

MR. EDEN'S BROADCAST TO NORWAY

The following is the text of a broadcast by Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, to be given in the Norwegian News Bulletin at 7.30 this evening:-

Two years ago Hitler, the enemy of all free men, attacked Norway.

He did so not on account of any act Norway had committed, but because a free Norway stood in his path to world conquest.

Knowing that he could never bend Norway to his will, he set out to enslave her. But he has failed.

Norway, to her eternal glory, fights on with all the weapons at her command. Though Hitler forcibly occupies Norwegian soil, Norwegian power to fight Hitler grows every month.

In May 1940 two destroyers, a single submarine and a few smaller vessels were all that remained of the Norwegian navy.

Today, 60 warships proudly fly the Norwegian naval ensign.

The Norwegian navy is at work day and night, escorting mine-sweeping, submarine hunting, playing a brave and constant part against the warships of the enemy.

All men who know the sea and think of Norway think at once of her mercantile marine.

The Norwegian merchant fleets have been famous down the ages.

At no time in their long proud history have they played a more glorious part than in this present struggle.

500 ships of the Norwegian merchant fleet, totalling over 3½ million tons of shipping ply day and night in fair weather and in foul in their country's cause, which is the cause of free men everywhere.

Many Norwegian seamen have won decorations for gallantry, all have earned them.

Norwegian land and air forces have not so far had a chance of playing as conspicuous a role as their seamen brothers, but their day will come.

And we who have learned to know them and respect them as friends and comrades have no doubt how they will acquit themselves.

They will rival their seamen brothers.

And I can give no greater praise than this.

And you who remain in Norway, your lot is perhaps the hardest of all.

We know how you suffer.

We know the daily tyranny that is your lot.

We know with what passionate fervour you long for the day of freedom that will dawn.

To you, each one of you, I send in the name of all my countrymen a tribute of respect and admiration.

You know only too well from your own experience at first hand that this is a war against slavery, brutality, paganism.

A war against the powers of darkness and against evil things.

You know what is meant by Nazi ideology and the so-called New Order; enslavement of the body and the mind.

You have learned from your own sufferings how to value what President Roosevelt once called the four freedoms: freedom of speech and expression, freedom to worship God, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

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And now you have to fight for these freedoms with no weapons but your own strength of mind and faith.

We know that with a knowledge born of your bitter experience you will continue the fight with such means as are open to you against Hitler and those few men from your own country who betray their birthright to act as his gaolers.

Hitler and his men are hated all over Europe from the north of Norway to southern Greece.

A Europe of Hitler and Quisling will not endure.

The nightmare will pass away.

You and countless others in occupied countries are waiting for the hour of deliverance.

The struggle may still be long; it will certainly be hard; but that hour will strike.

German military power will be destroyed and freedom will rule in Europe once again.

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FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT