

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

106936
F0371124834 148

1940	N	34466 APR 1940
	NORWAY	

Registry } 5117/4066/30
Movements of His Majesty's Minister in Norway since the German invasion.
Transmits a record of his movements and experiences during the eleven or twelve days since the German occupation of Oslo.

Registry Number } 5117/4066/30
FROM Sir C. Dormer (in Norway)
No.
Dated 21st Apr., 1940.
Received in Registry } 27th Apr., 1940.
N : Norway.
Movements of His Majesty's Minister in Norway since the German invasion.
Transmits a record of his movements and experiences during the eleven or twelve days since the German occupation of Oslo.
These experiences are to some extent the experiences also of the King of Norway and of the Norwegian Government.
Colonel King-Salter, Military Attaché, is forwarding direct to the War Office reports on the Norwegian Army.

Last Paper. (Minutes.)
N 5090

References.
Copies should I think be typed at once and sent to Service Dept. and W.C.O., and a copy sent to Dept. for printing.

PRINTED
A Summary R.B. 5

(How disposed of)
P.S. W.S.
M.H.
W.S.O.
May 4

17/1/1940
April 29/40
E.O. 10/40
35/40
L. Collier
April 30th
Submit in type a print
B. Barrett
M.H.

(Action completed.)
5/4
(Index.)
P.S.

Registry 5117/4066/30

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APRIL 1940

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PRINTED

A Scandinavian R.S.

(How disposed of.)

As. W. M. M. W. W. W. May 4

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

N 5150

(Minutes.)

Conclude with the scene in

Copies should be typed at once and sent to Service Dept. and W.C.D., and a copy sent to Dept. for printing.

News Dept. 12/11/13/15

17/1/1940
April 1940

E.O. 1940
3510

L. Collier
April 30th

Submit in type a print
Robert
May

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

F0371124834

14815

O	N	11 150
	1940	81 29 APR 1940

Registry No. 5150/4066/30 Report on the exodus of the Staff at His Majesty's Legation from Oslo.

<p>Registry Number } N 5150/4066/30</p> <p>FROM <u>Mr. R. Kenney Norway</u> to <u>Mr. Collier</u></p> <p>No.</p> <p>Dated 22nd April 1940</p> <p>Received in Registry } 29th April 1940</p> <p>N : Norway</p>	<p><u>Report on the exodus of the Staff at His Majesty's Legation from Oslo.</u></p> <p>Transmits memorandum giving details of the journey made from Oslo to Aandalsnes by a number of the staff who had been left behind owing to the lack of transport. Asks for help as he has only one assistant. Local telephonic communication is completely cut off, though communications with the P.C.O. are working.</p>
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Last Paper.
A # 5117

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of)
 Mr. Collier's copy to Mr. Wiskemann (by Mr. Kenney) May 3
 from Mr. Collier May 2

(Minutes.)
 ? Copy with Mr. Collier's comps. to Mr. Wiskemann, Mgr. of Inf.
 Mr. Wiskemann informed Mr. Kenney the other day by telegraph that his father was well and at Aandalsnes. Draft to Mrs. Kenney submitted.

JMA done April 30th
 Sir R. Vansittart (a.a. let E.O. Coote. 3/14
 Mgr. of letter.

See within further copies of the memorandum, supplied by Mr. Kenney. See within Mr. Kenney's note enclosing copies of further reports.
 There are astonishing revelations.

(Action completed.)	(Index.)
	W.

News Dept. 13/5
 I agree.
 JMA done May 9th
 E.O. Coote 10/5

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N # 5117

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(Action completed.)

(Index.)

News Dept 12/5

JMA doris May 9th

I agree.

The three documents from Flag A onwards reveal an alarming

Next Paper.

N 5152

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

W0106/1856

1481

Spillum
25248 40.

323

Dear General,

Fleming will deliver this to you and can answer all questions as to happenings and conditions here. As you will have gathered from my reports, the air situation has been our great difficulty - with nothing to oppose their air force the hun has flattened and burnt out Namsos completely and a few hours of bombardment made it look like Ypres after some months of shelling.

As to the German attack, it was poor, but good enough to scatter the young Territorials. The guns from the destroyers started them off and as soon as they were off the road, they fell into deep snow and the ski troops attacked and had them cold: but as far as I can ascertain their casualties are not heavy - their morale however is very shaken. I am putting the two battalions who suffered, in the back area where there is a lot of fatigue work to be done. I am leaving the other British Battalion in front and have the French behind them.

The latter are fine troops, but Audet a rabbit if enemy planes are about: however I get on very well with him, I am happy to say. I did not try and push him on too soon, much as I wanted to, as I felt it might have bad results. He is now feeding out of my hand, whatever he may be saying behind my back.

The Norwegians are absolutely hopeless, they promise anything you like but there the matter ends: however if we gain supremacy in the air, they are certain to improve. There are no Germans near us at present and patrols sent out well to the front have failed to connect. I am withdrawing my advance Battalion as it is very much in the air: I must say I am doing it reluctantly but I think it is sounder as you wish us to remain on the defensive for the present.

As to Mosjen, with the very limited Staff I have at present, I cannot have it reconnoitred. Could not the Navy do this for us? and if suitable it would be useful as a reserve base. It is however 254 Kilometres from here by road and there is no other communication.

With the burning of Namsos, I have lost a lot of stores and French looters have been very active, but I have enough to carry on with for a short time. Fleming has a list of points like these, which I need not trouble you about.

I am glad you have told me to hang on, for although the situation was very bad and I had to face the possibility of evacuation it would have been a disastrous step to take. What made it worse at that moment was that the French were very shy of going forward but now they are quite keen. They have found a lot of skis and put a number of sections on them which will be a great help: their own were sent without straps.

Phillips has been perfectly excellent. Very calm when things were going badly, but ready to have a go at any time. He is very unhappy at having to retire now.

If he is not on your list for a division, I humbly suggest you put him on it and whoever gets him will be very lucky.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

W0106/1856

148

Breathing space for troops is one of my great difficulties and Fleming can give you details.

Now that I am strong on the main road Namsos - Steinkjer I am prepared to extend further towards Grong and to work down that railway. The French are receiving more troops. They do not know how many but their latest wires indicate a strong force. I feel we should shortly have more British Troops but that of course depends on your plans. If I can be assured of not being attacked from the Fjord south of Steinkjer when I advance there, I have a sufficient force and in that case I could wait till I get to Trondheim.

The officers you are sending tomorrow will be able to tell you of any points I have omitted,

Yours very sincerely

A. C. C. C.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:-

Cab 21/1305

14928

54

Director of Plans,
Air Ministry.

The French are anxious to know whether they are likely to be called upon to provide any air co-operation or support for their contingent in Norway within the next six weeks or so and if so what size their contribution would be likely to be. They state that it will take them at least four weeks to prepare a force and therefore would like to know in plenty of time if anything will be required of them.

I have told them that we are now in the process of organising a R.A.F. contingent which will go as soon as aerodrome and maintenance arrangements can be made in Norway and that they are unlikely to be called upon for any assistance in the near future.

I should like, however, to have an official statement to hand over to them as otherwise I think we shall be continually badgered by them on this subject.

One
 [Signature]
 Air Ministry (14/4/40)
 Air Ministry (14/4/40)

Gwydyr House, S.W.1.

23rd April, 1940.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

CAB 21/1305

14928

COPY.

55A

MOST SECRET.B.M.R. (Air)

1. It is obviously essential to afford fighter protection for our forces in NORWAY as soon as the necessary aerodromes can be acquired. We have reconnaissance parties now in NORWAY, and one squadron of Gladiators is embarked in a carrier ready to be flown off as soon as an aerodrome can be found. A servicing unit, with petrol and ammunition, has just been landed.

2. We are putting two Hurricane squadrons on a mobile basis, to be ready to go the moment an aerodrome of sufficient size can be found and prepared.

In the event of these squadrons going to NORWAY, we shall be unable to send all four Hurricane squadrons now earmarked to FRANCE in the immediate future, should an emergency arise there.

3. The limit to the number of fighter squadrons that can be sent is the scarcity of aerodromes, the fact that the ice will soon melt, and the bad surface conditions resulting from the thaw.

Nevertheless the Air Staff consider it would be prudent for the FRENCH to put a force of fighters on a mobile basis as soon as possible in case it should prove easier than it now appears to find adequate aerodromes. The Air Staff would be glad to know what sort of force the FRENCH have in mind.

23.4.1940.

D. of Plans.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

CAB 21/1305

14928

54

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Air Ministry.

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C. G.
Chief of Staff (Air)
Air Ministry Committee.

Gwydyr House, S.W.1.

23rd April, 1940.

D.C.A.S. (Copy to D. of Plans)

~~General~~^{Admiral} Odend'hal seemed rather worried to-day about the question of getting despatches and urgent stores and material to General Audet in Norway. He asked General Marshall-Cornwall and myself whether de Brantes could be informed whenever there was an aeroplane or flying boat proceeding from this country to Namsos or Aandalsnes which could convey any despatches the French might have for transmission to their headquarters in Norway. They felt that the present system of using W.T. might possibly become overworked and at the best, would only be able to cope with operational or reasonably short messages.

I suggested that if they wished to maintain a regular despatch service to their headquarters in Norway, they might utilise the two long range flying boats which they were prepared to offer for employment in a certain operation in the Gulf of Bothnia. They stated, however, that these boats had not sufficient speed to enable them to carry out such a service with reasonable security. They suggested instead that it might be possible to use the "C" class flying boats for this communication service between this country and Norway for urgent despatches or urgent stores.

I held out no hope of this latter course being possible but they seemed anxious that I should raise this question with the Air Ministry.

22nd April, 1940.

Reference:-

CAB 21/1305

74928

1	2	3	4	5	6

SECRET

501.

20th April, 1941.

Thank you very much indeed for sending the photographs of various places in Norway. These have proved very interesting and instructive and I shall be grateful if you will continue to send me as soon as possible after having them run our copies of anything which may be of interest to ourselves and the French, particularly the following:

- (i) the landing places of our troops and French troops in Norway;
- (ii) any photographs showing actual positions taken up by our troops;
- (iii) action taken by our aircraft or ships against enemy aircraft or ships on the water;
- (iv) enemy concentrations and attacks thereon;

and any other subject which may come in which you think may be of interest to us.

Would you like me to return the copies you send me when they have been finished with here or shall I retain them? Some of the most interesting, particularly those dealing with the actual operations, I shall probably copy in any way as a permanent reference.

(Signed) C. E. H. Medhurst.

Approved Leader both.