a naval seaplane had been promised for the following day. This did not materialize until February 16, when any chance of finding the climbers from the air was greatly diminished. Photo No. 2, which I took on the third and last fruitless flight, shows the route which they had stated their intention of following. This same route was taken in the last week of February by a party led by Count Aldo Bonacossa. They came to the opinion that the bodies of the missing men lay in the long crevasse immediately to the E. of the 'Col Reichert,' but as they had not the necessary equipment to make the detailed search required by the situation, they did not prolong their stay at their high camp. This party made the first ascent of the Pico Chileno before proceeding north to join their companions on Aconcagua.

The departure of Bonacossa and his party has not closed the incident, however. At the time of writing, another search party under the auspices of the Andine Club is on the peak, and it is hoped that their efforts will clear up definitely the question of the fate of the two unfortunate mountaineers.

Such, briefly, has been the part played by the Tronador in 1934 in Andine mountaineering. It has served to emphasize, what was already known by local climbers, that the mountain is one which possesses exceptional bad weather characteristics, combined with a final pyramid which, judged by any standards, is difficult even on its easiest side.

As the years pass, and with the aid of the hut under contemplation by the Andine Club, and which will be built at about 7500 ft., Mt. Tronador will doubtless be climbed many times, but I venture to assert it will continue to compel the respect as well as the admiration of its attackers.

E. DE LA MOTTE.

A SUPERIORITY COMPLEX?

WE yield to no one in admiration for the German overseas parties led by Rickmers, Bauer, Borchers, Merkl, and others. The modesty of these parties has been excelled only by their skill; moreover—to quote this JOURNAL—'they have left invariably the best possible impressions behind them,' in the regions explored and visited. But for the present-day German mountaineer in the Alps, wonder replaces admiration. There is no lack of skill—on rocks at any rate—but judgment and even an elementary knowledge of the ethics of mountaineering are often conspicuously absent. In these pages it has been too frequently our task to relate some unjustifiable exploit and, in the same number, to record the inevitable disaster accruing to the perpetrator. While regretting the folly of it all, we mourn the loss of promising lives.

So much for the actors; but for those apostles appointed as propagandists and chroniclers, not to say financiers, of youthful German scrambling, our feelings are very different. The symptoms of disease existing in the German press show no signs of diminution.[1] The most recent and unhealthy example will be found in the D. & Œ.A.V. *Mitteilungen* of June last.[2] Depressed conditions and morale—this note was written before the sanguinary episodes of June 28 or the shameful outrage of July 25—may warrant the statement that '. . . Our [German] mountaineers have in recent times been successful beyond compare . . .'; but the immediately following sentence—'their exploits, contrasted with those of other nations, stand without question on an overwhelming pinnacle . . .'—is not merely self-glorification carried to an absurd pitch, but is also far beyond the bounds of actual fact. We brush aside the question of good taste.

After remarking that other mountaineers, 'notably English and Swiss,' had completed the exploration of the Alps 'by the easiest routes,' the article goes on to state: '. . . For instance, allusion need only be made to the first conquests of the most difficult rock and ice walls in Valais, to the first ascents of great faces and ridges in the Oberland, and of similar performances on the more famous Mont Blanc arêtes—all accomplished by German parties. Also by winter and ski explorations our nationals have a large share in the conquest of the great glaciers of the Western Alps, for there, in the nineteenth century, they accomplished the first high ski tours and are in consequence without doubt the first [*sic*] pioneers of high altitude ski-running.'

By statements such as these the writer displays his complete ignorance of the rudiments of Alpine History. He quotes the eastern face of the Monte Rosa massif as an example, but the Dufourspitze was first climbed by a non-German caravan, while the first guideless party was Austrian. The first ascent of the Nordend was by an Italian party[3] and, as regards the Signalkuppe, its conquerors were French. The first winter ascent of the Matterhorn was by an Italian, of the Dom by a party containing no German components, while the remaining great peaks fell, almost without exception, to the Swiss. Excepting the unjustifiable but wonderful conquest of the Matterhorn's N. face and foolish variations on the Dent d'Hérens and Dent Blanche by guideless if misguided amateurs, Germany, in Valais, has played the smallest part.

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[1] It is pleasant to be able to note the invariably sensible attitude of the Austrian press, especially of the very responsible *Œ.A.Z.*

[2] *Loc. cit.* 1934, pp. 130–2, a document considered worthy of presentation in a recent state festivity held in Stuttgart. As for the author, he has, alas! paid the supreme penalty on Nanga Parbat.

[3] As regards this peak's most difficult route—the N. arête—the first party was likewise non-German.

Let us turn to the Oberland. The northern faces of Finsteraarhorn, the Fiescherwand, Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau fell to Swiss parties, the Scheidegg face of Wetterhorn to another nationality; the northern slopes of Lauterbrunnen-Breithorn, Breitlauihorn and the reasonable N. face route of Grosshorn, again were conquered by Swiss, while the great passes overhanging Lauterbrunnen—nearly as high and quite as difficult as their adjacent peaks—fell, mostly in early times, to pioneer parties of quite another origin. The same is the case with the most famous ridges of Gspaltenhorn, Schreckhorn and Lauteraarhorn and, we need only add, an Austrian party stormed the S. face of Bietschhorn. As for winter work, to save tedium, we will but quote Schreckhorn, Mönch, and Jungfrau by an American long before the days of either ski or lifts.

Now for Mont Blanc: the intermediate routes from the Col de Bionnassay to the Col de la Brenva did not fall to Germans, save for the tiny portion between the Col de Péteret and the head of the *Couloir Eccles*. The N. face of the Aiguille du Géant was conquered by Austrians and, since we should quote like the *Mitteilungen*, none but 1919–1933 ' new atrocities,' these have been the deeds of French, Swiss, and Italian parties. One other nation has played a part and that nation is certainly not Germany. At the risk of being as fulsome as our contemporary, we will add that Mont Blanc was first conquered in winter by a lady who acquired by her subsequent marriage French nationality, while the Aiguille Verte surrendered to a Swiss mountaineer. But the Péteret peaks *did* fall in winter to a worthy German party—one pebble on the beach.

Our contemporary's knowledge does not extend apparently to the Bernina—where a solitary peak rewarded a (much beguided) German—or to the Graians and Dauphiné. In the latter's history Austria has played a small but brilliant part; America the greatest of all. Its winter history belongs to France alone, a befitting fate for perhaps the finest of all Alpine ranges. As claimed in the *Mitteilungen*, the Caucasian Ushba may or may not be a ' German ' mountain, but its N. peak, now considered the highest,[4] was scaled long before the earliest German visits.

Enough: sufficient has been said to refute the *Mitteilungen's* all-embracing claims. We need not appeal to Alaska, Canada, New Zealand or Kenya–Ruwenzori. German mountaineers need no such ' artificial aids ' to enhance their fame,[5] far less to boost their present courage. But one more specimen of propaganda must be exhibited as demonstrating the last word in unconscious humour: ' . . . It is an ancient English custom to climb in the Alps with

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[4] See *Die Eroberung des Kaukasus*. Karl Egger. 1932.

[5] Nevertheless, *Der Bergsteiger*, 1934, pp. 633–6, finds it necessary to publish portraits of some German mountaineers, two of whom have since been killed. The accompanying *dossier* describes *each* one as being ' the very best of all ice or rock-craftsmen ' !

professional guides; the German mountaineer finds as a rule his own way, he cuts his own steps and trudges through deep snow relying on his own steam. Owing to these traditions we are still more prepared than the English for the struggle with the eight-thousanders . . .' Yet, in the struggle for the said eight-thousander *peaks*, German mountaineers have not hesitated—in some cases ruthlessly—to avail themselves of the devoted services of British Empire porters to 'trudge through deep snow' carrying superhuman loads, for the glory of another country than their own.

This is what the nation that has played some part in mountaineering history, that was the pioneer of guideless climbing, that despises gladiatorial displays, but that still possesses some sense of proportion and of the ludicrous, is called upon to smile at but endure!

E. L. S.

IN MEMORIAM.

RICHARD WILLIAM BRANT.

(1852–1934.)

R. W. Brant was the younger son of James Brant, C.B., British Consul at Erzeroum, and was born there on August 24, 1852. In 1856 the father was transferred to Damascus, where a very serious massacre of Christians took place soon afterwards, and the whole family came home to England. In due time Brant went to Bedford School, and in 1872, after passing a competitive examination, entered the Librarian's Department of the Foreign Office, and gradually rose to be Librarian and Keeper of the State Papers in 1905. He retired in 1914 and was made a C.M.G.

His first visit to the Alps was in 1887, where his principal expeditions were the passage from Zermatt to the Saasthal and back by the Adler and Alphubel passes, and the ascent of the Zinal-Rothhorn. He was out again in 1890 and 1891 and was elected to the Club in December 1891. From that time until 1914 he was out almost every season and made at least two winter visits, and was a very regular attendant at the Club Meetings. He most often travelled with his guide and friend Peter Anton Perren of Zermatt, but he made many guideless ascents with well-known members of the Club, including Horace Walker, Charles Pilkington, Cockin,[1] Larden and Robert Corry.

His expeditions were mostly in the Bernese Oberland and the Valais, but he had climbed in the Graians, the Bernina district and Chamonix.

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[1] He was present on the occasion of the Weisshorn accident when Cockin so bravely lost his life, July 28, 1900.—*A.J.* **20,** 255–9.