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GERMANS THREATEN "STATE OF SIEGE" IN BREST

As a result of the part taken by the French population in the fighting at St. Nazaire during the Commando raid, German authorities at Brest have issued a proclamation threatening the establishment of a state of siege in the whole district.

Following are extracts from the proclamation, which is prominently displayed throughout the region:

"According to my information, irresponsible elements - in the pay of Great Britain and sympathising with Russia - exist among the population.

"These elements could, when they think it opportune, take part in demonstrations or acts which might have disastrous consequences for the whole population.

"Should fresh information reveal an aggravation of this situation A STATE OF SIEGE AND MARTIAL LAW will be established in Brest and the environs to take effect immediately and without further notice.

"As soon as the state of siege is enforced, executive power will pass into the hands of the Commander of the fortress.

"The siren will be sounded three times at intervals of 30 seconds in order to inform the population that the state of siege has begun.

"As soon as the warning has been given, all civilians must immediately clear the streets, take shelter in the nearest house and close the windows. No circulation permit will remain valid. All civilians who disobey by remaining in the streets or porches, by showing themselves behind closed windows or by carrying arms, may be shot on the spot by patrols or condemned by Court Martial.

"From the beginning of the state of siege the use of the telephone, telegraph, railways and trams will be forbidden to civilians. All traffic will stop. Moreover, all shops, hotels, cafes, restaurants and schools will close.

"The state of siege will continue for an indefinite period and will be ended by special order only.

"....The population must understand that most drastic measures will be taken in the event of any hostile demonstration.

"Should the state of siege be necessitated, I would appeal to the consideration, thoughtfulness and common-sense of the people, and ask them to comport themselves with calm, understanding and discipline.

BREST

Le Kreiskommandant
(Signed): Goehring (Major)"

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