



Birkenhead News

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TWO PENCE.

THE FINAL CLIMB.

MOUNT EVEREST CATASTROPHE.

BITTER BLOW TO BIRKENHEAD.

TWO LOCAL HEROES KILLED.



MR. GEORGE LEIGH-MALLORY



MR. A. C. IRVINE

The deepest regret has been caused by the news which was received last night that the two Birkenhead members of the Mount Everest expedition Mr George Leigh-Mallory and Mr A. C. Irvine have been killed during the third assault on the Mountain. The following telegram was received from the Alpine Club by the Reverend Canon Leigh-Mallory last night, "Committee deeply regrets to receive bad news from Everest. Today Norton cables 'Leigh Mallory and Irvine killed on last climb. Remainder returned safe."

Although no definite information is available the foregoing telegram indicates that the party which last month were repulsed owing to winter blinding snow storms in their attempts to make the final attack on the mountain, were once again endeavouring to consummate the great ambition which has led them through toil and trial, sickness and suffering, to risk everything - even their lives - to conquer this mountain.

The news is all the more poignantly sad by reason of the fact that during the last week of dispatch from Mount Everest showed how heroically the two Birkenhead members of the expedition are conducting themselves in the face of great danger and perils. Mr Leigh-Mallory in fact was the central figure in a gallant rescue of four porters who were marooned on a perilous shelf of the mountain and but for his efforts the men would most assuredly have been killed.

In 1921 Mr. Leigh-Mallory was a member of the expedition which unsuccessfully attempted the conquest of the mountain, but although the party did not realise their object, it was believed that the expedition had paved the way to a real conquest at some future date. Mr. Leigh-Mallory remarks at the end of the expedition "If men

could be found to besiege Mount Everest year after year, I believe that it should surrender at last."

In the early part of this year, full of hope and confidence, the party set out to the great adventure, but it was with little thought, although the dangers were realised, that the two would have such an untimely ending. The loss is not only a local one but the whole country and indeed the whole world will mourn, the tragic end of two of the most intrepid and gallant explorers who has ever set foot on foreign fields. Leigh-Mallory was modest and unassuming when putting before the public a graphic narrative of the climb at the conclusion of his last expedition, but his words belied the evidence of the pictures which he cast upon the screen.

They were both young men in the prime of their lives, possessing that spirit, that ambition, and that unswerving purpose which are really the foundations upon which the greatness of the power of this country has been built up. It may be said of the late Mr Mallory and the late Mr Irvine that they sacrificed themselves for their country just as surely as those fearless explorers who lost their lives in the polar expedition some years ago. They went north, not for personal vanity, but to add to the laurels, splendour and renown of the British Empire.

The last dispatch showed that the party had reached an altitude of 23,000 feet, but the great difficulty rested in that last distance that last climb in which Mr Leigh-Mallory and his friend lost their lives.

Mr Leigh-Mallory who is the son of Canon H. Leigh-Mallory vicar of St. John's was educated at Winchester, and later at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Subsequently he became a master at

Charterhouse College, his first climb was made with a master of Winchester in the French Alps and shortly afterwards he became a member of the Alpine Club, was elected to the committee and was chosen by them as a representative for the first Mount Everest expedition. He was the only member of the original party who left with 1922 expedition and his deep interest in the task was shown by his enthusiasm when delivering lectures to gatherings in Birkenhead and Liverpool.

Mr A. C. Irvine is the second son of Mr W Fergusson Irvine M.A., F.S.S. of 56 Park Road South, and grandson of Mr James Irvine, F.R.G.S of Cloughton. At the commencement of the expedition he was only 22 years of age and still pursuing his education at Oxford, and was allowed two terms' special leave from the University to enable him to accompany the expedition for the first time.

He had had some previous experience of exploring, for when an undergraduate of Merton College he was a member of the Merton College exploration party which went to Spitzbergen. He was then one of the four sledges who crossed the island by hitherto unknown and unexplored routes and he undoubtedly attracted much attention by his adventurous accomplishments during this expedition. At Shrewsbury where he was in the Upper Sixth and head of his house, Mr Irvine was captain of the boats and in 1921 he won the interschool hurdle race.

When only 16 years of age he showed an adventurous inclination and rode to the summit of the Carnedd Llewellyn.

The deepest sympathy is extended to the parents and relatives of the deceased men.