**PERSONAL LOG by GLIP**

**SUMMER CAMP 1977 JULY**

**DENMARK 70th and 80th TROOPS**

For this camp, I was responsible for in camp activities and Scout Hikes. Kenny and ABC took the minibus and food over early, leaving me in charge of the plane and bus journey. The party included several people making use of the plane for their own holidays.

**LEADERS:1**

70th Glip, Alistair B. Cram, Kenneth W. Paton (QM Food), Chris and Val Foster, Isobel McBride (Akela), Peter Bennett

80th John Black (QM Equipment), Kevin**2** Ward, Robert Platt

Guiders: Moira Cram, Fay Lamont

Others: Ronnie and Margaret Thomson, David Brabender, Alec Stewart

**VENTURE SCOUTS1**

70th Sandy Eadie, John Paterson, David Terris, Gordon Robertson, David Bolster

80th G. Martin, R. Wilkie, T. McKinnon, B. Watts (USA), Supercretin**3**

**SCOUTS1**

70th Stuart Patrick, Brian McCready, Alistair McCready, Jim Dyer, Charlie Mill, Graeme Soutar, Douglas McEwan, Tommy Tully, Cameron Still, Roderick Buchanan, Calum Adams, Brian Peacock, Gordon Dagleish Robbie Mochrie, Malcolm Arnott, Colin Hunter**4**, Willie Grant**4** and Billy Forbes**4**

80th J. Ward, Paul**2** Gallacher, Cretin**3**, S. Allan, J. Hair, Fudge5, Graeme Wilson, Billy/William McDermitt, Rickie Hunter2, Scott2 Black

**Others** Billy Osborne, Brian McPherson

**WEATHER**

The weather thoughout was good. One week was sunny and the other a little more cloudy but it was slightly breezy throughout. There were one or two scorchers and one thunderstorm!

*Editorial notes*

1. Christian names added. The original logbook showed initials.

2. Christian name to be confirmed

3. Name unknown

4 Not included in the log book list, but known to be present from photographs.

5. Hugh Findlay

**THE JOURNEY**

The journey was hectic. There were several frights. For example, the day before we learnt that traffic controllers were going on a go slow! So it was on hope alone that we assembled for the buses which turned up late, which wasn’t good for the system. A frantic time was spent unloading boys equipment etc from the bus to the reception desk, but we managed somehow. All our fears about the flight were groundless and, in fact, we left early in the early hours of Monday morning. The tour organizer**6** (me) was at last able to relax (hoping that the Scouts were not buying Carlsberg from the stewardess). Tommy Tully, at least, bought coke since I recall him entertaining the stewardess by twisting the empty can in half and fitting one half into the other. We were also able to see the North Sea oil rigs as small flames far below us and to our left, we saw the orange glow of the Northern Lights.

We landed at 4 AM in Copenhagen to an eerily deserted airport. It was dawn when we got outside and, five minutes later, the minibus turned up followed by the coach. I remember well the journey through deserted foreign streets with some strange radio programme on and an almost deathlike hush throughout the journey as people dosed since I seemed to be the only person who was wide awake. In fact, I remember that the floor rose and fell with air currents which was quite exciting.

We arrived at a car park near our campsite at last and hiked about a mile to the actual campsite up an unsurfaced track. R. Buchanan was still dutifully clutching the camp hockey stick which he had taken charge of. **7**

Kenny met us with a supper-breakfast of bacon and eggs! We then tried to get a nap until TT**8** woke us up with a rendering of the tramp. Apparently, Kenny had sent him outside for making a noise, whereupon ABC sent him back in again to prevent him singing.

*Editorial notes*

6. Tour organizer is a bit of an overstatement. Glip was in charge during the flight, but was not involved in making the arrangements. At least he doesn’t think he was!

7. He was also carrying a cricket bat. Presumably these were last minute items that were thought about once the mini bus had departed.

8. Tommy Tully

I don’t remember the order of events from here on and so I will describe the events in the order I remember them.

**HIKES**

These were held near the middle of camp9. They were not successful. Certain cretins10 behaved very cretinishly and spoilt one evening at least.11

*Editorial notes*

9. Wed 6th – Thu 7th July

10. One of the 80th Venture Scouts was unofficially called ‘supercretin’ while his younger brother was called ‘cretin’. They proved a disruptive influence throughout the camp. About a fortnight after the camp was over, it was revealed that they had been involved in shoplifting and stealing from other Scouts during the visit. It is not clear what measures were taken as a consequence of that, but it was certainly a shameful episode.

11. The troop log book states that one of the hike groups returned about midnight, long after the time they were due to return. This disrupted a social evening that the Scottish leaders had organized for their Danish hosts.

**VISITS**

No visit to the zoo this time.12 Some Scouts visited a longship.13 We had a bus trip to Frederiksborg Castle14 which was really quite impressive with its paintings etc although I don’t remember this from 1970.12 ( What an uncultured lout I must have been). On the same tour, we visited the beach and Elsinore just as before.12 The little outdoor café at Elsinore where John McCallum and I pestered the Scouters was still there. During one of the stops, I remember a magic bottle of ice-cold chocolate milk drink going down rather well.

The visit to Carlsberg was repeated.12,15 We arrived by train as before and got transported round in two groups by little buggy cars. We were told that their most potent brew is illegal in Denmark and gets exported therefore to Britain! At the end, we got our free lem & booze and elephant badges.

Neils Knudson16, our guide, took us all for a tour of Copenhagen in full Scout uniform.17 ( The Scouts had to be taught how to sit down with kilts on at one particular public square). The tour was rather tiring and not very exciting. We climbed the spiral walk up the observation tower, but I thought the tower was more interesting than the view. After a long walk through a garden and park, we had our lunch beside a pond in the park where I annoyed Kenny18 by trying to feed my lunch to the pigeons, including the orange.

The tour ended up with a visit to the mermaid (an anti-climax), a walk past the waterfall as in 197012 and a visit to the War Museum which was interesting. Afterwards, we had a boat journey where everybody fell asleep and we had our photos taken. One thing I missed in Copenhagen were the trams.19

At various times we visited Copenhagen. Peter20 and I visited the waxworks, a café, Tivoli and generally shopped here and there, including two Scout Shops.21 The Venture Scouts went to see the Sex Pistols22 but missed them because they had to leave early! Shame!

Various visits to the beach were made where a lazy time was had, except for the occasional game of cricket where at one point, the ball was hit out of the park (beach) into the middle of a crossroads and it took a full 10 to 15 minutes before we were able to retrieve it and only then by defying the traffic. An interesting sight at the beach (apart from topless sunbathers) was a special dogs toilet area! There was also a harbour full of very nice yachts.

*Editorial notes*

12. This refers to the troop’s camp to Denmark in 1970. Glip and Peter Bennett had been present as Scouts. Alistair Cram was present as Scout Leader but was mostly involved in an explorer belt expedition that was taking place at the same time.

13. See the entry in the Troop Log for Thursday 13th July (actually the 14th)

14. See the entry in the Troop Log for Monday 11th July.

15. See the entry in the Troop Log for Wednesday 13th July.

16. Niels Knudson also hosted the Troop’s visit in 1970. He organized home hospitality that year as well as acting as kind of tour guide. There was no home hospitality on this trip though.

17. See the entry in the Troop Log for Saturday 9th July.

18. Kenny Paton

19. The trams were running in 1970, but were phased out in 1972.

20. Peter Bennett

21. A good source of Danish Scout badges and Scout books. Danish Scouting in 1977 still seemed very traditional in terms of activities etc.

22. The Sex Pistols were a notorious punk group that ‘performed’ between 1975-1978 and seemed to delight in trying to offend as many people as possible.

**PARADE**

On Sunday, we paraded with F. Nixon piping in the lead, much to the astonishment of the locals.23 I think that went pretty well. Fay and Seadie24 did their thing at the service.

*Editorial notes*

23. See the entry in the Troop Log for Sunday 10th July.

24. Fay Lamont and Sandy Eadie

**NIELS**

Near the end, most of us were invited to Niel’s house16,25 to meet his wife and see how he lived. Answer – very well. He had a superb chalet-like house with real wood all over the place and it was all very pleasant.

*Editorial notes*

25. See the entry in the Troop Log for Wedensday 13th July.

**IN CAMP**

Our campsite was called Colleruphus near the town of Holte. It was reached by a track alongside a golf course and great fun was had riding on the minibus roof on this stretch. This activity was started by one mad Scouter who doesn’t write very well.26

Kenny18, Peter20 and I camped out, as did other leaders. The boys slept in the chalet which was an impressive building. There was an icebox/ fridge down in the basement, a spacious hall, a wee lounge which doubled up as staff dining room and a very good kitchen. Sleeping dorms were upstairs.

Days spent in camp were not entirely lazy due to my keen programme planning, much feared by leaders and boys alike. A programme of sorts was essential to prevent the boys staring all day at the topless ladies who were in charge of the playgroup which met at the campsite during the day and were most infuriating!

Sports in camp were available whenever wanted - volleyball, Camp Golf (hockey sticks and tennis balls etc.), cricket, tennis, football etc. There was an actual sports day as well (staff throwing, target golf, etc)

A J.S.27 wheelbarrow was made out of Kenny’s vegetable salad tins much to his chagrin and worked very well. We also annoyed Kenny by smoking out his kitchen with ammonium chloride.28

Activities included plaster casts, bivouacing (Chris29), pennant making, pyrography30, sketching, orienteering, film making, jousting (JS activity)31, blindfold trails, commando course. There was training and testing and patrol challenges of various kinds.32

Towards the end of the camp, we had a campfire featuring punk and a party with goodies and Lem, plus games like balloon crab football, mimes etc.

On the very last night, we had thunder and lightning and several Scouts went slightly mad and ran round the flagpole between flashes (Slip being one!).

*Editorial notes*

26. Presumably the author Graham Patrick (Glip)

27. John Sweet was the author of several Scout books and came up with imaginative ideas for stunts and mini pioneering projects. A photograph of the wheelbarrow is on the website

28. Crystals placed on a hot plate provided a very satisfactory smoke cloud that caused evacuation of the kitchen

29. Run by Chris Foster.

30. Essentially a thin cross section of wood was sawn from a branch, then a metal nail or paper clip was heated and used to char the wood in order to make an image or word.

31. From memory, the idea was for a pair of Scouts to act as horse and rider and then try and burst a water balloon suspended in the air above their opposite numbers (and vice versa).

32. To save carrying a substantial library of books and Scouting magazines to Denmark, promising activities gleaned from these sources were summarised on a set of index cards.