



Eesti Vabariigi Suursaatkond
Embassy of the Republic of Estonia
Oslo

Terje Bartholsen
Mayor of Evenes and Lenvik

No 16.1-6/23
Oslo, 12 May 2025

Honourable Mayor,

On behalf of the Estonian Embassy in Oslo, I would like to express my gratitude to you and the people of Evenes and Lenvik for taking care of the grave of the Estonian soldier Arnold Soinla on 17 May every year.

Arnold Soinla was one of the twelve Estonian soldiers who joined the Alta battalion and fought for Norway in the battles for Narvik. His story is a vivid reminder of the brutality of war and the fragility of human fate which, sadly, resonates starker in today's Europe than for a very long time. However, it also underscores the solidarity and friendship between our people that has stood the test of time and is as strong as ever, with the deepening of Nordic-Baltic cooperation and the strengthening of our collective defence.

Once again, dear Mayor, please accept my sincere appreciation for honouring the memory of the Estonian soldier. I look forward to visiting the site during my tenure in Norway.

Kind regards,

Piia Mathisen
Ambassador of Estonia

