

THE CAIRNGORM MUNROS IN THREE DAYS

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DURING July 1955 I had the opportunity of spending a few days looking at the state of the remaining snow beds of the Cairngorms, and wished to cover as much of the range as possible. I managed to combine this investigation with the carrying out of a plan to climb all the Munros and see if, in my forties, I was able to keep up anything like the pace which I could twenty years ago. The result was fairly satisfying to my ageing ego and might be of interest to members of the Club. Undoubtedly some of the Tigers of to-day could do the round trip much faster, and it might be possible to devise a cleverer route, but I was in no great hurry, I had two good sleeps, and not being a believer in the "Tilman Breakfast" took a plentiful supply of food, a sleeping bag, a very light tent, and other comforts.

The trip came at the close of a fortnight's very fine weather, the first day was extremely hot, especially in the Lairig an Laoigh. But on the second day some mist came down on the Moine Mhor and the Glenfeshie tops and persisted for a good part of the third day. Quite a lot of compass work was required then, but I got some cheering views of the Feshie and Geldie valleys in breaks. The ground was very dry after the long warm spell; on the second night when the mist had dampened all the grass I searched long for a dry spot for the tent and finally pitched it most unusually—in a peat hag.

My intention had been to start from Loch Builg Lodge, to which I walked from Derry, but after visiting it I "cheated" to some extent by going back and climbing the path up the Allt an Eas Mhoir to a camp site at the fork at 2,700 feet.

The whole walk was most enjoyable. I saw, of course, many herds of deer, many pairs of ptarmigan, some with young just flying, and, in addition to the commoner hill birds, one eagle, one dotterel, and one snow bunting. Few other humans seemed to be about. On Ben Avon I met two who had camped even higher up than myself, a couple were strolling in the Lairig an Laoigh, a single youth was refreshing himself at the Marquis well on Cairngorm, four folk were on the col beyond. On the second day the only meeting was with three people from Glasgow on Geal Charn, and on the last day only a purposeful visit to the Durham University party's camp high up on Ben Macdhui gave me any human contact.

I have listed below the times of arrival on the summits. The whole trip consumed fifty-nine and three-quarter hours of which twenty-two were spent in the overnight camps and thirty-seven and three-quarters on the march. The distance is about 75 miles with 19,000 feet of ascent. My times work out at about 10 per cent. over Naismith's formula, but perhaps that can be attributed to carrying food and camping gear for a good part of the way. But I managed to dump the rucksack and make light side trips to the peaks on several happy occasions. The only record I dare claim is to have lit a pipe on each of the twenty-two summits, a ceremony which may not have been performed before in three consecutive days.

Start from camp at 2,700 feet on Ben Avon at 0800 hours on July 16.

1. Ben Avon	0840 hours
2. Beinn a' Bhùird	1005 "
3. Beinn Bhreac	1145 "
4. Beinn a' Chaoruinn	1330 "
5. A'Choinneach	1520 "
6. Bynack More	1550 "
7. Cairn Gorm	1825 "

Camped near Loch Buidhe at 1940 hours on July 16 to 0400 hours on July 17.

8. Braeriach	0540 hours
9. Cairn Toul	0710 "
10. The Devil's Point	0820 "
11. Carn Ban Mor	1120 "
12. Sgor Gaoith	1155 "
13. Geal Charn	1240 "
14. Meall Dubhag	1515 "
15. Mullach Clach a' Bhlair	1555 "

Camped at Loch nan Cnapan at 1730 hours on July 17 to 0715 hours on July 18.

16. Monadh Mor	0810 hours
17. Beinn Bhrotain	0855 "
18. Carn Cloich-mhuillin	0940 "
19. Carn a' Mhaim	1320 "
20. Ben Macdhui	1500 "
21. Beinn Mheadhoin	1720 "
22. Derry Cairngorm	1835 "

Returned to Derry Lodge at 1945 hours on July 18.



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A' CHOINNEACH AND BYNACK MORE

G. M. McAndrew