



## October Meeting Celebrates a WWII Hero

We are honored to have our own long time member and good friend Kaare Nevdal as our guest speaker this month. He is a celebrated member of that “greatest generation” who fought and sacrificed for our freedoms during World War II. We’ll not detract from his full story, but it include escape



N-3PB Nomad Aircraft by Northrup of type manned by our speaker.

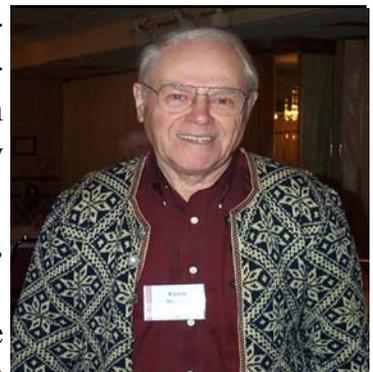


Kaare Nevdal's aunt sent this photo to Norway to let his family know he was alive during World War II

from an occupied Norway, enlisting and training for the air force, engaging in the Battle of the North Atlantic, and sinking a sub. His story has been published a couple times, first by the Northwest Quarterly Spring 2007 story *Witness to War* by Jon McGinty. The second publication was recently by his Rockford Kiwanis Club .

Join us for the celebration of Leif Ericsson Day, and for the celebration of one of our own.

The Torske Klub reservation line is open. Please make your reservation early and bring your friends and guests.



Kaare at Sweater day in 2007

## September Luncheon was a Home Run

We welcomed Mr. Bruce Bohrer as our speaker on September 10 for the season opener of torsk. Bruce Bohrer was born and raised on the North Side of Chicago and spent 2003 to 2012 working as an usher at Wrigley Field. He enlightened us with stories and perspectives that only a witness to the friendly confines could have. His book, *Best Seat in the House! Diary of a Wrigley Field Usher* was offered as a raffle prize and the lucky recipient bypassed the Linne Aquavit raffle prize to accept it. The rest of us can get his book on Amazon.com or [Eckhartpress.com](http://Eckhartpress.com).

### **Torske Klub Luncheon - October 8, 2016**

The luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556 for directions that day). Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS rings the bell to seat us for dinner. Make your regular dinner reservation by the evening of Oct.3 2016. ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. The fish order is called in after the deadline. \$5 surcharge for late reservations after the deadline.

Call **312-233-2887** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Garry at 312-497-6407. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. We have reservations from the following members : **3, 38, 40, 42A, 47, 51, 55, 84, 97, 98, 115, 120, 149.** Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or prearrange to cancel. If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name according to the principle “Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!” If you prefer email reservations, please send to [reservations@torskeklub.com](mailto:reservations@torskeklub.com) (not .org) with your total number of reservations, including yourself and guests. We will respond with a confirmation email. **\*\*TIP** – Don’t know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name. **FREE Raffle Ticket** to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2016/2017 season, excluding father/son/daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

**Reservations  
by Tues.  
Oct. 3**

**Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(312) 233-2887**

# Little Norway in Canada

**Little Norway** (Norwegian: *Lille Norge*; officially *Flyvåpnenes Treningsleir* — **FTL**) was a Norwegian Army Air Service/Royal Norwegian Air Force training camp in Canada during the Second World War.

When Nazi Germany attacked Norway on 9 April 1940, with only a small number of modern aircraft on order from US manufacturers taken on charge, the Royal Norwegian Air Force (RCAF) was unable to mount a sustained defense. Following the defeat of the Norwegian forces, the King, key members of the government and military left Norway in June 1940 aboard the HMS Devonshire.

After arriving in England, the Norwegian government-in-exile began the process of setting up a new base of operations. A decision was swiftly made to keep the existing Norwegian pilots that had escaped to England, as an independent unit. Consequently, none were allowed to participate in the Battle of Britain. Arrangements were made to transfer Norwegian pilots to a North American headquarters while various locations were considered, a base around the Toronto Island Airport in Canada was chosen. Once the base was established, young Norwegians migrated to the site to enroll in the RCAF in Canada.

In 1939, Bernt Balchen, a Norwegian aviator, enlisted with the Norwegian Air Force and made his way to the United States on a crucial mission to negotiate "matters pertaining to aircraft ordnance and ammunition with the question of the Norwegian Government's possible purchase of such materials in the United States of America." With his status of holding dual Norwegian and American citizenship and his extensive contacts in the aviation industry, his instruction from the Norwegian Government-in-exile in London changed to a new directive: to set up a training camp and school for expatriate Norwegian airmen and soldiers in Canada. Balchen negotiated directly with Canadian government officials to obtain an agreement to use available airport facilities at the Toronto Island airport on Lake Ontario known as "Little Norway".

After construction of new facilities had started, other Norwegian military staff took over with Col. Oscar Klingenberg chosen to head the training schools and Georg Unger Vetlesen and Thor Solberg able to deal with US aircraft manufacturers handling the procurement orders for military equipment. The greatest need revolved around the requirement for more combat pilots, necessitating placing orders in summer 1940 for 36 Fairchild PT-19s as a basic training aircraft. The first of the order began to arrive on 23 November 1940, being ferried in by American pilots. The initial batch of 10 PT-19s were supplemented by 26 PT-19As with a more powerful Ranger engine fitted. All of the series were retro-fitted in 1941 with canopies, converting the trainers into a PT-26 standard. Other operational aircraft, 24 Northrop N-3PBs and 35 Curtiss Hawk 75-A8s already on order (only five of the original order of 19 P-36s were undelivered, and were sent to Canada along with a further order for 36 new aircraft) were utilized as advanced trainers. The "Little Norway" camp was officially opened on 10 November 1940, located in the bay area of Toronto, on the shores of Lake Ontario. Its first commander was Hjalmar Riiser-Larsen. Major Ole Reistad took over early 1941.

The earliest considerations for Norwegian pilots was to have a separate air force operating out of England, but by late 1940, the Norwegian government-in-exile mandated that all the "Little Norway" student pilots were ultimately destined for Norwegian-staffed RAF squadrons. Although basic training took place in "Little Norway", by 1941, students selected as fighter pilots began to receive advance training at the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan base in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan on the NA Harvard. A decision to standardize on British types that would be used in operations led to arrangements being made later in 1941 for the flight training of Norwegian pilots to be carried out in RAF and RCAF schools. In total during the war, over 2,500 Norwegian airmen of all categories (pilots, navigators and mechanics) were trained in the various bases of "Little Norway".—*Wikipedia contributors. "Little Norway." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia.*

## Member Birthdays and News

This month we celebrate the birthdays of October: Board member Tom Field (who is halfway to 100), Peter Hastings, Eivind Torske, Wally Lorentsen, Thorkil Winther, our Raffle Chairman and Board member Sam Smith and our speaker Kaare Nevdal, who is 96 on the 9th.

All note that dues will be requested starting in November for the 2017 season.



### Future Programs

- October 8, 2016– Kaare Nevdal—WWII Witness to War
- November 12, 2016– Julie Nordan—on Diabetes
- December 10, 2012—David Langseth /Ken Spengler—Christmas Celebration
- January 14, 2017– Sweater Day
- February 11, 2017 –Ladies Day
- March 11, 2017- Father/Son/Daughter Day

Check for updates on our website  
<http://www.torskeklub.org>

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