

## THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY

### NOVAR STATION



#### Novar Station personnel late nineteenth century

(courtesy of M. Chamier)

The **Highland Railway** branch linking Dingwall and Invergordon was opened in 1863, The Inverness and Ross-shire Railway wished to build their station at Evanton itself but the proprietor of Balconie (Catherine Munro) would not permit use of her property. "Culling her motto from Horace," *Odi profanum vulgus, et arced'* ("I hate the uninitiated crowd, and keep them at a distance"), she refused to sell any ground, feeling that the property was desecrated enough by the railway crossing it. The laird of Novar was, fortunately, of a different mind and the station was planted on Novar estate; entailing a much longer walk from Evanton." (Maclennan, Ferindonald Papers)

The Railway Station burnt down in 1884 and a new one was built in wood and stone.

The name **Novar Station** was changed to Evanton Station so as not to confuse RAF personnel arriving at the RAF Evanton Camp after 1937.

Evanton Station closed to passengers in 1960. The sidings continued  
in use until 1964/5



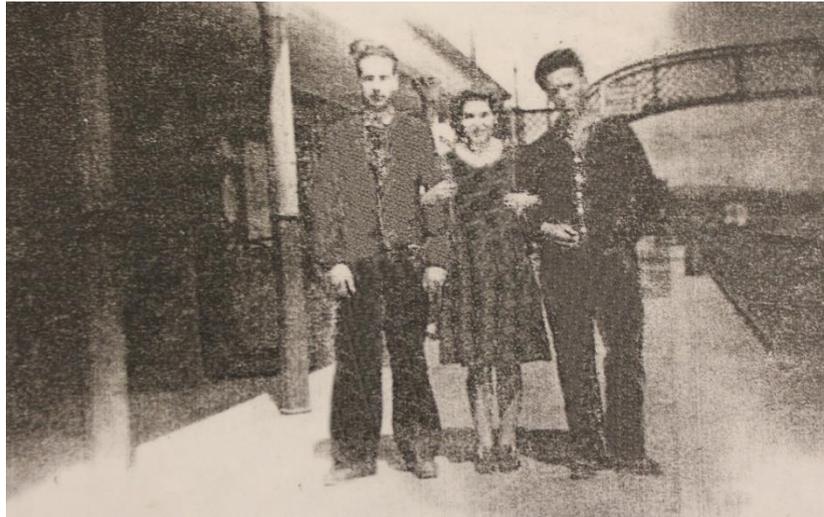
### Frances Munro

*"When I arrived there was a station master, a booking clerk, two young porters and three signal-men, and one of the signal-men he would be here for about two years and then he was put away somewhere else, and my husband (Hugh) and I were left here together and did 12 hours duty both of us, from ten until ten, ten in the morning until ten at night. We did ten hours duty, turn-about, week-about,"*

**Foulis Station** (*not pictured*) was mainly a loading place for sheep, cattle, wool, potatoes and rabbits. There was a station-master, and a porter, plus a surface-man to the end of the 30s (brother of Camerons at Glen Foulis). The Station Master, "Foggy Hole", in the early century bathed in the Firth every day of the year. Foulis Station closed in the 50s.

**Elisabeth Plummer** (née MacDonald) did wartime service as a signal-woman at **Foulis Station**

*"I got 2 weeks training - when you think of all the years that men get! - and all my cousins said they weren't going on the train in case I would derail it. Todd (her cousin) wouldn't."*



**Invergordon Station**  
**(Courtesy Hugh Munro)**

## Woodlands



**Preparing for the Show. Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

*(Courtesy Muir Macallum)*

Photographs provided to Evanton Oral History Project for display

Kindly re-photographed and retyped by Willie Fraser, Evanton

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