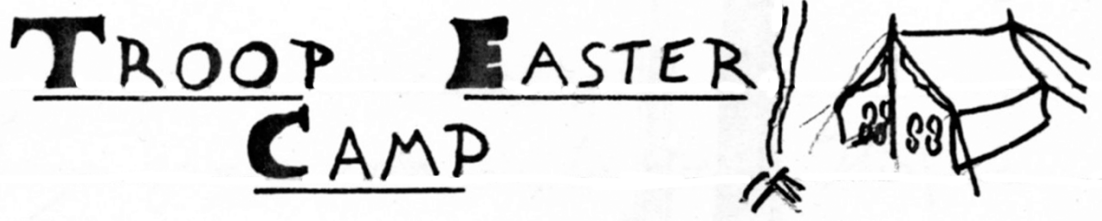


TROOP EASTER CAMP 1955



OWLS

PLs (Joint) Neville Mort
Graham White (arrived Monday)
Sec. Jim Harvey
R. Scott
M. Rugman
J. Johnson (left Monday)

PEEWITS

P.L. Sandy Whiteford
Sec. Alastair Shearer
Billy McEwing
Hamish Rankin
Ian McKenzie
Colin Tibbles

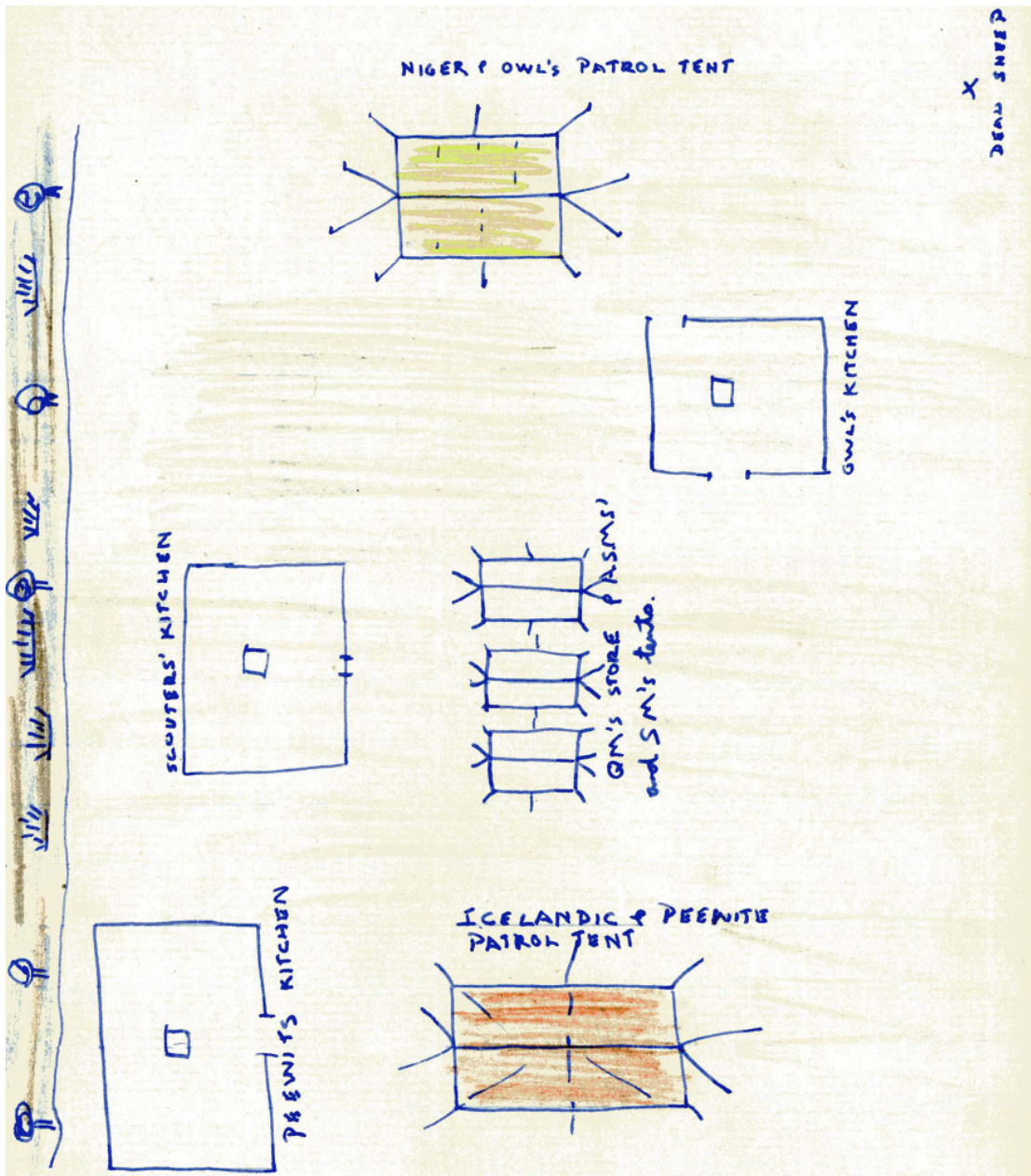
SCOUTERS

S.M. J. Blake
A.S.M. Andy Whiteford
A. Duncan
Robert Millar
Ian McFarlane.

Saturday April 9th 1955

The troop gathered at Gourock pier and caught the 2.00 boat for Dunoon. We arrived about 2.20¹. After some delays (due to our kits being on top of someone's luggage), we finally arrived². The advance party³ had pitched tents and constructed the fireplaces when we arrived at Inverack (3.00). The flag was broken, after which we had a game of football between the Owls and Peewits (see opposite). The P.L. of the Owls had to go home due to some bother with his hand⁴. The Second⁵ was unwell and could not come until Monday so the 1st Scout⁶ took over as P.L. with a patrol of three boys.⁷ We had tea at 5:50 and then proceeded to our tents where we played at some games and so to bed. This was due to the wet weather. Some of the Scouters (Aly⁸ and Eccles⁹) slept in our tent because theirs was slightly wet.





Sunday April 10th 1955

The Owls rose at 7:30 and breakfast was at 9:30. The main part of the troop went to Kilmun Church. Al Shearer, M. Rugman and J. Harvey remained to prepare the dinner. The Christians arrived back at 1:15. After dinner, we played the Kirn Troop¹⁰ at football. Then we had some free time and then our tea and more free time. The weather had cleared slightly, but was still pretty bad.

IT WAS A
VERY WET
GAME



Monday April 11th 1955

We rose at 7.0. After breakfast, there was a



thorough inspection. This was followed by half an hour's Scouting and some tests were passed. After dinner, we had an inter-patrol tracking game.

G. White and N. Mort arrived just after dinner. We got the 5 o'clock bus to Dunoon, which arrives at 5:15 (if you're lucky), and went to the pictures, the 'icebox'.¹¹ R. Miller missed the last bus through phoning his parents. Skipper and A. Duncan went home to work. Ian Johnson went with them because he was unwell.

Tuesday April 12th 1955

We got up about 7.30 and had breakfast. After flagbreak and inspection, there followed half an hour's scouting. After a vigorous game of rounders, dinner was served.

In the afternoon, we played a game of six-a-side football against the Dunoon troop¹⁰, and after a very hard game we were beaten 5-4 (it was a nice quiet game)¹². After tea, we were given free time. During this time, most of the boys went into Sandbank and a few stayed in camp. On our return, we played at football and then had a campfire.

The weather today was fairly good and quite bright in the afternoon.



Wednesday 13th April 1955

We rose at 7:30 and had breakfast. Flagbreak and inspection was followed by a team of rounders. After dinner, we had a game of football. We had tea rather earlier as we were going into Dunoon. The 5 o'clock bus failed to turn up, so we got a lift on a lorry¹³ for about 2 miles. A bus picked us up after walking for quarter of a mile. The evening was spent in the usual manner, but our favourite cafe¹⁴ was closed and we had to go elsewhere.

We all got the 10.30 bus back to Inverreck.



Thursday 14th April 1955

We rose at 7:30 to be greeted by a glorious morning. After breakfast, we had the usual flagbreak, inspection and then half an hour's Scouting. Before dinner, we had a short game of rounders.

After dinner, we were given some free time. This was mainly spent in sunbathing or boat racing (racing plates in the burn¹⁵). Later in the afternoon, we went bathing in the river Echaig.

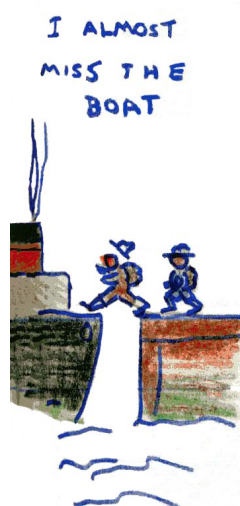
During the morning, some of the chaps had built a raft called the 'Basin' (Billy, Alastair, Sandy, Ian and Neville, the builders)¹⁶. The raft was duly named and launched and given its trials.¹⁷ All those who dared to go on it had to swim back.



After tea, the kitchens were dismantled, except the Scouter's, and the campsite tidied up. Later in the evening, a big campfire was held and towards the end, after the cocoa had been served, the younger boys went to bed (forcibly). We all went to bed rather earlier this evening.

It had been a glorious sunny day with barely a cloud in the sky.

Friday April 15th 1955



We rose about 7 o'clock and had breakfast in the Scouter's kitchen. The troop (except rearguard)¹⁸ got washed and packed up their kit. We left the campsite at 9:45 to get the 10 o'clock bus for Dunoon. We had some time to spare before we got the 11 o'clock boat for Gourock and so home.

The weather today was magnificent.

J. Harvey (Sec.)

(END OF CAMP)

Notes

1. At Dunoon pier.
2. The cartoon suggests that the main body of the troop took the bus from Dunoon pier to Inverack, in which case the delay mentioned was probably due to Scout kit being placed on top of luggage belonging to bus passengers getting off at an earlier stop.
3. It is assumed that the advance party pushed/pulled the camping equipment to Inverack using the trek cart (as in the previous year's camp).
4. The P.L. of the Owls was Neville Mort. It is not recorded what the problem was, but it could not have been that serious as he returned to camp a couple of days later.
5. This was Graham White. He was P.L of the Seal Patrol. but acted as Second of the Owl Patrol in camp.
6. This was Jim Harvey. Jim was Second of the Seal Patrol, but acted as 1st Scout of the Owl Patrol in camp.
7. R. Scott, M. Rugman and J. Johnson.
8. Alastair Duncan.
9. Robert Millar.
10. The Inverack campsite was the local campsite used by Scout Troops in the Dunoon area, and so it is possible that the Kirn/Dunoon Scouts might have been camping there at the same time as the 70th.

11. *The cinema was termed the 'Icebox' at the previous Easter camp in 1954 as it was so draughty.*
12. *Based on the accompanying cartoon, this was possibly a statement made 'tongue in cheek'.*
13. *Something that would be impossible to do nowadays due to all sorts of Health and Safety issues (imagined or otherwise).*
14. *The 'favourite café' has still to be identified.*
15. *Not clear whether this referred to the River Echaig or a burn feeding into it..*
16. *Billy McEwing, Alastair Shearer, Sandy Whiteford, Ian McKenzie and Neville Mort.*
17. *Photos of the raft show that it was a one-many craft that may have had a pail in the centre (see website).*
18. *Presumably the gear was all manhandled back to Dunoon and back to the Church Hall on the trek cart*

