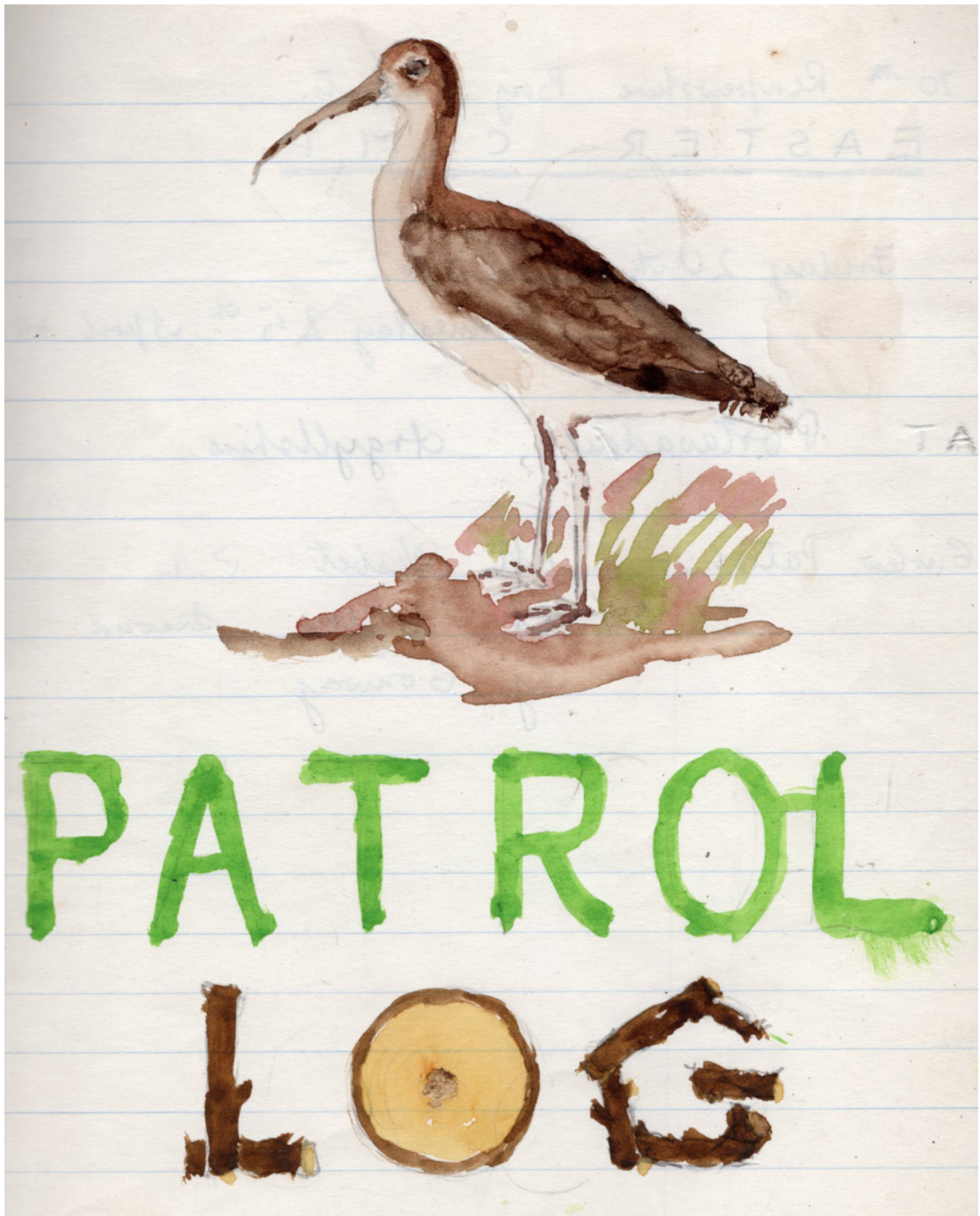


**Curlew Patrol Log
Easter Camp 1962**



70th Renfrewshire Boy Scouts EASTER CAMP

Friday 20th April 1962 - Wednesday 25th April 1962

At Portavadie¹, Argyllshire².

Curlew Patrol:-³

Michael Nisbet (P.L.)

Alan Jeyes (Second)

George Conway

Editorial Notes for introduction

A pencil sketch of a Niger tent was present, but it was too faint to copy.

- 1. The Easter Camp of 1962 is the first recorded instance of the 70th camping at Portavadie*
- 2. The exact location of the camp was not provided, but the description suggests that it might have been at a Boys Brigade campsite which included a BB hut at a location about half a mile north of Portavadie and east of Lub na Faochaige. The hut and campsite were sold in the 1970s as a result of the oil rig construction project in the area, and the current BB hut and sailing centre is located to the south at Asgog Bay. The location of the old BB campsite was not actually used for the oil rig construction site and had not been developed as of 2022.*
- 3. Only six Scouts attended the camp and there were two 3-man patrols. The Curlew Patrol was led by Michael Nisbet (Young Niz) and included Alan Jeyes and George Conway. The 'Duck-Billed Platypus' Patrol was led by Ian Fraser and included Ian Paterson and Bobby McCallum. The first part of the camp was supervised by Bob Miller, Ken Johnston, Ian McFarlane and John Nisbet. The second half of the camp was supervised by Alastair Cram and Albert Runcie (Oz)*

Friday 20th April 1962

Most of our parents were on the pier¹ seeing the last goodbye to us for five days. The boat in which we travelled was L.M.V.² 'Lochfyne' stopping at Dunoon, Inellan³, Rothesay and Tighnabruaigh⁴. The lorry⁵ was on the pier, waiting for us to pack the luggage. After packing our gear, we set off to Portavadie 6 miles away⁶. The tide was out so the lorry driver did not risk to steer his lorry through water more than 1 foot deep⁷. At 1 o'clock, we started to wade through the bogs to get to a suitable place to pitch our tents. When the tents were pitched, we had tea consisting of egg, spaghetti and sausages. We went a walk up a nearby hill⁸ and came back is some warm cocoa. We then went to pit⁹.

G. Conway

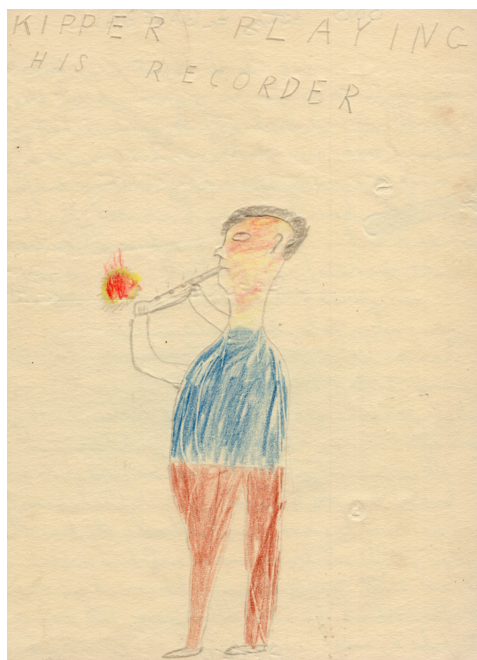


Figure 1

Kipper playing the recorder¹⁰

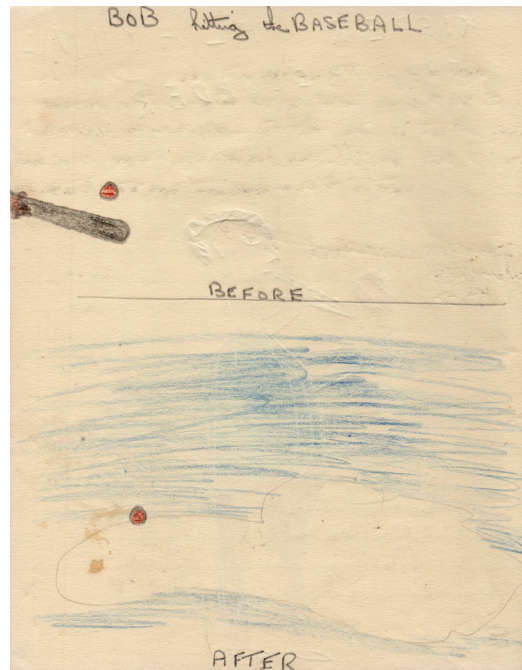


Figure 2

Bob hitting the Baseball (Before and After)¹¹

Editorial notes for 20th April 1962

1. It is assumed that this was Gourrock pier.
2. It's not clear why L.M.V was stated. Usually, it is M.V. for motor vessel.
3. Innellan
4. Tighnabruaich
5. In the 1960s, several pier masters had lorries that were used to transport goods and materials from the pier to various local destinations. This might have been one such lorry.
6. There was no pier at Portavadie in 1962; the closest pier was at Tighnabruaigh.
7. It's not clear what is meant here and the sentence appears to be contradictory. However, it might suggest that the campsite was accessible across land that was covered at high tide.
8. Possibly Barr na Damh at 560'
9. Bed or sleeping bag
10. 'Kipper' was the nickname for Ian Paterson, who could clearly play the recorder. Ian was 1st Scout in the Falcon Patrol led by Ian Fraser. At Portavadie, he and Bobby McCallum were in the 'Duck-Billed Platypus' patrol led by Ian Fraser.
11. Presumably the 'after' represents the ball heading towards the sky and the clouds (see entry for the 21st April 1962).

Saturday 21st April 1962

On a cold but dry morning, we rose at 7 o'clock and hurriedly tried to bring the fire back to life¹. When the fire had been restored, we collected our stores² and had breakfast comprising of porridge, bacon and eggs and, lastly, bread and jam if desired.

Following breakfast, we cleaned up, had inspection³ and went to the field⁴ for a game of football. Our patrol won the football. We then had a game of baseball. During our baseball game, Bob hit a beautiful shot miles away into the sky⁵. On returning from the field, we made dinner for which we had:- mince; potatoes; custard; prunes⁶; jelly and peaches.

After dinner, we decided to explore the standing stones.⁷ The Scouts led by Ken⁸ followed numerous paths across the hills while Bob⁹ and Ian¹⁰ went along the shore. We passed one and a half standing stones and then met Bob and Ian. We went into a haunted house¹¹ and explored two rooms upstairs and four rooms downstairs. After leaving the house, we proceeded along the 50 foot level to find a fort¹² that wasn't¹³.

We returned to the campsite to have a tea of :- boiled eggs: beans⁶: a cup of tea and toast. During tea, some of the Boys Brigade came and invited us to cocoa that night so at 9 o'clock we went along to their hut.¹⁴ With the cocoa, we had pieces of cake and buns¹⁵.

At approximately 11 o'clock, we returned to our tent and went to pit.¹⁶

A. Jeyes¹⁷

Editorial notes for the 21st April 1962

- 1. The 70th camping style involved each patrol being self contained with their own patrol tent and kitchen site. Each patrol cooked its own meals over a wood fire.*
- 2. A Scouter normally acted as QM at each camp. Before each meal, the QM issued the food that the Patrols needed to prepare.*
- 3. Inspection usually involved the Scouters inspecting the patrol tent and the tidiness of the kit within, as well as the kitchen site to ensure that all the dishes and cooking utensils had been properly cleaned and stored. The Scouts themselves might have been inspected to ensure that they had washed.*
- 4. The 70th tended to camp on land that included clear areas for tents, but also trees that could be used to erect kitchen shelters; for example draping a tarpaulin over a suitable branch and tying the guys to other trees. The trees also provided a source of dead wood for the fires. Therefore, the patrols are likely to have camped in the wooded area just north of the BB camping area (the 'field'), and used that open area for games such as football and baseball.*
- 5. See the sketch (Figure 2).*
- 6. It is noticeable that beans and prunes often featured in camp menus – possibly to encourage regular toilet habits!*
- 7. The Standing Stones are assumed to be the stones situated some miles to the south of the campsite at Grid reference 932683. These consist of one intact standing stone and the stunted remains of another. There is a path called the 'Stillaig Trail' that leads to them from Portavadie.*
- 8. ASM Kenneth Johnson*
- 9. Scout Master Bob Miller*
- 10. Ian McFarlane*
- 11. Possibly Low Stillaig at grid ref 929677. However, this does not match the description of two rooms upstairs and four rooms downstairs. Pictures of the ruin on the web indicate three cottages in a row. It is highly likely that Bob Miller made up myths and legends about every ruin or historic site visited on a hike.*
- 12. Possibly the Dun marked at Grid ref. 927682, which is on the 50 foot contour line.*
- 13. Presumably the Scouts were unable to find it*

14. The location of the old BB hut was north of Portavadie and there was an associated campsite. It seems likely that the Scouts were camping at in woodland just north of the BB hut and campsite. The hut and campsite were sold during the 1970s, due to the oil rig construction project.
15. Writing indistinct but looks like 'buns'.
16. Bed or sleeping bag.
17. Alan Jeyes was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol at some point between October 1961 and January 1962
18. The sketch (Figure 3) shows a tarpaulin draped over a horizontal spar or branch, and guyed down at the front. An altar fire is also present with cooking iron to hold pots over the fire. It's not known what the two slanting spars represent.

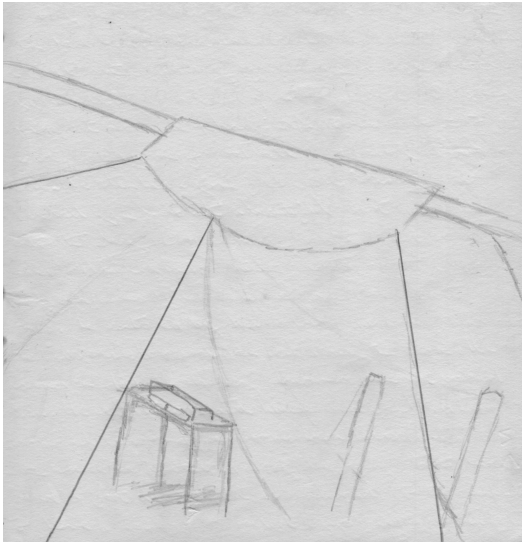


Figure 3 Sketch not labeled ¹⁸

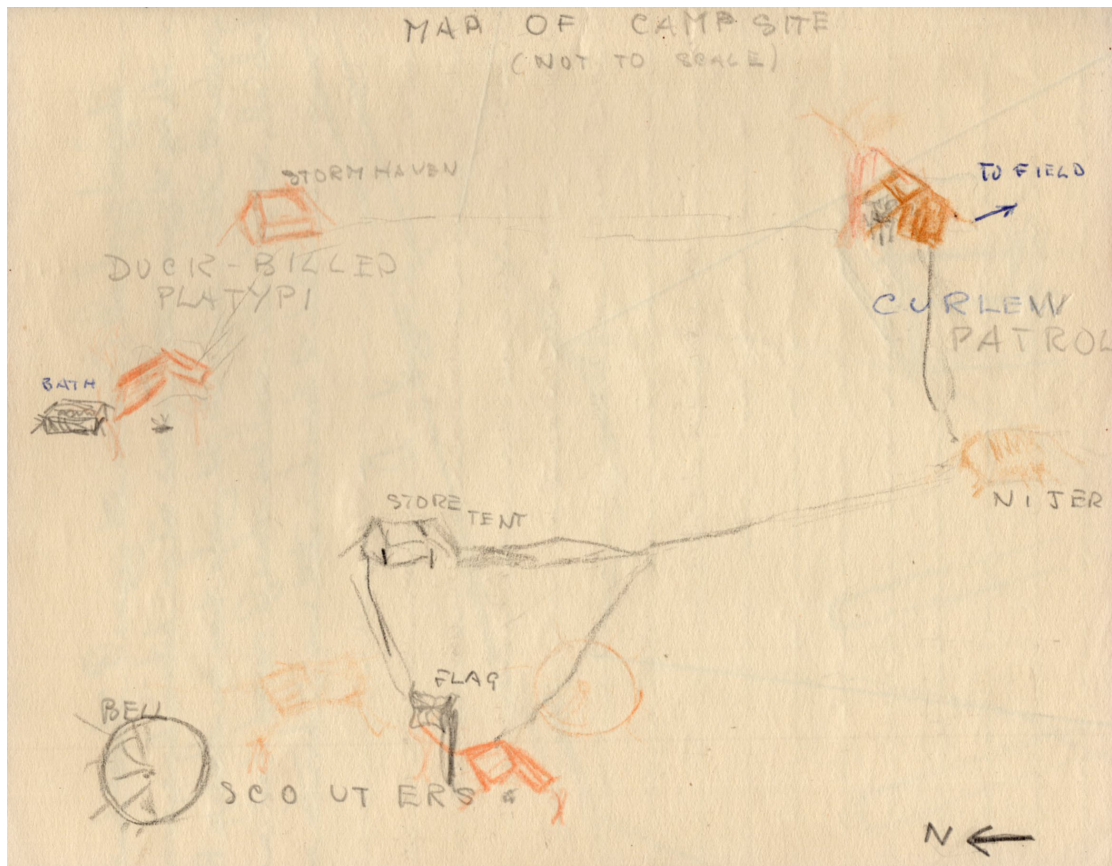


Figure 4 Map of campsite (Not to scale)

Editorial note

The map (Figure 4) shows that the Duck-billed platypus Patrol used a Stormhaven for their patrol tent and that the camp bath was constructed next to their kitchen shelter. The diagram suggests that a trench fire was used for cooking rather than an altar fire.

The Curlew Patrol slept in a Niger tent and their kitchen shelter included an altar fire.

The 'field' is thought to represent the BB camping field close to the BB hut.

The Scouters slept in a Bell tent and it is presumed that they had a kitchen shelter next to the main flagpole. The QM's store tent is east of the flagpole.

Sunday 22nd April

We got up as usual at 7 PM and made breakfast, which consisted of cornflakes, black pud., eggs, tea and toast. The patrol had an undignified rush to get ready for inspection¹ and when three whistles² went, we still weren't ready.

After inspection, large NIZZ³ held a Scouts Own in view of the fact that it was Easter Sunday. Then we went down to the field⁴ and played baseball and football until 11:30 pm.⁵

The weather was extra favourite⁶ and after the game we basked in the sun.

About 12 o'clock, we came back to the campsite and made dinner, which was cold meat, carrots and potatoes, followed by rice and raisins.

Soon after dinner, Large NIZZ³ and Ken⁷ left for Tighnabruaich to catch the 4.30 boat home. While Bob⁸ was away seeing them off, the Duckbilled Platypus⁹ were preparing the camp bath¹⁰ outside their kitchen. When the SM⁸ returned, practically everyone had favourite⁶ hot and cold showers. I. McF¹¹ took photos. Just before 5 PM, we set off for the deserted village¹² about 2 miles to the north of the campsite. After visiting this, we went to the *HAUNTED HOUSE*¹³ only to find it wasn't haunted any more¹⁴, and the joob-joobs¹⁵ that had been collected on the way weren't necessary.

Then we went out to the peninsula¹⁶ nearby to study a vitrified fort¹⁷, some natural phenomenon where all the rocks are joined together with glass (?).

On the way back, we came along the beach instead of going across country as we did going. We got back to the campsite at 8.30 p.m. approximately and had supper: slice and beans, tea and toast.

After supper, the small men went to pit¹⁸.

Bob⁸ and Ian¹¹ went to the BB blokes¹⁹ to get them to come along to the site and the rest stayed in the Scouters kitchen. When Bob and I. McF.¹¹ returned without the BBs, we made cocoa and went to pit at 11 PM.

Signed

M. Nisbet

Editorial notes for 22nd April 1962

1. See note 3 for 21st April 1962 regarding inspection

2. Three whistles were the normal signal for patrols to form up at the flagpole

3. ASM John Nisbet who was nicknamed Large Niz or NIZZ to distinguish him from his younger brother, Michael, who was also called Niz.

4. Photos show that the campsite was amongst deciduous trees. Possibly this was the wooded area just north of the open area located between the burn and the wood. The open area would correspond to the 'field' This is backed up by the sketch of the campsite which shows that the 'field' was south of the campsite.

5. 'am' in fact.

6. The 'in' word at the time for something really good. The equivalent of 'cool', 'magic' and 'wicked' as used by later generations, or 'spiffing' and 'jolly good' from earlier generations.

7. ASM Kenneth Johnson

8. Scout Master Bob Miller

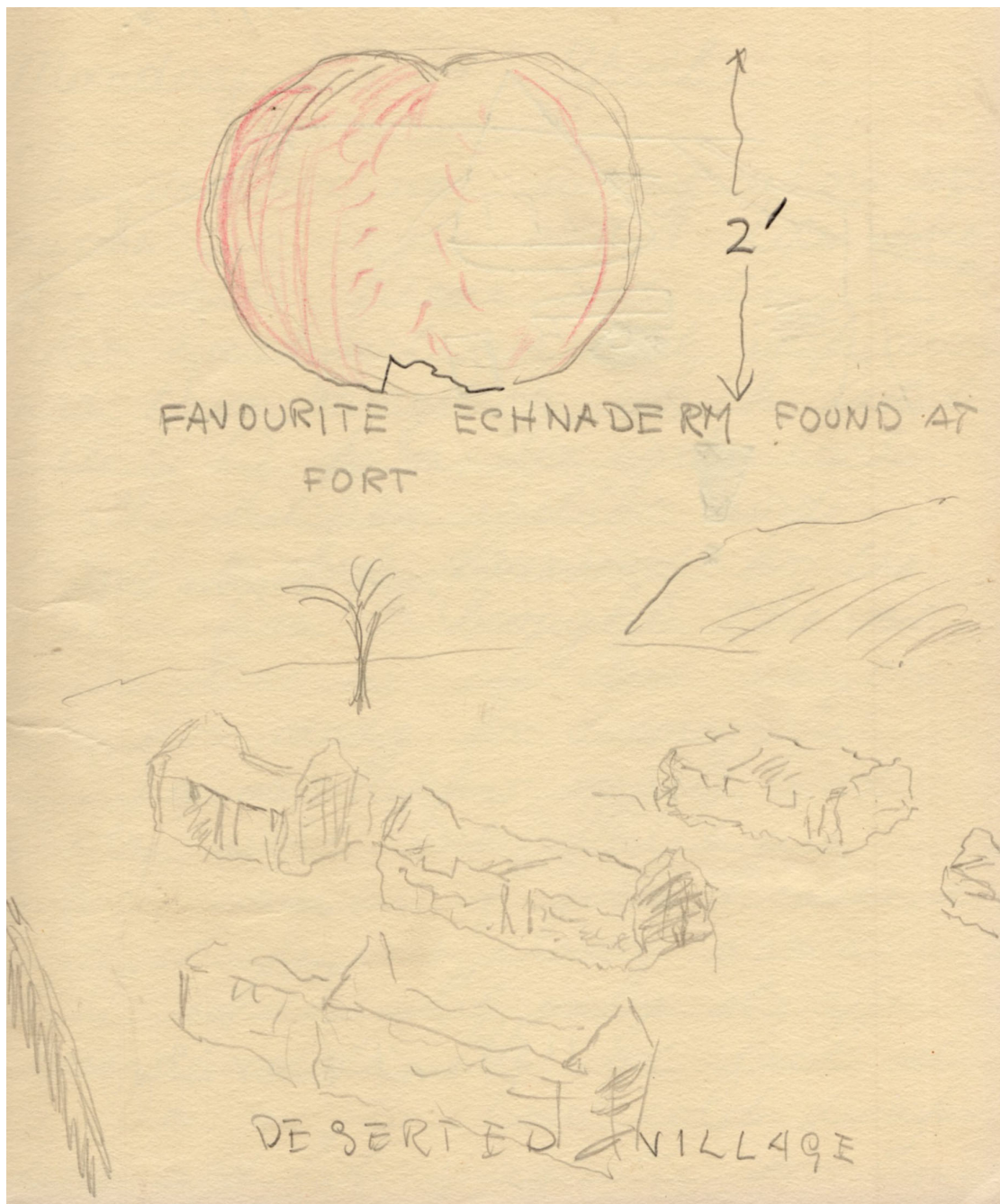
9. Led by Ian Fraser with Ian Paterson and Bobby McCallum

10. Photos suggest that it included a shower (see also the campsite map).

11. ASM Ian McFarlane

12. The location of the deserted village was not specified, but it may have been an abandoned village that is known to be present up the West Glenan Burn to the east of Glenan Bay. Michael Nisbet included a sketch of the village that appears to consist of 5 or so stone cottages located on a plateau (Figure 6).

13. Location unknown. Presumably a different ruin from the one visited the day before. A possibility might be a building at grid ref. 914712
14. It is possible that the Scouts were expecting to find a ruin, but found that the building was inhabited and in good condition.
15. It is not known what counted as a joob-joob. It is likely that Bob Miller invented the term joob-joob and told the Scouts to look out for something specific on the way like a Y-shaped stick, or a type of berry. The term now appears to be related to confectionary (as of 2022)
16. Not identified. One possibility is the peninsula leading to the west of Bagh Buic.
17. A fort is marked at Grid ref 908710, but whether this is the one is unclear.
18. In other words, the younger Scouts took to their sleeping bags.
19. Presumably Boys Brigade Leaders at the BB hut.
20. It's not clear what this is meant to be, but it is identified as being 2 feet high (Figure 5). One possibility is that it was a sea urchin (a type of Echinoderm).



Figures 5 & 6 Sketch of 'Favourite Echnaderm found at Fort'²⁰ and 'Deserted Village'¹².



Figure 7 The Scouters' Kitchen
(see also campsite map)

Editorial note

The previous campsite map shows that the Scouters' Bell tent was at a distance from their kitchen shelter, the latter being close to the flagpole. Therefore, it is not known what the pyramidal shape represents in this sketch (Figure 7). The kitchen site looks fairly rudimentary and cooking looks as if it was carried out on a ground fire (presumably turfed beforehand). A bench is identifiable beside the fire and there may also be fencing. It is known whether the 'exclamation mark' represents anything that was present, or whether it is a comment added by the scribe.

Monday 23rd April

The weather was sunny when we awoke, so Jeyes¹ and I² lit the fire, while Nizzy³ did the kits.⁴

After breakfast, we had inspection⁵ and then ring stick⁶, which lasted until 11:15 pm.⁷ We got back to the kitchen shelter and started to chop firewood for the altar fire⁸. I brought the rest of the stores as the stew was on the fire ready for dinner. At two thirty a.m.⁹, Kipper¹⁰, myself² and Bobby¹¹ went into Millhouse¹² which consisted of some houses, a shop which was closed, and a P.O.¹³ which sold only stamps and chocolate. We got back at 6:30 am⁹ to have cold dumpling and hot spaghetti for tea.

At seven, four Scouts and a Scouter went for an extra large walk¹⁴, while three of us¹⁵ were left behind to make cocoa for supper.

After some hours, they returned back to milk and water not heated, but Nizzie³ made the cocoa and A. Cram opened a cake and that was supper.

At 11:20, we went to pit¹⁶ and eagerly fell asleep.

G. Conway

Who went home??!! Illustrations required – some horrible omissions¹⁷ – Alistair B. Cram (ASM)

Editorial notes for 23rd April 1962

1. Alan Jeyes

2. George Conway

3. PL Michael Nisbet

4. *This presumably involved laying out personal equipment in the tent ready for inspection. Each person's kit was meant to be laid out the same way for tidiness sake. For example, boots were positioned along one side of the tent where the groundsheet had been partly folded over. Partly folding over the groundsheet allowed Scouts access to the tent without needing to remove their footwear. It was strictly forbidden to stand on the groundsheet with shoes on.*

5. *See note 3 for 21st April 1962 regarding inspection*

6. *A game played between two patrols where the aim is to throw a rubber ring onto a stick held by one of your team. Each person holding the stick stood at opposite ends of the pitch and was not allowed to catch the ring or put it on the stick.*

7. *Should be am*

8. *An altar fire was essentially a raised platform built using wood and sizar that allowed a cooking fire to be lit at waist height. It made it easier to cook meals and keep the fire going. Care had to be taken to ensure that the fire did not burn through the wooden platform which involved layering the platform with mud or upturned grass turfs.*

9. *Should be pm*

10. Ian Paterson

11. Bobby McCallum

12. *Millhouse is a village about 3-4 miles from Portavadie on the road to Tighnabruaich.*

13. *Post Office*

14. *No details of what the hike involved or which Scouts and Scouter were involved are known. It seems likely that the 4 Scouts would have included Michael Nisbet, Alan Jeyes and Ian Fraser. The Scouter would have been Alastair Cram or Albert Runcie*

15. *This suggests that George Conway was one of the three left in camp. The other two would have been another Scout and either Alastair Cram or Albert Runcie.*

16. *Pit was the term used for bed or going to bed*

17. *Additional comments made by Al Cram in the log book indicate that there were arrivals and departures that day. It is proposed that Albert Runcie and Alastair Cram arrived late morning, while Bob Miller, Ken Johnson and Ian McFarlane departed in the afternoon (based on the days on which these Scouters were mentioned or not mentioned in the log book).*

Tuesday 24th April 1962

We got up at 7:30 AM and, while I¹ went to get washed, Niz² started the fire and George³ wrote the log up. We had a breakfast of:- French toast and cornflakes and then there was inspection⁴.

At approximately 10:45 a.m., we went down to the field⁵ for baseball, which our team won by two home runs and then declared.

After the game, George Conway and Kipper⁶ went into Millhouse⁷ for some stores. At this time, Niz² and I¹ went back to the kitchen and put on the rest of the dinner, apart from the stew, which was already done. We left the dinner to cook and then went to the field for a signalling practice⁸. Niz² and I¹ stayed at one end of the field, while I. Frazer went to the other end (*Figure 9*).

We went and ate our dinner and, when we had washed the dinner dixies, I¹ went with a swimming party⁹ consisting of Kipper⁶, George Conway and Bobby McCallum, while Niz² and Ian Fraser made plaster casts, and Al¹⁰ with Oz¹¹ laid a treasure hunt.

About half an hour later, Ian Fraser produced the first clue which told us to look for a change to gallons.¹² On a suggestion, we went to the road and found the next clue leading us to the standing stones.¹³ The third clue provided quite a problem by telling us to go to the Dun, which was far from obvious¹⁴. Eventually, we removed the clue from a Jub-Jub¹⁵ halfway up an extra large economy size standing type rock (*Figure 8*). On reading a rhyme about badminton,¹⁶ we proceeded to Millhouse, but before we got there, we met Al¹⁰ and Oz¹¹ who had taken pity on us and brought our treasure to meet us. We finally trudged back to camp to have some tea consisting of tuna fish, beans, toast and tea.

When we had finished this, we dismantled our altar fire, not without difficulty, and took down our kitchen shelter. We made a woodpile and went up to the Scouters kitchen for campfire with cocoa. Eventually we went to pit¹⁷ around 11 o'clock.

Editorial notes for 24th April 1962

1. Alan Jeyes

2. Michael Nisbet

3. George Conway

4. See note 3 for 21st April 1962 regarding inspection

5. See note 4 for 21st April 1962 regarding the 'field'.

6. Ian Paterson

7. See note 12 for 23rd April 1962 regarding Millhouse.

8. The 70th had a proud reputation for their semaphore skills, which had resulted in the Troop frequently winning the District Signalling trophy.

9. It is assumed that the swimming was in Loch Fyne close to the campsite

10. Alastair Cram

11. Albert Runcie

12. Word is indistinct. Could be 'yellow', 'gallons' or something else

13. Presumably the same ones that were visited on the 21st April.

14. Still far from obvious. However, it is likely that the 'far from obvious' referred to the hiding place at the Dun, rather than finding the Dun. It is assumed that the Dun was the same one visited on the 21st April at Grid ref. 927682

15. Meaning unknown. A sketch suggests it is a small handhold/foothold/pocket on a rock

16. Significance unclear. Perhaps the reference to badminton related to shuttlecocks and that the inference was that shuttlecocks were used in weaving and that mills were involved in the weaving industry – hence Millhouse.

17. Pit was the term used for bed or going to bed

18. In *Figure 9*, the hut in the background would have been the BB hut

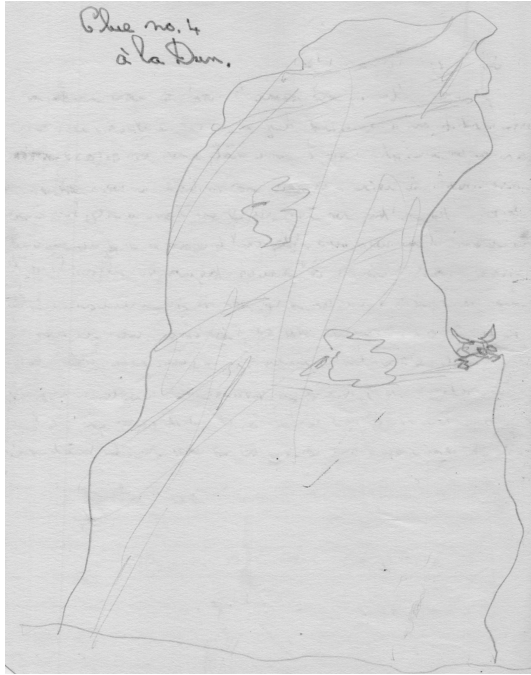


Figure 8

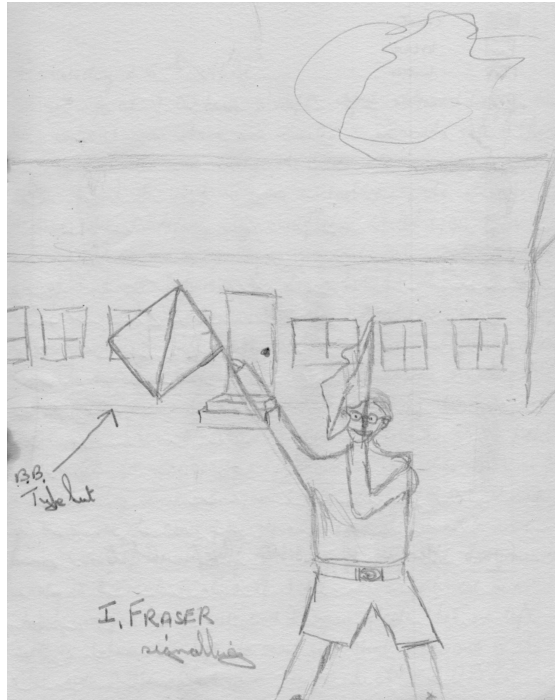


Figure 9¹⁸

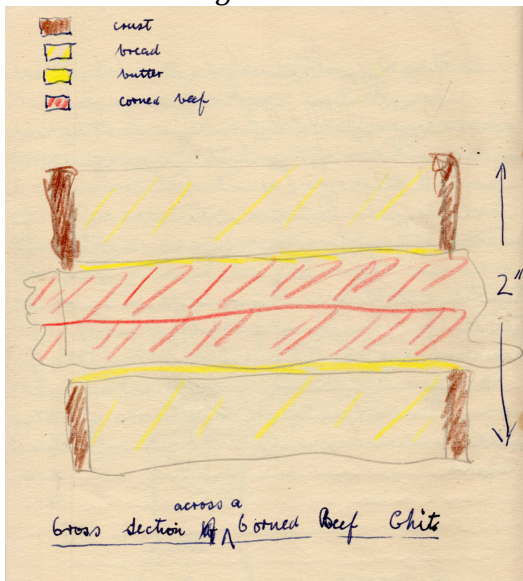


Figure 10



Figure 11

Wednesday 25th April

We got up at 7 PM prompt. After Al¹ and Ozzz² had been wakened, we started to clear the site of the kitchen shelter and carry the dixies etc up to the store tent. About 8.00 p.m.³, we assembled at the Scouters' kitchen for breakfast, viz: cornflakes, boiled eggs, fried potatoes and as much ryvita as you could eat. After breakfast, we split up into three parties to dig a pit for the refuse⁴, take down the store tent, and something else, but this escapes my memory. Before George⁵ and myself⁶ started on the store tent, we finished taking down the tent and packing it.

At 12 o'clock, approximately, all the gear was ready to be carried down to the field⁷. Everyone about this time was in F.S.U.⁸ (except Al¹ and Oz²). When all the stuff had been collected at the field, Al and Oz, for some reason only known to themselves, went in for a bathe⁹. They came out again pretty quickly, put on F.S.U. and went to see the owner of the ground. We, meanwhile, when having lunch of corned beef CHI¹⁰ and jelly.

The lorry¹¹ arrived early at 1 o'clock instead of 1.15. It was loaded in a highly unorganized manner and it was a flook¹² that we left nothing behind. We left the campsite about 1.15 and on the other side of the splash¹³ we picked up Al¹ and Ozz².

We got to Tighnabruaich pier 40 minutes too early, so we put in the time eating treacle and pouring what was left over the pier.¹⁴ We met Jeysie¹⁵ at the pier. He had walked into Tighnabruaich earlier in the morning to pay bills etc.¹⁶

The 'Lochfyne' arrived at 2:15 p.m. approximately, and again there was a mad rush to get the gear on-board. Kipper¹⁷, contrary to general belief, did not walk around the 'Lochfyne' three times with the seesawd (super-sonic-evil-spirit-activity-warning-device) before we left the pier¹⁸. The 'Lochfyne' arrived early at Gourock. We managed to find a luggage wagon affair¹⁹ to put the gear onto to take it along to L.L.O.²⁰ About 5 o'clock, we left Gourock pier for home.

Signed M. Nisbet P.L.

P.S. The Curlew Patrol won²¹ the patrol championship.

Officially censored

R.K. Miller, June 1962

Editorial notes for 25th April 1962

1. ASM Alastair Cram

2. ASM Albert Runcie (Oz). The additional z^s in Ozzz would refer to him over sleeping.

3. Should be 'a.m.'

4. During the 1960s the standard approach to rubbish involved the three 'B's – burn, bash and bury. In subsequent years, this was changed to burn, bash and bin.

5. George Conway

6. Michael Nisbet

7. See note 4 for 21st April 1962 regarding the 'field'.

8. Full Scout Uniform

9. This was probably seen as a ritual that needed to be done at the end of each camp. Bob Miller and Ian Mcfarlane did exactly the same at the end of the Arduaine summer camp. They did not join in on this occasion as they had returned home on the 23rd April. Therefore, the responsibility to keep the tradition going fell on Al and Oz.

10 Significance unknown unless it was meant to be the plural of CHIT – a word that was used in the 1960s to signify a sandwich or other such edible (see also Figure 10).

11. *It is assumed that this was the same lorry that transported the Scouts to the campsite on the 20th April and that it might have been the property of the pier master.*
12. *fluke*
13. *It is not stated what the splash was. Presumably it was a ford across the burn bordering the south side of the BB campsite.*
14. *Seems rather a peculiar thing to do*
15. *Alan Jeyes*
16. *A substantial walk that must have taken close on 1.5 hours*
17. *Ian Paterson*
18. *The walking round an object three times relates to a ceremony that was probably introduced by Bob Miller. It was carried out before entering a 'haunted house' or other spooky place to appease any lingering spirits. For example, the ceremony was carried out before entering an old chapel at the summer camp of 1965. It is not known what the 'seesawd' referred to, but this probably varied from camp to camp depending on what could be found en route to the spooky haunt.*
19. *Indistinct. Possibly 'effort' or 'affair'.*
20. *Left Luggage Office*
21. *Indistinct and assumed to be 'won', but it reads more like 'noone'*

Officially censored

R.K. Miller

June 1962

Editorial note

The Troop Log and all the patrols logs were checked by Bob Miller on various occasions during the Scouting year.