

interesting facts

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- The Błędowska Desert was the place of filming Bolesław Prus' novel 'Pharaoh'.

- From early years of the 20th century the desert was used as a military training area. Support infantry battalion of Polish Legions practised there before the battle of Krzywopłoty at the time of the First World War. During the interwar period the desert was used as a training area operated by infantry and artillery of Kraków Army as well as the German Africa Corps and German pilots from Udetfeld base near Siewierz at the time of the Second World War. Currently only the north part of the desert is used as a training area - 240 ha of the Błędowska Desert operated by the 6th Pomeranian Airborne Division from Cracow as a drop zone. In 1999 NATO air forces and COMEDS carried out there 'Cooperati e Bear'99" exercises. Within a short distance from Chechło and on the 'Czubatka' hill in Klucze there was a command post removed since collapse danger.

- During the interwar period when large sand patches were found in the desert, mirage phenomenon occurred as well as sandstorms in the 1950s.

- In the Błędowska Desert on roots of perennial knawel among grassy lawns and thyme petals lives insect called Polish knawel. In the 15th and 16th century mentioned insects were kept on a large scale in order to acquire red pigment used in textile. Poland was the main source of supply with red pigment that time.