

**TROOP EASTER CAMP (Inverack)
(Sat 10th- Sun 18th April 1954)**

Saturday 10th April 1954

The boys (13 and S.M.)¹ assembled at the hall at 10:45 AM, where all the kit, tents, groundsheets and personal gear were boarded onto the treck cart². We left the hall, pulling and pushing the treck cart at 11:25 and by a miracle reached Gourrock pier and boarded the boat for Dunoon in one piece.



We were divided into two patrols and the patrols were called after the PL.³ The PL and Second changed places first thing on Wednesday morning and thus the patrols changed names.

Patrols

Falcons :-	P.L.	D. Brown	Fox:-	P.L.	I. McFarlane
	Second	B. Millar		Second	S. Whiteford
		G. White			N. Cook
		N. Mort			R. McKinnon
		I. McKenzie			S. Pearce
		H. Rankin			M. Runcie

Thus, on Wednesday morning the Falcons became the Curlews and the Fox the Seagulls.

A. Whiteford:- Quartermaster and T.L.
B. Hodgson:- Scout Master

S.M. eats with the duty patrol, QM with the others.

When we got to Dunoon, a few boys went on to the campsite⁴ (Inverreck Eventide Home) about 4 ½ miles outside Dunoon and past Sandbank, to make the camp kitchens etc, while the rest pushed and pulled the trek cart there (in the journey, which took about three hours, one wheel of the trek cart got buckled).



After tea at 8 o'clock, we had flag down and then campfire. After campfire, we had a game of football in the dark and as the ref couldn't see in the dark, there was a good lot of fouling and the goalpost was continually being stolen. We got to bed about 10.45.

N.B. Before we went to bed, we all put our watches one hour forward so all times from now on are 'Summer Time.'

Sunday 11th April 1954

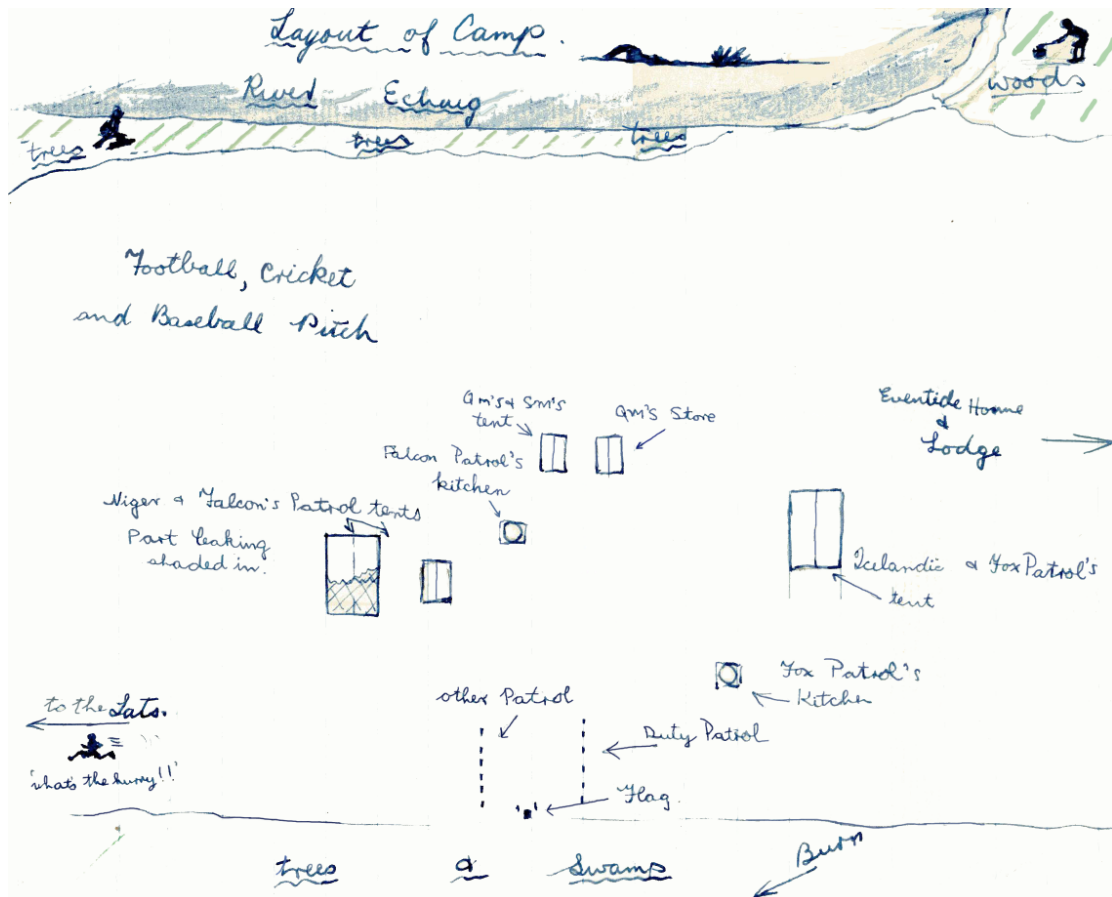
Rose at 7 o'clock to a beautiful morning and after breakfast, we had flagbreak by duty patrol, Falcons, and inspection by Skipper and Andy. The troop, all except two who stayed behind to prepare lunch, paraded to Sandbank parish church to attend the service (we were about five minutes late). At the end of the service, Mr Christie, the minister, came round and talked and shook hands with us. After lunch, the Falcons attempted to bridge the River Echaig while the Fox attempted to build a raft.

A small party of volunteers went to Kilmun to attend evening service, but they were disappointed as there was none. Meanwhile, others had tea and prepared the tea for the others.

After tea, time was free and, later in the evening, we held a campfire with the Kirn Scouts. Got to bed at 12.??⁵



...we attempted to bridge the River Echaig.



Monday 12th April 1954

Rose at 7:30 and after breakfast, the duty patrol, Fox, put up the flag and we had flag break and inspection. This morning, N. Cook read a passage from the Bible and Skipper said a short prayer.

While Andy and D. Brown went into Strone for stores, the patrols had a short game of non-stop cricket which the Falcons won.



As there was a shower of rain, the troop went into the Niger and had a game of football whist⁶ which the Falcons again won. In the afternoon, the patrols were given Scout work to do and before tea, at free time, we had a 'Plate race' on the burn.⁷

At 8.30, we set off on a hike. The younger boys and Ian McFarlane, who was in charge, went for a shorter one than the older boys. The younger ones went to a place about 1 ½ miles past Clachaig in Glen Lean (at a total of about 8 miles) in about 2 ½ hours, while the older ones went to a ford 096/848 in Glen Masson and back (a total of about 16 miles) in about 3 ¼ hours. We went straight to bed.

Tuesday 13th April 1954



After last night, we did not get up till nearly 10 o'clock and after a very late breakfast, flagbreak and inspection and Bible reading (by G. White) and prayer, we had a game of football which the Falcons (Duty Patrol) won 7-3.

After late lunch, we walked to Sandbank and got bus to Dunoon (we sang Scouting songs on the bus). Went to picture house (now known as the 'ice box' because it was so draughty). Some boys got 9.30 bus to Sandbank and walked to the camp, while others waited for the 10.30 which took them right to the camp (some of the boys phoned home). We had a cold pie before going to bed at 11 o'clock.

Wednesday 14th April 1954

Got up late again to a miserable morning (very dull without a break in the clouds and it rained continually). After breakfast, the duty patrol, Seagulls (the names were changed first thing this morning), broke flag and R. McKinnon read passage



from Bible.

We played a game of football in the rain which the Curlews won 15-5.

Dinner rather late and, after a short period of Scout work, we had a 'plate race' in the burn⁷. N. Cook had to go home today⁸ and R. Mackinnon and N. Mort set off on their First-Class journey. While the two youngest, Hamish and I McKenzie, played football whist with Andy and R. Miller, the rest had a quiz on Scouting conducted by Skipper. After the quiz, as it was a rotten night, and the Niger was leaking, we all went into the Icelandic and played Football Whist.

As R. McKinnon and N. Mort had taken the Curlew's store tent, and as N. Cook had gone, three of the boys from the Niger went into the Icelandic to sleep. Got to bed about 11 o'clock.

NB. Hamish is now called Sweetie (in background van arriving with more).⁹



Thursday 15th April 1954

Rose at 8:30 to a lovely morning, not a cloud in the sky and the sun shining brilliantly. After breakfast, we had, as usual, flagbreak and inspection (D. Brown read the passage this time). We had a game of football. We had some enthusiastic supporters in a group of old ladies who came from the home. As we had got very hot by the football, we decided to have a bathe in the Echaig.

A shepherd who was looking after a flock of sheep allowed us to take photos of and hold a lamb only born 12 hours before.

N. Mort and R. McKinnon arrived back about 2 o'clock.¹⁰

As lunch was late, we went straight into Dunoon without any tea. Some of the boys went to the pictures and others went into cafes. We all went back in the 10.30 bus singing songs as usual.



'N M & PINK ARRIVING
BACK...'



Friday 16th April 1954

Another fine day. After breakfast, we had flagbreak and inspection followed by the bible reading (by M. Runcie). While D. Brown and Andy went into Strone to settle accounts, we had a game of cricket, after which some people washed their dishes in the Echaig. When R. Millar was washing the frying pan – the property of the Falcon patrol – and his dishes, he decided to have a race. That is the last we have seen of the frying pan and plate.

N. Cook arrived with his cousin to pay us a visit.

After lunch at 4 o'clock, we had a wide game with clues. When we came back, we had a combined tea – supper and got to bed at 10:30.



*...that is the last of
the frying-pan and
plate...*

Saturday 17th April 1954

Yet another fine day. After breakfast, flag break and inspection and Bible reading by N. Mort, Skipper went into Dunoon on the bike¹¹ and D. Brown and Andy went to pay and fetch the milk. The others had a game of rounders. At 3 o'clock, we had a feast prepared and served by Skipper and Andy as it was D Brown's birthday. We had for our first course: steak, butter, beans and potatoes followed by tea, buns, biscuits (chocolate and otherwise) and a birthday cake. We also gave Dougie, from the little money left from the camp, a knife and a birthday card. Just as we were finishing the first cake, Dougie's folks arrived in the car with another (lovely grub!) which we soon demolished.

Some went into Dunoon of which some went to the pictures and others went to cafes. Got 10.30 bus home, had supper and went straight to bed (about 11.30).



...what a feast....
(butler is
skipper disguised)

Sunday 18th April 1954

We were rudely awakened at 6 o'clock by Skipper and Andy. Flagbreak and inspection followed at 6:15. We were then given till 8.15 to have our breakfast.

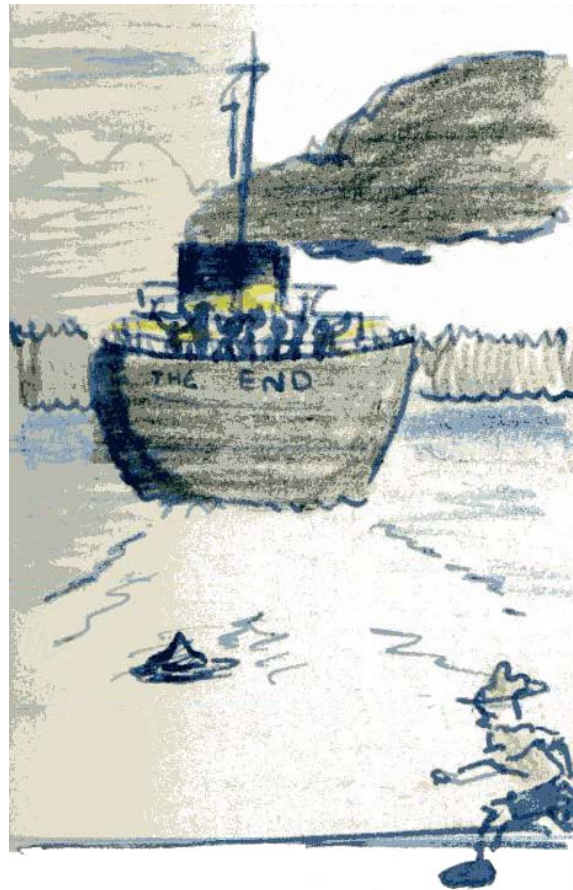
General tidying of campsite, dismantling of fires and packing of kit until 10.15 when we prepared to go to the Kilmun morning service. We left for church at 10:35 and arrived at 11.5 (the service began at 11:30). We were shown around the grounds where we saw the burial place of King of Picts, Duke of Argyll, first British nurse, the soldier who led the famous charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava¹² and many others. There were Sea Scouts from Renfrew also attending the service, which was conducted by the Provost of Dunoon. The service ended at 12:35 and we arrived back at the campsite at 1:10. The bus for Dunoon, which four of the boys were getting, arrived at 1:50. After bread and (dinner), the rest left with the Treck Cart at 2:20 and eventually arrived at Dunoon at 4:40. The boat which we caught left at 4:50.



gerrup!!
(get up)



'We all enjoyed the
sermon! - - .



"WAIT!"

G. White (Second)



Notes

1. Prior to the camp, there was a meeting in the hall on Thursday 8th April in preparation for the camp. The S.M. was Scout Master Brian Hodgson.
2. In later years, the spelling changed from 'treck cart' to 'trek cart'.
3. To be more precise, the patrol name adopted was the one normally led by that PL.
4. Grid reference approximately 145830
5. Unclear in the photocopy of the primary source
6. Clearly some kind of card game. Possibly they played normal whist and then worked out 'goals scored' based on the end result. Football whist seemed to be a popular past time when the Scouts were confined to their tents because of bad weather
7. Not clear whether this was the River Echaig or a burn leading into it.
8. It is assumed that relatives were visiting Neill's family, as Neill visited the camp with his cousin a couple of days later.
9. Presumably, Hamish had a sweet tooth. In later years, the nickname was to change from 'Sweet' to 'Tweet'.
10. The accompanying cartoon might indicate that they were telling each other ghost stories during their hike
11. It was not specified why Brian cycled into Dunoon. However, it may have been to purchase the birthday card, birthday cake and knife that were presented to Douglas Brown in the afternoon. It is not known whether the bike was Brian's bike or not. The initial cartoon of the troop setting off for camp shows that somebody was on a bike.
12. Might explain one of the cartoons which shows explosions etc.