

RNAS Lenabo

Some notes and pictures are included here as the airship station was along the road from Home Farm Nether Kinmundy and the rail line between RNAS Lenabo and Longside was near the farm house.

Sometimes referred to as Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Longside but not to be confused with RAF Longside.

The base was built in 1915 and operational between 1916 and 1920 when the buildings were demolished.

Maybe an insight into the terrain is the meaning of Lenabo - from the Gaelic "lannam bo" meaning "wet meadow of the cows" - and the use of peat to fire the steam powered shovels that were used to remove the peat during the construction phase!

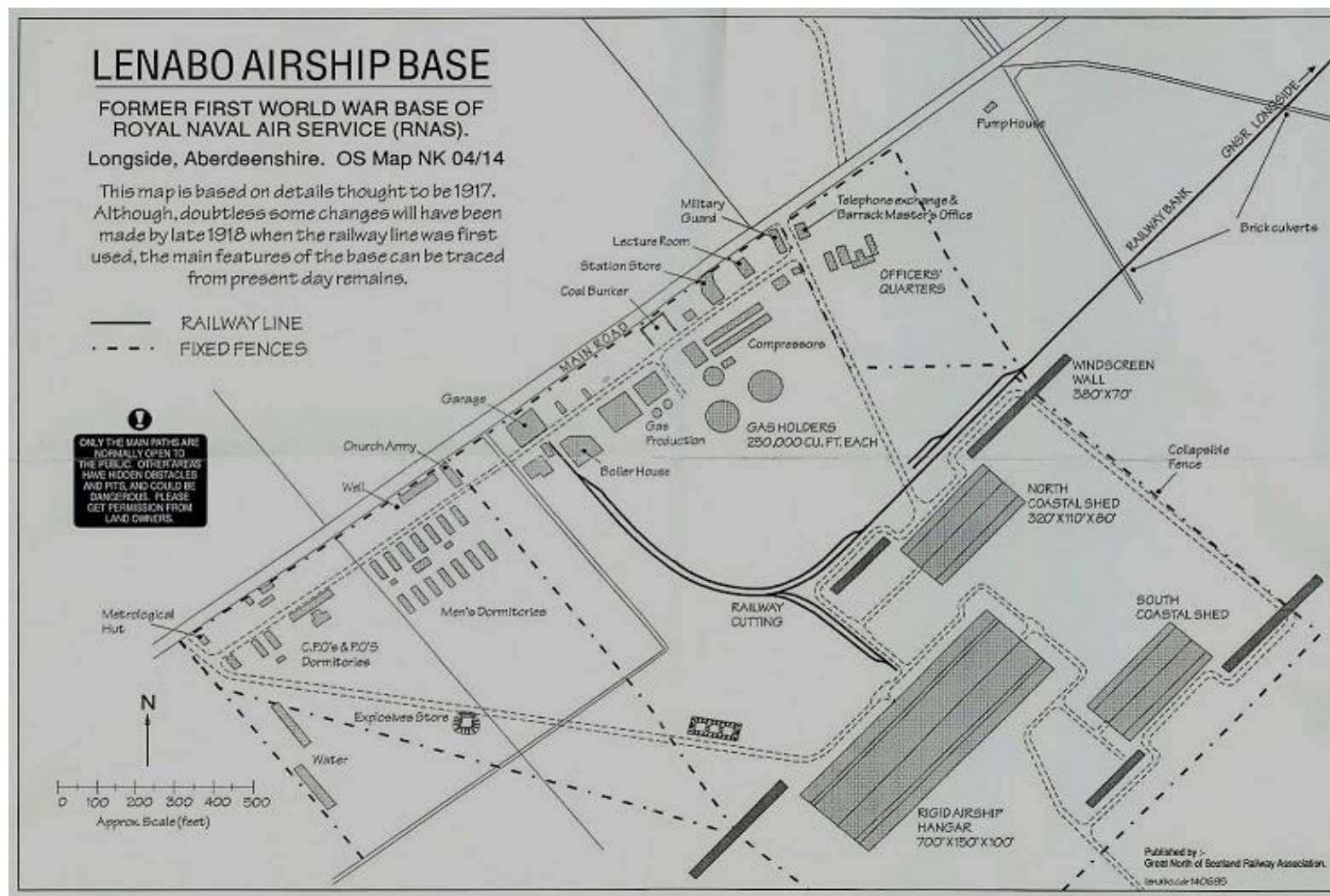
There is an excellent booklet in the Airfield Focus series - 6 RNAS Longside (Lenabo).

My father was born in 1909 so would have been between 7 and 11 years old - at Kittybrewster, Aberdeen school and spending some holidays at the farm. He had clear recollections of the "soos" (Doric for pigs) and could readily have seen them taking off and landing. He mentioned to me a girl who seemingly was an airship captain's daughter who, I think, he went to see at the base. A difficult avenue to explore except that the names of the captains are recorded in various places at <http://www.ns11.org/1131-2/> which also gives an account of North Sea airships NS3, NS9 and NS 12.

At the time the airships were being built at RNAS Kingsnorth, Rochester, Kent my mother was at school in Gillingham, Kent - by this time her family and my father's had met.



NS6 at Lenabo



Railway line seemingly ran alongside Home Farm, Nether Kinmundy.

A Salute to Lenabo was penned in 1969 by William L Morgan - old Oxonian and former Naval Person at Sheerness, Barrow-in-Furness and Lenabo Airship Station, 1916-1920. I liked his concluding verse:

There is a land, a treeless land,
Where all the bravest go;
It raineth every day and night,
We call it "Lenabo".