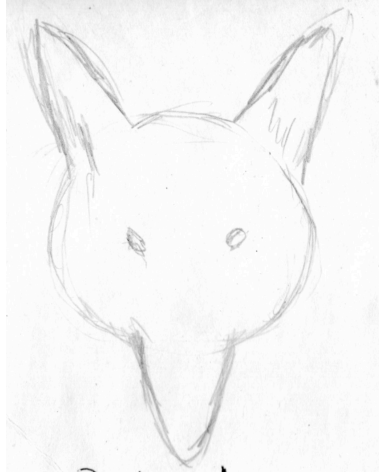


**Arduaine Summer Camp  
Fox Patrol Log  
1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 1961**



**FOX PATROL<sup>1</sup>**

PL Ronald Lind (Fox)  
Second Michael Nisbet (Curlew)  
Ian Paterson (Falcon)  
Alan Jeyes (Fox)  
Robin Crawford (Fox)

*Editorial Comments*

*1. The Patrol in camp was called the Fox patrol since the majority of members present were from the normal Fox patrol. The patrols provided in brackets identify the normal patrols for each Scout.*

## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 1961

We met at 8:30 hours at the hall. After Bob<sup>1</sup> found reverse, we finally got the van onto the pavement and got the 'minibus' loaded<sup>2</sup>. At approximately 9.15 hours, we left the hall.<sup>3</sup> We proceeded down Madeira Street to the garage opposite the "Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital".<sup>4</sup> With difficulty, we got in there and put some air in the tyres.

Leaving the garage, we went to Erskine Ferry,<sup>5</sup> where we had to wait in a long queue. When we got on the ferry, Bob pronounced that he liked the blokes on Renfrew Ferry<sup>6</sup> that came up to the gates about "50 mph" and stopped within about 1 foot of the ramp gates<sup>7</sup>. We got across on the ferry and managed to get up the ramp<sup>8</sup> without stopping (wonders will never cease). We then rambled on and reached the bottom of "Rest and be Thankful".<sup>9</sup> We stopped there and had a rest and stretched our legs.<sup>10</sup> We were there for a quarter of an hour. We then pushed on to Inverary<sup>11</sup> where we had our PL<sup>12</sup>. At Inverary, we had three quarters of an hour. We, that is Moorie<sup>13</sup>, Hooji<sup>14</sup>, R. Berry<sup>15</sup> and I<sup>16</sup> or is it me) purchased some badges for our aneroids<sup>17</sup>. After that, we pressed on and reached the campsite<sup>18</sup> at approximately 15:30 hours.

The first thing we did was choose our sites. We chose a site near the Scouters<sup>18</sup>. Our site is in a valley<sup>18</sup>. We pitched our tent which is the Stormhaven.<sup>19</sup> After pitching the tent, we dug a fireplace<sup>20</sup>. We lit a fire and had a tea of B and B (beans and bangers).

After clearing up after tea, we put up the kitchen shelter. It began to rain when we were doing so. After getting a sort of shelter up, we went for cocoa, but alas and alack, due to inefishincy<sup>21</sup> by the TL<sup>22</sup>, the fire went out so we had to have a drink of milk instead.

We went to pit<sup>23</sup> at approximately 22.30 hours.

Ron (PL)<sup>16</sup>

B,B,B+B = Beans, bangers, bread and butter<sup>24</sup>

### *Editorial Comments for the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1961*

1. Bob Miller

2. This may have been the first time that the Troop hired a minibus for camp. The minibus actually looked like a dormobile (see also Figure 2). The coach hire was £25, insurance was £11, and petrol was £5-6-9, making a total of £41-6-9. This would be the equivalent in value of £1,176 today (2023).

3. Finnart Church Hall

4. The Ear, Nose and Throat hospital was built on the south side of Eldon Street in 1937, and demolished in the 1990s. It is not yet known which garage was on the opposite side of the road

5. The Erskine ferry operated just east of the current bridge and was pulled across the river on chains. The road leading up to the ferry at Erskine was marked to indicate how long one would have to wait if one was waiting in the queue at that point.

6. The Renfrew Ferry still operates. In the 1960s, it was a car ferry, but, after 1984, it operated as a passenger ferry only.

7. This might suggest that Renfrew ferry employees drove the cars onto the ferry, rather than the car owners.

8. Presumably the concrete ramp from the river up to the approach road on the north side.

9. The "Rest and be Thankful" is the highest point on the road between Arrochar and Loch Fyne.

10. See photo on the website, which includes the minibus.

11. Inveraray



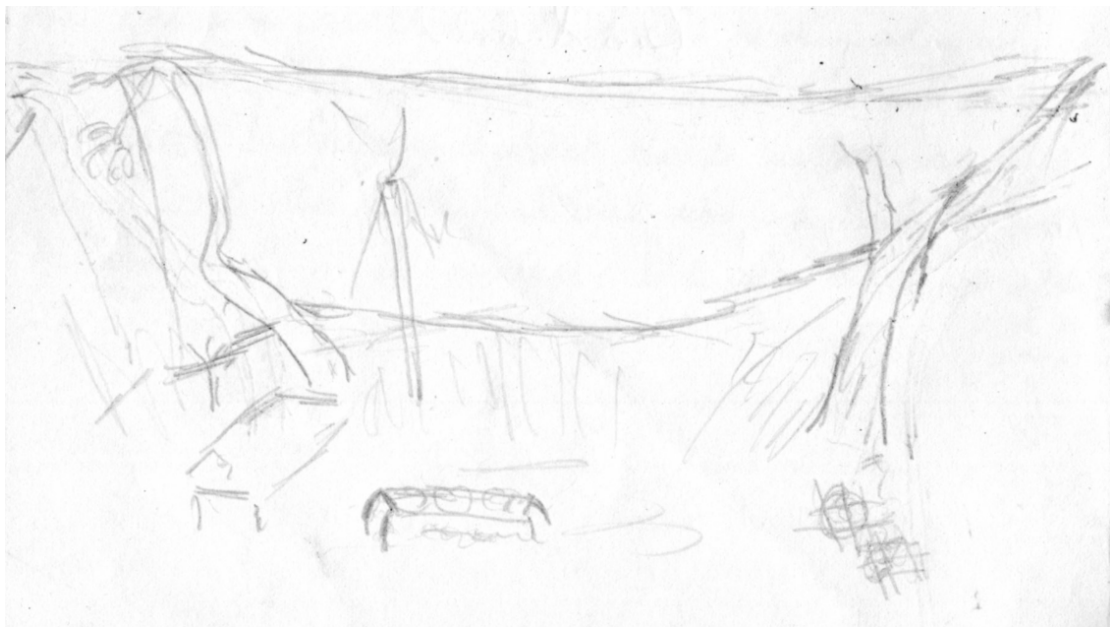
12. Packed Lunch
13. John Moore
14. Michael Hodge
15. Raymond Berry
16. Ronald Lind
17. Presumably this should be anoraks. In the sixties, it was common to collect badges and/or pennants from different villages, towns and cities.
18. The campsite was about a mile due west of Kames Farm, and was situated within a 'notch' between a small hill and the slopes of Beinn Chaorach (See also Figure 1). The Grid reference was 812113. The Fox Patrol tent and kitchen shelter were located within the notch itself. The Scouters camped downhill from the notch on the east side, whereas the other two patrols camped downhill on the west side.
19. This may have been a relatively recent acquisition. A Stormhaven tent and associated groundsheet were purchased in June 1959 at a cost of £31-16-6 (the equivalent in value to about £900 today (as of 2023)
20. This, plus the sketch (Figure 3), indicates that a pit fire was used rather than an altar fire. The tarpaulin used for the shelter looks as if it was draped over tree branches.
21. inefficiency (Possibly this was deliberately misspelt to emphasise the point)
22. Troop Leader. The Troop Leader was Alastair Cram so he presumably was making the cocoa on the Scouter's fire and let the fire go out.
23. Pit was the term used at the time for bed or sleeping bag.
24. Additional comment made by a Scouter on reading the log book. It relates to the entry 'B & B' in Ronald's account, probably because there was an additional B & B that was scored.



Figure 1 Map of Campsite



*Figure 2 The minibus loaded to the gunnels en route to camp.*



*Figure 3 Sketch of Fox Patrol Kitchen site.*

## Wednesday, 2 August 1961

We got up at approximately 7.30 hours a.m. and proceeded to get the fire<sup>1</sup> going and have a breakfast of porridge, sliced sausages and fried eggs. We then washed up and cleaned the kitchen for inspection<sup>2</sup>. After inspection, which our patrol won, there was a short Scouts Own<sup>3</sup> lasting about five minutes, followed by a five minutes each way game of football, won by J. Moore's<sup>4</sup> team.

There was then a job given to each<sup>5</sup> in which we had to carry the hamper from the minibus to the camp and also post various notices<sup>6</sup>.

Al's<sup>7</sup> Patrol had to dig Jasper<sup>8</sup> and Aus's<sup>9</sup> patrol had to find a flagpole<sup>10</sup>.

During the jobs, two members of each patrol cooked a lunch of mince, potatoes and carrots followed by custard and rhubarb.

After lunch was free time in which two members of the patrol and myself<sup>11</sup> went into Arduaine for some supplies and sweets etc. During the free time, Ron<sup>12</sup> and Niz junior<sup>13</sup> arranged our kitchen shelter and posted a few notices<sup>6</sup>. While in Arduaine, I was surprised by a visit from my father who gave us a lift back to camp and had a look round.

The tea consisted of French toast<sup>14</sup>, some bread and a cup of tea. After tea followed an excursion to the top of the hill beside the campsite<sup>15</sup>. During this, Ron<sup>12</sup> and I stayed behind to look after the cocoa and the dumpling.<sup>16</sup> After the excursion, we had cocoa and dump<sup>17</sup> and then went to pit (Figure 4).<sup>18</sup>

Alan Jeyes (2<sup>nd</sup> Scout)

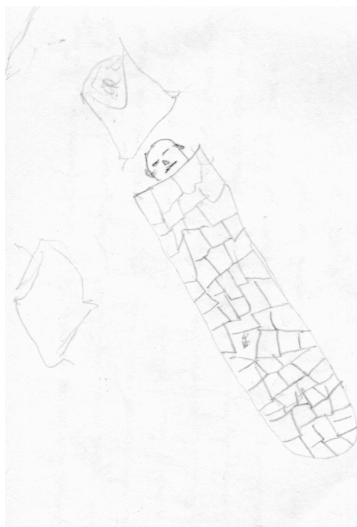


Figure 4 Scout in pit (sleeping bag).

Who is in the Patrol? What is the patrol name? R.K. Miller (Thursday 3/8/61)  
Required: Patrol animal (dead or alive) in log book. J.H. Nisbet (3/8/61).<sup>19</sup>

### *Editorial Comments on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1961*

1. Each patrol was self sufficient in having its own patrol tent and kitchen shelter. All meals were cooked by the patrols themselves over wood fires. Each patrol was also expected to build camp gadgets for their kitchen shelter and patrol site.

2. Inspection was held each morning after flagbreak, by which time the patrols should have finished breakfast and tidied up. The patrol tent and contents were inspected for tidiness, while the kitchen shelter was inspected to ensure that dishes and cooking utensils have been properly washed up.

*Points were also awarded for any gadgets that had been constructed. It is possible that the Scouts themselves were inspected to ensure that they had washed (especially hands).*

*3. A Scouts Own was a religious service that was organised and run by the Scouts and Scouters themselves. The Summer Camp of 1961 was perhaps unique in having a Scouts Own every morning with a different Scout Law covered at each one; there were 10 Scout Laws at the time. Each Scouts Own was led by a PL or a Scouter.*

*4. John Moore was Second of the Cuckoo Patrol led by Albert Runcie (Oz).*

*5. Presumably a different task was assigned to each patrol*

*6. The Fox patrol carried the hamper up to the campsite. The notices may have been signs that would direct visitors/parents to the campsite*

*7. Alastair Cram, who was PL of a Hippopotamus Patrol.*

*8. The bog pit / latrines. The term 'Jasper' originated from a previous camp at Blairmore, where the latrine pit was first used by a dog called Jasper.*

*9. Oz was the nickname of Albert Runcie, who was PL of the Cuckoo Patrol in camp*

*10. This would have to be a substantial tree as the flagpole was the main flagpole for camp. It's not known whether a suitable tree was chopped down for the purpose or not. The flagpole at Arduaine was estimated to be 25' high (Figure 8) and was built on top of the hillock overlooking the campsite.*

*11. Alan Jeyes*

*12. Ronald Lind*

*13. Michael Nisbet was nicknamed Niz junior or Young Niz to distinguish him from his older brother John Nisbet who was also nicknamed NIZ.*

*14. Bread was dipped in egg, then fried.*

*15. Beinn Chaorach (814') Grid ref 811102*

*16. A traditional camp treat that was usually cooked in camp by Bob Miller.*

*17. Dumpling*

*18. Pit was the term used at the time for bed or sleeping bag.*

*19. Feedback comments provided by Scout Master Bob Miller and ASM John Nisbet.*

## Thursday, 3rd August 1961

We got up at 7:30 today. We got the fire going and had a breakfast of corn flakes, bacon and eggs. After breakfast, we got ready for inspection. At approximately 10.7<sup>1</sup>, we had flagbreak<sup>2</sup>.

After flagbreak, we had inspection. We then had a Scouts Own in the Scouters kitchen. The Scouts Own was given by big Niz<sup>3</sup>.

After the Scouts Own, we had a game of shove ha'penny<sup>4</sup> in the Scouters kitchen, which was won by Bob's<sup>5</sup> side. Kipper<sup>6</sup> had a headache, took a M.O.M.<sup>7</sup> and went to pit<sup>8</sup>. We then cooked and ate dinner of stewed steak, potatoes, jelly and stewed apricots.

The PL and Seconds did pioneering<sup>9</sup> and then hiked to the sawmills<sup>10</sup> about 1½ miles away, while the rest of the troop went in the minibus to Arduaine for stores and then went into Kilmelfort.<sup>11</sup> We arrived home at approximately 17.00 hours.

We prepared and ate a tea of macaroni and cheese. Jeysie<sup>12</sup> and I<sup>13</sup> then went to join Kipper<sup>6</sup> in pit<sup>8,14</sup>. To amuse ourselves, we told each other ghost stories.

Cocoa was brought into us and it was very good<sup>15</sup>.

Robin Crawford (3<sup>rd</sup> Scout)

?! Illustrations, please! RK Miller 4/8/61<sup>16</sup>

### *Editorial Comments for 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1961*

1. 10.07a.m.

2. All the patrols were summoned by three whistles to the main flagpole and then flagbreak would be carried out by the PL of the duty patrol that day.

3. ASM John Nisbet

4. This was an indication that the weather that morning was poor. In fact the weather was poor all day.

5. Scout Master Bob Miller.

6. Ian Paterson's nickname was Kipper.

7. Possibly Milk of Magnesia

8. Sleeping bag/bed. Figure 4 was probably a representation of Ian Paterson in his sleeping bag.

9 The pioneering project was not identified. One possibility was an aerial runway into the sea

10. The location of the sawmills was not identified, but another log report suggested that it was on the road towards Kilmelford, possibly near Kames.

11 Kilmelford. The fact that the younger Scouts were driven off in the minibus is another indication of poor weather

12 Alan Jeyes

13. Robin Crawford

14. The fact that the younger Scouts spent the evening in their tents is another indication of poor weather

15. Each PL made cocoa for their 'wee men' and served it to them in the tents.

16 Feedback provided by Bob Miller



## Friday 4th of August 1961

This morning, it was raining so Robin<sup>1</sup>, Jeysie<sup>2</sup> and I<sup>3</sup> stayed in bed for breakfast, while Ron<sup>4</sup> and Nizy<sup>5</sup> made the breakfast. For breakfast we had boiled egg, after which we got up and had a spoonful of porridge because we didn't like it<sup>6</sup>, so we had bread and honey, marmalade etc. etc. etc. After this, we went for a wash, then the rest of the Fox patrol washed dishes and dixies while I<sup>3</sup> did the kits<sup>7</sup>. At 10.01 hours, flagbreak commenced. We got 9 for the tent and 8 for the kitchen.<sup>8</sup>

Today, the Scouts Own was on the third Scout law<sup>9</sup>.

We then had baseball in which the score was 0.0.

After baseball, I<sup>3</sup> played with R. Berry<sup>10</sup> at baseball while Ron<sup>11</sup> dug Jasper<sup>12</sup> and Jeysie<sup>2</sup> and RC<sup>1</sup> made gigets<sup>13</sup>.

Today, I<sup>3</sup> made a dinner of spaghetti and bangers.

After dinner, we went to Obin<sup>14</sup>, and on the way, Chas<sup>15</sup> and I<sup>3</sup> felt sick but we did not spewh<sup>16</sup>.

We reached our destination<sup>17</sup> at 16.00 hours approximately and went away round the town. At 17.00 hours, we met at the bus for tea and corned beef and bread.

We went to the picture "The League of Gentlemen"<sup>18</sup>. We came out at 20.30 hours for chips and on the way home the Scouters saw mini<sup>19</sup> and we had to walk the rest of the way to have cocoa. When we arrived, Wiffle<sup>20</sup> was there to greet us.

Kippar<sup>21</sup>

P.S. P.O.R = Perfectly Oll Right<sup>22</sup>

Log improving. Excellent apart from illustrations and spelling!<sup>23</sup>

### *Editorial Comments for 4th August 1961*

1. Robin Crawford

2. Alan Jeyes

3. Ian Paterson

4. Ronald Lind

5. Michael Nisbet

6. Presumably, they only took one spoonful and did not like it, so did not taken any more.

7. Personal equipment had to be laid in a neat way inside the tent, with each person's equipment laid out in the same manner. Ruscacs would be laid in a row at one side of the tent. Sleeping bags would be folded beside the rucsacs, and possible towels and wash kits were set out as well. At the other side of the tent, part of the groundsheet would be folded back and boots would be placed neatly on the grass. Folding back the groundsheet also meant it was possible to get in and out of the tent without standing on the groundsheet and getting it muddy.

8. After flagbreak, the patrols returned to their patrol sites and waited for the Scouters to appear to carry out inspection. Usually, the patrol lined up and stood to attention when the Scouters appeared. They would then remain at alert while the PL accompanied the Scouters as they did their inspection of the tent and kitchen shelter. After that was over, the patrol would be told to stand at ease.

9. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.

10. Raymond Berry of the Hippopotamus Patrol led by Alastair Cram

11. Ronald Lind

12. Jasper referred to the toilet pit. However, it is not clear why this had not been dug earlier. It was usually dug on the first day.

13. This should be 'gadgets'. Typical gadgets were dish racks, mug trees, cutlery holders, patrol flagpoles, boot scrapers, wet pit, larder, dresser, basin rack, cloths line etc etc. Patrols gained marks for the quantity and quality of their gadgets which had to be made out of natural materials.
14. This should be 'Oban'.
15. Charles Davy of the Hippopotamus Patrol led by Alastair Cram.
16. To spew was to vomit.
17. Should be 'destination'.
18. This comedy film was released in 1960 starring Jack Hawkins, Nigel Patrick, Roger Livesey, Bryan Forbes and Richard Attenborough. The plot involved a group of ex servicemen planning a bank robbery.
19. The 'mini' was the minister in Kilmelford who would be taking the church service on the Sunday. The Scouts had to walk from Kilmelford back to the campsite, which would have taken about an hour.
20. Billy Phillips arrived at the campsite on the Friday having been driven there by his parents. Presumably he was on a family holiday up until that point.
21. Ian Paterson appears to be the only person that spelt his name as 'Kippar' instead of 'Kipper'. Having said that Michael Nisbet spelt it as 'Kippar' in the next log entry. Ian got his nickname because he was renowned for sleeping in.
22. Not clear why this was added, unless it related to feeling ill on the drive into Oban.
23. Comments and feedback from one of the Scouters on reading the log book.

## Saturday 5th August 1961

At 7.15 approximately, we managed to crawl out of the tent to find that the weather was no better. It was dry, but it started to rain in five minutes or so. Cornflakes, black pud. and egg was the menu for breakfast. Flagbreak and inspection was as usual at 10 o'clock. We were duty patrol. We got seven points for the tent and 8 for kitchen + 20 points for gadgets<sup>1</sup>.

Scouts Own was at 10.30 at which Al<sup>3</sup> gave a ramble<sup>4</sup>.

After the mince and onions had been put on, there was a game of baseball. Two sides were picked and the game began. Big Nizzy's<sup>5</sup> side batted first and managed to 1½ runs. Nizzy<sup>5</sup> got a home run but forgot to go round one of the bases; however he was a referee, so he made<sup>6</sup> half a run. Bob<sup>7</sup> in the next innings got a home run with one up<sup>8</sup> beside the flagpole. Nizzy's<sup>5</sup> side didn't score a run in its second innings and the score finally was 2 - 1½.

The wee men (Gorm<sup>9</sup> was there) had a rope game<sup>10</sup> in the woods and it ended in a downpour of rain. Kippar<sup>11</sup>, Jeysie<sup>12</sup> and Robin<sup>13</sup> then went to pihh<sup>14</sup> because of the rain and the PL and Seconds brought them their lunch in bed (mince, potatoes, prunes and custard).

The wee men didn't stay there for long though and got up and washed the dishes. We then made our original gadgets (*Figure 4*).<sup>15</sup>

At about 3.30, we went for a bathe. Bob<sup>7</sup>, after feeling the water and the wind, pronounced that it was too cold for bathing in the sea and waded up the burn from the shore to the deep pool. We spent some time jumping in and out feeling a bit stupid while Ian McF<sup>16</sup> (pardon me, I forgot to relate that McF arrived at 3 o'clock) took some film<sup>17</sup>. We rambled<sup>18</sup> back about 5 o'clock and Bob<sup>7</sup> and Ian<sup>16</sup> went to get herring from somewhere. We had fried herring in oatmeal for tea and slices and slices of toast and jam.

At approximately 7.30, the flag was lowered and, afterwards, we went for a walk round the shore to the pier<sup>19</sup>, paddling practically all the way. We returned along the road and at 10 p.m., had cocoa and cake at the Scouters' kitchen. Lights out at 10.45.

Signed Young Nizz<sup>20</sup> (Second)

Pretty Good. I. McF<sup>21</sup>

'This is a stew Groble spilt by BOB (Best quality stew cooked by NI-4z's).<sup>22</sup>

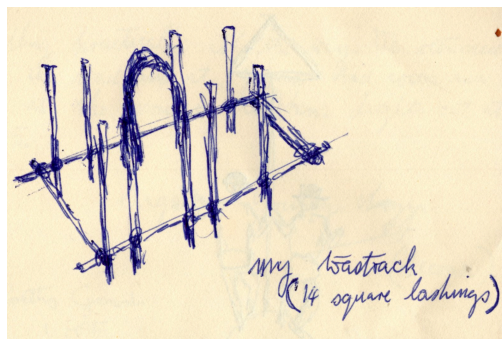


Figure 5. A toast rack as a novel camp gadget<sup>15</sup>.



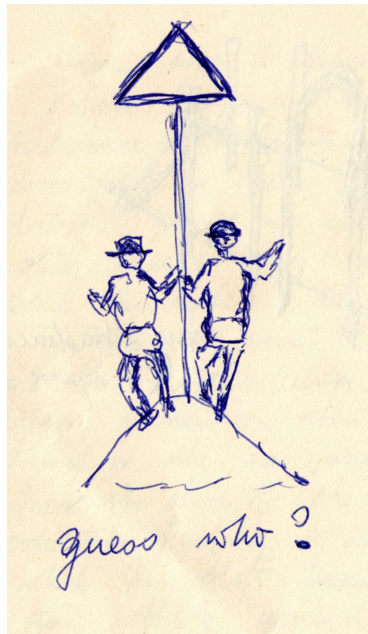


Figure 6 Guess who? <sup>23</sup>

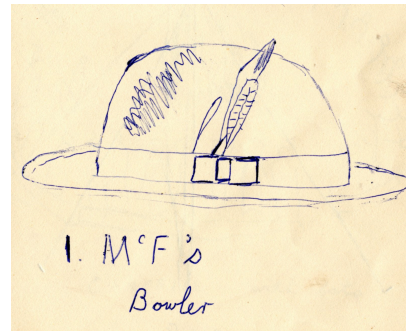


Figure 7 IMcF's Bowler<sup>24</sup>

#### Editorial Comments for 5<sup>th</sup> August

1. See note 8 for the 4<sup>th</sup> August regarding inspection.
2. See note 13 for the 4<sup>th</sup> August regarding gadgets.
3. Alastair Cram, who was PL of a Hippopotamus Patrol.
4. In the 1960s, it was common to describe a talk or lecture as a 'ramble'
5. ASM John Nisbet was often called Big Nizzy to distinguish him from his younger brother, Michael, who was also called Niz.
6. 'made the decision that it should be'
7. Scout Master Bob Miller
8. 'hit up'
9. Ronald Russell's nickname was Gorm, and he was Second of the Hippopotamus Patrol at camp. Therefore, he was not one of the 'wee men' but was presumably mentioned as being present in addition to the wee men.
10. Possibly a blindfold rope trail which involved a length of sizar being laid through bushes, trees and other obstacles, with the Scouts having to follow it while blindfolded.
11. Ian Paterson's nickname was 'Kipper' or 'Kippar' as he had a reputation for sleeping in..
12. Alan Jeyes
13. Robin Crawford
14. This should have been 'Pit'. It's not clear why Michael spelt it as 'pihh'.
15. The patrols were told to make gadgets for their patrol site by Sunday. Possibly, bonus marks were provided if original or novel gadgets were made (see also note 13 for the 4<sup>th</sup> August regarding gadgets, as well as Figure 5).
16. ASM Ian McFarlane. Ian worked in a draughtsman office at one of the shipyards and had limited holidays, so he was unable to attend the whole of the summer camp.
17. It is believed that Ian too some footage of various camps on cine film. It is not known whether the footage still exists.
18. In this context, 'rambled' signifies 'ambled' or 'wandered'.
19. The pier is in Kames Bay, east of the peninsula.
20. Michael Nisbet was nicknamed 'Young Niz' to distinguish him from his older brother John.
21. Comment added by Ian Mcfarlane on inspecting the log book
22. Additional comment made by Michael to explain a 'splodge' on the log book.
23. Presumably Bob Miller and Ian Mcfarlane perched on a rock during the swim on the 6<sup>th</sup> August. Bob had the top hat, while Ian had the bowler
24. Ian Mcfarlane's bowler hat for camp wear.

## Sunday 6th August 1961

At 7.00 hours, we reluctantly crawled out of our pit<sup>1</sup>, lit the fire, and had a breakfast of, first, slice sausage, then eggs and spaghetti and lastly porridge (notice wrong order). After cleaning up etc, we went up to the flag for flagbreak and Scouts Own<sup>2</sup>.

We then had a chit<sup>3</sup> and went off to church in Kilmelfort<sup>4</sup>. We sang psalm<sup>5</sup> 100, hm.<sup>6</sup> 704, hm.<sup>6</sup> 532 etc. We marched back to the bridge<sup>7</sup> where the petite men<sup>8</sup> and some of the other troop<sup>9</sup> got into the minibus to go back to camp.

We had cold meat and tomatoes for lunch and chits<sup>3</sup> if we wanted them.

At 1400 hrs, we were invaded by civilians<sup>10</sup> who brought food parcels<sup>11</sup>.

One hour later, swimming<sup>12</sup> commenced with Ian's<sup>13</sup> cine camera<sup>14</sup> and bowler<sup>15</sup> (shown on page previous to last one before it (or something) (*Figures 6 and 7*).

We came back (and) made dinner of stew, potatoes, carrots, custard and apples.

We then went off to the campfire with the Englishers<sup>16</sup> and we learned new songs. We came home at 23.00 hours approximately. Saw 1/2 of 12 bats flying around (*Figure 9*).

Kippar<sup>17</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Scout)

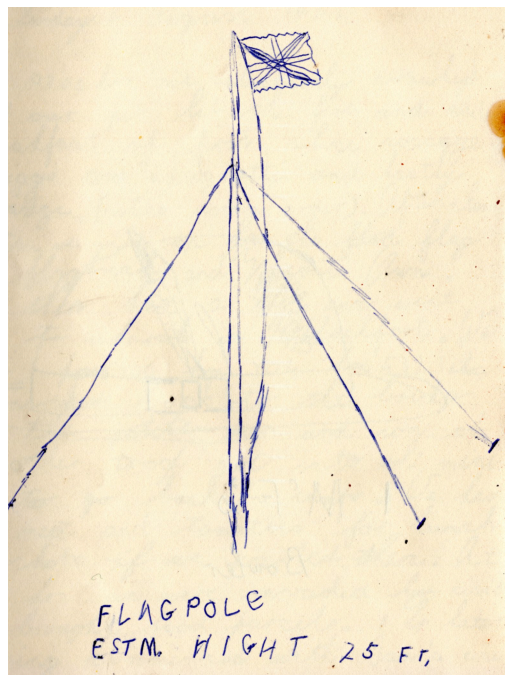


Figure 8 The camp flagpole



Figure 9. Bats flying over the joint campfire

Sketches improving, especially bowler. How about some details of Scouts Own etc.? Otherwise PRITTY GUD. I. McF.<sup>18</sup>

### *Editorial Comments for 6<sup>th</sup> August 1961*

1. 'Pit' was the term used for a bed or sleeping bag.
2. See note 3 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> August regarding Scouts Owns
3. A 'chit' referred to a sandwich or piece of bread with jam.
4. The village was Kilmelford, rather than Kilmelfort.
5. The word is indistinct and is assumed to be 'psalm'.
6. 'hm' stands for hymn
7. The troop met up with the Doune Scouts at the bridge and paraded to church. A sketch of the bridge was provided in the troop log, but its location has not yet been identified.

8. *These were the younger Scouts or the 'wee men'*
9. *Possibly some of the younger Scouts belonging to the Doune troop were also taken back to camp by the 70<sup>th</sup>'s minibus*
10. *These were the parents. Sunday afternoon was the traditional time for parents to visit the campsite and take their offspring away for a good meal.*
11. *Food parcels were eagerly anticipated by those expecting them. Some parents brought home baking that could be shared amongst everyone in their son's patrol. Some Scouts also received parcels by post which was always a marvelous surprise.*
12. *The swimming would have been in Loch Melfort*
13. *A.S.M. Ian Mcfarlane*
14. *Ian Mcfarlane took cine film at various camps. Unfortunately, it is not known whether the footage has survived.*
15. *A.S.M. Ian Mcfarlane wore a bowler hat in camp (Figure 6 & 7), and it is believed that Bob Miller wore a top hat.*
16. *The troop log stated that a joint campfire was held with both an English troop and a Perth troop, both of whom were also camping in the vicinity of Arduaine.*
17. *Ian Paterson's nickname was Kipper or Kipper as he had a reputation for sleeping in..*
18. *Feedback from A.S.M. Ian McFarlane on the Patrol Log.*

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 1961

We got up at 07.00 hours today. The Scouters<sup>1</sup>, Al,<sup>2</sup> Ron<sup>3</sup> and Oz<sup>4</sup> had been on a midnight hike the night before<sup>5</sup> and slept in till inspection.

We ate a breakfast of cornflakes, bacon and eggs.

At flagbreak, Bob<sup>6</sup> dressed up as an Indian chief and presented Al, Ron and Oz with a paleface, white-man, large, economy-size, medal-type gong (Figure 10).<sup>7</sup>

After flagbreak, we had a game of baseball, while I. McF.<sup>8</sup> went for stores. When he arrived back, we had a Scouts Own<sup>9</sup>. We went for a swim<sup>10</sup> after the Scouts Own.

We had lunch when we came back from the swim, of mince, potatoes, custard and apples.

In the afternoon, there were two classes (one mapping and one pioneering<sup>11</sup>), which lasted till teatime.

We had tuna fish and lettuce for tea.

Bob and I<sup>12</sup> laid a trail for observation and woodcraft signs<sup>13</sup>.

The Scouters then had a rope<sup>14</sup> game which was extra difficult (Figure 11).

We then had tests<sup>15</sup>.

At campfire, which was at approximately 22:00 hours, we sang some of the new songs we had learnt<sup>16</sup> and ate cake and tablet.

R. Crawford (3<sup>rd</sup> Scout)

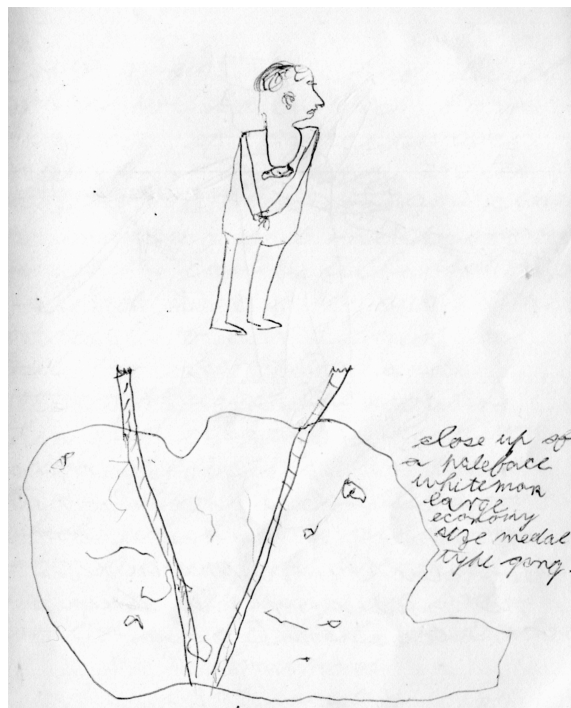


Figure 10 The 'medal' presented to the Midnight hikers<sup>7</sup>

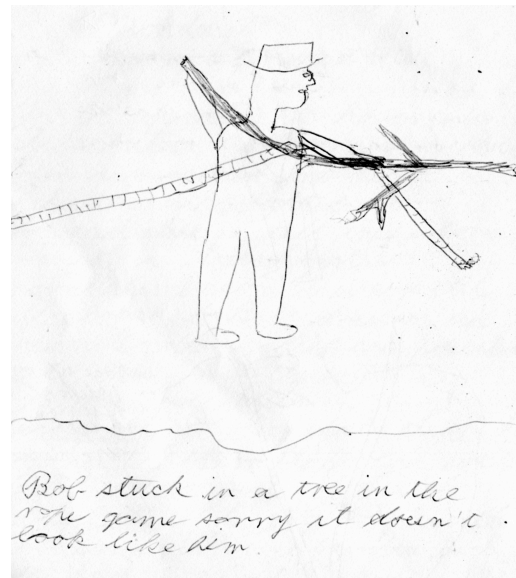


Figure 11. Bob stuck in the tree in the rope game.<sup>14</sup>

1. Rather too much like a troop log, apart from some passages

2. Not too bad on the whole, apart from sketches.

J.H. Nisbet 8/8/61<sup>17</sup>

### *Editorial Comments on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1961*

- 1. It might seem odd that all three Scouters were involved as at least one Scouter might have been expected to stay in camp in case of any unforeseen circumstances. However, it's important not to be critical about such actions as attitudes towards risk assessment were substantially different in 1961 and it was not uncommon for Scouts to be unsupervised; for example on 2nd Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class hikes.*
- 2. Alastair Cram, who was PL of a Hippopotamus Patrol.*
- 3. Ronald Lind who was PL of the Fox Patrol*
- 4. Oz was the nickname of Albert Runcie, who was PL of the Cuckoo Patrol in camp*
- 5. This was likely to have been a substantial hike on roads that may have been up to 15 miles in length, as they did not return to camp until 5 am in the morning.*
- 6. Scout Master Bob Miller*
- 7. This was clearly made in camp, but it's not clear what it was made of. Figure 10 showed that it was worn round the neck.*
- 8. ASM Ian McFarlane*
- 9. See note 3 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> August regarding Scouts Owns*
- 10 This took place in Loch Melfort at a location identified in the Cuckoo Patrol Log (possibly Kames Bay).*
- 11. Pioneering involved the use of rope and timber to create various structures such as bridges, platforms, gateways, aerial runways etc. The pioneering projects carried out at Arduaine are not identified, however, other than an aerial runway that ran into the loch.*
- 12. Robin Crawford.*
- 13. Woodcraft signs involved using natural materials to mark a trail that would only be obvious to somebody with knowledge of woodcraft signs. It was part of the progressive Scout training scheme prior to the changes made in 1966.*
- 14. Possibly a blindfold rope trail which involved a length of sizar being laid through bushes, trees and other obstacles, with the participants having to follow it while blindfolded. This was set up by the PLs for the Scouters to follow (Figure 11) – possibly to get revenge on the rope trail set up on the 5<sup>th</sup> August.*
- 15. Summer Camp was an ideal opportunity to pass outdoor orientated tests that counted towards the Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class badges.*
- 16. These were songs that had been picked up from the other Scouts at the joint campfire of the previous night.*
- 17. Feedback provided by John Nisbet on reading the log.*



## Tuesday 8th August

We got *up* as usual at 7 o'clock and had a breakfast of porridge, eggs and beans. After breakfast, we cleared up for inspection<sup>1</sup> followed by a Scouts Own<sup>2</sup> in which Ron<sup>3</sup> dealt with the seventh law<sup>4</sup>.

After the Scouts Own, there was an investiture<sup>5</sup> in which Raymond Berry of the Hippopotamus patrol was invested<sup>6</sup>.

After the investiture, we played shuv halfpenny<sup>7</sup> during which I. McF<sup>8</sup> took some photos<sup>9</sup>. This was followed by tests<sup>10</sup> while the dinner was cooked.

Wiffle<sup>11</sup> left for Oban to go to the dentist<sup>12</sup>.

For dinner, we had stew, potatoes and carrot(s) following by rice and currents.

After lunch, Nizy<sup>13</sup> came to join me<sup>14</sup> in pit<sup>15</sup>. A little later, I got *up* and went to do my 2nd Class minor accidents<sup>16</sup> with Nizy Senior<sup>17</sup>. Just as I started, we had a visit from one of the farmworkers from whom we learnt that Wiffle had missed his bus and had started walking.<sup>18</sup>

We then had a tea of macaroni and cheese followed by spaghetti. Tea was followed by a E.E.T.P.<sup>19</sup> in which most of the troop apart from the PLs and a few others went to pit. Ron unsuccessfully<sup>20</sup> attempted to make pancakes, while Al<sup>21</sup> made doughnuts. Cocoa and some cake were then passed round after which everyone went to pit<sup>22</sup>.

Alen Jeyes (2<sup>nd</sup> Scout).

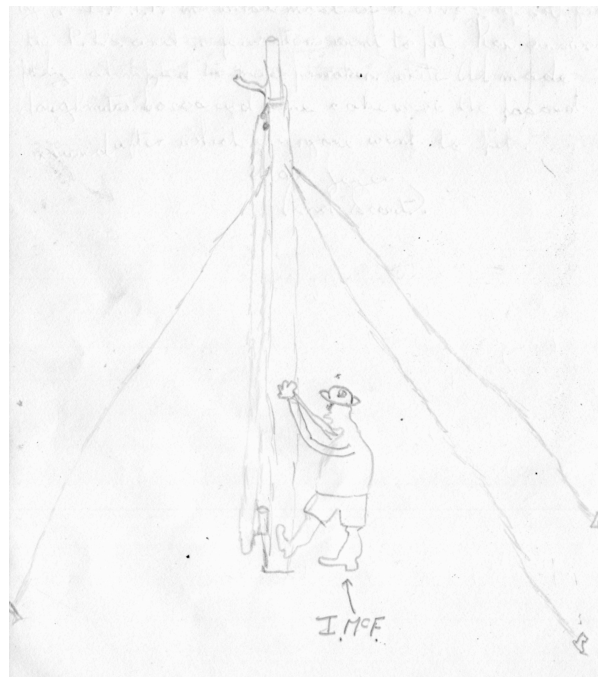


Figure 12 Ian Macfarlane with bowler hat<sup>23</sup>



Congratulations. But how about more etc. RKM

Wednesday the ?

Excellent log - keep it up.<sup>24</sup>

### *Editorial Comments on 8<sup>th</sup> August*

- 1. See note 2 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> August regarding Inspections*
- 2. See note 3 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> August regarding Scouts Owns*
- 3. Ronald Lind was PL of the Fox Patrol*
- 4. The 7<sup>th</sup> Scout Law was 'A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster without question.'*
- 5. Once a boy had completed his Tenderfoot Badge in the early 1960s, he was formally invested as a Scout and was presented with his badges, neckerchief, hat and staff.*
- 6. An investiture at summer camp was very rare and the only other time that it is known to have occurred was in 1965 when Duncan Malcolm was invested.*
- 7. The game would have been played in a kitchen shelter indicating that it must have been raining rather heavily.*
- 8. ASM Ian McFarlane*
- 9. It is not known whether these photographs still exist or not.*
- 10. The tests would have been those counting towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class badges and were probably carried out under cover because of the weather.*
- 11. Wiffle was the nickname for Billy Phillips (derived from **William Phillips**)*
- 12. It possible that he caught a service bus to Oban. The Camp accounts include 5/3 travelling expenses for Billy Phillips.*
- 13. Michael Nisbet, Second of the Fox Patrol in camp.*
- 14. Alan Jeyes*
- 15. The fact that Michael and Alan returned to their sleeping bags is another indication that the weather that morning must have been pretty awful.*
- 16. Minor accidents was a test that counted towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badge.*
- 17. A.S.M. John Nisbet was Michael Nisbet's older brother.*
- 18. Wiffle (Billy Phillips) managed to get to Oban without incident and visited the dentist but missed the last service bus back south. The distance from Oban back to camp was just under 20 miles and would have taken Billy at least 5 hours to complete in the rain. Ian Macfarlane drove the minibus north to pick him up, by which time Billy was 'drookit'.*
- 19. This might have stood for 'Extra Early Time for Pit'.*
- 20. Indistinct but thought to be 'unsuccessfully'*
- 21. Alastair Cram was PL of a Hippopotamus Patrol.*
- 22. 'Pit' was the term used for a bed or sleeping bag.*
- 23. The significance of Figure 12 is not clear. Possibly, there had been some problems with the camp's flagpole that day.*
- 24. Comments added by Bob Miller on reading the log book. The significance of the cartoon is unclear.*

## Wednesday 9th August

We got up as usual at 7 AM and got the fire going at 7.30 AM approximately. We had cornflakes, boiled eggs, for breakfast plus toast and marmalade. Flagbreak was at 10.00 AM as usual. The Hippos were duty patrol.

At inspection<sup>1</sup>, I. McF<sup>2</sup> and Big Nizz<sup>3</sup> took us completely by surprise by coming up from the wrong direction. When we had been inspected, Robin Crawford was still at the top of the hill as Scout<sup>4</sup>.

Scouts Own<sup>5</sup> was at 10.30, at which the subject was the 8<sup>th</sup> Scout Law.<sup>6</sup>

After this, we practiced the songs for the campfire on Thursday night with the Doone<sup>7</sup> Scouts.

Following this, the Scouters and PLs slipped away to get stores but, as we found out later, were laying a treasure hunt.

We had a semi cold lunch: corned beef, tomatoes and potatoes, prunes and custard.

At 2.30 p.m., all Scouts from Seconds down assembled at the store tent *and* were given the first clue for the treasure hunt and set off. With the aid of six clues, we found the treasure, 1/8<sup>8</sup> bottle of lem., 1 chunk cake, and 1 YoYo...<sup>9</sup> (Figure 13)

We got back at 5.30 approximately, with less than an hour and a half for tea.

After herrings and beans, we set off at 7 PM p.m. (officially)<sup>10</sup> for the seaweed factory<sup>11</sup>. We saw 150,000 tons of seaweed and about as much dust (Figure 14). After watching the mill starting at 8 PM, we rambled off, not being able to stand the din and the dust.

After singing our patrol songs (we sang our Yogey Bear songs<sup>12</sup> en route to the factory) and cocoa, we retired to pihh<sup>13</sup> ( 10.30 approx (E.E.T.P)<sup>14</sup> (officially)<sup>10</sup>.

Signed M. Nisbet (Second)

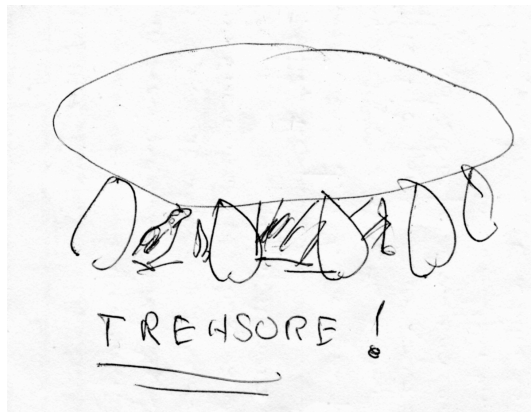


Figure 13 The Treasure<sup>15</sup>

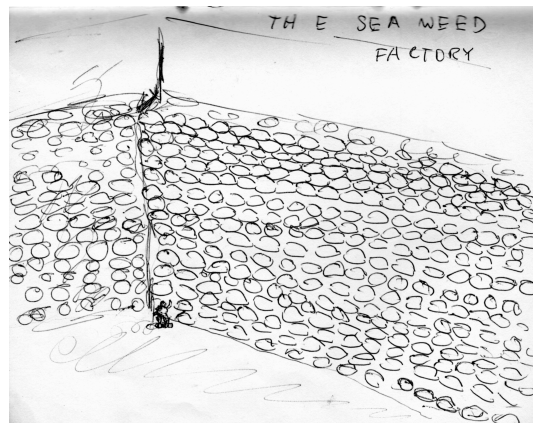


Figure 14 The Seaweed factory<sup>16</sup>

Good Log<sup>17</sup>

### Editorial Comments for 9<sup>th</sup> August

1. See note 2 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> August regarding Inspections.

2. A.S.M. Ian McFarlane

3. A.S.M. John Nisbet was Michael Nisbet's older brother.

4. In other words, Robin had been sent up to the top of a nearby hillock so that he could alert the patrol of the Scouters approaching. It is possible that he was spotted and that the Scouters deliberately arrived from an unexpected direction.



5. See note 3 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> August regarding Scouts Owns.
6. A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
7. The other Scouts were actually from Doune in Perthshire.
8. This indicates that 8 Scouts were involved in the treasure hunt.
9. Presumably this amounted to the share of the treasure per Scout.
10. The significance of 'officially' is not known.
11. A sketch map in the Cuckoo patrol log book showed that the seaweed factory was close to the campsite. The factory buildings still exist (Grid ref 817113 as of 2023), but are now used to process fish from the local fish farm in Loch Melfort.
12. Not clear what this involved, although there was a TV cartoon series during the 1960s that involved Huckleberry Hound, Yogi Bear and Boo Boo, and Mr. Jinks, Pixie and Dixie. Another possibility is that it was a new campfire song that was being practiced for the forthcoming joint campfire with the Perthshire Scouts.
13. It is not clear why Michael (the scribe) referred to 'pit' as 'pihh'.
14. E.E.T.P possibly stood for Extra Early Time for Pit.
15. It is believed that the treasure was hidden under a large object perched on small legs. However, it is not known what this might have been.
16. The diagram might possibly be showing bags of seaweed stacked on shelves.
17. Comment added by a Scouter on reading the log.

## **Thursday 10th August –Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

### **Editorial comments**

*Unfortunately, the patrol log was not completed for the last two days of camp. However, some details on those two days were provided in the Troop log. In short, the Scouts Own on Thursday covered the 9<sup>th</sup> Scout Law (A Scout is thrifty) and this was followed by a game of baseball. A start on dismantling the campsite was then made. In the afternoon, the Scouts slid down a transporter (aerial runway), which ended up in the sea. There was no seat provided and the Scouts placed a piece of wood over the rope and hung on for grim death. The campfire with the Doune Scouts had to be cancelled due to the bad weather, and so a joint sing song was held in a shed instead. Ironically, the last day in camp was probably the nicest day in terms of the weather. The last Scouts Own was held with a talk on the 10<sup>th</sup> Scout Law, then the Coronation Cup for Best Camper was awarded to Michael Nisbet. The Cuckoo Patrol won the Patrol Championship for the camp. The younger Scouts then departed in order to catch the 'Lochfyne' back to Gourock, leaving the Seconds, PLs and Scouters to take down the tents, shelters, and transporter. They also filled in the latrines. Before leaving the campsite for the final time, Bob Miller and Ian Macfarlane had one last swim in the loch, then everyone returned home in the minibus visiting the Doune Scouts one last time en route. Overall, the camp had been one of the wettest summer camps in the 70th history and that is possibly why it was never revisited.*