

EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PÉTERET, 4109 m. = 13,482 ft. By the N. face. September 4, 1933. Signori Renato Chabod and Amato Grivel.

The route taken follows the little snow arête in the centre of the face, then over the hanging glacier half-way up, and continues by the final slope, arriving on the summit-ridge a few yards from *Pointe Seymour King*. During the summer the entire face had become a solid sheet of hard ice, but a very useful fall of fresh snow (August 23) had much improved the conditions, covering the ice with 8 ins. of very good, hard snow. During our ascent we found ice on those places only which are exposed to the sun much longer than the rest of the face. For that reason it was quite out of the question to follow the only way which would have avoided the hanging glacier on the right, *i.e.* by the recess corresponding to the rock face of *Pointe Güssfeldt*. The above-mentioned recess was all in black ice with a most forbidding appearance. That part of the face under *Pointe Güssfeldt* was also in hard ice, while under *Pointe Seymour King* we found splendid conditions. The route followed by us along the little ice ridge has the great inconvenience of being cut off by the ice wall of the hanging glacier, but all the rest of the route is very much better, the slope being easier and completely safe from falling stones.

The ascent of the hanging glacier presents rather difficult ice work and we had to use several pitons to secure the rope while traversing to the right on a cornice suspended over the great wall. It was distinctly impressive. We first had tried to the left so as to attain the great crevasse dividing the hanging glacier nearly in two, but it was no use : we lost $1\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. in the vain attempt.

We made rather a muddle of our descent from the summit on the Fresnay side, as neither of us had been before on that slope of the mountain. At the beginning we followed the variation (route 111, *Vallot*, 'Mt. Blanc—Tour Ronde') of the Gugliermine-Ravelli party, till under the *Punta Gugliermine*. Then after some difficulty, we reached very low down the route followed by Preuss—Bonacossa—Prochownick (route 109, *loc. cit.*). Night overtook us before our arrival at the Dames Anglaises bivouac. From what we discovered subsequently, the ascent of the Aiguille Blanche de Péteret by the N. face appears to have been attempted by Sir H. Seymour King with Emile Rey.¹ The face must have been quite different then,

[¹ This is interesting ; but Emile Rey can hardly have been present, since King states distinctly that Rey, having just arrived over the Col du Géant, only joined the party at his own request on



Drawn by R. Chabod.

AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PÉTERET, N. FACE. SHOWING 1933 ROUTE.

the great alterations of 1921 having changed its entire structure. Several parties have been studying it in recent years.

On the whole we had quite a good deal of step-cutting to do, although our good crampons might have avoided this (if less safe), except in the few places where it was absolutely necessary. The angle of the slope is very considerable and the step-cutting was very rapid; we preferred this method, which was also less fatiguing for our legs. The condition of the hanging glacier may vary very much from year to year. It might also be easy, or in other years quite impossible.

The height of the N. face is about 3000 ft.: the ascent of this lies over entirely new ground.

Times (see illustration):

Brenva bivouac	. . . . . dep.	03.50
A = commencement of the N. face;		
first halt	. . . . .	06.05–06.25
B = End of snow arête; second halt	. . . . .	08.25–09.10
C = Hanging glacier; third halt	. . . . .	12.35–13.15
Summit	. . . . .	15.00–15.15
Base of <i>Punta Gugliermia</i>	. . . . .	17.10
Dames Anglaises bivouac	. . . . . arr.	21.10

R. C.

Pennines.

WELLENKUPPE, 3910 m. = 12,830 ft. By the N.E. face.² July 10, 1933. Mr. T. Graham Brown with Alexander Graven and Alfred Aufdenblatten.

[The N.E. face of the Wellenkuppe rises directly for about 1200 ft. from the Trift Glacier to the summit and the upper part of the crest of the long N. arête—terminating at the Triftjoch. The face is a steep slope of rocks and snow with a fairly well-defined couloir just to the right, N., of the direct line of the summit. The rocks are loose on the lower part of the face, but firm on the upper. The face, apparently unclimbed up to 1933,³ is not one which should be attempted save early in the season, when the loose rocks are bound with snow. It is then safe, as it was on the present occasion, when it was found to provide an interesting training climb at the beginning of a season.]

July 30, the day before the successful assault on the mountain (*A.J.* 12, 432). There is no mention by King (*loc. cit.*, 431–8) of any previous unsuccessful attempts by his party from the Brenva side. If such were made, the guides must have been Ambros Supersaxo and Alois Anthamatten. Supersaxo led throughout the first ascent of July 31, 1885.—*Editor.*]

² The face is well shown in *Alpes Valaisannes*, ii, illustration p. 143.

³ It may however have been descended, *ibid.* p. 144.

The party left Zermatt at 00.55 and reached the bergschrund under the aforesaid couloir at 06.05 with halts of $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. on the way. Leaving again at 06.10, the couloir was ascended with rocks close on the right, for which the couloir was soon quitted. Easy rocks led up to some snow at 06.29. This was traversed to the left and then ascended. At 06.45, the line of ascent became a better defined rib of sound rock, the top of which was reached at 07.15. From here or below, the most direct line to the summit sloped upward to the left, but was denied by the state of the overhanging cornice. The party was therefore forced to the right along a difficult traverse (first *descending*, then horizontal, then ascending) on ice and snow, of about 330 ft. in length. This occupied $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. and ended at a place where it was possible to surmount the cornice safely towards the N. end of the terminal, gently sloping snow portion of the N. arête. Having crossed the cornice at 08.00, the party reached the summit in an easy 7 mins., at 08.07, or $6\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from Zermatt, halts excluded.

The summit was left again at 08.40, and the Triftjoch was reached at 11.47 down the N. arête. This proved to be unexpectedly fine and interesting. Despite its bad reputation, the rock is essentially sound, although there is necessarily much loose surface rock on a rarely visited arête, and the climb deserves wider popularity. Descent was made by the ordinary route from the Triftjoch, and Zermatt was reached at 15.18, or 5 hrs. 50 mins., excluding halts, the actual climbing of the whole expedition having occupied 12 hrs. 20 mins.

T. G. B.

Bernese Oberland.

DIE HÖRNLI AM EIGER. Traverse. August 11, 1933. Miss M. FitzGibbon with Joseph Georges, *le skieur*.

[The history of these teeth, of which five points (from S.W. to N.E.) are measured on the *S. map*, 3069 m., 3004 m., 2929 m., 2866 m., 2706 m., is given at great length in the *Climbers' Guide*, iv, 1931, pp. 145-50. The name 'Hörnli' on the map appears to apply to the two lowest points.]

The intention of the party was to traverse all the teeth as far as the Mittellegi Pass (hut). From a bivouac at Bonern, close to the base of the lower (unmeasured) gendarmes, the party on August 9 attempted to climb the N.W. spur. This proving impracticable owing to bad and overhanging rocks, the party, on August 11, left their bivouac at 05.00 and overcame the first step by two wet chimneys. Then by scree to the W. face of the lowest gendarme which shows towards Grindelwald a nearly vertical wall of some 400 ft. A deeply-cut, black chimney furrows the centre of the face or wall. The party climbed the lowest 100 ft. and then attempted to pull out to the left by an exposed ledge and so attain

the main crest. The ledge petering out, the party returned and climbed the chimney to a chock-stone where the former bifurcates. Up the left branch of the chimney for some 120 ft. to some jammed stones providing the one and only belay. Thence by easier rocks for 100 ft. to the crest, attained slightly to the N. of the first gendarme. The two following and lofty teeth are turned to the right, W., when the little gap marked 'Sattel' (*S. map*) is attained. The traverse of the ridge was continued to the notch between points 2929 m. and 3004 m. The Japanese party of 1927⁴ by an artificial tunnel attained the summit of point 2929 m., but the 1933 party reached the same point by an easy gully to the right. Point 3004 m. proved the main difficulty in the upward traverse of the ridge. The fixed rope is not *over* the gap,⁵ but stretches *from* the gap by the S.E. face to the crest.⁶ The first 30 ft. are not difficult; afterwards, despite the rope, the climb becomes exceedingly hard over vertical and exposed rocks to the top. Henceforward an easy and pleasant climb to the hut. Bad weather on the following day prevented a continuation of the traverse towards the Eiger.

The expedition is interesting, but the rock, especially in the lower part, is not always good.

Times :

Bivouac	.	.	.	.	.	dep.	05.00
First gendarme	.	.	.	.	.	.	08.45
Sattel	.	.	.	.	.	.	10.40
2706 m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11.35
2866 m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13.15
2929 m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13.55
3004 m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16.00
3069 m.	.	.	.	.	.	.	16.10
Mittellegi hut	.	.	.	.	.	arr.	17.50

Previous parties appear to have commenced the traverse at point 2866 m.; the 400 ft. chimney in the lowest gendarme is stated to have been previously unclimbed.

SCHEIDEGG WETTERHORN, 3474 m. = 11,201 ft. By the N.W. face. August 14, 1933. Miss M. FitzGibbon with Joseph Georges, *le skieur*. The party left the Grosse Scheidegg at 03.25 and gained the rocks to the N. of the Schlafhubel. Thence by the (1929) route of the first party⁷ to the snow patch and thence back again to the right, S., to the great chimney at the apex of the traverse. This appears very formidable but provided an interesting and wet climb first by bridging to a chock-stone and then backing-up to an exit

⁴ *A.J.* 39, 324-6; 42, 256-9.

⁵ *Ibid.* 41, 423—taken from *Echo von Grindelwald*.

⁶ *Ibid.* 42, illustration facing 259.

⁷ *Ibid.* 41, 404-6 (illustration); 42, 1-15 (see illustrations thereto).



Photo, Miss M. FitzGibbon.]

HÖRNLIGRAT. TAKEN FROM ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF 400-FT. CHIMNEY.
ATTEMPTED TRAVERSE WAS JUST ABOVE THE DARK ROCK.

[To face p. 202.]

at the back of the chimney (some 60 ft.). Above this, the slabs on the second traverse back to the left, N., were wet and very difficult ; in one place water flowed over the party's feet for some yards. After the traverse above the piton,⁸ the party went to the right—the leader considering this procedure easier than the two difficult (to the *left*) chimneys taken by himself on the second ascent in 1930.⁹ The party was eventually forced, in order to gain the boss of rock above the great couloir—the clue to the ascent—to *descend* a quartz, overhanging and very difficult chimney. This caused a loss of one hour. Rain came on at this point and the rocks were wet for the remainder of the day.¹⁰ Forced to continue, the party eventually reached the ridge and so on to the summit. Descent by the Hühnergutz and Krinne Glaciers to the Gleckstein hut.

Times :

Gr. Scheidegg	.	.	.	.	dep.	03.25
Top of 'great chimney'	.	.	.	.	.	09.50
'piton'	.	.	.	.	.	12.00
ridge	.	.	.	.	.	16.00
Gleckstein	.	.	.	.	arr.	20.55

The party was not incommoded by possessing no *Karabiner*. They carried their nailed boots, but this causes great loss of time (? 1 hr.), as it is impossible to climb most of the chimneys and the vertical parts wearing a sack. They carried 120 ft. of rope, but never used more than 70 ft. The 'piton' is too low and too far away to be of much use as a belay. The texture of the slabs is very interesting—rather like a tar-macadamed road set at an awkward angle. Both members of the party found *Kletterschuhe* 'suicidal' at the beginning of the slabs. Miss FitzGibbon climbed in stockings only. Higher up, when rain started, the *Kletterschuhe* were very successful.

Time did not allow of continuing the climb to the Wetterhorn, but the summit of that peak was attained by the Hühnergutz route on August 16.

M. FITZGIBBON.

[It is a noteworthy fact that the second and third ascents of the Scheidegg slope of this peak—rightly described as a wonderful climb by the above party—should have been accomplished by the *same* skilful leader, under those conditions which Dr. Finzi expressly warns his successors against.¹¹—*Editor.*]

WETTERHORN, 3703 m. = 12,149 ft. By the N. (Hühnergutz) face, N.E. and S.W. arêtes. Traverse. August 6, 1933. Mr. D. Lewers with Adolf Rubi.

⁸ *A.J.* 42, 10.

⁹ *Ibid.* 43, 175–7.

¹⁰ The party *saw* only one falling stone.

¹¹ *A.J.* 42, 13 ; 43, 177.



Photo, Miss M. FitzGibbon.]

SLABS STREAMING WITH WATER ON N.W. FACE OF SCH. WETTERHORN. THE TRAVERSE ABOVE THE GREAT CHIMNEY.
KL. WELLHORN IN BACKGROUND.

Leaving the Gleckstein hut at 03.00, Rubi and I struck off in a N.E. direction, until the steep rocks forming the more or less horizontal section of the S.W. arête were reached. We ascended on to the ridge and then *descended* its N. slope, traversing towards the N. face of the mountain. After crossing the schrund we proceeded round the head of the snowfield of the Hühnergutz Glacier and commenced the ascent of the face of the N.E. arête at a point almost below a conspicuous succession of close-lying pinnacles. The rock was of that slaty description with steeply sloping strata in many places thinly filmed with ice. The climb was not very pleasant and we were relieved when the crest of the ridge was reached. The N.E. arête itself presented no great difficulty, but the finely broken and loose nature of the rock rendered interesting the negotiating of some of the gendarmes. We reached the summit about 07.00.

After a short distance on snow at a comparatively easy angle, the rocky crest of the S.W. arête was reached. It was steep and of an even more crumbly nature than that already experienced. Twice we roped down vertical steps in the line of descent, each of about 130 ft. The matter of belaying was of some interest to me, as on the first occasion a piece of flat rock about the size of a hymn-book lying in a horizontal plane was used, and on the second our only piton was but half embedded when the hammer-head came adrift and fell immediately several hundred feet below us. We left the ridge at what I believe was the top of an exceptionally long vertical step and descended the steep slopes of the E. face. This was, in my opinion, the most difficult part of the whole route. The steepness, coupled with the large quantity of ice encountered, made the going somewhat hazardous, but Rubi's ingenuity in occasionally finding belays, where none appeared to exist, enabled us to use our long spare rope to advantage. Having crossed the schrund we returned to the crest of the ridge somewhat above our point of crossing earlier in the day, and returned to the hut pretty much by our outward route.

This appears to have been the first descent of the S.W. arête.

Times :

Gleckstein hut	.	.	.	.	dep. about	03.00
Summit	.	.	.	.	arr. „	07.20
Summit	.	.	.	.	dep. „	08.00
Hut	.	.	.	.	arr. „	13.00

D. LEWERS.

Bernina (W. Wing) Group.

MONTE DISGRAZIA, 3678 m. = 12,067 ft. By the N. face.¹² Signori G. Bombardieri and A. Corti with Cesare Folatti and Peppino Mitta of Torre, Val Malenco.

¹² Cf. *A.J.* 45, 406.

From a bivouac at the head of the most easterly moraine of the Disgrazia Glacier, near the point marked 2371 m. (*I. map*), the party during the night skirted the entire western base of the Pizzo Ventina and Forcella Disgrazia, thus avoiding the numerous and gigantic crevasses of the said glacier. The N. base of Monte Disgrazia was attained with a minimum of difficulty and fatigue. Crossing the great schrund in its centre (04.30), the party steered towards the E. side of the lowest triangular-shaped rocks. Forcing these, they mounted steep slopes to the great upper rock-bastion the base of which they turned to the left, W., and bore away towards the last icy slopes descending from the main, N.W., arête not far below the summit.

In spite of a cool night, the lower part of the ascent had not been without hazard: the great slices of hanging glacier on the rocky bastion were beginning to crack and crumble rather to the E. of the party, causing them to keep as much as possible on the last excessively steep and icy slopes. Not, however, abandoning the rocks altogether they kept as far to the right, W., as possible, mounting evil slopes till at 11.30 they were able to hack through the cornice on the top of the rock-bastion, just where the N.W. arête, descending from the summit, marks a first and more level step in its crest.

This ascent lies *between* the 1910 route ('A.J.' **25**, 457, 693-9; **35**, 37-8—illustration facing **25**, 691) and the N.E. arête, first conquered in 1882 ('A.J.' **11**, 245-53, sketch facing 245).

Of these, the 1910 route has been twice repeated, the 1882 perhaps a dozen times.

A. C.

Tanganyika.

KILIMANJARO (Kibo), 19,717 ft. August 16-23, 1933. Mr. H. W. Tilman alone and without any porters. A load of about 30 lbs. was carried, consisting of a light sleeping-bag, extra clothing, and food for six days.

The mountain is well provided with huts, Bismarck at 8000 ft., Pieters¹³ at 12,000 ft., and a new one which has been built recently by the E.A.M.C. at 16,000 ft. to take the place of the old *gîte* at Hans Meyer caves.

Thick mist and rain persisted to the 12,000 ft. level, but above that the weather was fine and sunny. The usual 3 days were taken to the upper hut, each day's march being of 5-6 hrs. Two small herds of eland were seen on the saddle and close to the Hans Meyer caves. Owing to an unusually dry year the rock peak of Mawenzi (17,290 ft.) was almost bare of snow and it was difficult to find enough snow in sheltered crannies near the upper hut to make tea.

¹³ Although 'Pieters' appears to be the usual spelling (*A.J.* **40**, 77 *et seq.*), Mr. Tilman considers that it is named probably after Karl Peters, the explorer.—*Editor.*

On the fourth day, after starting at 05.30 the first prominence on the snow rim, *Gillman Point*, was reached at 10.30, and *Kaiser Wilhelm Spitze*, the highest point, at midday.

Proceeding S. along the rim, *Furtwängler*,¹⁴ another point slightly lower than K.W.S., was reached at 12.30 and from there a descent of about 200 ft. was made into the crater and a bivouac found under an overhanging rock. In the afternoon a smaller inner crater about a quarter of a mile to the N. was visited; this is very perfectly formed with an outer rim of about 400 yds. diameter, and a lower inner one of 200 yds. Sulphur fumes were issuing from this outer lip and pieces of sulphur lay about.

The night was fine but cold and at dawn next morning a return was made direct to *Gillman Point*, following the inside of the wall of the great crater instead of the usual route along the top of it as taken on the way up. The upper hut was reached by 08.00 and Pieters at noon, where the night was spent; the Marungu Hotel, the starting point, being regained next morning at 11.00. The weather below Pieters hut was still wet and misty as it had been on the way up.

H. W. T.

[We understand that this ascent was accomplished during the course of a solitary trip on a (push) bicycle across Africa from East to West!—*Editor*.]

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :						Date of Election
His Majesty Albert I, King of the Belgians						
(Honorary Member)	.	.	.	.	.	1912
Freshfield, Douglas W. (Ordinary Member)	.	.	.	.	.	1864
(Honorary Member)	.	.	.	.	.	1924
Gallet, Julien (Honorary Member)	.	.	.	.	.	1918
King, Sir H. Seymour, Bt.	.	.	.	.	.	1880
Maude, G. E.	.	.	.	.	.	1880
Makins, Major-General Sir George H.	.	.	.	.	.	1888
Bode, J. E.	.	.	.	.	.	1890
Brant, R. W.	.	.	.	.	.	1891
Lloyd, G. W.	.	.	.	.	.	1902
Millington, H. A.	.	.	.	.	.	1907
Edwards, H.	.	.	.	.	.	1909
Howard, Lt.-Col. Henry	.	.	.	.	.	1910
Francis, E. C.	.	.	.	.	.	1913

¹⁴ So called after a German doctor who made the first ski ascent of Kibo in 1912.