

EXPEDITIONS

Dauphiné

POINTE DU VALLON DES ETAGES, 3564 m. = 11,693 ft., *Duhamel*. By the N. face. July 16, 1935. Mm. M. Fourastier, M. Laloue and H. le Breton.

Formerly known as Pic des Etages. The N. face is about 2200 ft. in height above the Vallon des Etages Glacier. It is furrowed throughout its height by a great crevice, or gutter, commencing in the notch between the E. peak (summit) and the summit-ridge leading to the W. peak. This crevice is oblique and resembles at first a semi-concealed and precipitous couloir, then a non-continuous ledge; finally, after crossing a rib, it becomes an abrupt couloir interrupted by an overhang some 200 ft. above the bergschrund. The rib it crosses falls nearly vertically to the glacier forming a characteristic spur—the central one of the face. The ascent of the face is made first by the spur and then by the crevice; this forms a direct route to the top.

Times : 15 hrs. including halts.

[The face was studied by Mr. Coolidge and the Almers in the very early 'eighties, who pronounced it as extremely dangerous from rotten rocks and stonefall.] The 1935 party concurs and moreover considers it one of the most difficult ascents in Dauphiné.

From *Alpinisme* No. 41, where elaborate details and a marked illustration are given.

PETIT PIC SANS NOM, 3588 m. = 11,772 ft., *Duhamel*. By the N. face. July 30, 1936. Mm. M. Fourastier and H. le Breton.

The N. face of the peak carries a lofty buttress separating that portion of the Glacier Noir mounting to the Coup de Sabre from the other branch, rising to the Col du Glacier Noir. The buttress dies away in the face some 600 ft. below the summit. Two pinnacles, one of massive build and the other serrated, supporting three splinters, occur on the lower part of buttress.

Attain the buttress from the W. some 300 ft. from its base, the first party finding the bergschrund easy. Traverse upwards by a rising ledge to within 30 ft. of the first pinnacle, then turn the top of the latter by another ledge to the E., so attaining the snowy notch beyond. Having *descended* into the notch mount steep snow with good rocks to your left. Traverse horizontally to the right over snow and difficult rocks to reach an edge to the W. of the crest. Climbing this edge and ever steepening rocks you attain an overhang which is turned to the W. by a 40-ft. slab with good holds. Above by a series of abrupt little cliffs, you arrive on a shoulder forming the base of the great upper step (4½ hrs.).

Climb up a very steep crevice of 65 ft. situated slightly to the left, and above it follow the crest again until you are obliged to take a glazed gully, followed by a low step beyond which is a minute notch forming the termination of the buttress.

Traverse to the left, E., by a glazed and awkward ledge towards an overhang limiting a short icy chimney. The overhang is climbed by a flake rather to the left, followed by a difficult return to the right, W., to an ice or snow patch leading to the base of the chimney. Climb the latter which is blocked above by detached boulders and so attain a vertical crack. This latter, slightly overhanging in one part, provides little hold but must be climbed to reach a minute ledge. This is followed to the right and a precipitous step of 70 ft. with diminutive holds must next be climbed to a small platform. Now clamber up another chimney—whose overhang is turned by a slab to the right—bear again to the left and scramble up a shorter chimney blocked with a chock stone. This latter is climbed by a very exposed and difficult movement to the left. Now by an exceedingly steep and exposed climb up a splayed-out and shallow gully attain the summit-ridge close to the central peak. The ridge is then followed easily to both peaks (5 hrs.).

Many pitons were employed for security.—From *R.A.*

Bernina, W. Wing

LO SCALINO, 3164 m. = 10,380 ft.¹ Height but no name on *S. map*. From the E. August 8, 1936. Herr and Frau Walther Flaig.

This is a rocky and distinct point on the long N.E. ridge of Cima Cantone. The name is singularly inappropriate.²

This route leads from the snowy E. flank of the Cima Cantone's N.E. ridge *via* a kind of shoulder, *ca.* 2900 m., to a buttress commencing with a lower and flatter portion, ending in a notch, which rapidly steepens in its upper part. This rib or buttress, excellent rock, is climbed throughout, save for two overhangs. These must be turned: the first, just after the notch, by a crevice to the right; the second by a ledge, after traversing which the buttress can be regained and the summit soon attained, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. from the snow.

The rocks approximate in difficulty to those of the N. arête of Piz Bacone.

PIZ BALZETTO, 2863 m. = 9390 ft.³ From the W. July 24, 1936. Same party.

This is the imposing tower forming the W. end of the great S.W. arête of Piz Bacone. The undefined W. arête consists of four separate rocky recesses or wings placed one behind the other. By availing oneself of these in succession the summit is attained *via* the final crest and a lower top, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from the Albigna hut. The climb is very interesting and the near views magnificent.—W.F.

¹ Cf. *Guida* (1936), pp. 374-5; *S.A.C. Climbers' Guide* (1935), pp. 119-21 both illustrated.

² Cf. the classical Pizzo Scalino, 3332 m., in the Central Bernina.

³ *Guida*, pp. 383-4; *S.A.C. Climbers' Guide*, pp. 128-9.