

## ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

**PERSONAL.**—We congratulate Major-General J. M. L. Gavin on being appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

We also congratulate Mr. Iain Ogilvie on receiving the M.B.E. and the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society and Dr. T. W. Patey on receiving the Queen's Commendation for Gallantry for their services in connection with the rescue operations following the accident in the Scottish mountains in April, 1966, in which C. B. C. Handley lost his life.

We congratulate Lieut.-Col. J. O. M. Roberts on being made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Dr. G. O. Dyhrenfurth has been elected an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club. A leading authority on the Himalaya, Dr. Dyhrenfurth led expeditions to Kangchenjunga in 1930 and to the Baltoro region in 1934; four 7000-ers were climbed for the first time in the course of these expeditions. Author of several books, some of which have been translated into English, he has also written numerous articles in mountaineering journals and his invaluable 'Chronique Himalayenne' is well-known to readers of *Les Alpes*.

**M.C.S.A.**—We offer our belated but nonetheless hearty congratulations and good wishes to the Mountain Club of South Africa on having celebrated last year the seventy-fifth anniversary of its foundation in 1891.

**ANOTHER CASUALTY.**—It is a far cry from the day in 1864 when Leslie Stephen and his companions played cricket in the 'high street' of Zinal with a rail for a bat and a granite boulder for a ball while awaiting fine weather before making the first ascent of the Zinal Rothorn. Changes have taken place since those days but those who knew this once delightful village, even so recently as thirty or forty years ago, will not welcome the news that it is now being converted into a popular tourist resort, with hotels to accommodate more than four hundred visitors, as well as a *Seilbahn* and three lifts and a new approach road from Sierre.

A further threat to the Val d'Anniviers lies in the possibility that parts of it may be used as a training area by the Swiss army, if the proposal to erect barracks at Sierre is carried out.

**BENNEN OR BENET.**—In *A. J.* 55. 427 the late Carl Egger discussed the proper spelling of the name of Professor Tyndall's guide, J. J. Bennen,

and declared that it should be Benet, on the strength of the spelling to be found in public records in the appropriate Swiss canton.

Among the papers of Tyndall at the Alpine Club are several letters from Bennen (*A. J.* 71. 291) which do not wholly satisfy one about his name. One letter is definitely written by the Pfarrer at Lax, W. Brunner, on January 16, 1862, and he refers to the guide as 'Benet'. Two are written in the first person, but the signatures are curious, and appear to be 'Bnunn'. One of them refers to Pfarrer Brunner, so the letters would not seem to have been written by the latter on Bennen's behalf. The other two are signed quite definitely 'Joh. Benen' and 'Johan Josef Benen'. These certainly give the impression of being original compositions, though the handwriting is not the same in each. In his *Führerbuch* the name is consistently spelt 'Bennen' or 'Benen', but never with a final 't'.

On the face of it there would seem to be a case for thinking that 'Benen' and 'Benet' were both in use, and it might be queried, therefore, whether it is desirable now to alter the older, accepted form of 'Bennen'.

T. S. B.

MONT BLANC; FIRST ASCENT BY AN ENGLISH WOMAN.—The records of early ascents of Mont Blanc have duly noted the feats of Maria Paradis (1808) and Henriette d'Angeville (1838) in reaching the summit, but the first ascent by an English woman has not attracted much notice. This was effected on August 21, 1854, by a Mrs. T. Hamilton who was accompanied by Mr. Hamilton. They are described vaguely as living near London. *The Times* of September 5, 1854 (p. 9), contains a letter from 'A Tourist', describing the ascent, written from Chamonix on August 25; at that date the foreign press news in the British papers was largely devoted to the Crimean War, hence Mrs. Hamilton's feat did not attract attention as it would almost certainly have done in more normal days. A reprint of the letter containing the news was published in the *New-York Commercial Advertiser* of September 25. John Birkbeck senior and Eardley Blackwell had both made ascents of Mont Blanc earlier in August than the Hamiltons, and Dr. Talbot, who made the second American ascent, reached the summit on August 26.

Nothing else seems to be known of Mrs. Hamilton.

T. S. B.

J. DE GRAAFF-HUNTER.—The death in Australia was recorded on February 3, 1967, of Dr. James De Graaff-Hunter, C.I.E., F.R.S., in his eighty-sixth year. De Graaff-Hunter was well-known to Everest enthusiasts, as he had been much involved in the later computations of the height of the mountain, resulting in the raising of the figure from the old 29,002 ft. to 29,028 ft.

In his early days he had been private secretary to Lord Kelvin, but joined the Survey of India in 1907, becoming Superintendent in 1926. He was Director of the Geodetic Branch from 1927 to 1932, and his career in the Survey ended in 1946.

**A CROSS ON THE DENT BLANCHE.**—On Sunday, September 25, 1966, a five-foot high iron cross designed by Bruno Gehrri-Moro, the sculptor of Les Haudères, was taken by helicopter from the Rossier hut and finally fixed in position on the summit of the Dent Blanche by a party of Evolène guides led by Lucien Gaudin and Maurice Follonier.

This was the culmination of celebrations held at Les Haudères on September 3–4 to record the hundredth anniversary of the first ascent of the Dent Blanche by T. S. Kennedy and the Reverend W. Wigram with the guides J-B. Croz and J. Kronig on July 18, 1862. By a most happy coincidence Dr. and Mrs. I. A. (Dorothy Pilley) Richards, who made the first ascent of the North ridge in 1928 with Joseph and Antoine Georges, were able to be present, as well as the British Vice-Consul at Geneva and his wife. I attended as the representative of the Alpine Club and the A.B.M.S.A.C. Due to high winds and bad snow conditions, it was not possible to transport the cross beyond the Rossier hut, where it was dedicated by the Abbé Devantéry, Pastor of Evolène. About thirty guides and members of the Vevey section of the S.A.C., responsible for the hut, were present at this moving ceremony which took place much of the time in a minor snowstorm outside the hut.

On the following day, in bright sunshine, a service was held in the village square of Les Haudères, where the new banner of the Evolène guides, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Serge Golon, was also dedicated.

The celebrations culminated in an official luncheon attended by M. d'Allèves, Prefect of Sion, and M. Jean Maistre, President of the Commune, who, in sending a message of good wishes to the Alpine Club, emphasised the close links which had existed for so long between British mountaineers and the people of the valley of Evolène.

The cordiality and friendship expressed, and the great affection in which Dr. and Mrs. Richards were so obviously held, made the occasion a particularly memorable one.

J. BYAM-GROUNDS.

**FRANK SMYTHE AND GRAHAM BROWN.**—Lord Tangle's very interesting article on Graham Brown (*A. J.* 71. 51–57) makes it clear that G-B had thought of the Route Major independently of Smythe, as indeed the latter implies in *Climbs and Ski Runs*, p. 220, and in *Adventures of a Mountaineer*, p. 111. But I think Lord Tangle's observation on p. 55, that Smythe 'so far as I could judge, had never looked at or interested himself in anything beyond' the old Brenva route, may mislead, for I

can testify that Smythe had studied the South-east face seriously for some while. I met him first about April, 1926, after his return from Buenos Aires, and before he left in the summer to join the R.A.F. in Egypt. At that time, his ideas ran to the classic routes on Mont Blanc, such as the old Brenva and the Peuterey; I suggested (and we studied photographs) that a route might lie up the left (ascending) side of the great couloir splitting the Brenva face, and I heard from Smythe in Egypt later, that he had not discarded the idea, though he was dubious about the crossing of the couloir, and about the ultimate ice-cliffs and exit on to the Col Major.

After his discharge from the R.A.F. in the spring of 1927, we took up the idea again and I joined him in Chamonix very early in June with this great face climb as our main objective. We went up to the Torino hut to prospect it, but conditions were hopeless (cf. *Climbs and Ski Runs*, pp. 217-18). Later in the year, Smythe climbed the old Brenva route and got a closer view of the face and thought he saw a new route (G-B admits this; *Brenva*, p. 18) which did not involve crossing the great couloir. This in fact was the Sentinelle route and I think one can therefore safely say there was more to it than merely making 'a variation of the Old Brenva', as Lord Tanglely suggests (pp. 55-6).

Lord Tanglely makes it clear (and *Brenva* confirms this) that G-B wanted to go straight at the Route Major, whereas Smythe wanted to take no risks until he had had a close-up view of the face, and he used the Sentinelle route as a means of getting photographs of the Route Major (the 'hush-hush route' as he used to call it), and in the autumn of 1927 he showed them to me, when we were planning to tackle it in 1928. His rather cautious approach, and his apparent disinclination to discuss these Brenva face routes, when Lord Tanglely first introduced him to G-B, was I imagine due to his never having met G-B before, and regarding it as imprudent to embark on so considerable a climb as the Route Major with an unknown quantity as companion. Hence his preference in 1927 for the Sentinelle route, which he *had* seen at fairly close range.

I do not myself attach much importance to merely thinking up new routes; it is the carrying of them into execution that matters. I would myself say that the Sentinelle route was Smythe's concept,<sup>1</sup> and the Route Major was his and Graham Brown's, quite independent of one another.

T. S. B.

VISIT TO BRITAIN BY POLISH MOUNTAINEERS.—A group of eight mountaineers from Poland spent two weeks in Britain during September,

<sup>1</sup> In *Climbs and Ski Runs*, pp. 258-9, Smythe, generously, but inaccurately, attributes the concept of the Sentinelle route to me, whereas I had always contemplated having to cross the great couloir—i.e., Route Major. G-B is correct, therefore, in his footnote in *Brenva*, p. 21.

1966, as the guests of the National Association of Youth Clubs and a Reception Committee which included representatives of the Alpine Club, the Fell and Rock Climbing Club, and the Climbers' Club.

The visit was an outcome of the journey to the Tatra mountains by a group of British climbers and young people in 1965, of which an account was published in *A. J.* 71. 37; the Polish group included several climbers who had acted as hosts to, and climbed with, the British party. It consisted of:

Boleslaw Chwaściński

Pawel Czartoryski

Tadeusz Jankowski

Michal Jagiello

Jan Kowalczyk

Andrzej Kus

Teresa Puchaczewska

Jerzy Jagodzinski

After two days in London, where the party attended a reception given by the Alpine Club, followed by a lecture by M. Chwaściński, a visit was paid to the N.A.Y.C. Centre at Kilmory Castle, where some climbing was done. Plans for a day's climbing in Glencoe with members of the S.M.C. had to be modified owing to bad weather.

The week-end was spent in the Lake District, where the Polish visitors were guests successively of the F. & R.C.C., and of the Climbers' Club. In heavy rain a large party walked over from Wasdale to Langdale; but better conditions on the Sunday produced a number of climbs—and one or two anxious moments—in White Ghyll and on Gimmer.

Part of the second week was spent at and from the C.C.P.R. Centre at Plas y Brenin, where the Poles showed a keen interest in the development of mountain training and in our mountain rescue services. The visit concluded with a day in Surrey visiting schools and the C.C.P.R. National Recreation Centre at the Crystal Palace and a reception given by the Polish Cultural Institute, where Dr. Pawel Czartoryski gave an excellent lecture<sup>2</sup> on the history and development of Polish mountaineering, which was followed by two films of climbing in the Tatras.

It is pleasing to record that our Polish friends were evidently delighted by the kindness they experienced throughout their stay and were both interested and impressed by the programme itself. There is no doubt that they are anxious to receive British climbers in their country.

HUNT.

A STRANGE ASCENT.—A Russian engineer and Master of Sport, whose name is given as Anatoli Derberashvili, is reported to have made last August the ascent of the East Peak of Elbruz (5595 m.) on a motor cycle.

<sup>2</sup> See above, pp. 103–8.

The machine was equipped with skis, oxygen, and a high-altitude engine and was left on the summit.

It is not inexcusable, perhaps, to wonder if the mental condition of those carrying out mountain ascents in this fashion may be akin to that attributed by 'Murray' to many of the early climbers of Mont Blanc: 'It is a somewhat remarkable fact that a large proportion of those who have made this ascent have been persons of unsound mind.'<sup>3</sup>

ACCIDENTS.—The annual summary in *Les Alpes* reveals that there were 102 fatal accidents in the Swiss Alps in 1965 (eighty-six of which were in the course of expeditions on foot) resulting in 115 deaths, twenty-seven fewer than in the previous year. The reduction can be attributed to the very bad weather, resulting in fewer expeditions.

It is not possible to ascertain from the summary how many lives were lost in climbing as distinct from skiing accidents, but forty-two deaths resulted from falls while rock climbing and fourteen as a result of falls on snow or ice. Twenty-four of the victims were less than twenty-one years of age.

PITONS AND HAMMOCKS.—Ice-pitons are said to have been employed in the Alps for the first time in 1924 on the first ascent of the North-west face of the Grosses Wiesbachhorn by Fritz Rigele and Willi Welzenbach.<sup>4</sup>

Hammock bivouacs, according to *Alpinismus*, were first used by Lothar Brandler and Dietrich Hasse when opening the Hermann Buhl *Gedächtnisweg* on the South-west face of the Rotwand in 1958.

ANTARCTICA.—It is reported that another active volcano has been found in Antarctica, Mount Melbourne, 8,900 ft., on the coast of Victoria Land. Mount Erebus, 12,450 ft., has hitherto been regarded as the only active volcano of Antarctica.

U.I.A.A.—The 1966 Assembly of the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme was held at Courmayeur on September 3 and 4, with an additional day devoted to a visit by the delegates to the Gran Paradiso National Park. Eighteen countries were represented this year, the total attendance, including ladies, being about one hundred. The British Mountaineering Council was represented by its President, Lord Hunt.

Meetings of the Executive and of the Commission for the Protection of Nature were held on September 3 and their reports, together with that of the Equipment Commission, were made to the General Assembly on

<sup>3</sup> *A Handbook for Travellers in Switzerland and the Alps of Savoy and Piedmont*, 5th edn., 1852, p. 336.

<sup>4</sup> Both men subsequently lost their lives in the mountains, Rigele in the Berchtesgadener Alps in 1937 and Welzenbach on Nanga Parbat in 1934.

the following day, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Edouard Wyss-Dunant. The following notes may be of interest to readers of the *Alpine Journal*.

1. *New Members*. The American Alpine Club was admitted, which appears to set an interesting precedent. An application from the late John Harlin, however, for membership of his climbing school at Leysin, was turned down.

The candidature of the Mountaineering Federation of the U.S.S.R. was proposed by the B.M.C. delegate and agreed to unanimously. This is a happy outcome to an earlier application, which was turned down some years ago.

2. *Membership of the Executive Committee*. Non-permanent members have a four-year period of service. This year four vacancies occurred and were filled by Czechoslovakia, Greece, Poland, and Spain.

3. *Reports from Committees*. (a) *Equipment Commission*. Warm appreciation was expressed of the work of the B.M.C. Equipment Subcommittee. It was reported that U.I.A.A. 'labels' (standards) have been established in respect of ropes and karabiners. Pitons were under active study (by the B.M.C.), but no final standard had as yet been fixed.

Baudriers and belts are in an advanced stage of examination, with a standard in sight and a start has been made with helmets, but it may be two years before finality is reached.

(b) *IKAR (International Rescue Committee)*. Like our Mountain Rescue Committee, IKAR is a body independent of the U.I.A.A., with the important difference that it reports to the General Assembly. It is presently engaged in gathering statistics of mountain accidents and all member associations agreed to circulate a standard questionnaire to their member clubs.

(c) *High Altitude Study*. U.I.A.A. is currently engaged in collecting information on high altitude mountaineering problems and has asked for the English language bibliography on this subject. The B.M.C. is to approach the Medical Research Council in this connection.

4. *Visits*. The delegates spent an interesting day in the Gran Paradiso National Park, during which one group made a high level walk to the foot of the Paradiso. They were generously entertained by the Park authorities and enjoyed their walk in grand scenery; the opportunity was taken to carry on their discussions informally. The visit gave the delegates an interesting insight into the administration of this fine national park.

A second outing was also organised to the Torino hut.

5. *1967 Assembly*. The 1967 Assembly is to be held in Madrid on October 6-8, 1967.

6. *General*. Out of committee there was lively discussion between some members about the aims and work of the U.I.A.A. The French

delegates take a narrow view, that the U.I.A.A. should be primarily concerned with technical matters relating to mountaineering. Others consider that the U.I.A.A. should continue to develop along a broad front, embracing all matters generally bearing on the interests of mountaineers and mountain activities.

One danger is that the U.I.A.A. may become too generalised in their work. On the other hand, too narrow an interpretation would certainly lessen their influence with governments.

HUNT.

KONDUS-KABERI.—The topography of the famous 'aiguilles' of the Karakoram, which culminate in K 6, 23,900 ft., was for long a ticklish subject. When the note in *A. J.* 70. 138 appeared, and also the correction on p. 329 of the same volume, the matter was still not clear. But now it has been settled beyond all doubt.

The Berlin expedition of 1964 attacked neither K 6 nor K 7, 22,750 ft., but they attempted a peak first measured in 1955 by J. F. Noxon, Pt. 23,100 ft., named by the Germans 'Link Sar'.

The relevant map, surveyed with plane-table and theodolite, appeared only in 1964 (*A.A. J.* XIV. pp. 122–23). Even if it is no modern photogrammetric survey, Noxon fixed by triangulation the height of numerous summits. All his survey stations lay on the north-west, or Chogolisa glacier side, and all his heights (in feet) were rounded off, so that many of the figures appear repeatedly, e.g. 23,100 ft., 22,750, 21,550, and this can easily lead to errors.

The lack of all measurements from the Kondus side cannot be made good but it is at least mitigated by the numerous photographs taken by the international Rosenthal expedition of 1960 under Ernst Senn, the Austrian 1961 expedition led by Eric Waschak and the German 1964 expedition, leader P. Lipp.

I have made a careful examination of these numerous photographs and of my own taken in 1934 as well as of those taken by the 1955 American Harvard expedition. Of particular value are the many beautiful colour transparencies of Wolfgang Axt who, in 1961, made the second ascent of the Silver Throne, *c.* 22,640 ft., and the first ascent, by himself, of the highest peak of Mount Ghent, 24,280 ft. This was a notable achievement which yielded important topographical results; in the front (north-easterly) chain stand the highest summit of Link Sar, the *Vorgipfel*, 22,750 ft., K 7, and Pts. 22,500 ft. and 22,100 ft. Behind stand Changi, *c.* 21,320 ft., the 'Shoulder', *c.* 21,650 ft., K 6, and Pts. *c.* 23,295 and 23,100 ft.

Better than any long-winded description is a reference to the photos (illustrations nos. 40–41). In that taken from the Silver Throne the highest peak of Link Sar is in front of and to the left of K 6. When seen

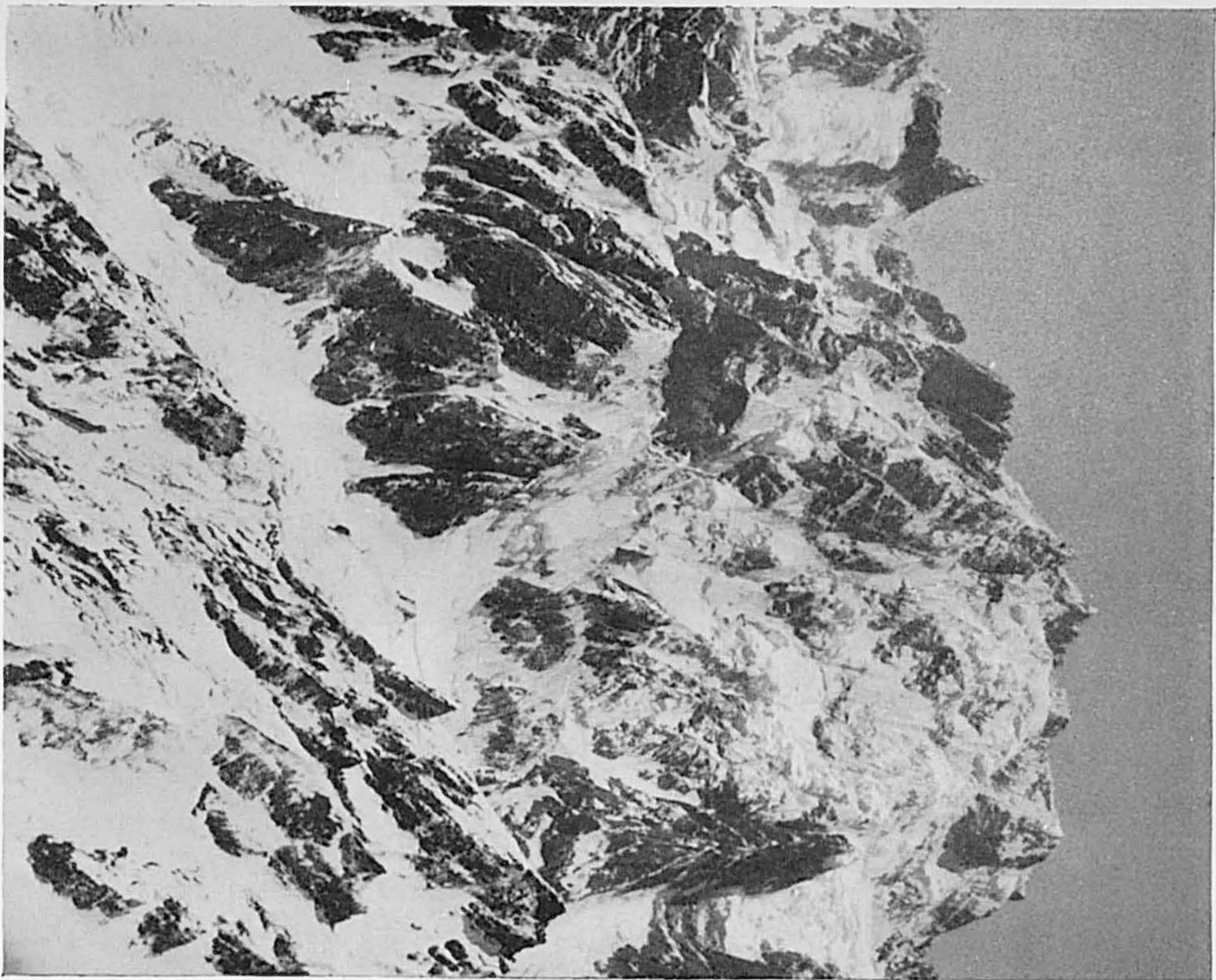


Photo: W. Axt, 1961, from G. O. Dyhrenfurth's collection]  
VIEW SOUTH-WEST FROM SILVER THRONE (c. 6900 M.).

(No. 40)

—CHANGI (c. 21,320 ft. = 6500 m.)

—SHOULDER (c. 21,650 ft. = 6600 m.)

—LINK SAR (23,100 ft. = 7040 m.)

—K6 (23,900 ft. = 7281 m.)

—LINK SAR VORGIPFEL (ICE SHOULDER BELOW SKYLINE) (22,750 ft. = 6934 m.)

—Pt. 7040 m. (= 23,100 ft.)

—START OF RIDGE TO K7

—Changi (c. 21,320 ft. = 6500 m.)

—Shoulder (c. 21,650 ft. = 6600 m.)

—K6 (23,900 ft. = 7281 m.)

—Pt. 23,295 ft. (= c. 7100 m.)

—Link Sar (23,100 ft. = 7040 m.)

—Link Sar Vorgipfel (22,750 ft. = 6934 m.)

—K7 (22,750 ft. = 6934 m.)

—Pt. 22,500 ft. (= 6858 m.)

—Pt. 22,100 ft. (= 6735 m.)



*Photo: W. Axt. 1961, from G. O. Dyhrenfurth's collection]*

VIEW WEST-SOUTH-WEST FROM c. 6700 M. ON THE WEST RIDGE OF MOUNT GHENT.

from the West ridge of Mount Ghent it stands directly in front of the summit of similar height, Pt. 23,100 ft. of the rear chain.

For the experts of 'Modern Yosemite Climbing' these virgin towers and walls will perhaps offer an ideal field of activity in the future, when political obstacles have been removed.

They also provide some interesting problems for the geologist. I would not care at present to pronounce whether the rock of the 'Kondus-Kaberi aiguilles' is a young (tertiary) granite, as for example that of the Bergell massif, or an older granite similar to that of the Chamonix aiguilles.

G. O. DYHRENFURTH.

NGOJUMBA RI II.—Formerly known as Cho Oyu II this summit, according to the latest measurement by Erwin Schneider, is only 7806 m. = 25,610 ft. in height. (See the 1:50,000 map of the Khumbu Himal.) The first ascent of this lofty but not very independent snow dome was made by N. Uemura and Pemba Tenzing on April 24, 1965, and not on May 5 as incorrectly stated in *A. J.* 70. 330.

G. O. DYHRENFURTH.

MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION.—Applications for grants for the 1968 season should be received at the M.E.F. offices (c/o Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7) by September 11, 1967, in the case of expeditions expected to leave early in the following year. Expeditions leaving later can postpone their applications up to January, 1968.

STAUNINGS ALPS.—Dr. J. Wedderburn of Inverness has been good enough to draw attention to an error occurring in *A. J.* 69. 127 and also in 71. 144. He points out that the Caledonia group is not part of the Staunings Alps but an entirely separate range lying some 400 miles further south.

The Staunings Alps lie between Kong Oscar's fjord and Scoresby Sound, around 72°N. They are about sixty miles in length and twenty-five in breadth, and are usually approached from Mesters Vig.

The Caledonia group, on the other hand, is in King Christian IX Land, around latitude 66°N., south-south-east of Schweizerland and in the hinterland of Angmagssalik.

The mistake is said to have originated with a 1959 expedition but Dr. Gribbon has discussed the matter with the Danish authorities and there can now be no doubt as to the facts.

GREENLAND.—Among the expeditions visiting Greenland last year was a Swiss party who went to the Schweizerland area north of Angmagssalik

and made twenty-eight first ascents and also the second ascent of the Laupersbjoerg, 8465 ft.,<sup>5</sup> following the same route as that taken by their predecessors of the A.A.C.Z. expedition in 1938.

A NOTE ON MOUNT BRYCE.—When the Rev. (later Sir) James Outram and Christian Kaufmann made the first ascent of Mount Bryce in the Canadian Rockies on August 21, 1902, they traversed the East summit (10,800 ft.) on their way to the highest (West) peak, 11,507 ft. To their 'great relief it was unnecessary to go over the Central peak', and they passed below it, though at no great distance from the top, to gain the col between it and the West peak.<sup>6</sup>

Nearly sixty years elapsed before the summit of the Central peak, 11,100 ft., was reached for the first time on July 27, 1961, by S. Bucher, R. Fierz and J. G. Kato.<sup>7</sup> Outram's long and difficult route from Thompson's Pass over the East peak has not been repeated; attempts in 1953 and 1960 were both defeated by bad weather.

The second ascent of the highest summit was made in 1937 by Kate Gardiner and Lillian Gest with the guides Christian Hasler and Eduard Feuz jr., by way of the South glacier and East face and this route was followed on the third ascent in 1955 by F. D. Ayres and R. Irwin.

L. S. Amery may be considered very unlucky not to have made the second ascent in 1929 when his attempt by the South-west ridge failed, owing to the appalling snow conditions, only some 200 ft. below the summit.<sup>8</sup>

A CANADIAN CENTENARY.—The Government of the Yukon Territory and the Alpine Club of Canada intend to celebrate the Centenary of Canadian Confederation by an expedition to the Icefield Ranges of the St. Elias Mountains.

The expedition will be unique in the history of mountaineering as it will take the form of a national contest in which all the provinces of Canada can take part in friendly rivalry. Teams composed of the leading Canadian climbers, representing each province and territory, will attempt to climb virgin peaks in the Icefield Ranges.

As a mark of the coincidental centenary of the purchase of Alaska by the United States there will also be the ascent of a virgin peak on the Canada-U.S. border by a team of climbers from both countries.

A mountain group containing thirteen unnamed virgin peaks from 10,000 ft. to 12,500 ft. in height has been named 'Centennial Range'. The most outstanding peak of this range has been designated Centennial

<sup>5</sup> Named after the famous Swiss mountaineer, Hans Lauper (1895-1936).

<sup>6</sup> *A.J.* 21. 464-475.

<sup>7</sup> *Les Alpes*, 1966, pp. 182-9.

<sup>8</sup> *A.J.* 42. 40-43 where the date of the first ascent is incorrectly given.

Peak, the other summits being named after the provinces and territories of Canada.

A base camp and a small number of subsidiary camps or depots will be established in the Icefield Ranges for the benefit of those taking part in the expedition.

N. E. ODELL.

ACONCAGUA.—A few additions and corrections may be of interest to those who read Signor Fantin's article, 'Some notes on the history of Aconcagua', published in the last issue of the *A. J.*

The author thinks that 'the number of attempts on Aconcagua exceeds one hundred and only 40 per cent of them have reached the summit'; both estimates must be higher. Since 1950 Aconcagua has been regularly ascended three to seven times per season (December to March). The total number of successful ascents by now must be around one hundred; the trouble is that it is hard to keep an account of them, for it appears that only one record exists—the *Gipfelbuch* on the top of Aconcagua itself, in which are entered the successful climbs. It will undoubtedly fall to the Club Andinista Mendoza, in whose jurisdiction Aconcagua lies, to keep these books and replace them when necessary.

At the end of the article (p. 272) it is stated that in recent years many attempts and ascents have been made starting direct from Chile up to Puente del Inca. Actually, most of these attempts and ascents from Chile have been made via the Güssfeldt (1951 Foerster, Krahl, Maier) route, which has an economic advantage; climbers are not required by patrols to acclimatise before the attempts. The Argentinian army patrol, based at Puente del Inca, requires that inexperienced mountaineers should spend there a training period that may range between four to twenty days, depending on their previous experience.

In 1947 the German Kopp expedition that climbed to the lower (South) summit of Aconcagua found on the depression of the ridge between the two summits the body of a guanaco (*Lama guanacus*), a ruminant related to the camel. How this animal could have reached such a high place is a mystery. One hypothesis is gaining ground among Chilean mountaineers: Aconcagua may have been ascended by the Incas several centuries before the FitzGerald party made the ascent in 1897; it is known now that the Incas and other Andean races under their dominance practised mountaineering for religious purposes. But this is a mystery that perhaps will never be cleared up.

A few minor corrections to Signor Fantin's notes are necessary; the correct name of the high hut is Independencia (pp. 272-3-4); F. Clayton was not in the summit party (p. 269).<sup>9</sup> And the actual meaning of the

<sup>9</sup> *A. J.* 37. 199 includes the name of Clayton among those who made the ascent. D.F.O.D.

name Aconcagua is 'White Sentinel' (Acon, a corruption of Anco, white; cahua, sentinel).

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA C.

**FORTHCOMING EXPEDITIONS.**—An expedition to visit the Patagonian Andes under the overall lead of Ian Clough has as its principal objectives the two towers known as Fortress and Shield, a little north of the Towers of Paine.

Roger Whewell is leader of a party going to the Cordillera de Carabaya with designs on two unclimbed peaks and the South face of Allinccapac. A New Zealand party is also planning to visit the same area.

At least three British parties hope to visit Greenland. One, from St. Andrews University, is bound for Upernavik Island, Ubekendt Island, and the Qioqe Peninsula in Western Greenland. There are said to be some thirty unclimbed peaks on Upernavik Island.

The Newcastle upon Tyne University Expedition plans to work in East Greenland in the mountains between the inlets of Nigertussoq and the Steenstrups Braer glacier, about one hundred miles north of Angmagssalik, and a party from the Imperial College will be going to the Mount Forel group, planning to continue the work of last year's expedition and to make ascents in the range extending eastwards from the Pointe de Harpon.

The Midlands Hindu Kush expedition intends to divide into two groups at Anjuman; one party will climb in the range between the Bologron and Pagar rivers, tributaries of the Anjuman, and the other will tackle the peaks at the head of the Ischkaser valley.

**TILMAN AND MISCHIEF.**—The Press has made so much of Sir Francis Chichester's voyage round the world that they have had little space to give to Tilman's latest adventure in *Mischief*. However, the *Observer* for January 22 had an article by Michael Richey, of the Institute of Navigation, that will have made it clear to readers that another noteworthy voyage was in progress.

Tilman left England last summer for the Antarctic, and had a misfortune in mid-Atlantic when one of his crew, David Shaw, a professional seaman who was to have looked after *Mischief* when Tilman was climbing mountains, was lost overboard. The boat went on to South America and was held up for six weeks dealing with formalities concerning this loss; during this time two of Tilman's remaining crew left him.

He managed in due course to get on to Punta Arenas, where he sent a message for the Alpine Club's annual dinner last December. He then proceeded south, his crew reinforced not only by one of his absentees, who had rejoined him, but by a couple of Megallanic skin-divers. (To avoid misunderstanding, it should be added that these were not a species

of obscure, aquatic bird, but enthusiasts from Punta Arenas who indulge in skin-diving in the Magellan Straits—which sounds a chilly occupation.)

Tilman arrived at Deception Island, in the South Shetlands group, on December 26, and the latest heard of him is that he hoped to get a bit of climbing on nearby Livingstone Island before leaving for the north before the winter ice sets in.

At the time of writing (February) it is thought that *Mischief* would have left the South Shetlands and be heading for Cape Town as her next main objective. These southern seas are notoriously formidable and Club members will look forward to hearing of her safe arrival.<sup>10</sup>

T. S. B.

<sup>10</sup> Later information (March) has come to hand; Tilman reached Montevideo, after calling in at South Georgia, on February 27. Crew troubles figure largely in a stirring tale. It is hoped that *Mischief* will reach home in June or July.