

THE 1962 REPORT OF THE SCHOOLS HEBRIDEAN SOCIETY

Founded in 1960

Hon. Advisers

THE LORD BISHOP OF NORWICH

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For details of The Schools Hebridean Company Ltd see page 20

CONTENTS

Foreword by the Bishop of Norwich...	2
introduction to the Society	3
Gometra Expedition, 1962:	
Expedition members.,	4
Leader's Report	4
Map of the area	5
Outward Journey	6
Running the Camp	8
The Wild Life of the Islands.....	10
Map of ruins at Ormaig on Ulva	11
Surveying	12
Map of Viking ruins on Dun Ban	13
Description of Village on W. of Ulva ..	14
Visit to Treshnish Isles and Staffa.....	15
Weather	17
Fishing	17
Tale with a Moral	18
The Camp Site	18
Climbing.....	19
The Company	20
Plans for 1963	20
Acknowledgements	22
Application form	23

FOREWORD

By The Bishop of Norwich

Anyone who knows at first hand the West Highlands and Islands will appreciate what it can mean for a boy—or, for that matter, a young man as leader—to get the chance of enjoying expedition life in the Hebrides.

The ideas behind the Schools Hebridean Society are set out in the Introduction to this Report. From my own short visit to Gometra I can only say that these objects were being carried out in a way which seemed singularly worth while.

Every Expedition or Camp has an atmosphere or character which one can sense more easily than describe, and I won't attempt description of the Gometra Expedition beyond saying that the attitude shared by leaders and boys made for efficiency and purpose—and yet with enough freedom and spontaneity to enjoy the Islands which have a magic and mystery of their own.

For my own part I can only say how much I enjoyed being allowed to share in such good company over an eventful weekend with the Gometra Expedition of 1962.

LAUNCELOT NORVIC:

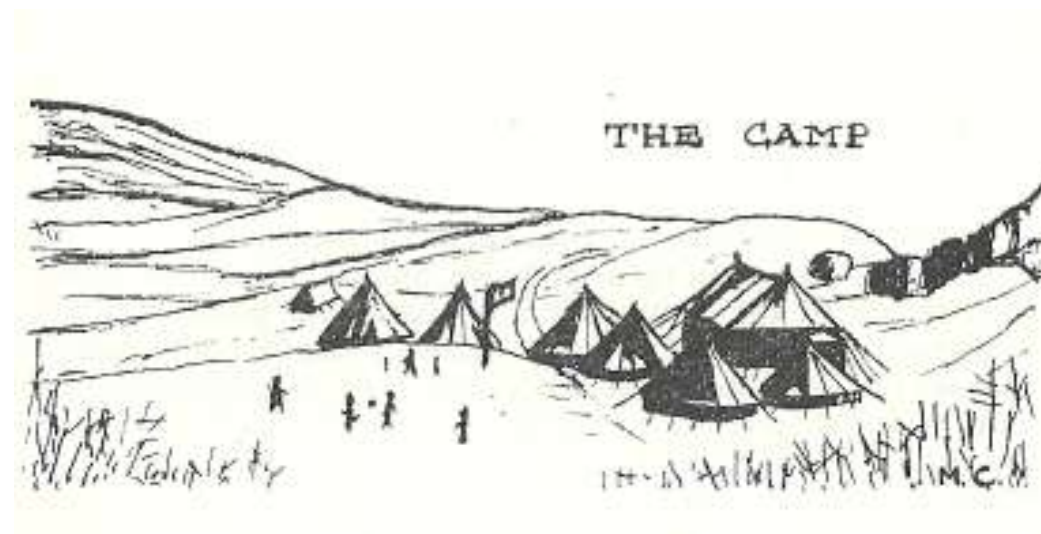
August 1962

INTRODUCTION-TO THE SOCIETY

The many unspoilt islands off the North-West coast of Scotland provide an ideal opportunity for people to live, for a short while, a life that is less restricted and less complicated than usual. With their combination of mountain and sea, of beauty and solitude, the Hebrides offer untold adventure for those who seek it.

The Schools Hebridean Society exists to organise expeditions of schoolboys to these islands. Each expedition is made as self-supporting as possible from the moment at which it leaves port; the boys have ample scope, throughout, to think and act for themselves. Opportunities are given for instruction by the officers in such sports as climbing and sailing, and in pursuits such as ornithology and botany. This is combined with a practical project that is undertaken by all expeditions.

It is the sincere hope of the Society that boys and officers alike will benefit greatly from the close sense of interdependence that such a community life engenders. The skills and fresh interests gained will, it is believed, enable a fuller life to be enjoyed by all concerned.



GOMETRA EXPEDITION 1962

Leader

John Abbott

Camp Administrators

Martin Child and Clifford Fountaine

Doctor Paul Malpass

Section Officers Richard Fountaine, Chris Oakeley,

Michael Underhill and Tim Willcocks

Boys

Martin Ashton (Stowe)	Peter Humble (Bloxham)
Roy Carr (King William's, Isle of Man)	Kenneth Huxham (Denstone)
Christopher Chapman (St. John's, Leatherhead)	Robert Jones (Fettes)
Ian Christmas (Malvern)	Roger Jones (Fettes)
Peter Cole (Lindisfarne)	Anthony Jordan (Shrewsbury)
Geoffrey Fieldhouse (Rossall)	Barry Langford (Eshton Hall)
George Gandy (St. John's, Leatherhead)	David Leathley (Sedbergh)
Anthony Hill (Denstone)	Roger Paley (Sedbergh)
Timothy Hill (St. John's, Leatherhead)	Angus Pimblett (Epsom)
	Kevin Price (Sebright)
	John Turner (Malvern)
	David Wrigley (Repton)

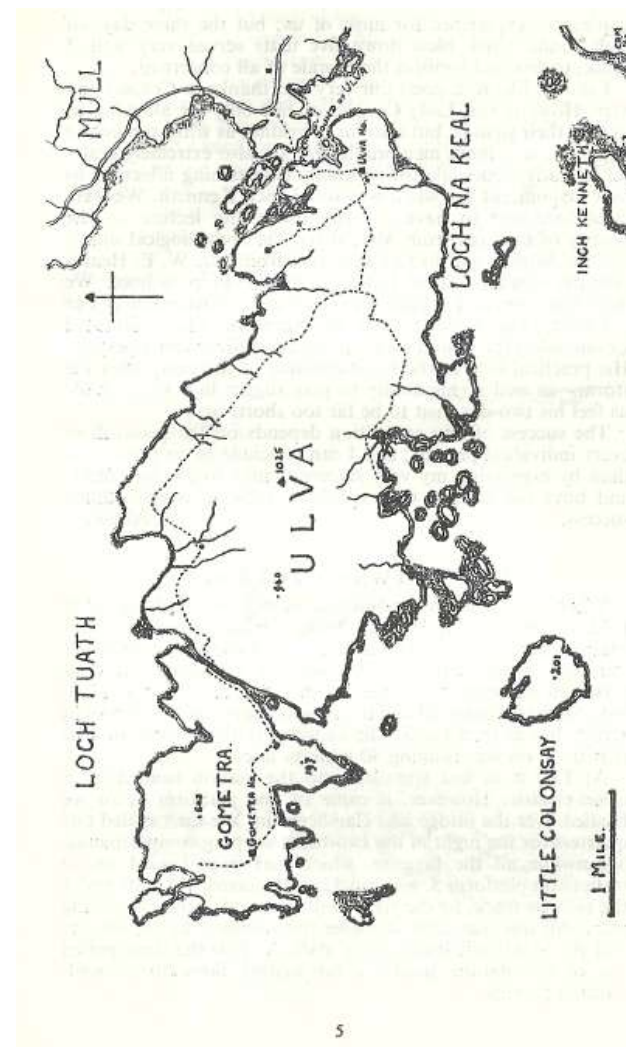
The ages of the boys were from nearly 14 to 16 1/2

GOMETRA EXPEDITION 1962—LEADER'S REPORT

This year's expedition to Gometra was the first of its kind to be undertaken by the Society, and it was therefore something in the nature of an experiment. Experience of expeditions had been gained from Rhum in 1959 and Raasay in 1960, but both of these had been on a far smaller scale.

The organisation of the expedition, and the formation of the Society, called for a great deal of work and goodwill from numerous people; and it was a spirit of happy co-operation that set the key note to the expedition. I am sure that all of us who took part will remember it as a time of great enjoyment caused by whole-hearted co-operation.

The many and varied activities which were incorporated into the programme all served to increase the general enjoyment of the fortnight. Contrasting weather conditions gave us the chance to put the administration and amenities of the camp to the test. Arriving at Gometra in the middle of a gale was an unpleasant experience for most of us; but the three days of high winds which blew down five tents served very well, I think, to test and confirm the morale of all concerned.



I should like to express our very real thanks to Colonel and Mrs. Howard and Lady Congleton, not only for allowing us to visit their islands, but also for providing us with so much to make our stay more memorable. We are also extremely grateful to Lady Redesdale for so kindly entertaining fifteen of us to a magnificent tea when we visited Inch Kenneth. We were most fortunate to have a really interesting lecture on the history of the area from Mrs. Betts, the archaeological officer for the district; and to receive a visit from Mr. W. E. Heard, onetime Headmaster of Lawrence House Prep. School. We were honoured and delighted to receive a visit from one of our Advisers, The Lord Bishop of Norwich, who celebrated Communion for us and took one of our daily evening prayers. His practical help in the re-establishing of the camp after the storm—as well as his ability to play rugger in a kilt!—made us feel his two-day visit to be far too short.

The success of any expedition depends on the goodwill of every individual present; and I can conclude in no better way than by expressing my very sincere thanks to all the officers and boys for making the expedition such an overwhelming success,

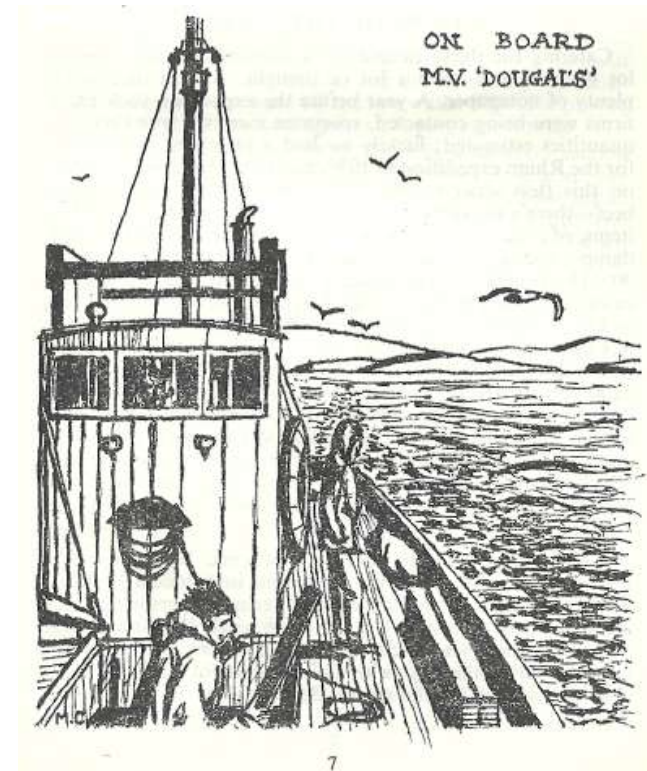
John Abbott

THE OUTWARD JOURNEY

When we arrived at Preston station at 11.30 on the night of Friday, August 3rd, Messrs. Abbott, Child, Fountaine and Malpass greeted us, and after being given our tickets we made our way to platform 5. When we had exhausted our conversation we began to wonder when the train, due in at 12.10 with Michael Underhill and the London party on board, would arrive. It was then 12.35. The assistant station master told us that the train was running 40 minutes late.

At 1.00 it at last trundled into the station headed by a diesel-electric. However, it came in on platform 4; so we hustled over the bridge and clambered in. We then settled our quarters for the night in the two-berth sleeping compartments. Meanwhile all the luggage, which had been loaded on to trolleys on platform 5, was quickly transferred, via a lift under the railway track, to the right platform, and loaded on to the train. All this was done in under five minutes, by the officers and the highly efficient railway staff. At 1.10 the train pulled out of the station amid the last-minute farewells of well-wishing parents.

Our first stop was near Lancaster Castle: "John Abbott informs us that the engine has broken down - a replacement will be sent presumably from Carlisle and not, we hope, from Crewe, Euston, Swindon or stations further west!" We stopped at Carnforth and Carlisle, where we were given some nasty jolts while being shunted. We later stopped at Beattock, where we had a banking engine put on for the Beattock summit. By the time we reached Crianlarich, in the Highlands, after numerous halts, we were running two hours late. By now everyone was itching to get off the train, but we waited for an agonising twenty minutes at Taynuilt and another fifteen at Connel Ferry, arriving at last in Oban at 10.30—2½ hours late. (We had paid the penalty for travelling on a Bank Holiday weekend - coming back, the train was ten minutes early at Preston!).



Loading on to the "Dougal's" was done smartly and after a hasty breakfast of bacon and eggs in the Oban station restaurant we boarded the boat. We had on board with us a piper, who kept us entertained as we sailed up the Sound of Mull. The sea there was very choppy and two members of the expedition disembarked at Salen, making their way overland to Gometra. There was a worse fate in store for us, for as we rounded Ardmore point the wind blew force 7 - 8, and all except five of us were seasick (and those five only just managed to hold out!). Quite a contrast to the journey back, which was like a Mediterranean cruise. At last we reached Gometra, and landed safe - but weary.

Kenneth Huxham

RUNNING THE CAMP

Catering for thirty people for a fortnight requires quite a lot of food and quite a lot of thought. Also, I discovered, plenty of notepaper. A year before the expedition took place, firms were being contacted, specimen menus worked out and quantities estimated; luckily we had a record of the supplies for the Rhum expedition in 1959, and could base our estimates on this (less stewed apples, for instance, and more corned beef - there's no venison to be obtained on Gometra!). Most items, of course, had to be tinned - the Hebrides can be a little damp - and I was soon wrestling with the A2½'s and the 30 x 15-oz. at 23/6¼ per dozen's, until I felt that I knew the canning industry rather intimately (I can take buckets of Rhum or Eigg, or even Muck - but please don't suggest an expedition to Canna: that would be too much!). Some of our orders make interesting reading: 408 bars of chocolate; 46 lbs of cheese; 1200 oz. of carrots; and 36 15-oz. Lancs. Hot Pot to please, our members from the Duchy! A few mistakes were made; we had too much rhubarb (the islanders benefited from this) and not quite enough beer (three cans each in a fortnight) - which proves that when one of the officers was overheard telling another that "the guys are a bit too tight tonight", he was talking about something else.

Which brings me on to the subject of tents. Tents are tricky. But we soon got to know the ropes (one in particular, I recall, was often addressed in most familiar terms by persons making the quick trip - literally - to the store tent). We had a large marquee which was used as living quarters (including the kitchen) during the day; with six bell tents for sleeping, and a smaller marquee for the stores. Bell tents are all right until it

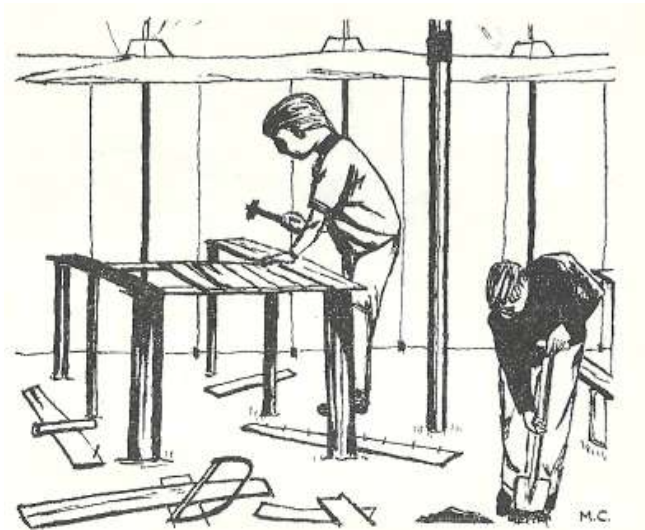
gets too windy. Just after the War we used to hear, I remember, a little ditty which went:

" Down in the jungle
Living in a tent;
Better than a prefab-
No rent".

Obviously the tents they used then were good, tough ex-Army affairs - we soon had rents in some of *ours* after a gale had been at them! (All right,, I know it didn't mean that). During the three stormy nights it was necessary to keep an all-night watch; this was done by shifts and proved invaluable. All the tents were checked every twenty minutes and in this way damage was avoided. It was during one stormy afternoon, when hardly anyone was in camp, that the catastrophe occurred: several of the bell tents were blown down - two damaged beyond repair - and the marquee nearly went as well. On the following day, when the camp was re-established, we built stone walls, about 2' 6" high, around the remaining bell tents, to lift the force of the wind off the low walls. This idea proved successful, and will be used again on future expeditions.

The "household chores" were done by a different section (there were four) each day. Breakfast was at 8 a.m. (by Gometra Mean Time; we put our watches on an hour ahead of B.S.T.), and it consisted of corn flakes and a cooked course, followed by bread, butter and marmalade, and coffee. Lunch - jam and cheese sandwiches, a Penguin or Munchmallow biscuit, a bar of chocolate, a Kup Kake or choc-roll, and an apple or orange - was packed so that it could be eaten out of camp. The main meal was in the evening, when we would have soup, then a meat course with potatoes and plenty of vegetables (we were sometimes fortunate enough to be given fresh vegetables by the islanders), followed by tinned fruit and cream. After the evening prayers there was hot chocolate for everyone. The section in camp for the day had plenty to do; for apart from the cooking and washing up—always a popular occupation—there were potatoes to be peeled, tins to be "burnt, bashed and buried" (a five-foot hole was specially dug for the purpose) and the camp to be tidied.

A word about the equipment. The cooking was done by three double gas rings, run by Calor Gas. We had four gas clothes driers—a must for Hebridean camps!—and a large boiler which provided plenty of hot water. We built our own tables and benches from driftwood. Water was obtained from a spring which emerged just by the camp; this ruled out any chance of contamination by sheep, and the water was excellent to taste and did not need boiling.

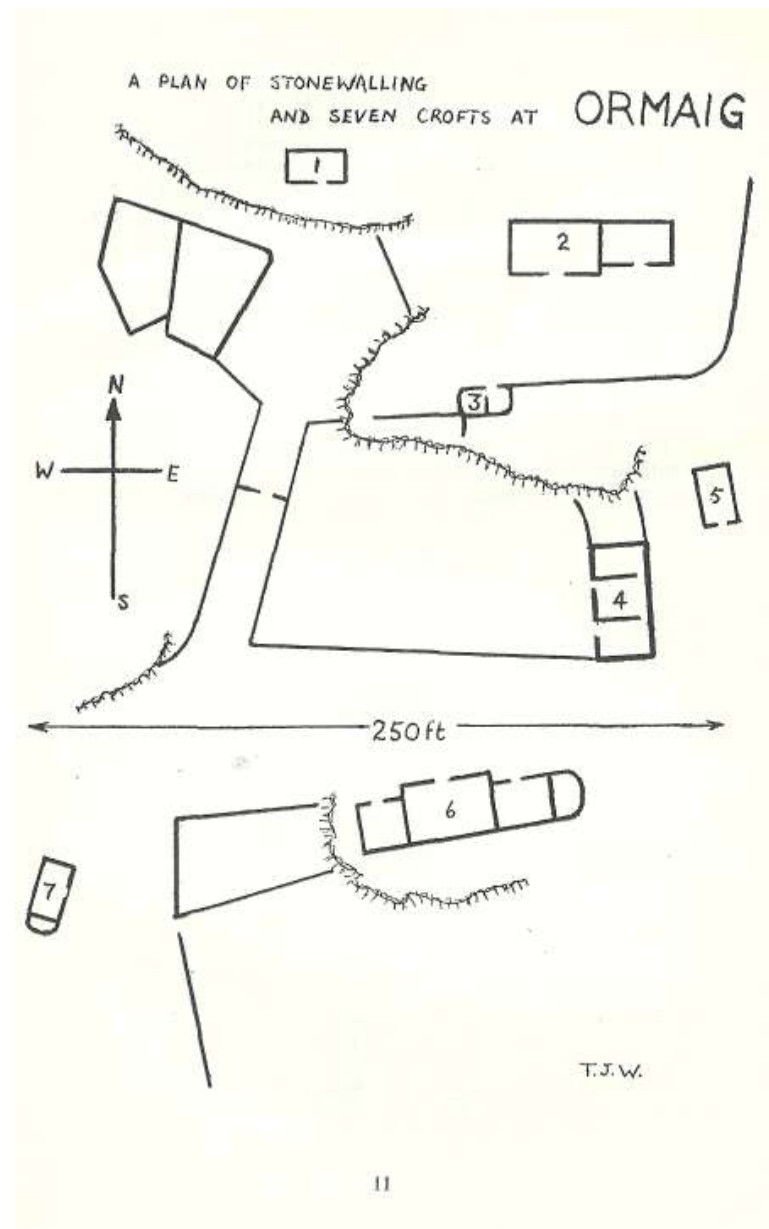


It is true to say that, despite the storm, the camp went very smoothly—thanks to a good deal of hard work from everybody. Finally, I am pleased to report that our doctor, Paul Malpass, only had one or two very minor ailments (too much to eat?) to deal with. Of course, there wasn't much he could do about sunburn. . .

.Martin Child

THE WILD LIFE OF THE ISLANDS

The wild life of these islands was interesting rather than spectacular. During the expedition there was no set time for observing it, but we had plenty of free time to do this, and on any walk or boat trip there were many birds and plants to see. We saw, of course, all the better-known sea birds such as gulls, terns, kittiwakes and oyster-catchers. Some of us were lucky enough to go on Col. Howard's boat for a trip to Cairn na Burgh More and Cairn na Burgh Beg, which are definite breeding grounds for many types of sea birds. We saw there some of the less common ones such as razorbills, guillemots and fulmars. On the same islands we saw literally hundreds of shags and cormorants, and on our arrival at least thirty seals were basking on the rocks.



On Gometra and Ulva themselves there were many interesting birds. Over the hills either rough-legged or common buzzards could always be seen hovering and circling. We obtained an excellent recording of their plaintive cry from a distance of well over half a mile, by using the parabolic reflector. There were many herons and we had some good views of them fishing in the shallow water. There were reports of eagles being seen, and Mrs. Howard informed me that there was a pair nesting on the south side of Ulva. In fact a small party of us disturbed them during a walk on the last day. Other interesting birds seen were hooded crows, rock pipits, stonechats and sandpipers—with a noticeable lack of common "household" birds such as tits, blackbirds and thrushes (apart from the wooded area around Ulva House). The common land birds were of the "open air" type - larks, curlews and various wagtails.

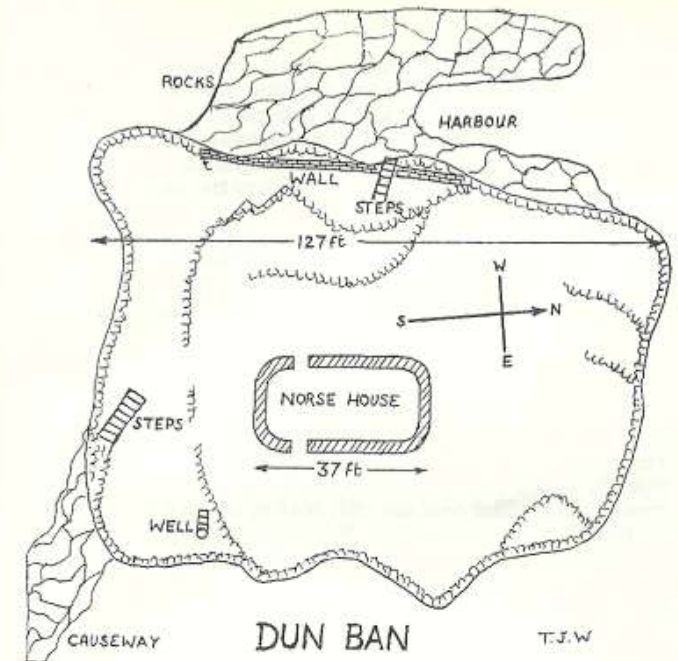
The wild life on these islands is interesting, and for keen ornithologists these expeditions are opportunities not to be missed.

Robert Jones

SURVEYING

Mr. Willcocks has photographs of most of the buildings mentioned in this article; unfortunately our modest budget does not allow them to be reproduced here. Anyone who is interested in seeing them should get in touch with him - Ed.

Most of the surveying was carried out on the south side of Ulva, using as a base a croft which is still used at sheep-shearing time. Between rain showers and eating bread and cheese, we nearly covered the area about 300 yards long around the croft, which included six other ruined buildings, two remarkable stones in a field, which might or might not have been natural, and walls and fences. We measured the internal and external dimensions (the walls being usually over 2 ft, thick), and drew sketches for larger plans to be made later.



DUN BAN
RUINED VILLAGE ON ULVA



Further east along the coast was a disused mill (which once was the home of David Livingstone's parents), and then a crofting settlement at Ormaig (see plan), the majority of which was surveyed. Most of these settlements became deserted in the 1840's when the population emigrated, due partly to the failure of the potato crop, and also to the introduction of sheep farming.

Other crofts were surveyed on the west coast of Ulva, as was a small island, Dun Ban, which is joined to Ulva by a causeway uncovered at half-tide. This had been fortified by the Vikings in about A.D. 800-900, and was surmounted by the ruins of a Viking house (see page 13).

Other finds included about six small stone circles, which had probably once been domed stone shelters, along the south-west of Ulva, in an area apparently entirely neglected by the Ordnance Survey maps of 1890, which we had to use. There were similar ruins near Glen Glass, which were grouped together with a ruined house, 12 ft. by 7 that had two doors opposite each other near one end, both of which were rounded. As these are signs typical of Norse buildings it seems quite possible that this was a settlement of theirs. A circle of stones, about thirty feet in diameter, was also found in the south of Ulva, but the origin of this is as yet unknown.

Apart from those mentioned, many other ruins and bits of walling were found which were not marked on any maps; and since Ulva once had a population of 600, which has now dwindled to 21, there must be a great deal more not only to be surveyed but also discovered.

Tim Willcocks and Christopher Chapman

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VILLAGE ON THE WEST SIDE OF ULVA

On the west side of the island of Ulva, the 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1890 shows just one village consisting of about ten buildings. I found, however, traces of three distinct settlements on this face, at least one other of which must have been visible when the map was made. The village marked on the map really begins level with and high above the old footbridge linking Ulva and Gometra. Here stood the main croft with its two outhouses, its corn kiln in which the corn was dried, and its major track leading to the road going round the north side of Ulva. This was probably the last croft to be left, as the map does not show the track which joined it to the rest of the village; though this certainly did exist at one time.

In the main part of the village, the buildings are not arranged in rows but in any position which was sheltered and near a stream. Here the inaccuracies of the map really became apparent, for several buildings were wrongly positioned and others left out. I found signs that six of them had been inhabited, most of them with at least one outhouse, and there were two more corn kilns. In one case a cottage had clearly been built on the ruins of another one, and in another place I found a little building that could have been built at one end of a Norse dwelling. Most of the buildings, whether inhabited or not, had rounded corners and measured about 30 x 15 ft.; the cottages usually had two windows while other buildings had none at all, and the fact that some of the windows had been blocked up shows that the places had been used at various times for different purposes. There was really very little difference between cottages and other buildings as in most cases they both seemed to have one room only,

I think this particular village was a thriving community up to about 1800, but most of the crofts were probably deserted within forty years of that date.

George Gandy

THE VISIT TO THE TRESHNISH ISLES AND STAFFA

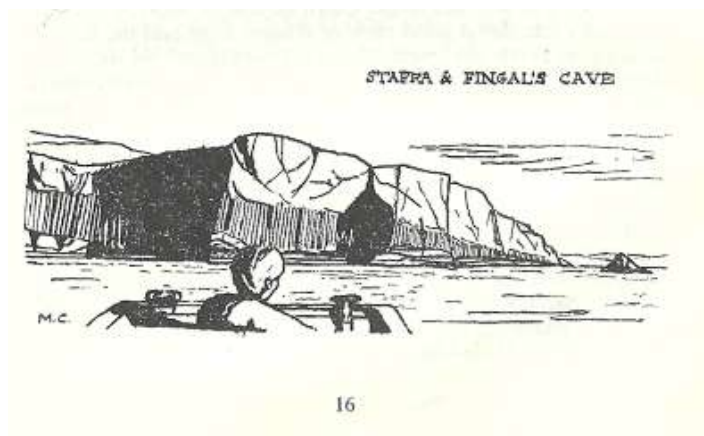
On the last Tuesday of the camp Colonel Howard very kindly lent us both his time and his motor-boat to take half of us on a day's trip to some of Gometra's neighbouring islands. The Treshnish Isles form a chain some six miles long running from north to south, and lie six miles westward of Gometra. Having laid some crawls outside West Harbour we sailed to the two northernmost of the islands, Cairn na Burgh Beg, and the somewhat larger Cairn na Burgh More, obtaining as it was a fine day a good view of Rhum, Eigg and the Cuilins of Skye away to the north. As we approached we disturbed many seals and seabirds, for these islands are rarely visited and are consequently used as breeding grounds—we even found many fulmars still nesting in the hollows at the top of the cliffs. Having nosed the boat carefully down the narrow channel between the islands, we were ferried ashore with compelling competence by our veteran oarsman. When we stepped ashore we were confronted by a shore strewn with boulders which stretched back for about 30 yards to sheer, rocky cliffs. It was like this all the way round the island, except for two narrow gaps in the cliff face, which were the only means of ascent. We made our way up one of these to a grassy plateau. This table-like geological structure of the islands

makes them almost perfect natural fortresses; and in fact they were used as such continuously from the ninth to the seventeenth centuries, their holders blocking up the few steep gullies with artificial walls, so making the places impregnable. On Cairn na Burgh More, which is perhaps some 150 yards across, we inspected the remains of the ninth-century chapel, the fort itself, and some of the ruins of surrounding buildings. On the west coast stood a very impressive natural arch, about fifty feet high. A Trig Point and sheep were the only signs of a visit in this century.

After lunch, the cameramen got to work and the seal-charmers sang their love songs to an unappreciative audience; then we embarked and followed the chain of islands southwards, past Fladda and the biggest island of the group, Lunga, with its inaccessible harp-shaped rock fortress. Unfortunately lack of time prevented us from landing here. So we headed past the reef through a rising sea to Staffa, most people, it seemed, enjoying being soaked by spray near the bows.

Staffa, with its famous basalt columns, remarkable anticlines, and caves - Cormorant's, Clamshell and Fingal's (this last named after the legendary giant), presented a memorable sight. As it was too rough to land we turned northwards for Little Colonsay, which lies about a mile south of Ulva. After viewing this island (like Staffa, uninhabited) from the boat, we made for Gometra, and threw out the fishing lines. The first mackerel of our stay was hooked, thus crowning a most enjoyable day. We must thank Colonel Howard for making possible a trip which took place under blue skies, and was of the utmost interest to all of us.

Richard Fountaine and David Leathley



THE WEATHER

This may be rather a well-worn topic, but in describing a camp in the Hebrides it is one that simply cannot be ignored! - Ed.

On the whole the weather did not spoil the expedition at all. The first day was somewhat disconcerting as all the camp arranging was in progress and the rain did not help; but in the next few days, although there was a little rain, there were also some very fine spells. However, towards the end of the first week signs of stormy weather showed themselves. At first the storm did not break out in full force, but either blew up all morning and then quietened down during the afternoon; or else the wind started to get up in the evening, and continued through the night. The storm really gathered on the first day of the second week, reaching gale force. Two of the six bell tents could not stand the strain, and they were ripped. Two others blew down, but fortunately the marquee remained standing. Most of us slept that night in a barn at the farm, whilst a few remained in the marquee; the next morning the wind had dropped sufficiently for the camp to be reorganised. As a precaution against further gales we built dry-stone walls around the tents, but luckily the wind never got up to such strength again. After that storm there were even some sunbathing days; but of course the finest and hottest day of the whole expedition had to be on the day we sailed back. In fact, we arrived home looking a good deal more sunburnt than most of our compatriots!

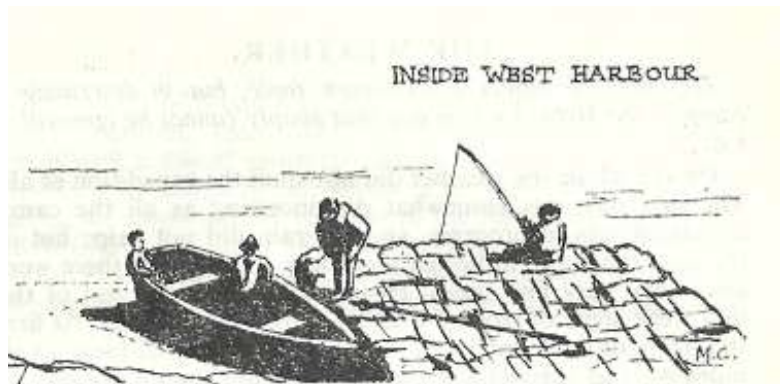
Angus Pimblett

FISHING

The fishing was, on the whole, not very successful. The highest number caught during a morning's fishing from the rowing boat was seven, including some that had to be thrown back. The biggest fish was a 2-lb. mackerel, caught by Peter Cole on the way back from the Treshnish Isles in Col. Howard's launch. He was using Col. Howard's tackle, which perhaps accounts for his success.

The biggest fish I ever caught was about the size of a sardine. The only other thing that I caught (apart from even smaller fish at the same time as I caught the fish that I have mentioned) was a small crab, which was crawling over some seaweed on the surface of the water. Someone tried eating a crab: he only ate one mouthful. We did, however, find some good mussels which we could eat.

17



We caught mackerel, dabs (and some fish whose name I don't know, but they certainly weren't sharks), but we caught more crabs than anything else. We were handicapped by the unusually thick seaweed and by not knowing the best spots. I am quite sure that the fishing in the area is really good—if the right methods are used. Unless, of course, the fish have been killed off by the gulls and seals from the Treshnish Isles!

David Wrigley

A TALE WITH A MORAL

Once upon a time there was a tiny little fish (no bigger than a sardine) who was swimming about quite happily in a little bay. As the sun went down, and the evening shadows began to creep across the water, his mother called to him that it was time to go to bed. But the naughty little fish didn't want to go to bed, and he replied very rudely "I can't be fished" and swam off. But he was, and his poor mother never saw him again.

Moral: Go to bed when your mother tells you, otherwise you will find that you're not the only fish not in the sea.

Anon.

THE CAMP SITE

It was, I think, as everyone had expected it to be. Obviously the spot was very sheltered, which is always necessary on Hebridean islands. It was on a fertile, though treeless bit of land, about 30 ft. above sea level, the sea being only three hundred yards away. There was a good mile between Gometra House and the camp, which was a good thing as we were trying not to impose upon the islanders, but to be as independent in our purpose as possible. If, however, in grave circumstances we were to fall back on their help, there was a good stretch of

track going from Gometra House all the way (8 miles) to Ulva Ferry. This, therefore, made it relatively easy to transport luggage from one place to another.

There was a spring nearby from which we drew our water; and the site also contained a good flat area of ground which was used for cricket and for some exciting games of football between the officers and the boys (which the officers won.—Ed.) I think most people would agree that we could not have found a better site anywhere on the island.

Ian Christmas

All of us had wondered what our island with its mysterious name would really be like; but it was such a scramble to get our equipment ashore and the camp established, that it was Sunday morning before we could take stock of our surroundings. The island was much larger than I had expected; but we soon found our bearings as we combed the shore for driftwood to make our camp furniture.

Gometra abounded with rabbits which had appetites as keen as our own. One or two of the hunters among us added them to the menu, but with or without rabbits we lived very well, and honoured the cooks with a clean sweep at every meal.

Timothy Hill

CLIMBING

Of all the activities of the expedition, it can be safely said that the climbing was one which was anticipated and enjoyed by everyone. A number of climbs (reasonably difficult for beginners such as ourselves) were attempted—all between about 30 and 50 feet in height—and of these, most were "conquered" by all of the particular party tackling them. The best climbs were in the region of Torr Mor, which was a long ridge of rocks with many suitable cracks in it.

Our climbing instructor was Chris Oakeley; and here is a list of some of the methods and instruments we used under his instruction. The knot which was used by the man about to climb was a bowline. The man at the top was belayed (this is explained later). We took with us carabiners, used for linking two ropes together; and pitons, to be hammered into vertical faces for foot or rope holds.

The climbs which we attempted were free from danger; or if there was any danger it was to Chris. He was always the first man up, and so he never had any rope to hold him if he fell. When he reached the top he anchored himself to a rock, and tied to the same rock the other end of the rope which the

climber below had around his middle. As this man began to climb, the man at the top fed the rope through his hands, keeping it taut all the time. By this belaying method, if the climber loses his footing, he is safely suspended on the end of the taut rope and can be slowly lowered down to the ground. or may resume climbing.

For future expeditions climbing is a must, if only because it promotes a feeling of combined effort which, after all, is one of the primary objects of our Society.

Geoffrey Fieldhouse and Roger Jones

THE SCHOOLS HEBRIDEAN COMPANY LTD

(The Company is being formed, as a registered charity, to assist the running of the administrative side of the Society)

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Editor of Report

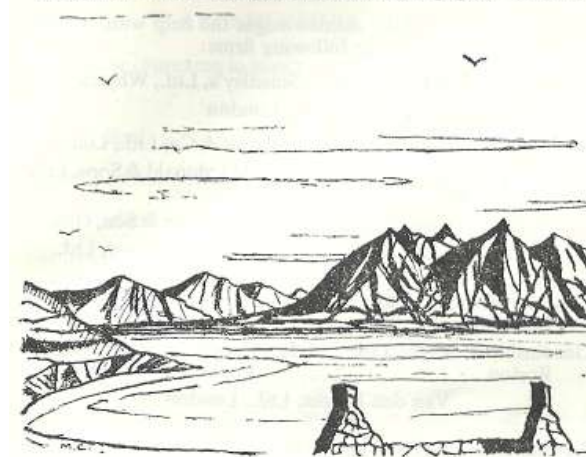
C. M. Child

PLANS FOR 1963

The Society is organising two expeditions for 1963. Each-of these will be composed of 30 boys and 10 adults. The cost for each boy will be £20, plus the rail fare (reduced) to and from the port of departure. Both expeditions will take place at the beginning of the summer holidays, and will last for a fortnight plus travelling time each way.

Several of the officers on this year's Gometra expedition will be returning, either to Rhum or to Gometra.

GENERAL VIEW OF SKYE FROM THE RHUM SITE.



Rhum Expedition 1963. Ages (approx.): 14.6-17 years (in August 1963). This will take place as soon as possible after the school term; the exact dates will be announced before Christmas. The expedition will concentrate on climbing, sailing and surveying, and all boys in four groups will bivouac for three days on a remote part of Skye. Unique features of Rhum are the red deer (over 1500 head), the wild goats, and a herd of wild (though harmless!) ponies. We are greatly indebted to the Nature Conservancy for giving us permission to use the site on Rhum. The expedition leader will be John Abbott.

Gometra Expedition 1963. Ages (approx.): 13.0-14.6 years (in August 1963). This will probably start halfway through the first week in August; again, the exact dates will be announced before Christmas. The expedition will be run on very similar lines to the 1962 expedition. The leader will be Tim Willcocks. Once more we are greatly indebted to Colonel and Mrs. Howard and to Lady Congleton for permission to use Gometra and Ulva.

An Application Form for both expeditions is on page 23; this should be filled in and returned as soon as possible by all boys wishing to hike part. As there is a very heavy demand for places, a quota system for schools may have to be made.

Further details will be given to successful applicants as soon as possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society gratefully acknowledges the help with supplies which it received from the following firms:

C. Shippam, Ltd., Chichester.	Smedley's, Ltd., Whyteleafe
	Unigate, Ltd., London
Bovril Ltd., London	J. Lyons & Co. Ltd., London
Cadbury-Fry Export Dept., Bourneville	Wm. Macdonald & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow
C. & T. Harris (Calne), Ltd.	D. McKerchar & Son, Oban.
Humber Marine, Ltd., Hull	The Nestle Company, Ltd., Hayes
Knorr Anglo-Swiss, Ltd., London	Offshore (Sailing) Ltd., Salcombe
Lincolnshire Cannery, Ltd., Boston	Jas. Robertson & Sons, Ltd., London
Van den Berghs, Ltd., London	

We also acknowledge with thanks the help we received from the following:

D. J. Fountains, Esq.	C. D. Mitchell, Esq.
F. O. Hayden, Esq.	Group Capt. A. J. M. Smyth

The Director of the Scottish Tourist Board T. A. H. Peacocke, Esq., and the Mountaineering Club of St. John's School, Leatherhead, for the loan of climbing equipment. The Argyllshire Education Committee, for the loan of cutlery and crockery. The Army School of Artillery, Larkhill; and the School of Engineering, Trinity College, Dublin, for the loan of surveying equipment. The Ordnance Survey, Chessington, for the loan of maps. Grundig (G.B.) Ltd., London, for the loan of a tape recorder. D. H. Wrigley, Esq., for the loan of a parabolic reflector. The Station Master at Oban Station, for much assistance with storage and transport. H. Carmichael, Esq., the owner of the M.V. "Dougal's."

The Editor wishes to thank Mr. L. P. James, and the Southwold Press Ltd., for help with the publication -of this Report.

SCHOOLS HEBRIDEAN SOCIETY APPLICATION FORM

Full Name (Surname in BLOCK CAPITALS, please).....

 Date of Birth.....
 Home Address
 School Address
 Father's (or Guardian's) Name.....
 His Address
 Expedition for which your Application is being made.....

 Name and Address of Housemaster or Headmaster who is prepared to give you a reference.....

 Please state any experience or qualifications which you think will enable the Leader to select you (interests and hobbies should also be included):

This form, when completed, should be sent direct to:

C. M. Child,
 Hon. Sec., Schools Hebridean Society,
 The Vicarage,
 SOUTHWOLD,
 Suffolk.

On becoming a member of the Society you will be required to pay a £2-2-0 membership fee which will last for five years. Payment for the expedition will be by arrangement with the Hon. Treasurer, R. M. Fountaine. Boys in need of financial assistance should apply to the Chairman, A. J. Abbott.