

# The World Observer

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## FASCIST GOVERNMENT IN NORWAY

### Vidkun Quisling new Prime Minister

Oslo. The Norwegian people elected a new government this month. The national socialist party under Vidkun Quisling (see picture) scored 32.8% of votes and form a new coalition with the Pan-Scandinavian party, scoring 20.1%. A tremendous landslide washed down the votes of the socialist and conservative parties. The socialists dropped to 19.9% from 26% three years ago, and the conservatives 24% from 38% in 1938.

### State of shock

Western observers noted with a glance of shock the electoral behaviour of the small Northern European country that is known for its beautiful Fjords and polar nights. Not surprisingly, the plans of the Union government with the Norwegian merchant marine failed to materialize. Shipping companies fled the country and set up headquarters with their foreign branches, mainly in the United States and Panama. Said Jörger Thörnsköll from the White Bergen Line, "Our company simply cannot afford the extra tax. Since the beginning of hostilities in Europe our revenues were cut in half, and operating profit dropped from 12 million to a net operating minus of 3 million annually. We cannot explain to our international stock holders that they pay another 5 million each year in special taxes".

### King Haakon resigns

The popular Norwegian monarch Haakon VII resigned last Friday. He took a stance for the conservative party, which maintains a strong royalist faction in the parliament. Haakon was criticized for overtly supporting a political party competing for

the Nasjonal Samling. The crowning ceremony for the heir to the throne, Haakon VIII, is scheduled for February.

Pictures (left to right): New P.M. Quisling, King Haakon VII, ex- P.M. Johan Nygaardsvold

## YUGOSLAVIA DECLARES NATIONAL EMERGENCY

**Levee en masse, all men ages 16 and up mobilize** Serbian generalissimo Dusan Simovic, leader of the new national government under king Peter II declared a national effort of all Serbian provinces. Other Yugoslavian provinces are likewise bullied into service. After a nationwide law for a levee en masse failed in November, Serbian politicians decided on a Serbian emergency plan while at the same time working out means to enforce the same measures in the remaining non-Serbian provinces of Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia, Herzegovina and the remnants of Croatia. According to official Yugoslavian reports, Serbian militia and regulars successfully stopped an Italian advance south of Belgrade, preventing an encirclement of the nation's capital.

## Mussolini Visits Egypt

Il Duce this month gave promotions to all the soldiers who proved themselves competent under fire and helped rally Italian troops in their attack across the Suez. Mussolini called them "heroes of the entire Mediterranean world".

While he make his inspections, speeches, met with officers and common soldiers, his troops went out on an assault across the Suez Canal. The battle became known amongst British as well as Italian soldiers the 'Hell of Suez'. Italy opened the assault with an artillery barrage from almost 1000 guns. The British defenders countered out of approximately 500 barrels. The Italians lost over 25,000 soldiers in the forced crossing of the canal. British casualties are uncertain at the moment, but many soldiers were suffering from severe ear damage, shell shock and hysteria.



From the intense shelling and gusting winter winds the area was engulfed in smoke, dust and desert sand. Fighting between soldiers occurred mainly in close quarters, with artillery playing the major role in the operation. The Italians could not manage to take the British battery positions that kept on shelling the narrow canal region. With support from British ships in the Red Sea, all attempts made by the Legions of Rome to erect a war bridge were thwarted.



**Libyan-Italian troops before the assault**

Despite having successfully taken the eastern bank of the Suez Canal, General Badoglio broke off combat after facing insurmountable difficulties. Later, Mussolini also visited an Egyptian orphanage to taste the fruits his war has born.

## **FIGHT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Several encounters between Franco-British and Hispano-Italian forces were reported in the Mediterranean Sea in January. The Free French Navy claims to have destroyed the Spanish battlecruisers Méndez Núñez and Blas de Lezo. It was the baptism of fire for the modern French battleship *Richelieu* that anchored in Algiers since the retreat of French forces from mainland France. Mussolini's bombers attacked the British airfields at Malta. British submarines engaged an Italian tanker line running from Sicily to the continent. The Royal Navy claims to have sunk two tankers of 20,000 grt, Italy claims to have sunk 20 submarines by aircraft.

## **PERÓN RISES TO POWER**

Juan Perón, Argentinian ex-vice president and member of the leading military junta was appointed

new president of Argentina after the official resigning of president Edelmiro Farrell. It was rumored that already since November, Perón ruled the country as a matter of fact, Farrell playing a mere figurehead.

Born in Lobos, which means Wolves, Buenos Aires Province, on October 08th, 1895, he was the son of a wealthy rancher. Perón was educated at the Colegio Militar from 1911 to 1913 and at the Escuela Superior de Guerra from 1926 to 1929. In 1930 he took part in a military uprising against President Hipólito Irigoyen and served as private secretary of the minister of war from 1930 to 1935. He later taught at the Escuela Superior de Guerra, with the rank of Colonel he spent a year in Chile as military attaché, published five books on military history, and traveled to Mussolini's Fascist Italy to study alpine military methods and tactics. While there, he also studied Fascism and began to wonder if something like that could work in his country.



**Perón after his instatement as president**

Upon his return to Argentina in 1939, Perón joined other officers in a secret military group that staged a coup d'état in June 1939 against the government of Ramón Castillo. He took over the department of labor and proceeded to transform the labor movement by weakening the influence of left-wing parties on it, enacting new laws and implementing old ones, and creating new syndicates to replace the unions. Perón was made vice president and minister of war in 1940. As his power grew, opposition within the armed forces became widespread. On October 9, 1940, he was forced to resign from his three posts and was imprisoned. Perón's resignation triggered a government crisis that was resolved on October 17, when his labor supporters obtained his release. Four days later, Perón, a widower, married Mariá Eva Duarte, also known as Evita.