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This might interest you.  
if you have not seen it  
already.  
Pete

Along with the simultaneous invasion of Denmark on 9 April 1940, Norway was the first western European country to be overrun by the Nazis. It also had the distinction of producing the most notorious, although certainly not the most successful, of all collaborators - Vidkun Quisling, whose name added a new word to the English language.

Unlike other occupied countries, Norway had only one collaborating political party of any importance. This was the National Unity (*Nasjonal Samling* or *N.S.*) movement which Quisling founded in May 1933. Had it not been for an enemy occupation of Norway, this small party which never, before the war, won a seat on a local council much less in Parliament, would have been devoid of significance. Quisling, himself, it is true had enjoyed some slight personal distinction. A soldier by profession, he had worked successfully with the celebrated Norwegian explorer, Nansen, on famine relief in Russia in the early 1920's, acting at the same time as Norway's diplomatic representative in that country. In recognition of his achievements he was rewarded on his return to his native land with the post of Minister of Defense. Quisling, however, made a poor showing in office (1931-32) and was thereafter dropped by the Agrarian Party which had acted as his political sponsor.

In January 1933 Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and it is hardly a coincidence that in May of that year Quisling launched his *Nasjonal Samling* movement. Although N.S. never applied the term "National-Socialist" to itself, and there was indeed a short-lived Norwegian Nazi Party (the *Norges Nasjonal-Socialistiske Arbeiderparti* - it existed only from January to October 1934), there is not the slightest doubt that it was modeled almost exactly on Hitler's N.S.D.A.P. The N.S. emblem was the so-called "sun cross" of Saint Olaf (Patron Saint of Norway). This is a yellow cross on a red background. Although the swastika was never used as an N.S. symbol, it has to be recalled that the "sun cross" is another name for the swastika. The N.S. sun cross was held in the talons of an open-winged eagle thereby making the over-all appearance of the badge unmistakably similar to the well-known eagle and swastika emblem of Hitler's party. Other parallels between N.S. and Nazi



Quisling in Berlin shortly after being named Minister-president by Hitler.

Quisling attempted to assume power immediately after the German invasion (contrary to popular belief at the time, N.S. did not in any way assist the invaders), but was ordered to step down one week later by Hitler. It was not until 1 February 1942 that Hitler appointed Quisling "Minister President" of Norway - the only "quisling" ever to achieve such high office in a German-occupied country. He was not, needless to say, entrusted with exclusive power; the real ruler of Norway was *Reichskommissar* Terboven who disliked Quisling intensely (the sentiment was mutual!), but he was, at least in theory, chief civil executive of the nation - which gives the awards created by him during this period a certain "official" status unlike those of any other occupied country, except Vichy France.

The wearing of political uniforms had been banned in Norway since 1935, but after the invasion N.S. broke out into a riot of uniforms especially after Quisling's elevation to power in February, 1942. The N.S. Corps of Political Leaders adopted a grey-green uniform not unlike, in color, the so-called "field-grey" of the German army. The uniform consisted of tunic, trousers (sometimes breeches), brown shirt, black tie and peaked cap. In both collar of the tunic, black collar patches were worn on which in gold thread was traditional Norse ornamentation (at the base) combined with