

WHAT OUR READERS SAY



The crew of the Six-Metre "Buri," which raced on Long Island Sound in 1927. Tit Ditlev Simonsen, now under arrest in Norway, was her helmsman then.

Norwegian Yachtsmen Arrested as Hostages

► Latest reports from Norway disclose that at least thirty-nine friends of the Royal Family, including a number of yachtsmen well known to Americans, have been arrested during the reprisals taken after the Norwegian-English raids on the Norwegian West Coast. They are being held as hostages.

As is well known in the United States, both King Haakon and Crown Prince Olav are keenly interested in yachting and the Crown Prince is a helmsman who has won many victories in regattas. As a member of the crew in his own boat, he won the Gold Medal in the Olympics in Amsterdam in 1928. When he took over the helm himself, he scored maximum points in several international regattas with his Six-Metres *Norna I* to *V*, *Noreg* and *Oslo*. Four of these boats have sailed in cup races in the U. S. A. *Oslo* in 1925, *Noreg* in 1927, *Norna IV* in 1935, and *Norna VI* in 1938, the year of the last International Six-Metre match. The latter also represented Norway in the contest for the Seawanhaka Cup in Scotland, in 1938.

It was to be expected, therefore, that several yachtsmen are among those who have been arrested as friends of the Royal Family. The list includes four commodores of the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club (K.N.S.). They are Halvdan Hansen (1925-29), Ingar Dobloug (1931-33), Ole Jacob Smitt-Housken (1937-1941) and Eugen Lunde, the present commodore.

In addition to these, some of the best helmsmen Norway has produced have been arrested. Among them are Thorleiv S. Corneliussen, a representative for American firms in the automobile branch and the man who taught the Crown Prince how to sail, and Tit Ditlev Simonsen, who raced in Long Island Sound in 1927 as one of the crew in the Norwegian challenger which lost the series for the Gold Cup but later won the Seawanhaka Cup. He was the helmsman in *Buri*, which sailed for the same cups in 1927 but lost both matches — one to Paul W. Shields' *Rebel*, the other to Bruce Cunningham's *Lulu*. His brother, Halvdan Ditlev Simonsen, has been arrested too. He has represented the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club in several international regattas and won several cups for his country.

Other yachtsmen taken into custody are Odd Wang and Haakon Bjørn, both members of the amateur crew in the boats of the Crown Prince and among his best friends for years.

The persons arrested represent, in their private interests, several branches of Norwegian business life and the fact that they have been arrested means that all classes of the Norwegian people stubbornly are opposing the so-called "new order." They are well-known business men and shipowners, members of organizations for industry, commerce, handicraft, etc., and all such organizations have declined to have anything to do with the Germans or the Norwegian Nazis.

As for yachting in Norway since the Germans arrived, the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club has not arranged one regatta. All the clubs have

the previous night, rumors had been rife of what the Germans were going to do; when the officer arrived, the harbor was practically empty. Those who had not been able to remove their boats, ran them ashore on cliffs, took them ashore and injured them, or tried in other ways to keep them outside German reach.

Among the other friends of the Royal Family arrested is Mr. Odd Nansen. He is the son of the famous Norwegian explorer who devoted his talents to the League of Nations and saved millions of lives moving people to their homes after World War I. He instituted the so-called Nansen Passport which is still considered valid for immigration to the United States. His son, now arrested, was a friend of all mankind. He was the leader of the Norwegian branch of the Finnish Relief during the war in Finland and went to the United States in those days to get hold of supplies for Finland. When the war reached Norway he was made one of the leaders of the relief work there. He is an architect and during a three-year stay in New York some years ago studied American airfields.

The fate of those arrested is not known to Norwegian officials in this country.