

0. GERMANY INVADES NORWAY - Story Preface

1. GERMANY INVADES NORWAY

2. THE FALL of NORWAY

3. NORWAY'S RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

4. TEACHERS RESIST NAZIFYING NORWAY

5. TEENAGERS RESIST NAZIS in NORWAY

6. ERLING HAS a CLOSE CALL

7. ESCAPE to SWEDEN

8. NORWAY at the END of WWII



This picture, taken during the summer of 1941 and online via the National Archives of Norway, depicts an SS sign in Norway. *Germanske Norge* means "Germanic Norway." Hitler's plan for Norway, however, was inconsistent with the Norwegians' own desires for their country.

Later, on the 8th of April 1940, word of the *Rio de Janeiro's* sinking reaches the newspaper office in the town of Lillehammer (today, as then, a popular skiing destination).

Outside the newspaper office, someone on the news staff posts a handwritten note about the sinking. And ... there is more to report. German ships have been seen moving in the waters around Denmark.

It is worrisome news to the locals.

Erling Storrusten—a boy scout and high-schooler in Lillehammer on whom the character of Espen, in *Shadow on the Mountain*, is based—and his friends learn the news. They agree on its meaning:

The Germans will be here tomorrow.

The boys in Lillehammer are right about Germany's intentions.

On the morning of April 9, 1940, Hitler's troops begin their sweep through Norway—a neutral country—with a single objective in mind. Their leader, Adolf Hitler, plans to turn Norway into a Third-Reich-affiliated nation.



Erling Storrusten's father works for the Norwegian railway. Erling awakens his parents with the awful news, and the senior Storrusten realizes events will soon take place at the Lillehammer station.

Although sixteen-year-old Erling and Inger (his sister, called "Ingrid" in [Margi Preus' novel](#)) go to school, they arrive to find it closed. It will remain closed the rest of that spring.

The country is in chaos and, in [his later-written narrative](#), Erling says:

...reasoned writing [about the invasion and Norway's lack of preparation for it] *is impossible ... April 9th 1940 is the bitterest day in my life.*

On the 10th of April, Erling and his fellow scouts meet at Lillehammer's rail station. By this time they know the invaders have captured several Norwegian cities: Kristiansand, Egersund, Stavanger, Bergen, [Trondheim](#) and [Narvik](#). What they do not yet know is the fate of Oslo, their capital.



By the end of the day, they—and everyone else in the country—hear about a different national disaster.

A Nazi-supporting politician, named Vidkun Quisling, has seized power in a Nazi-backed coup d'état. The impossible-to-understand takes place when Quisling tells all Norwegians, including troops on the ground and sailors on the sea, not to resist the German invasion.

Ever since, the word “Quisling,” in Norway, has the same meaning as “Benedict Arnold,” in America. Put simply, a “Quisling” is a traitor.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/GERMANY-INVADES-NORWAY-Shadow-on-the-Mountain>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/GERMANY-INVADES-NORWAY-Shadow-on-the-Mountain>

Media Stream

German Heavy Cruisers with German Soldiers Arrive in Norway

As Germany begins its invasion/occupation of Norway, Hitler's troops reach the Norwegian coast.

Here we see a German heavy cruiser, the "Admiral Hipper," delivering its crew to a Norwegian port city, most likely Trondheim. German soldiers are ferried to shore by means of shuttle boats.



The photo, which was taken by Eitel Lange and is maintained by the German Federal Archives, has this description (translated into English):

The heavy cruiser "Admiral Hipper" in the occupation of Norway, probably with the unloading of troops in Trondheim.

The ship is, by no means, the heavy cruiser "Lützow," as set forth in the original description, because it was still unfinished [at this time], then sold to the Soviet Union. The battleship "Lützow" also differs in type-of-ship and, because the "Blücher" [another troop transport vessel] was sunk before Oslo, and "Prince Eugen" was not-yet in use, only the "Admiral Hipper" remains [as the likely vessel in this picture].

Many more German soldiers would ultimately arrive in Norway between April of 1940 and the end of the war.

Image, described above, maintained at the German Federal Archives. Credit: Bundesarchiv [federal archives], Bild [picture] 101I-757-0037N-26A / Lange, Eitel / [CC-BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

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1940 Fall of Norwegian Cities

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German Soldiers in Norway on April 9-10, 1940

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Germans Invading Norway, April 9-10, 1940

On the 9th and 10th of April, 1940, German troops push through Norway as they begin their invasion of a declared-neutral country.

In these World War II images we see:

- At the top - "German infantry taking up positions on a lakeside road"
- At the bottom - German "tanks being ferried across a fjord."

Both pictures are from *Pictorial History of the Second World War, A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF ALL THEATERS OF ACTION CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED*, Volume I, published (in New York, during 1944) by Wm. H. Wise and Co., Inc., at page 73.

Images, described above, online via Gutenberg.net Australia

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