

Falcon Patrol Log of Tarbert Summer Camp 1966

W. Gunn
"Woodside"
68 Reservoir Rd.,
Gourock

70th Renfrewshire Boy Scout Camp

Achnacarnan Farm

FALCON PATROL LOG

Tuesday 16th August 1966

After meeting down at the Pier¹ at 9.05 am, the RMS² Loch Fyne started to sail on another day's journey at 9:20 am. Our first stop was Dunoon and, after that, most of us went downstairs to read. About one hour later, we came up to the deck again and looked at some beautiful yachts which went by in the other direction. Eventually, we came to Bute, and on looking out, we saw the Maids of Bute.³ About 1/4 of an hour later, we had our lunch which was a packed one, mostly of rolls.

We arrive(d) at Tarbet⁴ at 12:30 AM and quickly unpacked our stuff from the boat. Nearly all of us had bikes, but those who didn't have one went in the Mini vans⁵ with the kit. When we reached the site, we got all our kits and the tent and groundsheet to our site where we were going to pitch tent. By this time, the rain was pouring down and we waited until it went off and then put our tent up. After the tent and the kitchen were up, we went for some soup and about one hr later, we had our tea of sausage and egg and fruit cocktail.

Some people helped to put up the marquaa (ee) [please excuse Charles!]⁶ while our patrol up a(n) altar fire since campfire was to be held in our kitchen.

We had campfire at 9:15 PM and had our coco(a) [Charles again!]⁶ which was extremely good. The campfire was also a great one and at 9:45 PM, we broke up and went to bed. The PLs had their meeting and at about 9:55 PM, the camp was silent. The first day was a very enjoyable one.

Charles R. Stewart

Dear Falcons,

A very neat and tidy start. How about some illustrations please.

R. Crawford ASM

P.S. Tarbet is on Loch Lomond. We are staying near Tarbert.

10 + 2⁷

Wednesday 17th August, 1966

We all got up at seven o'clock, two of us got the milk, while Bill⁸ made breakfast which was cornflakes and bacon.

After inspection, which was at ten o'clock, we had a game of football.

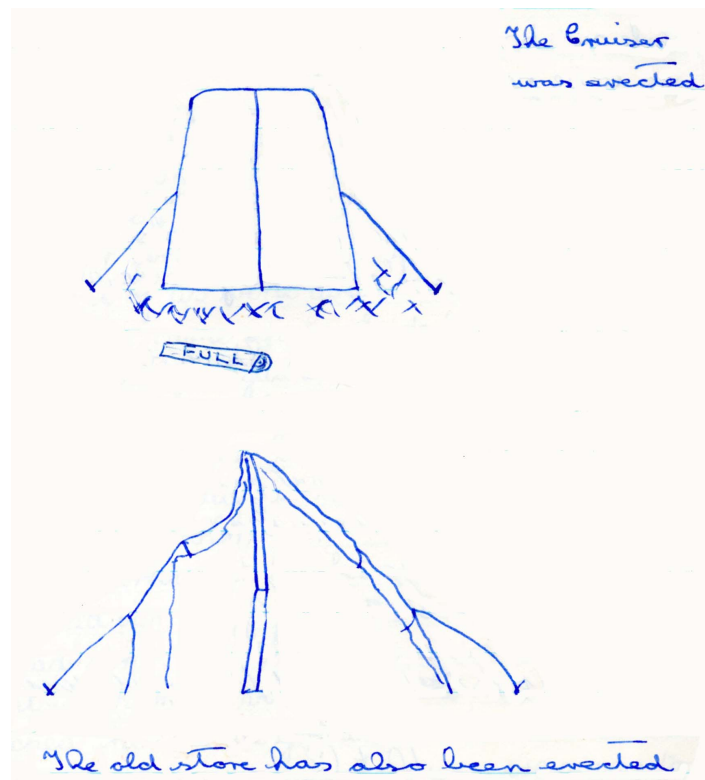
For dinner, we had soup and corn beef with Robin.⁹ While Jim Barr's patrol¹⁰ had Group¹¹.

In the afternoon, we worked in the kitchen.¹²

For tea, we had mince¹³ and soup. Afterwards, we again worked in the kitchen then we had campfire.¹⁴

$10 + 1 = 11$ ⁷

R.K. Miller
GSM
18-8-66



Thursday 18th August 1966

This morning, we arose at about 8 o'clock and I went extra late for stores. We then had breakfast which consisted of cornflakes, bacon and egg, tea and jammy chits. Inspection followed and we managed to gain 57 points. We then played football and had lem and crisps after.¹⁵ Lunch came next which was macaroni and cheese. In the afternoon, we did many things like frying the steak, putting up gadgets. At dinner, we had of Skipper's¹⁶ company (the pleasure) and we our meal was EVERSO¹⁷, consisting of soup, steak, jelly and tea. In the evening, we went for a short hike and saw a dead deer. We arrived back about 10 o'clock and had campfire and then went to pit.

B²⁸

A P.G.¹⁸ log but let's have a few more illustrations; perhaps even a map of the campsite! Hope you are all enjoying the camp.

AB Cram S.M. 19.8.66

10⁷

Friday 19th August, 1966

We arose at 7:45 PM as a few minutes later, J. Lyle¹⁹ came down to inform us that our expedition maybe off.²⁰ On Thursday, it was decided by the Scouters that patrols were to go on expeditions by themselves, so the Kingfisher Patrol and the Falcon Patrol went together while the Seagull and the Curlew went together.

At 10.10 am, we left the camp after being inspected and our arrangements were to go to Whitehouse and then find our own way out.²¹ When we were going along the road, we saw a hawk searching for it's prey and after ten minutes, it swooped down to pick up its prey. We eventually got to Whitehouse and bought some food in the small shop there. We continued out of Whitehouse for another 1/2 mile until we came to a small road leading to the sea. We went down it and climbed over a few gates until we reached a field, and then Bang Bang⁸ asked if anyone had his cape²², but no-one did, so he went back to find it. We continued on after Bill⁸ had found his cape and had lunch so(on) afterwards. For lunch, we had cheese sandwiches, and apples, coffee and biscuits. As we were going along the road, Bill⁸ spotted a life jacket so he picked it up and brought it home. A few minutes later, we saw a boat and went up on it to see into another one which was anchored out a bit.²³ Then after this, we came back²⁴ and played football.

For tea, we had chips and cornflakes. Later on in the evening, we had arsb²⁵ ever so¹⁷ campfire, after which we went to pit about 11.00 PM.

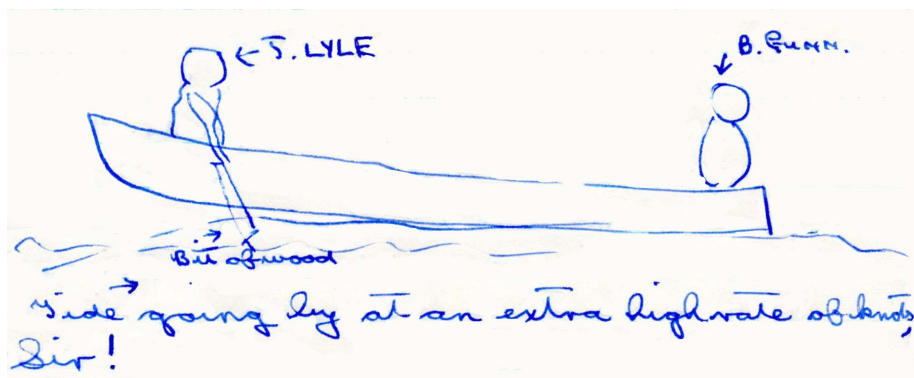
P.S. Two new boys came, Duncan Malcolm and Gordon Morris.

Charles R Stewart.

Very good log,

A.B. Cram S.M. 20.8.66

10 + 2⁷



Saturday 20th August, 1966

At 7:30, we were woken by a Scouter and we slowly, laboriously got dressed. Charles²⁶ went for stores, and for breakfast we had cornflakes, French toast, chips and oranges and coffee.

After breakfast, there was flag break, inspection and a short Scouts Own. After the Scouters had done²⁷ every patrol, we had a game of football. After this, Bill⁸ and I²⁸ went down to the road and fixed up the notice for the parents,²⁹ while Peter³⁰ was making a notice-board and Jim Barr was doing the dry log³¹.

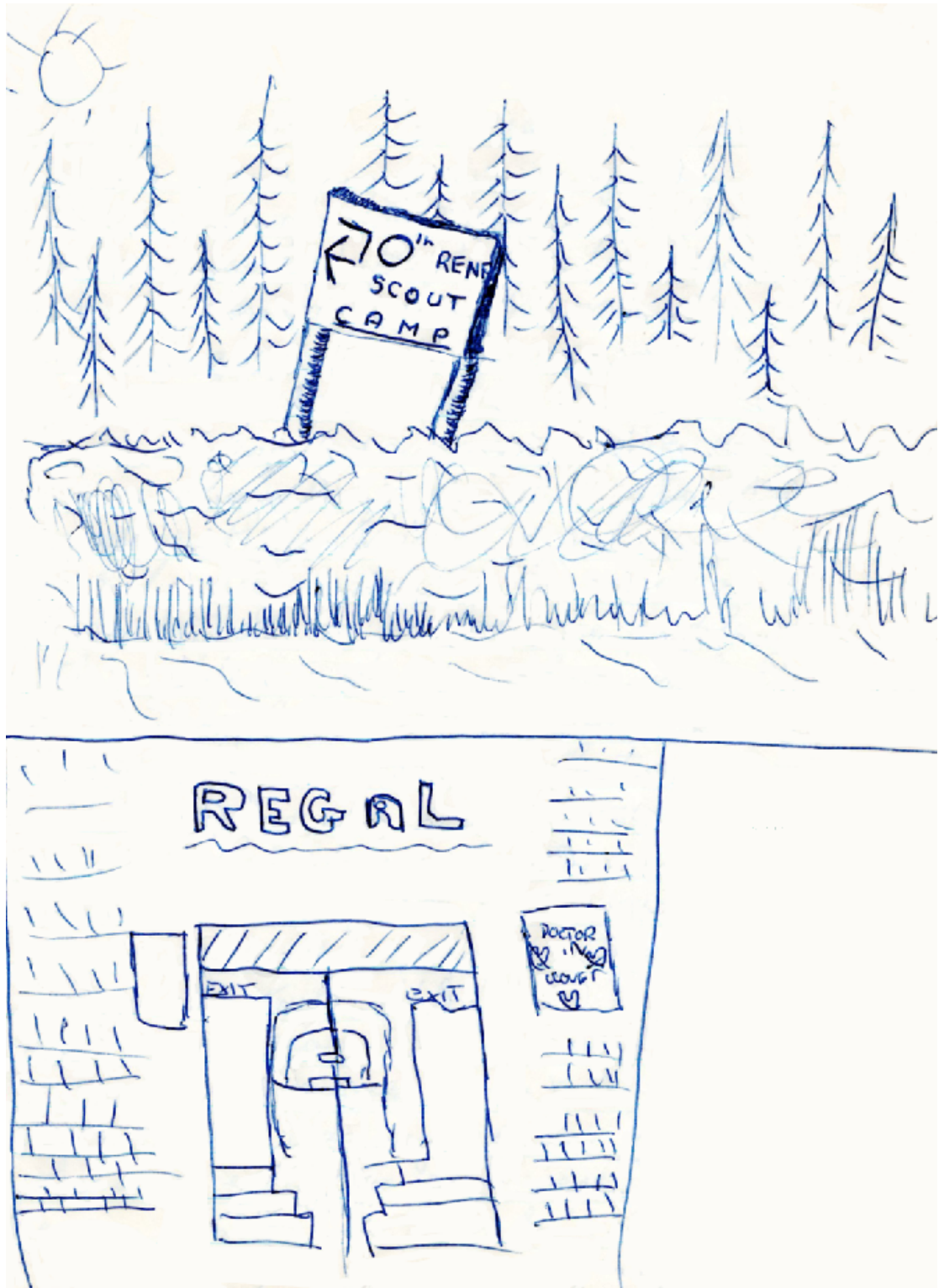
At dinner time, skipper³² came to our kitchen and for dinner we had sausages, onions, potatoes and soup, all before great custard and stewed rhubarb. ['It was ever-so' ABC]³³ After dinner, Jimmy Duncan and David White of our patrol and John Martin and Alex Aitkenhead came to camp.³⁴ The new scouts who were invested before camp³⁵ went to the Scouters kitchen for fodder³⁶ while others went for a swim³⁷.

During the afternoon, Billy⁸ carried his kit to the Bell (Ding-Dong) tent as he was to become a Scouter [T.L. wo/patrol].³⁸ David³⁹ became the P.L. For tea, we had tuna fish and vegetable salad.

At 5:25, three whistles were blown and we headed down to the road where the mini bus was waiting for us.⁴⁰ We arrived at Tarbert and various groups of us went to the cafe, the boats, walks and some to the cemet(e)ry. We all, except a few who were still mooning about, went to the pictures at 7:30 PM. The first film⁴¹ was 'Shores' which was about the hazards at sea and the way the lifeboats went out to rescue them. The other film was 'Doctor in Clover' with James Robertson Justice. It was ever so delirious⁴². After the pictures, we rushed to the chip shop and after a few minutes, we got the minibus home.

As there was no campfire, we went straight to pit.

Gordon Morris



An A.I. log - the best ever
A.B. Cram S.M.

Sunday 21st August 1966

We woke at about 7.30 and had a breakfast of cornflakes, black pudding, ham and tomatoes. Flagbreak was at 9:30 and D. White received his Explorer Badge, Scout cords and PL's tapes⁴³. We had a short Scouts Own, then inspection.

The minibus⁴⁰ took us to Tarbert and we marched to the church for the service. At 12:30, we came out and marched down into the village.⁴⁴ As it was visiting day for the parents, some were waiting there for their offspring. We had about quarter of an hour in Tarbert then set off towards camp. The minibus met us and took us to the site.

Lunch consisted of ham and pineapple and jelly.

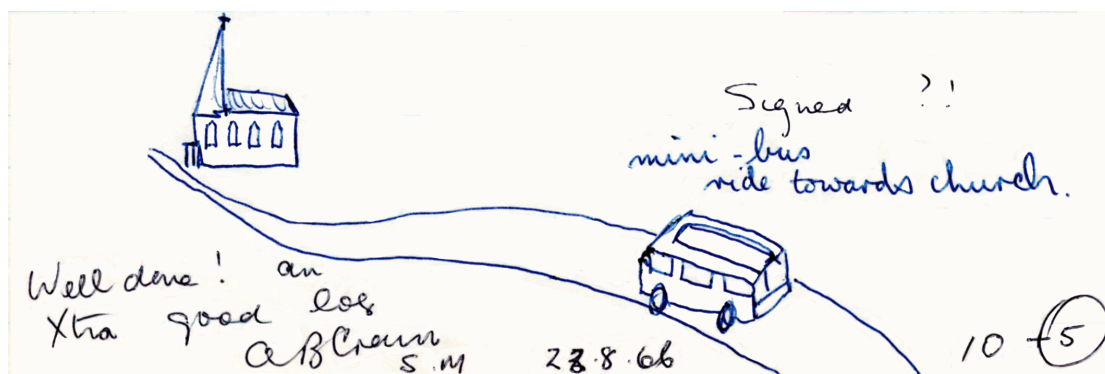
In the afternoon, Gordon Morris and I⁴⁵ passed our 1st-class felling axe.

Tea was soup, steak and potatoes, rice pudding and coffee.

We had a game of football then campfire was lit and the singsong started.

We had cocoa and three varieties of cake which was great! We went to pit at approximately 10.15.

P.S. Wëll⁴⁶, everso deliriously.⁴⁵



Well done! An extra good log.

AB Cram S.M. 23.8.66

10 + 5⁷

Monday 22nd August 1966

Today, we got up at 08.00 and although we were late, we managed to get stores. For breakfast, we had om(e)lette, cornflakes, chits and coffee. Then, after tidying up, 3 whistles were blown for instection⁴⁷. John Lyle¹⁹ broke the flag and after a hymn, reading and a prayer, we were dismissed, and we all rushed down to our sites for further inspection.

After changing⁴⁸, we had a game of football which we won (4-3) in extra time. When football was finished, some people went with skipper¹⁶ to do semaphore, well Alec⁴⁹ took some people to start on an aerial runway. Others did their trees.⁵⁰

Charles²⁶ collected stores and for dinner, we had tomatoes, cold meat and chits. After dinner, we got on with the runway and each patrol had his own part to play.

For tea, we had mince, onions, custard and stewed apples. Wëäll⁴⁶, I might just say it was delirious⁴². *[Might you just]*.⁵¹

After tea, we all boarded the minibus⁴⁰ as we were going to the pictures and Mr Blair⁵² was paying for us. The films which were ever so good were 'Geronimo's Revenge'⁵³ and the 'Monkey's Uncle'.⁵⁴

None of us bought chips as the shop was shut. We boarded the minibus home and when we got home, we got cocoa from the Scouters. During this, John Lyle was very badly scalded and Robin⁹ rendered First Aid. After, the older Scouts got ready for a midnight hike.

P.S. A brammar⁵⁵ day.

Gordon Morris



And a brammar log. R.K. Miller G.S.M. 23-8-66

Could we please have a map of the site⁵⁶ and a description of the midnight hike.

10+4⁷

Tuesday 23rd August, 1966

About midnight, we assembled at the Scouter's kitchen for cocoa and to prepare for the hike. While the cocoa was being made, it's accidentally fell over and badly burned John Lyle.

At 12:30, seven of us left for a midnight hike while the rest went to bed.

The hike was along the road towards Whitehouse until we came to the junction where we took the Skipness Road and walked along it to the end. We arrived at the camp when dawn was breaking about 5:30 am.

We all arose extra late and the GSM¹¹ took John Lyle to the doctor in Tarbert.

The extra late breakfast consisted of cornflakes, slice and fried eggs and chits.

Inspection was at 2 PM and we amassed 29 points, 1 less than standard.

Afternoon activities followed and the aerial runway was continued with. During the afternoon, Jimmy,⁵⁷ Gordon²⁸ and Peter Robertson found a young squirrel that seemed to have lost its parents.

Tea consisted of sausage and eggs, tea and chits.

There was a treasure hunt for the younger Scouts in the evening, after which there was campfire which was ever so deliriously¹⁷. The farmer's daughters and some friends⁵⁸ of W. Gunn's were also there. Campfire ended at about 10.30 and after a short PLs' meeting we went to pit

Skipper¹⁶ and Duncan Malcolm left during the day.

David White

P.L. of the Falcons

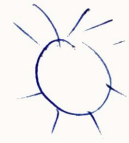
Weather. I might just say it was XTRA deliriously ever so he said (it was great).

Tests Passed: Common Trees by Charles Stewart. J. Tait did part of his cooking.

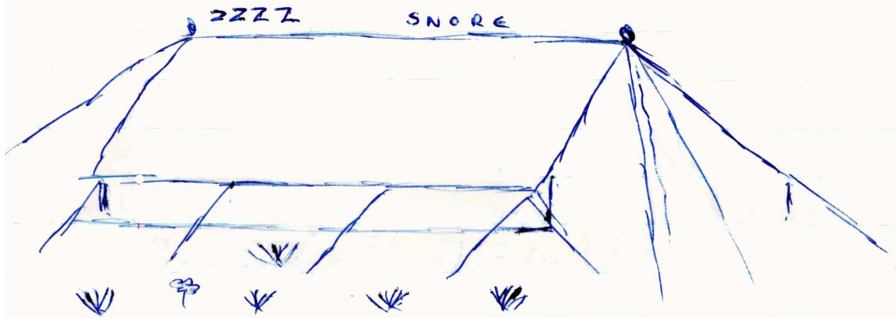
We-ell, we might just, mightn't we?

R.K. Miller GSM, 24.8.66

10+7⁷

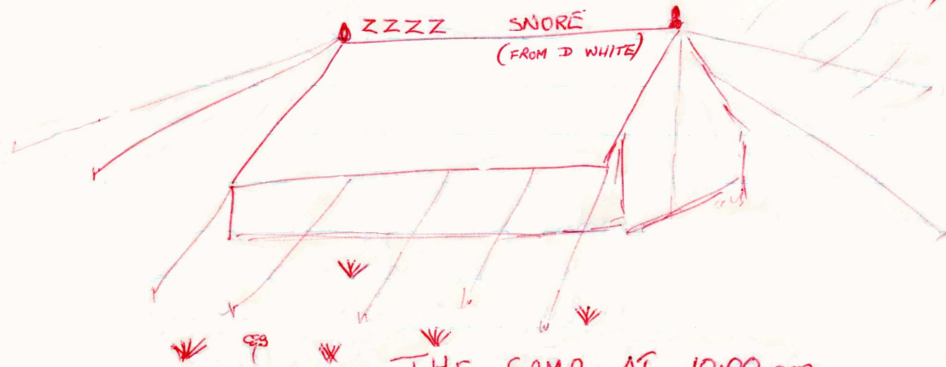


SILENCE



THE CAMP AT 8:00 am.

SILENCE



THE CAMP AT 10:00 am

OR SHOULD I SAY
THE FALCONS AT 11:00 am

Wednesday 24th August 1966

Today we did a dreaded⁵⁹, we got up at 8:45. After a mad rush, we all got up and got our breakfast which was bacon and egg, cornflakes and jammy (Chivers advertisement) chits. We managed to get our kitchen ready for inspection. After flagdown⁶⁰ in sunshine, the Scouters raced to the Seagull first to inspect.

After inspection, we lazed about in the sun on our groundsheet, then we went to football which we lost. After football, there was a swimming parade⁶¹ in which there was a slight accident when David Shearer went out of his depth after swimming.⁶²

For dinner we had mushroom soup, macaroni and cheese, and jelly.

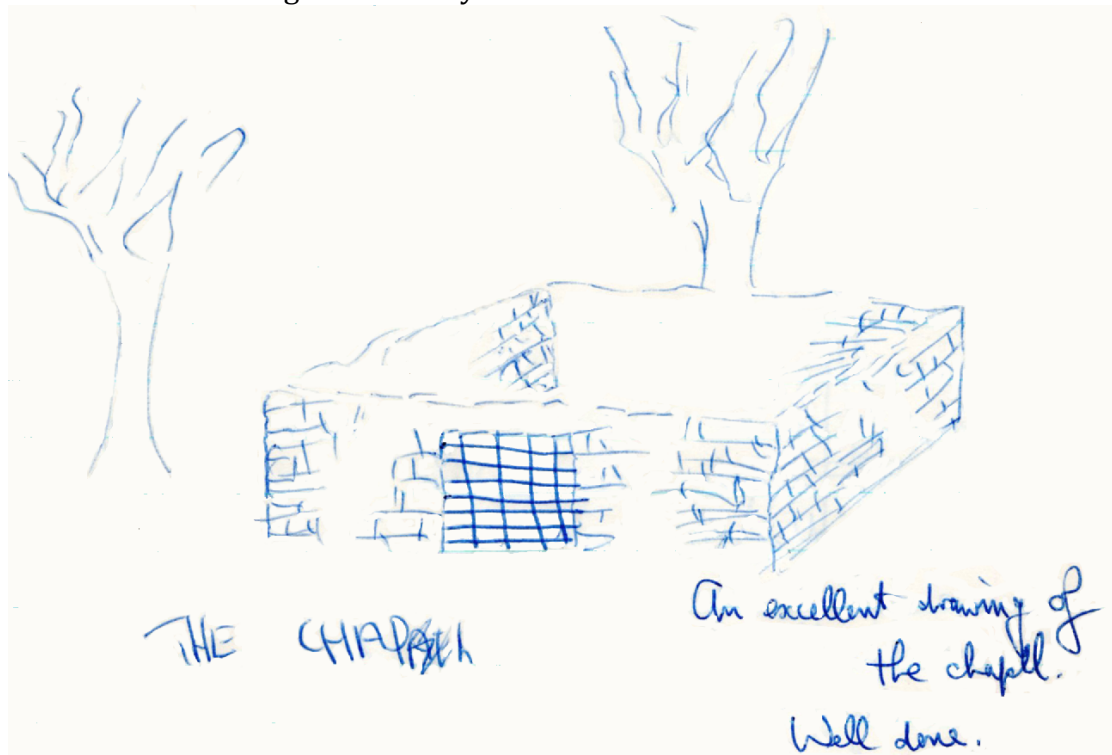
After dinner, Alec⁴⁹ came down and was feeding the squirrel⁶³ with some milk. During the afternoon, there was a stunt put on by Bob⁶⁴. A patrol had to pass water up a tree and fill a dixie of water until it balanced with an bag of water. The Seagull won in four minutes. Jimmy⁵⁷, Jim Barr, John M.⁶⁵, Charles²⁶ and I⁴⁵ went down with Bob to do tracking on the beach.

For tea, we had steak and chips and lem.

At 8.00, we met at the flagpole and set off towards the chapel.⁶⁶ After passing three pylons, we reached the chapel and after going around the wall, twice with hat on and once off, we went in⁶⁷. Russell is doomed.⁶⁸ We then went to the tree trunk (water barrel)⁶⁹ which DX⁷⁰ jumped into.

When we came home, we had campfire with some visitors.⁷¹

The weather was bright and sunny and the food excellent.⁴⁵



An excellent drawing of the chapel. Well done. Russell is doomed!

R.K. Miller GSM

25.8.66

10+8⁷

Thursday 25th August, 1966

We arose at 7.00 for once! We were Duty Patrol and David³⁹ and me⁵⁷ went for milk.⁷² Breakfast was cornflakes, French toast and bacon. After flagbreak and inspection, W. Gunn and a squad of helpers killed⁷³ the marquee⁷⁴ and transported it to the road by the truck.⁷⁵ Charles²⁶ passed some tests and has only his retest⁷⁶ to do for his 2nd Class.⁷⁷

For lunch, we had meat chits, jelly and cornies to eat up stores we had left. By this time, it was Xtra warm and after lunch, I⁵⁷ had a sunbathe.

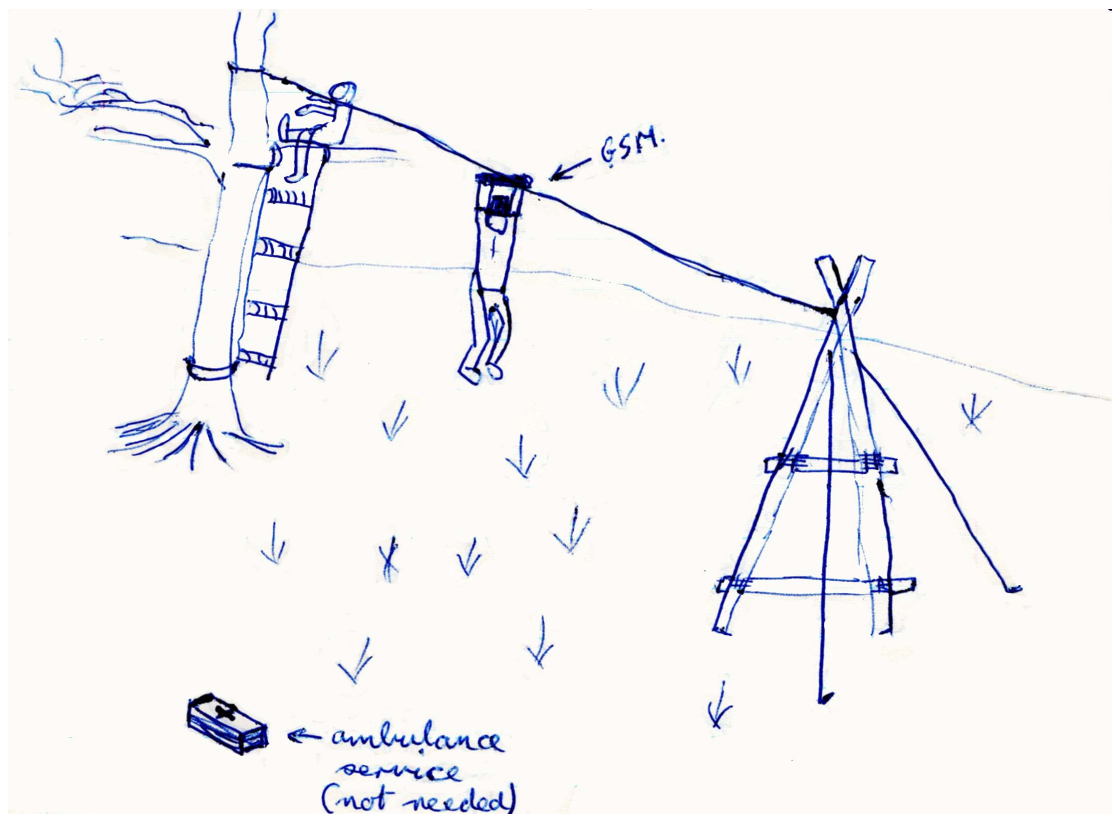
Then the fabulous game of football! The other side won by one goal. After this, the aerial runway was erected and everyone had fits⁷⁸ down it. We were disappointed nobody did a reverse egg flip with lateral roll through the trestle.⁷⁹ After W. Gunn greased the rope it went like a bomb!

For tea, we had beans, sausages and Birds Instant Whip.

Then I⁵⁷ did a Tarzan up a tree and with one slash of my razor sharp knife, one kitchen shelter bit the dust. The gadgets were next and the altar fire last.

The ADC⁸⁰ for Argyll or something visited us in the evening along with his pet midges. After this, an extra-brillo⁸¹ delirious campfire. Robin the Witch Doctor⁸² performed⁸³ and GSM¹¹ accompanied the singing of many songs with the penny whistle he had made. The customary "dumps"⁸⁴ was delirious⁴² as usual and many biscuits were consumed by the mob. The cocoa arrived late and I⁵⁷ think that it went over more shoulders than down throats. We went to pit after this Xtra fav. delir.⁸⁵ campfire. A supercalifragilisticexpialidocious⁸⁶ day.

Signed J. Duncan 2nd Falcon



*Excellent Log! Well done for producing a complete account of the camp to date. R.
Crawford A.S.M. 26.8.66
10+7⁷*

Friday 26th August 1966

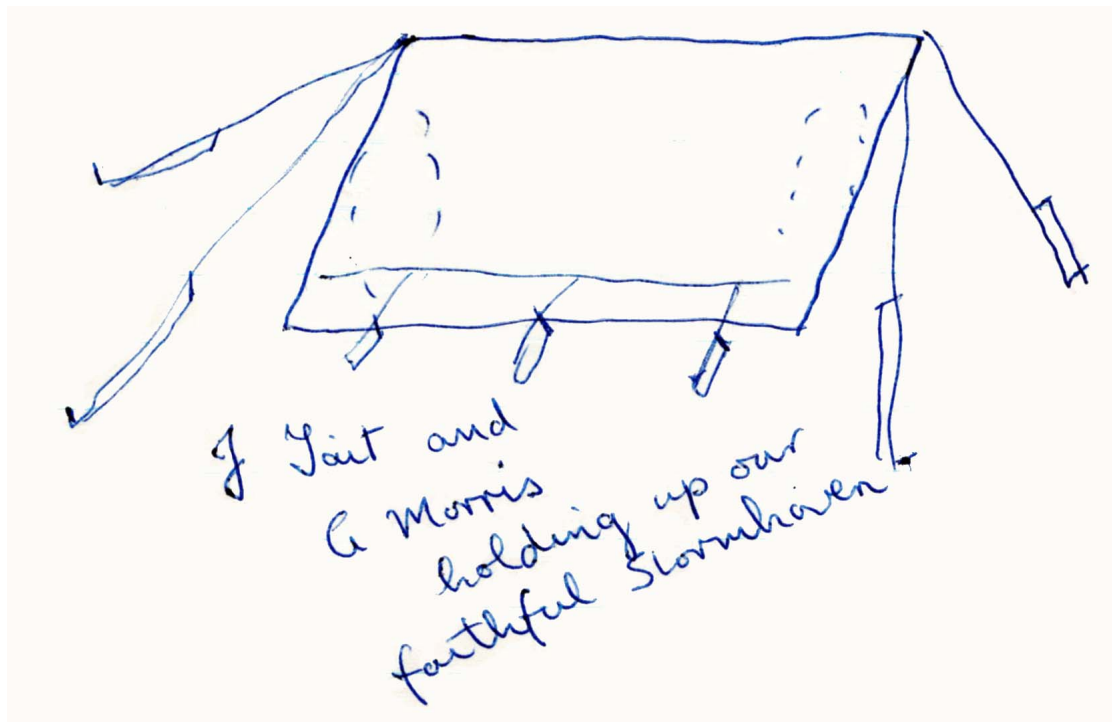
We rose at 7:10 am and started to cook breakfast of bacon and eggs and chits. Then we finished off clearing the kitchen and tent. S.O.⁸⁷ was at 9:30 and afterwards we took down the tent and helped transport the troop equipment over to the minivans.⁵

We left the site at 11:30 am and arrived on Tarbert about 12.00 am. As W. Gunn, J. Lyle, J. Tait and myself³⁹ were the only people there, we had to unload the mini vans. When the steamer arrived, we loaded the gear and R. Reid, R. Morrison and myself³⁹ got on the R.M.S. Loch Fyne to tidy the kit on the way to Ardrishaig. When the boat returned to Tarbert, the rest of the boys had eaten a packed lunch and were to get on board immediately. After everybody was on board, the Loch Fyne left, without GSM¹¹ and R. Morrison who were going home by V.W.⁸⁸ So ended another year's Summer Camp.

Signed

David White P.L. of the Falcons

Verdict. An excellent camp with much better weather and food improvements on last year, although still the same dreaded midges.



A good effort by all!

R. Crawford A.S.M.

10+6⁷

Editorial comments

1. Gourock Pier
2. R.M.S stands for Royal Mail Ship indicating that it carried Royal Mail. The ship was built by William Denny and Brothers in Clydebank in 1931 and carried mail to Ardrishaig. She remained in service until 1969. She has also been referred to as MV Loch Fyne, where MV stands for Motor Vessel. The boat had two funnels, one of which was a dummy funnel.
3. The 'Maids of Bute' are two painted stones at Buttock Point at the north end of Bute. Tradition has it that they represent the wives of two fishermen lost at sea and that they waited so long for their husbands' return that they turned to stone.
4. As stated by Robin Crawford in his comments at the end of the entry, this should be spelt 'Tarbert'.
5. Presumably, these were hired and were local to Tarbert. However, it is not known who hired them out.
6. An additional comment by Charles, possibly made following corrections by Robin Crawford or Billy Gunn.
7. David White has stated that it was standard to get 10 marks for a log entry, and so there was keen interest in seeing what the bonus marks would be.
8. Billy Gunn.
9. A.S.M. Robin Crawford. It was usual for Scouters to eat with the patrols for one of the day's meals to ensure that everyone was eating properly.
10. The name of Jim Barr's Patrol was not identified in the log book, but was presumably the Curlew Patrol.
11. Short for 'Group Scout Master' or GSM. This was Bob Miller, who had resigned as Scout Master just before the summer and taken up the role of GSM. Alastair Cram had taken over the role of Scout Master. The 1966 Summer Camp was Bob's last Summer Camp with the 70th.
12. Each patrol was expected to build camp gadgets for their kitchen shelter. These could be things like mug trees, plate racks, basin racks, fencing etc.
13. There may well have been vegetables to go along with that.
14. The author did not identify himself. It may well have been the youngest Scout in the Patrol. The sketches associated with this day's entry look as they have been drawn by a different member of the patrol.
15. There was probably a camp shop at the QM's store which sold lemonade and crisps.
16. Scout Master, Alastair B. Cram.
17. This was clearly an 'in word' for 1966, meaning 'ever so good'.
18. Possibly meaning 'pretty good'. The lack of bonus marks clearly implies the unstated addendum, 'could do better'. In general, comments on the log were designed to be positive, with suggestions on what could be added to gain bonus marks.
19. PL of the Kingfisher Patrol.
20. The subsequent part of the entry implies that this was a false rumour.
21. It's not clear whether this meant finding their own way back to camp or their own way out to some other objective. The latter seems more likely, but the objective was not identified.

22. Outdoor clothing was pretty rudimentary in the 1960s and many Scouts used a bicycle cape as a waterproof. This had the advantage that it could keep a rucksack dry as well.
23. The associated sketch implies that they fashioned an oar out of a piece of wood to row the first boat out to the other one. It is likely that this occurred at Gartnagrenach Bay (Gid ref. 802606).
24. Presumably to the campsite.
25. Meaning unclear.
26. Charles Stewart.
27. Inspected
28. Gordon Morris
29. Parents normally visited their offspring on the Sunday and it was usual to place some kind of signage that would direct the parents to the campsite.
30. Peter Robertson.
31. It's not clear what a 'dry log' was meant to be. Another possibility is that this was meant to be 'dry bog' – possibly meaning a chemical toilet.
32. This time it was S.M. Alastair Cram's turn to eat at the Falcon Patrol kitchen site.
33. Additional comment made to the log by Alastair Cram, confirming that a good meal had been had.
34. It's not clear why so many Scouts appeared at this point. One possibility is that the camp clashed with the Greenock fair fortnight and these Scouts had been away with their parents on holiday before the camp.
35. This is a bit misleading as it suggests that the Scouts had only just joined the troop. In fact, they had joined round about the summer of 1965, and this was their first full summer camp. The Scouts concerned were John Tait, Russell Reid, Stanley Anderson, Alan Anderson and Kenneth MacKenzie.
36. This may well have been the first GSM's or GSL's tea party held exclusively for first time campers. The tea party became a long-lasting tradition at summer camps and was presumably another innovation introduced by Bob Miller.
37. Presumably in the loch
38. The entry in square brackets was a correction made by Alastair Cram. Billy Gunn was not becoming a Scouter, but he was joining the leader team as the newly promoted Troop Leader without patrol. This is the only time on record when a troop leader was appointed at camp.
39. David White.
40. This was presumably hired from a local bus company.
41. In the 1950s and 1960s, it was common to have a short information film before the main feature film.
42. Another 'in word' for something that was very good.
43. This is believed to be the only time in the 70th's history that a Scout was promoted to Patrol Leader at camp.
44. It is assumed that the colours were carried and that the troop formally paraded.
45. Author did not identify himself.
46. Presumably another 'in word', the origins of which are not known.
47. Inspection
48. Scouts had to be in uniform for inspection.
49. Alec Aitkenhead

50. This involved identifying different trees from their leaves.
51. Additional comment made by Bob Miller
52. It is not identified whether Mr. Blair was a local Tarbert resident or not. The Scouts at a previous camp at Tarbert were also treated to the cinema.
53. A Western film that was released in 1960 by Walt Disney productions.
54. An American comedy film released in 1965 by Walt Disney Productions.
55. Another in word of the time meaning marvelous.
56. Unfortunately, no such map was added.
57. Jimmy Duncan
58. Identify unknown
59. An in word for something bad.
60. Should be 'flagbreak'.
61. It's not clear whether there was any significance in this being a parade.
62. No other information was provided. Presumably David survived!
63. See the entry for Tuesday 23rd August.
64. Bob Miller.
65. Probably John Martin
66. Location to be identified
67. This may well have been a ceremony invented by Bob Miller to ward off evil spirits.
68. This would refer to Russell Reid, who probably entered the chapel without carrying out the 'ceremony' properly.
69. It's not clear what this was.
70. It's not known who DX was.
71. It's not known who these were.
72. Presumably this may have involved hiking to a nearby farm to collect the milk for the day. At some camps this came in a churn, but it is not known whether this was the case here.
73. In other words they brought it down.
74. This is the first reported instance of a marquee being present at a 70th summer camp. A marquee was particularly useful on wet days for activities.
75. No details regarding the truck are known.
76. The retest involved demonstrating that one could still do the Scouting skills related to the Tenderfoot Badge, as well as going over the Scout Law and Promise again.
77. At the time, the progressive training scheme in Scouts involved passing the Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class Badges, all of which included tests aimed at enhancing Scouting skills. The ultimate goal was the Queen's Scouts Badge.
78. An odd word to choose. It is not known whether there was any significance to it.
79. The rules relating to aerial runways in the 1960s were more relaxed than they are now and there was no requirement for a proper seat. The sketch in the log implies that Bob Miller slid down hanging onto a piece of wood and it is known that this was done at the summer camp of Arduaine (1961). However, photos taken at the camp show that the younger Scouts, at least, used a rudimentary seat.
80. Assistant District Commissioner

81. Yet another 'in word' which seems to have had a longer life time than words such as 'eversor' or 'delirious'.
82. Presumably, this relates to him being the First Aider at camp.
83. Unfortunately, it is not known what he performed.
84. This would be the traditional dumpling that was usually made by Bob Miller in camp.
85. Probably short for 'favourite delirious'
86. Note that the Mary Poppins film was released in 1964 and was showing in British cinemas during 1965. Primary School pupils of the time considered it important to pronounce the 'word' as fluently as possible. Possibly Secondary School pupils did too.
87. Scout's Own
88. This is either V.W. or U.W. Presumably it relates to Bob Miller's car, which might have been a Volkswagon.