

Summer Camp 1958
Benderloch
(Author and artist – Kenneth Conway)

Address

70th Renfrewshire Scout Troop
c/o Ledaig Post Office
Benderloch
Argyll

Those present at the camp were:

Scouters:

SM J.R. *(Ian)* Blake
ASMs *Robert* Millar (2 nights)¹, *Jim* Harvey, *Sandy* Whiteford,
TL *John* Nisbet (2 nights)¹

Eagle/ Seal Patrol²

PL Kenneth Conway, Sec. Ritchie Muir, *Robert* Harvey, Laird Macfarlane
(Sick one week)

Curlew Patrol³

PL Brian Elliot⁵, Sec *William* Harkness (1 week), *Philip* Dry (1 week), Sandy
Millar

Otter Patrol

PL Kenneth Johnson, Sec Jim Blair, Tommy Dow, Alastair *Cram*

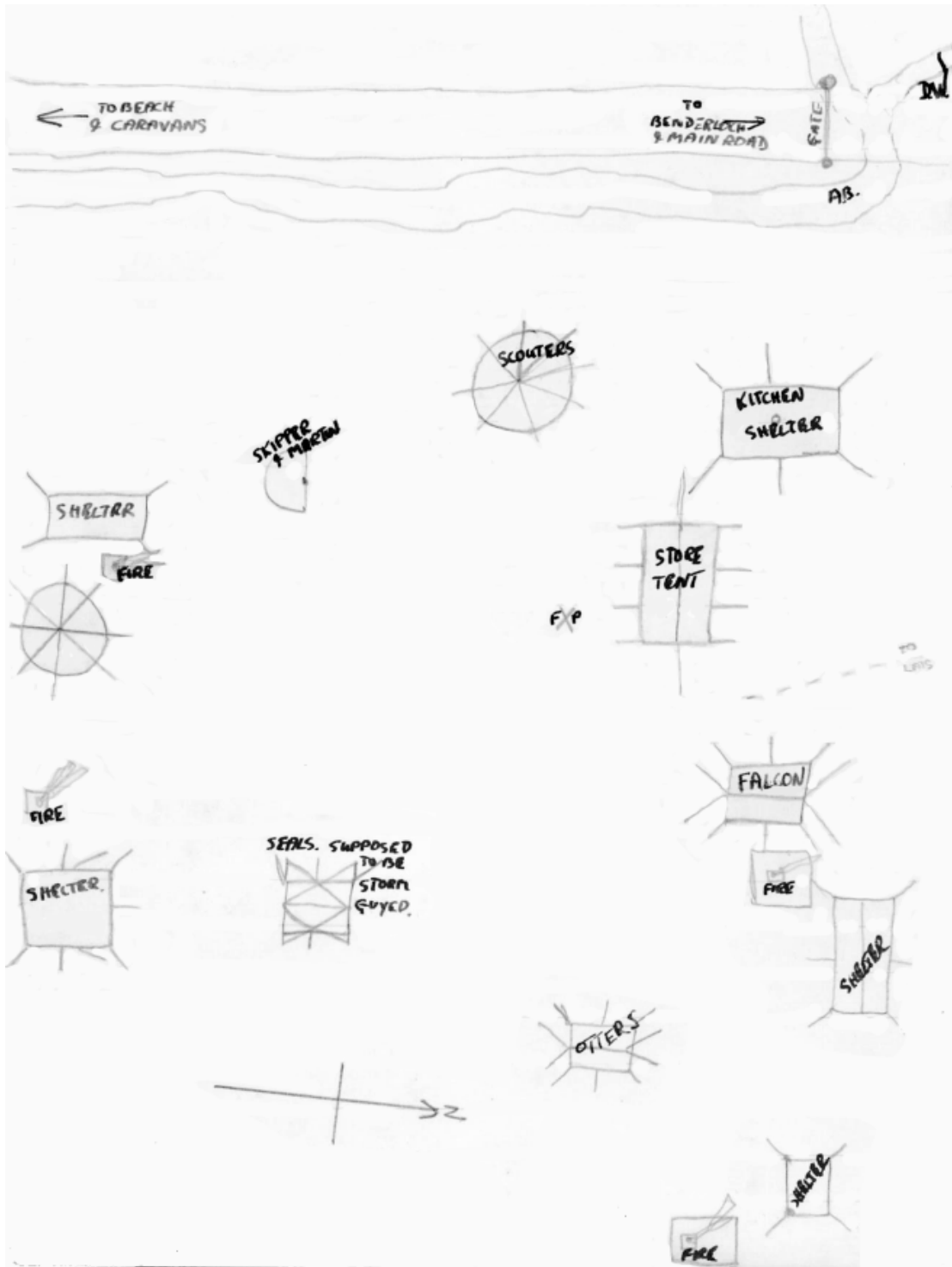
Falcon Patrol⁴

PL Hamish Rankin⁵, Sec Ian Fraser, Peter Fraser (sick 1 week), John
Gatherer (sick 1 week)

Cub: Martin Blake

Editorial Notes

1. It is believed that Bob Miller and John Nisbet missed most of the camp as they were involved in a Rover Scout challenge hike held in England that year.
2. The patrol led by Kenneth Conway was called the Eagle Patrol in camp, but identified as the Seal Patrol in the sketch map of the campsite.
3. The name of the patrol led by Brian Elliot was not identified in the attendance list or the sketch map, but Brian was normally PL of the Curlew Patrol.
4. The Falcon Patrol was not identified as such in the attendance list. However, the sketch map of the campsite identified a Falcon Patrol. This would have been led by Hamish Rankin as that was his normal patrol. However, it might have gone under a different name in camp.
5. Later in the camp, the patrols led by Hamish Rankin and Brian Elliot amalgamated to form a Duck-Billed Platypus Patrol.



Editorial Comments on the sketch map

*DW on the top right signified drinking water. AB indicated ablutions (washing). As the ablutions would have been downstream of the drinking water site, the stream is flowing approximately south, parallel to a road or track leading to the beach and caravans.

*FP indicates the position of the main flagpole.

*The gate indicates that the road/track to the west of the campsite was not the main road, and so this might be the course of the old railway line which ran north to south. However, it is believed that the railway line was in use until 1966, which would rule out this possibility.

*The fires are not situated under the kitchen shelters. This is safer, but lighting them in the rain would have been much harder.

- * The Falcons were camping in a Kara tent. This was eventually used for storage when the Falcons and Curlews amalgamated to form the Duck-Billed Platypus Patrol and used the Bell tent.*
- *When a Patrol Tent has Storm Guys (as in the Seal Patrol tent), the four main guys are directed back the way such that they are pulling the ridge poles together.*
- *There appear to be two Bell tents in use – one for the Scouters and one for Brian Elliot's patrol. One of the Bell tents might have been borrowed from another troop.*
- *There is no fire identified for the Scouters, unless it is situated under the kitchen shelter. The Scouters kitchen shelter would have been the one nearest the Scouters Bell tent.*
- * Scout Master Ian Blake and his son Martin camped together in a hike tent.*
- *The patrol site closest to Ian Blake's hike tent was led by Brian Elliot, who was normally PL of the Curlew Patrol. However, it's not known what he called his patrol at summer camp.*
- * The Patrol identified as the Seals was led by Kenneth Conway and was called the Eagle Patrol in camp.*

Saturday, 5 July 1958

Met at hall⁶ at 8.30 a.m. and packed bus⁷ for 9.00 hrs. We then left and proceeded over Erskine Ferry⁸ to Tarbet, Tyndrum and Dalmally where we stopped and ate our packed lunches. We then passed alongside Loch Awe through the Pass of Brander to Connel Ferry where we crossed the road/rail bridge arriving at our campsite at 15:00 hrs.^{9,10}

Our tents were pitched in time for a quick tea consisting of bangers and spaghetti after which we went for a swim¹¹. On coming back, we played a few games. We had cocoa and biscuits at the Scouters kitchen and went to bed at 21.30.

Editorial notes for 5th July 1958

6. Finnart Church Hall, Madeira Street

7. Presumably this was a bus or a coach hired from a local company to transport the Scouts and equipment to the campsite on the 5th and back from the campsite on the 19th.

8. The Erskine Bridge did not exist in 1961. The Erskine Ferry was situated in much the same place and the slipways for the ferry are still visible on both banks. The original road leading to the ferry from the south is also still present. In the 1960s, markers were put on the road to indicate how long the wait would be before getting on the ferry. The ferry was attached to fixed chains and used these to cross the river.

9. After crossing the Clyde on the ferry, the A82 was taken north as far as Tyndrum and then the A85 was taken to Dalmally. The current A82 bears very little resemblance to the A82 in 1958. For a start, it involved passing through towns such as Dumbarton, Alexandria and Balloch. From Balloch, the route was very similar to the current A82, but the road was much narrower and twistier. An indication of what the road was like can be gained by driving the coast road through Luss (the original A82). In addition, the very twisty, narrow segment of the current A82 just north of Tarbet is representative of the original A82. In 1958, the nature of the road and the use of the ferry probably meant that it took twice as long to travel from Greenock to Benderloch as it would now, partly explaining why it took 6 hours to complete the journey in 1958.

10. The exact location of the campsite has still to be determined. It was in the vicinity of Ledaig, south of Benderloch. The daily log reports also suggest that it was close to a beach with a 1007' hill to the east (probably Beinn Lora, 1010'). This suggests that it might have been located close to North Ledaig, possibly between the road and the shore line.

11. This is evidence that the campsite must have been reasonably close to the beach. One possibility is that the Scouts swam in Ardmucknish Bay.

Sunday, 6 July 1958

Arose at 8.00 hours and cooked a good breakfast using the individual patrol system¹². After flagbreak and inspection¹³, we went a good distance to the oak and beech woods for timber.

Our dinner was in good time, consisting of mince and potatoes.

After having a swim¹¹, we played a good tough game of 70th baseball¹⁴.

After tea, we had another swim¹¹. After cocoa, we went to bed at 22:00 hours.

Editorial notes for 6th July 1958

12. The way this is worded might suggest that this was a relatively recent innovation, and it is also the first time that the 'patrol system' of camping was mentioned in the available records. The patrol system in camp meant that each patrol was self sufficient, with its own camping and cooking arrangements. Each Patrol cooked its own meals over wood fires and the PL took full responsibility for directing his patrol. This was the system used by the 70th at all its camps, certainly from the 1950s to the 1990s. It is not known whether Ian Blake or Bob Miller was the main instigator for introducing this system during the 1950s, but they were both involved in promoting it. The Benderloch summer camp may have been the first camp where it was used in earnest.

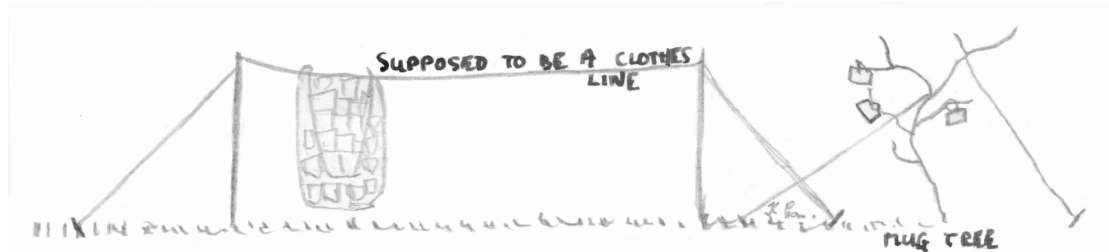
13. Inspection would have involved the Scouters inspecting both the patrol tent and the patrol kitchen, as well as the personal hygiene and equipment of each Scout in the patrol. Normally, the patrol would be formed up at the alert on uniform while the inspection took place.

14. Baseball was a popular game at camps and outdoor meetings throughout the 1960s, and this is evidence that it was also played in the 1950s. It is not known who introduced the game or when it was first played in the 70th.

Monday, 7 July 1958

Arose 8.00 hours and had breakfast eaten by 9.00 hours.

The kitchen and dixies were tidied in time for inspection¹³ at 10:00 hours after which we collected gadget wood¹⁵.



A "Few" Gadgets¹⁶

Dinner took a long time to cook as it consisted of stew which we had failed to kill¹⁷. After this, we went to Benderloch¹⁸ where the three shops handled more money than usually handled in a week.

On return, we listened to Ritchie Muir's gramophone¹⁹ until 17.00 when we had a good tea. Then we went a pre-cocoa walk along the beach¹¹ returning for cocoa and bed at about 22.30 hours.

Editorial notes for 7th July 1958

15. 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. Ian Blake was known to be particularly keen that the Patrol should make gadgets.

16. The artist was Kenneth Conway who also wrote up the troop log account of the camp. His signature is just about visible in the sketch.

17. This might refer to the fact that the steak had to be hit with a mallet before cooking it, in order to break down any tough muscle fibres.

18. This implies that Benderloch was within walking distance.

19. This may be the only time when a gramophone was taken to summer camp. It is believed that Ritchie Muir was friendly with Robert Harvey as they joined the troop together in 1957. Ritchie acted as Second in the Eagle Patrol during the camp and was subsequently promoted to Second of the Curlew Patrol in September 1958. He left the Troop in April 1959, but might have rejoined when a Senior Patrol was started up the following year.

Tuesday 8th July 1958

Arose 8.00 hours. Inspection¹³ followed breakfast. We were then given some free time in which the conscientious PLs tries to set up a few gadgets¹⁵. However, seeing the lack of enthusiasm, Skipper soon detailed a working party to dig latrines.

Sandy and Jim²⁰, who had been to Oban²¹ for stores returned after dinner and we went for a walk²². One or two of the older Scouts said they would prefer to go for a wood, but when Skipper came back from the walk he said there was not enough so we all went to the woods for more. Unfortunately, oak is very difficult to saw. After tea, consisting of slice²³ and beans, we had a game of football followed by cocoa and bed at 22:00 hours.

Editorial notes for 8th July 1958

20. Most likely Sandy Whiteford and Jim Harvey, with one of them probably acting as Quartermaster during the camp.

21. They probably travelled there and back by train.

22. No details know of what that involved.

23. Slice sausage



Editorial Note on picture.

This is a postcard picture taken some miles south of the campsite on the road to Oban looking west towards Mull. It gives an indication of the kind of terrain in the West of Scotland but is not directly relevant to the camp.

Wednesday 9th of July 1958

We were wakened later this morning at 8:15 hrs. Breakfast took longer to prepare as the weather, which had been perfect so far, had turned to rain showers.

However, it was dry now.

After inspection¹³ and flagbreak, most of the morning was taken up in Scouting activities. Many tests were passed and a few gadgets¹⁵ were set up. After this, Skipper informed us that he intended walking a few miles north of the campsite. Having had a good dinner, we walked about 2 ½ miles in the direction of Ballachulish.²⁴ We felt a fairly strong south-westerly wind accompanied by low clouds. We thereupon headed quickly back.

After tea, we all avoided the fresh wind as much as possible playing games or cards or reading.

Cocoa was served and we went to bed.

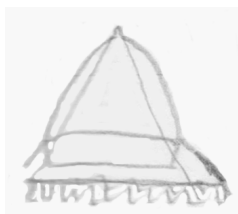
Editorial notes for 9th July 1958

24. The sentence could be read different ways. Was the 2½ miles the total distance covered, there and back? Or was it 2½ miles travelled north which was then retraced.

Thursday 10th of July 1958

Skipper was awake half last night²⁵ so he did not get up at the usual time. No one was willing to make the first move, as a result no-one got up and I²⁶ am ashamed to remember what time we arose.

The Seal patrol²⁷ repitched their tents as the wind had changed and was threatening to blow them down²⁸. The breakfasts were by this time cooked and it was discovered that the halyard on the flagpole had jammed²⁹.



After inspection¹³, while dinner was cooking, we took down the flagpole and repaired it.

When we had tidied up after dinner, we dressed in our oldest clothes to collect a pile of wood from wood-lings³⁰ down the road³¹. We went back for this pile in a lorry³² after a good tea of macaroni and cheese. This macaroni fetched³³ a few sore

stomachs as only two patrols and the Scouters cooked it properly.

After some Scouting activities and a game, we had a campfire and cocoa, going to bed later.

Editorial notes for 10th July 1958

25. It is not known why this was.

26. Kenneth Conway wrote the log book account of the Summer Camp and was also responsible for the sketches.

27. Kenneth Conway was PL of the Seal Patrol. It appears that the Patrol changed its name to the Eagle Patrol at some point during the camp

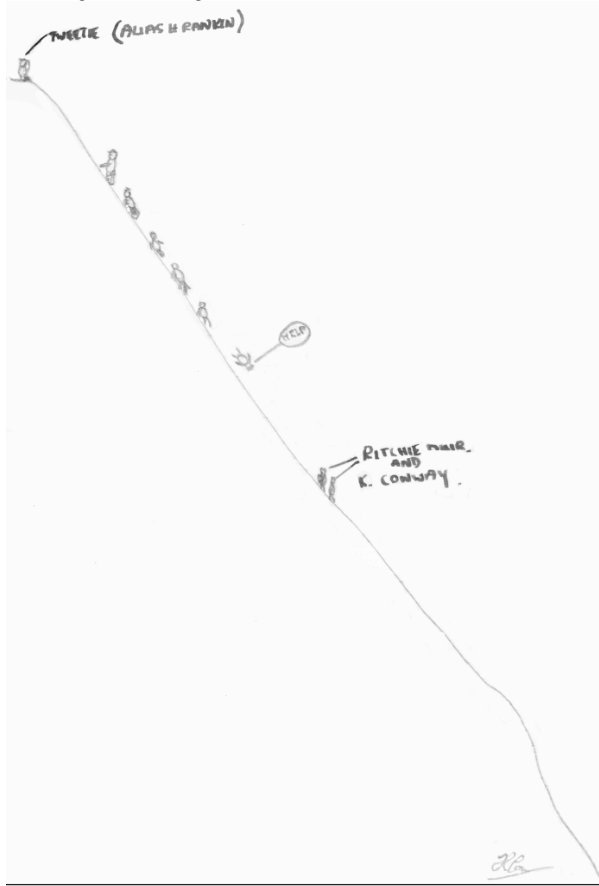
28. The sketch map of the campsite indicates that the Seal Patrol's tent was storm guyed, probably as a result of the wind experienced on the 10th. The sketch was presumably of a tent trying to fly away.

29. This was quite a common problem experienced at various summer camps. As the flagpole was usually 20' tall or more, the only way to fix it was to drop the flagpole entirely, fix the problem, then pull it back up again. The halyard had to go through a loop of sizar at the top and this could stick, especially if it was wet. Alternatively a small pulley wheel could be attached to the top of the flagpole, but the halyard sometimes came out of the pulley wheel and jammed.

30. The word is a bit indistinct and is not necessarily 'lings'.

31. 'Down the road' might mean south of the campsite. There are two strips of woodland on the west side of the A828, which might be the wood-lings described.
32. Presumably, the lorry was borrowed or hired locally.
33. It's not clear why the word 'fetched' was used here.

Friday, 11 July 1958



At 8.00 hrs, we arose and soon had a good breakfast cooked. Flagbreak and inspection¹³ followed at 10:00 hours. Our stores were served out and we had an early dinner in order to catch the 13.27 hours train for Oban.³⁴

We came home³⁵ on the 16.55 and had tea of slice²³ & beans after which it was decided that we would 'volunteer'³⁶ to climb at 1007' hill to the east of our campsite³⁷. We found it pretty steep. When we reached the top, we were well repaid by the view.³⁸ We visited the 73rd troop, which was pitched on the other side.³⁹

We returned after midnight and went to bed after cocoa.

Editorial notes for 11th July 1958

34. The branch line from Oban to Ballachulish was still operating in 1958 and did not close until 1966. Therefore, it is likely that the Scouts caught the train at Benderloch railway station. There was also a 'Halt' at the north end of Connell Bridge, but this was probably further away from the campsite

35. It is not known what the Scouts did in Oban for the day. They might have been lucky enough to visit the cinema before it burned down that year. If not, they would almost certainly have visited various cafes.

36. This suggests that there was little option but to climb it.

37. This was Beinn Lora, which is due east of Ledaig. The 1 inch to the mile maps printed in 1947 (Sheet 54) and 1963 (Sheet 46) identify the mountain as being 1007 feet high. More recent 1" to the mile maps have the height as 1110 feet rather than 1007 feet. The 1963 map also shows that there was no forestry planted on the western slopes in 1958.

38. The sketch (drawn by Ken Conway) implies that Hamish Rankin reached the summit well before the others, with Ritchie Muir and Ken Conway bringing up the rear.

39. It is possible that the 73rd were camping in the vicinity of Achnacree more. In the 1950s and 1960s, it was not uncommon to find other troops camping within walking distance of one's own Summer Camp.

Saturday 12th of July 1958

We arose pretty late today at 9:30 hours⁴⁰ and cooked breakfast. There was no inspection but we did have flagbreak.

A few tests⁴¹ were passed but we were given free time until dinner⁴², after which we visited Benderloch where literally pints of evaporated and condensed milk were consumed. Here, one of the younger boys Laird McFarlane⁴³ felt ill.

Tea consisted of macaroni which the Scouters cooked to our satisfaction.

We had a game of baseball¹³ and then tried to make a raft⁴⁴. However, we failed.

Cocoa was made and we went to bed at 10:15 PM.

When Skipper came round that night he told us he intended we should go to church on Sunday.⁴⁵

Ken Conway P.L.⁴⁶

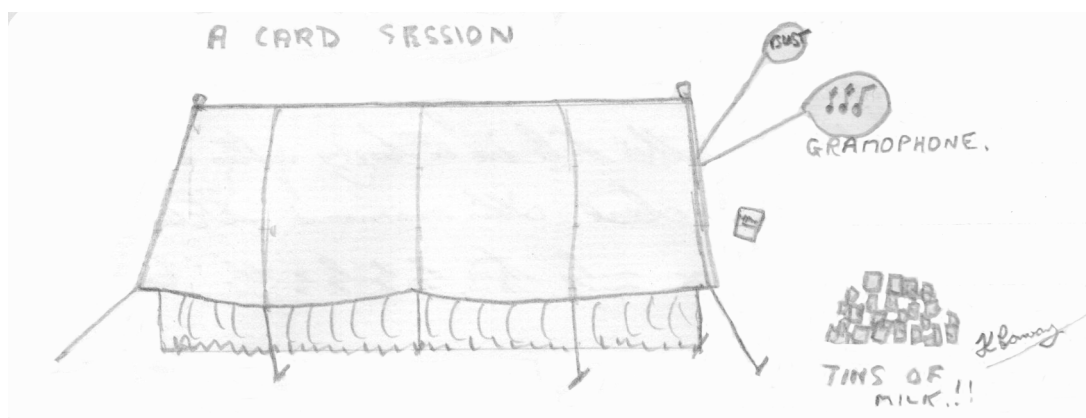


Figure A Card Session (Artist Ken Conway).⁴¹

Editorial notes for 12th July 1958

⁴⁰. This was most likely due to the hill climb the previous night and the late return to camp (after midnight).

⁴¹. Summer Camp was a perfect opportunity to pass many of the tests involved in the 2nd and 1st Class Badges, especially those tests involving Scoutcraft such as fire and cooking, use of a felling axe etc.

⁴². Dinner was prepared and eaten in the middle of the day instead of lunch. It was the main meal of the day. Tea was prepared and eaten at the end of the afternoon and was less substantial.

⁴³. Laird McFarlane is thought to have joined the troop during the Spring of 1957. He attended several camps and was a member of one of the 70th Shannon Cup teams in 1958. He may have left the troop during the summer of 1959.

⁴⁴. This appeared to be a popular summer camp activity during the late 1950s and early 1960. It is known that rafts were successfully constructed at the summer camps of 1959 and 1960.

⁴⁵. This was standard practice for a Sunday at Summer Camp

⁴⁶. This is the first time that Ken Conway signed off the daily entry in log book. The writing style is consistent with Kenneth writing all the entries.

⁴⁷. It would appear that the feasting on evaporated and condensed milk continued once everyone was back in camp. The gramophone belonged to Ritchie Muir (see note 14).

Sunday 13th of July 1958

We were awakened by Skipper this morning, who told us the Scouters had cooked our breakfast which was ready.⁴⁸ Owing to rain, we ate it in the store tent. It consisted of black pudding and egg.

After breakfast, we returned to our tents to read until dinner of potatoes and corned beef was cooked, again by the Scouters.⁴⁹

While eating dinner⁴², the first of our visitors arrived.⁵⁰ They were given a cup of tea, despite incessant heavy rain, then just before tea they all left accompanied by Laird McFarlane⁴³ and John Gatherer⁵¹, both of whom were ill⁵². After tea, the rain went off and we played baseball¹⁴ before cocoa and bed.

Editorial notes for 13th July 1958

48. The decision of the Scouters to cook breakfast was most likely due to the rain. As the sketch map of the campsite implies, the patrol cooking fires were not under cover and it would have been very difficult to light fires and cook breakfast.

49. From this it would appear that the troop did not go to church that morning. This suggests that the rain was particularly heavy, backed up by the fact that the Scouts were confined to their tents all morning.

50. Sunday afternoon was the traditional time for parents to visit the summer camp site and to take their offspring out for a meal if they so wished. However, it is not known whether any Scouts were taken out for a meal at this camp.

51. John Gatherer may have joined the troop in 1957 and left during the latter half of 1960. It is believed that this is the John Gatherer who became a Clyde river pilot before emigrating to America. His son (James Gatherer) was in the 70th during the 1980s and participated in one of the 'Everest Challenges' during that period.

52. It was unfortunate that the parents visited when the weather was so bad. Younger Scouts could often become homesick when their parents arrived, and the bad weather would have compounded that feeling. It is believed that 5 Scouts returned home with their parents that day (William Harkness and Philip Dry of the Curlew Patrol, Laird Mcfarlane of the Eagle Patrol, and Peter Fraser and John Gatherer of the Falcon Patrol. That was just under a third of all the Scouts present.

Monday, 14 July 1958

Awakened at 9.00 hrs, we were disappointed to find that although it was drizzling we would have to make our own breakfasts. Flagbreak and inspection¹³ were later today owing to inability to light fires⁵³. However, we managed.

After this, we were given free time in which most of us went for a swim.¹¹

After dinner⁴², the weather cleared up magnificently so free time was again given. Gadgets¹⁵ were made, a tunnel about 5 feet deep and 12 feet long dug⁵⁴ and a few went to the village.⁵⁵

Tea having been eaten, we went a walk to Lady Margaret's Tower⁵⁶ from which a magnificent view was obtained. On the way back from here, PL Rankin decided to amalgamate with PL Elliott and his remaining Scout, forming the Duck-billed Platypus patrol⁵⁷ which would sleep in the Bell tent⁵⁸. The empty Kara⁵⁹ was left for kit.

After cocoa and flagdown, we retired for the night

Editorial notes for 14th July 1958

53. According to the sketch map of the campsite, the patrol fires were not under cover. Therefore, it is not that surprising that there was difficulty lighting the fires.

54. It is not known what the purpose of this tunnel was.

55. It's not clear whether this meant Ledaig or Benderloch or both.

56. Lady Margaret's Tower was about 4-5 miles from the proposed location of the campsite on the other side of Ardmucknish Bay. It has also been called Lochnell Observatory and was built during 1747-54, approximately. There is some uncertainty regarding its history. The project was sponsored by Sir Duncan Campbell (7th Lord of Lochnell, 1681-1765). However, it is not known whether the tower was named after his mother or his wife, as both women were called Margaret. One theory regarding the reason for building the tower is that it was in order to keep the local people (many of whom were Jacobite supporters) fully occupied with the construction such that they were less likely to cause trouble in the aftermath of Culloden (1746). The exact location of the tower has still to be established. A tower is identified on the map on top of a ridge slightly to the east of Fuatachuadh (Grid ref. NM878383). However, the grid reference provided for the tower on the web corresponds to Lochnell

House, about a mile northeast of that point. At present, the former location seems more in keeping with available photographs and the fact that it provides a substantial view. However, the site needs to be visited for confirmation.

57. Brian Elliott's remaining Scout in the Curlew Patrol was Sandy Millar. Hamish Rankin of the Falcon Patrol had also lost two Scouts on the 13th (Peter Fraser and John Gatherer) leaving only himself and Ian Fraser. Therefore, the Duck-billed Platypus Patrol consisted of 4 Scouts. .

58. The sketch map of the campsite suggests that there were two bell tents at camp, one used by the Scouters and the other used by the Curlew Patrol. The latter would have been the tent used by the amalgamated Duck-billed Platypus patrol.

59. The Kara tent used by the Falcon patrol was smaller than a normal patrol tent and accommodated 4 Scouts. The Bell tent would have been more spacious.

Tuesday, 15 July 1958

Arose at 8.10 hours and had breakfast. PL Rankin and ASM Harvey left on their way to Ben Nevis.⁶⁰ Flag break and inspection¹³ followed. It began to rain and, although not heavy, it was very annoying. The rain went off, enabling us to cook dinner⁴² and commence a game of cricket, but rain stopped play. We retired to our tents until teatime. This was cooked by the Scouters in an oven⁶¹ which they had 'borrowed'⁶² from the Seal patrol.

Then we went for a short walk along the beach¹¹. On returning, we were presented with a nice rabbit, shot by ASM Whiteford⁶³. This rabbit was devoured at the campfire. Cocoa and flagdown followed after which we went to bed.

Editorial notes for 15th July 1958

60. No details of their trip to Ben Nevis were recorded. It is proposed that they took the train to Fort William then hiked up into Glen Nevis where it would have been possible to camp or stay at the youth hostel, which opened in 1938. It is likely that they climbed the mountain on the 16th July by means of the 'tourist path', then walked back into Fort William to catch a train back to Benderloch.

61. It is likely that this was a camp oven that had been constructed in camp using a biscuit tin. A camp oven usually involved digging a hole into a suitable slope and inserting an old biscuit tin into the hole. The tin was then covered with a good layer of mud and soil and a space was left underneath it for the fire. A chimney made of old tins served to take away the smoke and to provide an air flow to keep the fire alight.

62. As camp ovens were not portable, this implies that they used the Seal Patrol oven in situ.

63. Sandy Whiteford had a reputation for shooting rabbits and other objects. At the Inveraray camp of 1955, he accidentally shot a hole through the Bell tent.

Wednesday, 16 July 1958

Arose 8.30, had breakfast and Flag-break and inspection¹³ at 10 o'clock as usual. We were tidying paper from the whole campsite when the mail arrived. A PC⁶⁴ from TL⁶⁵ John Nisbet, who was on holiday, arrived.

We then went for a swim¹¹.

After dinner⁴², we visited Benderloch coming back for another good tea of macaroni; cooked by the Scouters.

Hamish and Jim (Harvey) came back, having climbed Ben Nevis (4406')⁶⁶ just in time to miss tea. A game of cricket was played, followed by a campfire, cocoa, flagdown and bed.

Editorial notes for 16th July 1958

64. Postcard

65. Troop Leader (see also note 1)

66. See note 60 for the 15th July

Thursday, 17 July 1958

Arose at 9.00 hours and cooked a good breakfast. Flagbreak and inspection¹³ were later today at 10:30. We went for a swim¹¹ after which we had dinner⁴². It was decided that we would volunteer to walk into Connel Ferry S.⁶⁷ We took some photographs of Connell Ferry bridge⁶⁸ then proceeded to the shops for ice cream. On the way back, having crossed the bridge, we were given a lift in a lorry⁶⁹. After tea, a few tests⁴¹ were passed. Rabbits were roasted while we were waiting on the cocoa to boil. Flag down followed and we went to bed.

Editorial notes for 17th July 1958

67. This was the only time that the Scouts walked to 'Connel Ferry Sout'h, suggesting that they were camped significantly closer to Ledaig and Benderloch. It is not known whether the village of Connel was originally called Connel Ferry South, but it was identified as Connel in the 1947 map of the area. The railway station at Connel is still called Connel Ferry.

68. The bridge crosses the Falls of Lora which is a tidal rip caused by the narrow entrance to Loch Etive. The bridge was built in 1903 to replace the ferry that operated up until that time. It is more commonly called the Connel bridge now. In 1958, the bridge carried both road and rail traffic. A single track road ran parallel to a single track railway line.

69. Another indication that the campsite was some distance north of the bridge.

Friday 18th of July 1958

Having arisen at 8:45, we made breakfast of porridge, ham and egg.

At 10:00 hours we had inspection¹³ after which some last day tests⁴¹ were taken.

A good dinner⁴² was soon made followed by some free time. In this free time, it was seen that most of the patrols cleaned as many dixies as possible and took down kitchen shelters and gadgets¹⁵.

As usual on the last night of a camp, we intended to have a bonfire. Tonight, we had prepared it well in advance, on the beach¹¹, and we intended to have a barbecue of sausages and rabbit. About 19:30 hours, it commenced to pour. However, we decided we would try to light the fire to get rid of the wood. With the aid of about a quarter pint of paraffin, it was ignited and we retired to the Scouters kitchen where we had our barbecue under shelter. After this, we went to bed.

Saturday 19th of July 1958

Arose at 7.30 and had a light breakfast. Tents were taken down and dixies 'polished'. After tidying personal campsites we searched the whole place for paper which we burned. All fires except the Scouters were put out and grease pits⁷⁰ filled in. After dinner, we carried all kit over to the bus which had arrived earlier. At 2:30, we were off. This had been a very good camp except for the rain.

Editorial notes for 19th July 1958

70. Grease pits were called 'wet pits' in later years. A grease pit or 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.



SEEN ON THE ROAD HOME.

Kenneth Conway PL

Points ⁷¹

Duckbill platypus 248 points

Otter 216 points

Eagle 191 points

Editorial note

71. A patrol championship was usually run throughout Summer Camp with points being awarded for inspections, activities, tests passed etc. During the 1960s, the winning patrol was given a treat by the Scouters back in Greenock; for example a visit to the cinema or Cappielow.