

## 7. A BEAKER BURIAL IN THE BLACK ISLE.

During the earlier part of the war, while trenches were being dug at Blackstand, Rosemarkie, a cist containing a Beaker burial was discovered in the northern side of a mound. The site (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/714606) is on the southern slope of a

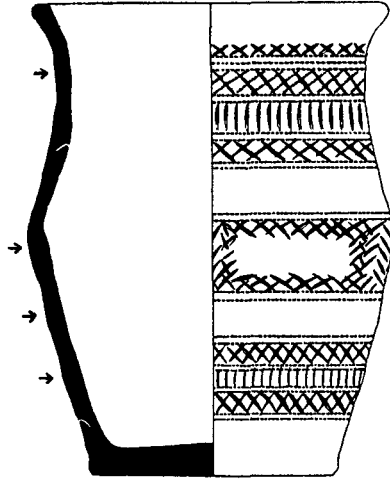


Fig. 4. (3)

rounded tableland a couple of miles inland from the Moray Firth, toward which there is a view down the valley of the Rosemarkie Burn. On this tableland various cairns are marked by the Ordnance Survey a mile or two north-west, north-east and north of Blackstand, while a quarter of a mile and less south, south-east and east of the farm buildings there is a line of mounds at an elevation of 500 to 550 feet. The largest resembles a long or chambered cairn,<sup>1</sup> and is over 200 feet long, the others are round. All may possibly be of natural formation, but the war-time discovery shows that the southernmost was at least utilised as a burial-place in the Early Bronze Age.

The skeletal remains have been lost, but the beaker (fig. 4 ) was preserved

<sup>1</sup> The area containing the chambered cairns described by Professor Childe in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxviii. (1943-44), lies several miles away, in the western half of the Black Isle.

by Captain F. W. Colledge, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, who not only has provided information but has generously added the vessel to the National Collection. It has a well-smoothed red-brown surface, but is made of coarse paste with much quartz grit, grey on the inner surface and black in the core. Its height is 7 inches, rim diameter 5.75 inches and base diameter 3.9 inches. The profile is S-shaped, but with a carination in the middle. The decoration consists of serrated impressions in horizontal bands disposed in three zones. On the neck there are four bands, two of criss-cross impressions, one of short vertical lines, and another of criss-cross lines, each band with two or three continuous horizontal lines below it. About the carination is a broad band outlined with two horizontal lines above and below and containing five panels of close chevrons alternating with five panels which are plain, except for a criss-cross edging. On the lower part of the body there are two criss-cross bands with a band of vertical lines between them, each band having horizontal lines above and below.

The vessel has been built up of rings of clay.<sup>1</sup> The tops of only two of these could be identified where the beaker was broken, but a thickening of the walls most probably denotes the tops of four more: these are pointed out by arrows in the drawn section.

ROBERT B. K. STEVENSON.