

POLISH ARMY IN FIFE

by Marysia Lachowicz
(work in progress)

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During WW2 some divisions of the Polish Army were based in Fife on the east coast of Scotland. They were charged with defending the area from any German attack by sea. The Polish Forces set to work building not only anti-tank coastal defences but in some areas (as in Tentsmuir Forest) their own camps. They were also in training for future fighting in mainland Europe.



Gates to Largo House
(known as *Monkey Grove* or *Malpy Gaj*)
where the parachute
brigade trained.



I have been documenting the area where they were stationed and the remains of the defences. Some were completely destroyed by the Polish Sappers in 1946. The crumbling concrete blocks and the dense forests where they camped and trained reflect their strength and bravery as well as the emotional turmoil of those men who fought for the freedom of our own and their nations.



Ultimately they were let down by the politics of post-war Europe. Today many locals remember them as Polish prisoners of war rather than our allies: post-war they almost were prisoners as many felt unable to return to a Poland under Soviet rule and instead made new lives and families in Scotland. Their dream was to return to a free Poland but that came too late for many.

