

## Norwegian Specific Information

No.	Name of Feature / building	Where? / grid ref	Condition	Description	HER /Canmore	Sources
N1	Coul House	NH 4624 5640	Surviving	<p>Coul House was commandeered by the military at the outbreak of war and became the residence for many of the officers of various regiments and nationalities who were stationed in the village. For example, a British military document (WO 166/1322) states it was used by the British 176 Field Ambulance in July 1941. The Norwegians were there from April 1942, first used by the Machine Gun company, then the Horse Service of the Norwegian Brigade from August 1942 to autumn 1943. According to British military documents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Independent Mountain Company was based in Contin between March -May/June 1943, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Independent company in July, and the 1st Independent Mountain Company in August – October 1943 (see Timeline for details). Officers stayed in the house, other men in nissen and wooden huts in the grounds (see N1a). K Cumming recalled that the ‘four-in-hand horse-drawn coach carried the Norwegian officers from Coul House to Brahan Castle for Sunday evening dinner.</p> <p>At times Coul House was empty and it is possible that the Norwegians were on operations. Harold and Freddy know this as they knew of a way of getting into the unoccupied house and having a look around and playing hide and seek with other village children.</p> <p>The present Coul House was built in 1821 with later editions in 1860. It replaced an earlier house, which was reputedly in the area where the Norwegian stables were located (see below N3). The current building was the home of Sir George Steuart Mackenzie (1780-1848). He was a keen antiquarian and horticulturalist, responsible for some heirloom apples. The Coul Blush apple has been saved, but there are two other varieties which seem to have been lost. The garden had an apple store, situated at Coul Mains.</p>	MHG14110 Canmore 105490	Harold and Freddy Margaret, Robert, K. Cumming <i>60-70 Years Ago; Peep into the Past,</i>
N1a	Coul House military camp	Roughly NH 4602 5631	Gone	<p>The whole area between the house and Mrs. Benkowski’s bungalow was filled with nissen and wooden huts as the billets for the ‘other’ ranks (the officers staying in Coul House or other billets). This was where Norwegians troops were stationed. The huts were based around a green, still not built upon (NH 46117 56245). On one side of the green Freddy remembers the canteen and kitchen. No one remembers when the huts disappeared after the war or if they were sold on. There were sinks and toilets left there in a red brick building, remembered at c. NH 4597 5636, where a house is currently (2024) being built. Hamish Polson had to clear barbed wire from the area when the new houses were being built there over 20 years ago. Some bases</p>	Not in HER	Harold, Freddy Maria, Alasdair, K. Cumming <i>60-70 Years Ago,</i>

				might still survive in the area to the east, towards Mains of Coul. Further fieldwork would be good when the vegetation dies down.		
N2	Norwegian stables	Centred on NH 4593 5664	Foundations only	<p>According to Fjærli's book, originally the machine gun company had been established at Coul in April 1942, but in September a school for the horse service and the Army's Repair and Horse Depot was established at Coul, with 100 crew. The machine gun company was disbanded and distributed among other companies. The horses were purchased in England and Scotland, assembled in Dumfriess-shire and transferred to Coul, probably by train. There were 253 horses, with the intent that each Independent Mountain company would have 40, later increased to 50. These were to be used as packhorses. The intent was also to have some pull carts, but in the end only 10 horses were broken in to do this. This meant 150 horses, and the surplus were sold in Perth in 1944. When the Norwegians moved to Callendar in October 1943, the horses moved too, to Tayport. The Independent Mountain Companies trained with the horses climbing, wading, passing through bogs, driving off road etc. K. Cumming recalled watching from the playground as the horses were broken in and trained to pull buggies, gun-carriages, etc on Fairyknowe.</p> <p>The stables were situated up the drive to Coul House on the left close to where the lily pond was situated, in the horse-jumping field and wood. Freddy also remembers additional stables near the NAAFI, on the site where Jessie Benkowski's bungalow was situated (NH 4598 5625). The stables are remembered as having asbestos roofing, though there was no consensus on what the sides were made of. It was clear that there would have needed to have been a lot of stables to accommodate 200+ horses. The Norwegians had their own farrier. There would have been a lot of interaction with the local farmers to get straw and fodder.</p> <p>Freddy and Maria's mother (as reported to Meryl) both remember mules there too. Meryl recalls Jessie Bonkowski saying that the mules were being specifically trained by the Norwegians to go to Burma. Freddy remembers the Norwegians racing the mules up at Coul. The animals were used to carry guns and ammunition boxes and sometimes used to practise crossing the river with them.</p> <p>The foundations of some of the stables can still be traced in some cases. They are rectangular in plan, with square offshoots at each corner. Maria also recalls playing in the field called The Green where there were the remnants of hut bases. Later activity in the field where the pony club and horse jumping were later located has obscured much of what was there before. Meryl has done a survey of some of the hut bases in 2012. Aerial photographs are being sought. Meryl interviewed Jessie Bonkowski (Maria's mum) who was 97 at the time in 2008. Jessie said that she went down to London during the war driving trucks for the WAAFs. Jessie remembered</p>	MHG59076 Canmore 319916	<p>Fjærli 1982 p 62, 194</p> <p>Harold, Meryl, Freddy, Alasdair, Maria, Margaret, K. Cumming <i>60-70 Years Ago.</i></p>

				the Norwegians being in Contin for the specific purpose of training the mules in river crossings. Maria remembers her mum saying that the Norwegians ate horse meat.		
N3	Brahan Castle	NH 5116 5459	Gone	<p>Brahan Castle was also requisitioned during the war. For example in July 1941 it was the HQ for British 154 Infantry Brigade (WO 166/1322). The Ross and Cromarty Heritage Society website has a picture of Seaforth Highlanders drilling there.</p> <p>This was the HQ for Norwegian forces during the time they were in Ross and Cromarty, from April 1942 to Oct/Nov 1943 (see Timeline for details). The visitor book from Brahan Castle records visits by the King and Crown Prince Olav from 22-27 June 1942 and again by Prince Olav in October 1942. Other probable Norwegian visitors signed the book in September 1943. The Norwegian Archives have photos of male and female troops at the castle during King Haakan's visit in July 1943.</p> <p>It is likely that the female Norwegian troops were billeted in the castle. This is based on a Ross-shire Journal article (13 Aug.1943) which reports on a sports day in Dingwall where troops from various nations competed against one another. The 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the women's relay race is listed as 'Brahan'. These were unlikely to be staff at the castle, hence the possibility that the Norwegian women were based there.</p> <p>The castle was also used for country dances quite often during the war years. Freddy remembers going to the dances when he was 10/11 years old.</p> <p>Freddy remembers the demolition of the castle in 1953. It was demolished due to the roof leaking, general decay and dry rot. Andrew confirmed that all Brahan Castle records are at the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh. Andrew confirmed that a lade from Loch Ussie brought water down to Brahan to power the Mill at the farm and supply other buildings. The original water supply came from Loch Ussie in the 1800s, and there was a dam at Loch Ussie even earlier. This is still managed by Scottish Water today.</p>	MHG8985	Alasdair, Harold, Freddy, Andrew
N4	Marriages to Norwegians			<p>A number of marriages are either recorded or remembered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pat remembers that a lady from Aberdeen married a Norwegian who was stationed at Brahan Castle. It is unclear whether the woman was stationed at Brahan Castle or whether her husband was stationed there. After the war she went to live in Norway.</li> <li>In Dingwall, the daughter of the Minister of St Clements church, Chrystal Fraser, married a Norwegian Officer and became Christy Lie. Pat arranged for their sons to stay at the Old Manse B&amp;B when they visited Dingwall many years later.</li> <li>Kjell Johansen in Norway sent a picture of a local girl marrying a Norwegian. It was said to have been taken at Brahan Castle, but the shape of the door suggested more likely the Church of Scotland, Castle Street, Dingwall if it occurred locally. The photo is dated 18/10/1942</li> </ul>		Pat

				<p>The newspapers reported on other marriages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feb 1943 Hilda Urquhart, Dingwall to Pte. Gunnar Larsen, held in St James, Dingwall</li> <li>• May 1943 Alice Burton to Pte. Einer Silversten, held in St James Dingwall</li> <li>• Aug 1943 Winnie MacIennan, Achterneed to Lt. G. Kramer in Church of Scotland, Strathpeffer</li> <li>• Feb 1944 Margaret Gollan, Dingwall to Corp. Einar Aasen at St Clements Church, Dingwall</li> <li>• Feb 1944 Mary Ross, Dingwall to Pte. Bernt Helgensen at St Clements Church</li> <li>• Aug 1944 Mary Ross, Dingwall to Erling Fagenheim at Castle Street Church. [He was a minister with Norwegian forces]</li> </ul>		
N5	Norwegian Religion and Worship			<p>Many Norwegians followed the Lutheran faith. Pastor Dahle was the Senior Military Chaplain to the Norwegian Forces, and stayed in Strathpeffer at Craigvar, run by Tor's wife's grandmother. Arthur Scott supplied notes taken in 2008 concerning Paster Dahle. Local newspapers also mention another Norwegian clergyman, Erling Fagenheim. Ronnie recounted that he had an email from Lars Graham who is Norwegian. His great grandfather, William Graham was born in Contin in 1821 and was baptised at the Contin Parish Church. Lars has been doing some research into his family and has been told that Norwegians used to worship in the church during the war with services being taken by the Norwegian padre. Ronnie noted that he had no confirmation of this, and that the capacity of the church is no more than 120, so that there would have been limited capacity for Norwegian soldiers. However, Kenneth Cumming remembered that a service was conducted by the resident Norwegian padre at Contin Church during the war.</p>		Tor, Harold, Ronnie, Arthur, K. Cumming <i>Peep into the Past</i>
N6	Billeted Norwegian troops			<p>Although officers were in Brahan Castle, and some troops were at Coul House, there were also Norwegian soldiers billeted with local families. Each Independent Mountain company was meant to hold 260 men, and the horse company another 100. This would have put a strain on accommodation in Contin.</p> <p>Donald Greig who was the postman and lives now at Glebe Cottage remembered Norwegians being billeted at a house near the Old Manse. This was the family of George Michael Bratli, one of the authors of the book on Norwegians in Scotland.</p> <p>Jocky MacCallum from Fodderty Farm told a story of Norwegians being billeted in the farm stead. He remembered there was a rota for them to get a bath at the farmhouse.</p> <p>Harold explained that he was evacuated here from London in WW2. He came to stay with his aunt and uncle at West Lodge as his uncle was a gardener at Coul House. He recalls Colonel Malberg (spelling not certain) being billeted to West Lodge along with his wife and baby. He was then moved to either Brahan Castle or Coul House and may have come to Scotland on the Shetland Bus but that is unconfirmed.</p>		Olsen 2020 p. 68. Fjærli 1982 p. 174. Information from Kjell Johansen, Alasdair, Margaret, Harold, Freddy, Tor

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				<p>Freddy remembers that a Norwegian officer and his family stayed in a shooting lodge up near Torachilty Dam. He appears to have been quite important, often in London.</p> <p>In addition to housing Pastor Dahle At Craigvar in Stathpeffer, Tor's wife's grandmother also housed a Norwegian officer and his wife, a Mrs Fooght [sic] (recorded in a letter written from Tor's wife's grandmother to her son, the minister in Strathpeffer).</p>		
N6a	Achilty Hotel		Surviving	<p>Margaret spoke to the previous owners of Achilty Hotel, the McKays, who confirmed that the Norwegians were stationed in the hotel. Margaret's mum told her that the Norwegians used to ski from there to Strathpeffer.</p> <p>The Achilty Inn is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (surveyed 1876). Before Telford built the Contin bridge (MHG6295) and road in the early 1800s, the road west had gone to the east of the river. K. Cumming describes in his booklet the Achilty Inn as a coaching inn, and it must have been established after Telford's new road. He notes that it was the only licensed premises in the locality, the village pub (no. 22 below) having closed sometime previously. In the 1841 census, it appears to have been known as the Contin Inn, and its landlord was a Mr Moffat.</p>		<p>Margaret, K. Cumming 60-70 Years Ago. Information from Marianne Ross</p>
N7	Norwegians in Marybank School			<p>In 1943 Freddy went to Marybank school and there were two Norwegian boys who attended also, one older and one younger than Freddy. Their dad was an Officer and stayed in a shooting lodge up near the Torachilty Dam, possibly Dromanriach. The lodge was destroyed when the dam was built. The boys' father was often in London and would be in a small truck travelling back and forth to Brahan Castle for meetings. The boys used to cycle to Moy bridge to his mum's and leave their bikes there if catching a bus. Freddy's mum would give them tea etc. Freddy's family had cups from LMS. London Midland and Scottish Railway Co. The boys said 'oh we have a full set of this'. When the family left Freddy is certain they were moving to Orkney. He thinks the dad's name was Hanns. Freddy was working in Burnets the Bakers van and remembers delivering bread to the lodge.</p>		<p>Freddy and Sandra</p>
N8	Norwegian Troops Behaviour			<p>The Norwegians used to throw hand grenades into the river and would take out salmon. They were known for poaching. Between the NAAFI and Coul House there was a huge heap of ash from the house and the huts. Sometimes the Norwegian soldiers would throw live rounds into the hot ash and watch them explode.</p>		<p>Harold, Freddy</p>
N9	NAAFI	Approx.. NH 4600 5673	Gone	<p>Up the road to Mains of Coul at the left-hand bend towards the farm was the NAAFI. The Norwegians would give Harold and Freddy doughnuts. K. Cumming describes getting biscuits and buns. The soldiers were very young probably in their early 20s. Some spoke some English. The landowner cleared the land before the houses were built on the site so there will be no evidence of this left now.</p>	Not in HER	<p>Freddy, Maria, K. Cumming 60-70 Years Ago.</p>
N10	Norwegian Social Life			<p>It is likely that the Norwegians went into Strathpeffer and Dingwall for dances etc. Many years later Pat met Arne Helgeson who had been stationed in Dingwall. He remembered dancing the</p>		<p>Pat, Alasdair</p>

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				waltz in Dingwall Lower Town Hall. Alasdair recalls that events were organised in Evanton which attracted military personnel from further afield, so the Norwegians possibly went there too. The newspaper reports confirm a number of activities Norwegians participated in, especially whist drives, dances and sporting events, in Maryburgh, Strathpeffer, and Dingwall.		
N11	Guard Hut and Mines on railway	NH 5094 5899	Gone	Just off the main railway line, on the Strathpeffer branch line, there were 10 sidings with wagons loaded with mines and tube explosives set under them that could blow it all up for defence purposes. This is described in Christensen, M. 1997. 'Demolition preparations on the Kyle Line', <i>Highland Railway Journal</i> , 16-17. Norwegians were said to have manned the guard hut there. Kenny Stewart told an ARCH project that he remembered throwing stones on top of the guard hut as a prank. The hut no longer survives, but the HER record has a photo taken around 10 years ago when the foundations were still just visible. The Norwegians are also remembered to have had all of the mines laid out on the fields just off the main branch railway line to Strathpeffer ready for transportation up to the Kyle of Lochalsh on the train.	MHG56041	Freddy, Alasdair
N12	Training in the area			The land around Strathpeffer was used for training for the army. Jock Watt and Neil MacDonald in the ARCH Strathpeffer project remembered WWII manoeuvres in the hills by Castle Leod. Norwegians practiced skiing in the area. Freddy also described how training happened on Tor Achilty and all the hills around there. Pictures in the Norwegian archives show training in the area, including crossing the river. Some of the sites are not possible to identify at the moment – further work needed. K. Cumming recorded that the children watched the troops each day as they marched off on manoeuvres or to the rifle range at Tor Achilty. Towards the end of the war he records, in notes of a talk given to the school, watching Bren gun carriers rumble by, amphibious 6-wheel drive trucks– DUKWs – heading for Loch Achilty to practice landing for the Normandy landings. There was a landing stage built at Loch Achilty for the practice runs. These are unlikely to be Norwegians, and probably troops which followed them.		ARCH Remembering Strathpeffer Project, Freddy; K. Cumming <i>60-70 Years Ago</i>
N13	Rifle Range, Tor Achilty	Possibly around NH 4536 5526	Only concrete wall survives	The rifle range at Tor Achilty was used by all the armed forces present in Contin throughout the war. The targets were pulled up by chains. The armed forces would have target competitions there and this would have included the Norwegian troops. Nothing survives now except a concrete wall used to make a new shed.		Harold, Freddy
N14	Norwegians in Dingwall			Norwegians were also stationed in Dingwall much of the time they were in Contin (see Timeline for details). Dingwall also housed the Norwegian postal service probably from April 1943 to November 1943. The Norwegian Police Force was based in Dingwall (14 men) and Rosemarkie (6 men) from August 1942 to August 1943. Further work is needed to find out where the Norwegians were billeted in Dingwall and where the official units were housed.		Fjærli, 1982 Pat Alasdair

				<p>It is likely that the Contin Norwegians were involved in the many social events happening in Dingwall. After the war a number of Norwegians returned to visit, or their families, and they have left some gifts in Dingwall Museum, many on display. These include a small pennant. Dingwall Town Hall was used for many events, including a Burns Night supper in January 1943 which cost the town over £51. The minutes show tensions in the town where some members objected to social events for the troops on Sundays. Initially the town hall had been requisitioned for the war, but in May 1943 was de-requisitioned, with organisers of war events now expected to pay hire charges.</p> <p>The burgh minutes also talk about water supply to a camp at Kinnairdie. Alasdair recalled that there was a camp with gable ends to Kinnairdie Brae, where houses now are on Logan Drive. Was this a Norwegian camp, an Indian camp, or might there have been two camps?</p> <p>Pat's husband's father sold a grand piano to the Norwegians, though it is not certain where this was located. Norwegians were also known to frequent the fish and chip shops.</p>		Dingwall Burgh minutes
N15	King Haakon's visits			<p>Braham Castle visitor book shows that King Haakon and Crown Prince Olav were here in June 1942 along with senior military officials, and Prince Olav returned in October 1942. Neither signs the guest book in July 1943 when they also were in the area inspecting troops in Contin and Fortrose. Norwegian archives have photos of the visit, including a parade down the road in front of the war memorial and watching troops on manoeuvres. This visit is remembered in K. Cumming's booklet, and was reported in an article published in <i>Norsk Tidend</i>, the Norwegian newspaper published in London, on 21 July 1943. A visit to Evanton is remembered by a local resident, and may have taken place on one of these visits.</p> <p>One of the photos of King Haakon on his July 1943 visit shows him at a railway station. If in the Highlands, this is probably Inverness Station as it is the only local station with track that curves. When in the Highlands, the Norwegian shipping magnate and Norwegian consul Theodore Salvesen made Carbisdale Castle available to the king to stay in.</p>		K. Cumming <i>60-70 Years Ago</i> . Further details from K. & O. Johansen and G. Bratli
N16	Norwegian Air Force			<p>A good summary in English of the Norwegian Air Force in Britain can be found in the article by Mohr 1995. Tor's father was part of Squadron 333. Personnel from both the Royal Norwegian Navy Air Service (Marinens Flygevapen) and the Norwegian Army Air Service (Haerens Flyevaben) escaped to Britain, some with aircraft, after the fall of Norway in 1940 and subsequently fought with the RAF, mostly in the specially-formed Norwegian units listed below. In November 1944 the navy and army air services merged to form the Royal Norwegian Air Force (Luftforsvaret) but continued to serve in the same RAF units.</p> <p>In the Highlands squadrons were briefly based at Castletown (see Timeline). Keith believes that 330 Sqn aircrew would mostly have gone through operational training at 4 (Coastal) Operational</p>		Mohr 1995; Tor, Keith



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				Training Unit, abbreviated to <b>4(C)OTU</b> , at Alness, which was RAF Coastal Command's principal training unit for flying boat crews.		
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## Contin and General Local Area Information in WW2

1	Home Guard			<p>The Home Guard in Contin were mainly ex-WW1 soldiers. They were very serious about their job. The Norwegians may have trained with them at times. The Home Guard had a Nissan hut where they stored their ammunition by the village hall opposite the monument. Mr Smith who had the garage was the officer in charge and Harold's uncle, David Munro was Sergeant. The Home Guard was about 40 men strong and, as well as WW1 veterans, younger men who stayed behind to keep farms going were part of it. Freddy's father was in the Home Guard until 1942. They also used to man the concrete pill boxes in the area. There may have also been an underground store at the top of Kinnahaird Brae. The Home Guard also poached salmon and shot deer as did the Norwegians.</p> <p>The Home Guard in Contin organised regular dances during the war in the Village Hall, especially when the Norwegians were in the area.</p>		Robert, Harold, Freddy
2	Polish Army			The Poles were here in 1946 but as displaced persons. Maria also mentioned that her father was stationed in Contin at the end of the war.		Maria
2a	Other troops in the area			There were other troops in Contin before and after the Norwegians. Freddy remembers British troops there after the Norwegians. One in particular had a thick belt with lots of badges fastened to it. Freddy and other local boys imitated this.		Freddy
3	Brahan POW Camp	NH 5179 5540	Virtually gone	The POW camp was on Brahan Estate. POWs from the camp worked on a number of farms in the area. Italian POWs from the POW Camp on Brahan estate were also seen skiing in the area and worked on Coul Farm. The Italian POW's wore brown Boiler Suits with large yellow patches on them. They were clearly visible from a long way, and were known for being lazy unlike the German POWs. Andrew recounted a story about a German POW who acquired a bike and used to cycle every week to Invergordon and back to work with a carpenter there. He would rush back to play in football matches with local village teams. Later the camp was used for displaced persons, including Ukrainians.	MHG24889	Robert, Andrew, Alasdair
4	Mains of Coul	NH 4621 5624	Surviving	According to the Listed Building report, it was built in 1795, a 2-storey, 12 bay farm square frontage. Maria and Robert's grandparents (the MacQueens) had Mains of Coul during the wartime. The troops might have come for milk and eggs from the farm. Later Mr Holt lived there and made a number of renovations. A date stone is preserved above the entrance to the	MHG7890	Maria, Robert, Margaret



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				courtyard. Slaters removed many of the steading's slates and replaced them with corrugated iron when Mr Holt had the farm. The apple store was at the western end of the complex, although the wooden steps leading up to the storage loft have disappeared. Originally the apple trees were mainly to the south of the current house. Probably at the west end there was a waterwheel, fed by a laide which came from the dam (see no. 26), but no trace remains.		
5	Contin Mains	Originally NH 4584 5589. Now NH 4635 5530		Laurence noted that this has shifted. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map, surveyed 1876, it was located just to the south of the Smithy, to the SE of Mains of Coul. It is now near Kinnahaird. Scatwell Estate controlled the farm at the Mains of Contin. John Noble, brother of factor Hugh Noble, who resided at Contin Mains ran the farm. K. Cumming describes the Nobles in his booklet, noting that before the war they ran it mainly as a sheep farm, but during the war it was used for general farming, with Dept of Agriculture tractors arriving to do ploughing and reaping. POWs from Brahan helped during harvest and tattie-picking, and K. Cumming has a vivid description of Mrs Smith at Glebe Cottage serenading the POWs with 'Lily of Marlene'.	MHG6306	Laurence, K. Cumming 60-70 Years Ago,
6	Military training trenches, Contin	NH 4504 5710		There are zig zagging trenches on both banks of the Blackwater by Contin Bridge. Their use is unknown, but may have been for training exercises by the Norwegians or other troops. Meryl has recorded these.	MHG62653	Meryl
7	Mills	NH 4595 5556		There was an estate sawmill by the Church Bridge. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map it is labelled as a saw and corn mill, and the mill laide is also depicted. Meryl produced a report for this, available on the HER record. Kenny Cumming describes it in his booklet Contin 60-70 Years Ago. Contin Mains had a mill - this was the farm for Scatwell and the people who lived there were millers. The Newfoundlanders (Newfies) were at Fairburn, and the Canadians and Newfies at Orrin Bridge at different times. The Newfies had a big mill at Aultgowrie. The site of the camp for Aultgowrie mill became the camp for the building of the Orrin dam.	MHG21722 MHG62537 MHG62538	Freddy, Harold, Laurence, Alasdair
8	Bobbin Mill			This was in Contin and was one of the main employers in the late 1800s and into the early 1900s. It was owned by the Rose family. The bobbins themselves were made from hardwood, roughly to shape and then left to season for a year. They were bagged up and sent to Dundee where they were finished off and smoothed down. They were also sent to India until the Indian people realised they could make them themselves. The mill premises blew up due to a steam engine explosion in 1952. The Rose family supplied firewood in the local area and often these consisted of reject bobbins, which were also used as toys. Miss Rose lived near the old village hall and lived to be over 100. She died not that long ago. The Forestry Memories website <a href="https://www.forestry-memories.org.uk/">https://www.forestry-memories.org.uk/</a> has photos and more information (see no. 3201).		Alasdair, Freddy

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9	Landgirls at Little Scatwell			This is where the Landgirls were stationed in the war. One of these young ladies, Cathie McDonell, married John, son of Mr. Rose., timber merchant who set up the shop in Contin, first in a hut above Riverside.		Freddy, K. Cumming 60-70 Years Ago,
10	Lumber Jills at Craigdarroch			This is where the Lumber Jills were stationed.		Freddy; K. Cumming 60-70 Years Ago,
11	Electricity in Contin			There was no electricity in the village in the war years. Fairbairn Castle had its own generator which ran off the River Orrin. Brahan Castle had a watermill which may have supplied power. Alasdair remembers being a very small boy in 1953 with his father there who was buying slates off the Brahan roof. The slates came down a chute. They were also trying to sell his father the gates from the lift which were concertina gates which his father did not buy. If they had a lift, this suggests there was electricity.		Harold, Alasdair, Meryl, Andrew
12	Battery charging			Below the garage was a large diesel generator during the war years. This was used to charge batteries for radios during the war, in the time before electricity was in the village.		Harold
13	Contin Village Hall	NH 4582 5582	Gone	The corrugated iron ('tin') hall was built for the community by Sir Arthur Mackenzie (1865-1935) 11 <sup>th</sup> Baronet of Coul. According to K. Cumming's booklet, it used to have a portrait of him and his son Sir Robert Mackenzie. The Free Church used to meet there, as well as the WRI and other clubs. Jock the Barber from Dingwall also used to come there. Concerts were also held for the troops during the war, and if space was available, locals were allowed to attend. K. Cumming recalled an ENSA party entertaining in the Hall, and another night when a concert party failed to turn up and they had barrack room songs from the back row. He recalled local women making jams there for war and welcome home funds. Also during the war the Hall was one of the meeting places for the Home Guard. In the 1970s it had a library. It was demolished in the early 2000, and the hall moved to the old school when the school merged Strathpeffer.	MHG32508 (note: calls this a church)	Margaret, Freddy, Robert, Maria, K. Cumming 60-70 Years Ago,
14	Hydro Scheme			There were pre-WWII hydro schemes in the area, including a dam at Lochluichart in the 1920s. However, people think that the electricity generated bypassed Contin by going via Ravens Rock. The river levels were shallow enough to ford the river in WW2 and were even shallower following the hydro scheme.		Meryl

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15	West Lodge, Coul House	NH 4580 5614	Surviving	Harold was evacuated here from London in WW2. He came to stay with his aunt and uncle at West Lodge as his uncle was a gardener at Coul House.	MHG7861	Harold
16	Contin Shop	NH 4559 5630		Mr Rose of the bobbin mill set up the shop in Contin, first in a hut above Riverside. The shop moved to its present location in the early 1950s.		Margaret, Freddy, Maria
17	Garage	NH 4583 5597	Survives	K. Cumming recalls in Contin 60-70 Years Ago that before the war there were few cars in the village, so the garage was not that busy. It was a wooden building. School busses and ambulances were run from there. The owners of the garage lived in Holly Cottage (MHG7796). This is where the batteries were charged (see no. 12). The garage burnt down in the late 1980s, and the present garage was built in the 1990s. Maria's mother cut the ribbon when it opened.	MHG21607 (for photo)	Robert, Freddy, Maria
18	Smiddy	NH 4582 5599	Survives	In contrast K. Cumming recalls in Contin 60-70 Years Ago that the smiddy was very busy, as all farm horses went there regularly to be shod. They also made iron gates. The HER has some old photos of the smiddy. The smiddy is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition OS map (surveyed 1876). It is currently (2024) a fish and chip shop.	MHG21607	Freddy, Robert, Maria
19	1 <sup>st</sup> school	NH 4584 5580	Now private house	The first known school in Contin is shown on the 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. OS map (surveyed 1876) as one of the four old cottages opposite the junction of the road to Strathpeffer. It is listed on the map as having boys and girls. K. Cumming describes it in his booklet Contin 60-70 years ago, saying it was 2 rooms presided over by Miss McLean and Aulay McLeod. The flush toilets were at the bottom of the yard. He describes school days and games. In his booklet <i>A Peep into the Past</i> , K. Cumming notes that the first surviving school log books are 1864, and he describes early staff and inspections. The house is currently known as Rose Cottage.	Not in HER	
20	2 <sup>nd</sup> school / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Village Hall	NH 4565 5625	Surviving	The school moved to this location in 1876 (see description in K. Cumming ' <i>A Peep into the Past</i> '). When it was opened there was no water. Later a canteen was added. When the new joint school for Contin and Strathpeffer was built in 2000 in Strathpeffer, it became the second village hall. It has been empty since the current new hall opened in 2021, though the Millennium quilt still hangs there.	Not in HER	Margaret, Maria
21	Roselea	NH 4584 5580	Surviving	This was the school teacher's house for the original school. In K. Cumming's day it was the home of John and Bella Foster.	Not in HER	
22	Oak View	NH 4584 5578	Surviving	On the 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. OS map (surveyed 1876) this was listed as the Post Office. It had double doors and K. Cumming remembers it as the Village pub.	Not in HER	

# **The Norwegians in Contin in WW2**

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23	Dunaverty Cottage	NH 4585 5577	Surviving	This is listed as the Police Station on the 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. OS map (survived 1876). K. Cumming described it in his booklet Contin 60-70 Years ago as originally the Village Jail.	MHG7097 (grid ref & title need updating)	
24	Millbrae	NH 4599 5553	Surviving	K Cumming describes in his booklet Contin 60-70 Years ago the post office at Millbrae in some depth, run from a porch of the extension of Millbrae by Mrs Bethune.	Not in HER	
25	Filling Station	NH 4586 5598	Surviving	This existed in the village from at least the 1970s. More information needed	Not in HER	Margaret
26	Water management around Coul			Meryl has done a survey tracing water courses with Margaret. A dam was located c. NH 4622 5673. There was a sluice for the farm at the dam (depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps), and when threshing took place at the farm it was opened. The lade then ran down by Coul House (where part of it is visible to the north of the house at NH 46256 564455. The water then went underground to the side of Mains of Coul farm where there was a waterwheel, the slot now filled in with concrete. It then ran along the farm road, and then crossed the path to Preas Mairi where pipes can be seen and some open places. It later fed Contin Mains waterwheel. When Scatwell estate bought the area, they diverted the water, and there is little water running in this lade today. Instead, it runs from where the lily pond was located at c. NH 46092 56496, running down to near West Lodge, and then underground under the road to the river.		Freddy, Robert, Anne, Margaret, Harold
27	Preas Mairi chambered cairn	NH 4609 5584	Surviving	This is the remains of a Neolithic burial chamber dating 5000 years ago, located in the private graveyard for the Mackenzie Family (see MHG7893). One of the stones has three holes and was reputedly used for healing warts. The site is now very overgrown.	MHG6308	Maria
28	Grave on hillside	Not located	Unknown	Maria and Robert used to visit a grave for a man who committed suicide. This is now in Forestry, and when they last tried to find it, were unable to do so. It was known as the Butler's Grave.	Not in HER	Maria, Robert
29	Rifle Range	NH 4504 5750	Unknown	A Volunteers' rifle range is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> ed. OS map (surveyed 1876), on the east side of the Black water, with the target at NH 45038 57493, and 600 yard marked at NH 45241 56979. It is not depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map (surveyed 1902). In 2001 some remains survived.	MHG30257	
30	Curling Pond	NH 4632 5675	Gone	A rectangular curling pond is depicted on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, surveyed in 1902, beside the pond where the dam and sluice were located to the north of Coul House.	Not in HER	

## The Norwegians in Contin in WW2

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31	Fountainhead	NH 46514 56129	Unknown	A Fountainhead is depicted on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps in a field to the east of the Curling pond.	Not in HER	
32	Mains of Coul estate cottages	NH 4601 5618	Surviving	Two estate cottages for Mains of Coul survive, now called Northmost Cottage and Southmost Cottage.	Not in HER	
33	Coul Brae Cottage	NH 4627 5575	Surviving	The current path from Coul House alongside the walled garden extended as a road to join the Strathpeffer road at Coul Brae Cottage (MHG 7098). This may have been called the Porter's Lodge (unless this refers to the East Lodge (MHG7860); see Elizabeth Beaton, <i>Ross &amp; Cromarty. An Illustrated Architectural Guide</i> , p 45.	MHG7098	Robert
34	Post office	See text		The post office has moved around the village. In 1876 it was at Oak View (see no. 22). On the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. OS map surveyed in 1902 it was to the north of the Smithy, possibly in Holly Lodge or in a building which no longer survives. When K. Cumming wrote his notes for his talk, it was at Millbrae (no. 24). There is currently no post office in Contin.		

### Sources:

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Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) her.highland.gov.uk Highland Council's database of all known heritage.