

Appeal by Wife Of Quisling Fails, Traitor Executed

Oslo, Oct. 24 (AP).—Vidkun Quisling, his wife's appeal rejected by the King, stumbled through murky rain to a traitor's death before a firing squad early today in dismal Execution Square of ancient, foreboding Akershus Fortress.

Ten crack riflemen of the Norwegian military police—youths once forced to flee from the Quisling regime and German occupation of Norway—snuffed out the life of the chunky, pallid, 58-year-old puppet Premier at 2:40 a.m. (8:40 p.m., E.S.T., Tuesday).

The death of the most hated man in Norway followed by nine days the execution of France's convicted arch-traitor—Pierre Laval.

Only hours earlier King Haakon had spurned an appeal from Quisling's wife for a reprieve. Quisling to the last protested he was innocent.

Only three other persons besides the execution squad witnessed the death of the man whose name had become a synonym for traitor—a clergyman, a prosecutor and the officer who commanded "Fire!"

There was no advance notice that the judgment of the country's highest court was to be carried out. Not even Quisling's family knew. They were told at 9 a.m. that he was dead.

A stiffly phrased communique shortly before noon sketched the events immediately preceding the execution:

"Quisling sent a letter to the King declaring that he had been sentenced, though innocent, but he did not ask the King for a reprieve.

"This request was made by Mrs. Quisling on behalf of her husband. In council yesterday the King decided that Quisling was not to be reprieved and that judgment was to be executed. It was executed through shooting at 2:40 a.m. today. Relatives were informed at 9:00 a.m. this morning."

Declared Sane

It was not known whether the puppet leader made any last-minute statement. During his three-week trial he hysterically called himself "the savior of Scandinavia," the "martyr of Norway" and in his final plea called himself "Quisling, the patriot."

Experts found him sane. A Foreign Affairs spokesman intimated, after the execution, that his brain would be removed for study. The body, presumably, will be turned over to relatives for burial in his native Province of Telemark.

King Haakon's Government in London sentenced Quisling to death in absentia in October, 1942. He was not arrested until the German Armies collapsed in all Europe.

Last May 9 a bullet-proof limousine drove up to the Oslo police station and Quisling and six associates surrendered.

At his trial opening in August, Quisling insisted he had acted for the good of Norway. The prosecution charged he had conferred with Hitler months before Norway was invaded and urged such action, that he handed defense data to the Germans and had urged Norwegian troops not to resist after the Germans landed in Norway.

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