# Inverlair Lodge, WWII spy retreat in Scottish Highlands, goes on the market



A historic property nestled in the Scottish Highlands, Inverlair Lodge, has been placed on the market, evoking memories of its intriguing past during World War II. Taken over by the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in 1941, the lodge served as a unique facility for foreign nationals who held valuable secrets regarding the Allied war effort but were deemed unfit for active operations. They resided at Inverlair while working under the watchful eyes of British soldiers, utilising their time on tasks such as mending boots and salvaging scrap metal from the picturesque yet rugged landscape.

This facility, officially known as the No.6 Special Workshop School and colloquially referred to as 'The Cooler,' was more than just a safe house. According to historical accounts, it was an essential part of the SOE's broader mission to train and deploy saboteurs and guerilla fighters behind enemy lines. The agents, many of whom could no longer carry out their duties due to various circumstances, were provided a reprieve where they could live without fear of capture while still contributing to the war effort. The lodge's functions were often misunderstood, as it operated not as a punishment camp but rather as a place for agents to exist in a sort of semi-retirement until the war concluded.

Inverlair Lodge stands as a symbol of Scotland's critical role during the war, serving as a clandestine hub for numerous intelligence activities. The strategic selection of remote locales such as Inverlair nods to the importance of secrecy in training operations. The accounts highlight that Scotland, with its secluded landscapes, was a vital ground for training spies and special forces, adding a layer of complexity to the narrative of wartime Britain.

Furthermore, the history of Inverlair Lodge has permeated popular culture, inspiring elements of the iconic 1960s television series 'The Prisoner.' This cultural reference underscores the ongoing fascination with the espionage activities of the SOE and its various establishments. The lodge's legacy is intertwined with tales of adventure and secrecy, making it not only a historical site but also a cultural landmark.

As the property emerges on the market once more, potential buyers may not only contemplate its architectural beauty and stunning Highland surroundings but could also be drawn to the rich tapestry of espionage lore that envelops Inverlair Lodge. This unique dwelling offers a rare opportunity to own a piece of history, prompting one to consider the lives of those who inhabited it during one of the most tumultuous periods in modern history.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9q0renwzywo), [[2]](https://secretscotland.wordpress.com/2008/09/05/inverlair-lodge-for-sale/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9q0renwzywo), [[4]](https://www.historynet.com/wwii-today-january-2009/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18423338.neil-mackay-strange-saga-scotland-spies-special-forces/), [[5]](https://bitaboutbritain.com/britains-soe/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.allbookstores.com/Security-Special-Operations-SOE-MI5/9780230002418), [[7]](https://www.theunmutual.co.uk/inverlair.htm)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9q0renwzywo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://secretscotland.wordpress.com/2008/09/05/inverlair-lodge-for-sale/> - In 2008, Inverlair Lodge, a historic property in the Scottish Highlands, was put up for sale. During World War II, it was requisitioned by the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and served as the No.6 Special Workshop School, also known as 'The Cooler'. This facility housed agents who were deemed unsuitable for active operations but possessed sensitive information. Residents engaged in tasks like mending boots and salvaging scrap metal. The lodge's history inspired elements of the 1960s television series 'The Prisoner'.
3. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18423338.neil-mackay-strange-saga-scotland-spies-special-forces/> - The article explores Scotland's role during World War II as a training ground for spies and special forces. It highlights the use of secluded locations, including Inverlair Lodge, by the Special Operations Executive (SOE). Inverlair, referred to as 'The Cooler', was used to house agents who had failed training or been recalled from duty. The article also discusses the capture of Nazi spies in Scotland and the strategic importance of the region in clandestine operations.
4. <https://www.historynet.com/wwii-today-january-2009/> - This article delves into the activities of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II, focusing on Inverlair Lodge in Scotland. Officially known as the No.6 Special Workshop School, Inverlair served as a facility for agents deemed unsuitable for operations after their initial training. The article dispels myths about the lodge's purpose, clarifying that it was not a punishment camp but a place for agents to 'live in retirement' until the end of the war.
5. <https://bitaboutbritain.com/britains-soe/> - The article provides an overview of Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II, detailing various training establishments and their roles. It mentions Inverlair Lodge as one of the SOE's country houses used for training and housing agents. The piece also touches upon the influence of these establishments on popular culture, noting that the lodge's history inspired elements of the 1960s television series 'The Prisoner'.
6. <https://www.allbookstores.com/Security-Special-Operations-SOE-MI5/9780230002418> - This book, 'Security and Special Operations: SOE and MI5 During the Second World War' by Christopher J. Murphy, offers a comprehensive history of the Security Section of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and its relationship with MI5. It includes details about Inverlair Lodge, referred to as the No.6 Special Workshop School, and its role in housing agents who were unsuitable for active operations but possessed sensitive information.
7. <https://www.theunmutual.co.uk/inverlair.htm> - The article provides detailed information about Inverlair Lodge, also known as ISRB Workshops or No.6 Special Workshop School. It discusses the lodge's role during World War II as a facility for agents deemed unsuitable for operations after their initial training. The piece also explores the lodge's influence on popular culture, noting its inspiration for elements of the 1960s television series 'The Prisoner'.