

Summer camp 1965 Site - West Loch Tarbert

THE TROOP AT CAMP

CURLEW

P/L Ronald McKnight
SEC John Martin
Jim Barr
Ian Galt
Duncan Malcolm (21/8/65-24/8/65)

FALCON

P/L William (Billy) Gunn (Bang Bang or B²)
SEC David Flockhart
Derek Phillips
David White
Peter Robertson

SEAGULL

P/L Robert (Bobby) McCallum
SEC Robert Morrison
Robert Beattie
Graeme McBride (17/8/65-21/8/65)
Roy Fraser (21/8/65- 24/8/65)
Alan Anderson (21/8/65-24/8/65)

SEAL

P/L George Conway
SEC Gordon Patterson (Herring)
Stuart Ross
Eric Taylor (17/8/65-21/8/65)
Charlie Stewart (17/8/65-25/8/65)
Graham Patrick (21/8/65-24/8/65)

SCOUTERS

SM R.K. (Bob) Miller (21/8/65-25/8/65)
ASM John H. Nisbet (17/8/65- 23/8/65 then 26/8/65-27/8/65)
ASM Alistair B. Cram (21/8/65 - 25/8/65)
ASM Michael J. Nisbet
ASM Ian R. Fraser (17/8/65-23/8/65)
JASM Robert (Robin) Crawford

Tuesday 17th of August 1965

Author – Robert Crawford J.A.S.M.

After embarking¹ on the Loch Fyne² at 9:30, the Troop arrived on Tarbert Pier at 12:25. A van and a dormobile³ met us and transported the camp equipment and those Scouts without bikes to the site, while the rest of the campers cycled⁴. The Troop had arrived at Achnacarnan⁵ by 1:30 PM.

The afternoon was spent pitching tents and shelters and building altar fires⁶. At 5.30 p.m., the stores whistle⁷ went and the QM dished out our tea which consisted of sausage, egg and a cup of tea with bread, margarine and jam. Several duties were allocated to the patrols in the evening. They were as follows:

*The Seal patrol under the direction of Ian Fraser were to erect the notice board.

*The Curlew patrol helped Michael Nisbet dig a wet pit.⁸

*The Falcon patrol also under the direction of IF started a flagpole⁹

*The Seagull patrol helped Robert Crawford to make a drinking water pool¹⁰.

The various duties being left in various stages of completion, the Troop adjourned for a game of football lasting half an hour. After this came cocoa in the Scouters' kitchen, a short PL's meeting and pit¹¹.

Editorial notes for 17th August 1965

1. The Troop boarded the passenger ferry 'Loch Fyne' at Gourock pier. In 1964, the troop's camping equipment was loaded onto the ferry the night before and this might have been done again.

2. The MV LochFyne was a passenger ferry capable of carrying 1202 passengers, and was built by William Denny and Brothers of Dumbarton in 1931 for David MacBrayne Ltd. During the 1960s, it sailed from Gourock to Ardrishaig and back again stopping at Tarbert en route. The ship was also designated as a 'mail steamer' as it carried the Royal Mail to Ardrishaig. The ferry was withdrawn from service in 1969 and scrapped in 1974. The ferry had two funnels but the front funnel was a dummy.

3. It is assumed that these were rented locally, but it is not known from whom.

4. It had become a bit of a tradition for the older Scouts to take their bicycles to Summer Camp at Tarbert. It would certainly have made it easier to cover the 5 miles from the campsite to Tarbert and back.

5. The spelling used in the 1" to 1 mile maps at the time was 'Achnancarranan', but this was changed to Achnacarnan in later maps. The exact location of the campsite for the Summer camps of 1964, 1965 and 1966 has still to be established. It is known that the troop camped about a mile north of Achnancarranan on the opposite side of the road from Wood Ho. during 1959 and 1960. However, the campsite used in 1965 could be accessed from a track leading up to Achnacarnan, suggesting that the campsite was further south from the one used in 1959 and 1960. It seems likely that the campsite used in 1965 was the same one used in 1964 and 1966.

6. Altar fires involved building a platform off the ground, on which cooking fires could be lit. It meant that the fire was at waist height, which was more convenient when cooking meals. Once the platform was built, the platform had to be layered with moss or grass turfs placed upside down in order to insulate the wooden platform from the fire. Stones were also used to help contain the fire, and a grid iron was useful for the pots to sit on.

7. It is not known for certain what whistles were used during the 1960s. During the 1970s, 1 whistle was used to summon PL, 2 whistles were used to summon patrol Quartermasters to collect stores, 3 whistles were used to summon the whole camp to the main flagpole, 4 whistles were used to indicate that the camp shop was open, and 6 whistles indicated a camp emergency. However there is evidence that 6 whistles were used during the 1960s to summon the patrols to the flagpole (see note 5 for 17th August 1965).

8. A wet pit normally consisted of digging a square-shaped hole in the ground and layering twigs over the top. Bracken was then placed on top of the twigs. Dirty dish water was then poured through the bracken into the wet pit and the bracken would act as a filter to catch any food scraps that were present. The bracken would then be burnt. Normally, each patrol would be expected to dig its own wet pit, but perhaps a communal wet pit was used at the 1965 camp.

9. Traditionally, the main flagpole for a 70th Summer Camp had to be sufficiently high and imposing that it dominated the campsite. Therefore, a small tree was normally used that was either chopped down or purchased. Erecting the flagpole was serious business that was not without its risks. The actual lifting process usually involved most of the older Scouts and it was important that all the guylines, halyards and pulley were properly fitted before this was done. Once the flagpole was lifted to the vertical, it was then a case of anchoring the guylines as quickly as possible and then tweaking each one to get it looking vertical from all sides.

10. It is not clear what the drinking water pool was. Normally water was taken from a flowing stream or river. The building of a drinking water pool might suggest that the stream used as a water supply was not that substantial.

11. Pit referred to bed, sleeping bag, sleep etc etc

Patrols at Camp

CURLEW



John Martin, Jim Barr, Ian Galt, Duncan Malcolm,
Ronald McKnight
Taken on the 22nd or 23rd August 1965

FALCON



Sec. David Flockhart, Derek Phillips, David White, Peter Robertson
P.L. William (Billy). Gunn
Taken on the 22nd or 23rd August 1965

SEAGULL



Robert Morrison, Robert Beattie, Roy Fraser, Alan Anderson
Robert (Bobby) McCallum
Taken on the 22nd or 23rd August 1965 (missing Graeme McBride)

SEAL



Sec. Gordon Paterson (Hidden), Stewart Ross, Charles Stewart, Graham Patrick
P.L. George Conway
Taken on the 22nd or 23rd August 1965 (missing E. Taylor)

Camp COH (Court of Honour)

Missing photograph

Possibly taken on the 23rd or 24th August 1965

Robert (Bobby) McCallum, William (Billy) Gunn, Ronald McKnight, George Conway

"ASM" Gordon Paterson



Taken on the 22nd or 23rd August 1965

***Editorial note:** In the photograph, Gordon is wearing a Scouter's hat, hence the "ASM". Gordon was actually Second of the Seal Patrol. Note the old Commando rucsacks of the period.*

Wednesday 18th of August 1965

Stores were given out for breakfast at about 7:30 AM; they consisted of herring, bacon and porridge. At 9 AM, the duty patrol, Curlew, put up the flagpole¹. Inspection² was at 10 and lasted for over half an hour. When it was over, we proceeded to the football pitch for a game of football. The QM opened the store to sell lem.³ He also dished out the dinner stores of mince, potatoes, onions, carrots, stewed apples and custard.

Wee Niz⁴ and some of the Scouts went for a swim⁵ while the rest of the troop cooked lunch. We had lunch between one and half past.

The afternoon was free and some of the boys went into Tarbert on their bikes, the others made gadgets⁶ or rested. We had macaroni and cheese for tea.

After tea, the duty patrol made a wet pit⁷ while the rest of the troop made a campfire circle. The duty patrol made the cocoa in the kitchen and took it up to the rest of the troop at the campfire. When it was finished, there was a PL's meeting, and, after that, pit⁸.

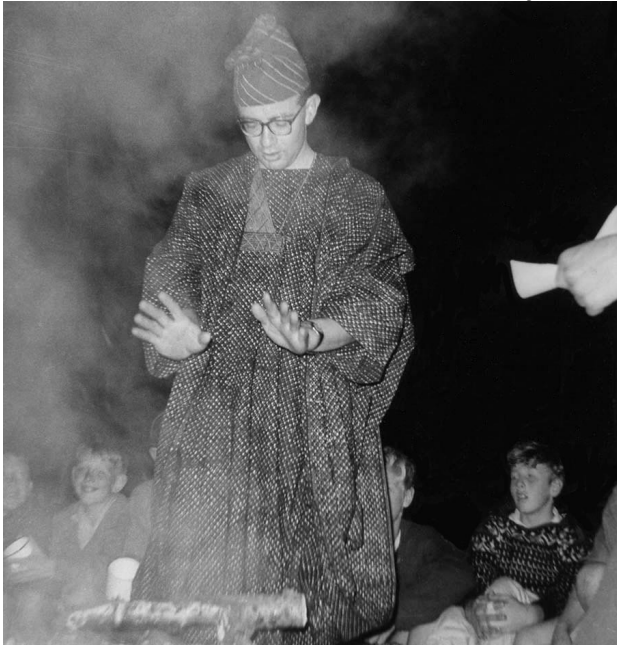
Ronald McKnight (PL Curlew)

Editorial notes for 18th August 1965

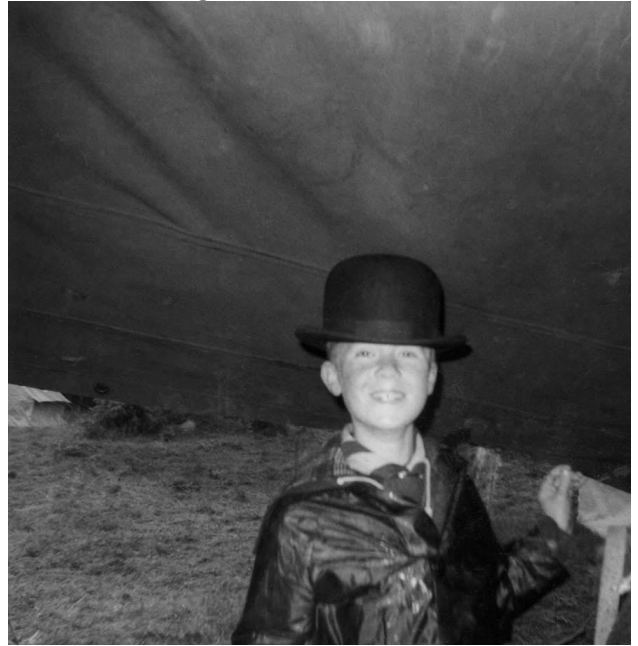
- 1. It seems unlikely that the Curlew Patrol would have put up the main flagpole on their own. It is more likely that they helped put it up. Alternatively, they may have hoisted the flag ready to be broken.*
- 2. Inspection would have involved the Scouters inspecting both the patrol tent and the patrol kitchen, as well as the personal hygiene and equipment of each Scout in the patrol. Normally, the patrol would be formed up at the alert while the inspection took place.*
- 3. Lemonade and other fizzy drinks*
- 4. ASM Michael Nisbet (PL of the Curlew Patrol until June 1964).*
- 5. This would have been in West Loch Tarbert, presumably in the bay to the east of Rhu point and the island of Eilean Eoghainn. There is a small, unnamed island close to the shore that is marked on the metric map, but not the 1" to the mile map. This is believed to be the scene for various seaweed fights during the summer camp of 1964. Further south is the island of Eilean Ceann na Creige. In 1968, Caledonian MacBrayne built a ferry terminal on this island with a road linking it to the mainland.*
- 6. Gadgets were generally made from natural materials and were designed to make the patrol kitchen tidier and more functional. Typical gadgets that might be found in a patrol site included plate rack, mug tree, wet pit, larder, gate and fencing, patrol flagpole, boot rack, basin stand, table and seating, washing line or whirlygig, alter fire, graded wood pile, cutlery rack and dresser, fenced off chopping area including a chopping block etc.. Points towards the Camp Patrol championship could be earned from the quantity and quality of camp gadgets.*
- 7. This again suggested that there was a communal wet pit used at this summer camp. See also note 8 for the 17th August 1965.*
- 8. See note 11 for the 17th August 1965 regarding 'pit'.*

Campfire

Possibly taken on the 22nd August 1965



1) ASM J. Nisbet at campfire in his Nigerian dress
(Also visible I. Galt, G. Patrick, G. Paterson, D. White)



Duncan Malcolm wearing the camp hat



Ian Galt, Graham Patrick, Jim Barr, Charles Stewart, Gordon Paterson, David White, Stewart Ross

View of campfire showing flag pole and signalling tower

The photograph described is missing from the log book

Thursday 19th of August 1965

Stores were given out at 7.45, followed by 8.00 stores, followed by 8.15 stores by which *time* the Troop had had their morning provisions.

After breakfast, we had inspection¹, which was supposed to be followed by a game of baseball, but the Troop didn't seem interested so we went collecting timber instead. Then we had lunch, which consisted of liver, potatoes, fried onions and then instant whip. In the afternoon, Niz² and Robin³ made the notice⁴ for the parents while the rest did pioneering⁵.

Tea was the next welcome visitor, which was a meat salad and a great favourite with the Troop. After tea, we played football, then we did more pioneering and put up the notice at the bottom of the track. Campfire followed the flagdown and it was extra bon, especially because we had good B²'s⁶ cocoa. We closed campfire with "The day thou gavest Lord is ended" and then we all went to pit⁷ at about 10:30 PM.

B² ⁶ (W.Gunn) P.L. Falcon

Editorial notes for 19th August 1965

1. See note 2 for the 18th August 1965 regarding inspection.
2. It is not certain whether this refers to John Nisbet or Michael Nisbet, but the latter might be more likely.
3. Robin Crawford who was now identified as a Junior ASM, indicating that he had resigned as Troop Leader and Patrol Leader.
4. The notice was to be placed at the track junction with the main road to help parents and other visitors find the campsite. Most visitors would arrive on the Sunday.
5. Pioneering involved building bridges, towers, gates and runways using wooden spars and ropes. Lashings was a test for the Second Class badge and was the method by which spars were tied to each other. At this camp, there was a substantial emphasis on pioneering projects with a bridge, aerial runway, tower and huts getting constructed.
6. Billy Gunn, PL of the Falcon Patrol since June 1964. His nickname was Bang-Bang or B².
7. See note 11 for the 17th August 1965 regarding 'pit'.

Friday 20th August

At 7:45, stores were issued for breakfast¹. They consisted of kippers and porridge. After breakfast came inspection² followed by football after which lem³ was sold by the QM.

We now cooked our lunch, which consisted of chops, peas and spuds followed by rice and raisins. After lunch, some people did pioneering, building huts⁴ and a signalling tower⁵, while others did nothing but eat jammy chits⁶.

At teatime, we had slice and beans. All the first timers were invited to tea by the Scouters and had no dummies to do⁷. In the evening, the commando bridge⁸, which some Scouters had constructed, opened for a short period, until the rope became too slack for use when it was officially closed.

After this, most men went for a walk to Whitehouse⁹ and back. When they arrived home, they were given some favourite¹⁰ cocoa made by those who had remained behind. After cocoa, all retired to pit

Robert McCallum. P.L. Seagull

Editorial notes for 20th August 1965

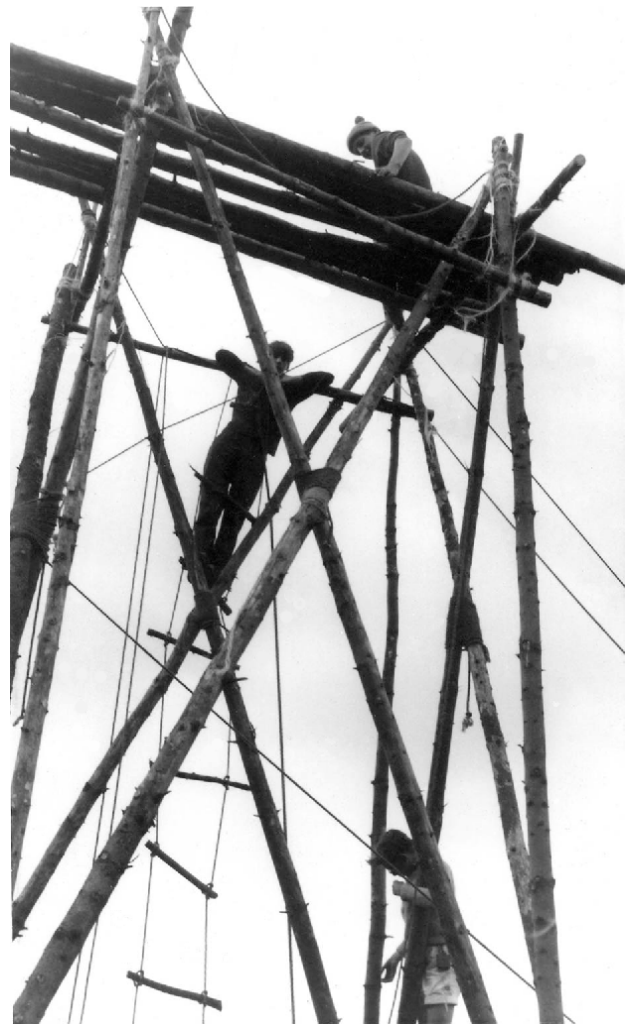
1. All meals were cooked by the individual patrols at their patrol shelters.
2. See note 2 for the 18th August 1965 regarding inspection.
3. Lemonade and other fizzy drinks
4. It's not specified what these were, but it is likely that they were tree huts.
5. The signalling tower was the largest pioneering project that the 70th had ever attempted in camp.
6. Chits were generally sandwiches or pieces of bread with jam.
7. This is the first evidence of the GSMs tea party, although it might not have been called that at the time.
8. This consisted of two ropes that had to be traversed, rather than a full-scale monkey bridge.
9. Whitehouse is a small village which was probably about 2-3 miles south of the campsite – accessible using the A83 which would have been relatively quiet in terms of traffic during the 1960s.
10. An in word during the 1960s for something fabulous, brilliant or good
11. See note 11 for the 17th August 1965 regarding 'pit'.

The signalling tower under construction

(taken at some point after the 22nd August)



Billy Gunn and possibly Michael Nisbet



Billy Gunn, possibly Michael Nisbet, and Bob Miller

S.M R.K. Miller crossing the Commando Bridge and being attacked by a crocodile from the crocodile infested burn somewhere below! (taken at some point after the 21st August)



Saturday 21st August 1965

Stores were issued by the QM at 7:30 consisting of cornflakes, bacon and kippers. Then the duty patrol which was the Seal put the flag up¹. After everyone rushed to tidy up for inspection² at 10 o'clock, we retired to pit³ for a game of cards⁴ but all the PL's were rudely interrupted by six blasts⁵ of the whistle by big NIZ⁶ who told all the patrols to make a song or a stunt and after that, the duty patrol and the Kingfish⁷ dug a pit for the deposits of the cruiser⁸. Before dinner, four of the young Scouts⁹ with Skipper¹⁰ and Al¹¹ arrived for the weekend.¹²

Dinner consisted of tuna fish, lettuce and tomato, which was quickly consumed as there was a game of football organised with some English Boy Scouts. After the game, which we won nine to their three, everyone had a wash and got dressed for the pictures in Tarbert. However, only 12 or 13 went to the pictures¹³ while the rest wandered round Tarbert spending money in the café¹⁴. After a late night, everyone arrived back safely on the minibus¹⁵ except the PLs who went a late night hike¹⁶.

George Conway PL Seal

"The English Troop were from Luton and were camping at Escart Farm"¹⁷

Editorial notes for 21st August 1965

- 1. The wording suggests that the flag was hoisted already broken, rather than being folded, hoisted and broken.*
- 2. See note 2 for the 18th August 1965 regarding inspection.*
- 3. See note 11 for the 17th August 1965 regarding 'pit'.*
- 4. This suggests that it was raining during the morning*
- 5. This suggests that the 6 whistles were the standard signal during the 1960s for patrols to come to the flagpole, instead of 3 whistles in later years. If so, it is likely that the six whistles were changed to three whistles in the early 1970s as 6 whistles came to be recognized as the internationally recognised distress signal in the hills and mountains.*
- 6. ASM John Nisbet (Large Niz, Big Niz or NIZ)*
- 7. Normally, this would be assumed to be the Kingfisher Patrol. However, the Kingfisher Patrol was not present in camp. The most likely explanation was that the entry referred to the Seagull Patrol in camp which was being led by Bobby McCallum (normally PL of the Kingfisher Patrol).*
- 8. The cruiser was the portable toilet. In previous years, this would have been called 'Jasper' (in honour of a dog that had been the first to christened a latrine), but it appears that the term was no longer being used by the mid 1960s.*
- 9. Duncan Malcolm, Roy Fraser, Alan Anderson and Graham Patrick visited camp from the 21st – 24th August.*
- 10. Bob Miller was present in camp from the 21st to 25th August. He may have transported D. Malcolm, R. Fraser and A. Anderson to camp. Alternatively, he may have supervised the Scouts travelling to Tarbert on the MV Lochfyne. G. Patrick believes that he was taken to the camp by his parents.*
- 11. Alastair Cram was present in camp from the 21st to 25th August. It is likely that he was working as purser on the MV Lochfyne during the summer months.*
- 12. All those named stayed longer than a single weekend*
- 13. It is not known what films were seen*
- 14. The café in question has not been identified.*
- 15. It is not known whether this was hired for the visit into Tarbert, or whether it was a service bus. There is no evidence to suggest that the troop hired a mini bus for the full camp.*
- 16. No details have been provided on what that involved. Based on the log reports of previous camps, this could well have been a substantial hike involving PLs and Scouters that would have finished in the early hours of the morning.*
- 17. Additional comment, presumably added by Bob Miller. Escart Farm is situated about 2.5 miles south of Tarbert (about half way between Tarbert and Achnancarranan)*



**The opposition dressing room
(i.e. the Scouters' kitchen)**



The International in progress
(Bob Miller as referee on the left)



**"Two Scout" Transporter with D. Malcolm
and possibly Ian Galt**



or "One Scouter" Transporter
A.S.M. A.B. Cram



Bridging the Burn
(Robin Crawford and possibly Bob Miller)

Sunday 22nd August

Stores were issued by the Q.M. at 7:30 consisting of porridge and French toast¹. Inspection² was at 9:45 and the whole Troop was in a rush. At 10:15, the minibus³ took us to church*. After church, a lot of the parents⁴ took their sons for big meals in town. Those who did stay got salad for dinner. For tea, we got beef, carrots, potatoes, custard and prunes. We went pioneering** after tea till campfire. The duty patrol, Curlew, made the cocoa, which was too sweet. After campfire, we had an E.T.P.⁵

Ronald McKnight PL Curlew

* The church service

Flagbearers: P.L. Billy Gunn and P.L. Bobby McCallum

Readers: S.M. Bob Millar and David White

The 'minni'⁶ rambled about John, Mark and the quarrel between Barnabas and Paul. We sang one psalm and four hymns. Two extra long prayers and two short ones. The two flagbearers dipped the flags at the end of the service and the whole congregation sang the national anthem. Outside the church, there was Rolls-Royce which was there last year.

P.S. There was a man that looked like "Steptoe"⁷ in the choir.

**The pioneering⁸ project

Object: A signalling tower

The signalling tower was something the Troop had never tried before. We built the four sides hauled them up into position and guyed it down. Tomorrow, we hope to put a rope ladder up and start building the platform.

Editorial notes for 22nd August 1965

- 1. French toast involved dipping bread in an eggy mixture, then frying the soggy bread. It tasted very good and was simple to cook.*
- 2. See note 2 for the 18th August 1965 regarding inspection.*
- 3. See note 15 for the 21st August 1965 regarding the minibus.*
- 4. Sunday afternoon was the official visiting time for parents and it was customary for them to take their sons out for a meal. This could sometimes cause an issue with the younger Scouts who might get homesick.*
- 5. It is not known what E.T.P stands for.*
- 6. The minister.*
- 7. "Steptoe and Son" was a black and white comedy TV series that had been on the BBC from 1962-1965 starring Wilfred Bramble and Harry Corbett who played the role of father and son in a rag and bone business.*
- 8. See note 5 for the 19th August 1965 regarding pioneering projects*

Monday 23rd August 1965

This morning the Q.M. issued breakfast stores of cornflakes and bacon and egg at 7:30. Inspection¹ was at 9 o'clock instead of 10 o'clock. Inspection over, we proceeded with a game of football after which I.F.² and Big Niz³ went home. Lunch, for which we had cold meat and potatoes, followed by apples and custard. The afternoon was free⁴. At 5 PM, we collected our tea stores of slice and beans, followed by soup, which contained almost everything under the sun.

Later in the evening, after tea dishes had been cleaned up, we set off on an evening walk, leaving a few people to make cocoa. On the walk, we hoped to find a chapel⁵. After running through bracken and bog, crossing streams (one of which J. Barr fell in) we eventually found the chapel⁶. Before we entered its cemetery part, we had to walk around the wall three times anticlockwise, the third time taking off all hats to appease the spirits⁷. After leaving the chapel, we proceeded through deep bog to the main road⁸. On the way, D. Phillips and G. Patterson fell into a water barrel⁹. Once on the road, we soon found our way back to camp, where we found cocoa waiting for us. After cocoa, we went to pit¹⁰.

R. McCallum P.L. Seagull

"Illustration perhaps of how to fall into a water barrel?"¹¹ would have been a good addition to the log report. However, this was not followed up.

Editorial notes for 23rd August 1965

1. See note 2 for the 18th August 1965 regarding inspection.

2. ASM Ian Fraser

3. ASM John Nisbet (Large Niz, Big Niz or NIZ)

4. At some point, some Scouts undertook the Second Class Hike, which would have been about 8 miles and was possibly carried out during Sunday or Monday afternoon. Graham Patrick remembers hiking with Charlie Stewart along country lanes and it is known that Charles had the test signed off on the 24th August 1965.

5. The 'chapel' is marked as a historic monument and is on the hillside about half a mile ENE of the farmhouse called Kennacraig.

6. The description suggests that the Scouts hiked up the hill behind Achnancarranan, then countoured in a southerly direction to reach the chapel which is on the 200 foot contour line (1" to the mile map)

7. This was probably a ritual dreamt up by Bob Miller

8. The most likely route was to head west south west to the A83 then follow the road back to camp

9. It's not defined what a 'water barrel' is. Possibly it was drainage ditch cut into the hill.

10. See note 11 for the 17th August 1965 regarding 'pit'.

11. Additional comment possibly added by Bob Miller. However, the suggestion was not followed up.

Tuesday 24th August 1965

We arose at the usual time and had breakfast of porridge, sausage and eggs¹. After breakfast, we had inspection² at 10 AM. Seeing as it was raining, the majority of the troop went to pit³, apart from the patrol leaders who had a meeting and it was decided that as long as it kept raining, we could lie in pit and compose a patrol song. Dinner was at approximately midday, which was stew and potatoes with a sweet of rice and raisins.

In the afternoon, it rained continuously and so we stayed in pit.⁴

At five thirty p.m., stores were issued and we had a tea of macaroni and cheese and jelly. After tea, we had some great fun with the transporter⁵ until Charlie Stewart fell off the trolley⁶ and cut his head and so he went in with the fishing trip⁷ to Tarbert to see the doctor. After doctor of the camp finished, we helped YN⁸ with the signalling tower and then had campfire with some dumpling and so to pit³.

Billy Gunn (P.L. Falcon) (B²)

Editorial notes for 24th August 1965

- 1. All meals were cooked by the individual patrols at their patrol shelters.*
- 2. See note 2 for the 18th August 1965 regarding inspection.*
- 3. See note 11 for the 17th August 1965 regarding 'pit'.*
- 4. At some point during the day, the four youngest Scouts (Duncan Malcolm, Roy Fraser, Alan Anderson, and Graham Patrick) left camp to return home, but it is not known how they got back to Greenock, and it does not appear as if any Scouter departed on the 24th to escort them home..*
- 5. The transporter was an aerial runway.*
- 6. The trolley consisted of a pulley wheel with a log attached as the seat. However, one photo shows Scouts hanging onto the log rather than sitting on it. In the 1960s, there were far fewer regulations associated with Scouting activities. It is perhaps significant that Charlie Stewart returned home on the following day (the 25th)*
- 7. The fishing trip probably involved a couple of PLs on an overnight fishing trip on a fishing boat.*
- 8. ASM Michael Nisbet (PL of the Curlew Patrol until June 1964).*

Wednesday 25th August 1965

We arose at 7:30 AM and had a very enjoyable breakfast¹ of cornflakes, herrings and rolls, the latter being fresh in from Tarbert with the fishing trip gang². Inspection³ was at 10 AM which was followed by a game of camp football, after which Skipper⁴ and Al⁴ left for Tarbert. Oh, before I forget, Duncan Malcolm was invested which was a first ever investiture at Summer Camp.^{5,6} Now to carry on, we had favourite⁷ tomato soup, mince and jelly. In the afternoon, we finished off the signalling tower, the bridge and made vain efforts to stop the Curlew's shelter going up in flames⁸. Tea stores were issued at 5:30 p.m. and we had a tea of sausage, eggs, beans and chips. A wide game followed tea, but, unfortunately, nobody won. We returned and had cocoa in the Scouters' kitchen and then we went to pit⁹.

B² (W. Gunn) P.L. Falcon

'How about a description of the fishing trip?'¹⁰

Editorial notes for 25th August 1965

- 1. All meals were cooked by the individual patrols at their patrol shelters.*
- 2. Unfortunately, there is no information on who participated on the fishing trip or what it was like.*
- 3. See note 2 for the 18th August 1965 regarding inspection.*
- 4. Scout Master Bob Miller and ASM Alastair Cram both left the camp on the 25th and the implication is that they went into Tarbert to catch the ferry home*
- 5. According to the Troop Log, Duncan Malcolm and the other three youngest Scouts returned home on the 24th. Therefore, the investiture must have been on the 24th August rather than the 25th.*
- 6. In fact, this was not the first ever investiture at a Summer Camp. Raymond Berry was invested at the Arduaine Summer Camp in 1961.*
- 7. An in word during the 1960s for something fabulous, brilliant or good*
- 8. This was reported in a remarkably matter of fact way! It would have been interesting to know more details of how it happened and how bad it was. Altar fires were normally placed under the tarpaulin used for the kitchen shelter, so the most likely cause was putting too much wood or inflammable material on the fire such that the flames were too high.*
- 9. See note 11 for the 17th August 1965 regarding 'pit'.*
- 10. Additional comment made by one of the Scouter team, but it is not known who. Also the suggestion was not followed up.*

Thursday 26th August 1965

After rising at 7:20 AM, we had breakfast¹ of cornflakes, French toast² and herring. At 10 o'clock, the flag was broken out³ by Ron McKnight as the Curlew were duty patrol. After inspection, Robin Crawford led a swimming party for a favourite⁴ though very cold swim in Loch Fyne⁵, out to the little island⁶ lying just out from Achnacarnan and back, while Michael Nisbet started taking down the signalling tower. John Nisbet arrived back at the site just in time for a lunch of chips, onions and tomatoes followed by prunes and custard.

The afternoon was spent completing the destruction of the signalling tower and taking down the transporter⁷, while the individual patrols felled their kitchen shelters and gadgets⁸. The first aid tent, a Kara⁹, was also felled and the store cleared out by the QM. We then had tea of spaghetti, slice and jelly. After an evening spent cleaning up the site generally, we rounded off with a last campfire, but no cocoa, as the duty patrol (Curlew) spilt it all. Most of our rubbish was burnt on the fire.

Robert Crawford J.A.S.M¹⁰.

“Are you sure it was Loch Fyne?”¹¹

Editorial notes for 26th August 1965

- 1. All meals were cooked by the individual patrols at their patrol shelters.*
- 2. See note 1 for the 22nd August regarding French toast*
- 3. This description suggests that the flag was folded, hoisted then broken.*
- 4. An in word during the 1960s for something fabulous, brilliant or good*
- 5. It would have been West loch Tarbert, not Loch Fyne.*
- 6. The 'little island' is thought to be the small, unnamed island to the east of the island called Eilean Eoghainn off Rhu Point (see also note 5 for the 18th August 1965).*
- 7. Aerial runway*
- 8. See note 6 for the 18th August regarding gadgets*
- 9. The was a Black's tent that was smaller than a Patrol tent and was probably bought during the 1950s.*
- 10. Junior Assistant Scout Master*
- 11. Additional comment made by one of the Scouter team, but it is not known who. See also note 5 above.*

Friday 27th August

From 7:30 AM to 8:20 AM, the Scouters served breakfast of cornflakes, bacon, eggs and chits¹ to the patrols in alphabetical order. After breakfast, we filled in the wet pet² and felled the store tent, emptied the cruiser³ into a pit, and at 10 AM fell in for the last flagdown, after which the flagpole was felled⁴ and each patrol took down its own tent. The Scouter's kitchen and Bell tent were also felled. By this time, the hampers were ready to be packed and the next hour was spent feverishly packing and preparing for our transport⁵, which arrived to convey the gear and those without bikes to Tarbert pier at 12:15. We spent the time on the pier packing the breadboards with poles and tents and having our lunch. At 2 PM, the Loch Fyne⁶ steamed in and after a frantic quarter of an hour spent loading the gear, we sailed for Greenock at 2:15.

Robert Crawford J.A.S.M.

Editorial notes for 27th August 1965

- 1. Chits were generally sandwiches or pieces of bread with jam.*
- 2. See note 8 for the 17th August regarding wet pits.*
- 3. See note for 21st August regarding the cruiser.*
- 4. This was not as simple a process as one might imagine. It was important to ensure that it fell in a predictable way and that nobody was in the vicinity.*
- 5. This was almost certainly hired locally and was probably the same transport used to take the equipment and Scouts to the camp on day 1.*
- 6. See note 2 for the 17th August regarding the 'MV Lochfyne'.*

Saturday 28th August

The winning patrol at summer camp– the Seagull–were treated by the Scouters to a visit to the pictures. “Flight from Singapore”¹ and “Zulu”² were enjoyed very much by all present.³

Editorial notes for 28th August 1965

1. ‘Flight from Singapore’ was a British movie drama that was released in 1962 and which starred Patrick Allen, Patrick Holt and William Abney. The plot involved a couple of ex RAF pilots setting up a small airline after World War 2. However, their plane experiences technical troubles and has to crash land in the jungle.

2. “Zulu” was a blockbuster film that was released in 1964 and covered the Battle of Rorke’s Drift (1879) where a small British garrison of 150 soldiers was forced to hold out against an army of 4000 Zulu warriors. It was Michael Caine’s first big movie role. The movie also starred Jack Hawkins and Stanley Baker.

3. Additional comments added by Bob Miller

Patrol Championship- Summer Camp 1965

1 st Seagull	393
2 nd Falcon	325
3 rd Seal	274
4 th Curlew	145

GSM’s Cup for the Best Camper at summer camp: Robert Beattie