

Living History Group pay tribute to the 1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade

"On Friday September 26th we left for Scotland. With the London group and Mrs Casimire Janota Bzowska we set out early in the morning. Shortly after one o'clock we got to our first point of journey. We paid a visit to the a veteran of the 3rd Battalion of the Independent Polish Parachute Brigade Mr. Joseph "Zulu" Wojciechowski. After a warm welcome and mass of interesting stories from the life of the brigade we moved on. About 10pm we achieved our target: Leven. Our hotel was one of many used by the Independent Polish Parachute Brigade during the war.

The next morning we visited the ruins of Largo House and adjacent areas and groves. We could not locate the place where the parachute tower stood - time corroded the traces.

Another point of the expedition was to lay flowers on the graves of paratroopers resting on the local cemetery in Upper Largo. We stayed for a while in Cupar, where was Mr. Jan stationed, Mrs Casimire husband. Then we went to Falkland Palace. There we had the opportunity to see the gifts for the chapel from the soldiers of the 3rd Battalion of the Independent Polish Parachute Brigade. The replica of the painting of Our Lady of Ostra Brama made of shells and tin cans made a great impression on us.

In the evening, in the Caledonian Hotel we listened to a lecture by Professor Hal Sosabowski. Then we went to the dance in the style of the 40's in the local Community Centre. Of course, we gave careful character of Polish dancing figures.

On Sunday morning was an exhibition of military vehicles and meetings with local groups of historical reconstruction. At noon we, finally saw the unveiling of a monument commemorating the Polish times in Leven. Shortly before the event our group had been inspected by Mr. Stanislaw Kulik of 2th Battalion of the Independent Polish Parachute Brigade. 'Stas', as he asked us to call him, enjoyed the meeting with us, even more so, as he had lived in Leven with his wife, a Scottish lady, since after the war and had limited contact with the Polish community. After lunch we set off on the return journey to England."

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Written by Administrator

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Tekst: Przemysław Świderek

Zdjęcia: Karolina Kłódka

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