests from the Nygaardsvold government, the German government has offered the Norwegian government its peaceful assistance accompanied by a solemn assurance to respect our national independence and Norwegian lives and property. In response to this offer of a solution to, what is for our country, a situation totally impossible to maintain, the Nygaardsvold government has brought into effect a general mobilisation and given the meaningless order to the Norwegian military forces to oppose the German help with armed force. The government itself has fled after having so recklessly gambled with the fate of the country and its inhabitants. The Nygaardsvold government has withdrawn. The national government has taken over the governing power with Quisling as leader of the government and foreign minister.”

“All Norwegians are called upon to remain calm and collected in what, for our country, is so difficult a situation. With a combined effort and the good will of all, we shall see Norway free and liberated through this difficult crisis. I [must] add that, the situation having developed as it has, any resistance is not only useless but directly equivalent to criminal destruction of life and property. Every civil servant and other state and municipal functionary, and especially all officers of the army, navy, coast artillery and air force of our country, is required to obey orders from the new national government. Any departure from this will result in the most serious personal responsibility (sic) for that person”

**Kunngjøring av 10.april:**

**Proclamation of 10<sup>th</sup> April:**

“To all military commanders and all conscripts. The general mobilisation which the Nygaardsvold government launched before it fled, is to be halted without delay. All those who were called up are to be sent home immediately. Those still on their way shall themselves, return to their homes”

Vidkun Quisling

**Motstand er mord**

**Resistance is murder**

An announcement passed to the Norwegian news agency on 10<sup>th</sup> April and appearing in newspapers on 11<sup>th</sup> April:

“If this [resistance to the German invasion] does not stop immediately, it may lead to legal proceedings for murder being taken against those responsible and participating”.

*Here in Norway, people believe that had the Germans not come on 9<sup>th</sup> April, we would have lived in blissful peace for 5 years in this country. The truth is however quite different. The truth is that had the Germans not come on 9<sup>th</sup> April, Norway would have become a destroyed theatre of war and the Germans would be sitting as conquerors and masters, and the Russians would be sitting as conquerors in the north of Norway. That is the truth of the matter.*

Quisling's defence speech

### **Kampene i Vinjesvingen**

#### **The battles of Vinjesvingen**

When the Infantry regiment No III, I.R.3 surrendered to the Germans at Heistadmoen, Kongsberg without any resistance on 13<sup>th</sup> April, Second Lieutenant Thor O. Hannevig together with a number of officers and conscripts refused to follow Colonel Steen's decision. They captured a couple of lorries and filled them with weapons, ammunition, food and clothing and drove to Åmot in Vinje. Soon volunteers from various parts of Telemark gathered here. More equipment was brought from Heistadmoen, Herøya and Notodden. 10 “Lottes” (members of the Norwegian women's defence league) also joined them from

Notodden, and became instrumental in looking after what soon grew to become a force of several hundred men.

There were several skirmishes, one of which was at Tallak bridge on the road between Dalen and Åmot on 27<sup>th</sup> April. The main battle was fought continuously from 3<sup>rd</sup> till 5<sup>th</sup> May at Liosvingen and Leirlid bridge near Dalen. Large German forces were employed, including planes. There were considerable losses on the German side. When it became clear that the south of Norway was lost, Hannevig negotiated terms for surrender.

The battles of Vinjesvingen were of symbolic importance during the occupation and helped keep up the morale during an otherwise rather dismal wartime period. At the time the battles were being fought however, they were little known in other parts of the country.

### **Quisling som Hitlers redskap i Norge**

#### **Quisling as Hitler's instrument in Norway**

Vidkun Quisling was in Germany from 5<sup>th</sup> July until 20<sup>th</sup> August 1940. On 16<sup>th</sup> August he was received by Hitler, who promised him that “a young Norway was only thinkable for him [Hitler] under the Nasjonal Samling's leadership, and inextricably associated with Quisling in person. Quisling could rely upon him”.

In meetings on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 1940, the following arrangement was agreed upon: NS was to have the leading role in Norway, first in a transitional government and later as a pure Quisling-government. All other parties were forbidden.

Reichskommissar Josef Terboven, Hitler's representative in Norway, was not in favour of these arrangements but had to accept them since they reflected Hitler's gratitude towards the Norwegian leader.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, Reichskommissar Terboven appointed the commissarial ministers. Those appointments showed clearly that Terboven had meant what he had said in his radio address

to the Norwegian people: **that the way for Norway from now on, goes through the Nasjonal Samling.**

NS and Vidkun Quisling's attempt to Nazify Norway, met with a great deal of resistance:

- New arrangements for sport were met with a strike
- In the spring of 1942 many bishops and ministers resigned their posts
- 12 000 of the country's 14 000 teachers protested against young people having to serve in the NS "Ungdomsfylking" (equivalent to the Hitler Youth in Germany), and that teachers should become members of the NS union of teachers

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 1943, a Junior Police Prosecutor, Gunnar Eilifsen was executed by order of Reichskommissar Josef Terboven. Gunnar Eilifsen had refused to take part in the arrest of girls who had not reported for labour service. Vidkun Quisling prepared a temporary law of 14<sup>th</sup> August which gave formal sanction condemning Eilifsen to death. Vidkun Quisling was further responsible for Eilifsen's execution, having not availed himself of the right to reprieve which he had bestowed upon himself.

At the same time, many police officers were arrested and required to declare their loyalty to the NS and the German occupants. Many of those who refused were sent to Stutthof concentration camp in Poland.

In response to Vidkun Quisling's appeal, 7 000 Norwegians enlisted to serve Germany on the eastern front. About 1 000 fell.

The NS governed Church department attempted, from the autumn of 1940, to censure the religious broadcasts from NRK (the Norwegian broadcasting corporation) and favoured pastors who were friendly towards the NS. The conflict escalated in the new year of 1941 when the "Hirden" tried to prevent church services being held. The conflict ended in 93 % of all pastors resigning their posts.

Quisling's laws concerning the "Lærersamband" and "Nasjonal ungdomstjeneste" of 5<sup>th</sup> February 1942 was an attempt to transform the schools into establishments for the indoctrination of national socialist thinking.

When a secret action-committee called for the Lærersamband to be boycotted, it was supported by a large number of the country's teachers. The NS-department threatened to fire

the teachers, and almost 1100 male teachers were arrested. Approximately 650 teachers were forcibly removed to Finmark in the very north of Norway. Nearly half a million parents stood with the teachers in solidarity, and the NS had to give up all attempts to Nazify Norway.

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 1943, the Germans arrested 1 100 Norwegian officers and sent them to be imprisoned in Poland.

On 29<sup>th</sup> November 1943, Vidkun Quisling was informed by Reichskommissar Terboven that the University was to be closed, and all male students arrested. Despite efforts to warn the students, 1166 were taken and imprisoned by the Germans. Of these, 17 lost their lives.

In the August and September of 1941 the German occupants together with the Quisling-regime ordered that all wireless sets should be handed in. This was in order to prevent people listening to the BBC broadcasts from London. More than half a million radios were handed in, but many were hidden away, and people learned what the news from London had to say, by one means or another.

Through the press-directorate, and with German help, the Quisling-regime carried out an extensive censure of all forms of expression. This applied to newspapers, film, literature and music. As a response to this censure, approximately 300 different illegal publications were issued from the summer of 1940. Between three and four thousand people were arrested for having been associated with these publications, and of these, 62 were executed and 150 died in captivity.

**Raserenhet:**

**Racial purity:**

Quisling, concerning his origins:

*I have grown up in a narrow mountain valley which at that time was still a wild landscape*

*and where there perhaps lived a partially wild people. **I have grown up amidst Viking graves, amidst bible stories and sagas.** I belonged to an old lineage and I was always **inculcated with ancestral pride and family saga**, and likewise obligations towards my kinfolk. **Bjørnson and Ibsen are of the same lineage as I, - It is not, at any rate, waste-water in my veins.** Neither is the name *Quisling* any foreign name: it is **an old Nordic name and means one who is a branch of the royal lineage.** Nor is *Q* a foreign, Latin letter, but an ancient Rune character. – I do not say this to emphasize anything concerning myself. – I have grown up under these conditions and **secured a love for my country which is almost beyond description.***

Quisling's defence speech

### Norsk rasepolitikk og rasehygiene

#### Norwegian racial policy and racial hygiene

Apart from the Jews, the vagrant Romany people were the group in Norway considered to be most inferior and dangerous.

In 1944 a law was drafted, suggesting that all “vagrants” should be registered. It would be forbidden for any vagrant to own a horse, boat or car. It would also make it easier to have vagrants sterilised. The Nazis didn't have time to put this into effect before the war ended.

There was also a “racial problem” in the north of Norway where the Sámi people (previously called Lapps in English) constituted a quite alien race and it was pointed out that an unfortunate mixing of blood occurred between the Sámi people and Norwegians.

“Defective elements”

Just as there were inferior races, there were also inferior elements in the Nordic and Germanic races. A head doctor at the Reitegjerdet asylum, Egil Rian, maintained in 1944 that of a population of three million Norwegians, the number of “defective people” was in the region of 350 000 – almost 12% of the population. 300 000 were referred to as “[anti]social

[individuals], psychopaths, retards, chronic offenders, vagrants and similar”. In addition were the 50 000 described as mentally defective and deranged, epileptics, deaf and blind.

In Germany, the Nazis started plans for mass killings of “defective individuals” under the so called “Euthanasia plan” in 1935 and these plans were put into effect from 1939. In 1940 and 1942, a total of 70 273 were killed.

The director of health, Thorleif Østrem was one of the foremost exponents of a racial-hygiene policy. He maintained that in order for the population to remain at its present level, the number of children born to each family would have to increase by four. Access to abortions should be severely restricted, and the sale of contraceptives should be regulated by law. Assistance should be provided at clinics for both mother and child, in order that the health of the rising generation should be taken care of in the best possible manner.

“Positive racial hygiene” however was not in itself sufficient. Only individuals with “good” genes could ensure that the quality of the race remained stable, or improve it. It was therefore necessary to have “obligatory sterilisation of those individuals with hereditary defects”. This was the idea behind “Law No.1 of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1942: Protection of the people’s lineage”.

### **Ministerpresident Vidkun Quisling**

**The Ministerial President Vidkun Quisling** wrote in a letter to Minister Riisnes of the department of justice, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1943:

“During my travels, I notice regularly that there are still to be found in considerable numbers, caravans of “Taters” [Romany people] on the highways. There is in any case, every reason to look at the “Tater” question in its entirety, also from a racial hygiene aspect.”

## Jødehatet /antisemittismen i Nasjonal Samling før krigen

### Hatred of Jews / anti-Semitism in the Nasjonal Samling before the war

One can find traces of antagonism towards the Jews in NS newspapers as early as 1934. Among other things, they supported the persecution of Jews in Germany. It was in 1935 that the party was first seen to become clearly anti-Semitic. Jews were accused of being behind a conspiracy to become global rulers. The politics of the labour party were branded “Jewish-Marxism” and the national newspaper Dagbladet was a “Jew-paper”.

Under the motto “Norway for Norwegians”, the tiny Jewish community came under attack, accused of wanting to incorporate Norway in a global state led by Jews. The two or three hundred Jews who had fled from persecution in Germany were similarly antagonised and bullied.

“All male persons over 15 years of age whose identity cards are stamped with a J, shall be arrested, with no upper age limit, and transported to Kirkeveien 23, Oslo. The arrests shall take place on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 0600 hrs. Those arrested must take with them, cutlery, ration cards and all identity documents. Their property is to be seized. [I] direct your attention to financial securities, jewellery and cash, and they must be searched accordingly. Bank accounts are to be closed and bank boxes to be emptied.” . . . “All adult Jewesses are required to report daily to the constabulary’s crime department.

State Chief of Police

The change of NS policy may have two explanations. The election defeats in 1933 and 1934 which indicated that they had no foundation for political growth in Norway, and the triumph of national socialism in Germany. The hatred of Jews provided NS with a political profile which no other political party had. This however, also resulted in many members of the NS

who wished to disassociate themselves from racism, leaving the party. This was especially true of those members associated with Christian movements.

### **Aksjoner mot jødisk eiendom**

#### **Attacks on Jewish property**

The hatred of Jews first expressed verbally, soon escalated to become direct attacks upon the Jews. Synagogues were defaced with swastikas. Villa owners in Asker were discouraged from letting summer-houses to Jews, and the NS called for a boycott of Jewish businesses. In November of 1938, posters were pasted up on many shops, with foul caricatures in the “best Nazi-spirit”. Norwegian Nazis tried as best they could to follow the example of Germany, to which they looked up.

### **NS og jødene under okkupasjonen**

#### **NS and the Jews during the occupation**

Quotations from the NS’s main channel of information “Fritt Folk”:

“All collections to Nansen-aid must be stopped and the organisation dissolved because it supports Jews, who were enemies of the people, being Bolsheviks.” (No.100 1940)

The war is characterised as “British Jewish scoundrel prank” (No.167 1942)

“The Jews’ war” (No.187 1942)

“All epidemics (including the war) have the same father: Judaism” (No.253 1942)

“Roosevelt was a lackey of the Jewish rulers of the country, a Jewish victory, but one of that sort was utopianism, would mean absolute rule by the Jews (sic)” (No.276 1942)

How a newspaper recorded an address made by Quisling in Frankfurt am Main in March 1941:

The speaker underlined that the Norwegian people had been prepared to defend themselves against the **influx of Jewish parasites**. The will of Norwegians to defend themselves in this area, was first paralysed when the liberal way of thinking broke out in the country. After **the emancipation of Jews in Norway in 1851**, began the fateful development that **Nordogermanic blood became saturated with the destructive forces of the Jewish race.** ... **“This en-Jewishng (sic) development** must, following the laws of nature, necessarily lead to the disaster which happened on 9<sup>th</sup> April.”

**Som Ministerpresident var Vidkun Quisling ansvarlig for og medskyldig i:**

**As Ministerial President, Vidkun Quisling was responsible for and guilty by complicity of:**

The police department received on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1941 a letter from Heinrich Fehlis, head of the German security police in Norway. He gave the department the responsibility of ensuring that the identity papers of Jews be marked with a red J.

A “Circular concerning the stamping of Jews’ identification papers” was sent from the police department on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1942 to the chiefs of all urban and rural police districts. It was required that when stamping Js on identity papers, the chiefs of police should also stamp the corresponding “index card for certificate of identity”, in order that a complete register of Jews in every district might be established.

**Goldwasser, Alf Abel**, pupil, Oslo, b. 28-05-27. Arrested 26-10-42, transferred 26-10-42 to Bredtveit (prison), transferred 28-10-42 to Berg (internment camp), transferred 26-11-42 Auschwitz, died 01-12- 42.

The same fate was suffered by his brother Sigmund b. 10-06-23, and father Simon b. 27-04-90, who died 01-01-43.

(Source: Nordmenn i fangenskap 1940-1945. Universitetsforlaget AS 1995 )

**Rundskriv av 14. november 1942 fra Statspolitisjefen til landets politimestrer:**

**Circular of 14<sup>th</sup> November 1942 from the State Chief of Police to police chiefs throughout the country:**

“Both so far as pocket watches and wrist watches are concerned, also items of gold, silver and jewellery, an inventory of these items of property shall be made in duplicate. The first copy will be kept by the German security police and the second copy is to be kept by the state police. Items are to be marked with the owners name and sent, if this has not already been done, to the state police. The state police will subsequently despatch this part of the Jews’ property to the Germans.”

**The law of 17<sup>th</sup> November 1942: Jews’ obligation to report** [to the constabulary], concerned not only full-blooded Jews but also half Jews and quarter Jews.

The Jews were transported to Oslo harbour where the steamship “Donau” waited to take them to Germany – and extermination. Of the 767 Jews who were deported on this slave ship, only 26 survived the concentration camp.

**Quislings hønsegård eller Berg Interneringsleir**

**Quisling’s “hen yard” otherwise: Berg Internment camp**

The internment camp at Berg was established by the Norwegian state police in 1942. Berg was the only prison camp to have only Norwegian guards. Other prison camps in Norway were run by SIPO (the German security police).

The first time the general public heard of Berg internment camp, was in the spring of 1942. The news had been introduced by Vidkun Quisling in a speech made at an NS meeting at Borre during Whitsuntide of the same year. On previous 17<sup>th</sup> May (constitution day) the “jøssings” (those opposed to the Nasjonal Samling and the German occupation) had worn rings intended for the identification of hens, in Norway’s national colours. Quisling called this the “hen-mentality” amongst his opponents.

“In consequence of this, I have established a hen-yard for them at Berg near Tønsberg”, said Vidkun Quisling in his speech.

At the end of October 1942 a train of cattle-wagons stopped some kilometres north of Tønsberg. Male Jews were ordered from the wagons by armed guards.

The arrested Jews marched on to three barracks in the woods. Anything they had brought with them, other than cutlery, was confiscated, never to be seen by them again. The confiscated articles were taken to the administration building at Berg.

The barracks were cold and the rain poured through the leaking roofs. The prisoners were told that anyone attempting to open windows or doors would be shot.

Working days were long: from 7:30 am until 8:30 pm all week long. They had a dinner break from 12 noon till 1:30 pm.

The prisoners fought against hunger. The daily ration comprised of half a litre of soup made from flowers, ¼ loaf of bread and one cup of coffee substitute. The Red Cross and Jewish aid society sent food parcels to the camp, but much of the food disappeared into the administration building.

On the 26th of November, there was something threatening in the air. What was about to happen? The guards told a tale about the allies having invaded and that the prisoners at Berg would have to be moved.

At 4 am on the morning of 27th November, each prisoner was given two loaves of bread and six fish cakes of herring. The prisoners then understood that they were going on a long journey. When the order came, that outdoor clothing, Wellington boots and winter shoes were to remain, they realised that their journey would take them out of the country.

The roll-call and selection commenced. All those married to Jewish women, and those who were unmarried were placed together, whilst those with “Aryan marriages” were placed in a separate group.

When this dismal ceremony was over, the first and largest group was ordered to march towards the railway line. The long, silent column of Jews disappeared into the darkness, carrying the sick amongst them.

**On 26<sup>th</sup> November**, the SS Donau sailed from Oslo harbour to Stettin. From there, its “cargo” of Jews was transported to Auschwitz, arriving at 9 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> of December. During the night of 1<sup>st</sup> December, 15 year old Kathe Lasnik, Abel and Sigmund Goldwasser, 15 and 19 years respectively were put to death using hydrogen cyanide gas, along with 342 other Norwegian men, women and children. 34 of the victims were under 15 and of these, 12 were under 5 years of age.

*The question concerning Jews, I need not go into again in detail. I say, as I have said before: I have not had anything directly to do with these cases...*

*The Jews themselves here in Norway knew nothing in fact of the treatment which awaited them in Germany – that has actually been expressed by the witnesses here, themselves. I knew nothing of either the arrests or the deportation of Jews and I am absolutely opposed – yes, I need not only say that I am opposed, but I am altogether unable to understand that the Germans have taken the steps they have taken in these matters. It is to me incomprehensible - It is for me a very great problem, I really have to say.*

Quislings defence speech

## **Dødsdommene:**

### **The death sentences**

Vidkun Quisling was guilty by complicity, having signed the following death sentences:

Gunnar Eiliefsen	shot 16 <sup>th</sup> August 1943
Knut Mathiesen	shot 4 <sup>th</sup> May 1944
Olaf Moen	shot 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 1944
Borgar Aune Knutsen	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Reidar Johansen	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Rolf Kristian Johansen	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Åge Tolkinrud	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Erik Larsen Bye	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Bjørn Hans Egenæs	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Gunnar Stein Anklev	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Thorvald Ones	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Ivar Moum	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Aksel Henry Hansson	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Frans Aubert	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945
Asle Grepp	shot 8 <sup>th</sup> February 1945

### **Olaf Moen:**

The 34 year old factory worker from Lisleherad was a team leader in “Hjemmefronten”(The home-front i.e. total resistance network). In 1944 he went round warning the youth of Notodden against the “AT” (the German labour service).

The result of Moen’s efforts, and that of other members of the resistance, was that none of Notodden’s youth reported to the AT in May of 1944. Many fled to the forests and engaged in resistance work.

Olaf Moen knew that there were informers who gave their services enthusiastically, and that his involvement was dangerous.

At 5am on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> May 1944 a German military vehicle stopped outside the house of Olaf Moen. Both Olaf and his brother, Arnfinn, were ordered from the house, and arrested. Also Hans Dahle was arrested by the Gestapo. Like Olaf Moen, Hans Dahle was a team leader in “Milorg” (military resistance organisation).

The men were taken to Victoria Terrasse (Gestapo and SD headquarter) in Oslo where they were interrogated and tortured, yet none of them revealed anything.

Olaf Moen was shot in order that an example should be made. He was shot because a special court found him guilty of having passed on intelligence and for having worked against the German labour service.

(Source: From a memorial speech made by Svein Vetle Tråe at the unveiling of a monument to Olaf Moen and Tråe's book: "Skriften på veggen. Krig og motstand i Hjartdal/Øvre Telemark"

(Source: "Nordmenn i fangenskap 1940 - 1945", Universitetsforlaget 1995)

Quisling, who could have given Olaf Moen a reprieve, refused to do so, and this led to the death sentence being carried out.

In his defence, Quisling said as follows:

Official report from the trial:

Presiding magistrate: Moving on to Olaf Moen.

Quisling: It was a similar case to that of Eilifsen and it was for me the tragic situation that my [(male)] cousin was in the same situation. On the one hand I was disqualified and on the other hand, to refuse a pardon to one's own cousin was of course, also a dreadful affair. I could not pardon my own cousin, when I did not, under the same circumstances pardon the other, but it so happened that the Germans in the meantime had taken care of the matter.

From the closing remarks at the Court of Appeal, 10<sup>th</sup> September 1945:

The accused also here maintains that he was under constraint and that the Reichskommissar demanded these sentences, especially the last of these in February which were reprisals for Major General Marthinsen having been killed.

Nor in this case does the court find that the accused can be excused. He has contributed to our countrymen being killed at the demand of the enemy and must be convicted of having broken § 233 of the penal law.

From the High Court judgement, 13<sup>th</sup> October 1945:

According to the Court of Appeal's judgement, those fourteen shot pursuant to sentences of the special court established by «law» of 14<sup>th</sup> August 1943 and their executions 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February, happened as reprisals because the State Chief of Police Marthinsen had been killed. It tells us nothing to indicate that there were any lawfully valid grounds on which to execute these 14 Norwegians. The sentences were submitted to the "Ministerial President" for a decision on the question of a pardon being given. He thus had the authority and duty to decide whether the sentences should be carried out or not. Having under these circumstances refused a pardon and allowed the execution [of the sentences], he has contributed to the killings. The convicted has excused himself [saying] that he found himself under constraint as the Reichskommissar had demanded these sentences, but this cannot be admitted. Also on this point, the appeal must be rejected.

#### **Arrestasjon av lærerne:**

#### **Arrest of the teachers:**

After Terboven had taken action against the different teachers' unions in the summer of 1941, the teachers chose to leave their unions. Instead, many teachers formed illegal networks and some established secret support funds.

#### **The law governing "Norges Lærersamband" (NS controlled Norwegian union of teachers):**

§ 1. "Norges lærersamband" is a trade union which serves as a link between the teachers and

the public authorities.

§ 2. “Norges lærersamband” is headed by a national leader, appointed by the ministerial president.

§ 3. All male and female teachers at schools governed by the department of church and education, applying equally to state schools as to communal and private schools, excepting the university and other colleges, are required to be members of “Norges lærersamband”.

Students at schools of teaching, and retired teachers may be voluntary members of “Norges lærersamband”.

§ 4. To cover the expenses of “Norges lærersamband” members pay a membership fee which is fixed annually by the national leader.

§ 5. Members of “Norges lærersamband” who are found guilty of impropriety may have a penalty imposed upon them by the national leader. In more serious cases, the national leader may, with the agreement of the head of the department of church and education, expel the member from “Norges lærersamband”.

The head of the department of church and education provides more detailed regulations concerning penalties and expulsion.

§ 6. The head of the department of church and education provides more detailed regulations concerning the organisation of “Norges lærersamband” and the issue of a periodical to its members, and also the regulations necessary to carry out this law.

Oslo 5<sup>th</sup> February 1942

Quisling

R. Skancke

R. J. Fuglesang

**The law governing the “Nasjonal Ungdomstjeneste” (NS controlled national youth service):**

§ 1. Every Norwegian boy or girl shall for the sake of their national upbringing, and in order to serve their people and country, serve in the “NS Ungdomsfylking”. The duty to engage in youth service starts on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year in which the age of 10 years is reached, and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year in which the age of 18 years is reached (sic).

§ 2. The head of the department of labour-service and sport will, together with the head of the church and education department, provide further instructions for the execution of this law and will decide to what extent the duty to do youth service shall be enforced.

§ 3. This law comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1942.

Oslo 5<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

Quisling

Axel Stang

R.J. Fuglesang

A great many of the nation’s teachers would play no part in bringing up the youth to become “good national-socialists”, and a secret committee composed a declaration which the large majority of the country’s 14 000 teachers supported:

“I find that I am unable to participate in bringing up the youth of Norway along the lines dictated for the “NS” youth service, as this is against my conscience. As a membership of “Norges lærersamband”, according to the declaration of the national leader, among other things imposes upon me an obligation to such upbringing, and also imposes other requirements which are against my terms of engagement, I find that I should inform [you] that I cannot consider myself a member of the “lærersamband”.

The department threatened to block the teachers’ wages or fire them if they did not retract their declaration, but the teachers did not give way.

A month's school holiday was announced – officially to save fuel – and on the 20th March, the arrest of 1 100 male teachers started. Many of the arrested teachers were sent on a coastal vessel, the “Skjerstad”, to Kirkenes.

The teachers were made to do forced labour in Varanger.

Whilst the teachers campaigned, the department made a retreat and declared the “lærersamband” to be a non-political organisation.

In order that the protests should not take too many lives, the arrested teachers signed to become members of the “lærersamband” and they were sent home in the autumn of 1942. Also the students suffered from the teachers having been arrested, but the poor education available during the occupation could mainly be attributed to the Wehrmacht having taken over schools to use as barracks.

### **Arrestasjoner av lærere i Telemark:**

#### **The arrest of teachers in Telemark:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> March, the Telemark county leader of the NS-organised “Norsk Lærersamband” (Norwegian union of teachers) received a letter from the national leader. The county leader was required to compile lists by municipality, of all those teachers who did not support Vidkun Quisling's laws of 5<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

The following list was sent from Porsgrunn on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1942:

Primary school:

1. Headmaster Thorsrud
2. Schoolmaster Reidar Klingenberg
3. Schoolmaster J. P. Johansen
4. Schoolmistress Marthe Noen
5. Schoolmistress Miss (Signe) Birkeland
6. Schoolmistress Karen Sjørdahl
7. Schoolmistress Maria Jacobsen

Secondary school:

1. Headmaster Tore Linge
2. Schoolmaster Thune Larsen
3. Schoolmaster H. Dalene
4. Schoolmaster Y. Halvorsen
5. Schoolmaster Arne Kjelsrud

Signe Birkeland, W.Thune Larsen and Yngvar Halvorsen had previously been reported for having thwarted the Nasjonal Samling. It was recommended that they be removed from their positions.

These lists were used when the police and local “Hirden” arrested the teachers in Porsgrunn.

Reidar Klingenberg, J. P. Johansen and Tore Linge were sent on the steamship “Skjerstad” to Kirkenes where they remained captive until well into the autumn of 1942.

### **Lærer Olav Berge si historie:**

#### **The story of the teacher, Olav Berge**

Without warning, Olav Berge, a teacher at Folkestad school, was picked up by the “lensmann” (rural police officer) on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> March. He was given half an hour to pack a small suitcase, and was then driven to the rural police station. Ole Nerheim, a senior teacher, was then picked up and both were driven to Stavern, where a number of arrested teachers were assembled. There had been discussions beforehand in the NS group as to which of the teachers in Bø they should arrest, and not all were agreed as to which these should be. They had been told in a message from the core of the party that it was the “worst opponents” of NS who were to be arrested.

Ole Nerheim was released after a few days on health grounds. After ten days in Stavern the approximately 150 teachers were transported to the Grini prison camp outside Oslo. At Grini,

they were ordered by the “Hirden” to hoist the NS flag and listen to their addresses. They were then stowed into cattle-wagons, with 40 – 50 in each and when the train which left from Lysaker approached Oslo, the tension increased. Would their journey take them south to Germany, or north to whatever?

They turned north, and after passing Lillehammer, stopped at Fåberg from where the prisoners had to walk to Jørstadmoen which they called Jøssingmoen. The prisoners were weary after two sleepless nights, but they had first to make ready the freezing cold barracks in which they were to sleep. Their stay at Jørstadmoen lasted ten days.

Whilst there, they were called in one at a time, to answer as to whether or not they were willing to become members of the NS teachers union. Olav Berge, along with the great majority of the other teachers said no.

They were then transported from Jørstadmoen to Trondheim by train, and with the steamship “Skjerstad” to Kirkenes. The boat was so full of arrested teachers, that there was less than half a square metre of space for each. Olav Berge was fortunate and shared a table-top with another. Under the table and beside it lay others. The trip to Kirkenes lasted from 15th until the 28th April.

At Kirkenes, they were put to work. Olav Berge had to load and unload boats at the harbour. They worked in three shifts, from 3 pm to 11 pm, 11 pm to 7 am and 7 am to 3 pm. There was little in the way of food and clothing, but Olav Berge was lucky and received a pair of shoes from home.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October Olav Berge was allowed to return home arriving in Bø on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Rettsaken**

### **The trial**

The trial, which started on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1945, was followed closely by an international press corps and a large public audience. The proceedings, presided over by judge Erik Solem, lasted ten days. Council for the defence was the barrister, Henrik Bergh. The testimonies of 55

witnesses were heard in Oslo, and those of another 5 in Germany. The expert witnesses, Snr.Dr. Jon Leikvam and Dr. Johan Lofthus testified that Vidkun Quisling neither suffered from any mental disease nor had “underdeveloped or permanently reduced mental ability”. It was of some relevance, to the accused that evidence which had recently been found in Germany was produced, which neither he nor his defence lawyer had been shown. Vidkun Quisling was also refused access to his own documents which might have supported his defence.

The high court refused the appeal on 13<sup>th</sup> October

At 2:40am on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1945 Vidkun Quisling was shot.

### **Hva er landssvik?**

#### **What is “landssvik”? (betrayal of one’s country)**

The word “landssvik” was not used in Norwegian law before the war. In the penal code, the terms “forræderi” (treason) or “landssvik” were used of crimes against the country’s independence and security. It was the government in exile in London which suggested the law should establish that membership of Nasjonal Samling was to be considered a crime, and regarded in law as assistance to the enemy. This resulted in what became known as the “landssvik-arrangements” of 1942 and 1944. The last of these became law when brought into force by parliament in the summer of 1945.

In the autumn of 1945, Professor Andenæs warned against the use of the concept of “landssvik” as it easily led one to believe that a person was “bought and paid” to betray their country, whereas many NS members were in reality decent people with honest motives.

Few supported him. Since then, the word has been absorbed into everyday language. Many of those convicted after the war have expressed despair at having been convicted of betraying their own country.

This shows that the warning from Andenæs had perhaps been right.

(Source: Norsk krigsleksikon 1940 – 1945, J.W. Cappelens Forlag AS, 1995)

*“If my activity has been “landssvik” – as it is presented – then I wish to God for Norway’s sake that a great many of Norway’s sons might become “landssvikere” such as I, except that they not be thrown in prison.”*

Quislings defence speech

### **Vidkun Quisling’s sentence**

#### **Legal conclusion:**

The accused Vidkun Abraham Lauritz Quisling is hereby sentenced to death for crimes against § 80 No. 1, 2 and 3, of the military penal code and against §§ 83, 84, 86, 98, 233, 239, 255 cf. §§ 256, 257, 275 and 317 cf. § 318 of the civil penal code and the provisional arrangements of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1941 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1942. cf. law of 6<sup>th</sup> July 1945 - all coherent with § 62 of the penal code

Military penal code of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1902, § 80, No. 1, 2 and 3.

“For treachery in wartime, they who with the intention of benefiting the enemy or damaging Norway’s military force or that of any state associated with Norway, seek to bring Norwegian or other allied troops or warriors into hostile violence, seek to bring fortification, occupied place or other defence post, mine-works, signalling station, harbour, warship, vessel, military shipyard or workshop, clothing store, warehouse or store of weapons and ammunition, war chest or other war requisites, railway, road, bridge, telegraph, telephone or similar means of conveyance or communication, or water pipe or dam into hostile violence or destroy or render them unusable, beguile Norwegian or other allied warriors into going over to the enemy or excite them to mutiny or other treachery,” . . . “ shall be punished.”

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“Likewise shall any person who assists in any of the above mentioned actions be punished.”

The common civil penal code of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1902 § 83 stipulates punishment for any person who unlawfully seeks to bring about or contributes to Norway or any part of the realm being brought under alien rule.

§ 98 of the penal code stipulates punishment for any person who seeks to bring about or contributes to the constitution of the realm being altered by unlawful means.

§ 233 of the penal code reads as follows:

“Any person who causes another’s death or contributes thereto, shall be punished for manslaughter by imprisonment for at least 6 years.

Should the guilty party have acted with premeditation or have caused the killing to facilitate or hide another felony or avoid being punished for such, they may be sentenced to life imprisonment. The same applies in recurrent cases and also where there are especially aggravating circumstances.”

§ 255 of the penal code stipulates punishment for any person who with the intention of procuring for themselves or others an unauthorised gain, unlawfully appropriates an item of property which wholly or partly belongs to another, or denies possession of or disposes of or consumes any item of property entrusted to them, or contributes thereto.

§ 257 of the penal code stipulates punishment for any person who without the possessor’s permission removes or assists in the removal of an item which wholly or partly belongs to another with the intention of procuring for themselves or others an unauthorised gain by its appropriation.

§ 275 of the penal code stipulates punishment for any person who with the intention of procuring for themselves or others an unauthorised gain or to damage or neglect another person’s affairs which are subject to their management or supervision or with regard to these, acts against that person’s good.

§ 317, cf. 318, stipulates punishment for any person who with the intention of procuring for themselves or others an unauthorised gain, receives to possess, pawn or use, hides, keeps, consumes or seeks to dispose of or pawn an item of which they knew or should have understood was defrauded by embezzlement, theft or robbery, or contributes thereto.

(The translated legal texts must be considered only approximations.)

The sentence imposed on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1945 was pronounced: death by shooting. In the accompanying statement he was blamed for matters which had not been mentioned in the prosecution or touched on during the trial, but for the court, the audience, the press and the public opinion it was as obvious as anything could be in a liberated country, summer 1945, that a quisling such as he, be found guilty on all counts – and more besides. Quisling himself protested his innocence and the defence council called for a verdict of not guilty.

### **Dødsstraff**

**The death sentence** – in peacetime was discontinued in 1902 but under the military penal code, the death sentence could be imposed and administered in wartime. In 1942, the government in London made two provisions giving extended access to the use of the death penalty, so that it could among other things, also be employed after the end of the war. Other provisions were introduced later, including one which allowed that foreign war criminals could be subject to the death penalty. In June 1945 parliament gave its approval - with 6 votes against.

### **Om dødsstraff**

#### **About the death penalty**

Royal resolution concerning execution of the death penalty of 27<sup>th</sup> July 1945

*Rules concerning the execution of the death sentence as imposed in civil cases*

1. Execution of the death sentence is to be held in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim or Tromsø, where special facilities will be arranged for this purpose. If the condemned party is not already, prior to sentencing by the court of assize, imprisoned at one of these towns, he shall be taken there as soon as possible thereafter.
2. Execution of the death sentence is to be conducted by the chief of police in that district to which the case belongs. The chief of police may charge another police official to replace him. In case of doubt, it will be for the attorney-general to decide who is to conduct the execution.
3. For the shooting, the chief of police shall order a police squad of 1 commander and 10 common officers to serve. The squad shall consist of experienced marksmen who are at least 25 years of age. If the chief of police does not have at his disposal a sufficient number of marksmen, he may apply to the chief of the "Rikspoliti" who will then select the squad.
4. Execution shall be performed as quickly as possible on the morning after the condemned party has been informed that the punishment is to be carried out. If the chief of police in question so decides, this information may be given through the prison chaplain.
5. At the time of enforcement, the condemned party is tied to a pole or wall and given a blindfold. The execution squad fire with rifles or carbines at a distance of 5 metres. The commander hands out the loaded weapons, two of which may contain blank cartridges. Should the condemned party show any sign of life after the firing, the commander administers a fatal shot.
6. The chief of police summonses 1 or 2 doctors to the execution, and may allow representatives of public authorities to be present. Likewise, the defence council and any pastor who may have prepared the condemned party for death may attend. The taking of photographs is not permitted. Those present are sworn to secrecy.
7. After the doctor responsible has concluded that death has occurred, the body shall be cremated without delay. If the condemned party's next of kin so desire, the ashes shall be given to them for disposal. The chief of police shall otherwise be responsible for the disposal. The disposal shall in any case be performed in safety.
8. As soon as possible after execution, the condemned party's next of kin shall be so informed. When confirmed that this information has been received, the department of

justice shall be informed, which will issue a short bulletin to the press stating that it has been ordered that the sentence be executed or in such case, that the reprieve has been rejected, and that the sentence has been carried out by shooting. Neither the condemned party's next of kin nor the press shall be informed of a reprieve having been rejected or that the order to execute the sentence has been given, prior to the execution having taken place.

9. Following each shooting, all traces shall be removed before the next condemned party is brought to the place.
10. The chief of police, or his deputy, shall keep a record of the proceedings. The record shall indicate the date, time and place, those who are present (members of the execution squad shall however, not be mentioned by name) and the doctors declaration. The record shall be co-signed by the doctor responsible. When the cremation has been carried out, an attestation of the fact shall be added to the report.