

recognized this. One boy wanted to learn Greek, so H. L. J. rubbed up his Greek—in those distant days specialists often had a wide general culture. I learnt this by accident, when he came to me for help in a difficult passage in Thucydides.

Those who knew only H. L. J.'s rather rasping speaking voice little suspected the beauty of his baritone singing; he knew much music by heart and could sing the Toreador song from *Carmen* at any moment. He knew long passages of Schiller's plays by heart, and astonished young Germans by showing them that he knew their great poet better than they did. His intellectual activity always remained with him, and when he had more leisure he set to work to teach himself Swedish and Russian. After he retired he was much in request as Examiner in the School and Higher Certificates. He possessed all the qualities of a good examiner; sympathetic understanding of candidates, skill in the composition of papers, accurate marking and checking of his assistant-examiners' marking. We often met in Oxford and Cambridge as Awarders in our respective subjects and he welcomed the opportunity of talking over old experiences and old friends with never-failing zest and geniality. He was a man of the highest integrity and of unswerving loyalty.

H. L. HUITON.

EXPEDITIONS

MONT DOLENT from the Cabane Dufour, August 24, 1948. A. M. Binnie, T. C. Paynter, and T. A. H. Peacocke.

Until 1947 no really safe route had been made to the summit of Mont Dolent from the Cabane Dufour. In August of that year a Swiss party gained the E. ridge (first climbed by Julien Gallet in 1901 from a bivouac above La Fouly) to the E. of pt. 3074 and followed it to the summit. (I am indebted to the guardian of the cabane for this piece of information.) A summary of the other routes from the Cabane Dufour is given by M. Kurz in *Die Alpen*, June, 1947, page 210—illustration facing page 216.

The party left the hut at 03.15 and descended the path for 400 ft. before bearing slightly W. down grassy and boulder-strewn slopes and moraines, so as to gain the Glacier de la Neuvaz at the 2,200 m. contour after a descent of some 1,700 ft. They then ascended the moraines to a steep snow couloir by which the arête was gained E. of pt. 3074. After a halt of five minutes a traverse was made across the S.E. face of pt. 3074 by easy rocks to regain the ridge. The continuation of the route is well shown in the illustration above mentioned (route 2).

The snowy ridge was next followed and two rickety gendarmes were crossed. The snow was very soft owing to the mild night and very heavy snowfalls of the preceding weeks, and the going was slow. Two rock steps in the ridge were encountered; the first, though only 150 ft. high, proved difficult owing to the vast amount of loose incoherent snow covering the rocks, and took one hour. A traverse was attempted on the S. side, but this proved impracticable. A halt was made on top of the second step for food (10.00–10.20). The snow became progressively worse—thigh and waist deep—and the next 250 ft. up an easy snow slope took another hour.

The next section of the ridge is nearly horizontal and just below the rocks better snow was found, but it soon became bad again. The end of the nearly horizontal section was reached at 11.45 and from this point the route followed the N. face of the mountain. The snow fortunately now became hard and icy and the conditions very cold due to a keen N. wind. The angle steepened very considerably and steps were necessary as the party was not wearing crampons. The situation was particularly fine and at the summit, which was reached at 14.15, the view was perfect.

The descent was made by the Glacier de Pré de Bar to the Col du Petit Ferret and La Fouly was reached at 20.00. The route had been swept quite recently by many avalanches, no fewer than twelve being counted including a large windslab avalanche.

Under normal conditions the ascent would have been much less laborious and the time shorter. It is quite free from objective danger and is to be recommended. The chief disadvantage is the long preliminary descent which probably accounts for the fact that the route, in its lower section, had apparently only once been followed previously. A bivouac, inscribed with Javelle's initials and dates has now been established near pt. 2146, where the path turns up to the Cabane.¹ This would be a much more satisfactory starting point for the climb, though its use would involve the provision of bivouac material.

T. A. H. PEACOCKE.

GRANDES JORASSES by arête des Hirondelles. First English *ascent*, August 4, 1949. D. H. Greenland and G. J. Millwood with the guide Toni Gobbi.

Left bivouac below the Frébouzie glacier at 3.10 A.M. Arrived at Col des Hirondelles at 7.15, and started on the arête at 8.15 A.M., reaching the summit of the Grandes Jorasses at 6 P.M. and the Grandes Jorasses hut at 11.30 P.M. Above the Rey crack, instead of the original route, they followed a variant of Gobbi's about 300 feet long. Pitons were used in the Rey crack and in the passage above it.

[This arête was one of H. O. Jones' ambitions, and it was first traversed when he made the *descent* with Mr. G. Winthrop Young, Laurent Croux, and Joseph Knubel in 1911 (*A. J.*, 25. 737).]

¹ This is not a 'fixed bivouac' like the Italian ones, but simply a large overhanging boulder with a stone wall to keep out draughts.