

Introduction to the Troop Log account of the Carradale Summer Camp (1934)

By the Editor, G.L. Patrick (Glip)

Introduction

This document provides a transcript of the account of the Carradale Summer Camp obtained from the Troop Log covering the period 1935-39. The account was written in retrospect by Ian Dunlop.

The original text is provided, although some minor modifications have been made in terms of punctuation. Occasionally, a word has been added or modified by the editor to clarify the meaning of a sentence. Such words are in italics. The sketches and photos provided are scans of the originals, some of which have been ‘touched up’ for clarity. Additional comments are also provided in italics after the text. These serve to provide additional information or an explanation regarding what has been written. A red superscript number in the original text identifies when an additional comment has been made. In order to cut down on the number of comments provided, short summaries of the individuals mentioned in the log book are provided in the Appendix.

Abbreviations

ASM	Assistant Scout Master
DC	District Commissioner
GSM	Group Scout Master
PL	Patrol Leader
SM	Scout Master
SPL	Second Patrol Leader (Patrol Second)
TL	Troop Leader

14th to 30th July 1934.

Carradale Scout Camp. 1934

Camp was held at Carradale¹ from 14th to 30th July.

Those present² were

A.S.M.	A. I. Dunlop
A.S.M.	J. B. Hardie
P.L.	Alan Hardie
P.L.	Duncan Black.
	John Park.
	Ian Blake.

During part of time:- G.S.M. S. Faulds. T.L. A. Colhoun.



I.B. AH JBH AC DB SF JP

(Ian Blake, Alan Hardie, John Hardie, A. Colhoun, Duncan Black, Sam Faulds, John Park. A.I. Dunlop - photographer)

Camp site was on farm of J. Paterson on the north of Carradale point¹. The view was magnificent, embracing the whole of Arran.

There were three tents- a bell for the boys and two Scoutmaster tents³, one for officers⁴, and one as a kitchen tent. A flagstaff was erected in a central position.

A.S.M. A.I.D was in charge and A.S.M. J.B.H. acted as padre. The cooking was done by Scouts, two each day⁵.



A.H and I.B. (*Alan Hardie and Ian Blake*). *It is possible that Alan and Ian were the two Scouts allocated to do the cooking when this photo was taken.*

The camp was situated on a hillock above some cottages and near a kippering shed⁶ and also near a coal shed. The water spring was 5 yards from the Flagstaff. The camp was about one mile from the pier.¹

We got milk, meat, groceries etc from the farm and shop of J. Paterson. There were many meals of kippers and herring which were given to us by Mr Buchanan of the kippery, Shore Cottage.⁷ We were visited for a week by Rev. A.R.R. Reid who, I think, enjoyed himself very much.

Photograph of the Rev. A.R.R. Reid – *A photograph of the Rev. A.R.R. Reid was originally stuck into the log book but is no longer present.*

As to games, we had several games of cricket on the field which were watched and sometimes taken part in by members of the Ferguson family.⁸ The bathing place⁹ was ideal except for the presence of an unpleasantly large number of jelly-fish and once we had almost to set up an ambulance station to treat victims.



DB JBH JP AH.

Duncan Black, John Hardie, John Park, and Alan Hardie. It is possible that this is the bathing place that was most commonly used during camp, in which case it may have been directly down from the campsite on a raised beach. The presence of the hut in the background suggests that the bathing spot was at Port na Cuile.

The camp was visited by Mrs J. Hardie¹⁰ and H.R.L. Lamont¹¹ etc.

The only accidents were three minor ones which happened to the person of Duncan Black. He wrote home to say that his thumb was hanging off, but it really was not as bad as this. There was some bathing on the “Silver Sands”, South of Carradale¹², which were really more like a surf beach.



Ian Dunlop and the camp flagpole



Ian Dunlop and the camp flagpole



AID and DB (A.Ian Dunlop and Duncan Black) fooling about in camp.

PL's Duncan Black and Alan Hardie hiked to Grogport, some seven miles away, and returned the next day.¹³ The ASM's went to Campbelltown one evening.¹⁴ The charge of camp was 27/6. J. Paterson's account came to £4 -14. And so, there was a substantial surplus which was carried forth for purchase of equipment for next year. We went on the "Davaar"¹⁵ and returned on the "Dalriada"¹⁶.



HMS Escapade¹⁷.

The weather was moderate, rather wet towards the end. Scouts' Owns¹⁸ were held in the bell tent on Sundays and on the first Sunday there were visitors present.

I think I can say that we enjoyed ourselves very much.

A.Ian Dunlop ASM

Editorial comments for the Carradale Scout Camp (1934)

1. The exact location of the campsite has still to be identified. There are two possibilities – Port Righ or Port na Cuile.

The Argument for Port Righ.

The log account states that the campsite was 'situated on a hillock above some cottages'..... 'on the north of Carradale Point' 'about 1 mile from the pier'with views 'embracing the whole of Arran'. This might indicate that the campsite was situated on Carradale Point. Carradale Point itself is more than a mile south of Carradale Pier, but the author may have been referring to the peninsula containing Carradale Point, in which case the northeast part of that peninsula is within a mile of the pier and is accessible by road. If the Scouts camped on or near the top of the ridge at that location, they could conceivably have overlooked a cluster of huts or cottages (to the north) that were present during the 1930s. Those huts/cottages are no longer present but were in the area now occupied by the hotel/guest house (closed as of 2026). The possible site also offers the views of Arran that were photographed during the camp. To the east of the proposed campsite, there is a steep descent to a raised beach where there is some similarity to a photograph taken of the Scouts swimming. The site is also within easy walking distance of Carradale Bay where the Scouts did 'some bathing'.

The Argument for Port na Cuile.

Although there are convincing arguments for Port Righ as the campsite used in 1934, there appears to be a more convincing argument for the site being located at Port na Cuile, both in terms of the logbook description and local knowledge provided by Mr. Lachie Paterson of Carradale in 2026.

The Port na Cuile site fits with the log account extracts provided above if one assumes that the logbook's identification of the campsite being 'on the north of Carradale Point' actually meant 'to the north of

Carradale Point'. Taking that into consideration, the Port na Cuile site is about a mile north of the pier and contains a hillock which could well overlook the cottages on Shore Road, as well as affording the views of Arran shown in the camp photographs. The Port na Cuile site would also be more accessible from Carradale Pier. Similarly, Mr. Buchanan's shop in Carradale would be more accessible from the Port na Cuile site.

Further evidence was provided by Lachie Paterson, who has family links to the farmer (Mr. J. Paterson) who allowed the 70th Scouts to camp on his land. Lachie identified a field owned by the Paterson family, which is situated inland from Port na Cuile and was used for Scout campsites as late as the 1960s. It is likely that this is the 'field' which the 70th Scouts used to play cricket during the camp of 1934. The field itself is in a shallow gully which would not afford the views seen in the photographs taken at the camp. However, it seems likely that the Scouts may have placed their flagpole and 'Scoutmaster' tents' on the ridge running parallel to the field to the north. The Bell tent may have been pitched lower down, perhaps in the field itself.

Lachie also identified the location of the bathing site shown in the 1934 photograph as being the bay at Port na Cuile. The outline of the cliff is more convincing here. Moreover, the hut in the background matches a hut that used to be present on Shore Road. There is no evidence of a hut ever being present on the foreshore at Carradale Point. Indeed, if there had been one, it would have been situated below the high-water mark which is highly unlikely.

Lachie also identified other key aspects of the log book account that fit with Port na Cuile as the location for the campsite. In particular, the campsite is described as being close to a 'kippering shed' and a 'coal shed', both of which were situated at the road junction between Shore Road and the track leading up to Mr. Buchanan's 'field'. A 'water spring' is also mentioned and such a spring is located by the side of the said track. This spring has some local renown as it was used by fishermen to stock up on fresh water when they 'parked' their boats in Port na Cuile. The log book also states that many meals of kippers were obtained from Mr. Buchanan of the kippery, Shore Cottage. Shore Cottage is only 5-10 minutes walk from the proposed campsite. Finally, Lachie believes that the hill shown in the background of two of the photographs taken at the camp is Torr Mor. Conclusive proof of Port na Cuile being the 1934 campsite could be obtained if a similar photograph could be taken from the proposed ridge showing the same hill outline. Unfortunately, the ridge is now overgrown with tall rhododendron bushes that deny the possibility of taking such a photograph.

2. The full names of those participating were A. Ian Dunlop; John B. Hardie; Alan Hardie, Duncan Black; John Park, Ian Blake, Sam Faulds (Junior) and A. Colquhoun (see also Appendix).
3. There is evidence to suggest that the Troop owned the Bell tent. However, the Scoutmaster tents were probably borrowed from another troop as the list of troop equipment provided in the Court of Honour's meeting held on the 1st May 1935 made no mention of Scoutmaster tents.
4. During the 1930s, it was common to refer to Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters as 'officers'.
5. This indicates that central cooking was employed during the early Summer Camps with 2 Scouts cooking for the rest of the camp. By 1936, central cooking was abandoned and the Scouts formed pairs to cook their own meals. It may well have been the 1950s before patrol cooking became the standard mode of cooking in camp.
6. Carradale was a fishing village and was well known for its herring and kippers.
7. There is evidence to suggest that Shore Cottage was the most northerly cottage in Carradale and was located on Shore Road north of the pier.
8. No further information was provided in the log book regarding the Ferguson family. However, Lachie Paterson believes that it is highly likely that they were a local family who were related to the Patersons.
9. It is likely that the bathing area was close to the campsite in which case it may well have been on the rocky shoreline to the east of the campsite and south of Port Righ. A photograph appears to back this theory up and suggests the presence of a raised beach below a steep slope situated below the campsite.
10. The mother of John Hardie and Alan Hardie.

11. It is not stated who H.R.L. Lamont was. There was no Scout present in camp of that name. One possibility is that he was the local District Commissioner inspecting the camp.

12. This would have been the sandy beach situated along the northern shoreline of Carradale Bay.



13. This may have been the two-day hike that was carried out as part of the 1st Class Badge. Scouts had to hike about 14-15 miles and camp overnight, cooking their meals over wood fires, and carrying out a number of projects en route before writing up a hike log. If so, the hike was probably more relevant to Duncan Black than Alan Hardie, as the latter passed his 1st Class hike at a much later date.

14. It is not known how the ASMs (Ian Dunlop and John Hardie) travelled to Campbeltown and back.

15. The RMS Davaar was built in 1885 and originally had two funnels. However, she underwent significant alterations in 1903 which included replacing the two funnels with a single funnel. She was used as a ferry until March 1940 and was then berthed at Newhaven as a potential blockship to the harbour should a German invasion take place.



The Davaar



The Dalriada

16. The Dalriada served as a Campbeltown ferry from 1926 to 1942.

17. HMS Escapade was photographed during the ferry crossing either to Carradale or back from Carradale. This was a Royal Navy E-Class Destroyer which had been built by Scotts Shipbuilders in Greenock. It was launched in January 1934 and would have been undergoing sea trials when this photograph was taken, as it was commissioned in August 1934. She served in the Atlantic (1939-45), Norway (1940), Arctic (1941-42), Malta convoys (1942) and North Africa (1942). It was also one of the destroyers escorting the Battleship "Prince of Wales" when the latter carried Winston Churchill across the Atlantic to meet Roosevelt. HMS Escapade survived the war and was decommissioned in December 1946.

18. Scouts Owns were short religious services aimed specifically at Scouts, and which were organised and run by the Scouts and their leaders. They were commonly held in camp when it was impractical to attend a proper Church service. The 70th also had more formal 'Scouts Owns' in Finnart Church – sometimes on a monthly basis. Attendance was restricted to the Scouts and invited guests and, although the minister was usually present, the service itself was organised and delivered by the Scouts and Scouters, with the minister providing the final benediction.

Appendix. Scouting Personalities at Carradale Summer Camp (1934)

Black, Duncan Roger

Duncan Roger Black lived in a tenement on Finnart Street near the corner of Robertson Street (possibly 15 Finnart Street). He was almost certainly one of the first PLs to be appointed in the new Troop and he attended the first two summer camps, held in 1933 and 1934. He was PL of the Curlew Patrol and attended Court of Honour meetings until October 1934. He probably resigned in March 1935. It is not known how many badges Duncan gained in the Scouts, but there is evidence that he might have completed his 1st Class Hike in the summer of 1934. During the war, Duncan served as an RAF sergeant in bombers and was killed in June 1941 when his plane was shot down over Holland.

Blake, Ian

Ian Blake was born in 1920 and is believed to have lived at 109 Newark Street opposite the tennis courts (renumbered from 73 Newark Street in 1936). He was related to the author (George Blake) who wrote 'A River Runs to War' and was probably one of the founder members when the Troop started up in 1932. He certainly attended the 1933 and 1934 Summer Camps. However, he probably left the Troop after the summer of 1934. Ian went on to gain a degree in engineering and served as a ship's engineer on several ships during the war. In the 1950s, he returned to the Troop as Scoutmaster and ran a very happy Troop until work required him to move to the West Indies. He died at a relatively young age, and a memorial plaque was placed in the 70th Scout HQ indicating the affection with which he was held.

Buchanan, Mr.

A Mr. Buchanan lived at Shore Cottage north of Carradale Pier when the Scouts had their Summer Camp there in 1934. He was associated with a kippery and gifted the Scouts 'many meals of kippers and herring'.

Colquhoun, A

A. Colquhoun (or Colhoun) may have been the 70th's Troop Leader during 1933 and 1934. His previous Scouting experience is not known, but it is likely that he had been a Patrol Leader in a different Troop and was persuaded to help out with the new 70th Troop. Unfortunately, very little is known about his background. He was present at the summer camp of 1934 and the last mention of him was at this meeting of the Court of Honour. It is not known what he did after resigning.

Dunlop, Alexander Ian

Alexander Ian Dunlop was the son of the head teacher of mathematics at Greenock Academy and lived at 52 Eldon Street (renumbered to 96 in 1936-37) with his parents. In 1933, he started studying for an MA in Divinity at Glasgow University, where he met Ian Hardie who was doing the same course. In 1934, Ian joined the 70th as an A.S.M. at the age of 18. However, it is not known whether he had previous Scouting experience. When Sam Faulds resigned, the two 'Ians' ran the Troop as A.S.M.s until March 1936. At that point, Ian Dunlop became G.S.M. and Ian Hastie became S.M., both now aged 20. Although Ian was G.S.M., he was very active with the troop, and 'Ian's talk' was a regular occurrence at campfires. Ian remained as G.S.M. until November 1939 when he had to move to Lochgilphead on war service. Nevertheless, he remained in contact with the Group as a Rover Scout and Rover Scout Leader for several years. During the 1930s, Ian also played a very active role in District matters. He was the Secretary for the District Executive and served on numerous sub committees. Ian finished his MA degree in 1937 and his BD in 1938. It is believed that he was a navy chaplain during the war and might have been mentioned in dispatches. After the war, he served in a number of churches in London, Lochgilphead and Edinburgh. In 1954, he gave the address at the church service held to commemorate the 70th 21st Anniversary. He was also present at the 50th anniversary in 1992.

Faulds, Sam (Junior)

Sam Faulds (junior) was aged about 24 when The Rev. A.R.R. Reid of Finnart Church asked him to start up the 70th Scout Troop in 1932. Sam had previous Scouting experience and was District Scoutmaster during the early 1930s with responsibilities such as District Parades, Scout publicity, and Scouting competitions such as the Shannon Cup for camping and the Public Service Vase Competition for First Aid and Emergencies. He was also the District's representative on the County Scout Council, all of which point to him being ideally suited to the

task of starting up a new Troop. Unfortunately, there are no records covering the first two years of the 70th so it is not known how he went about the task. However, he must take credit for recruiting Ian Hardie and Ian Dunlop as Assistant Scoutmasters and it seems that he was already taking a back seat during the 1934-35 Scouting year to allow the two Ians full rein. Sam was almost certainly responsible for organizing the 70th's first Summer Camp held in 1933 and was probably the prime organiser for the Summer Camp held in 1934. However, he did not attend the 1935 Summer Camp and resigned from the Troop in August of that year. He married about the same time and eventually moved to Stewarton where it is believed he worked as an undertaker. In later life, he moved to Hendon in England.

Ferguson Family

During the 70th's Summer Camp at Carradale in 1934, several games of cricket were played on a 'field' which were 'watched and sometimes taken part in by member of the Ferguson family' However, no further details were provided on who the Fergusons were.

Hardie, Alan

Alan Hardie was the younger brother of Ian/John Hardie's. He was born in August 1919 and lived at 23 Union Street. Alan was in the 5th Renfrewshire Wolf Cubs and joined the 5th Renfrewshire Troop in 1930. In 1932, he transferred to the 70th as one of its first members. And was promoted to PL of the Woodpigeon Patrol by 1933. It is quite possible that he was one of the first 70th PLs to be appointed as there may not have been any PL appointments during the first few months of the troop's existence. In June 1935, Alan became Troop Leader and remained so until November 1936. He was then a Rover Scout for about a year before returning as a warranted ASM's warrant. During his time in the Scouts, Alan successfully completed the Scout progressive training scheme and gained his King's Scout Badge, one of only three 70th Scouts to achieve this during the 1930s. He attended the first four of the Troop's Summer Camps from 1933 to 1936 led the 70th Patrol that won the Shannon Cup in 1935. He was an excellent swimmer and was a key member of the 70th swimming teams that dominated the Scout swimming gala during the 1930s. Alan won the Scout Championship in 1935 and 1936, the Rover Championship in 1937, 1938 & 1939 and also led the 70th teams that won the Victory Trophy in 1935 and 1936. By March 1939, he was the longest serving member of the group. Alan was also a member of the territorial army's Royal Engineers and was among the first to be called up following the outbreak of war, serving in Norway, Iceland, Plymouth, North Africa, Italy and Austria until 1947. He became a civil engineer after the war and saw in the new millennium as the last surviving member of the initial 70th troop.

Hardie, Ian

Ian/John Hardie lived at 23 Union Street and was on the same divinity course at Glasgow University as Ian Dunlop. Ian was originally with the 45th Renfrewshire Scouts but joined the 70th as an A.S.M. in 1934 along with Ian Dunlop. In January 1936, Ian was officially appointed as Scoutmaster and ran four summer camps from 1934-1937. He resigned in March 1939. After this, he completed a PhD at Glasgow University, then served in various Greenock Churches. After the war, he emigrated to Canada and became Professor of Old Testament languages at the University of Nova Scotia.

Hardie, Mrs. J.

Presumably the mother of Alan and Ian. She visited the Carradale Summer Camp (1934) along with an H.R.L. Lamont and others not defined.

Lamont, H.R.L

It is not known who H.R.L. Lamont was. However, he visited the Scouts at the Summer Camp held at Carradale during the summer of 1934. One possibility is that he was the local District Commissioner inspecting the camp.

Park, John

John Park was probably born in 1924 and attended Greenock Academy. He joined the troop in October 1933 and was placed in the Curlew Patrol with Eoin Steel as his PL. He also attended the Troop's summer camp in 1934 and the Jubilee weekend camp at Everton in 1935. He also made some progress towards his 2nd Class Badge during 1935. However, his attendance became erratic, and he was removed from the Patrol list on the 6th

November 1936, Nevertheless, he was back in the troop by May 1937, admittedly as last Scout of the Wood pigeon Patrol instead of 1st Scout of the Curlew Patrol. After that, there was no further mention of him in the troop records. During the war, John was a dispatch rider on motor bikes. After the war, he joined the family business of Butchers and Game Merchants.

Paterson, J, Mr.

Mr. Paterson was the farmer who owned the land on which the 70th Scouts camped during the 1934 Summer Camp to Carradale. The campsite was on the NE part of the peninsula leading to Carradale Point. Mr. Paterson also had a shop and the Scouts purchased most of their food from Mr. Paterson during the camp.

Reid, Rev ARR

The Reverend A.R.R. Reid was born in 1895 and was minister of Finnart Church from 1930-36. He lived at the manse in Union Street, then moved to 109 Finnart Street (Kilmory) (later renumbered 209). It was the Reverend Reid who proposed setting up a Scout Troop that would be affiliated with the Church and he took a keen interest in its progress once it was formed. He visited several of the Troop's Summer Camps during the 1930s and wore an ex-army khaki kilt on those visits; during the 1920s, he served in the Highland Light Infantry in India. He had five sons, two of whom joined the 70th Wolf Cub Pack (Ronald and David). Ronald may even have had a short stint in the Scout Troop before the family moved to Glasgow in 1936. At that point, the Rev. Reid became minister of Belmont Church, Glasgow. The Rev. Reid's Grandson (Russell Reid) was a member of the 70th Wolf Cubs and Boy Scouts during the 1960s before emigrating to Australia.