



**QUEEN'S BADGE PROJECT**

**HISTORY OF THE 4th/5th KILMARNOCK COMPANY**

**THE BOYS' BRIGADE**

**CORPORAL C. MacALLISTER**

In 1909 the 4th Kilmarnock Company was formed by Mr Jack Bryson. A few months later his uncle, Mr James Baird Lymburner, became the first Captain of this most distinguished Company.

The Kirk Session was pleased to see a company being connected to the Laigh Kirk, one of Kilmarnock's best known churches. A quote from the church minute for October 29, 1908, will show this

"The Session heartily approved of the formation of a Boys' Brigade and wished it every success.

In the first few years the Company had a permanent camp at the "Heads of Ayr", which is now the site of Butlin's Holiday Camp. They shared the camp with the 1st Hurlford Company. Later this camp was changed to Maidens where the 4th had another permanent camp.

During this time dummy rifles were part of Brigade uniform and remained so until just after the first World War, when complaints that the Brigade were too military forced headquarters to do away with them.

Mr Lymburner resigned from the Company in the early 1920s.

Mr James Hood then took over as captain. During his captaincy the only classes run were the three basics - drill, Christian education and PT as well as a bible class.

Mr Hood started a band which turned out to be very successful. He also introduced much of the existing PT equipment.

The uniform then consisted of a pillbox cap, belt and haversack.

Following Mr Hood came Mr D G Batey, who was appointed captain on 24 September 1925. Mr Hood did not leave the Company but remained as a lieutenant.

About this time the Company was two hundred strong and had a waiting list of one hundred and twenty five. This, of course, meant that everyone could not attend on one night so the Company was run on three nights a week. Still only the basic classes were being run.

When Mr Batey resigned he was succeeded by Mr Seaburn. The Company then held several camps at Portencross, on a farm which was used as a permanent camp. Mr Seaburn added to the store of PT equipment by purchasing a new agility mat in 1933. The Company now had a box, a buck, parallel bars, springboards and an agility mat.

Mr Seaburn resigned on 4 May 1934.

The next captain was Mr David Miller. He ran three camps to Portencross and later had several canvas camps at West Kilbride. These continued until the outbreak of war in 1939.

During the war the Company was forced to close down twice, in the year 1941-42 and again in 1945-46 because soldiers were billeted in the hall which was, at that time, known as the Laigh Kirk Mission Hall. Despite these temporary closures Mr Miller continued to run the 4th and 5th Kilmarnock Companies as one until 1946.

During this time the cup for the Best Boy was lost. It disappeared in 1942 and was not discovered again until 1956, providing quite an amusing story. It seems that a soldier who must have been rather short of cash sold it to the landlord of the "Kilmarnock Arms" public house in exchange for a drink. In 1955 the pub was running a domino competition and the landlord, when he went down to his cellar one day, found the cup. He sent it to H Samuel, the jeweller in the town, who cleaned it up. The landlord then decided it would make an excellent trophy for the winners of the domino competition. Fortunately one of the members of that winning team was also an officer in the 4th Kilmarnock Company. He recognised the trophy as the one which had been lost so many years before and so the trophy was returned to the Company.

When the army left at the end of the war so did a great deal of BB equipment, including the band's bagpipes, some of the drums, our springboards, a 30' x 15' marquee and eight bell tents. When the Company restarted in 1946 it had twenty boys. The first annual camp after the war was held in 1948 when the Company went to Ballycastle in Northern Ireland with the 1st Crosshouse Company. At that camp there were fifty eight boys.

In 1949 the Company camped on Brown's Island, just off the mainland of Ireland, This camp ended up as a washout.

In 1950 Mr Lawson took over the captaincy of the Company. There was no camp that year. Mr Lawson ran several classes during his time, including drill, Christian Education, PT, signalling, expedition, arts and crafts, swimming and first aid. In the arts and crafts class he did leatherwork, woodwork and canework. The boys made things like trays, hanging baskets and stools.

In 1951 the camp was run along with the 3rd Kilmarnock. The two companies were under canvas at Millport. Over the next ten years or so the 3rd and 4th worked closely to run joint camps and buy equipment to be shared.

In 1952 the two companies - 3rd and 4th - again ran a joint camp this time to Whitehaven. In this year the strength of the 4th was 22 boys.

The next year, 1953 saw a camp in Carrickfergus, again with the 3rd Company. The strength of the 4th Kilmarnock had risen to 33 boys, a good size of company but still a far cry from the days of Mr Batey.

Another joint camp was held in 1954 this time it was in St. Abbs.

The camp in 1955 was at St. Monance and once again it was a joint camp. 1955 was also the year in which Mr Lawson started Tuesday night classes. These were met with little interest from the boys in the first session but the following year interest picked up and several boys were coming in on Tuesday nights to do canework, woodwork and various other activities.

In 1956 the Company camped at Eyemouth. This camp was a washout. The boys ended up sleeping in a church hall which had been converted into a store for a local woollen mill. The bakers in Eyemouth gave a helping hand by putting a lot of clothes and wet belongings into their ovens to dry them out. At the annual inspection that year the first sketch in the history of the Company was performed. It was written by an officer. Since that year sketches have been performed regularly at annual inspections. In this same year of 1956 the 5th Kilmarnock closed down temporarily and as a result about half of the boys from the 5th joined the 4th which always got on well with the 5th and indeed had stepped in about three times to keep the 5th going.

The Company camped in Glenluce in 1957. In 1958 the camp was to Millport. It was a fair size of camp with boys from the 1st and 3rd the 4th and the 12th all attending. In this year hikes started and became a regular part of Company activities. The 4th at this time did not have their own light canvas but hired it. Hikes were held at Easter and at long week-ends.

In 1959 the 3rd and 4th Companies went to Denmark as guests of the FDF - the Danish equivalent of the Boys' Brigade. This was the year the 4th Kilmarnock Company celebrated its 50th anniversary. To raise funds for this a fête was held in the grounds of Dean Castle and from this we raised £300. The 4th also did well in BB Week raising the sum of £135.

A new coconut mat was purchased in this year Mr Lawson also acquired a springboard to replace the one which had disappeared.

Apart from the first overseas camp in 1959 that year was particularly notable because it was the year in which the 4th Kilmarnock had its first boy gaining the Queen's Badge. He was Jim Miller.

In 1960 the Danes had a return visit to Scotland when a camp was held in Glen Rosa, Arran. This was a very large camp with 160 boys at it. Unfortunately the camp site was badly chosen. The surface was firm but underneath the ground was like a sponge. The wind came up and there was rain, with the result that the stakes could not hold down the marquee and it collapsed. Before returning to Denmark there was an exchange of gifts with the Danes. They presented the two companies, the 3rd and 4th with a Viking axe while the captain of the Danes was given a BB Shield.

During the early part of Mr Lawson's captaincy the Company had a very good drill officer Mr Miller, the previous Captain, who later became drill training officer for Scotland.

Discipline was strict during Mr Lawson's time. While he was captain Company finances increased from being virtually zero until we had a fairly prosperous Company. Before he promoted a boy Mr Lawson looked for qualities such as conscientiousness, alertness and personal tidiness. Mr Lawson resigned on 19 December 1960.

Mr Hunter took over as captain that same month. The number in the Company was then 33. In 1961 the Company camped in Glenluce, this time it camped on its own.

The Company got its first trampoline. It was made by Mr Hunter himself. Murchland the plumber provided the metal tubing for the frame; Central Welders welded the pieces together; Greenock Ropework Company made the bed, and Scottish Aviation Limited provided the springs. The whole trampoline only cost around £20,

Mr Hunter was keen to encourage the band. Many of the 4th Kilmarnock boys played in the battalion band. We had about eight pipers, three side drummers, some tenor drummers, and a base drummer. Mr Hunter provided the band with its uniform, buying it from the Army Cadets, The uniform consisted of Black Watch kilts, battle dress tunics dyed blue, spats, haversack and BB belt. He also carried on the tradition of Tuesday night classes, doing arts and crafts.

The camp in 1962 was at Dunbar. It was quite large. The band went to Dunbar also. The bus dropped off the main party at the camp site but went away with all the band equipment. At the church parade the next day there was no band but to make up for this the Company paraded to the church whistling the tune from Z Cars. In this year there was a changeover from pillbox hats to forage caps. In 1963 the second Denmark camp took place. Forty boys attended this camp from the 3rd and 4th Companies. This was to be the last Denmark camp for 4th Kilmarnock Company.

The boys of the 4th Kilmarnock built a canoe in the arts and crafts class. It was built on Friday evenings by the seniors of the Company. The frame was built at the James Hamilton Academy and then it was brought back to the hall for the skin to be put on.

By 1963 the Company had increased from 33 boys in 1960 to 50 or 60 boys. This size of Company was really too great for the limited amount of hall space available. Mr Hunter made some attempts to get the Grange School for the junior section but was unsuccessful. As a result the number in the Company dropped to around 40.

Camp in 1964 was at Anstruther and 21 boys attended.

In 1965 the camp was again in Anstruther and this time only 19 boys attended.

While Mr Hunter had been captain he had set in motion a scheme whereby it was easier for a boy to gain his Queen's Badge if he was willing to put in the time and effort.

During these years the Junior Section parents' night was held separate from the Company Section's annual inspection. The Junior Section held its parents' night a few weeks before the Company Section so that the Company Section would have use of the whole hall for its rehearsals,

Mr Hunter had resigned from the Company earlier in his career to concentrate on his job as a teacher but he came back into the Company to become the captain in 1960. He finally resigned in 1965.

Mr McLean, who had come through the ranks as a boy and continued as an Officer, assumed captaincy of the Company in September 1965. While he was Captain the Company bought its own light canvas and several week-end hikes took place as well as night hikes. Mr McLean was responsible for bringing in a trampoline and trampete to the Company in addition to providing a new agility mat. He also thought of combining the Junior and Senior Sections parents' night. These turned out to be very successful, with audiences of around 400 parents and friends in Grange Academy Assembly Hall.

In 1968 3 members of the Company took part in a competitive hike for the first time. Along with 1 boy from 1st Kilmarnock and 2 from 2nd Kilmarnock they represented the Battalion Senior Section in the Cleveland Hike. This Battalion entry was the starting point for our own local West Lowland Hike which has seen entries from the Company right up to the present day.

It was during this time that major changes took place to the program. Whereas previously Friday night activities had consisted of Drill for ½ an hour and PT for 1½ hours, with other classes being held on Tuesday, Mr McLean introduced class periods on Friday nights. P.T. was reduced to 30 minutes and this allowed for 2 half-hour periods of class work. The reason for this was to allow boys who were not able to attend on 2 nights per week to work for their Queen's Badge. This proved very popular, particularly as senior boys stayed on until 11 p.m. for a games period.

They were then run home in the Company minibus – an ex-police task force vehicle purchased during Mr McLean’s time as Captain. Games and classes in stage work continued to take place on Tuesday evenings.

1970 was to see major changes for 4th Kilmarnock Company. At the dinner to commemorate 60 years of the 4th Kilmarnock Company the amalgamation of the 4th and 5th Companies was first publicly announced!

Amalgamation came in 1970. It came about mainly for these reasons - the 5th had no captain and only two members of staff; the 4th were short of staff; both Companies lacked space in their halls for both the Junior and Company Sections. It made sense to pool the resources of both Companies,

After amalgamation the 4th/5th had two chaplains - Mr M Schofield of the Laigh Kirk and Mr Armstrong of St Marnocks. Mr McLean did not need to be a strict captain. He commanded the respect of the boys without ever having to be too severe. He believed in discipline through respect not discipline for discipline’s sake.

During Mr McLean’s captaincy the Company held their annual camp under canvas every year for the two weeks of Kilmarnock Fair. The range of camp equipment was expanded, and a number of 13’ icelandic (ridge) tents was purchased. Camps were held mainly on the east coast from Berwick-on-Tweed in the south to as far north as Stonehaven, and points in between. The camp in 1970 was held in Larne in Northern Ireland. During this period the camp was opened to members of other companies who were not themselves having their own camp. 5th and 6th Kilmarnock and 1st Stewarton were regulars during this period, and at times 2nd, 3rd and 10th Kilmarnock also joined in.

Mr McLean resigned in August 1977 and Mr Thomson Wallace took command. He has been captain for less than one year but the Company is running as successfully as ever. Already the 4th/5th Kilmarnock Company has won the Supersquad Competition 1977/78 and was fourth in the Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Battalion Drill Competition.

The trophies presented by the Company are:- The Best Recruit cup - which dates back to before the second world war and whose story has already been told earlier in this essay: the Lymburner Shield - awarded to ***“The boy who most epitomises the aims and ideals of The Boys”***

**Brigade**". There have been years when it has not been presented because the officers felt that there was no boy in the Company who merited this honour. It was presented to the Company by Mrs Lymburner in memory of her husband who was the first captain. The Philips Trophy - originally a 5th Kilmarnock trophy and that Company's equivalent of the Lymburner Shield - is presented "**For sustained participation and effort**", i.e. to the Boy who is not outstanding in any particular way, but who puts his all into everything he does. The Squad Medal is presented to the best squad on a monthly basis.

Now in 1978 the Company is about 35 boys strong and still as good a company to be part of as ever it was. Plans are afoot for a light camp in Arran during this coming summer and seniors in the Company are already looking forward to next session.

LIST OF  
COMPANY CAPTAINS  
&  
ANNUAL CAMPS

(Insofar as is known)

YEAR	CAPTAIN	CAMP	LB/JS LIC
1909	J B Lymburner	Heads of Ayr/Maidens	
1921	J Hood	Maidens	
1925	D G Batey		
19??	? Seaburn	Portencross	
1930	G Wilson		
1935	David Miller	Portencross	W Erskine
		West Kilbride	
47-48		Ballycastle NI	
48-49		Brown's Island	
49-50			
50-51	John Lawson	Millport	Joint with 3rd K/K
51-52		Whitehaven	"
52-53		Carrickfergus - Hall	"
53-54		St Monance -Hall	"
54-55		St. Abbs	"
55-56		Eyemouth	"
56-57		Glenluce	Joint with 1st & 3rd K/K J Hunter
57-58		Millport	"
58-59		Denmark (Senior)	Joint with 3rd K/K (4th K/K 50th jubilee)
		St Monance (Jnr)	Joint with 1st & 3rd K/K
59-60		Arran	Joint with 3rd K/K
60-61	Jimmy Hunter	Glenluce	T Wallace
61-62		Dunbar	
62-63		Denmark	Joint with 3rd K/K
63-64		Anstruther	
64-65		Anstruther	
65-66	Jack McLean	Dirleton	9th Kilmarnock & 1st Stewarton
66-67		Berwick-on-Tweed	6th K/K, 1st Stewarton & 1st Dundonald
67-68		Carnoustie	5th K/K, 6th K/K 1st Stewarton, 1st D/D
68-69		Larne	5th K/K, 6th K/K 1st Stewarton
69-70		Anstruther	"
70-71		Berwick-on-Tweed	"
4th & 5th Kilmarnock merge			
71-72		Carnoustie	2nd, 3rd, 6th, 10th K/K, D Kirkwood 1st Stewarton
72-73		Anstruther	6th, 12th K/K, 1st Stewarton
73-74		Leven	"
74-75		Stonehaven	"
75-76		Carnoustie	"
76-77			S McDonald

YEAR	CAPTAIN	CAMP	LB/JS LIC
77-78	Stuart McDonald	Montrose	D McDonald
78-79			
79-80			
80-81			
81-82			
82-83			
83-84			
84-85			
85-86			
86-87	G Duncan		
87-88	D McDonald		W Brown
88-89			
89-90			
90-91			
91-92			
92-93			
93-94			
94-95			
95-96			
96-97			
97-98			
98-99			
99-00			
00-01			
01-02			M McDonald
02-03			

A Camp Letter  
dating from  
1974

# THE BOYS'

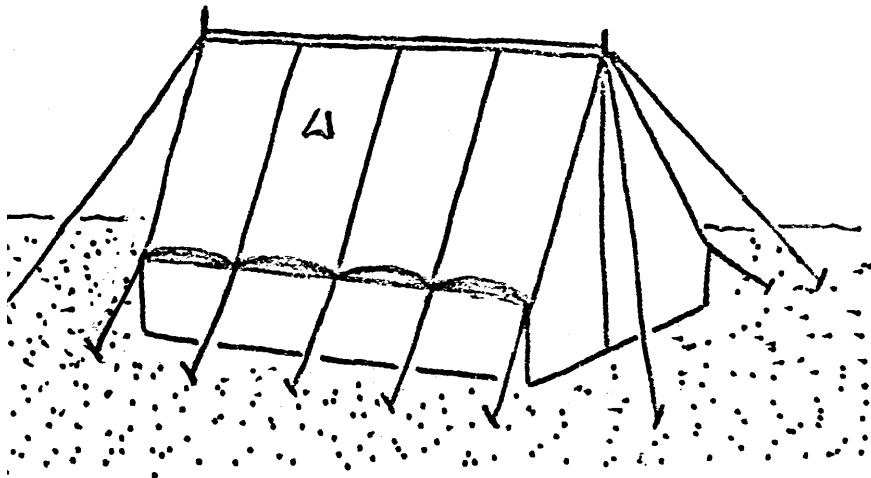


# BRIGADE

**OBJECT**—The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys,  
and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline,  
Self-Respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness.

**4th/5th KILMARNOCK COMPANY**

**Captain  
J. McLEAN**  
18 Kay Park Terrace,  
Kilmarnock  
Tel. 21574



**ANNUAL CAMP, 1974**

**A N S T - R U T H E R**

In co-operation with members of:

6th Kilmarnock Company  
1st Stewarton Company

29th June, 1974

to

13th July, 1974

Tel.21574

18 Kay Park Terrace,  
KILMARNOCK.  
KA3 7AZ.  
11th May, 1974

Dear Parents,

Arrangements have now been completed for this year's Annual Camp, and you will find on Page 5 details of the journey to Anstruther. The Company will return from Camp at approximately 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, 13th July, 1974. During the period of Camp any mail to your Boy should be addressed as follows:

Rank ..... Name .....

4th/5th Kilmarnock Company,  
The Boys' Brigade,  
Milton Farm,  
ANSTRUTHER.  
Fife.

Insofar as finance is concerned all cash in connection with Camp, i.e. Cost of Camp which has been finalised at £20, and your Boy's Pocket Money should be paid in to me not later than the evening of Friday, 21st June, 1974. On that evening I shall be present in Laigh Kirk Hall, John Finnie Street, Kilmarnock from 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. for this purpose, and to answer any queries in connection with Camp. You may, of course, make this payment to your Boy's own Company Captain who will arrange to transfer payments so received to me before the above date. Once again, in the interests of safety, and to ensure that Pocket Money will last for the duration of Camp, I would strongly recommend that Pocket Money be placed in an account with the Company to be repaid daily during Camp. If your Boy requires any special medical attention while at Camp it would be of great assistance if you will let me have any information on this subject.

You will find on Page 4 a list of items which experience has taught us are essential at Camp. This list does not include all items which would be useful at Camp, but I would stress that these are essential. In the interests of safety of all concerned NO BOY will be allowed to wear or use a sheath knife either in or out of Camp. After reading the 'Camp Orders' section will you please pass this on to your Boy as he will be expected to know the routine while at Camp.

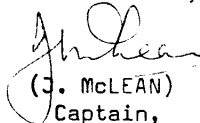
Official Visitors' Day will be Wednesday, 10th July, 1974 and Parents and friends who intend to visit Camp will be made most welcome. If you are unable to come on this day I would appreciate if you will advise me of the proposed date of visitation so that arrangements can be made for your Boy to be in Camp. However it is our intention to have an outing on Tuesday, 9th July and as this date cannot be arranged until our arrival at Camp contact should be made with your Boy if visiting outwith the Official Visitors' Day or weekends. Once again no provision can be made for Visitors' Meals but there are suitable facilities locally; and for those who care to carry a picnic lunch tea and crockery will be provided in the marquee.

As is usual at Camp time donations of foodstuffs, especially jam, tinned goods, etc. will be gratefully received in Laigh Kirk Hall on any Friday evening during June or at my home address during the week prior to going to Camp. This is one factor which can affect the cost of Camp, and once again we ask for your support. At present, due to a fall in the expected attendance, I am unable to reduce the cost, but I would give you my assurance that everything possible is being done in this field. Members of the Companies, whether or not attending Camp, are invited to attend a pre-Camp Bible Class in Laigh Kirk Hall, John Finnie Street on Sunday, 23rd June at 10.00 a.m., after which details of Squads, etc. will be intimated.

To assist me in tying up the loose ends I would ask you to complete and return the reply form included with this letter as soon as possible and in any event not later than Friday, 7th June, 1974 WHETHER OR NOT YOUR SON IS ATTENDING CAMP.

We trust that this Camp will be a successful and enjoyable one, and on behalf of the Company Staffs I would wish you and your family a happy and enjoyable holiday.

Yours sincerely,

  
(J. McLEAN)  
Captain,

4th/5th Kilmarnock Company  
THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

LIST OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS

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Bible	Spare Underwear
+B.B. Hymnal	Gym or training shoes
Soap	Dish Towels (2 or 3)
Toothbrush	Cleaning Kit for shoes
Toothpaste	and Uniform
Comb or Hairbrush	*Knife
Towels (3 or 4)	* Fork
Blankets (2 or 3)	*Spoon
OR Sleeping Bag	*Mug
Pyjamas	*Soup Plate
Bathing Trunks	*Dinner Plate
Stockings or Socks	Overcoat or Raincoat
Handkerchiefs	∕ Full Uniform
Spare Shirts	Wellingtons or Boots
Coat Hanger(s)	∅ Football Kit

+ Available to purchase from Company Captains

\* Preferably unbreakable

∕ Normal Company Parade Night Full Uniform  
including Haversack.

∅ Recommendation only

GENERAL INFORMATION

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1. Kit A list is included showing all the items considered to be essential. All items should have your name on them, and should be packed in ONE case which should be lockable, for security purposes. The Company or Companies cannot be held responsible for any items at Camp unless deposited with the Staff. A label showing the Camp address and your home address, together with your name, should be attached to your luggage. Personal Musical Instruments and Sports Equipment may be brought, and these will be kept in safe custody when not being used by their owners.
2. Journey a) ADVANCE PARTY will report as arranged separately. Uniform will not be worn. A packed lunch should be carried.  
b) MAIN PARTY will report to Laigh Kirk Hall on Saturday, 29.6.74 at 10.45 a.m. in Uniform but without Haversack which should be packed. Baggage may be left in Laigh Kirk Hall on Friday 28.6.74 between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. if required. A packed lunch should be carried.
3. Camp Bank All Pocket Money and Cost of Camp must be paid in to me not later than Friday, 21st June, 1974. Pocket Money will be repaid daily during Camp on request and as stated in Camp Orders.
4. Postal Address All mail to Camp should be addressed as follows:  
Rank.... Name .....,  
4th/5th Kilmarnock Company,  
The Boys' Brigade,  
Milton Farm,  
ANSTRUTHER.  
Fife.

+++++  
+ CAMP ORDERS +  
+++++

1. Daily Routine The following routine will be observed at Camp. Any changes will be intimated by the C.O. at meals.

Reveille - 7.30 a.m.  
Breakfast - 8.00 a.m.  
Morning Prayers - 8.45 a.m.  
Inspection - 9.15 a.m.  
Sports - 9.30 a.m.  
Dinner - 1.00 p.m.  
Camp Bank - 2.00 p.m.  
Tea - 5.00 p.m.  
Supper - 10.15 p.m.  
Evening Prayers - 10.30 p.m.  
Lights Out - 10.45 p.m.

2. Duty Squad A Duty Squad will be detailed each day under the Duty N.C.O. They will be responsible to the Duty Officer for carrying out their duties. Duty will be for a period of 24 hours and will commence at 4.45 p.m.

3. Roll Calls Roll Calls will be taken at each meal and at Evening Prayers. All Boys must be present at these times.


4. Lights Out STRICT SILENCE MUST BE OBSERVED AFTER LIGHTS OUT!

5. Boating & Bathing Boating and bathing are prohibited at all times unless accompanied by an Officer. Every opportunity will be taken to organise these activities.

6. Canteen The Canteen will be open at certain times at the discretion of the C.O.

7. Camp Bank Camp Bank Payments will be made daily except Sundays.

8. Late Passes Late Passes MAY be granted only by the C.O. to Boys who merit this privilege.

  
(J. McLEAN)  
Commodore Officer

FINAL REPLY FORM

Please return not later than Friday, 7th June, 1974

Address .....

Mr. J. McLean,  
18 Kay Park Terrace,  
KILMARNOCK.

Date .....

I refer to your letter of 11th May, 1974 and would advise you as undernoted concerning my son, .....

I undertake to pay the cost of Camp (£20 for 2 weeks) on or before Friday, 21st June, 1974.

(Signed) .....

		YES / NO
A	1	Will he attend Annual Camp?

PLEASE CONTINUE ONLY IF THE ANSWER TO A.1 IS "YES"

B	1	Will he attend for the complete fortnight? If "NO" please give dates of attendance. From ..... to .....	
	2	Does he require any special medical attention?	
	3	Do you intend to visit Camp?	
	4	If "YES" please give: No. of Visitors ..... Proposed date .....	
	5	At what address(es) can you be contacted during the period of Camp? If touring please give details of area/district, and make, colour, model and registration number of vehicle ..... ..... ..... .....	