



MAX MANUS

A Location Report by Francis Lopez



On a gloriously sunny day on the banks of Loch Fyne at Ardinglas House in Argyll, Scottish and Norwegian troops line up to receive medals from the King of Norway for their heroic attacks on German occupied territories.

This was a visit to the set of Norwegian feature film, *Max Manus*. The film is produced by Filmkameratene AS, Sveinung Gollimo and John M Jacobsen, and is directed by Joachim Roenning and Espen Sandberg.

This is the true story of one of the most effective and feared saboteurs of World War II, Maximo Guillermo Manus, played by Norwegian actor Aksel Hennie. Born on December 9, 1914 in Bergen, Max fought as a volunteer in the Soviet-Finnish

Winter War of 1939-1940. He returned to Norway to become one of the pioneers of the Norwegian resistance against the Nazis. Captured by the Gestapo in 1941, he managed to escape and came to Britain where he trained as a saboteur.

It was during this stage of his life, along with many other Norwegian resistance fighters, that Max came to Scotland to train in Argyll, chiefly at Inverary Castle and at the location currently located by the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar. The soldiers were trained by Colonel Wilson, who is played by Scottish actor Ron Donachie.

Manus attacked the German forces by using a variety of methods: parachute, limpet mines and swimmer-assisted torpedoes to mention a few. His most famous sabotage mission was the sinking of the German warship, *Donau* in January 1945.

The shoot at Ardinglas House on 5 and 6 May was in full swing during our visit to the set and Jan Eirik Langoen (Line Producer) and our kind host for the day said: "We are very grateful that we have had the opportunity to shoot on location in Scotland.

Ardkinglas House looks absolutely amazing and the owner and estate manager have been very helpful and friendly ever since we approached them about filming. The scenes shot at Ardinglas have definitely added great production value to our film, so has the rugged and beautiful scenery surrounding the location. The local crew have been excellent and we have truly enjoyed our stay in Inveraray. Hopefully we'll be able to come back with another production before too long."

Photos by Francis Lopez.

