

THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF NORWAY

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(Auszüge aus den Seiten 109-111)

3. *Disarming and the release of soldiers.*—The Germans wasted little time in releasing the Norwegian soldiers as soon as they surrendered and had been disarmed. This was especially true of the soldiers who had been hurriedly mobilized at the outbreak of the war. The regular officers were detained until about June 1, and the few professional soldiers at various captured forts were held later than the others. By May 10, nearly all of the soldiers from Trondheim south had been released.

5. *Rebuilding the ravages of war.*—The Germans immediately set to work to rebuild railroads, roads, telephone lines and all other military objectives destroyed by the war. They were especially adept at rebuilding broken bridges. Norwegian labor, under German supervision, was used. The Germans paid better wages than had ever been paid in Norway before for common labor. However, they also printed the money they used in making these payments.

6. *German treatment of civilians.*—The German military were extremely considerate of the Norwegian civilian population after the locality had been occupied. In many bombings of cities, it is believed they deliberately warned the populace to get out so that comparatively few civilians were killed. Due to very strict discipline, the soldiers or sailors never bothered the civilians.

NOTE.—The N. A. Oslo, in his travels over the most populated parts of Norway, never heard a complaint from any Norwegian civilian on the treatment they had received from the German military. They were all very apprehensive about the German Secret Police. The Norwegians, while accepting the occupation as a necessary evil, were gradually coming to ignore the Germans as far as humanly possible. Girls, who had been seen talking to Germans, were promptly shorn of their hair. This attitude on the part of the Norwegians is keenly felt by the Germans but suffered in silence. Eventually, with the growing importance of the Gestapo, this may lead to trouble for the Norwegians.

1. *Discipline.*—The discipline of the German armed forces in Norway can only be described by the word "magnificent." This applied to everyone, from the highest officer to the lowest enlisted man, and to all of the forces, Air, Army, and Navy. Due to this extraordinary discipline, there was no looting, no excesses of any kind, and no damage, outside of military operations, inflicted on any of the civilians or their property. There was no drunkenness, no rowdiness of any kind, and no disturbances between soldiers, sailors, or civilians.

The men, especially, showed the results of their fine discipline. They were especially smart in all manual of arms, in their military bearing, in their style of marching, in the manner of their salute, in the cleanliness of their person and uniform, and especially in the manner of performing their duty. Whether watched by an officer or not, they would execute their orders with a snap and efficiency as though they were making a personal appearance before Hitler himself. This was evident at all times, whether off duty, on outpost, as orderly, or on the field of battle.