

## NEW GUINEA : ASCENT OF CARSTENSZ PEAK

ON October 29, 1936, a small private expedition set out from the air base of the Nederlandsche Nieuw Guinee Petroleum Maatschappij at Aika (situated between the Mimika and Otakwa Rivers) with the purpose of exploring the Carstensz massif. The party was composed of three Netherlanders, Dr. Colijn, Dr. Dozy and Ir Wissel, accompanied by eight Dayak coolies.

The methods employed by this expedition were of particular interest. First, air reconnaissance and air photographs gave the clue to the most practicable route, about which there had been some doubt, and this lay along the Newerip River. Second, an aeroplane was employed to parachute stores and equipment to the base camp (1400 m.) and Alpine camp (3700 m.) above the timber line. By this means the transport of a considerable number of loads through the jungle was avoided.

The results of the expedition were: first, the rough survey and exploration of the Carstensz massif, in which three separate glacier systems were traced. It was by the southern of these that the late Dr. A. F. R. Wollaston's attempt on Carstensz Peak in 1913<sup>1</sup> was stopped, and the S.E. hanging glacier has been named after him by the recent expedition. The second result was the ascent of the eastern and highest summit of the northern glacier system (5040 m.). The third was the friendly contact with an isolated and little known mountain tribe, the Wagal. A map of this part of New Guinea is at present under preparation, and the material secured is now being worked over. It is hoped to prepare an article on the expedition for the November number of the JOURNAL.

Of the two months the expedition was away, four weeks were occupied in cutting a track through the jungle to the timber line, and three weeks were spent above the timber line in camps at altitudes of 3700 to 4400 m. The weather was generally bad. Whatever was undertaken had to be finished by midday, more often by 10 or 11 A.M. on account of mist and cloud with rain, sleet or snow, which descended regularly at that hour and made operations impossible for the remainder of the day.

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<sup>1</sup> *A. J.* 27. 236, 328 and especially 28. 296-304, illustrated.