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Defending Scotland

by Lech Muszynski

They were also playing cat and mouse games with the Germans. They were under orders not to shoot the German spotter planes as they were coming in from Norway to see what was going on. They were under orders to shoot at them but to miss them so they would go back to Norway and tell them that the beaches were well defended. Right enough, if you go up there now you can still see the fences, the big posts and everything, the wire stretched around the sand and everything. Part of it is still there.

After the war, there was a German report from Norway. They said that they abandoned the idea of invading Scotland. They wanted to invade Scotland, cut Scotland in half, but they abandoned it after they had reports that Scotland was so well defended. And it's not true because most of the big guns that they did see was telephone poles. They were painted and things like that and even, even some of, some of the big guns at Russaks Hotel at St Andrews. They were all telegraph poles painted to look like guns. And it worked, it really worked.

I was there with my sons about 15 years ago, aye about 15 years ago. And there's still places where there were barracks and tents and whatever. There's still bits of old kitchens and things like that. And everything's been cleared away but I found a bit of a Polish flag in the ground. I pulled and there it was, come up, a Polish flag and my sons said 'Oh my goodness'. And I found a part of

a REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) badge and my son found a Polish eagle, that's the logo we wore on our forage caps and later on, on the berets. So it's full of, it's full of Polish memorabilia.

This is the transcript of the audio file available at
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