

EASTER MEET, 1934.

FORT WILLIAM.

The experiment of holding a meet in Scotland at Easter proved highly successful. The meet was well attended, 27 members being present. All the arrangements worked with great smoothness, reflecting considerable credit on the organisers; the railway officials were most helpful and very comfortable quarters were found at the Highland Hotel. The weather, although not perfect, was distinctly good and every member of the party visited Ben Nevis at least once, in addition to exploring other hills in the neighbourhood. There was much activity in the town and on the hillsides, as both the British Members of S.A.C. and the Wayfarers' Club had large parties, and there was also a camping party at Loch Meall an t-Suidhe. The week-end was unfortunately marred by an accident to two members of the latter party, resulting in the death of Maurice Linnell and severe injuries to Colin Kirkus. The accident took place on the Castle of Càrn Dearg, due to the slipping away of a patch of snow. Linnell was killed instantaneously. Kirkus, by a magnificent effort, reached the summit ridge, from which he was helped down to the camp. Some of our members, in conjunction with four members of the Rucksack Club, recovered Linnell's body with great difficulty on the following day. We congratulate Kirkus on his satisfactory recovery from his injuries, and extend our sincere sympathy to Linnell's family, and to the Rucksack Club on the loss of a very promising member.

The following expeditions were made by our members during the week-end:—

Friday, 30th March. A party of eight detrained at Corroun and walked over to Fort William by Steall and Glen Nevis. The remainder completed the train journey, and after depositing their baggage in the hotel worked up into Coire Leas, where two parties, led by Brettell and Lister respectively, ascended the North and South Castle Gullies.

Saturday, 31st March. Two parties were in Coire na Ciste, one ascending No. 3 gully and the other No. 4. The No. 3 gully was heavily corniced and provided good sport.

Lister led a party over the Càrn Mòr Dearg Arête, descending to Polldubh.

The remaining members ascended the Ben by the path, arriving at the summit in thick mist, which, however, cleared in the afternoon.

Brettell, Beck, Henn and Milnes-Walker went on down to the S.M.C. Hut where they were joined by Sheldon. Brettell, Milnes-Walker and Sheldon then set off in the dark for the scene of the accident and reached the point in the gully on the Castle where Dr. Alford Rogers and some other members of the A.B.M.S.A.C. had forced a way out on to the rocks to assist the Rucksack party led by Hughes, who had been trying all afternoon to reach Linnell. Brettell and the others found it impossible to do anything further in the dark, but were able to supply the Rucksack party with some much-needed food, and they all returned to the Hut where they spent the night.

Sunday, April 1st. Duncan and Graham, with Mrs. Graham and Mrs Brettell, drove to Dornie. The two former had assisted on the previous night with the stretcher party which brought Kirkus down. It was fortunate for them that they got away in good time, as shortly afterwards Sheldon came to collect a party to take the stretcher up the Allt a'Mhuilinn. On arrival at the foot of Càrn Dearg it was found that the rescue party were still hard at work on the Castle. It consisted of H. V. Hughes, G. S. Bower, F. G. Bennett and H. Walker of the Rucksack Club, and Brettell, Beck, Henn and Milnes-Walker of the M.A.M.. They had left the Hut at 8 a.m. and did not get back to the foot of the gullies until after 6 p.m. in the evening—a gruelling business. It was a fine effort, deserving the greatest praise. One point worth mentioning is that Bower had the forethought to prepare and bring up from the Hut a wooden stake which was driven into the snow on the upper part of the Castle and formed an invaluable anchor for the rescue party. Lister and Sheldon formed a relief party and took over the lowering of the body down the snow from the junction of the two gullies. Many willing helpers assisted with the stretcher down to the road, but found it no easy task to negotiate the rough ground in the dark.

Monday, April 2nd. Duncan and Morgan drove a party up Glen Arkaig, where they climbed Garbh Chioch Mhòr and obtained a wonderfully fine view. Lister and several others went to the top of Ben Nevis, where again there was some mist. A large party drove to Polldubh and walked up the Allt a'Choire Dheirg. The Hon. Treasurer found the cold wind too much for

a hollow tooth, and retreated in good order to Steall. The rest traversed Stob Ban, Mullach nan Coirean and Meall a'Chaoruinn, and had a most enjoyable day.

On Tuesday a number of members represented the Association at the funeral of Linnell in the Glen Nevis cemetery. Others were in Coire Leas and on Ben Nevis, but the whole party succeeded in reassembling in time to catch the 4 o'clock train to the South.

The meet was attended by the following members: The President and Mrs. Brettell, Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Graham; the Misses V. J. Cameron, M. Clayton, K. P. Davis, A. M. Jaques, and I. Maxwell; Messrs. T. K. Beck, J. A. Best, D. H. Chad-dock, W. O. Duncan, F. Elphicke, J. A. Fiddian, F. A. Henn, W. Hooke, G. A. Lister, P. A. Lloyd, T. W. Morgan, J. H. Sheldon, E. W. Steeple, F. S. Styles, A. Wadsworth, T. Wadsworth, A. C. Waive, and R. Milnes-Walker.

E. W. STEEPLE.