

C.L.N.A. BULLETIN

CAMP LITTLE NORWAY ASSOCIATION, INC.

4833 Thirteenth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn.

Vol. III

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No. 1

GLIMPSES OF A NORWEGIAN FLYER IN ACTION

For the first time since the war started in Norway young Lieut. Helner Grundt-Spang is out of trouble. Now on leave from air operations in England, he is instructing other Norwegian flyers at their Muskota Camp and trying to get acquainted with his Canadian wife whom he married a week before he left two years ago.

The slender, blond Norseman wears the D.F.C., the Norwegian War Cross and the Norwegian St. Olav's Medal, and is a good reason why his squadron is the top-scoring one in the R.A.F. Fighter Command. The second—eighteen planes behind—is a British squadron, and then third is another Norwegian squadron just five planes behind the second. He himself has accounted for seven planes confirmed, two probables and two damaged besides helping to sink four ships.

Lieut. Grundt-Spang was on a Belgian ship returning from a visit to the United States when Norway was invaded. He decided to continue on home to fight but when the ship went in at the Azores he learned that Belgium had capitulated, so he got a Norwegian tanker heading in the general direction of Norway, but with the exact destination unknown.

Five days later it was sunk by a German surface raider just 1,000 miles off the Azores. For five days the crew and passengers drifted in a lifeboat and then they were picked up by a British tanker and taken to Gibraltar. There he learned that the Norwegian Armed Services had established their headquarters in London. As he had done some civil flying he enlisted with the Norwegian Air Force and was sent to take his training in Toronto at Little Norway. He got his wings about a year later and was back in England shortly after.

Lieut. Grundt-Spang joined a Norwegian squadron with the R.A.F. Command and became a part of the Allied Force. On operations the Norwegian squadron flew with Canadians, English, Americans, Australians, New Zealanders—in fact with flyers of all the Allied Nations.

The first of Lieut. Grundt-Spang's 187 operational flights he remembers vividly because he banged into a tree with his plane. "We were flying over Northern France, hedge-hopping, bombing trains and barges in the harbor," he said, "I was concentrating on a barge I wanted to drop my bombs on, and bang, the tree came up and hit me. Fortunately it only dented my wing and I got home without any trouble."

The coveted St. Olav's Medal came to the Norseman through an "accident," he claims. Coming home from an operational flight over enemy territory he ran into a number of Messerschmitt 109's and two of them concentrated on him. He was alone, so he gave them a combination chase and dog-fight over the best part of Northern France, Belgium and ended up over Rotterdam in Holland.

(Continued on page 4)



This is one of the fighter pilots who has the highest score of all the Norwegian pilots, having shot down 11 planes for sure, with a number of probables. He has the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar and the Norwegian War Cross (highest award). He is shown here on returning from a sortie over enemy territory, where he shot down two planes on one trip. Part of one of the enemy planes he shot down damaged the nose of his plane.

Camp Little Norway Association

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Cash Receipts and Disbursements

OCTOBER 14, 1941 to FEBRUARY 28, 1944

RECEIPTS:

Central Division	\$ 29,790.65
Eastern Division	57,642.10
North Central Division	45,737.95
Northwest Pacific Division	26,396.96
Southern Division	567.80
Southern Pacific Division	11,933.58
National Ski Association	3,014.90
Sons of Norway	18,588.23

Total Receipts \$193,672.17

DISBURSEMENTS:

Funds Remitted for Relief:	
For Camp Little Norway	\$125,720.38
For Norwegian Sailors	45,084.30
Merchandise, Materials, Etc.	6,540.47

Total \$177,345.15

For Minneapolis Expenses:

Publicity	\$985.90
C.L.N.A. Bulletin	569.20
Printing, Postage, Etc.	438.67
Directors Travel	267.69
Receipt and Pledge Cards	158.00
Telephone and Telegram	125.57
Bank Charges	36.84
Treasurers Bonds—	
Minneapolis and Toronto	25.00

Total 2,606.87

For Chapter Expenses:

Administrative Expenses	\$620.79
Cost of Staging Affairs	142.15
Publicity and Advertising	645.47
U. S. and State Taxes	189.21

Total 3,597.62

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$183,549.64

Balance on Hand, Minneapolis Office \$ 840.82

Balances on Hand, Chapters 9,281.71

TOTAL FUNDS ON HAND, FEBRUARY 28, 1944 \$10,122.53

Respectfully submitted,

CAMP LITTLE NORWAY ASSOCIATION,

Dr. Raymond M. Hoitomt, Treasurer,

827 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

The National Window

San Diego, California

Inclosed check for \$10.00 is my little contribution for our brave countrymen who are sacrificing so much.

Fargo, North Dakota

I also would like to do a little bit for "Camp Little Norway." Think it is a very good and worthy cause. So find inclosed \$5.00.

Racine, Wisconsin

I am inclosing herewith a check for \$75.00 for Camp Little Norway. This is a gift from the Wergeland Society. Best wishes to you in your efforts for this worthy cause.

Spokane, Washington

I am inclosing check in the sum of \$10.00, which is being sent to you by the Dorcas Society of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church as a small help in the valiant efforts of the Norwegian flyers against the Nazi.

Rapid City, South Dakota

Enclosed is a contribution which my sixteen year old son and I wish to make toward helping the Norwegian sick. We do this in memory of our father and husband who died three years ago.

Dayton, Ohio

The enclosed check for \$100.00 is in appreciation of the kindness extended my son who was wounded at Attu (Aleutians) May 30, 1943, and who is now recovering at Fletcher General Hospital, Cambridge, Ohio.

Petersburg, Alaska

Inclosed you will kindly find money order for \$25.00 as a small gift to the Norwegian Flyers in Canada.

Honolulu, Hawaii

On behalf of my wife and myself I am sending enclosed money order for \$25.00.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Appreciation to our friend who remembers us every month with her contribution.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Our thanks to W. H. Barber Company for their second \$500.00 December contribution to Norwegian fighting forces.

Dutton, Montana

Fourteen of our friends remembered us again with contributions totaling \$80.00.

New York, New York

We sincerely appreciate the gift from Mr. E. J. Barber, Barber Steamship Lines, of \$5,000.00 to the Norwegian sailors and Camp Little Norway.

FILMS

Films

We wish to remind that we have both silent and sound 16mm. films that can be loaned out in the interest of obtaining funds for Camp Little Norway Association.

Lectures

The Camp Little Norway Association in joint sponsorship with the Supreme Lodge Sons of Norway have arranged for many lecture tours by outstanding civilian and military men of Norway. Lt. Col. Carl Stenerson's lecture tour in November and December was very successful, with lectures for about 15,000 people besides radio and press interviews. The financial result was over \$2,000.00, evenly divided between the sailors fund of the Supreme Lodge, Sons of Norway and the Camp Little Norway Association.

During the month of April a lecture tour has been arranged for Mr. Jorgen Juve, a Norwegian soldier, journalist, and sportsman, which, from all indications, will be very successful.

R. N. A. F. Pins

Please keep in mind that we have a good supply of pins, Wings for Norway, at \$1.00 apiece, all of which goes to the cause.

LECTURERS

PINS

BOOKS

Books

"Little Norway in Pictures," with a supplement "Norway—Yesterday and Today," is now available. Cost \$2.50. Supply limited. This pictorial report of Norway in peace time and at war with the Air Force's activities will be the book we would all like to have as a grand memory of the boys of Little Norway when this struggle is over.

"Tusen Norske Ship," printed in Norwegian, tells the story of Norway's Merchant Marine with its crew of 25,000 men sailing the seven seas, come bombing, torpedoes, mines or storms. Extracts from interviews, journals, logbooks, showing what it means to be at sea in war times. Price \$2.25.

Singers illustrated book, "Norway at War," 50 cents.

The profit from the sale of these books goes to the cause for which we are working. We should like to hear from all chapters as to how many books they want.

Information about films, lectures and supplies of pins, books, etc., may be obtained from Camp Little Norway Association, 827 Marquette Avenue.

NORWEGIAN FLYER - Continued

By that time he knew his gas wasn't going to last very long so he decided that he'd better head for home. Just then the Germans decided to get him, came at him and over-shot, ending ahead of his plane. He piled into one of them, giving all he had, and the plane went straight into the sea with a "three-second burst." "The other plane was still ahead of me and as the Spitfire is much more manoeuvrable than the 109, I was able to turn sharply, and I got the other one too. I saw the pilot bail out, but his plane went straight into the sea too."

"Then I made for home and had to land at another aerodrome, where I refueled and telephoned my squadron, who had begun to be sure I was missing. After that 'incident' I couldn't even light my own cigarette my hands were shaking so."

Lieut. Grundt-Spang was one of the Commando cover for the Dieppe raid and thinks that the small number of casualties in the Sicily landing and other Allied landings is directly attributable to the lessons learned that day on those bloody beaches.

"We were over Dieppe at six o'clock in the morning and the squadron was over four times during the day," he related. "We flew at very low altitude and could see what was happening without any difficulty. Altogether the squadron was over for five hours and I was over three hours of that time."

The record of the Norwegian squadrons in England at the last count, some time ago, was 161 shot down, 40 probably destroyed and 124 damaged and probably destroyed, outside of some 20 ships sunk and other military objectives in enemy territory destroyed. Some 300 decorations for valor have been awarded these flyers, including at least 30 Distinguished Flying Crosses—some with Bar—four Orders of the British Empire, several American Silver Stars, and other American, British and Norwegian Awards.

Part of the duties of the Norwegian Fighter Squadrons is to escort the American Flying Fortresses, and the boys feel that it is too bad they don't have an opportunity to know the crews flying those planes. Unfortunately they are all at separate squadrons some distance apart, and although they might happen to meet by chance on leave, it is the exception rather than the rule. One of the Norwegian fighter pilots, now a prisoner in Germany, won the American Silver Star for shielding a Fortress on its trip back from enemy territory. The Fortress was limping back with two of its engines shot and the plane badly riddled with flak, and he managed to keep off enemy aircraft and the Fortress returned safely.

Every week now flyers are returning from overseas service, some of them after having been overseas two years or longer. Often there is only five left of an original group of twenty pilots—some of whom are now prisoners of war, but unfortunately most of them are missing, believed dead, or are known to be dead.

Without exception the boys returning have fine records and most of them have decorations. They are extremely

reticent in talking of their achievements and their adventures are usually related at length by their comrades.

Life on the squadrons—where so much time is spent in waiting tensely to take-off—is made much more comfortable with supplies sent through the kindness of the Camp Little Norway Associations and others who have given so generously. The Mess rooms have been made more comfortable with easy chairs, etc., cigarettes and chocolate and sports equipment, and other things have been bought in large quantities and sent to all the squadrons overseas.

These boys returning tell how much they appreciate those gifts, and more than the gifts the knowledge that so many of their friends are still thinking of them.

A Letter from "Eidsvold"

It is with a deep feeling of thankfulness I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your check for \$250, which you so graciously have sent to our "Benefit Fund." I personally wish there was some more tangible way of expressing our gratitude than a mere letter.

As a matter of fact, without your generous help and support, your relentless effort in behalf of our seamen, it would have been impossible to render our brave boys a much needed lift, and made their stay at "Eidsvold" pleasant during resting time here between hazardous voyages.

Many of our seamen have been torpedoed, not once, but several times. Some of them find it difficult to talk of the horrors through which they have lived. Others, when questioned, relate in a matter-of-fact manner the risking of their lives.

Risking life? Here is the saga of the narrow escape of steward Simon Svendsen:

Merchant Seaman Svendsen was working in one of the refrigerators of his ship when a torpedo struck. The impact wedged him into a small space where he was tightly caught in a door. In making repeated efforts to free himself he tore the skin from his arms and back. He realized too that the more he struggled, the tighter he became trapped. And by now he could feel the ship listing rapidly. He gave up all hope of escape. It was at that moment that a second torpedo hit the ship. And this impact opened the door. Svendsen suddenly saw the sea before him! About an hour later he was picked up by a lifeboat.

Well aware of your splendid work and sacrifices on our behalf, every seaman here joins me sending every member of the C.L.N.A. their heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Very sincerely yours

Eidsvold Vacation Center for Norwegian Seamen,
SVERRE KNØPH.

Katonah, N. Y., March 12, 1944.

SERVICE CENTER FOR NORWAY

204 Foshay Tower, Minneapolis, Minn.

The last of our 10,000 quota of "Enkeltmans-pakker" (surgical dressings) were carefully rolled, packed and securely tied shortly after the holidays. They were immediately shipped to the Royal Norwegian Medical Corps in New York, from whence they will go on their healing mission. This project interested and attracted many new friends to our cause. As the women worked in their regulation Red Cross uniforms, they gave to the fighting sons of Norway the same advantages and consideration which they were giving to their own sons at their American Red Cross stations. Thanks be to these faithful women! When the final count was made, it totaled 10,218.

Knitting for the armed forces continues uninterrupted in the homes of our many coworkers throughout the Northwest. As the final skeins of white yarn for socks, spirals and stocking legs were being distributed, a new knitting project was launched, Navy blue turtle neck sweaters for the sailors. One hundred and twenty-five of these warm, sturdy sweaters have already been forwarded to the Norwegian Sewing Room in New York. At first some of the knitters were reluctant about attempting these larger garments, but their fear was soon overcome with joy and interest in their accomplishment.

There is no prospect for a let-up in the work, but on the contrary we are looking forward to an extended and expanding program of sewing and knitting as rapidly as materials are available.

We urge the continued support and cooperation of all our present groups and individuals, and welcome most enthusiastically new friends and coworkers for the enlarged work program.

MRS. JOHN E. BLEGEN,
Chairman Board of Directors.