

TROOP LOG

70TH RENFREWSHIRE



1957

General Introduction to the Troop Log 1957

by the Editor, G.L. Patrick

Introduction

This document provides a transcript of the Troop Log covering 1957, which was mostly written by Jim Harvey who was a Junior Assistant Scout Master at that time. The 1957 log comes at an end of a two-year gap in the Troop Logs starting in March 1955. It is not known whether a Troop Log was written for that period or not, but it is known that some Troop Logs were given to ex members at a 70th anniversary during the 1990s.

The original text of the 1957 is provided, although some minor modifications have been made in terms of punctuation. Occasionally, a word has been added by the editor to clarify the meaning of a sentence. Such words are in italics. The sketches and photos provided are scans of the originals. Additional comments are also provided in italics after each week's entry in the log. These serve to provide additional information or an explanation regarding what has been written. A red superscript number in the original text identifies when an additional comment has been made.

Troop Logs were primarily written to record the events taking place at the weekly Friday-night troop meetings. They occasionally provided information on other Scouting activities such as hikes, camps, fund raising events, Parents Meetings, Scouts Owns, Parades, Church Services, Going Up Ceremonies, Service Projects etc etc. However, most of these activities went unrecorded.

In terms of the regular Troop meeting, the majority of these were held in the Church hall of Finnart Church. The programme started with three whistles to summon everyone to form up in patrols in the hall, before flagbreak was carried out by the Duty Patrol. This was followed by inspection, during which the Scouters inspected each patrol for uniform. The inter-patrol game usually then ensued and was chosen by the duty patrol. The order of events after that could vary but usually included one or two sessions of Patrol Corners and a variety of troop games. Patrol Corners involved each patrol sitting together and working on the various Scouting skills that were required to pass tests for the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class badges. This was directed by the Patrol Leader and Second. Scouters were on hand to test individual Scouts on specific tests, but this was done away from the rest of the patrol and not necessarily during the time allocated for Patrol Corners. The progressive Scout Training system involved gaining the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class and 1st Class Badges in that order. The ultimate goal was the Queen's Scout Badge which involved gaining the Bushman's Thong, Venturer's Badge and a number of Proficiency Badges.

Stunts were sometimes included in the programme and involved the Patrols having to complete some sort of challenge set by the Scouters. Campfires were frequently held towards the end of the meeting. These were not real campfires but involved the Scouts sitting round a mock campfire that consisted of an orange light bulb surrounded by a thick plastic film and a pyramid of sticks. The typical campfire programme included songs and yells. Very occasionally, a patrol might perform a sketch. At the end of the meeting, the patrols would form up in

full uniform and the Scout Master would make announcements before the final flagdown carried out by the Duty Patrol.

In terms of uniform, most Scouts wore shorts during the period covered in this log, so changing out of uniform merely involved removing hat, neckerchief, lanyard and smart shoes. The short-sleeved uniform shirt of the period was far sturdier than the one that was introduced in the late 1960s and usually survived games such as British Bulldog. Some Scouts wore kilts and so the process of removing and redonning uniform was more involved for them.

After the meeting, the Duty Patrol tidied up the hall and other rooms used during the evening. Court of Honour meetings were often held once the Troop meeting was over. This involved the Patrol Leaders meeting with the Scout Master and some of the Scouters in the session room to discuss various troop matters.

Finally, there was a monthly patrol competition and each patrol could earn points from the weekly inspection, interpatrol game, tests and badges passed, stunts and activities, log books, patrol meetings and activities etc.

Not all troop meetings were held indoors. If there was good weather, a wide game might be held up the Lyle Hill.

The following list describes the various interpatrol games that were played at the start of the meeting during this period.

*Football

The log book identifies football being played in the hall, but this was eventually banned when windows started to get broken. There was also a risk of damaging the overhead gas heaters which flared up spectacularly when they were hit by the ball. The game was played with a tennis ball on the 31st October 1958 probably to minimize the risk. It is not known when football was stopped, but it was certainly not played during the 1960s. During that decade, football was played outside on Madeira Street either before or after the meeting. If it was part of the programme, then it was played on McAuley's field or in the field near the top of the Lyle Hill.

* Crab football.

Although crab football was popular in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it was not mentioned in the Troop log covering 1957.

* Ringstick

One member of each patrol stood on a chair at opposite ends of the hall, and the aim was to throw a rubber ring such that the Scout holding the stick could 'catch' it on the stick. It is not clear whether this was played as a non-contact game like basketball, or whether the rules were 'anything goes'. However, descriptions suggest the latter and there was one occasion when the ring was torn in two. Certainly, the ring could not be placed over the stick and had to be thrown. This involved quite a bit of skill from the Scout holding the stick in order to judge correctly the flight of the ring.

* Ice Hockey

Played with Scout staves and any object that could serve as a puck. Often a sandshoe was used.

* Skittles or Platters

Skittles were set up at one end of the hall and each member of the patrol threw a ball to try and knock them over. This probably involved each Scout throwing in turn from the other end of the hall. This game might have been the same as 'Platters' which was played a lot during the 1950s.

*Gym Rugby

Gym rugby was played as the interpatrol game on the 24th October 1958, but was not mentioned in the 1957 troop log.

*Crocodiles

The entry for the 1st April 1960 indicates that a game called crocodiles was played as an inter Patrol game at some point during the 1950s. However, it does not appear to have been played during the period covered in this log book (1957)

The following are descriptions of Troop games played later in the Friday night programme

* British Bulldog (BB).

This game was highly popular and was almost a rite of passage through which Scouts moved slowly over the years from being 'minnows' to 'pikes'. At the start of the game, one or more Scouts would be chosen to be 'in the middle' and to act as captors. The rest of the Troop then congregated at one end of the hall as the 'runners'. When the whistle blew, the runners had to get from one end of the hall to the other. The captors successfully captured somebody if they could prevent him reaching the other end of the hall and also lift him off the floor long enough to chant 'British Bulldog 1,2,9' (later this changed to 1,2,3). The victim then hoped that he would be lowered to the floor rather than dropped, and would then join the team of captors. The game would continue and the winner was the last man to be caught. The length of these games could vary significantly. If a PL was chosen for the middle, the game was usually very short. If young Scouts were chosen, the game could last a long time. Games of BB were not infrequently associated with torn clothing and a variety of cuts, scrapes and bruises which were gleefully reported in the log book entries.

*'Jump the Rope', 'Leap the Rope' 'Swing the Sandshoe', 'Sandshoe Game' 'Swing the Hoop', 'Swinging Ring'

It is believed that all these terms refer to the same game which was popular during the 1950s, 1960s and well beyond. However, the game was not mentioned in the Troop log of 1957.

*Port and Starboard

This might have been a game that was played by both Wolf Cubs and Scouts at their meetings. The walls of the hall were defined as port, starboard, fore and aft. Scouts were to run to the relevant wall when it was called out and the last Scout to get there was out. Occasionally, the Scouter would call out the name of the wall that the Scouts were already at, and if any Scout moved away from that wall, they were deemed to be out. Last Scout remaining was the winner.

The game evolved to include other commands such as 'Freeze', 'Man the Lifeboats', 'Boom coming over', 'Submarine', 'Man Overboard' etc. etc all of

which required a suitable response. For example, 'Boom coming over' required the Scouts to dive to the floor, 'Freeze' meant keeping absolutely still, 'Man the lifeboats' required one Scout to jump on the back of another, 'Submarine' meant lying on the floor on your back with a leg in the air. However, it is not known when these extra instructions were introduced or whether they were part of the game during the period covered in this log book. 'Man Overboard' was certainly included during the 1960s and may have involved getting off the floor by any means possible.

* Up one, down one (or the Staff game)

This game was popular during the 1960s and beyond, but did not get mentioned in the Troop Log of 1957.

* Dodgeball (or dodgy ball)

The aim of Dodgeball was to throw a ball such that it hit a Scout below the knee. Last person standing was the winner. During the period covered in this log, it appears that each patrol took a turn at being in the middle, and the winners from these 'heats' then competed against each other. It is not clear what kind of ball was used or whether it was the Scouters or Scouts that threw it.

* Hopping Charlie

A game that was played during the 1960s, but which was not mentioned in the Troop Log of 1957

*Horses and Riders or Horses and Knights

A game that was played during the 1960s, but which was not mentioned in the Troop Log of 1957

Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| ADC | Assistant District Commissioner |
| ASM | Assistant Scout Master |
| BB | British Bulldog |
| COH | Court of Honour |
| DC | District Commissioner |
| GSM | Group Scout Master |
| JASM | Junior Assistant Scout Master |
| PC | Patrol Corners |
| PL | Patrol Leader |
| SM | Scout Master |
| TL | Troop Leader |
| VJASM | Very Junior Assistant Scout Master |

MARCH 1957

Sunday 24th February 1957

Today marked the beginning of the 'BP' Centenary celebrations¹. We met the other troops at Ardgowan Square and paraded to the Mid Kirk. Guides, Rovers and Rangers also attended the service, during which 90 colours were presented. The salute was taken by Provost Gerrard² at the march past. Despite unfavourable conditions, we had a very good turnout and the parade went off fairly well.

J. Harvey³

Editorial notes for 24th February 1957

1. Baden Powell was born in London on the 22nd February 1857.
2. David Gerrard was Provost of the Burgh of Greenock from 1956 to 1959
3. Jim Harvey wrote most of the entries in the 1957 log book. He was aged about 17 in 1957 and was a Junior Assistant Scout Master. Previous to that, he had been the first PL of a newly formed Kingfisher Patrol.

Friday 1st March 1957



The troop held its first dance tonight since about two years ago. Members of the Bible Class and the Church Youth group were also present and this brought our numbers up to about¹, as you can well imagine, there was a bit of a crush, but, nevertheless, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves very much. The dance started at about 7 o'clock and continued until 11 o'clock, but, at 12 o'clock, one mother was at the hall looking for her daughter (the culprit is in the Kingfishers).²

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 1st March 1957

1. A space was left for the number, but it was not provided.
2. The culprit was never identified though

Patrol Championship for the month of February

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Curlews | 33 |
| Falcons | 20 |
| Kingfishers | 15 |
| Seals | 18 |
| Fox | 14 |
| Seagulls | 13 |

Friday 8th of March 1957



Two new boys came along to the meeting tonight; they were Robert Harvey¹, who joined the Seagulls, and Richie Muir² who joined the Seals. This brings the membership of the troop up to 44, and the attendance tonight was 35. The meeting was started off with flag break and inspection³. More points are now being taken off at inspection for untidy uniforms (scruffy scarves, grubby lanyards and squint belts). The game was football and players are still being put off for high balls⁴. The Curlews won the game and the Seals and Falcons were second and third respectively. At patrol corners³, three tests were passed including Jim Blair⁵ who finally passed his emergencies.

During the campfire³, Skipper gave a small lecture on discipline.

After the campfire³, the troop was dismissed.

There was a Court of Honour⁶ for PLs.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 8th March 1957

- 1. Robert Harvey was Jim Harvey's younger brother.*
- 2. Ritchie Muir*
- 3. See the general introduction at the start of the log*
- 4. This was to minimize the risk of damage to windows and the overhead gas heaters.*
- 5. Jim Blair was Second of the Kingfisher Patrol and was aged 12 at the time.*
- 6. Court of Honour (COH) Meetings involved all the PLs, Scout Master and some of the ASMs. This usually met in the session room after the troop meeting and discussed all relevant matters affecting the troop. One of the roles of the Court of Honour was to maintain discipline and standards within the troop. Decisions were made by the Patrol Leaders, but the Scout Master could influence whatever decisions were made.*

Friday 15th of March 1957

The attendance tonight was 35. After flagbreak and inspection¹, we had a game of football which was won by the Seals followed by the Curlews and the Kingfishers.

At the patrol corners¹, five tests were passed most of which were tenderfoot tests². Just before the patrol corners broke up, Skipper announced that all Scouts, and that included PLs, who did not behave fittingly would be summoned before the Court of Honour³ and stood a good chance of being thrown out of the troop if their discipline did not improve thereafter.



We had a game of British Bulldog¹ which was followed by a campfire¹. The songs were accompanied by the harmonious strumming of Skipper's Banjo. Before flagbreak⁴, H. Burniston⁵ and Albert Runcie⁶ were invested^{7,8}. There was another Court of Honour for PLs tonight.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 15th March 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. The Progressive Scout training scheme consisted of the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout Badges. Normally, the Tenderfoot took 1-3 months to complete, while the 2nd Class could take 6 months to a year or more.
3. See Note 6 for the 8th March 1957 regarding the Court of Honour (COH).
4. This is almost certainly an error and the scribe meant flagdown.
5. Very little is known about H. Burniston, not even his forename. He may not have remained in the troop for very long.
6. Albert Runcie was in the Fox Patrol at this point and was aged about 11 or 12. Curiously, the Fox Patrol Log stated that Albert's investiture occurred on the 29th March
7. The Investiture ceremony has probably changed very little during the history of the troop. In preparation, a table was brought in to the hall and a Union Flag laid on top. Candles were lit and placed on the table and the main lights were put out such that the only light came from the candles. The boy who was due to be invested was then instructed to march to the table by his PL, who stood at the alert a few paces behind. The boy stood on one side of the table, while the Scout Master (SM) stood on the other side. The SM then asked the boy if he knew 'what it meant to be put on your honour', to which the boy replied something along the lines of 'A Scout is to be Trusted'. The SM then asked the boy to place his left hand on the flag and to make the Scout sign with his right hand. The SM then asked everyone else present to make the Scout sign before asking the boy to repeat the Scout Promise after him. Once this was over, everyone stopped showing the Scout sign and the boy was welcomed into the 'Worldwide Brotherhood of Scouting' and presented with his neckerchief and various badges. The SM shook the newly accepted Scout by the left hand and they both saluted. The Scout's PL then commanded the new Scout to 'about turn' and march back to the patrol. At some point during the years that this ceremony was carried out, the parents of those boys getting invested were invited along to witness the ceremony, but it not known when exactly the practice was introduced or whether it occurred during the 1950s. An interesting aspect of the ceremony involved the PL identifying the boy by name only when instructing him to march to the table. Once the ceremony was over, he added the title 'Scout' when ordering him back to the patrol.
8. Note that the Fox Patrol Log claims that the investiture was on the 29th March.

Friday 22nd of March 1957

Tonight we had a wide game, but, unfortunately, the attendance was only 15 as most of the remainder of the troop were at the "Schoolboys Exhibition"¹.

We met at the Lyle Park and each patrol split into two. One half went to the flagpole² to find a message hidden there and the rest went to the well³ at the top of Madeira Street to find another message. The messages were changed over somewhere along Newark Street and we all met again at the Lyle Park with the required information. The Fox, Seal and Seagull patrols each got two points for the game. Because it started to rain, Skipper made a few announcements about an outing to a Scouting Exhibition in the Kelvin Hall⁴ on the 26 April. The 59th and ourselves are running a bus jointly to the exhibition. It is expected to cost about five shillings⁵ per head including admission.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 22nd March 1957

1. Pathe News footage shows that an annual Schoolboys' Exhibition was held in London between the 1920s and 1960s. At the exhibition of 1964, there was a giant model railway and displays by various organizations including the army. There were also opportunities for boys to try out various activities including go Karts, judo, and rowing. It is possible that similar exhibitions were held in Glasgow but to date no evidence has been found regarding this.
2. A flagpole used to be located at the top of the Lyle Hill until at least the 1960s. The base of the flagpole is still present on the site.
3. This was a stand-alone drinking well that was located on the southern side of the junction between Madeira Street and Madeira Street, near the footpath connecting Newton Street with South Street.

4. This was one of the events put on to celebrate the golden (50th) anniversary of Scouting. The exhibition (or show) lasted a week.
5. This would be the equivalent of about £8.00 today (2023)

Friday, 29 March 1957

The attendance tonight was 31 and we started a new form of programme which was decided on by the Court of Honour¹ on the 15th. We started it off with the usual flag break and inspection² and this was followed by 20 minutes of instructional patrol corners³.

Then came the game which was won by the Kingfishers and the Foxes were second. After the game, there was a further 20 minutes of patrol corners² at which tests could be passed, and several were passed, which was the main reason for this change.

We then had a game of British Bulldog² and to finish up a campfire.²

Alistair Shearer⁴ was presented with his ambulance badge, which now means that he has his Queen's Scout Badge.⁵

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 29th March 1957

1. See Note 6 for the 8th March 1957 regarding the Court of Honour (COH).
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log
3. The difference here was that a Scouter was present with each Patrol to provide training on various badges
4. Alistair Shearer was aged about 17 at this point and was a Junior Assistant Scout Master having resigned as a Patrol Leader some months previously. He also led the 70th Shannon Cup team in 1957 to gain 2nd place.
5. The Ambulance Badge was a proficiency badge covering First Aid and was probably one of the obligatory badges required before gaining the Queen's Scout Badge. The Queen's Scout Badge itself was the pinnacle of the Scout Training Scheme.

Sunday, 31 March 1957

Today, we paraded with the Cubs to the Finnart Church¹. One of the lessons was read by.....² and Ian Inglis³ sang a solo. Skipper gave a sermon on the Scout badge. He had a large badge cut out of cardboard and he explained the meaning of each part as he pinned it onto a board.

There were 28 Scouts present and 42 cubs⁴.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 29th March 1957

1. It is likely that this was a Scouts Own held on Sunday evening and attended by the Wolf Cubs and Scouts. There were probably two such Scouts Owns per year of this nature and it might also have been attended by parents and friends. The Reverend Stewart would have been present to give the benediction, but the service itself would have involved input from both the Scouts and Scouters.
2. A space was left to add the names of those involved. However, the details were not added.
3. Ian Inglis was a very fine singer and competed in various musical competition. It is believed that he was in the Cub Pack, but it is not known whether he joined the Troop.
4. For part of the 1950s, the 70th had two Wolf Cub Packs, one of which met on a Thursday night and the other on a Friday night. It is not known whether this was still the case in 1957 though.

Patrol Championship for March

Seagulls, 70 points; Curlews, 68 points; Kingfishers, 64 points
Seals, 61 points; Falcon, 59 points; Fox, 55 points.

Friday, 5 April 1957

We had flagbreak and inspection¹ followed by 20 minutes of patrol corners¹, at which a fair amount of work was done. The Fox, who were duty patrol¹, chose ring stick¹ for a change tonight and went on to win the game followed by the Seals and Curlews respectively.

The game was followed by another 20 minutes of patrol corners at which six tests were passed.

We played a couple of games of British Bulldog¹ and then had a short campfire¹. W. McGregor² and C. Boyd³ were invested⁴ tonight.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 5th April 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. It is believed that this was William (Billy) McGregor of the Kingfisher Patrol. However, very little is known about him and he may not have stayed in the Troop for very long.
3. Nothing is known about C. Boyd, not even his Christian name. There are no further mentions of him in the available Troop records and it is assumed that he left the Troop fairly soon after his investiture. He was in the Kingfisher Patrol
4. See note 6 for the 15th March 1957 regarding investitures.

Friday, 12 April 1957



- A VISIT FROM ONE
OF THE OLD BOYS -

The attendance tonight was 28 and after the first 20 minutes of patrol corners¹, we played football¹ which the Kingfishers won. This was followed by the remainder of patrol corners¹, a game of British Bulldog¹ and a campfire¹. Neville Mort², who used to be in the troop, paid us a visit tonight.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 12th April 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. Neville Mort was in the Troop from 1951-55 and became the Patrol Leader of the Curlew Patrol. He would have been about 17 years old in 1957.

Friday, 12¹ April 1957

As the attendance was only 22 tonight, we made up five patrols and the duty patrol², Falcons chose to play football in McAuley's field³. The Foxes won the game and the Seagulls and Kingfishers were second and third respectively. When came back to the hall, we played a game a British Bulldog² and a game of dodgeball², This was followed by a campfire². There was no patrol corners² tonight.

After flagdown, there was a meeting for those who were going camping to Roseneath the next day.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 19th April 1957

1. This was an error. It was the 19th April
2. See the general introduction at the start of the log

3. McAuley's field was situated on the south side of the junction between Newton Street and Madeira Street. It was occasionally used for grazing cattle before the beasts were sent to market. The field was frequently used by the 70th for outdoor meetings up until the early 1960s. Many of the Troop and Pack photographs were taken there. The field was also used by local youngsters for football and all sorts of other activities. Housing was eventually built on McAuley's field during the early 1960s.

Saturday 13th-Tuesday 16th April 1957 Easter Camp ¹



The Easter camp this year was held at Roseneath. We came from Gourock on the 2 pm boat², and a lorry took us to Clachan³ farm where we were camping. There was a Glasgow troop camping in the barn and we had a wide game with them at night at 9 pm.

Sandy, Douglas and Jim⁴ left on Sunday afternoon and the remainder of the boys and Skipper came home on Tuesday. Sunday was the only day we had any rain.

Editorial notes for 20th-23rd April 1957

1. This was an error. It was the 20th-23rd April 1957
2. It is presumed that the ferry to Kilcreggan was taken.
3. The farm is directly south of Rosneath village.
4. Sandy Whiteford, Douglas Brown and Jim Harvey.

Friday, 26 April 1957



There was no troop meeting tonight as we had arranged along with the 59th to run a special bus to the Scout show¹. 22 of our troop were on the bus². We arrived at Kelvin Hall at about 7.15 and looked around the various stalls until 8.30 when we went in to see the arena show. There were many demonstrations going on all the time at the stalls and these were based mainly on badge work, fencing, rock climbing, firefighting and many others.

We left the show at 10 o'clock and sang all the way home³.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 26th April 1957

1. This was one of the events put on to celebrate the golden (50th) anniversary of Scouting. The exhibition (or show) lasted a week at the Kelvin Hall.
2. The bus left from Trinity Church at 6.15 pm
3. The bus arrived back about 11.00 pm. By this time, the local buses had all stopped running, so everyone had to walk home. Relatively few people had their own cars in 1957.

Friday 3rd May 1957



We were back to normal tonight and the meeting¹ was started off with 20 minutes of patrol corners¹. The Fox, duty patrol¹, chose for the game football up at ² field. After the interpatrol game which the³ Patrol won, the Scouters versed the rest of the troop at football. The troop won easily four- one.

The⁴ Patrol who were last back to the hall from the field, as a punishment, had to take the 'Town Hall'⁵, in the trek cart⁶, along to the 7th⁷. Meanwhile the rest of the troop played British Bulldog¹ and after that, as there was no time for a campfire¹, we had flag down and dismissal. It was announced that there will be a parade to the Ashton Church⁸ on the 12th of May.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 3rd May 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. A space was left, but was not filled in. The football was played at McAuey's Field at the top of Madeira Street (from Fox Patrol Log).
3. The winning patrol was not identified in either the Troop Log or Fox Patrol Log.
4. Unidentified
5. The significance of this is unclear.
6. The trek cart was originally purchased on the 15th December 1939 (see relevant troop log). During the war years, the trek cart was used to collect of waste paper from houses in the neighbourhood. During the 1950s, when several camps were held at Invereck, it was used to push camping equipment from Dunoon pier to Invereck campsite – a distance of about 4 miles. It also saw service during the 1950s and 1960s for the collection of jumble from houses in the neighbourhood.
7. It is assumed that the 7th was the 7th Renfrewshire, but it is not yet known where they met.
8. Ashton Church used to be the church to which the 6th Renfrewshire (1st Gourock) were affiliated. The church eventually had to be demolished and the congregation merged with the Old Gourock congregation to form the Old Gourock and Ashton Congregation.

Friday, 10 May 1957

The duty patrol¹ was the Kingfishers and the attendance was 24.

After the first lot of patrol corners¹, we had a game of football up in McAuley's field². The Curlews won this game, which was played in a different way, in that two games were played at once; thus, we played five eliminating games in the time we normally played only three.

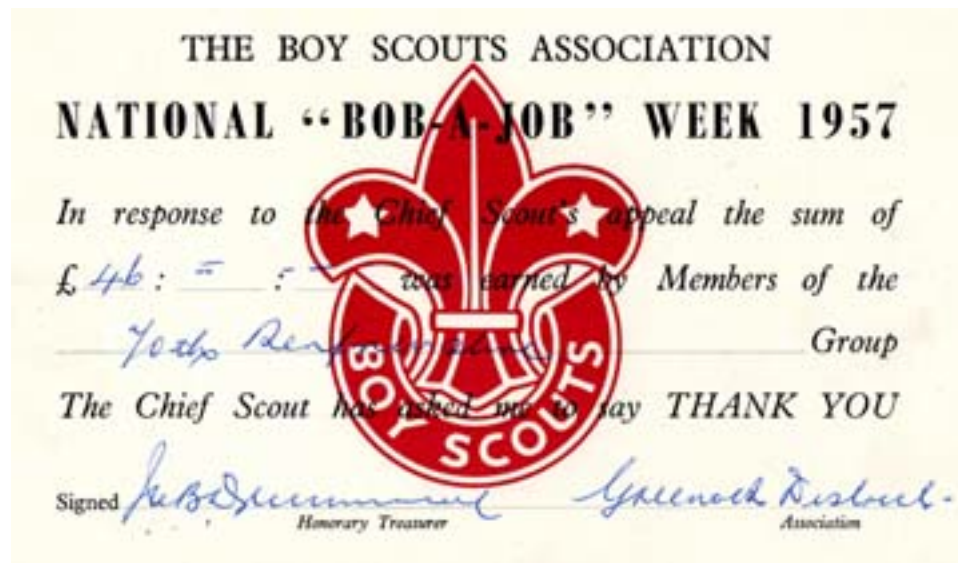
At patrol corners¹, when we came back to the hall, a few tests were passed and R. Muir³ passed his Tenderfoot⁴. After patrol corners, we started to make the camp gadgets for the show at Rankin Park on the 15th of May⁵. Before dismissal, Stuart Scott⁶ was presented with his 2nd class⁴ and swimmer's badge⁷ and Hamish Rankin⁸ and Alistair Campbell⁹ also got their swimmer's badge.

J. Harvey

Editorial notes for 10th May 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. See note 3 for the 19th April 1957 regarding McAuley's Field.
3. Ritchie Muir was in the Seal Patrol and was probably friendly with Robert Harvey.

4. See Note for the 15th March 1957 regarding the Scout Progressive Training Scheme.
5. The event at Rankin Park on the 25th May 1957 was the main event organized by Greenock District Scouts to celebrate the centenary of Baden Powell's birth.
6. Stuart Scott was 1st Scout of the Seal Patrol and was aged about 13 or 14 at the time. He was due to be promoted to Second of the Patrol that June.
7. The Swimmer's Badge was one of the many Proficiency Badges that Scout could earn.
8. Hamish Rankin was PL of the Falcon Patrol (since October 1956). He would have been about 13 or 14 years old in 1957.
9. Alistair or Alasdair Campbell might have been in the Falcon or the Fox Patrol at the time, but little else is known about him. He might have been aged about 14 in 1957 and in the troop from 1954-59.



Editorial Comment

The sum of £46 was raised by the 70th Renfrewshire Scout Group for the National Bob-a-Job week of 1957. This was presumably the total sum raised by the Wolf Cubs and the Scouts. £46 would be the equivalent of £1417 today (January 2023).

Sunday, 12 May 1957

Today we paraded with colours to the Ashton Church¹ where a service of remembrance was held for BP². We paraded with the other Greenock and Gourrock Cubs and Scouts from the Pierhead at 10:45 AM. We had a turnout of approximately.....³

Editorial notes for 12th May 1957

1. See note 8 for the 3rd May 1957 regarding Ashton Church
2. This was to mark the 100th anniversary of Baden Powell's birth.
3. A space was left for the turn out, but the number was never entered.

Thursday 16th May 1957

Editorial notes for 16th May 1957

Further work was carried out on the gadgets in preparation for the Rankin Park Display (Source; Fox Patrol Log Bok). There was no entry for the 16th May in the Troop Log.

Friday 17th May 1957

Tonight, the Seagulls were duty patrol¹ and the attendance was 29. We started off with the game tonight instead of patrol corners¹. The winners in the final were the² who beat the² After the game, we finished off the camp gadgets³ for the Scout show in Rankin Park⁴

Editorial notes for 17th May 1957

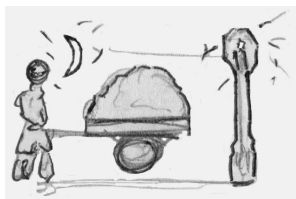
1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. A space was left, but the details were not entered.
3. Camp gadgets were designed to be of use in a camp kitchen. They were made using natural materials and included items such as plate racks, mug trees, basin racks, dressers, tables, chairs, larders, camp ovens etc. Ian Blake was particularly keen on his Scouts making such items at camp which is probably why the 70th were chosen to make a display of them for the Scout Display.
4. See Note 5 for the 10th May 1957 regarding the Scout Display at Rankin Park

Sunday 19th May 1957 County Jubilee Parade in Paisley

Editorial comment

There was no report on this in the Troop Log. Five Scouts and 1 Scouter represented the 70th (see Fox Patrol Log).

Friday 24th May 1957



Tonight, instead of a troop meeting, we all went to Rankin Park¹ to get the gadgets² set up. Skipper took the gadgets up in his car³ and it looked like a moonlight fitting.⁴

Editorial notes for 24th May 1957

1. Rankin Park used to be called Pirrie Park in the 1930s.
2. See note 3 for the 17th May 1957
3. Relatively few people owned cars in the 1950s, and the fact that Ian Blake had a car demonstrated that he was making a good living.
4. Some Scouts camped in the Rankin Park overnight to guard the displays against possible vandalism (See Fox Patrol Log).

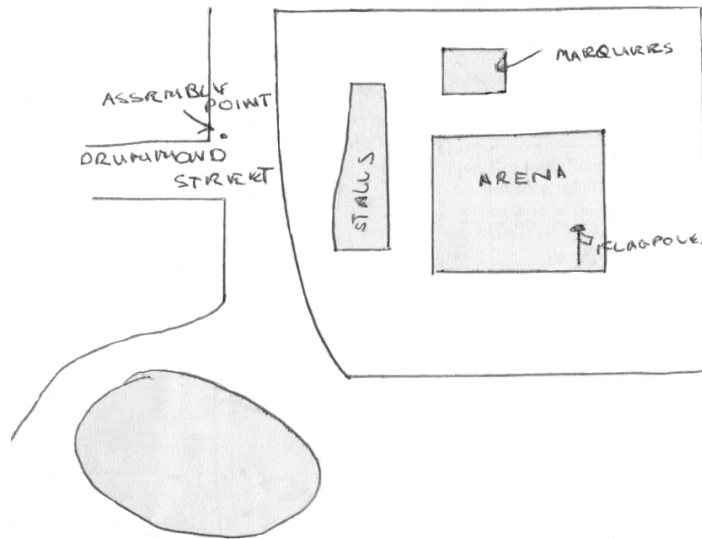
Saturday 25th May 1957)



Today we assembled in Drummond Street. We left Drummond Street at about 3:20 instead of 2:15. Arriving in the arena, Provost David

Gerrard took the salute and after we had marched out, we took a look around the stalls until 5:30 PM when we were told to go to the assembly arena from which we went into the arena and gave three hearty cheers to Provost Gerrard. This was followed by flag lowering which was performed by a Scout of the 1st Renfrewshire Troop.





Scribe: Alasdair Campbell



THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

Greenock District

THE GIRL GUIDE ASSOCIATION

Greenock Division

1857 – B. P. Centenary – 1957

DISPLAY

**RANKIN PARK
Greenock**

Saturday, 25th May, 1957

at 3 p.m.



PROGRAMME . . . THREEPENCE



1957 marks the Jubilee of Scouting and the Centenary of the birth of Robert Baden-Powell, the Founder of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements. From small beginnings the Boy Scout Movement has grown steadily and there are now 7,000,000 Scouts in over 100 different countries. To commemorate this special year, a Jubilee Jamboree will be held at Sutton Park, Warwickshire, from 1st to 12th August when 35,000 Scouts from over 80 countries will take part. The Girl Guide Movement has also spread rapidly and there are now very few countries in which there are no Guide or Brownie Companies. The Guides will celebrate their Jubilee in 1959.

The Greenock District will continue the Celebrations by holding a Good Turn and Anti-Litter Week from 3rd to 7th June and a Commemorative Seat will be presented to the Greenock Corporation at Clyde Square on Tuesday, 4th June. On Saturday, 25th September a Torchlight Procession and Camp-fire will be held at Darroch Park, Gourrock and a Re-union of Scouts and Guides of yesteryear will take place in Greenock Town Hall. The Celebrations will end with a Gang Show to be held in the Arts Guild Theatre from 16th to 21st December, 1957.



PROGRAMME

MARCH PAST - - - - SCOUTS and GUIDES

⌘-----⌘
The Salute will be taken by the Provost of Greenock—
DAVID GERRARD, Esq.
⌘-----⌘

STORIES OF THE SAINTS AND THE FLAG OF ST. ANDREW
CUBS

COUNTRY DANCING
GUIDES

GYMNASTICS: VAULTING HORSE
SCOUTS

SINGING GAMES
BROWNIES

PIONEERING
SCOUTS

GAMES
GUIDES

PIPE BAND SELECTIONS
CORLIC AND DUNROD PIPE BANDS

GAMES
SCOUTS

TENT PITCHING
GUIDES AND SCOUTS

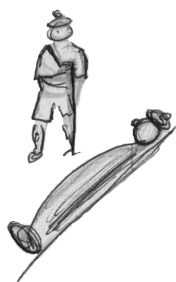
⌘-----⌘
PROVOST DAVID GERRARD WILL ADDRESS THE COMPANY
⌘-----⌘

**Flag Lowering Ceremony will be performed by
a P.L. of the 1st Renfrewshire Scout Troop**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The public are invited to pay a visit to the Set Piece Displays which are arranged round the arena area, They include a Refreshment Tent and Book Stall.

Friday, 31 May 1957



Tonight we started with skittles¹ chosen by the Seal patrol who were duty patrol¹. After this, we had patrol corners¹ while Sandy² and Jim Harvey³ started making the rack for camp gear⁴. There were three tests passed tonight.

After patrol corners¹, we had a few games of British bulldog¹ and Port and Starboard¹, in which were the usual number of casualties. There were 22 present tonight. After dismissal, there was a Court of Honour⁵.

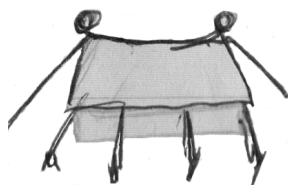
Editorial notes for 31st May 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. A.S.M Sandy Whiteford
3. A.S.M. Jim Harvey
4. This may have involved constructing dexion shelves in the Church kitchen.
5. See Note 6 for the 8th March 1957 regarding the Court of Honour (COH).

Sunday 2nd June 1957 Commonwealth Youth Service

Not recorded in the troop log. See Fox Patrol Log

Friday, 7 June 1957



Tonight, we started with patrol corners¹, and then we had football chosen by the Curlew Patrol who were duty patrol¹. During the second 20 minutes, the Shannon Cup² patrol went up to the field to pitch the Niger³ to see that it was all right for the competition. We had the usual games of British Bulldog¹ and Port and Starboard¹. There were

22 present tonight.⁴

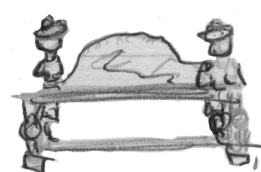
Editorial notes for 7th June 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. The Shannon Cup Competition was the premiere District camping competition during the period from the 1930s to the 1960s. In 1957, Jim Harvey led the 70th's Patrol which came 2nd in the Competition. In 1956, the 70th's patrol led by Hamish Rankin won the competition.
3. The Niger tent was a Patrol tent capable of taking 6-8 Scouts.
4. Ken Johnston, Second of the Seal Patrol, was promoted to PL of the Seagull Patrol. Stuart Scott took Ken's place as Second of the Seal Patrol (See Fox Patrol Log).

Monday 10th June 1957

Some Scouts carried out a can collection for Dr. Barnado's Home on this date (Fox Patrol Log).

Friday, June 14, 1957



Tonight, the Seal, who were duty patrol,¹ chose football for the game up the field² of which the Kingfisher patrol won. After this, we had patrol corners¹ at which four tests were passed. Skipper brought in a bag of leather scraps for Scouts to decorate their sheaths³ or other objects which they had brought. After flag lowering, we had dismissal and

a meeting of the Shannon Cup Patrol⁴.

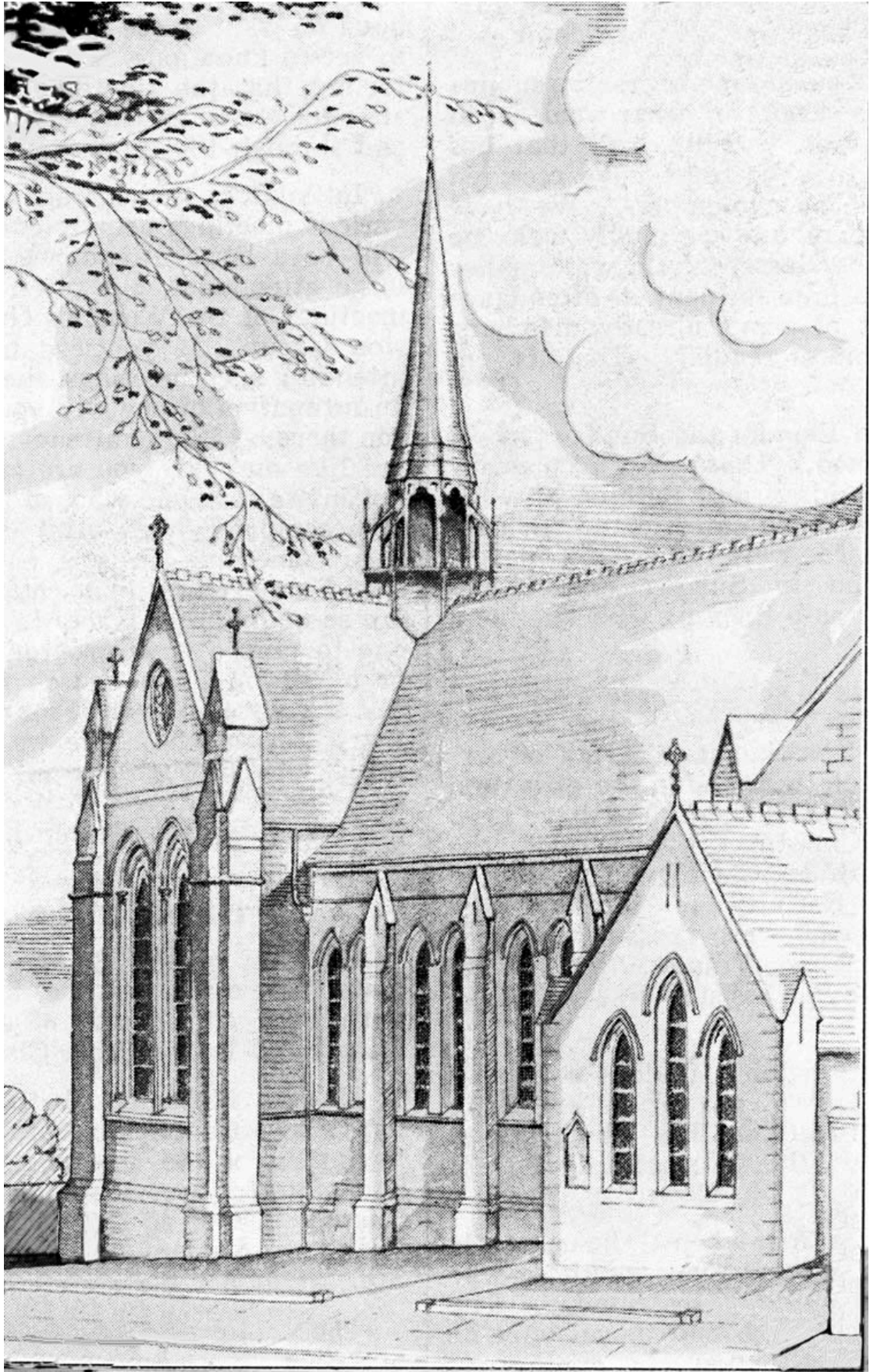
Editorial notes for 14th June 1957

1. See the general introduction at the start of the log
2. See note 3 for the 19th April 1957 regarding McAuley's Field.
3. Ian Blake had informed the Scouts the previous week that the leather could be used to decorate notebooks or the sheaths for sheath knives, and that anyone interested should bring the said objects for the 14th (see Fox Patrol Log for the 7th June 1957)
4. See note 2 for the 7th June 1957.

15th-16th June 1957 Shannon Cup Competition

Editorial notes for 15-16th June 1957

See Fox Patrol Log for a report. The 70th team consisted of Jim Harvey, Alastair Shearer, Hamish Rankin, Jihn Nisbet, Brian Elliot, Alasdair Campbell, Alastair Nicol and Jim Blair



OOR KIRK

25th July 1957 Greenock Telegraph reports on Jamboree Selection

The 70th had the honour of sending 4 Scouts to the World Jamboree. The 'Photos' are from the "Greenock Telegraph" and the "Greenock Pictorial".

J.R. Blake SM

GREENOCK TELEGRAPH, Thursday, 25 July, 1957

Local Scouts for World Jamboree



SCOTS Boy Scouts attending the International Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield from 1 to 12 August will all wear neckerchiefs of the MacLean tartan, as a tribute to Sir Charles MacLean of Duart, the Chief Scout's Commissioner in Scotland.

Recently the Greenock District Association decided that it would present each of the 17 boys representing this district at the Jamboree with his neckerchief and woggle.

The *Telegraph* photographer was present at the handing-over ceremony in the Scout Headquarters this week, and "caught" District Scout Commissioner Mr James J. Swan adjusting the neckerchief of Alastair Shearer. Some of the other 16 lads attending the jamboree, already sporting their new neckwear, look on.

The following is a list of the local Scouts who will make the trip:—

Daniel Canning (73rd Troop), Hugh M'Farlane (22nd), R. Cameron Shepherd (45th), J. Hatrick (45th), J. Smyth (7th), Ian M'Crorie (59th), Donald Boyes (32nd), G. MacPhail (32nd), Hamish Rankin (70th), Peter Clement (45th), Kenneth Conway (70th), Kenneth Johnson (70th), Alastair Shearer (70th), G. Harcus (7th), Alan Mollet (6th), Peter Fleming (6th), and George Hossach (54th).

Editorial Comments

The neckerchiefs were a green and black tartan. Hamish Rankin is on the extreme left (front row), and Kenneth Conway is on the extreme right (front row). Alastair Shearer is having his neckerchief adjusted by DC James Swan. Kenneth Johnston might be second from the left in the back row.



No wonder these local lads had a big smile for our cameraman when he took this happy picture. They are local Boy Scouts who left on Monday to attend the Jubilee Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield, where Scouts from over

80 countries will be represented. Lucky lads in the group are as follows:—D. Canning, H. McFarlane, C. Shepherd, J. Hatrick, J. Smyth, J. McCrorie, D. Boyes, G. McPhail, H. Rankin, P. Clements,

K. Conway, K. Johnson and A. Shearer. Also in the picture is Mr. James J. Swan, the District Commissioner, who presented one

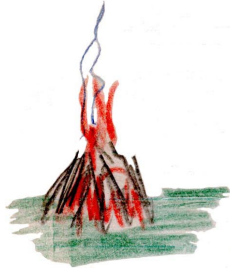
of the lads, Alastair Shearer (extreme right), with his Queen's Scout Badge before the party left for the Jamboree.

— 40^m

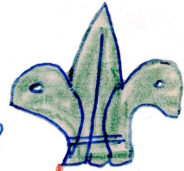
Editorial Comments

The neckerchiefs were a green and black tartan. The 70th Scouts were wearing dark green shirts. It is proposed that Kenneth Conway is on the extreme left, with Ken Johnston standing beside him. Alastair Shearer is on the extreme right. Possibly, Hamish Rankin is 4th from the left on the back row. However, there is some doubt about that as the Scout concerned appears to be wearing a traditional Scout Bush Hat, and the 70th Scouts were wearing berets by 1957.

70th RENFREWSHIRE
ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP
AT



70th RENFREWSHIRE
ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP
AT



Pitlochry

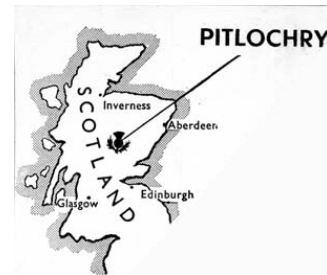
The Heart of the
SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS



Monday 6th August 1957



The Troop left for camp¹ at 9:30 AM by Doig's bus² for Pitlochry and as usual it was wet, until we got to Perth at about 12 noon where we had a pleasant hour viewing the sights and "munching" our pack lunches.



Arrived at Campsite at approximately 2 PM in glorious sunshine and, without much more ado, we settled in to pitching tents, making kitchens and all the things that are necessary on arrival at camp.³

The Patrols at Camp were as follows⁴:-

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---|
| Panthers | PL | John Nisbet Robert Howison Robert Harvey Hugh Paterson |
| Leopards | PL | Trevor Jones Jim Blair Tommy Dow Alastair Cram |
| Woodpeckers | PL | Brian Elliot Ian Miller Stuart Scott |
| Scouters | GSM SM QM | Victor J. Clark ⁵ J.R. Blake Robert (Bob) Miller Sandy Whiteford Jim Harvey Ian McFarlane (Long weekend only) |



1 1/2 MILES "THAT-A-WAY"
TO CAMPSITE.

Figure 1 The New Bridge, Aldour⁵

Editorial notes for 6th August 1957

1. The summer camp to Pitlochry in 1957 was the first time that the 70th had camped close to Pitlochry, although the Troop had camped near Balinluig for the summer camps of in 1936 and 1937. Balinluig was about half a dozen miles south of Pitlochry and so the Pitlochry camp of 1957 was the furthest that the Troop had travelled to a summer camp up until that time. The campsite was on the west side of the River Tummel at Dunfallandy and the troop returned there for Easter camps in 1961 and 1964. The same campsite was used for a short week-long summer camp in 1977, which had been organized for Scouts who were unable to attend the longer summer camp to Denmark that year.

2. Doigs was a Greenock coal company that also ran coaches during the summer when coal sales were low.

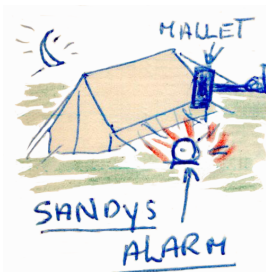
3. The fact that kitchens were constructed (in the plural) indicates that the 70th was camping with each patrol self-sufficient in terms of camping and cooking its own meals. This would have been over wood fires.

4. Ken Conway, Hamish Rankin, Alastair Shearer and Ken Johnston would almost certainly have attended this camp if it had not been for the World Jamboree held at Sutton Coldfield (1st-12th August). All four were at that camp

5. Victor Clark restarted the 70th in 1947 and was Scout Master for several years before becoming Group Scout Master. Victor was not particularly interested in practical Scouting and relied on his assistants to provide the Scouts with training in practical skills. His presence at Pitlochry was unusual and is the only camp that he is known to have attended as either Scout Master or Group Scout Master.

6. The 'new bridge, Aldour' connects Pitlochry to the south side of the River Tummel. The road splits on the south bank with the west-bound road leading to the Fish ladders and Loch Tummel, while the south east bound road follows the south side of the river Tummel to Dunfallandy Cottage. The campsite is situated in a narrow flat field between the road and a steep slope leading down to the river.

Tuesday 7th August



Someone actually got up at 7 AM and woke the rest of us. Breakfast at 8:15 AM. Inspection was held at 10 AM and points were awarded for the tidiest tent, kit, kitchen, and gadgets⁷ etc.

The afternoon was spent in making gadgets, plate racks, towel racks etc and after tea, Skipper announced that, as we had all worked hard and settled in quicker than he thought, free time was given for a look round Pitlochry.

Cocoa at 9 PM was enjoyed round a good fire in the Scouters' kitchen.

Bed at 10 PM. Lights out 10:30 PM.

Editorial notes for 7th August 1957

7. Camp gadgets were designed to be of use in a camp kitchen. They were made using natural materials and included items such as plate racks, mug trees, basin racks, dressers, tables, chairs, larders, camp ovens etc. Ian Blake was particularly keen to see the patrols produce gadgets when they were at camp.

Wednesday 8th August

Rise and shine at 8 AM.

Camp now well-established as far as patrol cooking was concerned.



After breakfast and inspection, which was at 10 AM, as usual, we "acquired" a flagpole which was duly erected with due and ancient ceremony.⁸

Then after dinner, Skipper decided that as the weather was still good, it would be a grand chance to visit the "Pass of Killiecrankie"⁹ (a "cranky" idea but we all went). The "walk" was quite enjoyable but somehow that "Last Mile" never seemed to come.

At the "pass", we met two Perth Scouts on their 1st Class journey.¹⁰

On returning to camp, Skipper offered free time, but there were no takers.¹¹ (Has anyone got a piece of 'Elastoplast').
Campfire and Cocoa at 9:30 PM and so to bed.



MASS OF KILLIECRANKIE

Photo: F. Henderson, Pitlochry

Editorial notes for 8th August 1957

8. The main flagpole at summer camp was usually acquired locally, and it was a matter of honour that it should be as tall as possible. It is not known whether the Scouts were allowed to cut down a tree for the purpose, or whether they purchased it locally.

9. In 1957, the A9 passed through the centre of Pitlochry and continued to Killiecrankie and Blair Atholl. During the 1950s, the traffic on the A9 was very light and it was feasible to hike along the A9 to Killiecrankie and back. The old A9 is still present but has been relabeled the B8079. The new A9 now bypasses Pitlochry and Killiecrankie.

10. The 1st Class journey was a two-day hike with an overnight camping, which involved 2 Scouts covering about 18-20 miles. It was one of the last tests completed before gaining the 1st Class Badge. Scouting had a progressive training scheme that involved four principal badges – Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class and Queen's Scout. In the 70th, PLs were expected to have their 1st Class Badge and were encouraged to gain their Queen's Scout Badge.

11. As the free time involved walking into Pitlochry, it is perhaps understandable why nobody took up the offer, considering the walk that everyone had completed to Killiecrankie and back.

Thursday 9th August

At last the weather has broken and it rained pretty constant all day, but like good Scouts the rain didn't worry us very much.

Breakfast at 8:45 AM. Inspection at 10 AM.

This morning, Hugh Patterson was taken to a doctor by the GSM¹² as he was not feeling well.¹³ Dinner was at 12.30 as usual and free time was allowed at 2:30 PM. Those who did not go out of camp enjoyed pancakes and syrup made by Bob Miller. They proved a great success, much to the annoyance of those who went into "town".

Tea at 5:30 PM and a short walk in the evening with cocoa at 9:30 PM finished an enjoyable day.

Editorial notes for 9th August 1957

12. Group Scout Master, Victor Clark

13. Scouts feeling unwell could often coincide with bad weather

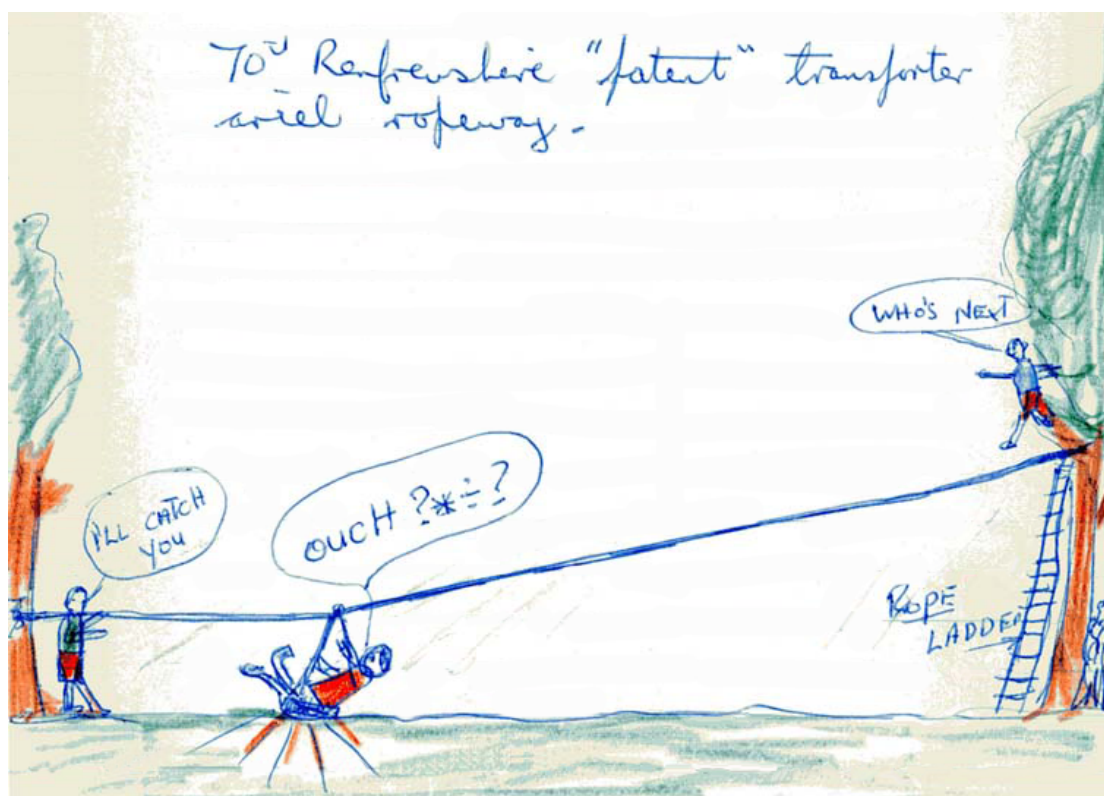
Friday 10th August

Reveille at 8 AM to another showery day with breakfast at 9 AM and inspection at 10 AM. The Panthers are now drawing ahead of the other patrols in points.

Stuart Scott *and* Jim Blair have started a tree-house and a "smooth"¹⁴ rope ladder was made by Skipper.

Dinner at 1 PM was later than usual as Skipper had to go to the post office with Hugh to 'phone his parents who decided he should come home.¹⁵

The afternoon was spent in making a "transporter ropeway"¹⁶ with a Bosun's chair and great fun was had by those who risked their necks, but I'm¹⁷ told it was better fun for the onlookers as the Bosun's chair hit the ground near the end of its run.



Tea followed at 5:30 PM and the evening was spent in a game of cricket¹⁸ which ended in a victory for the boys who managed to beat the Scouters.

Campfire and cocoa at 9:30 PM.

Lights out 10:30 PM.

Editorial notes for 10th August 1957

14. "Smooth" was probably a term used in the 1950s to reflect something really good.

15. In the modern era of mobile phones and instant communication, it might be hard to appreciate the difficulties in making contact with others when at camp. Moreover, it was no simple task getting Hugh back home if his parents did not own a car and were unable to collect him. The log book provides no information on this thugh.

16. Another name for an aerial runway. In the 1950s, there were very few regulations regarding the building of aerial runways, and they were perhaps all the more exciting because of that.

17. The identify of the author is not known.

18. Most Scouts in the 70th attended Greenock Academy where there was a heavy emphasis on school teams playing rugby and cricket. This continued well into the 1970s and possibly the 1980s.

Saturday, 11th August

Camp roused at 7:30 AM to a day of heavy showers (who cares!). Breakfast and inspection over by 10:30 AM. We go in search of good burning timber before having dinner at 12:30 PM.

Editorial notes for 11th August 1957

The Log ends rather abruptly here and it is not clear why that is. It is also not known how long the camp lasted. Photographs show that there was at least one hike that was not mentioned in the above account, and that was a hike to the Black Spout – a waterfall on the east side of Pitlochry.



*Ian Blake, Victor Clark and Bob Miller
Possibly a Kara tent in the background*



Bob Miller and Victor Clark



*Kit laid out for inspection on groundsheet with
Tents (thought to be Karas) fully brailled.
Plate rack and a 'whirlygig' for drying clothes
also visible*



Ian Blake



Visit to Black Spout Waterfall

Ian Miller?, Trevor Jones, Stuart Scott, Alistair. Cram, Jim Blair, Bobby Howison, Bob Miller, Ian Blake, Brian Elliot, Robert Harvey, Tommy Dow.