

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Eastern Graians.

CIARFORON (3640 m. = 11,939 ft.) BY THE N.W. ARÊTE. August 8, 1911. Messrs. R. L. G. Irving, G. H. L. Mallory and H. E. G. Tyndale. From V.E. hut the arête was reached at its base by a walk over easy level glacier ($\frac{3}{4}$ hr.), and climbed throughout. A vertical bit near the bottom was turned by a hard crack on the W. side but the arête can easily be reached above this point. There is some excellent climbing, especially near the top, where one overlooks some tremendous red slabs on the W.

We found a note afterwards in the book which stated that Sig. Bobba reached the arête about half way up by ascending the steep glacier on the N. face of the mountain. Judging by the present state of the glacier this looks a laborious route. We descended by the N.E. ridge to the Col de Moncorvé, the whole time up and down from the hut being about 7 hours (not including halts).

GRIVOLA (3969 m. = 13,022 ft.) BY N. ARÊTE. August 14, 1911. Messrs. R. L. G. Irving, G. H. L. Mallory and H. E. G. Tyndale. Left Pousset huts 3.30; crossed Trajo glacier to foot of Col des Clochettes between the Grivola and Grivoletta. Crossed the ridge close to the Grivoletta and found a descent by ledges and gullies which took us down without serious difficulty to a high snow basin which we crossed and struck the N. arête low down just where it becomes well defined. Crampons were of great assistance, but higher up we had a good deal of cutting in hard ice. For 200 or 300 feet we climbed some nasty smooth loose rocks set at a steep angle which looked as if they were often ice-covered. The top was reached about 12.30. To avoid a large party in descending we made use of two or three couloirs to the N. of the usual one and found a fairly good exit from the next but two. There was practically no snow left on the E. face and we saw nothing fall. Cogne was reached at 6.30, so I think the N. arête of the Grivola can therefore be described as 'one long day' from Cogne. R. L. G. IRVING.

[No previous record of a passage of the Col des Clochettes (3462 m. = 11,355 ft.) appears to exist.]

Dauphiné.

LA MEIJE (3987 and 3970 m. = 13,081 and 13,025 ft.): TRAVERSE.—As times for the traverse of the Meije under varying condition have been recently made matter for comment, it may be of interest to record the times taken on August 2, 1911, under perfect conditions, by two parties consisting of Mr. G. Winthrop Young with Josef Knubel, and Mr. H. O. Jones with Laurent Croux, who left the Promontoire Hut at 3.50 A.M. and reached the Grand Pic of the Meije at 7.30 A.M., the Pic Central at 9.53 A.M., and La Grave at 1 P.M.

The times excluding halts were as follows :—

Hut to Grand Pic	2 hrs. 50 mins.
Grand Pic to Pic Central	1 „ 30 „
Pic Central to La Grave	2 „ 10 „
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	6 hrs. 30 mins.

[On June 29, 1893, Mr. R. Corry's time for the ascent of the Grand Pic from the foot of the Promontoire, about 10 minutes below the present hut, was 2 h. 58 min., excluding halts, or 3 h. 18 min. in all. Cf. 'Ö.A.Z.' 1893, p. 184.]

Mont Blanc District.

MONT BLANC (4810 m. = 15,782 ft.) BY THE S.E. RIDGE OF MONT MAUDIT (route followed by Herr von Kuffner led by Alexander Burgener, 2-4 July 1887, cf. 'Ö.A.Z.' 11th and 25th January and 8th February 1889). August 18, 1911. Messrs. R. L. G. Irving, G. H. L. Mallory and H. E. G. Tyndale left Col du Géant 3.30 A.M. and reached at 5 bergschrund just below point where S.E. arête of Mont Maudit begins to rise steeply above the ridge of the Col de la Tour Ronde. Climbed over ice and rocks to the top of this ridge, gaining it near point 3801, in Barbey's map. A safe route needs looking for, as the various patches of stones below the bergschrund bear witness. Steep rocks, varied by patches of hard névé and ice, were climbed to a huge tower. An attractive-looking route on the right of this tower led up to a wholly repulsive traverse, so we retraced our steps and turned the tower by ice and rocks on the left. Steep good rocks and an extra steep exit brought us to the sky line at about 4200 m. at 2 o'clock. We were decidedly not fresh and took one and a half hours along the arête to the top of Mont Maudit (3.30). A very long halt on the Col de la Brenva enabled us to reach the summit of Mont Blanc in one and a half hours (6.30). Reached Gds Mulets a little before 8. We lost half-an-hour trying the wrong side of the gendarme, but otherwise we went a fair pace with a halt of one hour on the ridge of Mont Maudit. We can strongly recommend this route, at least in a good season.

R. L. G. IRVING.

Pennines.

DENTS DE BERTOL, S. PEAK (3556 m. = 11,667 ft.) Mr. J. P. Osler and Canon A. Sloman with Pierre Epinay as guide made the third traverse of the south (and highest) Dent de Bertol on July 24, 1911, ascending the southerly arête from the snow col which separates it from the most northerly peak of the Bouquetins, and following the arête in a north-westerly direction towards the Col de Bertol. Time from snow col to where the arête sinks to the snow again 2 hrs., not counting 30 min. for lunch.

A. SLOMAN.

TRAVERSE OF MONTE ROSA (Dufour Spitze) (4638 m. = 15,217 ft.), FROM MACUGNAGA TO ZERMATT.—August 9, 1911. Messrs George and Max Finch, F. C. Case and Franz Obexer. Arrived at Capanna Marinelli, August 7. August 8, start delayed and then put off on account of heavy thunderstorm and fall of fresh snow during the night. Marked route to Marinelli couloir from hut with about 25 cairns. From 5 A.M. to 8.30 P.M. couloir was constantly raked by avalanches and falling stones. At night the avalanches were far less frequent, and only came at intervals of about an hour. August 9, left hut at 1.5 A.M., couloir reached at 1.15 A.M. Crossing couloir difficult on account of huge avalanche grooves (of which there were 9), the largest being 16 metres broad and 6–7 metres deep with undercut walls. Couloir crossed by 1.45 A.M. (going very fast) cutting as few steps as possible, and trusting to the crampons to hold. Up the very easy rocks of the Imsengrücken (safe at first), past an almost level ridge, then up the last 'Imseng' rocks, exposed to falling ice on the left (S.), and stones and avalanches on the right (N.). Top of these rocks reached at 2.35 A.M. Cut by lantern light (moon gone) up a steep ice slope, at first over 50° afterwards 55° (clinometer), for 20 minutes. Further progress then barred by an ice wall, and we worked, much step cutting, over to the left (S.W.) till almost under the Signal Joch, overcoming the bergschrund by a difficult bridge. Again heavy cutting and worked back till under the Grenzgipfel. Here occurred the greatest difficulty—a high ice-wall, measured by the rope's length as about 45 metres, at an angle of 72°. This was overcome at dawn. Minor difficulties, but still heavy cutting, and at 5.35 A.M. emerged on gentle slopes of névé, 42°, raced up these to bergschrund under Grenzgipfel, 6.10 A.M. Bergschrund difficult and danger of falling stones. Slope to the rocks about 45°, and in good condition (1½–2 in. of snow) step-cutting, however, necessary. Rocks gained slightly to the left and 5 metres above the lowest point, 7 A.M. Discarded crampons and left at 7.15 A.M. Kept almost always on a rib, sometimes deviating to the left (S.) over easy rocks. Climbing otherwise difficult and hampered by fresh snow. Grenzgipfel reached by George Finch and F. C. Case at 9.5 A.M. (5 minutes halt); Dufour Spitze attained at 9.15 A.M., Max Finch and Franz Obexer arriving at 10.15 A.M. Left summit at 12.15 P.M., reaching Bétemps hut, 2.10 P.M.

No part of the climb between the Marinelli couloir and final rocks is safe; it should be attempted with *more* snow, we had very hard work in the séracs. Conway's times are absolutely unreliable. Our own times (8 hrs. 10 min.) are very fast; we took no rests whatever, were in good condition, and went all through at full pressure. We went on two ropes to the top of the Imseng rocks, then all on one rope to the final rocks, lastly on two ropes again to the Dufour Spitze.

The above highly interesting notes were kindly given to me by Mr. George Finch on the top of the Dufour Spitze. E. L. STRUTT.

NORD END (4612 m. = 15,132 ft.) FROM MACUGNAGA.—On Friday, August 11, 1911, Messrs. J. E. C. Eaton and E. G. Oliver with Julius zum Taugwald of Zermatt, Heinrich Burgener and Ferdinand Furrer of Saas and Jachini Battista of Macugnaga left the Marinelli hut at 2.40 A.M.

They proceeded at first in a north-westerly direction over moraine away from the Marinelli couloir (which is never crossed on this climb), and then ascended in zigzags some snow slopes and moraine, part of which might be dangerous from falls of ice or stones later in the day. After about half an hour they traversed back in a south-westerly direction until they reached a broad rock almost over the Marinelli couloir about an hour from the hut. In making this traverse a deep avalanche track had to be crossed.

Ascending some easy rocks close to the Marinelli couloir they roped up in two parties (3.50 A.M.) and immediately afterwards walked on top of a snow ridge so close to the Marinelli couloir that it seemed that a sérac above the couloir might have reached them, had it fallen.

From the top of this snow arête they turned north again towards the east arête and crossing a broad couloir (10 minutes) which would be stone-swept later in the day, and, passing an easy bergschrund, got on to the arête at 4.50. Keeping on the crest of the arête they reached a good breakfast place at 5.45, and noticed they were then considerably above the top of the Imseng Rücken forming the right bank of the Marinelli couloir. After 20 minutes' halt they climbed steadily up the arête, on which there was a great deal of rotten rock.

The arête flattens down into a sort of rib as one gets higher, and two or three times the rocks were varied by short snow or ice arêtes (a little step-cutting in places). When about level with the top of the Jägerhorn a longer ice arête was encountered (about 20 minutes' step-cutting).

After this the ascent became more difficult and the rocks more rotten until just below an overhanging and very rotten tower which forced the party off the arête into an ice couloir to the right (9.30 A.M.) In this couloir were found two ice axes and a pair of gloves which doubtless belonged to the unfortunate Italian party who were lost on this climb in 1909. The party proceeded up the couloir, which was the most difficult part of the climb, and regained the ridge above the rotten tower. They then followed the ridge for a short distance until near its top, and then bearing to the right over easy but rotten rocks reached a snow shoulder (10.30 A.M.) 20 minutes to half an hour from the summit. Here they halted $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour for lunch and leaving the shoulder at 11.16 reached the top at 11.41. After a halt of 20 minutes they descended by the rocks (using a doubled rope in one place) and reached the Bétémps hut at 3. (The Silbersattel route looked impracticable and there was much new snow on the Dufourspitze.)

All the party considered the expedition a very fine one and free

from danger after the arête is reached. They are emphatically of opinion that the ascent should be made from the Marinelli hut, rather than from the bivouac, considering an ascent in the afternoon to the bivouac place (about 2 hours above the hut) hazardous and inadvisable.

Time from Marinelli hut to the top (exclusive of halts) about $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Weather fine and conditions favourable.

[Cf. 'A. J.' xxiv. p. 673-4 for a note on the routes up this side and 'Boll. C.A.I.' xxvii. p. 51 for a sketch of the routes. The route above described apparently coincides with the left hand route of the sketch.]

DOM (4554 m. = 14,942 ft.) and TÄSCHHORN (4498 m. = 14,758)
TRAVERSE.—On Tuesday, August 29, 1911, Mr. E. G. Oliver with Julius zum Taugwald and Ferdinand Furrer left the Festi Hut at 2.10 A.M. and reached the top of the Dom at 7.30. Following the ridge they gained the top of the Täschhorn at 12 and after $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour halt descended the S. arête reaching the Mischabeljoch at 5 P.M. and Zermatt (Monte Rosa Hotel) at 8.55. The ridge between the Dom and Täschhorn was in good condition, though the rocks from the Dom to the Domjoch are very rotten. From the Domjoch to the Täschhorn the rock is firm and good. There was a great deal of ice on the S. arête of the Täschhorn involving much step-cutting with one or two awkward places. The last gendarme on this ridge was turned on the right, otherwise the ridge was followed throughout. Below the Mischabeljoch some time was lost owing to the bad condition of the glacier.

Times (exclusive of halts).

Hut to top of Dom	$5\frac{1}{2}$ hours
Dom to Täschhorn	4 "
Täschhorn to Mischabeljoch	$4\frac{1}{4}$ "
Mischabeljoch to Zermatt	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
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	17 hours.

Bernese Oberland.

SCHRECKHORN-LAUTERAARHORN ARÊTE.—The following expeditions are now recorded:—

July 23, 1906. Mr. J. S. Driver-Holloway and his brother, with Christian and Gottfried Bohren, left Schwarzegg 1.5 A.M.; Schreck-sattel, 7-7.25; Lauteraarhorn, 1.15-2 P.M.; Schwarzegg via Strahlegg, 8-8.15; Grindelwald, 11.15 P.M.

July 24, 1911. M. Finch, A.A.C.Z.; F. Obexer, A.A.C.Z.; G. Preiss, A.A.C.Z.; J. C. Case. On the evening of the 23rd there had been a heavy thunderstorm, and cloudy unsettled weather delayed our start till 8.50 A.M., when we set out from the Schwarzegg hut

for the above climb, well prepared for a bivouac. At 1.50 P.M. we gained the Schreckjoch, where we spent about two hours, waiting for a local thunderstorm to lose all its ill-humour in the form of snow and hail. Meanwhile we walked along the ridge to the Gr. Nässihorn to keep warm. At 4.45 P.M. we commenced the steep rocks of the Anderson Ridge, and following the crest throughout—for the gulleys were snow- and ice-filled—arrived at 7.30 P.M. on the Schreckhorn, and at 8.15 P.M. on the Schrecksattel, where we bivouacked. We had purposely brought many extra clothes and a cooking-apparatus, and thus spent a very comfortable night. In the morning (25th), we waited till some friends, bound for the Schreckhorn, had arrived up the Great Wall. At 7.45 A.M. we commenced the greatly bepinnaled N.W. arête of the Lauteraarhorn. We followed the ridge throughout, climbing every one of the whole regiment of gendarmes thereon posted. One tower, soon after Pt. 3978, overhangs the ridge, and was only gained by a short but difficult flanking move on the S. wall. The climb is exceedingly interesting, without being anywhere more difficult than the Anderson Ridge. The rocks are unpleasantly sharp, but reliable on the ridge, though rotten and unsafe everywhere on either hand. At 2.45 we arrived on the Lauteraarhorn, commenced the descent at 4.30, followed the usual route to the Strahlegg Firn, crossed the Strahlegg Pass (9 P.M.), and arrived in the Schwarzegg hut at 10.30 P.M.

August 12, 1911. Mr. C. F. K. Carfrae, with Ferdinand Summermatter and his brother-in-law, left Schwarzegg 1 A.M.; Schreckhorn, by ordinary route, 6 A.M. (cold wind); Schrecksattel, 6.30 A.M.; Lauteraarhorn, 9.45 A.M.; over Strahlegg to Grindelwald, 5.15 P.M.

The weather and conditions were magnificent and the only trying part of the expedition was the walk up to the Strahlegg with no wind and the sun on our backs.

PRATELS, PRATTELS OR BRATTELSSPITZE (ca. 8300 ft.).—This bold little rock peak was first climbed in 1908, but no account of it seems to have been published. It is not shown on the Siegfried-karte, but has been named by its first conquerors after the little *Schafberg* which lies to the south-east of it. The peak springs from the massive rib which forms the eastern buttress of the Hohwang (2525 mètres), a point a little to the north of the First. Viewed from Kandersteg it appears to be merely a vertical step in this buttress, but it is, in fact, cut off from the Hohwang by a deep gap, on which stands a huge gendarme. The summit is from no point easy of access.

The route is as follows: Cross the Kander by a bridge close to the village and follow a path through the wood marked 'Auf der Höhe' on the Siegfried-karte to the point, 1340 mètres; leave the path to the Gollitschen Alp on the right and ascend straight up by steep slopes of grass and scanty forest to the stony

hollow at the foot of the First, locally known as the Pratelsschafweide, or Brattels. Thence ascend diagonally to the right over screes to the gap in the ridge immediately under the cliffs of the peak. A precipice falls abruptly on the north side of this gap to the Gollitschen Alp. From this point there is a stiff climb of some 500 ft. to the summit. The route lies up a deep rift, partly couloir, partly chimney. This rift does not extend to the foot of the cliff and the entrance is effected by a difficult overhanging pitch which is climbed from a shelving ledge a few yards to the left of the gap. Once in the couloir the climbing is moderately easy up to the foot of a vertical chimney, which is overcome by bridging, with the back against the smooth right wall, until a landing is effected on the inner side of a large jammed stone. Further up the rock is unsound and requires careful handling on the steeper pitches. From the gap at the top of the couloir turn to the left and ascend by a short and easy rock face to the summit ridge (cairn). The screes can be regained by a traverse to the rocks of the Hohwang, as follows: From the cairn descend the arête to the southwest by a smooth shelving slab (or by a small chimney to the right of it) and cross a jagged ridge to the foot of the great gendarme which must be traversed on the right (north) side, by a narrow shelf trending upwards to an exposed corner on the nearly vertical face which is rounded over a bulge of rock (holds should be carefully tested). Beyond this corner a short chimney gives access to the ridge, whence the screes can be reached in a few minutes by crossing a slope of *Platten*.

The Pratelsspitze was first climbed by Abraham Müller (Sohn) alone in September 1908, and by Mr. Rudolf Runge with the brothers Abraham and Gottfried Müller in September 1909. It was again climbed this autumn (1910) by Miss Philippa Drew with Abraham Müller, and by the writer with Mr. A. Shaw and Gottfried Müller. Miss Drew, with Abraham and Adolf Müller, also made a new ascent by a steep and difficult chimney in the east face, the entrance to which is about 200 yards to the left (south) of the one described above. The walls of this chimney are smooth and constricted, and near the top there is a very difficult traverse. The chimney at this point narrows to a crack, with a small ledge at its foot. The crack is ascended as far as it is practicable and then a bulging rock on its right must be climbed, chiefly by the aid of friction, such holds as there are sloping outwards and giving but the slightest assistance. The chimney ends in a curious tunnel through which the gap on the south side of the peak is gained.

HENRY CANDLEB.

Norway.

KNUTSHULSTIND FROM KNUTSHULLET.—This ascent was first made by Dr. Claude Wilson's party in August 1885, and was described in the 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xiii. p. 155. In 1901 a Norwegian,

Herr Eilert Sundt, made the second ascent from the E. by a different route, which avoided the ice-fall at the price of great difficulties upon the lower part of the eastern ridge. No other ascent appears to have been made from the E. till August 11, 1911, when Messrs A. E. Field and R. Bicknell, with Peder Bjerck as porter, reached the top by a route which must have been practically the same as that used by Dr. Wilson. The boat was left on the shore of lake Gjendin at 7.40, and the snout of Knutshulsbræ reached at 9 o'clock. The main glacier was followed for $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., and a turn was then made to the right up much crevassed snow slopes to the foot of the ice-fall coming down from the higher glacier which fills the space between the eastern and northern ridges. Here about 100 ft. were ascended upon a steep tongue of rock, which protrudes from the right into the ice-fall, and it was then possible to cut a way in a horizontal direction through the séracs to the easy snow of the upper glacier. Great difficulty was experienced in getting on to the rock face leading up to the eastern ridge, it being necessary to descend into the bergschrund, and then cut a series of pigeon-hole steps up a short but excessively steep ice wall. It is probable that the rock face was climbed at the same point as upon the first ascent, for no other place was seen where there appeared to be much chance of getting up. It was about 200 ft. high and by no means easy. The ridge was reached $7\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. after leaving the boat. From this point half an hour's easy climbing leads to the top. The descent was made by the ordinary way into Svartdal, over easy but most unpleasant slopes of loose stones.

ALPINE NOTES

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