

Norwegian PPT. Programs Available For SON Groups

Programs that are offered to any SON lodge, for \$50, plus travel/gas money.

Presented by: Arno Morton

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1. Norwegian Double Agent – WW2 *****

This is the story of one young Norwegian farmer, who in the summer of 1940, shortly after the German occupation, became a Double Agent against the Nazis to help the British SIS and the Norwegian Resistance in his home town of Flekkefjord, Norway. This true story of Gunvald Tomstad explains how this young Pacifist joined the Nazi Party and became an outcast in his own community so that he might be a Double Agent for his beloved Norway! (Approx. 45 Min.)

2. The German Invasion of Norway in WW2 *****

This presentation begins with the Altmark Incident in February 16, 1940, and is followed by the April 9, 1940 invasion of neutral Norway, explaining the proposed reasons for the German invasion, and the subsequent conditions that prevailed. Norwegian atrocities, the Norwegian resistance and Heroes, the hiding of Norway's gold reserves, and escape of Norway's King are all covered. Other more controversial topics are also touched on in this stirring and comprehensive tribute to the tenacity of the Norwegian people. (Approx. 1 Hr. 10 min.)

3. Being a Viking *****

This presentation takes you back to the early years of Viking history, explaining the pre-Christianity Viking mindset, the Viking homestead, Viking foods, the Viking Warrior, the Viking raids, the Viking longships, the need for Viking expansion, and Viking explorations. It covers the time from approx. 600 AD to approximately 1060 AD, and finally the advent of Christianity and the banishment of the Viking reign of terror that lasted over 250 years. (Approx. 1 Hr.)

4. Scandinavian Nisse ****

From about the 1300's to the early 1900's, many Scandinavians believed in a Gnome-like creature, called 'nisse' in Norway and Denmark, 'tomte-nisse' or 'tomte' in Sweden, and 'tonntu' in Finland. 'Jolasveinar' are similar mythological creatures in Iceland. This program explains what 'Nisse' are and are not, where the concept came from, the difference between Nisse and Trolls, and any carry over into modern day ideas or custom, like "the elf on the shelf.". (Approx. 50 Min.)

5. Secret Agent Sigrid Green and the Vemork Power Plant Sabotage *****

This is the true story of a young eighteen year old Norwegian/English woman who was both a secret agent for the British SOE and a code breaker at Blechley Park in England during WW2. Her efforts helped lead to the destruction of the Hydro Electric plant in the Telemark area, where the Germans were producing deuterium oxide (heavy water) during WW2. It is a fascinating and little known account of how ordinary people in the right place at the right time helped to do extraordinary feats for Norway during the war years. (Approx. 50 min.)

6. The Danish Resistance in WW2 ****

This is the account of how the Danish people and government, while caught by surprise at the German invasion of their neutral country on April 9, 1940, slowly developed a resistance plan and risked their lives to oppose the occupying German Nazis during WW2. It includes many of the Danish heroes, and their brave and heroic feats of danger and sabotage against the Germans. It is a tribute to the willingness of these brave individuals who not only risked their lives, but also endured persecution and torture for the sake of their beloved country. (Approx. 1 Hr.)

7. The Norwegian Resistance in WW2 ****

This is the account of how so many brave Norwegians risked their lives to oppose the occupying German Nazis, when invaded during WW2. It includes many of the Norwegian heroes, their weapons, and their brave and heroic feats of danger and sabotage against the Germans. It is a tribute to the willingness of these brave individuals who not only risked their lives, but also endured persecution and torture for the sake of their beloved country. (Approx. 1 Hr.)

8. The Sami People *****

These people have occupied the Sampi region of Northern Scandinavia for eons of time, Skilled in simple living, fishing, trapping, and some farming, these quiet nomadic people have endured hardships and persecution for centuries, and yet have amazingly survived and even flourished. Here is their interesting story. (Approx. 1 Hr.)

9. Saving of Norway's Gold Reserves in WW2 *****

This presentation recounts the true story of how the Gold Bullion Reserves of Norway were hidden, transported, and eventually safely evacuated away from

the German SS, who were desperately seeking to find both the King of Norway, and the National Treasury of gold bullion. It is an amazing story of cunning, deceit, mayhem, and Divine intervention to safely accomplish the feat. (Approx. 1 hour)

10. Syttende Mai ****

This presentation covers Norway's past history from being under Swedish rule after the Napoleonic Wars, to present day. Also covered are the different flags that Norway has flown, Constitution Day, and Norwegian Independence Day are covered. It's a great program that shows and illustrates how various SON Lodges around the country and the world celebrate Syttende Mai. (Approx. 45 Minutes)

11. The Aftermath of the German Occupation in Norway During WW2 ***

The consequences of WW2 were many, and this presentation seeks to show what happened to the people left behind after WW2 ended. It covers those prosecuted for their war crimes in Norway, as well as the children left behind as Lebensborn babies. This program exposes some shocking secrets, as well as some dark secrets of the Nazi occupiers. (Approx. 45 – 50 Minutes)

12. The Holocaust in Norway During WW2 ****

The presentation tells the horrifying story of the Nazi's round-up, deportation, and slow annihilation of Norway's Jewish population after the Nazi invasion of their neutral passive country. Thankfully, almost two-thirds of the Norwegian Jews escaped the country, before they could be captured. This program has been verified as historically accurate by an actual Norwegian Holocaust survivor that visited and spoke to numerous groups in Central Wisconsin about her experiences as a small child. (Approx. 50 Minutes)

13. The Holocaust in Denmark During WW2 ****

The presentation tells of the Nazi's horrifying attempt of the round-up, deportation, and slow annihilation of Denmark's Jewish population after the Nazi invasion of their neutral passive country. Thankfully, almost 90% of the 8,000 Danish Jews escaped the country, thanks to a unified effort, before they could be captured. This is an amazing story of how churches, strangers, Doctors, Danish Police, and even German officers helped the Jews to escape what would have been almost certain annihilation. (Approx. 50 Minutes)

14. Resistance Fighter - Jan Baalsrud ****

This presentation recounts the absolutely amazing, and almost unbelievable survival story of how a young Norwegian musician, turned Resistance freedom fighter, persevered when the Nazis invaded his homeland in April of 1940. After being sold out to the Gestapo during a commando raid, he survives bullets, hypothermia, frostbite, and so much more, to become one of Norway's heroes of the Resistance. (Approx. 45 Minutes)

15. Man of War – Max Manus ****

This presentation about Maximus Manus's life documents his early days, his service for Finland in the 1940 Winter War against the Soviet Union, and then his return to Norway to fight for his homeland. While he didn't even finish school, he had true Viking stamina and spirit, and became one of the best known, most decorated, and most daring Resistance fighter for Norway during WW2. (Approx. 1 Hr.)

16. Master of Disguise – Gunnar Sonstebj ****

This presentation documents the outrage that one young Norwegian man felt when the German's invaded and occupied his homeland. He soon began gathering information and was recruited by the British SOE to become Special Agent #24. After commando training in Scotland, he returned to Norway to organize one of the most effective espionage units for the British in occupied Norway. Using a multitude of disguises, he moved around Oslo freely and never was identified or captured by the Gestapo. (Approx. 50 Minutes)

17. Knut Haukland – Saboteur and Adventurer ***

As a young civil engineer at the Vemork Hydro Electric Plant near Rjukan, Norway in the Telemark District, Knut joined the underground resistance to help sabotage the Nazi's using the plant to make heavy water in their quest for a nuclear bomb. In February of 1943, Knut and several other commandos attacked the plant with explosives in a daring nighttime raid. After successfully escaping, with all of his colleagues, he worked with the resistance until the war ended. About ten years after that, Haukland joined his friend Thor Heyerdahl on his Pacific voyage on a raft, documented in the book Kon-Tiki. He lived a very exciting and adventurous life. (Approx. 45 minutes)

18. The Battle of Kvam in WW2 ***

This presentation recounts the true story of how 658 British Green Howards and 46 Norwegian Army reservists, without any artillery or tanks, successfully held off and delayed over 8400 of German's 196th elite fighting troops, with tanks and artillery for three days, which was long enough to allow the National Treasury and King Haakon VII to successfully escape to safety. It is a story of heroism and bravery, in the face of overwhelming odds. (Approx. 50 Minutes)

19. The Battle for Narvik in WW2 ***

This presentation is the account of one of the first Naval battle in Norwegian waters, in the days following the initial German invasion of Norway. It was a rousing British victory, and recounts what happened before, during, and after the German invasion. It is a fascinating account of how mistakes can become small miracles. (Approx. 45 Minutes)

20. The Battle of North Cape ***

The Battle of the North Cape was a naval battle which occurred on December 26, 1943, as part of the Arctic Campaign by Britain and Norway during the Second World War. The German battleship *Scharnhorst*, on an operation to attack Arctic Convoys of war matériel from the Western Allies to the USSR was engaged in battle and sunk by British Royal Navy forces, including the battleship HMS *Duke of York*, plus several cruisers and destroyers, off Norway's North Cape. In the stormy waters of the Frigid North Sea, a decisive battle was won by the British, eliminating one of German's biggest threats to the Allied supply line. (Approx. 50 Minutes)

21. Anne Sofie Ostvedt ***

Anne Sofie was a young 19 year old University student in Oslo, when the Germans invaded and occupied her neutral country of Norway. This presentation tells the amazing story of her espionage efforts in joining XU, an Oslo University based resistance group that gathered and relayed espionage information to the British SOE during WW2. She eventually became one of the leaders in XU, and was in constant fear for her life. After the war, she married another member of XU, won an American Scholarship to Berkley, CA, finishing her studies in America, and then returned to her homeland. (Approx. 45 Minutes)

22. Battle of Midtskogen ***

This presentation tells the amazing true story of how a handful of Royal Guards and a few local Norwegian Army recruits whisked the Norwegian King away to safety in the early morning hours of April 9th, 1940, before the German Army could capture or kill him. This tiny but extremely important battle saved Norway for the Allies, and allowed King Haakon VII to survive as a monarch in exile. (Approx. 45 Minutes)

23. Attempts to Sink the Tirpitz ***

As the last remaining large battleship in the German Kriegsmarine, the Tirpitz sought refuge in one of Norway's deep water fjords. Surrounded by mined torpedo netting, camouflaged and hidden, it hoped to survive the Allied bombers. Many attempts were made on it by the resistance, and by Allied bombers, until finally in 1944, Allied bombers targeted and sunk it in the fjord. This strange and interesting story of the German Battleship Tirpitz shows how persistence pays off. (Approx. 50 Minutes)

24. Famous Norwegian Americans ****

This presentation is a limited list of famous Norwegian Americans who are currently or in the past, have left their legacy on American society. It is a brief tour through some of the actors, actresses, artists, businessmen and women, cartoonists, doctors, inventors, models, musicians, politicians, singers, and sports heroes of Norwegian heritage. Many of these famous Norwegians have become common household names, have produced useful products, and have left an incredible legacy on American culture and industry. (Approx. 1 Hr.)

25. Moe Berg – Baseball Player or Spy? ***

This interesting presentation follows the life of baseball player Morris Berg from his debut as a shortstop, second baseman, and catcher in the early 1920's, his 15 year major league career, his recruitment by the American OSS (CIA) in the 1930's, his espionage work overseas in Norway and Europe during WW2, and finally his return to the US. While he was never anything more than an average baseball player, he was a fantastic spy, and has a special honor and tribute inside the CIA Headquarters. (Approx. 45 Minutes)

26. The Orphan Train ****

This presentation tells the interesting and yet tragic story of America's attempt to place and ship orphaned immigrant children, who after arriving in America, found that their parents were deceased due to sickness or starvation, and couldn't speak English, by train to cities throughout the country. This actual practice of dressing children up, and shipping them to towns to be looked over and adopted by local townfolk, while helpful and noble in design, had many problems associated with it. It was like America's first Foster Care Program, and while some children found great adoptive homes and turned out fine, many didn't. This is an interesting look at times past, and how different things are now.
(Approx. 50 Minutes)

Presenter's Bio: Arno Morton

Educator, researcher, and teacher of Geology, Biology, Earth Sciences, and Bio-Technology for 38+ years, at both the Jr. High and High School level. Married to a full-blooded Scandinavian woman and President of our Vennligfolk SON Lodge for over 44+ years. Financial Secretary for our Vennligfolk 5-627 SON Lodge (Stevens Point/ Plover, WI) for almost a decade.

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