



# Errors but no blame

*British inquest rules mauling death of teen by polar bear not due to negligence of guides*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

A week of testimony suggested practically every effort they made to prevent a polar bear attack was flawed. But the final verdict after multiple investigations is an attack on a British youth expedition in Svalbard that resulted in the mauling death of a teenager was not due to negligence by the guides.

The verdict following the inquest in Salisbury concludes the attack that killed Horatio Chapple, 17, in August of 2011 occurred without warning due to a faulty tripwire alarm. But the ruling also notes the bear was "hungry and in pain from bad teeth which more likely than not made it aggressive and unpredictable."

Ian Singleton, assistant coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon, issued the verdict Friday after taking an extra week after the inquest to evaluate the facts and testimony. His ruling matches that reached by Norwegian officials shortly after the attack, which was unsuccessfully challenged by Chapple's parents who then demanded the inquest.

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PHOTOS BY VILJAR HANSSSEN

Viljar Hanssen, shot five times at Utøya three years ago, takes contrasting self-portraits showing a glass eye he's using while attending college (mirror image) and revealing injuries from the attack.

# PERFECT MINDSIGHT

*Memorials and mourning are replaced by looking forward for many three years after Utøya*

*"Shoot me in the eye, and I will see the world more clearly."*

– Frode Grytten "A Poem For The Young"

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Viljar Hanssen, 20, is focusing on living his new life despite the occasional ugly reminder of the limits imposed on him after being shot five times in Norway's deadliest terrorist attack three years ago. But for one day he allowed his injuries to be a statement of bold defiance to the man who inflicted them.

Hanssen, whose life-threatening injuries included the loss of three fingers and his right

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NRK RADIO

Viljar Hanssen talks about the attacks at Utøya while hosting an NRK radio show this month.

## Inside

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# Grenade found here – stay away

*Area on Platåberget closed to hikers after WWII-era explosive found: officials to search for more*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

An area near a popular hiking trail on Platåberget is off-limits to the public indefinitely following the discovery of a grenade apparently from World War II, the Svalbard governor's office announced Monday.

The grenade was discovered by a hiker about 440 meters west of the northernmost

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MAGNAR SILSETH / SYSSELMANNEN

A World War II-era grenade marked by police tape has resulted in the area being closed.

## Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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## Corrections policy

When we screw up you'll know about it – on the front page. One of the big complaints about newspapers is they tend to bury corrections and clarifications deep inside where few people who read the original article see them. If we need to fix something, an alert box on the front page will state what story is in error and where the full correction is printed.

## Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome, but we can't offer pay for published items since nobody here is getting paid at the moment. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.

## A hanging offense



SVEIN WIK / ARCTIC WILDLIFE TOURS

A polar bear with a rope around its neck, probably from a driftnet that washed ashore, is spotted in Woodfjorden, north of Spitsbergen, in late June by Svein Wik, an expedition guide participating in a two-week cruise around the island. The discovery prompted a search for the bear, with the Governor of Svalbard deploying two police officers to the area, and asking cruise ship operators and others to report sightings. A couple staying at a hunting station reported seeing the bear Tuesday at the entrance to Austfjorden, and researchers with the Norwegian Polar Institute were able to tranquilize the bear and remove the loop from its neck.

## Icesheet

### Random bits of the week's weirdness:

We felt a bit bad about running a story a couple of weeks ago listing nasty things cruise ship passengers seriously need to avoid doing in Svalbard, since it seems unfair to taint every visitor with that brush. But our collective conscience is considerably more at ease after learning we seriously underestimated just how awful some cruisers are, especially around children. An article in Friday's *Dagens Næringsliv*, with a headline that literally translates as "shit and go," although "fuck off" is a more accurate interpretation, features a section where **Longyearbyen Kindergarten Manager Gunnhild Antonsen describes a litany of trauma-inducing experiences, beginning with the relatively tame example of a guy who wandered over and peed on the fence in front of the wide-eyed kids.** "Another time while we sat here the door suddenly opened and there came in a group of tourists who just walked right through kindergarten, in the door at one end and out the other, without sacrificing us a glance," she told the newspaper. The fence now has a sign reading "no photos," which the newspaper states are "two words you also hear Svalbard kindergarten children shout to snapping tourists." And in keeping with the tourism's earlier days when visitors "must have thought we were convicts...there are still some who seem concerned that the kids are penned up. Just last year, someone came in and gave the kids lots of gifts," Antonsen said. Among the other exasperating experiences for the teachers is how "midnight tourists will capture "the local ice bear killer" – which could potentially be any rifle-bearing adult. "After yesterday's trip, my colleague declared that she refuses to carry the rifle next time," Antonsen said. That's probably a wise decision, for the tourists' sake as well as the teacher's, but maybe folks



PHOTO BY ANDERS FRETHEIM

**Maybe if the kindergarteners shouted this at the tourists:** A sign on a farm in Fram delivers a more blunt message than local tots shouting "no photos" to people acting like they're at a zoo.

who tend to be wary of open-carry types back home might consider adopting the same attitude here ... And in other Clueless Tourist news, the governor's office got a call last Wednesday from a guide who had a **hiker in the group that was complaining about being too tired to make the trek back to boat awaiting them from the journey home, and asked if it would be possible to send a rescue helicopter to pick him up.** "We asked if the person was in distress," said Thomas Ulvestad, a police chief inspector for the governor, according to The Local Paper of Resters. "When we heard that he was tired, we said that this tour operator must deal with it themselves...we are not a taxi company." Not to fault our alleged news competitor, since we didn't even manage to scoop them on that much, but since there's no further details Inquiring Minds are wondering if the guy is still out there ... And since this seems to be a week of general cluelessness, we'll wrap up with a **good example of why so many people are still able to mock climate scientists.** The following headlines describe the same just-released study: "Climate change spells bad news for reindeer, say experts" and "Climate Change Helping Norwegian Reindeer Population Grow."



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Longyearbyen City Manager Lars Ole Saugnes, above left, prepares to lay flowers at the base of a memorial for Johannes Buø, 14, at right, one of the youngest victims of the July 22, 2011, attacks by Anders Behring Breivik at a youth camp on Utøya and government buildings in Oslo. Also attending the brief ceremony Tuesday morning outside of Svalbard Church were a handful of other city officials and Svalbard Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø, at center in the group above. Buø's family, along with many other Longyearbyen residents who are relatives or friends of the five local youths at Utøya when the attack occurred, are on holiday or otherwise out of town during the summer. A similar absence last year resulted in the unveiling of the memorial being delayed until fall.



PRIVATE

## Hanssen looking ahead with resolve

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eye, posted a photo on his Facebook and other social media sites with a caption from the composition by Grytten that was composed for the one-year anniversary of the attack.

Hanssen was one of five Longyearbyen residents at a youth camp on the island of Utøya during the mass shooting by Anders Behring Breivik that killed 69 people. Another eight people were killed by bombs detonated by Breivik at government buildings in Oslo.

Among those killed at Utøya was Johannes Buø, 14, who was living in Longyearbyen with his parents at time and was one of the youngest victims of the attacks. Svalbard Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø and a handful of city officials gathered Tuesday morning to lay flowers at the base of a memorial for Buø outside of Svalbard Church.

Hanssen's attitude in his Facebook post Tuesday, reflected in other aspects of his life as well as many other peers surviving the attack, is fueled mostly by resolve rather than anger. Now attending college in Tromsø, he said he plans to spend Tuesday visiting gravesites of friends in that city killed, but the

anniversary isn't as significant as a year ago.

"I think I have got my life a bit more together," he said. "On the other hand, I had to use the year to understand how my injuries limit what I can and cannot do."

An ordinary task such as washing a floor, for example, turned out to be impossible "because my arm has been so bad."

Hanssen, regarded as one of Longyearbyen's most politically active youths at the time, gained further notoriety nationwide when he was elected the youngest-ever member of Longyearbyen's Community Council in the October election following the attack. But in an interview earlier this month with *Dagsavisen* he said he is frustrated by attitudes now forming in Norway and elsewhere,

"Support for right-wing extremism is growing in Europe and in Norway," he told the newspaper. "A right-populist government came to power in Norway. It is awkward. The debate about the perpetrator's attitudes have been too tame across the board. We have not dared to take the big debate."

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

### HEADLINES STOLEN FROM **SVALBARDPOSTEN** VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

#### **New ship registration rules pose hardship, operators say**

Some cargo and passenger ship operators are facing what they call serious hardships due a new and unexpected requirement all vessels docking in Svalbard be registered in the Norwegian Ordinary Ship Register rather than a international register. The Norwegian Maritime Authority issued the mandate last week, which prohibits ships not in the national register from carrying passengers and cargo between Norwegian ports. Among the ships docking in Svalbard affected by the change are the highly used *MS Langøysund*, *MS Fram* and *MS Norbjørn*. "This is almost enough to make you cry," said Erik Mathisen, administrative director for Norbjørn AS, which since 2002 has had a permit allowing the ship to being cargo from Tromsø to Svalbard. "Here I think we are moving into areas that you should stay far away from." Re-registering will mean conforming to a generally more strict set of regulations concerning things such as workers' wages and rights. While Barentsburg is also somewhat affected, coal shipments from the settlement to Russia will not be affected because the rule applies only to in-country voyages.

#### **New Russian music festival being planned for August**

A new music festival featuring traditional and modern interpretations of old Russian music is being planned for late August in Barentsburg, Pyramiden and Longyearbyen, according to organizers. "There are three groups that will play in three different genres: experimental, ethnic and folk music," said Timofej Rogosjin, director of tourism for Trust Aktikugol, the Russian state-owned company responsible for overseeing Svalbard's Russian settlements. At least 15 concerts are planned, including several at outdoor venues.

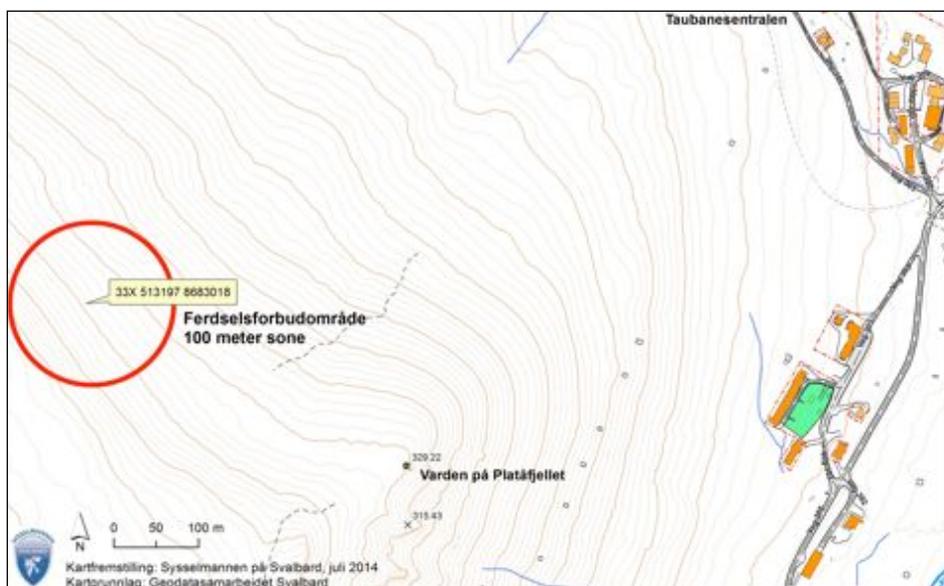
#### **Aggressive polar bear forces evacuation of research camp**

A research camp at Van Mijenfjorden was evacuated after two scientists reported seeing an aggressive polar bear eating a reindeer carcass about 200 meters from the camp last Wednesday, according to the Svalbard governor's office.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy. SW winds to 22 km/h. High 10C (9C wind chill), low 9C (6C wind chill).	Cloudy. SW winds to 32 km/h. High 9C (6C wind chill), low 8C (4C wind chill).	Cloudy. Variable winds to 25 km/h. High 7C (5C wind chill), low 6C (2C wind chill).	Light rain. Variable winds to 25 km/h. High 7C (4C wind chill), low 6C (3C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, cloudy, 7C (4C), 5C (3C), light 24:00h; Monday, cloudy, 5C (2C), 3C (0C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, p. cloudy, 5C (1C), 3C (-1C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, p. cloudy, 4C (1C), 3C (-1C), light 24:00h			

Data provided by storm.no



SYSSELMANNEN

An area 200 meters in diameter west of Longyearbyen, shown in red, is off-limits to the public indefinitely following the discovery of a grenade near a hiking trail. A similar discovery north of Longyearbyen a year ago resulted in an official search, with a total of 24 grenades from WWII found.

## Military to search for more grenades

### EXPLOSIVE, from page 1

cairn on the mountain directly west of Longyearbyen, according to Magnar Silseth, a police chief inspector for the governor. He stated an area with a radius of 100 meters from the grenade is closed until Norwegian military officials search the area for more grenades.

"It is not clear yet when they will arrive," he wrote in an e-mail interview.

Entering the banned area may result in criminal prosecution, Silseth noted.

The exact location of the grenade is at

GPS point N 78.2202, E 015.5790. The explosive, 40 mm in diameter and 150 mm long, may be an anti-aircraft shell.

A similar discovery was made north of Longyearbyen last July on a ridge between Adventtoppen and Hiorthfjellet. Several WWII-era grenades were discovered by hikers, with a total of 24 grenades – some wholly or partially concealed – found after a subsequent search by military officials.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## Verdict: No negligence in teen's death

### CHAPPLE, from page 1

The parents, Olivia and David Chapple, issued a prepared statement following the verdict declaring they still have serious concerns about the British Schools Exploring Society, which organized the trip, but they are accepting the verdict and focusing their efforts on a medical project devoted to their son's memory.

"We would urge parents to question the organizations who may be taking responsibility for the lives of their children," the statement notes. "Ask the uncomfortable questions and only trust if you are completely satisfied with the answers."

The parents testified during the inquest they were assured beforehand the guides would be properly trained and equipped. But the expedition's leaders acknowledged during the hearings that some safety equipment was discovered missing when the group arrived at their campsite on Von Postbreen, about 40 kilometers from Longyearbyen.

Among the missing items were stakes, wire and other detection-related equipment for the tripwire system surrounding the campsite. Leaders rigged an improvised system using items such as paper clips and clothing pins to hold essential parts in place.

There was also a shortage of pen flares designed to scare off bears, so only the expeditions leaders and doctors received them and

not the students as promised. The group also did not have a guard keeping watch overnight for bears, so the attack at about 7:30 p.m. Aug. 5, 2011, occurred without warning.

The guides said a lack of knowledge about the safety mechanism of a rifle brought by the group resulted in several unsuccessful attempts to shoot the bear as it attacked Chapple and injured four other people. All participants testifying described the efforts to distract the bear and fight it by hand as brave before one of the leaders was finally able to shoot it.

"From the accounts we have heard, we take some small comfort from the fact that Horatio's courageous actions may have distracted the bear, preventing others from being killed," the statement by his parents notes.

A statement by the expedition school notes it has implemented all of the changes to its operating procedures that were recommended by British authorities who conducted a separate inquiry into the incident. Among the measures are a new alarm system, better rifle training for participants and a mandatory bear watch in all camps.

Chapple's parents, meanwhile, are raising money for a series of therapy gardens at spinal injury centers in the United Kingdom the first of which was completed in 2012.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## What's up

### July 27

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

### July 29

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

### Aug. 3

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

### Aug. 5

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

### Aug. 9-10

Basic sea kayaking course. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Contact Svalbard Sailing Club at [svalbardseil@gmail.com](mailto:svalbardseil@gmail.com) for details.

### Aug. 10

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

7 p.m.: Movie: "Sex Tape," U.S. comedy, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 12

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

### Aug. 16-17

Basic sea kayaking course. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. both days.

### Aug. 17

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

7 p.m.: Movie: "Guardians of the Galaxy" (3D), U.S. action/sci-fi, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 19

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and fireplace social. Svalbard Church.

### Aug. 20

6 p.m.: Movie: "How to Train Your Dragon 2" (3D), U.S. animated family film, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 24

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

5 p.m.: Movie: "How to Train Your Dragon 2," U.S. animated family film, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

7 p.m.: Movie: "Hercules" (3D), U.S. action/adventure, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

## What's online

**Icepeople.net** provides daily updates of news about Svalbard and the world's polar regions, plus extras for articles from the print edition. Among the latest news:

- *Yet another warmest-ever month in June*
- *France joins countries seeking Arctic role*
- *The world's northernmost surfing school*
- *World seeks mercy for 'sad' polar bear*