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 Norwegian history is stained by one of the worst examples of pro-Nazi collaboration in occupied Europe, namely the shameful puppet regime of the Nasjonal Samling (NS) and its leader Vidkun Quisling, whose name is today synonymous with treachery.

The shame of NS aid to Hitler's occupying Nazis is the greater because of the heroic resistance of many Norwegians, who maintained radio contact with Britain, sheltered Allied airmen and agents and carried out effective strategic sabotage of the Nazi war effort by sinking ships, destroying transport and communications and conducting bitter armed guerrilla struggle, including assassinations, against the Nazi invaders.

While their compatriots battled the Nazis to the point where, in 1945, a nation of slightly fewer than four million people was pinning down more than 350,000 Wehrmacht and SS troops, a small, but significant, minority of more than 15,000 Norwegians did the exact opposite, throwing in their lot with the Nazi barbarians, helping their brutal rule in Norway and fighting weapons in hand for the Third Reich in several theatres of war.

These Norwegian fascists who proudly wore the SS runes never renounced their struggle and continue it today, disguising themselves as Norwegian "patriots" and wrapping themselves in the Norwegian flag.

Fascism in Norway has not profited much since the Second World War. There are still too many people alive who remember the Nazi occupation and know only too well who resisted and who wore German uniform. These memories have been the biggest barrier to the success of any postwar fascist or nazi organisation in Norway.

To redress this situation, which subjects the current nazi scene in Norway to universal ridicule, not least by modern German nazis, history has to be rewritten to make the efforts of Norway's wartime nazis legitimate, respectable and credible. The vehicle for this unsavoury effort is a little-known organisation, called the Institute for Norwegian Occupation History (INO).

Six years ago, Searchlight's international network dramatically exposed the activities of a shadowy international of former SS men, the Kameradenwerk Korps Steiner (KKS), and its links with present-day nazis.

In recent months, *Searchlight's* Norwegian sister magazine, *Monitor*, has mounted a similar exercise, investigating the background and activities of the INO, and the still active wartime nazis who stand behind it, uncovering here too the handiwork of the sinister KKS.

In the INO, approval of revisionism and "understanding" of Quisling's collaboration with the invading Nazis runs in tandem with antisemitism and fulsome approval of right-wing extremist, racist politics.

Whitewashing history

INO's real history began straight after the war when former members of the Norwegian Nazi Party, the Nasjonal Samling (NS) formed a network of veterans' clubs in a bid to salvage something from their shattered organisation

Quisling's heirs

Norway's wartime Nazi collaborators and Waffen-SS officers are grabbing their last chance to pass on the torch of national socialism to the latest generation of right-wing youth with a well organised and financed programme to whitewash the past. This feature is abridged from a special investigation by Searchlight's Norwegian sister publication, Monitor.

and discredited ideology. One of these nazis, the teacher Nils Vikdal, produced the duplicated newsheet *Skolenytt* (School News), which later turned into *Folk og Land* (People and Country), which is still published today.

The campaign to clear the names of traitors was organised through the Sambandet for Sosialoppreising (Union for Social Rehabilitation). Because the organisation's prime aim was to overturn treason verdicts, the old nazi network steered clear of active involvement in everyday politics in Norway, but maintained very close links with the post-war international fascist network.

Fascist luminaries including the Swedish nazi Per Engdahl, the Austrian former SS commando Otto Skorzeny and the Belgian SS general Leon Degrelle were good friends of the Norwegian wartime traitors. At the same time, Union members participated secretly in international nazi assemblies, including the so-called Malmö International and its

European Social Movement offshoot. Norwegian nazi exiles in Sweden and South America were also to be found helping out with cash and political links.

These nazis, waiting for better days, received their first genuine good news in two decades when, in the 1960s, a new generation of right-wing extremists emerged. Some were ultra-liberal and right-wing radicals who later drifted into political passivity or joined conformist ultra right-wing parties such as the Fremskrittspartiet (Progress Party).

Others, the "activists", had a bigger agenda; men such as Erik Rune Hansen, leader of Norges Nasjonalsosialistiske Bevegelse (NNSB), formerly Zorn 88, and Erik Blücher, formerly the leader of the nazi Norsk Front (Norwegian Front) and today a big wheel in the merchandising of nazi hate music. Many INO supporters are today members of the nazi Norges Patriotiske Enhetsparti (NPE), led by Knut Westland.

In the office of the Union for Social Rehabilitation, young fascists received political training and encouragement from the old guard. Supervising this training were Orvar Sæther, former chief of staff of the Norwegian nazi militia, and Odd Melsom, the former editor of the nazi wartime newspaper *Fritt Folk*.

By 1975, the Union for Social Rehabilitation was replaced by the INO. Some of the wartime nazis stayed with Blücher, while others worked through other extreme right-wing pressure groups. Generally, however, the old wartime nazis agreed with and shared Blücher's dreams of parliamentary success.

However, one event dramatically deepened the rifts between the generations. A Norsk Front member, Petter Kristian Kyvik, bombed the 1976 May Day demonstration in Oslo, forcing the INO to renounce Blücher and deny its role as political "nanny" to the younger nazis.

Since then, the old nazis have kept a low profile towards the younger extremists. Nevertheless, they crop up on the election lists of hard-core racist and anti-immigration organisations such as Hvit Valgallianse, the Fedrelandspartiet or the Nasjonaldemokratene. SS veteran Arne Grønland Borgir

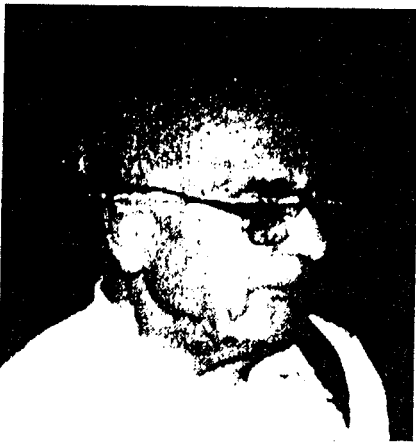


Quisling being led away after being sentenced to death for murder, treason and theft. Immediately after his execution the effort to whitewash his reputation began

Photo: Per-Eirik Hesselstrand - Varden



Inger Cecilie Stridsklev: a scientist whose mission is to make revisionism respectable. Right top: Stridsklev's report which claims that German attacks were liquidations perpetrated by the Norwegian resistance. Right: Stridsklev claims that the NS was not antisemitic. The cover of a book by the NS's propaganda chief, Halldis Østbye, speaks for itself. Below: SS veteran Knut Baardseth, leader of the foundation for Norwegian Occupation History. Baardseth spent a long time fighting for the Nazis on the Eastern Front



was the leader of one such organisation, rejoicing in the name "Help the foreigners home, or we'll lose our country".

Despite the nazis' strenuous efforts to nurture a new generation, the 1980s was a distressing time. The circulation of *Folk og land* plummeted and the INO's financial situation was so dismal that, by the beginning of the 1990s, it had to sell its shabby premises in Oslo's east end for only £12,000.

Then, suddenly, something happened. The wartime nazi Rolf Ingebrigtsen gave the nazis access to property he owned in Tiedemannsgate, in one of Oslo's most expensive areas,

the city's fashionable west end. Ingebrigtsen had inherited the premises from his extremely antisemitic uncle Eugene Nilsen. After Ingebrigtsen's death, his widow let the INO stay in the premises. The INO is apparently still based there, both as a membership organisation, with Åge Berg as leader, and as a foundation called Norsk Okkupasjonshistorie (NOH), led by the former Waffen-SS man Knut Baardseth.

Revisionist crucible

In the early 1990s, the NOH began handing out scholarships to students researching the war, while the INO intensified its revisionist quest by fostering contact with writers who gave its version of Norwegian history. There are now several books on the market presenting nazi facts and conclusions, many carrying the evident fingerprints of the INO.

After a long career in publishing, the INO activist Einar Rustad arranged the publication of Quisling's book *Russland og vi* (Russia and ourselves). The fact that it had a preface by the distinguished history professor Hans Fredrik Dahl – now a defender of David Irving – gave the INO a huge propaganda boost.

Another book published through the efforts of the INO is *Refleksjoner etter 50 år* (Reflections after 50 years) by Hans Gervik. Although, the literary quality of the book is



Likvidasjoner i Norge 1941 - 1945

Hvor mange ble drept av voren av norsk motstandsbevegelse?



abysmal, it is another attempt to rewrite Norway's wartime history.

The history of the NS's antisemitism remains the central problem for these fascists. In addition to claiming that German attacks and general warfare were liquidations perpetrated by the Norwegian resistance, the INO's self-proclaimed "scientist" from Skien, Dr Inger Cecilie Stridsklev, exerts herself frantically to whitewash the NS. She also recently claimed that the NS was not antisemitic, asserting that Quisling actually "saved" Jews. Anyone seriously reading NS publications from after 1935 can only consider the NS to have been a virulently antisemitic party.

One of the most extreme exponents of antisemitism in the NS was Mrs Halldis Neegård Østbye, editor of the NS-magazine *Fritt Folk* (Free people) and the party's propaganda leader. In her book *Jødenes krig* (The Jews' War) she claimed the Jews were responsible for the world's wrongs.

The new generation

As time goes by, the old Quislings become fewer, weakened by age and sickness. They are now seeking worthy inheritors. At the start of the 1990s, they recognised this pres-

Alte Kameraden

A myriad of veterans' associations exist for former Waffen-SS members. The Kameradenwerk Korps Steiner (KKS) is one of the more clandestine of these associations, in its own eyes, the elite among former SS men. The KKS organises those who fought under SS general Felix Steiner, one of Hitler's favourites.

In 1951, German SS veterans formed the organisation HIAG, led by the former SS generals Paul Hausser and Herbert Gille together with Steiner. HIAG became a very successful lobbying group for Germany's most dedicated Nazi soldiers, organising a service to search for missing soldiers and a very strong relief fund.

One of its biggest successes came when the German government awarded former Waffen SS men official war pensions, with an additional backdating payment for the period from the day the war ended. HIAG, now dissolved, published the magazine *Der Freiwillige*, which was full of militaristic nostalgia. The cover of the magazine was always in the red, black and white of national socialism, leaving no doubt about its politics.

The KKS was formed when Steiner died in 1966. It soon had members in Germany, Scandinavia and elsewhere in Europe. The highlight in the KKS calendar is its three-day reunion in Germany every other April but KKS members have also attended the annual Nazi rallies in Diksmuide, Belgium.

The KKS has been linked to groups such



Felix Steiner was one of Hitler's favourite generals. The soldiers who fought under him run their own organisation with close connections to violent Nazi skinheads

as the banned Wiking Jugend in Germany, the Swedish Nazi terrorist gang Vitt Ariskt Motstånd, Nazis in South America, and Erik Blücher's former Norsk Front and Jack Erik Kjuus's Hvit Valgallianse in Norway.

The organisation's membership and con-



The magazine of the SS veterans, the cover of which always bears the red, white and black colours of national socialism

fact list, obtained by *Searchlight*, was found to contain the names of several hundred former SS men together with details of their former service and current addresses. The list included 78 Norwegians, with Arild Elsodd from Sandefjord featuring prominently as leader of the Norwegian branch. Persons intimately connected with the Institute for Norwegian Occupation History are also on the list.

alternativt samfunn

DOCUMENTAL, SOCIAL, OLDFASHIONED NORWEGIAN REVOLUTIONARIES



Arresting Stranger, om Statsmaktens og hærvesensmaktens, og i tilfelle, er 2. offiser tillatte

Several contributors to the revisionist magazine *Alternativt Samfunn* have links with other extreme right groups

ing problem and tried to resolve it by running historical discussion groups for young people through the INO's youth officer, Helge Sæther.

The children of wartime Norwegian Nazis were badly treated, being held responsible for their parents' crimes. Some of them formed

the Foreningen av norske NS barn (the Union for Norwegian NS children) and explicitly rejected the INO, working instead as a support group for those struggling with the consequences of their parents' choices. To rival this group, which it cannot control, the INO formed its own "children's group" led by the ubiquitous Stridsklev.

Last October, the old guard met to honour Quising's memory at Stridsklev's home. Stridsklev takes part in all SS veterans' celebrations, wearing both an original NS member's badge and a star of David!

At these gatherings, she hands out her invitations for "meetings of friends" of the NS children and urges old Nazis to invite the young. Reportedly, recordings of old Nazi speeches are played and Nazi songs heard and sung. Those taking part get free literature: *Gjallarhorn*, the magazine of the NNSB, is mailed to them from Poland.

A key cash contributor to the INO's efforts among NS children is Petter Kahrs, who lives in Argentina and has made large donations to the "meetings of friends". Kahrs, no ordinary Norwegian expatriate, is the son of the wartime Nazi and SS officer Sofus Kahrs.

Sofus Kahrs escaped from imprisonment and left with ten other traitors for a life in Argentina's Norwegian Nazi colony. Petter Kahrs has defended his father's actions during the war in newspaper interviews, describing SS volunteers as "men fighting for what they believed in".

In a newspaper debate about the INO's NS children related "meeting of friends", a former participant described the INO as "vam-

pires sucking blood from their children". However, other, more political, forces are waiting to reap Quising's harvest.

A range of Nazi groups and circles is competing to inherit the mantle of the wartime Nazis. Among them are the people around the magazine *Alternativt Samfunn*, and the Norges Patriotiske Enhetsparti (NPE), led by Knut Westland.

The INO is wise enough to not to put all its eggs in one basket. The NPE is the biggest contender and Westland, an INO member, is a busy man. A serving captain in the Norwegian army's supply corps, he was a founder of the notorious racist FMI (Peoples movement against immigration).

Westland is considered an oddball but his NPE has supporters from the old INO circles, and some former members of the now defunct Nazi Norsk Front/Nasjonalt Folkparti, as well as some from the current NNSB.

While promoting aggressive nationalism, the NPE's political programme does not openly advocate racial theories and white supremacy, but is full of uncompromising resistance to immigration. In an "ABC for young patriots" the NPE writes under the headline "Who is against us?": "Our real enemies, those who are also directly and indirectly behind immigration to Norway and Europe, those managing the international banking and finance world... It is those people who are behind the so-called money-market, living off speculations and usury. We refer to them with the common title 'bankers'."

The parallels to Nazi anti-Jewish hate pro-

paganda are inescapable. For the old guard, this attempt to make the nazi message acceptable is very welcome and Westland gets a lot of credit from them for his efforts.

In the small town of Elverum sits Westland's main rival for credibility, cash and the old nazi franchise. From his bunker, Even Lorch-Falch publishes a weird magazine called *Alternativt Samfunn* (Alternative Society). It includes contributions by racists such as Olav Hoas, rabid historical revisionists such as Ola Misvær and, more significantly, the wartime Norwegian NS propaganda chief in Oslo, Ørnulf Myklestad.

Another eager author is Rolv Olsen from Tolga, former editorial secretary of *Folk og land*. He is an ardent defender of the Nazis and carries out research on the sole instance of fighting between the Norwegian Waffen SS and the Norwegian resistance in Eggedal during the war. He brags about alleged meetings of the INO with veterans of the wartime resistance veterans, probably referring to the well known opponent of immigration and would-be parliamentarian, Erik Gjems Onstad. Onstad, who was indeed in the resistance, has also acted as a defence lawyer for a number of extreme-right criminals.

The statistics of occupation

● NS members during the war	40,000
● Norwegian volunteers for Waffen SS	15,000
of whom 7,000 were sent to the Eastern Front	
● Norwegian Waffen SS killed on the Eastern Front	700
● Norwegians investigated after 1945 for collaboration	92,000
of whom 45,000 convicted and 25 sentenced to death	
● Norwegians arrested for resistance 1940-45	50,000
of whom 9,000 sent to concentration camps (1,400 killed in camps)	
● Norwegian Jews sent to concentration camps	771
of whom only 23 survived	

We thank the Norwegian Resistance Museum, Oslo, for kindly providing this information.

The Rinnan gang

One of the most notorious Norwegian Nazi collaborators was Henry Rinnan, who organised the infamous special Gestapo unit *Sonderabteilung 'Lola'* in Trondheim. This unit, exclusively composed of Norwegians, infiltrated and betrayed the resistance movement and tortured resistance fighters at a Gestapo terror centre in the city. For their foul crimes Rinnan and many of his gang were executed after the war.

Quisling's torch bearers

Eivind Saxlund was a member of Quisling's Nasjonal Samling (NS) before the war. He joined, he says, so that he "would contribute so the country should get a national government able to defend our interests against the [German] occupiers".

So committed to Norway's cause was Saxlund that he decided to betray his country by signing up, aged 19, in the Waffen SS Norwegian Legion and taking part in the 900-day siege of Leningrad. He later transferred to the 23rd SS Panzergrenadierregiment "Norwegen", led by Steiner. The regiment fought in the Baltic states and at the end of the war engaged in the final defence of Berlin.

After serving a sentence for treason, Saxlund graduated from law school to become a lawyer. He ended up in the Norwegian Department of Finance, where he rose to the post of deputy director.

Saxlund has never tried to hide his past as an NS member. He has participated in television series and book releases connected with Norwegian war history, using such occasions to defend Quisling and the NS. He claims he lost his faith in national socialism during the war: "The belief that national socialist ideology would bring anything good was lost. At the same time I still thought that the NS could slow down the occupiers."

Some remorse has been necessary, not only because of his position as a public servant, but also because he has for several decades been an active Christian leader, including as leader of a parish council and of a "Prayer Week for Christian Unity", one of the



Eivind Saxlund: Christian leader with SS connections

major annual ecumenical events in Norway.

The facts indicate, however, that Saxlund has by no means ended his fascist career. He is active in INO circles, has sat on the INO's election committee and has for many years led the Aid Organisation for War-Wounded, an organisation for former Norwegian Waffen-SS men. He has also taken part in trips by SS veterans to the battlefields of the Eastern Front.

Saxlund's name is on the KKS list. This indicates that Saxlund's involvement is not only social and nostalgic. He is also a subscriber to the German fascist publication *Junge Freiheit*.

Interviewed by Norwegian television,



Saxlund's book, which a court ruled was antisemitic trash

Saxlund said the news that German Jews had to wear a yellow star "made a disturbing impression" on him. Yet he comes from a poisonously antisemitic family tradition.

His grandfather, Supreme Court lawyer Eivind Saxlund, was a national socialist before the term was invented. In 1910 he published the book *Jøder og Goyim* (Jews and Goyim), which alongside *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* ranks as one of the worst antisemitic books ever published in Norway. In 1923 he produced his main work, *Livsanskuelse på biologisk grunnlag* (Biologically-based World View), which was published three years later in Germany with the title *Blut und Geist* (Blood and Spirit).