

## The historie of the U.S. pilots that crashed

In the year 1945 was Nicolay Hvatum 17 years old.

Between. 01.00 and 02.00, he woke up by a violent high sound. It was like the whole house shake. Eventually he realized that there was a fly. It flew so low, that he believed the plane had broken the pipe on the roof.

It would prove that it was an American bomber, the type B-24 D, which was set on fire back home, after having dropped supplies to the various Allied military organizations.

It had been set on fire by German artillery, and they crash-landed a few meters from the barn on Eikelund in Brunlanes, which is only ca. 1 km from the Hvatum farms.

Home in the garden took Nicolay splinters from a burst body, which had been drilled into the tree on the apple trees.

Nicolay picked out splinters from apple trees, but he had to use pliers to get them out. Some of them set so firmly, that he did not get them out.

Early the next morning, the 21. April was his weight of his father, who said that he had come down from his bedroom in the 2. Floor, because they had been visited by an American airman.

Nicolay was the only one in the house who could speak English. The pilot was relieved and very happy when he began to speak with the American pilot. Finally, there was someone who knew what he said. The pilot was very upsetting, because he had broken his calf, and sprained ankle. Of course, he wondered how he was, and whether he had come to Sweden? (If he was safe?).

But when he heard that he had come to Norway, he was desperate, and sweat began to trickle out on his forehead. After a while, one of his friend (one of the other pilot).

In the meantime, he is the father of Nicolay, been out there pilot would crash the country and packed the parachute, and then home, and so the Germans would not get any miss in mind that some of pilot had fallen there.

Nicolay was notified that he would ride to school, and the way he was riding through a contact, to tell you that they needed medical attention.

For that the Germans would not have suspected that there was some U.S. pilots on the farm, was one of "service boys" ordered to bed. Because someone had to be "sick".

When Nicolay set for school bench that day was mind more at home than in classes at school. He really looked forward to coming home that day, and to talk with pilot, but he could just forget, because it had he not allowed to.

Saturday: The reason was that pilot was carried up into the forest behind the houses, and placed on a small rock shelf along with his buddy, that the Germans would not have thought about some miss anything, "excessive traffic" over the ground and up into the mountains. In the course of the day was the food up to the father of Nicolay. This was dangerous, because while he kept on with the horses to put in early potatoes, he was visited by two Germans, who wanted to know whether he had seen some American pilots. But he could not any German, so there was much movement to try to be understood. I took this while pilot could follow on and look at the German soldiers in the earth.

Because of that the Germans were nearby could not help the doctor one of the pilot with the broken calf. The night was the pilots transported away from the mountain ledge of the home forces and the clock tower in Tanum church.

Where they were able to hear a Norwegian church with christening.

This Sunday was Nicolay alone at home, because his parents were in the christening party.

When he was visited by two scary men, who would speak with his father. He could not do other than to say that they were in a christening party. The men came to the farm was in the company, and threatened danger to Nicolay, the middle of dinner. They were looking for the

parachute, but he dare not reveal anything.

His parents came home early from the company that day and told him everything that had happened. They were very afraid, and prayed to God intense that night.

Later they were told that the men who had threatened them came from the municipality. Together with four others, were the two pilots during Monday transported to a fugitive-pilot, which had its base in Fjellvik in Tjølling. Ca. 14 km from Larvik center). From there they were driven in open boats called Neptune over the Koster Islands in Strømstad in Sweden, and from there on to England, and from there to the USA. The two pilots who led the pilots to Sweden did not come back. If these were taken by the Germans, or whether they were taken by storm, is no one knows. This will be an unanswered question.

10 and a half weeks after all this had happened to the peace came to Norway.

The Germans capitulate and they surrender.

In a lokalavis in Wisconsin (a state in America) announced that Ralph Maassen, had come well off of the base in England. So one of pilots who had been helped by Nicolay and his family.

Nicolay had help to get the address to flygeren with the broken calf, named Claude Mc Clure and which had served as sergeant on the plane. Nicolay wrote the letter with both he and his mother. Mother to Claude sent over two images to Nicolay, and said that one picture, she had carried with him at his heart, while Claude had been in service, and she writes the following:

*"Now I will not have this picture anymore, I have my son back, so now you can get the picture."*

Claude Mc Clure had been training to become a sergeant to perform the job he got on board the plane.

He had a civilian education that nerve surgeon and was later head of the medical department 24. EVAC Hospital, during the Vietnam War. Since he had such a good civilian education, he rose quickly in the ranks to major in the air fleet in the military. He came back from Vietnam War in ca. 1974.

Although he was born 21. November in 1923, as he was about. 50 years old when he came back to America from the Vietnam War. Claude's mother wrote a letter to Nicolay that he is very busy and that he worked 20 hours a day. Only a few years later he died of cancer.

Although Claude and his mother is dead now, letters alternated Nicolay with his wife to Claude. She has over 80 years old and has Parkinsons disease, so why is it so difficult to understand what she writes in the letters she sent.

There were ten pilots on the American plane. Just before the plane crash had all jump by parachute, but one of the ten did not theparachute his, as he clung on to another fellow, and thought that this would go well. This went well until the parachute solved out and the pressure was too great, and he did not have to hold fast to stop, so he slipped the roof and died.

The rest of flygerne came home, and life in the keep.

Today, there are 23 each which is still alive.