

## Easter Camp - Pitlochry 1961

### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April

(Abbreviations throughout the report are defined at the end)

#### Attendance

Seal Patrol

T.L. Alistair Cram (Seal)<sup>1</sup>  
Sec Ronald Russell (Seal) [Gorm or Gorman]<sup>2</sup>  
Donald Hamilton (Seal)  
Ian McKinnon (Seal)

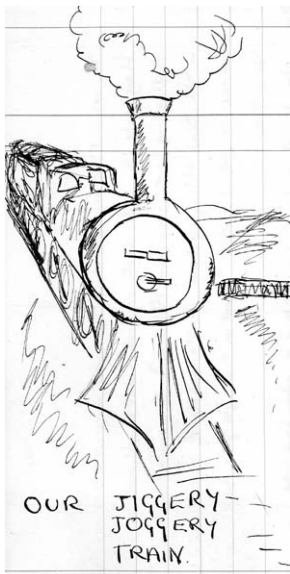
Fox Patrol<sup>3</sup>

P.L. Ronald Lind (Fox)  
Sec Michael Nisbet (Curlew)  
William Phillips (Falcon) [Billy, Wiffil or Wif]<sup>2</sup>  
Ian Paterson (Falcon) [Kipper or Kippar]<sup>2</sup>

Scouters

S.M. R.K. Miller [Bob]<sup>2</sup> (Mon 21.15-22.05; Tue 0837-22.05; Wed 08.54...)<sup>4</sup>  
A.S.M. John H. Nisbet [Niz]  
A.S.M. Kenneth. W. Johnson (Q.M.)  
A.S.M. J.S. McFarlane [Ian]<sup>2</sup> (Fri 21.00-Sun 18.00)

### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 1961



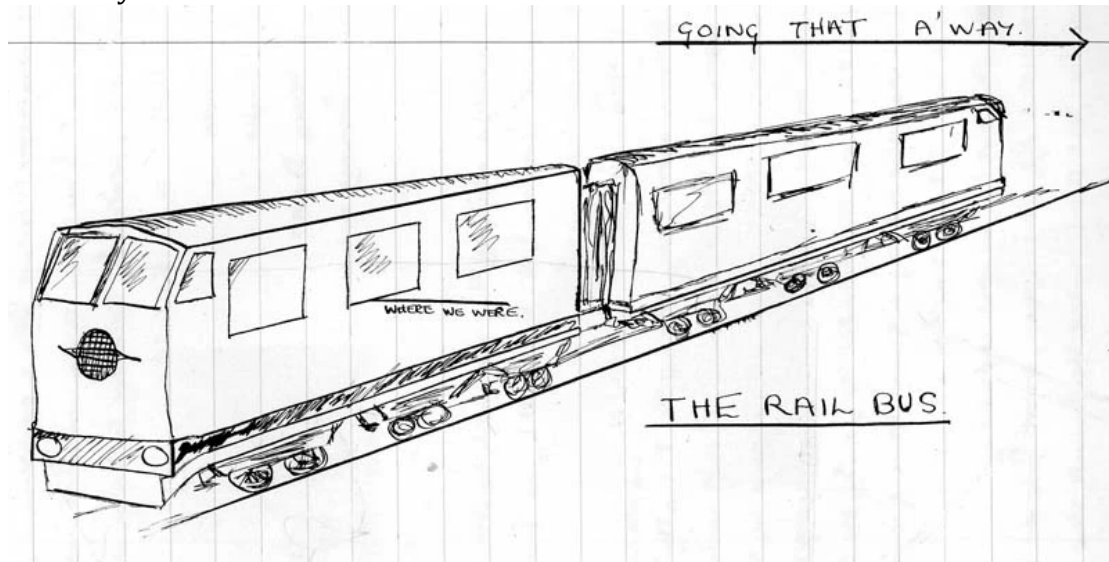
Having gathered at the L.L.O. (Gourock Pier) at 7:45 hours, J.A.S.Ms<sup>5</sup> J.H. Nisbet and K.W. Johnson walked in and were instructed by the assistant L.L.O. custodian to “whip the stuff before ra man comes” [see quote in last year’s Easter Camp Log]<sup>6</sup>. W. Phillips did not arrive until 8.04 hours – the train left at 8.05 hours. Everyone piled in and ‘Wif’ made his famous remark, “Travel by Dad and skidge the work”. The departure was recorded on film<sup>7</sup> by A.S.M. J.S. McF.

The journey to Glasgow Central was uneventful and we arrived there at 8:49 hrs. We were met at the station by a benevolent uncle of K.W.J. who had organized transport from Central Station to Buchanan Street Station where we arrived at 9:10 hours. We loaded the gear onto a non-steerable B.R. barrow and set off in a predetermined direction up the platform to the guard’s van [approx. East]. The Pitlochry train set off at



10.00 hours. The troop made use of two reserved compartments for the journey and for the consumption of P.L.s.<sup>8</sup>

On arrival at Perth, B.R. seemed to take the train to pieces and put the carriages together again in a different order, with encouragement, advice etc. being freely given by inspectors, firemen, A.S.M.s, a man in bowler hat and striped trousers who might have been Dr Beeching [newly elected chief of B.R.], and a wheel tapper. This hat worthy was clobbered by an ice cream carton ejected from the window by Wiffil. The result was that we left Perth half an hour late<sup>9</sup> and arrived Pitlochry at 13:25 hrs.



Since the lorry man thought we were coming on Saturday, not Friday, he was late in arriving, and when he did, any resemblance which his vehicle had to a lorry was purely accidental.<sup>10</sup> We arrived at the campsite at approximately 11.00 hrs and unloaded the gear.



The coal lorry transport to camp



Patrol tents and Fox kitchen shelter

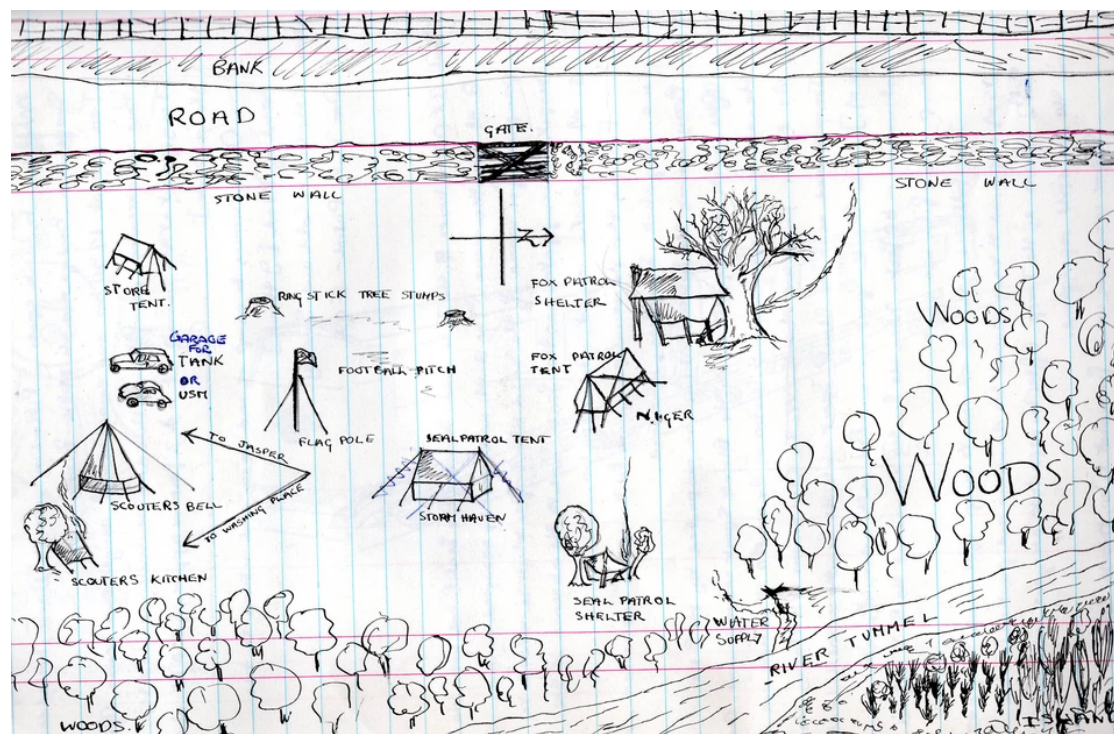
The afternoon was spent pitching camp and the making of gadgets<sup>11</sup>. Those who had been previously to Pitlochry [T.L. and J.H.N.] soon remembered the favourite<sup>12</sup> cry [or yell, or song, or something] "Freight Train, Freight Train", or "Passenger Train, Passenger Train."

Tea was at 17:30 hrs, after which the usual camp chores were tackled – Jasper<sup>13</sup>, flagpole etc. After dark, we took a short, sharp walk along the road to Ballinluig

(i.e. away from Pitlochry)<sup>14</sup>. On our return, cocoa was served in the Seal Patrol kitchen. In the middle of operations, A.S.M. J.S. McF. arrived in the U.S.M.<sup>15</sup> ["Just in time for face feed" as someone remarked]

Definition: An USM is defined as that which when fed with fire-water conveys the A.S.M. McFarlane from a predetermined position A by a relative displacement of his person to an unknown, undetermined (except by A.S.M McF) position B.<sup>16</sup> According to "Archimedes" McFarlane,  
1 USM = 1 RUCSAC

- Weather
- Gourock – Sunny
- Glasgow – Bright
- Perth – Heavy Showers
- Pitlochry – Sunny and cold



Campsite layout

### Saturday 1st April 1961

No one remembered what day this was until too late and so no one was fooled<sup>17</sup> except Gorman [i.e. R. Russell], who found that on rising at 2:30 hours that

1 MOONSHINE = 1 DAWN<sup>16</sup>

The aforesaid Gorm man woke up the T.L. and told him that the fire was still on, upon which he was confined to cart<sup>18</sup> until morning. The inspection was at 10.00 hrs and was succeeded by the usual camp activities such as fire lighting, cooking and face feeding [and washing].



After inspection , signalling instruction was given by the A.S.M.'s for half an hour<sup>19</sup>. This was followed by a general game of ringstick<sup>20</sup> – the score being 1 or 2 or 19+1 to 1 or 2 or 19.<sup>21</sup>

Before lunch, there was a wood expedition.<sup>22</sup>

Lunch consisted (of) stew, spuds, carrot followed by stewed apples and jelly. The Seal patrol cooked the favourite<sup>23</sup> stew – it being tender at 12.00 hrs.

An hour after face feeding, U.S.M. A.S.M. J.S. McF.. organised the usual Easter camp wash [not swim since the river was rather shallow and cold].<sup>24</sup>

Free time was on the programme and everyone participated except Wiffil.<sup>25</sup> Favourite<sup>23</sup> spots in Pitlochry were the Dam, Fish ladder, Suspension Bridge<sup>26</sup> and the Milk Bar<sup>27</sup>.

Tea was at 17:30 hours and consisted (of) (b)angers<sup>28</sup> and beans. After this, we ascended Dunfallandy Hill and eventually reached the Trig point at the summit [1343 feet or approximately 1,000 feet above the campsite].<sup>29</sup>

On returning to camp, we had cocoa and retired to the land of Nod [I think].

### Weather Pitlochry – Cold and sunny Duty Patrol – Fox



Seal Patrol Kitchen Shelter (Donald Hamilton and Ronald Russell)



Seal Patrol Kitchen Shelter (Alastair Cram, Ian McKinnon, Ronald Russell, Donald Hamilton)



Billy Phillips and Ken Johnson



Scouters kitchen (John Nisbet, Ken Johnson)



## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1961

At 6:40 hours, the T.L. and Second of the Seal patrol woke the Q.M for stores issue. The Q.M. was forcibly removed in his panjams<sup>30</sup> for issue of the said stores after which he retired to his pit. (Duty) Patrol was the Seal. Due to the absence of the S.M., inspection was not until 10:30 hrs.

Following this, the usual procedure for the morning was carried out i.e. Ring stick, Signalling, Face Feed.

Note: Every morning the Scouters kitchen was inspected by the P.L.s<sup>31</sup>

After lunch, an expedition to the Black Spout<sup>32</sup> was organized. On the way, we met official camp visitors<sup>33</sup> – Mr. and Mrs. McKinnon and Mr. and Mrs Lind. On arrival at Pitlochry, the Troop carried on to the Black Spout while the Scouters visited the local [S.M.].<sup>34</sup> The Black Spout is a waterfall with a drop of, well, estimation– 60 feet. When the Scouters arrived at the B.S., official camp cine film was shot.<sup>35</sup>



The Black Spout Waterfall



The Black Spout Waterfall  
(I. McKinnon, D. Hamilton, I. Paterson,  
M. Nisbet, B. Phillips, R. Russell, R. Linn)



D. Hamilton, I. Paterson, and B. Phillips.

Tea followed when we returned to camp, after which I. McF + USM<sup>15</sup> prepared to leave despite the clamorous and practical [on the USM] efforts by the Troop. After his departure, everyone participated in the blindfold rope game.

Before cocoa, we went for a short hike towards Pitlochry and took the road to Tummel Bridge for a couple of miles – ding ding<sup>36</sup> – 22.00 hours saw us in pit.

Weather Pitlochry – Still sunny. Fabby Buhh<sup>37</sup> [cold].

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1961**

General rising was about 7.30 hours. Inspection was as usual at 10.00 hours followed by the (usual) signalling practice. The patrols were divided up as follows:-

Seal + KIPPAR + J.H.N - T.L.

FOX + T.L. – KIPPAR<sup>38</sup>

Q.M. K.W.J. was in town for stores.

Then came the usual game of ringstick which was won by the Seal 10-7. Stores issue was at 12.00 hours. While we were still clearing up from lunch, we received a visit from D.C. Barbour of Pitlochry who stated in the camp permit: - “All ship-shape.”

Quote by K.W.J.: - “This can mean all at sea!”

In the afternoon, some pioneering was done resulting in one monkey bridge and one transporter<sup>39</sup>. I. McKinnon, W. Phillips, M. Nisbet were in town with Mums and Dads for face feeding.

After tea, at which one A.S.M. was at each patrol for his feed, B.K.P.O.O.D.D.S.M [by kind permission of our dear departed scoutmaster (who) also supplied the cash], we visited the Pit<sup>40</sup> flicks to see “Doctor in Love”.<sup>41</sup>

After the pictures, we were treated to chips by the Troop<sup>42</sup>. On returning to campsite, we noticed that some bod<sup>43</sup> had flogged the Scouters wood and some of the Seal’s. The cocoa had been put on and was now ready - of course no-one wanted any.

Weather: Fabulous but cold

Duty Patrol: Fox

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1961**

We rose late at 8.00 hours and proceeded to make breakfast. During this, we were confronted by a familiar outline which gave us the worst shock of the whole camp. Our SM had taken up his bed and flu’.<sup>4</sup> He had come the previous night, but finding us out, wasted the firewood by making cocoa which we didn’t want. He was staying at the Fisher’s Hotel, (official doctor’s orders - his mum doesn’t know he’s flu’).

After inspection, the S.M. instructed the Seal patrol in mapping and the use of the prismatic compass, while the other patrol were instructed by the J.A.S.Ms.

There followed the usual game of ring stick– the score being 10-9 for the Fox patrol.



Seal Patrol Kitchen Shelter  
Donald Hamilton



Fox Patrol Kitchen Shelter  
Billy Phillips, Ronald Linn, Michael Nisbet

A.S.M. Nisbet had by this time organized the official inter-patrol signalling competition<sup>44</sup> which proceeded forthwith. Each patrol was divided into two, two-man signalling stations and messages were sent and received (see opposite).

Lunch ensued followed by free time which was spent by the S.M. running a shuttle service between Dunfallandy and Pitlochry in his tank<sup>45</sup>.

Defn.<sup>16</sup> A tank is defined as that which when fed with fire water conveys the S.M. and half the troop at least from a predetermined point X (not A) to an unknown, undetermined point y (not B) and is on hire.

N.B. 1USM + 4 GALLONS F.W. = 1 TANK + 10 GALLONS F.W.

Where F.W = Fire Water

And USM = as defined above

And TANK = as defined above.<sup>5</sup>

After tea, the campsite was tidied up in preparation for tomorrow's packing up. The S.M. complete with helpers – the T.L. and P.L. of Fox – made a dumpling<sup>46</sup>. Since the Q.M (had) no "crow bar"<sup>47</sup> paper, the dumpling was made in a two pint dixie inside the Scouter's water boiler. Due to Archimedes and Expansion (his mate), the dumpling was pronounced to be a  $2 \frac{5}{16}$  pinter<sup>48</sup>. Meanwhile, Wiff made cornflake cake. The S.M. departed for pit.

Weather Pitlochry – DOMP/<sup>49</sup> rain, hailstones, snow.

Duty patrol: Seal

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 1961

The troop awoke to find the weather still "domp"<sup>49</sup>. By 7.45 hours, the whole camp, even the Scouters, was up and lighting the fire in preparation for breakfast, which consisted of cornflakes and eggs. Immediately after breakfast, dishes were cleaned up, as were dixies etc. Then down came the gadgets (not very many this camp) and the fires were filled in.



A dry spell ensued and after allowing the shelters to dry a bit, they were taken down and folded up. The stores tent – Kara<sup>50</sup>- was also taken down.

After packing gear and getting into F.S.U., the Troop bunged their rucksacks into the tank<sup>45</sup> - the S.M. had crawled in from his hotel at about 8.30 hrs. The Stormhaven, Niger and Bell were now taken down and at 12:30 hours, the bloke came with his coal lorry to take us to Pitlochry station<sup>10</sup>. Kipper went with the S.M. to give back the key of the campsite gate - thus incidentally getting a run down the road to Greenock. Great was the annoyance of the Troop when it was discovered that the rail bus<sup>9</sup> which was to convey us to Perth did not have any Jaspers.<sup>13</sup> Part of our dinner, some of which had already been consumed in Pitlochry station was eaten in the rail bus.



Pitlochry Railway Station  
(Ronald Russell, Billy Philips (Wiffil), Ian  
McKinnon, Alistair Cram, Donald Hamilton)



Pitlochry Railway Station  
(Ken Johnson and John Nisbet)



Pitlochry Railway Station (Ian Paterson)



Pitlochry Railway Station (A. Cram, W. Phillips,  
M. Nisbet, R. Russell)



Pitlochry Railway Station. (Ian McKinnon, Donald Hamilton, Alistair Cram, Ronald Linn, Ian Paterson, Ronald Russell Behind them Billy Phillips, Kenneth Johnston, John Nisbet)



Pitlochry Railway Station. (Donald Hamilton, Michael Nisbet, Billy Phillips, Ian McKinnon, Ronald Linn or Alistair Cram.)



Pitlochry Railway Station. (J. Nisbet, W. Phillips, D. Hamilton, A. Cram, M. Nisbet)

When we arrived at Perth, thanks to highly official organization, we soon got our gear transferred to the Glasgow bound train. On the way to Glasgow Buchanan Street, nothing much happened. K.W.J.'s Uncle, Mate, and (a) fleet of cars took the troop and gear to Glasgow Central where we, at high-speed, boarded a train for Gourock. At Gourock, the kit was taken to the hall by the Troop van.<sup>51</sup>

So ended a highly successful camp.

Scribe A.B. Cram (T.L.)

Censored by John H. Nisbet (14<sup>th</sup> April 1961)

### **Abbreviations**

S.M. = Scout Master

A.S.M. = Assistant Scout Master

J.A.S.M = Junior Assistant Scout Master

T.L. = Troop Leader

Q.M. = Quarter Master

P.L. Patrol Leader

Sec = Second

L.L.O. = Left Luggage Office

B.R. = British Rail

U.S.M Not defined

B.S. = Black Spout

D.C = District Commissioner

F.S.U = Full Scout Uniform

### **Notes**

1. The patrols in brackets refer to the Scout's normal Patrol.
2. Entries in square brackets refer to nicknames or commonly used names
3. The Fox patrol in camp was a mixture of Scouts from the Fox, Curlew and Falcon Patrols.
4. Bob Miller had been ill with the flu and was advised not to camp. He drove up on the Monday and stayed at the Fishers Hotel, dropping in on the camp at various times to keep an eye on things.
5. The term J.A.S.M stands for Junior Assistant Scout Master. It probably was not an official title and was used for older Scouts who had resigned as PLs but stayed on as part of the leader team. As the individuals concerned were still of Scout age, they were not yet eligible to gain an ASM's warrant.
6. At Easter Camp, the previous year, the troop had taken its equipment from the Left Luggage Office without telling the L.L.O. custodian (presumably he was absent at the time). This resulted in the said custodian chasing up the pier after the Scouts in the belief that they had stolen the equipment.
7. It is believed that this was cine film. Unfortunately, this footage has not been traced and may no longer exist.
8. Packed Lunches rather than Patrol Leaders
9. The train service between Perth and Pitlochry was an early example of a Diesel train service – called the Rail Bus in the Troop Log. Diesel trains were being introduced in the late 1950s. The train services between Greenock and Glasgow and between Glasgow and Perth would have still involved steam locomotives though. Steam locomotives were still in service until 1967.
10. Apparently, he brought a rather ramshackle looking coal lorry (see photo). In those day, it was perfectly normal for Scouts to be transported in the back with the equipment.



11. These were items constructed from natural materials for the kitchen shelters (mug racks, plate racks etc)
12. 'Favourite' was the 'in' word at the time to indicate something that was really good.
13. 'Jasper' was the 70<sup>th</sup>'s term for the latrines or any toilet. 'Jasper' was the name of Tommy Dow's dog, which had been the first to 'try out' the latrines at a previous camp.
14. It's not known how far along that road they hiked, but it does not seem likely that they hiked all the way to Ballinluig.
- 15 The U.S.M. was a Morris Minor owned by Ian McFarlane. The car is visible in one of the camp photographs. It is not known what U.S.M stood for though.
16. It should be noted that the Scribe and Troop Leader, Alastair Cram, eventually became a highly successful Physics teacher, which might explain his fascination for equations and definitions in his troop entries.
17. It was April Fool's Day
18. The word looks like 'cart' in the log book. This, presumably, was code for bed, pit or sleeping bag. However, the reason for choosing 'cart' is not known.
19. The 70<sup>th</sup> tended to dominate the District Scouting Signalling Competition and so this may well have been practice in preparation for the next competition which was usually held in May or June.
20. One member of each patrol stood at either end of the pitch with a stick. A goal was scored if a team could throw a hoop onto their own stick. It's not known whether the game was played as a non contact sport or as 'anything goes'.
21. In other words, one team won by a single score.
22. The collection of fire wood
23. An 'in word' that was used for anything considered good or excellent.
24. At previous Easter Camps, Bob Millar and Ian McFarlane made it a bit of a traditions to go for a swim in a loch to brave the elements. Very few others participated and participation seemed to be restricted to Scouters. The Scouts were far too sensible.
25. It is not clear why Wiffil was the exception, unless it was a punishment for throwing an ice cream carton out of the train window the previous day.
26. It is very likely that the visit involved the Scouts jumping up and down on the bridge to make it swing.
27. The location / identity of the milk bar has still to be determined.
28. The word is difficult to make out and could be 'sausages' or 'bangers'.
29. The hill could be ascended from the campsite. In 1961, there would have been open hillside allowing easy access to the top. In later years, the hillside was forested.
30. 'Panjams' was the term for pyjamas. A later tem was 'pojams'.
31. Morning inspection usually involved the Scouters inspecting the patrols and their patrol sites. It was unusual for PLs to inspect the Scouters kitchen shelter.
32. The Black Spout Waterfall near Pitlochry is a bit of a visitor attraction and has a trail leading to it.
33. Sunday was the traditional day for parents to come and visit the campsite and take their offspring out for a meal.
34. Presumably this was to visit the Scout Master of the local Pitlochry Troop. It is not clear what the purpose of the visit was.
35. It is likely that this footage was taken by Ian McFarlane.

36. The significance of 'ding, ding' is not known.
37. Looks like 'buhh', which is presumably being used to express 'Brrr' in terms of the cold.
- 38 In other words Alistair Cram and Ian Paterson swapped patrols and John Nisbet joined the Seals.
39. The term used at the time for an aerial runway.
40. Pitlochry – not to be confused with Pit meaning bed.
41. Doctor in Love was released in 1960 and starred many well known British actors of the time. The Scouts visited the cinema on 3rd April 1961. The cinema in Pitlochry was at the junction between the A924 with the main high street in Pitlochry. It is no longer open. The building is now occupied by a Keep Fit Club (Live Action Atholl).
42. Presumably the cost of the chips came out of troop funds.
43. They discovered the next day that the 'bod' had been Bob Millar who had driven up that day and decided to make cocoa for the Scouts when they returned from Pitlochry.
- 44 The signalling involved the use of semaphore which the 70<sup>th</sup> were very good at. There was an annual District competition for signalling. Morse and semaphore was part of the Progressive Training scheme in Scouting until the Second Class and First Class badges were replaced by the Scout Standard, Advanced Scout Standard, and Chief Scouts Award.
- 45 Bob Miller's car
- 46 Bob Miller made a dumpling at every significant camp. It became a bit of a tradition when he was S.M.. The tradition was carried on by Alastair Cram for several more years when he became Scout Leader.
47. The writing is a bit indistinct and it is not clear what is meant here.
48. The significance /meaning of this is not clear.
49. Presumably DOMP is an acronym for some phrase or other to do with the weather.
- 50 The Kara tent was produced by Blacks of Greenock.
- 51 Possibly the first mention of a means of troop transport, but not known what it involved. However, it is more likely that the scribe was being ironic and that the 'van' was actually cars, such as those owned by Ian McFarlane and Bob Millar.