

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

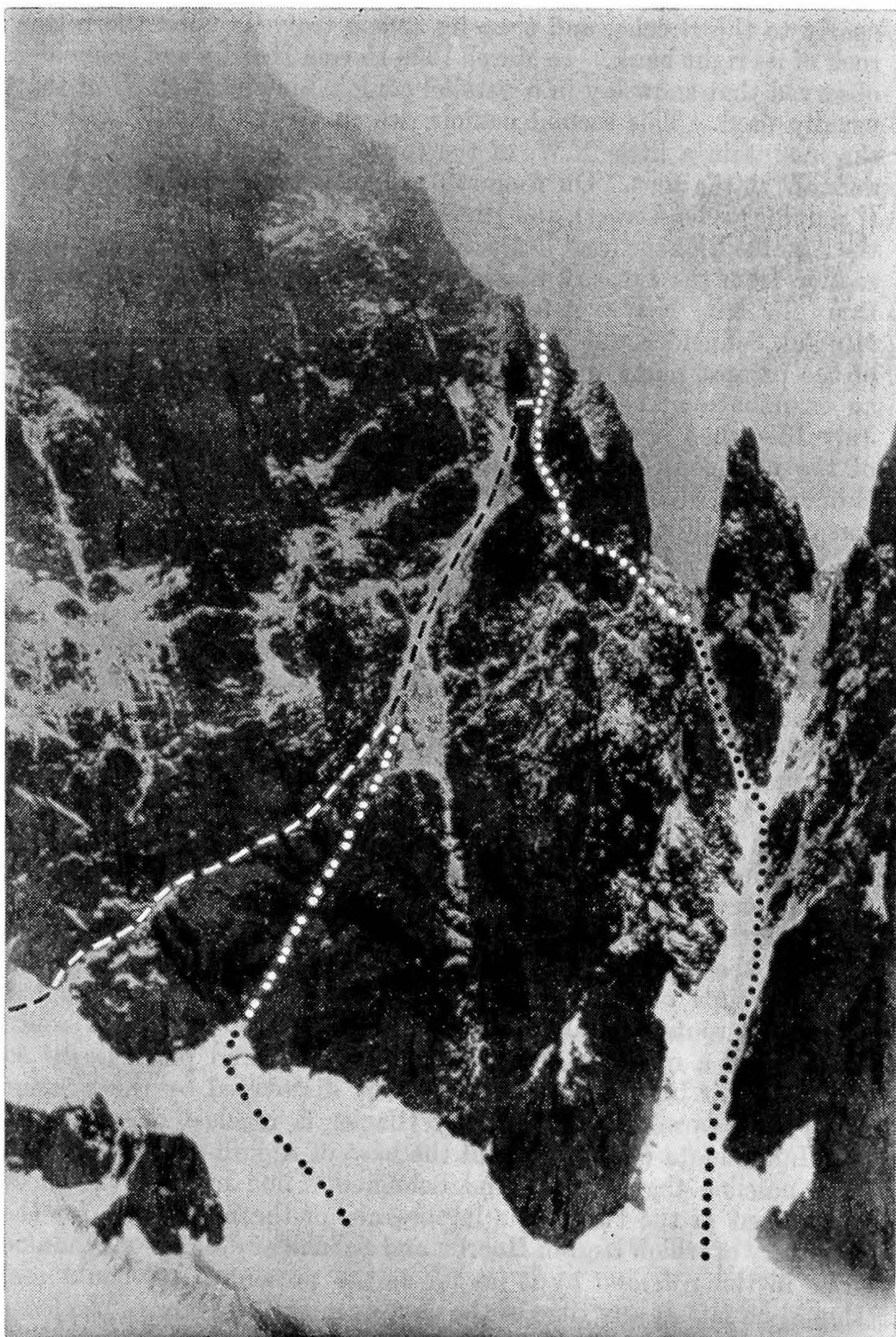
Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PÉTERET, 4109 m. = 13,482 ft. By the S.E. and N.W. arêtes. July 15, 1932. Mr. T. Graham Brown, with Joseph Knubel and Alexander Graven. Left Gamba hut, 02.35. Traversed round S.E. extremity of Aiguille Joseph Croux to Fresnay Glacier and reached summit of Aiguille Blanche, by the Brèche N. des Dames Anglaises and S.E. arête, at 10.40, or 6 hrs. 34 mins.' actual climbing (including a détour to base of rock near foot of couloir S. des Dames Anglaises to shelter from transient hail). Left summit, 10.45. Reached Col de Péteret, 12.25 (with 10 mins. halts on the way). The approach of an unexpected thunderstorm prevented further advance, and an alternative plan to descend from Col de Péteret to the Fresnay Glacier was adopted. The descent was made for about 30 mins. directly down the centre of the great couloir (snow and some ice) situated to the E. of the prominent buttress separating it from the great perpendicular upper icefall of the Fresnay Glacier. Where the couloir narrows and steepens, it was quitted to the S.E., and the remainder of the descent was made partly by the buttress of H. O. Jones's route to the Aiguille Blanche ('A.J.' 24, 677-9), and partly by couloirs to the S.E. of the buttress. The Fresnay Glacier was reached (with 33 mins. halts on the way from Col de Péteret) at 14.45, the thunderstorm having broken during the descent. The Gamba hut was reached, down the Fresnay Glacier (lower icefall very difficult) and round the S.E. base of Aiguille Joseph Croux, at 18.35, or 6 hrs. 57 mins.' actual climbing from the summit of the Aiguille Blanche.

[On August 21, 1922, Signori F. Ravelli and G. Rivetti, with Evaristo Croux, made the *first descent* from the Col de Péteret to the Fresnay Glacier by using approximately the same route—although they may not have descended by the couloir. Mr. Eustace Thomas with Joseph Knubel ascended and descended the lower part of Jones's route on July 6, 1928, in an attempt on Aiguille Blanche—thus covering the part of route used by the present party after the couloir had been left. The route (*under the conditions met by the present party*) is a safe one, and the best line of descent to the Fresnay Glacier from the Col.]

[*Note on the Route to Aiguille Blanche de Péteret (S.E. arête) from the Fresnay Glacier.*

THE usual route attains the S.E. arête of the mountain to the N.W. of the Brèche Nord des Dames Anglaises by the ascent of the couloir



Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

DAMES ANGLAISES AND PART OF S.W. FACE OF AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PÉTERET, FROM S.E. RIDGE OF L'INNOMINATA.

Dotted line usual route to S.E. arête of Aig. Blanche from Fresnay Glacier.

Broken line - - - - - Hoerlin and Schneider's route.

Double-dotted line route taken in 1932.

nearly to the Brèche, and then by a long traverse upon the rotten rock of its right bank. In March 1929 Herren Hoerlin and Schneider observed that snow lay in a parallel couloir somewhat N.W. of that usually used. This second couloir, which meets the S.E. arête of the mountain a little N.W. of the top of the usual traverse, is ill-defined at the foot. On August 6, 1929, Herren Hoffmann, Koch (? should this be *Kocher*), and Rolfes used this couloir on the ascent of the Aiguille Blanche (and Péteret arête)—gaining the foot of its upper section from the Fresnay Glacier by a long sloping traverse upwards from the left, N.W. A few days later, Herren Borchers, Endell, Hoerlin, Schneider and Wolter used the same route. The attention of the present party was directed to it by Herr Viktor Grössl, and an examination was made from the S.E. arête of L'Innominata on July 18—when it was observed that the foot of the upper section of the new couloir could be attained more directly up the steep chimney by which the couloir reaches the glacier. This chimney was climbed by the present party on July 23, in an attempt on the Péteret arête. But the weather having broken, the expedition was abandoned, and descent was made by the sloping traverse of the line discovered by Hoerlin and Schneider. The distance from the glacier by the chimney to the foot of the upper section of the couloir (and junction with Hoerlin and Schneider's sloping traverse) appears to be about 500 ft.—of which only the middle 70 ft. are difficult. This chimney route was again used by the present party on July 30—when the Péteret arête was successfully ascended. The actual climbing time then taken from a point in the centre of the couloir Nord des Dames Anglaises above the bergschrund (and including the traverse thence of steep snow slopes to the N.W. to the foot of the chimney = 15 min.), up this chimney and couloir, to the point at which the S.E. arête of the Aiguille Blanche is reached by both the old and the new routes, was 1 hr. 11 mins.; whereas the actual climbing time taken between the same two points by making use of the old route on July 15 was 2 hrs. exactly. The new route is certainly a much shorter one than the old, and particularly so if the couloir be gained by the chimney discovered by the present party. If, however, the Fresnay Glacier is reached over the Col de l'Innominata (and not round the base of Aiguille Joseph Croux), it is possible that Hoerlin and Schneider's line may be the more convenient of the two. The importance of the new route, for the discovery of which Herren Hoerlin and Schneider deserve our thanks, rests in this: *descent* by it (as far as the present party could see) should be safe at any time of the day, or in bad weather. The loose rock traversed by the old route is avoided.]

MONT BLANC, 4810 m. = 15,782 ft. By S.E. (Péteret) arête. July 30, 1932. Mr. T. Graham Brown, with Joseph Knubel and Alexander Graven.

Left Gamba hut, 02.15; passed round Aiguille Joseph Croux

(*Col Croux*, 02.57–03.06), reaching foot of couloir Nord des Dames Anglaises above bergschrund (with a halt of 12 mins. on way) at 04.18; traversed slopes to N.W., reaching foot of chimney (see previous note) at 04.36; left again, 04.40; ascended chimney and couloir to N.W. of ordinary route, reaching S.E. arête of Aiguille Blanche at 05.57, with halts amounting to 24 mins. on this part of the climb; paused from 06.01 to 06.26, and reached summit of Aiguille Blanche de Péteret (with further halts amounting to 9 mins. on the way) at 08.39, or 5 hrs.' actual climbing from the Gamba hut.

Left summit, 08.59; reached Col de Péteret at 10.50, with a deviation to climb the N. gendarme (Pt. 4112 m. *Vt.*) and halts amounting to 9 mins. on the way. Left Col de Péteret, 11.43, attaining S.E. arête of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur to W. of Pt. 4381 m. at 13.45, with one halt of 11 mins. on the way. Left again, 14.37; reached Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, 16.11; left again, 16.25, attaining summit of Mont Blanc at 16.56, or in 10 hrs. 39 mins.' actual climbing from the Gamba hut. The night was spent at the Grands Mulets—reached *via* the 'Corridor' at 19.45.

The conditions on the whole were good except on E. slopes. The greatest technical difficulties were encountered during the descent to the Col de Péteret and the subsequent ascent thence to the point at which the S.E. arête was reached. The 'summit' of the Aiguille Blanche (Pt. 4109 m.) is seen to be distinctly lower than the N. gendarme (Pt. 4112 m. *Vt.*) when viewed from the latter point.

T. G. B.

POINTE HELBRONNER, 3462 m.; GRAND FLAMBEAU, 3562 m.; AIGUILLE DE TOULE, 3533 m.; AIGUILLE D'ENTRÈVES, 3614 m.; TOUR RONDE, 3792 m. = 12,441 ft. *B.I.K.*—*Traverse*. July 24, 1932. Messrs. J. L. Longland and A. W. Bridge.

Perhaps just worth recording as an excellent short-day expedition from the Torino, especially when conditions forbid the higher peaks. We started from the Torino hut at 09.30, after a night in which about a foot of new snow had fallen, expecting only to climb the Grand Flambeau as a reconnaissance point. Finding that the snow had packed well on the slopes and blown almost clear of the ridges, we continued along the well-marked ridge connecting up the Aiguille de Toule to the Tour Ronde, and by conscientiously traversing nearly all the gendarmes, found very pleasant mixed snow and rock climbing. The summit of the Tour Ronde was reached at 14.45 and left at 15.30. We went down by the S.W. ridge for some distance, but foolishly deciding not to continue as far as the Col Oriental de la Tour Ronde, we spent nearly 4 hrs. forcing an extremely stupid route from the unnamed col lying just to the E. of the Col Oriental de la Tour Ronde down to the Glacier du Géant. Thence by the Col des Flambeaux to the Torino, reached at 20.20.

J. L. L.

LES DROITES, E. Peak, 4000 m. = 13,124 ft. *B.I.K.* By the S. face taken in descent. July 5, 1932. Mr. T. Graham Brown, with Joseph Knubel and Alexander Graven. Left Couvercle hut, 01.42 Reached E. peak, 08.07, or 6 hrs. 3 mins.' actual climbing. The summit was left at 08.50, and descent was made directly down the S. face by the couloir, the head of which meets the summit-ridge immediately W. of the E. peak. The snow in this couloir (which the sun does not reach before 10.00 at the earliest) was in excellent condition. In its middle 800 ft. the couloir is steep and narrow, and its surface was chiefly composed of bare ice. This part was descended by means of eight *rappels* of about 30 m. apiece. The angle of the couloir appeared to be about 60°–70° in the middle of this section. The bergschrund was crossed at 11.07 and the Couvercle regained at 13.30—in 3 hrs. 32 mins.' actual climbing from the summit. Montenvers was reached later in the afternoon.

This route is an excellent one when the mountain is snow-clad. There was no loose rock on the line of descent, and no stones were observed to fall on the face. The *rappels* were made from rocks on the right edge of the couloir—the actual descent being made down the ice in the centre of the said couloir. The route crosses the line along which Herren Distel and Pfann made a descending traverse on the S. face in 1904.

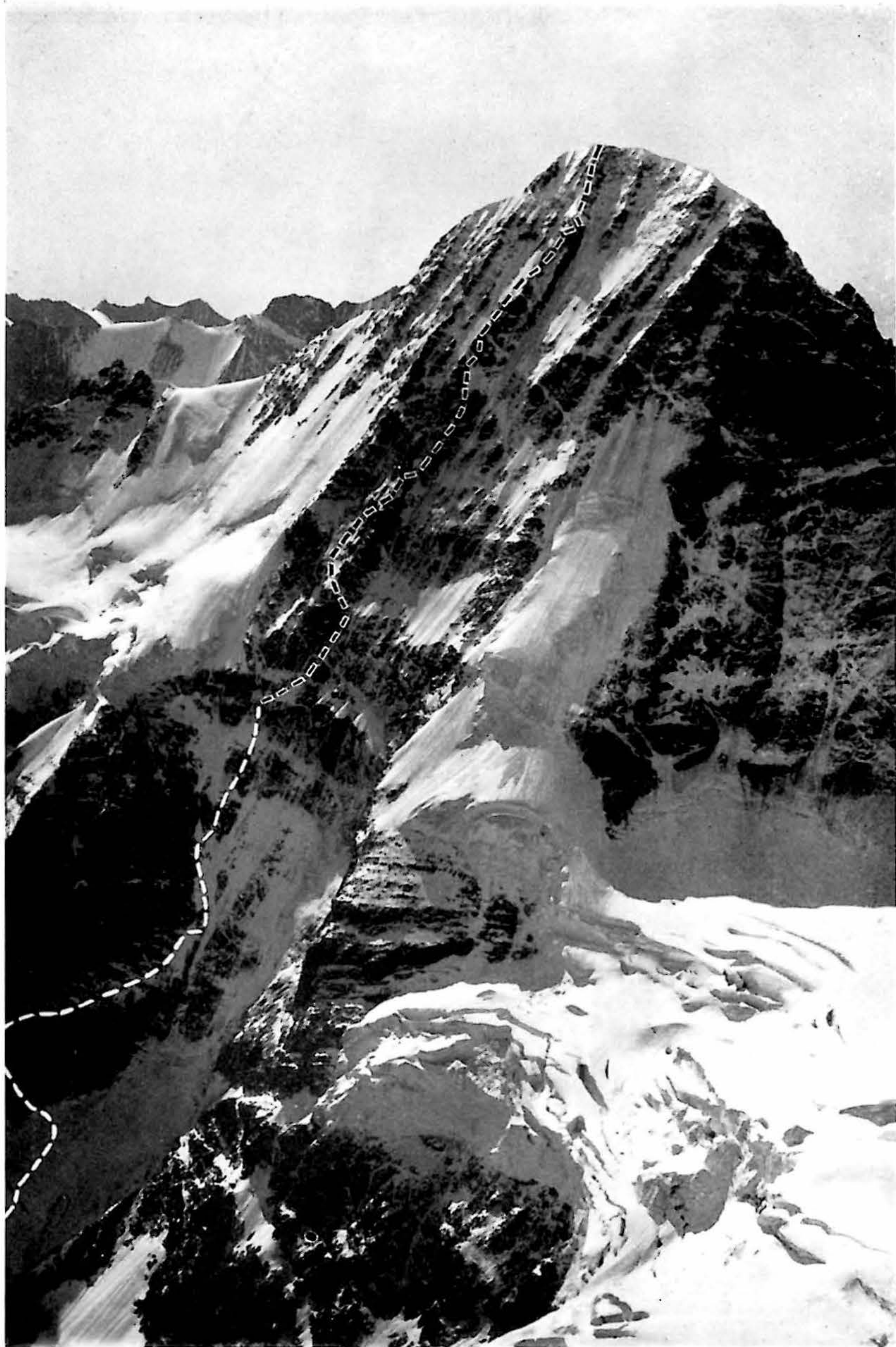
T. G. B.

Bernese Oberland.

LAUTERBRUNNEN BREITHORN, 3779 m. = 12,399 ft. By the N. face. September 14, 1932. Herren E. Schulze and W. Welzenbach.

The first ascent of this *ca.* 4500 ft. face was accomplished on August 12, 1924, by MM. W. Richardet and D. Chervet ('A.J.' 36, 400–2, with illustrations. See *Climbers' Guide*, vol. iv, 1931, p. 53, and route sketches): this party turned the lowest and most dangerous step of the great face by bearing towards the E. in the direction of the Breithornjoch, 3347 m. (new *Siegfried*), while the 1932 party, taking every risk, preferred to scale this step direct. In the upper part they took approximately the line of the 1924 party.

Leaving the Oberhorn Alp at 02.10 and bearing S. over grass and rocks, the party attained the Breithorn Glacier about Point 2282 m. (*S. map*). Crossing this in the direction of the icefall near the foot of the wall, the party mounted a crevassed zone close to the lower slabs of the face (03.10). The bergschrund was crossed near the E. branch of the glacier and by a ledge, then a series of cracks and crannies in the great rock rampart to the left, E., of the broad precipitous ravine or gully descending from the main ridge, difficult progress was achieved. Up slabs and gullies streaming with water, keeping a general direction towards an obvious rock tower projecting out of the face. The party then kept to the right, W., of the terminal ice bulge of the great ice slope on the more easterly portion of the face. The W. bank of this ice bulge constitutes the rocky and not



Photo, Ad Astra.]

LAUTERBRUNNEN BREITHORN, N. FACE.
Showing 1932 route.

[To face p. 321.]

very well-defined rib by which the 1924 party attained the summit. Keeping slightly to the right, W., of this rib, the 1932 party by a series of rocky steps, small ice slopes, finally a kind of rib of extremely rotten rocks, interrupted by several abrupt gaps (pitons), followed by shorter rock steps, attained the summit, 15.35, or 11 hrs. 40 mins., exclusive of halts.

The lower portion of the face is extremely dangerous from falling stones. *Kletterschuhe* and crampons were used alternately.—*Communicated.*

BIETSCHHORN, 3953 m. = 12,970 ft. (*S. map*: true height is 3934 m.) By the W. face, August 7, 1932. Herren W. Stösser and F. Kast.¹ After two previous reconnaissances, the party reached the steep and crevassed Nest Glacier and mounted it during the night—the upper slopes of the W. face cannot be ascended after the sun has touched them—attaining the base of the great 4500 ft. snow and ice wall at earliest dawn. They mounted the first abrupt step or sérac wall some 100 ft. high and partly overhanging, about its centre. This step was then succeeded by a slope some 2000 ft. high of bare [*sic*] ice set at an angle of 60°–70° [*sic*]. On crampons and *without* cutting one single step [*sic*], they overcame this slope—there being only two possible halting spots. Many ice pitons were used. The ascent ended with the attainment of the summit [? N.] ridge [*sic*]. No times.—From *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*.

JUNGFRAU, 4166 m. = 13,669 ft. By the N.E. arête attained from the N. August 23, 1932. Herren H. Lauper and A. Zürcher, with Alexander Graven and Joseph Knubel.

On August 23, 1932, we succeeded in combining the picturesque Guggi route with the interesting climb of the N.E. arête of the Jungfrau. Dr. Andreas Fischer with Hans Almer and Ulrich Almer, jun., had tried this climb already in 1909 (*cf.* 'A.J.' 24, 681–682), but succeeded only in reaching the gap S.W. of Point 3788 m. of the N.E. arête of the Jungfrau.

We left the Guggi hut at 02.10, descended the nasty gully and crossed over the scree-covered ledges to the upper plateau of the Guggi Glacier, that part of the way which must be haunted by the more or less loud maledictions of all those who have descended it in the night. Although it was the second time we had done it within 10 days, we had again some difficulty in finding the right, or let me say, the best way, and we dropped down on to the snow of the glacier feeling a good deal of satisfaction to have got it over

¹ The route is a 'developed' variation to the S. of the original 1859 expedition. See *Climbers' Guide*, Berner Alpen, iii, 1931, pp. 43–4, with sketch.



Photo, Gyger.]

JUNGFRAU, N. FACE, SHOWING 1932 ROUTE.

and done with. The icefall of the Kùhlauen Glacier had considerably altered in these 10 days, and where we had found a good track to lead us up to the level glacier at the foot of the Schneehorn, now many séracs had fallen and split up, while quite a few crevasses had opened out. Dark clouds were sailing before a strong west wind, the light of the moon alternately came and disappeared. The prospects for a fine day were not at all definite. All these factors added together brought about a very interesting ascent of the icefall. On reaching the upper plateau, day broke and all difficulties were over. At a good pace we ascended the rocks of the Schneehorn, and at the very moment we attained the saddle between the Schneehorn and the N. face of the Jungfrau—N.E. arête (P. 1)—the wind changed and a few minutes later the sky was clear. From 05.40 to 06.00 we rested for a second breakfast and put on our crampons. We then bore to the S.E. and ascended the steep ridge or slope which from Point 3788 m. of the N.E. arête of the Jungfrau runs down to the Schneehorn. The snow, just on the point of turning into ice, was still of such a consistency that we could walk up on our crampons all the way. It was only for the better convenience of the 'Herren' that Knubel cut steps from time to time. Clambering up over a few rather broken and in places unstable rocks, we reached the little gap W. of Point 3788 m., which Andreas Fischer more by duty than virtue had named 'Ober Jungfraujoch,' 07.50–08.00 (P. 2).

The climb over the N.E. arête is very fine indeed, with only two or three really difficult steps between Point 3788 m. and the Wengern Jungfrau (Point 4060 m.). We kept nearly all the way on the very crest, and Knubel led in glorious style and at a pace which was only checked from time to time by my lack of breath and by Zürcher's remonstrances against such a speedy flight. Some of the towers are sensationally lofty and the last rise before the Wengern Jungfrau (Point 4060 m.) is in its lower part rather slabby and not at all easy. On the great tower, halfway along the ridge, we rested from 09.25–09.40 (P. 3). We arrived on the Wengern Jungfrau (P. 4) just as fog closed in on us. Half an hour later we reached the top of the Jungfrau (P. 5), where the guides sprang a surprise on us in the form of a bottle of champagne, a gift of the amiable hotel manager of the Kleine Scheidegg, Herr Willy Seiler.² This, the lifting of the clouds and our satisfaction over the fine climb just accomplished, raised our spirits to such a degree that the otherwise rather dull descent down to the Jungfraujoch station seemed this time surprisingly short and enjoyable.

The combination of the Guggi route with the ascent over the N.E. arête is a very fine climb, certainly deserving of repetition. But it must be borne in mind that our party was favoured with unimpeachable conditions both on the glacier and on the slope

² Shades of the great F. F. T. !—*Editor.*

leading up to Point 3788 m. as well as on the N.E. arête itself. Many a season may offer only a few days of such conditions, and judging from the times Dr. Fischer's party took, the ascent up to Point 3788 m. may cost much more time and the N.E. arête even become impracticable. On the other hand I believe that a good deal of the difference between the time we took from the Schneehorn saddle to the N.E. arête (1 hr. 40 mins.) and that of Dr. Fischer's party (7½ hrs.) may be explained by the difference between the crampons of 1909 and those of 1932. The short knobs on ordinary 1909 crampons were of no use on a slope of ice like the one in question, while with our 'Eckensteins' even worse conditions and a steeper angle would not have made much difference.

The times we took were as follows (short halts amounting to 55 minutes not included) :—

	hrs.	mins.
Guggi hut to Schneehorn saddle	3	30
Schneehorn saddle to col W. of Point 3788 m.	1	40
Col to great tower	1	25
Great tower to Wengern Jungfrau	1	35
Wengern Jungfrau to top of Jungfrau	0	35
	8	45
Top of Jungfrau to Jungfrauoch station	1	21
	H.	L.

Bernina Group.

PIZZO BIANCO, 3998 m. = 13,117 ft. By W. buttress (*Schwarzergrat*), September 16, 1932. Dr. W. H. Amstutz with Walter Risch. The first ascent was made by Mr. J. T. Burton-Alexander with Martin Schocher and S. Platz in 1899.³ I could not find out anything about later repetitions. No attention is paid to the route in Kurz's new *Climbers' Guide* (Bündner Alpen, v, 1932, p. 205). I cannot quite share his view. Walter Risch and I found the whole buttress extremely interesting and well worth repeating. The summit of Bernina can be reached by this route on rock with the exception of a few hundred feet along the Bianco ridge. This ascent of Bernina is as good, if not better, than any other.

Our times were :—

Left Tschierva hut	05.00
Foot of ridge	07.40–08.00
Pizzo Bianco	13.30–15.00
Tschierva hut	18.25

³ *Climbers' Guide* (Strutt), ii, pp. 97–8.

Trying to force our way through a difficult gully we lost more than 2 hrs. This passage can easily be avoided by bearing further to the right, S.

PIZZI ROSEG, 3942 m. ; SCERSCEN, 3967 m. ; BERNINA, 4055 m. ; BIANCO, 3998 m. Traverse. September 18, 1932. Same party.

[In September 1929 Herr U. Campell with Karl Freimann traversed Roseg-Scerscen to Piz Bernina in one day. They left the Tschierva hut at midnight and reached the summit of the Bernina in 19½ hrs. and the Marco and Rosa hut in 1 hr. more. The party originally intended descending the Bianco ridge the same day. ('A.J.' 42, 112-14.)]

Walter Risch and I had often discussed the possibilities of repeating Campell's traverse but including the Bianco ridge. No doubt this cirque from Tschierva to Tschierva is one of the finest traverses in the Alps. Apart from settled weather good training is essential.

We left the Tschierva hut on a night with a perfect full moon and a clear sky. Risch was as usual in the best of training, and I was a little doubtful whether I should be able to keep up as I had had practically no exercise in the previous months. The traverse seemed to be less strenuous than we expected. The only difficulty involved in the descent from Roseg is perhaps to find the route. A short *rappel* of 10 m. leads to the Porta Roseg. Ascending Scerscen we spent some time cutting steps whilst traversing couloirs on the S. side. The whole tour involves no great difficulties but demands constant attention. The route, with few exceptions, follows all along the ridge. For those who like a full day's work the traverse is highly satisfactory. It is by no means a too exhausting undertaking and forms one of the most tempting cirques in the Alps. Walter Risch showed himself once more to be an excellent companion and a guide who needs no recommendation.

Our times were :—

Left Tschierva hut	00.15
Piz Roseg	04.30
Klein Roseg	05.15
Porta Roseg	07.40-08.00
Piz Scerscen	11.50-12.15
Piz Bernina	14.40-14.55
Pizzo Bianco	15.30-15.40
Fuorcla Prievlusa	16.50
Tschierva hut	18.35

We arrived the same evening in St. Moritz.

WALTER AMSTUTZ.

[This is one of the most tremendous expeditions ever carried out in the Alps.—*Editor.*]