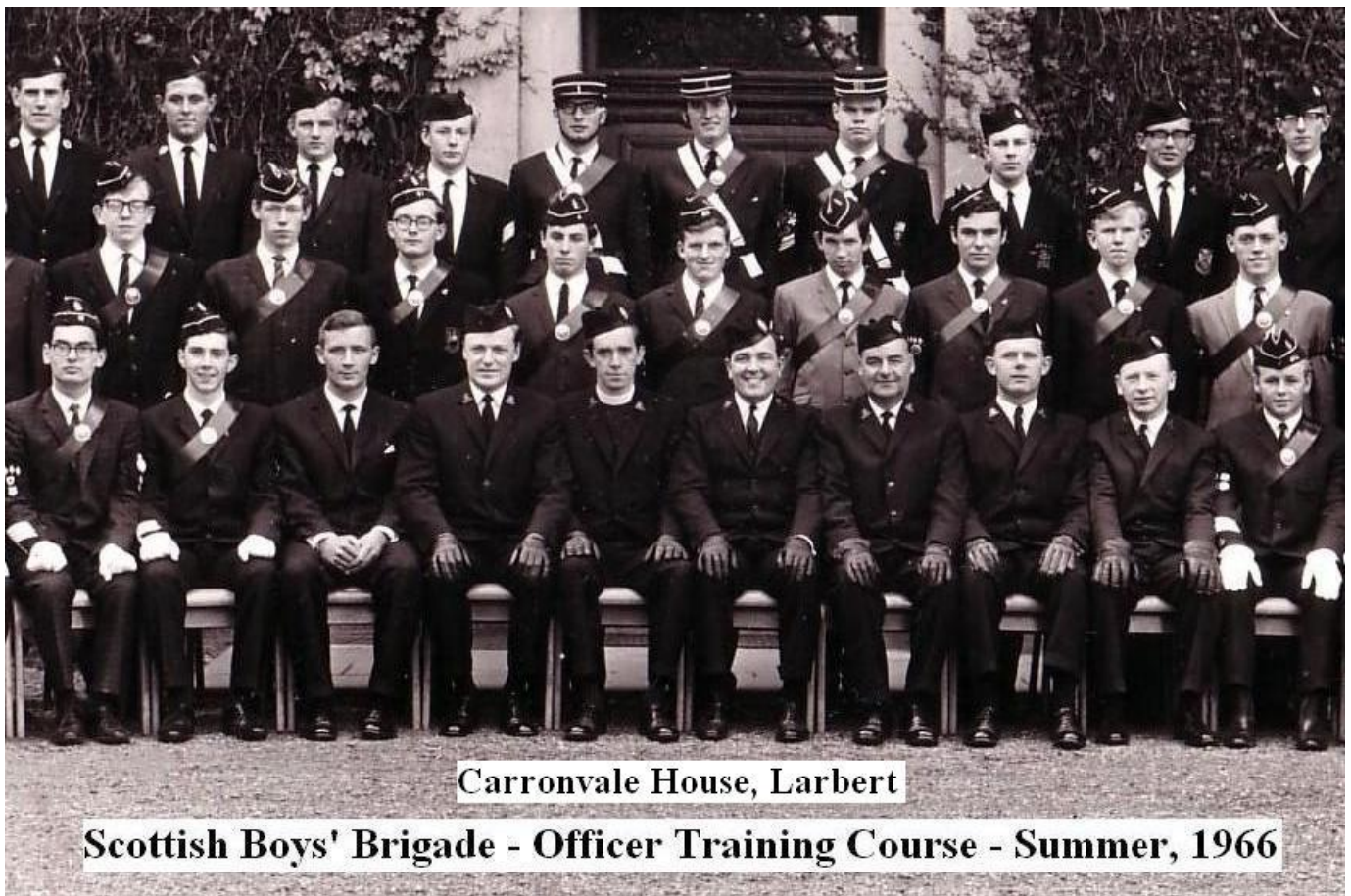


Chapter 70 Summer - 1966

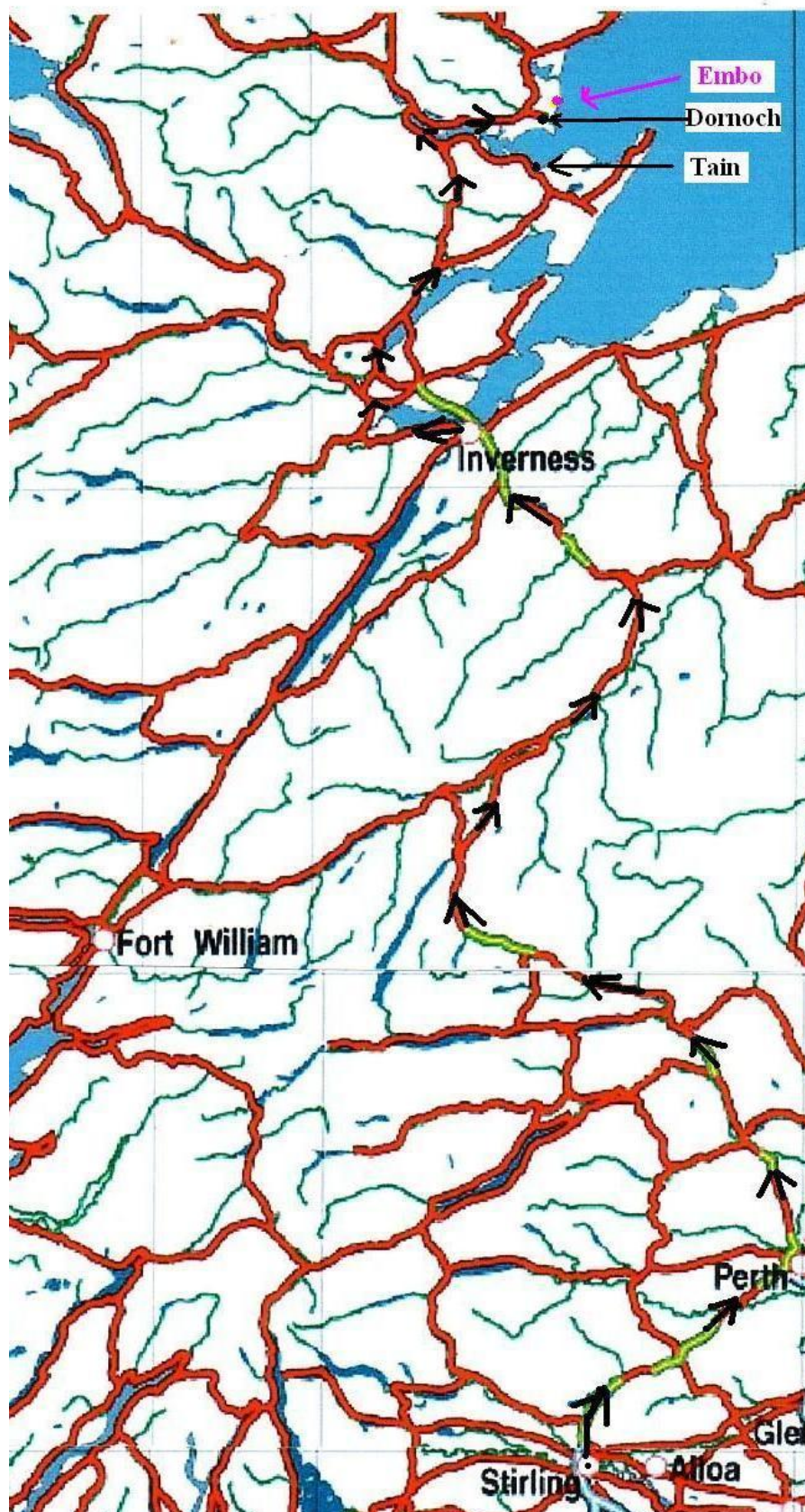
The lengthy University vacation period between mid-June until early October each year with minimal use of the Stevenson PE Building caused a different (and very pleasant) time-tabling of necessary supervision for ongoing activities, v.i.z. each of the five staff undertook only one continuous three-week stint, but otherwise were on holiday – apart from an emergency ‘on-call’ understanding. Thus, with more time to spend with Olive and Evan at 29 Springwood Avenue, it was easier for me, without appearing ‘to desert the ship’ overmuch, to continue my normal participation in County cricket for SCCC at Williamfield, club tennis at Livilands LTC, and very sociable summer soccer for Stirling County RFC ‘Oldies’ at Bridge of Allan.

However, this summer of 1966 not only brought on extensive ‘pencil and paper’ preparation for my role as *i/c* PE and Games at the Officer Training Course, Carronvale, Larbert, but also the arranging of the transportation of conveniently loaned equipment from the Stevenson that bolstered the variety of activities attempted during the week-long course. It was all worth it, as, despite inclement weather during part of the week, I was able to improvise indoors with ease due to the Varsity provision.

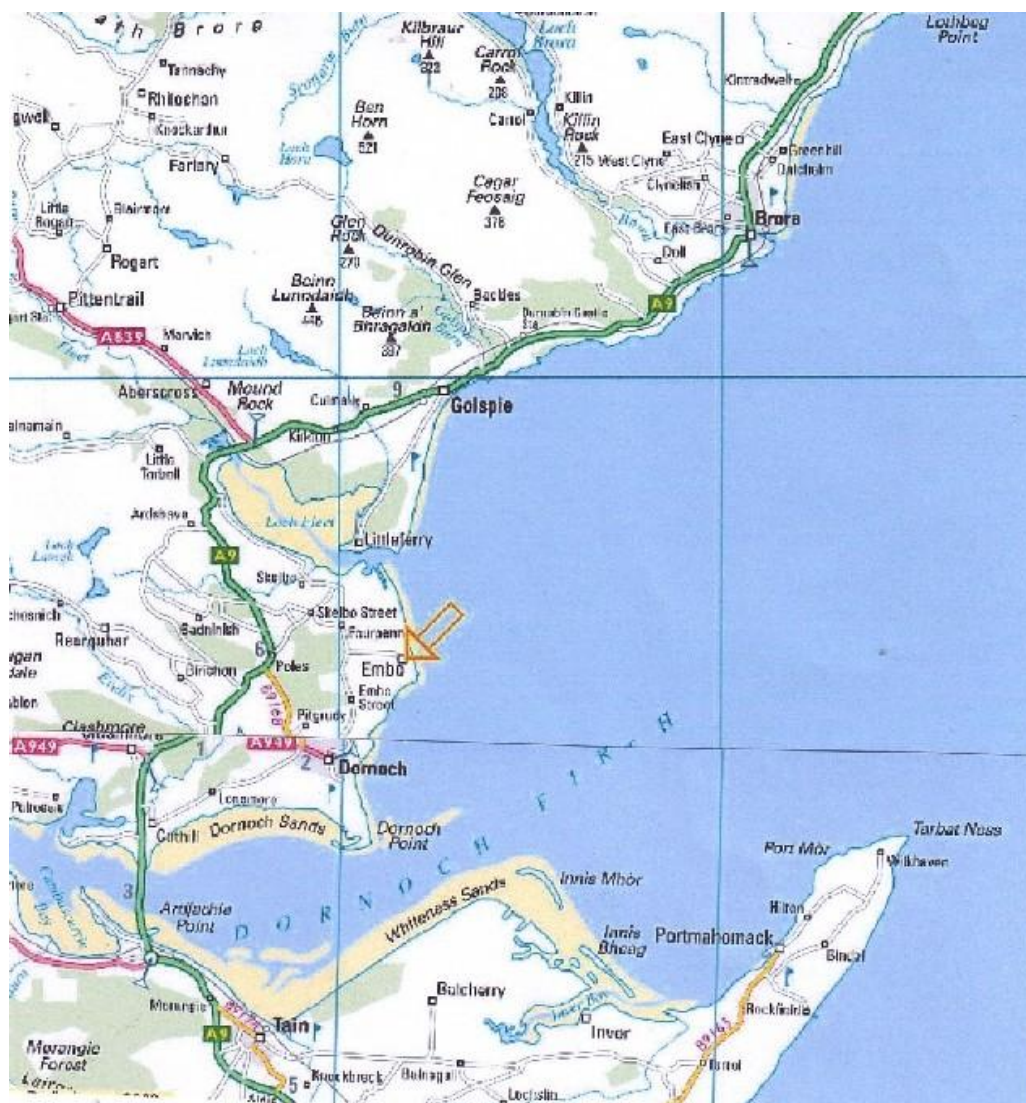


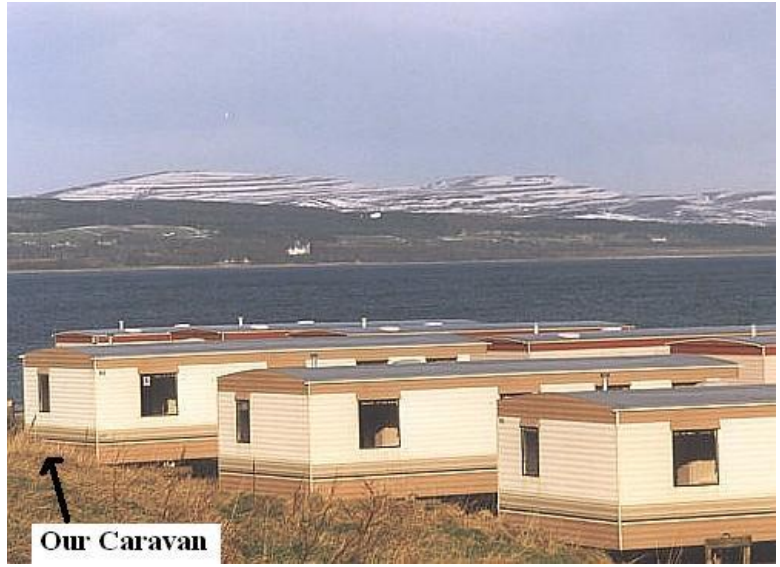
For a break away from Stirling in July, we invited Aunt Neta to join us in hiring a car to go over 150 miles up North to 'Grannie's Heilan Hame' Caravan Site at **EMBO**, a little village on the coast just north of **Dornoch**.

Stirling to Embo - July, 1966



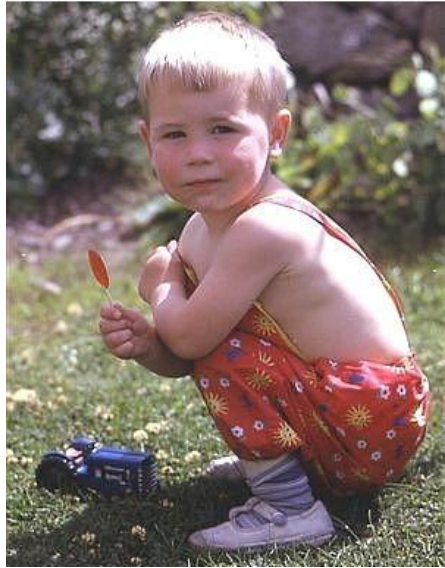
Aunt Neta was thrilled at the prospect - so off we went on a Sunday with a full tank of petrol in a light blue 1100cc, Vauxhall Viva. By the time we got to Perth (30 miles), I was looking suspiciously at the petrol gauge that was already registering only three-quarters full! But we drove on until by about half-way to Inverness the tank was almost empty. So we filled up and this time the petrol lasted to Inverness ... just! Luckily there, we found a garage open ... and they quickly diagnosed that a rubber fuel hose was rock-solid and was leaking at the jubilee-clip "I bet it has cost yees a fortune to git here frae Stirling' commiserated the mechanic. ... ay, twa tankfu at least I wid say!" Then he fixed it and we motored on But it was late afternoon by then and still a fair ways to go. But now I appeared to have more power under my foot so we made good time and arrived in Embo before dusk.





Our Caravan

**Our Laddie
'Evan John'**



Our Beach

**Touring from Embo to Lairg, Altnaharra, Bettyhill ...
Aunt Neta in front seat with Olive behind, Evan up top!**



We had a great time ... on the beach ... cooking/washing up ... going to Lairg on market-day ... shopping in Dornoch reaching John o Groats ... and Olive and I getting out [without a bairn] to the Heilan Hame Pub in the evening because of our build-in baby-sitter!

The fortnight passed all too quickly and in no time it seemed we were heading back-doon-the-road-sooth tae cauld claes an porridge for us and the County Salaries Department workplace for Aunt Neta. The weeds had spread in our virgin garden ... the grass needed a shave Work for me! ... but Olive had a huge load of washing to deal with so no grass-cutting on the back-green until all had been washed, wrung and hung out to dry.

Importantly, I had to take issue with Preston's in Friar Street, Stirling, the hirer of the (probably) unchecked/un-serviced faulty Viva. It was a little embarrassing as Robert Preston was well known to me And to my father who had been his teacher in P7 in Stirling HS Primary Department. However, he was most apologetic and reimbursed us with the value of a full tank of petrol.

We then had a visit from Ian Millar before school-term started for him in mid-August ... and a guid blether about rugby as usual ... but he also gave us a nice slide that he had found in his photo-workshop from the previous year

