



Evenes, 22. mai 2024

Honourable ambassador of Estonia to Norway
Lauri Bambus

Regarding the grave of Arnold Soinla in Lenvik, Evenes

Thank you for your kind letter earlier this month regarding Arnold Soinla.

I was very pleased to receive this as an acknowledgement of the work that has been done from the people in Evenes in general, and Bogen and Lenvik in particular, to keep the memory alive. Not just the memory of Soinla, but also the memory of the resistance against nazi Germany that took place in this area in the spring of 1940.

I fully share your concern about the importance of keeping these memories alive. Even more so in the more difficult times we are having at the moment.

As you mention in your letter we visit the grave of Arnold Soinla every year and place flowers here. This has been a part of our celebration of may 17th for quite some time. So also this year.

I am not sure when this started, but I have been informed that the iron plate with his name on was made at the local iron foundry in Bogen by – among others - Arne Jensen, most likely some time after 1970.

This year I used the opportunity to read your letter loud at the graveyard and making a video of this to bring the story to even more people. There were also Norwegian soldiers present from Evenes Air Station. This can be seen at: [Estlands ambassadør takker folk i Evenes og Lenvik - Evenes kommune](#) – (www.evenes.kommune.no) and we will distributed also to local media.

I will on behalf of the Evenes community thank you for bringing attention to this matter and will be happy to participate in further strengthening of the knowledge regarding this. It was interesting to learn about the work of Hege Grundekjøn that is in progress. The history of WW2 is still very present here, and I am sure many people will be interested to read it.

Finally - I would be pleased to participate in a visit to the grave in Lenvik with you or other representatives of Estland - or contribute in other ways that you find useful in the time to come. Please let me know.

Best regards / Med vennlig hilsen


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