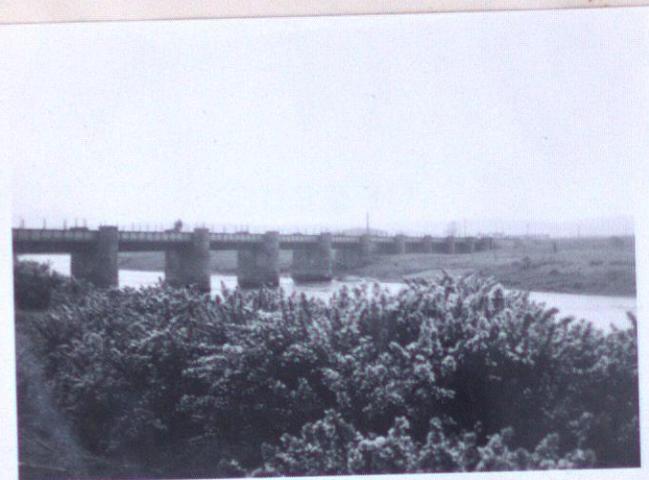


Dumfries - Lochebie branch (Caledonian Rly) Walk from Shieldhill to Lochebie
 30/4/61.

The weather was rather doubtful but we drove round to Frank's house and were soon on the way to Shieldhill with Denny + Julian. It rained a bit on the way but it was quite reasonable when we got there. Shieldhill was a typical Caledonian station now all but resting at peace. We had lunch there before setting off. Daddy took Denny + Julian down to Southerness, below Criffell and by the sea. The country on our route was low lying lush land. At Lochmaben we found notices concerning freight travel but on the whole everything was closed up. I think it was after Lochmaben, but I may be wrong, that we came to a long low lying bridge across an embankment which was obviously inclined to flood (River Annan). There had also been a car crash at Lochmaben. A car had left the road on the embankment up to the railway bridge but nobody seemed to have been hurt. We passed Castle Loch and were soon in the Lochebie district passing a sewer works - rather smelly. We left the railway at a road bridge and it was here that there was a yellow contraption fixed to the middle of a sleeper which looked terribly modern. I left Frank + Jerry to go and see if I could see any trains on the main line but I had no luck and soon the car rolled up to take us home. On the return journey we discussed plans for the Alnwick - Coldingham full-scale hike.

Photographs and Map overleaf.

5, London, S.E.
Hampson Court, Surrey



The Aunay River Viaduct or bridge after
destruction.



Shieldhill signal box + sidings - a too
familiar sight - The start of our walk.