

Summer camp
West Loch Tarbert 11th -21st August 1964

Entries in italics are additional entries that are not present in the original log

Those at Camp

Curlew Patrol

PL *Ronald McKnight*
Second *Roderick McCarthur*
1st Scout *D. Clements*
2nd Scout *Jim Barr*
3rd Scout *John Martin*

Eagle Patrol

PL *Robert J. McCallum (Bobby)*
Second *Raymond Berry*
1st Scout *Robert Morrison*
2nd Scout *Robert Beattie*

Falcon Patrol

PL *William Gunn (Billy or Bang Bang)*
Second *John Lyle*
1st Scout *David White*
2nd Scout *James Duncan (Jimmy)*
3rd Scout *Gordon Morris*

Fox Patrol

PL *Robert Crawford (Robin)*
Second *George Conway*
1st Scout *David Flockart (Bouncer)*
2nd Scout *Stewart Ross*

Seagull Patrol

PL *Gifford Lind*
Second *Alex Aitkenhead*
1st Scout *Peter Robertson*
2nd Scout *Andrew Pearson*

Scoutmaster *R.K. Miller (Bob)*

ASMs *John Nisbet*
Albert Runcie (OZ)
Alistair Cram (Al) (weekend only)

Junior ASMs *W.D. Phillips (Billy)*
Alan Jeyes (Jeyesie)
Michael Nisbet (YN) (Saturday only)

11th August 1964

At 9.15 this morning, those going to the summer camp of 1964 met on Gourrock pier complete with personal gear, which, this year, included bikes. After most of the passengers had boarded, we took our personal gear on board the DEV Lochfyne. (The Troop gear had been put on board the previous evening). Bob, meanwhile, stood chaffing with the parents.

Eventually, we set sail, late as usual. We had our packed lunch between Tighnabruich and Tarbert,

At Tarbert, we disembarked and loaded the troop gear into two minibuses*, after which those with bikes set off for the campsite. This we found about 5 miles outside of Tarbert.** When we arrived, we carted our (kit) up to the site. After we had had a fall in, we pitched the tents and kitchen shelters. The farmer had very kindly given us a (loan) of a three-wheeled barrow, on which we carted the troop gear over.

When we had finished 'removing', we had our tea of tuna fish, lettuce and tomatoes.

After tea, we made some gadgets. This was followed by a game of football, which was won 4-3 by Bob's team. After football, we had campfire and cocoa, after which we went wearily to pit***.

Author R.J. McCallum P.L. Eagle

** Minibuses are mentioned a number of times throughout the log account, but it is not clear whether these were hired or were service minibuses. However, it is probable that they were hired.*

*** The exact location of the campsite has not been identified yet, but was on the east side of West Loch Tarbert, possibly near Achnancarranan. It was probably the same campsite as used in 1959 and 1960.*

**** bed or equivalent*

12th of August 1964

For breakfast, we had porridge, French toast and chits. After breakfast, we washed and tidied both tent and kitchen for inspection. After inspection we had a game of baseball, at which a large number dropped catches. Lemonade and crisps were then sold. When everybody had fed their face, we went down to the beach for a swim. The water was lovely and warm, so we stayed in for a long time. Before coming out, Robin, Bobby and Gifford versed the rest of those in the water at a seaweed fight. When we arrived back at the camp, we made lunch, which consisted of mince, potatoes, rhubarb and custard.

Between dinner and tea, we got all the odd jobs done, like erecting the cruiser* and noticeboard. After tea, which consisted of sausage and baked beans, we had a game of football on the football pitch made by and Wiffel and Jeyesie**. Next we went for a walk to find out if an island was surrounded by water***. Since it was, we returned for a campfire, and then pit.

Author Not specified

**Toilet tent*

***Wiffel refers to junior Scouter Billy Phillips. Jeyesie was Alan Jeyes.*

**** This might have been the island in West Loch Tarbert that was the focus for a number of swimming expeditions.*

13th August 1964

For breakfast this morning, we had cornflakes, omelette and spaghetti. After tidying up the kitchen and doing the various odds and ends, we had inspection. Games of baseball and football followed. We then bought lemonade and crisps, before going for a short but fab swim, in which Wiffel cut his foot. Before returning to the campsite, we had a seaweed fight on the island*.

For lunch, we had macaroni and cheese and apples. After lunch, two thirds of the troop went into Tarbert. Wiffel and Jeyesie made half a fab bridge.

When the rest of the troop returned from Tarbert, we made tea, which consisted of fish, stew and spuds. Wiffel and Jeyesie ducked Peter Robertson after tea for walking over the unopened bridge.

For the first time, there was neither campfire nor cocoa, but we were all given milk. We then went to an early pit, where we ate sweets and drank lem.

Author Not specified

**The 1" to the mile map shows only two islands in the vicinity - Eilean Ceann na Creige and Eilean Eoghainn. However, the metric map reveals a smaller, unnamed island to the east of Eileann Eoghainn and this seems a far more likely candidate for the 'island'.*

14 August 1964

For breakfast this morning we had porridge, bacon and eggs. This was followed by inspection. The duty patrol organized the game, which was football. After the game, lem and crisps were sold before we went for a swim. The island fight continued as before. Skipper's crowd managed to get the island first, but the attackers managed to capture it after two attacks. It was a short swim, so we did not have time for any more fun.

When we arrived back at the campsite, we had lunch, which consisted of corn beef, beans and jam chits.

In the afternoon, we went to find the source of the river which supplied us with water. After finding it, we continued to the trig. point Cnoc a'Bhaile-shios (*Grid Ref. NR 863628*), which is 1383 feet high. Here we had a snack, and Skipper took some fo toes*. We then had a tan-tiri-tan** down the hill, falling into bogs on the way, to a small loch***, where Skipper, Raymond and Robert Morrison had a swim***. When they came out, they had their pictures taken and were given extra chou.

We then continued down the hill, singing all the way.

For tea we had dinner, which consisted of herring (or slice), potatoes and rice.

Later on, we had campfire at the new campfire circle, made by Wiffel. We had no cocoa, which displeased everybody. A very displeased troop then went to pit.

Author Not specified

** Photos*

*** Meaning unclear but possibly indicates a mad rush down the hill.*

**** Photos show that this was a reasonable sizeable lochain, in which case it might be Loch na Machrach Moire which is about 2 miles east of the summit of Cnoc a' Bhaile-shios. However this involves walking in the opposite direction from the descent straight back to the campsite. There is another lochain close to the top of Cnoc an Lochain (1171') which is NNE from Cnoc a' Bhaile-shios, but this looks too small to be the one shown in the photos.*

***** Photos suggest that there was an additional swimmer*

15th August 1964

At 6:30, we awoke to lashing rain and thunder and lightning. For breakfast we had cornflakes, sausage and egg. Because of the weather, inspection was delayed until 10.30. A Scouts Own was held in the Fox kitchen.

Some people went in their swimming costumes to play football and, after a short while, Al, Oz and YN arrived. The football continued for a little longer before stores were issued. For lunch we had spam, potatoes, apples and custard.

Most people went into Tarbert to the pictures. The picture was 'Heavens Above'* starring Peter Sellers. After the film we all returned to camp and pit.

Author George Conway, Second of Fox

* 'Heavens Above' was a comedy/satire that was released in 1963 and starred Peter Sellers playing the role of a naïve prison chaplain, who is mistakenly appointed as vicar to a prosperous country town and does not see eye to eye with his 'flock'.

16 August 1964

Today we got up early and had a hurried breakfast of cornflakes, bacon and eggs, followed by an early inspection at 9:30. After inspection we went down to the road to get a minibus* into Tarbert. D. Clements, Bouncer and R Morrison stayed because their parents were coming.

At church, where we paraded to, R. Crawford read a lesson.

After the service we came back to camp in the minibus*. D. Clement went home with his parents.

For lunch we had tuna fish, lettuce and tomatoes followed by an orange.

Soon after dinner the camp was filled with mums and dads.

By tea time, most parents had left. We had tea, which consisted of slice, potatoes, soup and prunes with farola**.

At campfire we had a cocoa for once, so we went to bed happy.

Author Not specified

* *Unclear whether this was a service bus or one specially hired.*

***Possibly semolina*

17th August 1964

At 7:15 Al got everybody up. We had porridge followed by scrambled egg and spaghetti for breakfast. This was followed by inspection and an ultra short game of 'water'* football.

For dinner we had macaroni and cheese.

We spent a lazy afternoon as it continued to dump.

For tea we were provided with spuds, biskit**, which had to be cooked for an hour and a half, (it took many patrols about 2 ½ hours to cook it). We also had half a tin of fruit per patrol and jelly.

Soon after tea, the rain attempted to go off for the first time that day. Because a gap appeared in the clouds, a treasure hunt was formed, but (as) the first clue was not followed up properly, most of the treasure hunters returned for cocoa and dumpling. Five men continued to search, however, and eventually found the first two clues, but could not continue as they were without a map. They, therefore, returned to camp, where there was no longer any dump*** or cocoa.

They then went to pit unsatisfied and hungry.

Author Not specified

**Possibly refers to a water-logged pitch*

*** Presumably brisket steak*

**** dumpling*

18th August 1964

Once again we arose to pouring rain. We had breakfast of porridge, ham and eggs. Inspection was at 10 o'clock. After inspection Oz opened his lem and crisps store. We then had a game of football.

For lunch we had mince, spuds, carrots, bananas, rhubarb, custard and tea.

In the afternoon, it was decided that we should take the quarter to five bus into Tarbert, since we had been offered a free entry into the flicks by the grocer* to see the 'Flight of the White Stallions'**. We took a packed tea consisting of corn beef chits** and jam chits.

After the film we got the minibus home then pit.

Author Not specified

** At the Tarbert camp of 1966, the Scouts were also treated to a visit to the cinema by a Mr. Blair. Possibly, this was the same person.*

*** This might have been 'Miracle of the White Stallions' – n Walt Disney film that was released in 1963. The storyline involved the evacuation of horses from the Vienna riding school during World War 2 when Soviet forces were approaching the city. The title of a film could sometimes be different in different countries.*

****sandwiches*

19th August 1964

Today we got up and found that the sun was shining. For breakfast, we had porridge, sausage and eggs, then we tidied up for inspection. Before inspection, as some were late to arrive, we ran round the flagpole three times to warm us up. After inspection, we changed and went to play football, until lem and crisps were sold. Soon afterwards, lunch stores were issued. For lunch we had spam, lettuce and tomatoes.

When lunch was over, the PLs and Wiffel made a tree hut while most of the rest of the troop helped the farmer.* For tea we had links and slice. After that we cleared up and went down to the campfire circle for campfire.

After campfire we all went to Pit, Wiffel, Bang-Bang and R. Crawford in the tree hut.

Author Not specified

**This would have been a service project in gratitude for being allowed to camp on his land*

20th August 1964

This morning, breakfast consisted of cornflakes, eggs and black pudding. After breakfast, we tidied up for inspection. A game of football ensued. This was won by Bob's team 9-8. Lem and crisps were sold after this. When everybody had digested their grub some went for a swim while the others lazed about the campsite.

For lunch, as the lunch stores had gone amissing, we had an orange and jam chits. The whole troop lay around doing nothing all afternoon. At last, stores were issued. We got hamburgers, spuds and apples.

After, the shelters were all taken down, the dixies were handed in, and all the wood from gadgets etc was taken down to the campfire circle, where it was burned, along with the boxes of rubbish and excess stores. We then got n* biscuits and some cocoa, before going to pit.

Author Not specified

** endless, indefinable, infinite – take your pick*

21st August 1964

Today, we arose ultra early and the PLs and Scouters made breakfast. For breakfast, we had cornflakes, ham and eggs and chits.

After breakfast we packed our kits and felled the tents, which we took to the other side of the stream. When all the tents etc were down, we transported the kit across the field on the farmers three-wheeled barrow. The minibuses** arrived and all the gear was piled into them. The cyclists then rode on into Tarbert Pier.

When we arrived there, some of the gear was already there. Soon the 'Lochfyne' arrived on its outward journey. All the gear which was there was loaded onto her with all possible haste. We then walked down the road a bit and had our packed lunch. We then returned to the pier and caught the boat home to Gourrock. So ended a brillo camp.

Author Not specified

*Additional note from SM RK Miller 'Well done the scribe'.**

**More than one scribe was involved, but it is possible that most of the entries were made by Bobby McCallum and/or George Conway*

*** Almost certainly these were hired locally*

Postscript

The following mention of Summer Camp was made in the 'Report on Troop Activities in the Finnart Church Annual Report for 1964'

70th RENFREWSHIRE BOY SCOUTS (FINNART'S OWN)

The Troop has completed another year's successful Scouting. The Easter Camp was held at Pitlochry and was thoroughly enjoyed by the twelve Scouts who braved the rigours of the weather. Our summer camp took place at West Loch Tarbert. For the first time we had five patrols under canvas and, at the weekend there were 28 campers. The weather was very mixed, and included the sunniest and rainiest four days of the summer. Many parents visited the site and, as usual, the camp was voted a great success.

Scouts Own services were held in Finnart in April and November 1964. The Friday Troop meetings took place regularly throughout the year.