

REPORT A

KINLOSS MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM INCIDENT REPORT

1. Nature of Incident: Two climbers killed by fall from hard snow slopes. North slopes of Sgurr Fiona (An Teallach). Companion injured during rescue attempt.
2. Duration of Incident: Team called out: 1820A hrs  
on: 18 Apr 66  
Team returned to Station: 1500A hrs  
on: 19 Apr 66
3. Authority Alerting: ERCC (from Dingwall Police).
4. Time and Date Team left Station: 1845A hrs 18 Apr 66
5. Team Arrived in Search Area at: 2115A hrs 18 Apr 66
6. Location of Incident/Casualties: Fall from approx 3250' (20/NH/065837). Bodies recovered from 2,500' (20/NH/064843) after being lowered for several hundreds of feet down steep snow by Mr Ogilvie and Dr Patey.
7. a. Duration of Search: N/A  
b. Time Casualties Found: N/A
8. Type of Search: N/A
9. Weather Conditions: At time of accident - clear, sunny, very light winds, hard snow.  
At time of recoveries - clear, dark, strong NE winds, very cold.
10. Composition of Rescue Party (Nos of MR/Civilians etc): 11 Police and Civilian Volunteers, 18 KMRT.
11. Equipment Used:
  - a. MT: 2 x Trucks 3T, Landrover Sigs Truck, Landrover, Vans Police and Civilian, Cars and Ambulance.
  - b. Radio: HF GR 410, Army VHF 31 sets.
  - c. Stretchers/Medical: 2 MacInnes Stretchers (one RAF damaged during incident).
  - d. Other special equipment: Self-heating drinks, full bivouac equipment, Slings, Karabiners, ropes, ice axes, stretcher harness 21E/995, tilley lamps and police calor gas lamp.
12. Sub-units Co-operating: Ullapool Police.
13. No of Casualties Involved: Stretcher Cases - Nil  
Walking - 1  
Dead - 2
14. Casualties Evacuated by: 0300A and 0900A on 19 Apr 66 having been handed over to Police at Ardossie (20/054896) then examined by Dr Patey at Ullapool and taken to mortuary at Dingwall.
15. Casualties:

Iain H. Ogilvie  
Staplehurst Farm  
Kingsmill Lane  
South Nutfield

Charles B. C. Handley  
Abbey Farm  
Hoxne  
Diss

Peter M. Francis  
21 Altham Grove  
Harlow  
Newton

Age:	53	59	About 30
Injuries:	Shock. Minor. (Badly scraped hand, bruises, stiffness)	Dead (Skull and femur fractures)	Dead (Skull and femur fractures)
Clubs:	AC, SMC.	AC, CC. Past President Alpine Ski Club	Thought to be a member of the Alpine Club.
Experience:	Experienced mountaineer.	Experienced mountaineer.	Rock Climber. No Snow/Ice climbing experience.
Equipment:			
Footgear:	Tricounis & Crampons.	Tricounis.	Crampons worn over Vibrams.

Party was fully equipped with ropes, ice axes, piton hammers, pitons, whistles, torches, maps, compasses, spare clothing, energy foods, snow goggles.

16. Narrative: On 18 Apr 66, Ogilvie, Handley and Francis, in good weather and good hard snow conditions, traversed the ridges of An Teallach crossing Sail Liath, Corrag Bhuidhe (avoiding the "Bad Step" on south and west side), Lord Berkeley's Scat and Sgurr Fiona.

Ogilvie left Handley and Francis lunching on Sgurr Fiona while he went off alone to climb Sgurr Creag an Eich (3350') (20/NH/055838) telling them that they were to wait for him on Sgurr Fiona summit or start to descend towards the bealach between Sgurr Fiona and Bidean a' Ghlas Thuill (the whole party intended to complete the An Teallach circuit by traversing Bidean a' Ghlas Thuill). He told them that if they started to descend they were to wait for him if they came to any difficult places, not only so that he could assist and protect them, but also because he would require protection from their rope.

From the ridge of Sgurr Creag an Eich, Ogilvie saw Handley and Francis roped together descending from Sgurr Fiona towards the bealach to the NNE. They were moving fairly fast and moving together on easy ground. Later Ogilvie saw the two of them falling down the steep snow slope, interspersed with patches of rock, on the west side of the ridge. He did not see the start of the fall. They were connected by 50 feet of No 4 nylon rope. Their rope caught on a rock projection after they had fallen about 300 or 400 ft and they were stopped on the slope, supported from either side of the projection.

Ogilvie had been using tricounis only, but he then fitted crampons and traversed the steep snow and rock slope to them. He had 100 or 120 ft of nylon rope with him. He found that the projection which had caught Handley's and Francis's rope was a small one and any movement by them would have dislodged the rope. Ogilvie lowered one man the length of the nylon line, secured him, and then lowered him a further line length and secured him with a piton on a shelf cut into the snow slope. Ogilvie then climbed back up to the other man and lowered him from an ice axe. Ogilvie then started to descend the rope to secure the second man to the slope before he could go back to get the axe. He was going down the rope when he tripped over the second man and fell about 200 ft to the corrie floor. He could not brake as his ice axe was still at the top of the rope. He attempted to brake with a piton hammer but failed. He was shaken, badly bruised and grazed by the fall and could not return up the slope to his friends without an ice-axe, so he went down Coire Mor to Ardessie and alerted police and MRTs at approx 1730A 18 Apr 66. Ogilvie supplied a map accurately marked with the position of the accident and his route down the corrie.

Dr Tom Patey of Ullapool with two local men went up the corrie at approx 1830A followed by 11 local volunteers and police at approx 2030A. Dr Patey went ahead and climbed to the two men who were still secured to the steep slope. He found them both dead and lowered them to the floor of the corrie.

Police and civilian volunteers carried Francis down to approx 046865 where they were met at 0030 by 17 KMRT. 4 KMRT assisted this party and carried Francis to the road at 0300.

As there was no point in searching the corrie at night for Handley's body, 13 KMRT bivouacked at approx 047862 from 0100 to 0530. Handley's body was reached at 0645A and carried to the road at Ardessie by 0900A and handed over to the police.

RCC informed 0900A hrs 18 Apr 66

Signed



Name

HINDE

Rank

Ch Tech

Date

19 Apr 66

Distribution:

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Police and MR Authorities