

Hei folkens.

Mandag 1. oktober kl 1100 tar vi imot ca 10 gjester som slik jeg forstår det er etterkommere av personell fra det amerikanske hangarskipet USS Ranger. Et fly derfra styrtet i Bodø havn i oktober 1943, og propellen og en modell er utstilt hos oss. Et annet havarerte nær Sandnessjøen.

Jeg tenker å lage et lite foredrag (om ikke noen andre har mer lyst) om skipet, konteksten Norge/Europa/Atlanterhavet/Stillehavet 1943, oppdraget, flyene og konsekvensene/resultatet, der det er kjent. Foredraget kan vi selv bruke i andre sammenhenger eller knytte digitalt opp til utstillingen senere.

Dere er alle inviterte. (Vebjørn; ta med vindusrammen hvis det passer?). Andre som bør inviteres? Sjef FOH er marine...

Jeg tar gjerne imot innspill, bilder, bilder av gjenstander og andre referanser.

Beste hilsener,

Rolf Liland

Dear Mr Roper.

I just received your letter of February 7th, and I would like to let you know that the Norwegian Aviation Museum in Bodø will be honoured to receive the your group of family members of the CV-4 Reunion Group in October for a tour of the museum.

Our museum is co-located with the Royal Norwegian Air Force Museum, and I am copying its director, Capt Sørensen, and some of my staff, on this reply.

Please let us know when your travel plans firm up, and we'll make sure that you are well taken care of at the museum upon arrival.

On an historical note, much of which I am sure your group is already familiar with; the USS Ranger squadrons' attack on German shipping at and around Bodø happened in the late fall of 1943. Norway was occupied from April 1940 until May 1945.

USS Ranger's raid at the time was based on target intelligence reports from Norwegian agents of the British Special Intelligence Service, who were observing and reporting shipping movements from concealed positions along the coast, and from the intercept of coded German radio transmission.

As it happens, in February 1943, earlier the same year the picture below was taken over the Fugløyfjord just south of Bodø, the Norwegian submarine KNM Uredd ("fearless") was lost on a mission to Norway where it was tasked to land a group of

Norwegian Special Forces saboteurs in the Bodø area and to retrieve S.I.S. agents on another mission further north.

The submarine, KNM Uredd, never made it to Norway, and its fate was unknown until 1985, when it was found by the navy at just about the spot where the photo of the USS Ranger Dauntless shown below, was taken later that year. KNM Uredd remains there to this day, as a war grave and final resting place for the submarine crew, saboteurs and an agent onboard. It had become trapped in an at the time unknown German underwater minefield.

Fate also has it that the aircraft in the photo, as you probably know, just a few minutes after flying more or less directly overhead the position of the lost submarine, was hit by flak while attacking shipping in Bodø harbour. It was, to the best of my knowledge, found by divers in 1990, five years after the finding of the submarine, and the Dauntless' pilot and turret gunner were subsequently recovered and their remains returned to the United States for proper identification and honors.

The propeller that is discernible in the photo below, is on display at our museum, along with an information board explaining the mission and the crew of the Dauntless to museum guests.

I look forward to us welcoming your group in October, and will be honoured to guide you through the museum along with members of my staff.

Hearing from you as your plans take form,

My best regards,

Rolf Liland
Director
Norwegian Aviation Museum
Bodø, Norway