

Invasion Iceland

April 1940, German warships entered Norwegian sea ports. This began the invasion of the Danish territories, the Fall of Norway. Once the Nazi occupation of the region was completed, Hitler wanted to take Iceland as a strategic part of their North Atlantic supply route.

The Icelanders wanted to stay neutral, they had no official defense. Iceland officials stayed in contact with Norwegian officials. It was clear that Iceland would not get involved in the war. Germany had other ideas.

Birger Liungberg, Norwegian military officer from 1939 to 1942, had come across a Nazi dispatch that outlined the invasion of Iceland. Birger wanted to warn the Icelandic government. He asked his special courier to deliver a message to the Icelanders. Stig Larsen of Denmark was that courier. Stig was 32 years old. This was his first big assignment. He had been working with the underground against the Nazis. Stig was helping people get out of Norway when Liungberg asked him to volunteer to take the message to Iceland.

Stig Larsen started working for Liungberg in 1939. By 1940 he joined the underground. As a Stavrosian, Stig had some experience in staying out of sight. He made his way to a British-held area in the south. He found an officer, Joseph Abbott. Stig explained his mission. Abbott introduced Stig to Shelly Backus, a Canadian officer. Stig used their official contacts to get sea passage to Iceland.

Joseph came as an escort to assist Stig in contacting the British government. Shelley came to represent the Canadians. Stig delivered the message to Icelandic government officials. The British and Canadians went into action. On May 10, 1940, British troops invaded Iceland. The city of Reykjavik was taken on that first morning. Joseph Abbott used a team of British troops to arrest German citizens. Shelley Backus helped coordinate a British and Canadian Naval blockade.

This strike was code named " Operation Fork". The British took control of all exports using the blockade. The strike was done so the Germans could not take Iceland. Stig Larsen was honored for his work by the British. Stig left Reykjavik when the United States took over the occupation on July 7, 1941.

Stig Larsen returned to Norway, July 10, 1941 only to find Birger Liunberg was no longer in office. The Germans arrested Stig and on the morning of July 21, 1941, Stig was executed.

The Larsen family survived the war and now live in London. He is honored at each First Life celebration by his grand and great grandchildren. Stig Larsen is just one of many Stavrosians that helped the Allied forces to stop the Nazis in World War II

[WWII]. Stig's actions saved many lives of the Icelandic people. He will never be given the thanks he earned, but that's the way of Stavros.

He won't be in history books. There will not be a plaque on a wall. His work will go unnoticed.

“The good a man has done is more important than the man.”
.....An old Stavrosian proverb.

S.G.L. Researcher
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