

EXPEDITIONS

ABINGER AFGHANISTAN EXPEDITION, 1960. My climbs in the Caucasus in 1957 filled me with the desire to climb with the Russians in the Pamirs, that knot of peaks at the junction of Russia, Afghanistan and Sinkiang. The U.S.S.R. Mountaineering Association, however, very politely regretted that this could not be arranged, so in 1959 I sought permission from the Afghan Government to climb on its northern frontier. This also met with a refusal but an alternative suggestion was put of climbing in the Hindu Kush, and this I accepted. Early in 1960 I had a party of four women ready to go and we made a plan to travel up the Panjshir valley from Kabul, to climb Mir Semir and other peaks and to return via Nuristan. We aimed at Mir Semir because this is the only named mountain on maps of the area and had been climbed by a German party for the first time in 1959. Unfortunately, in spite of strenuous efforts, no financial help could be obtained for the expedition and in June 1960 the two younger members had to withdraw. Eleanor Baillie, another member of the Ladies Alpine Club, and I decided to go ahead with the plans although we realised that the climbing strength of the party was much reduced.

We left England on July 10 by sea and travelled through Russia from Leningrad to Djulfa by train. In Moscow I renewed acquaintance with Eugene Gippenreiter and in Tbilisi we were fêted as guests of the Georgian Alpine Club. We reached Teheran on July 28. When, in 1931, D. L. Busk met General Bruce in the Trois Couronnes et Poste at Brigue, he was charged not to return without climbing Demavend. We had had an equally strong recommendation from London and finding ourselves now within 60 miles of the mountain, could not let the opportunity slip. We wasted a whole day seeking advice on a route and trying to find a local guide, finally setting off without guides or porters. We had to pick our own route and as a result were forced to bivouac three nights on this stony waterless pile of volcanic rubble before reaching the summit (18,600 ft.). Two days later we were back in Teheran and made up lost time by flying to Meshed.

On August 14 we reached Kabul where our visas were extended, permission reaffirmed to climb in the Hindu Kush, and transport arranged but because of raiding hillmen travel through Nuristan was not permitted. We carried our half-ton of baggage in a 10-seater bus as far as Zeneh where the road ended. Donkeys were hired for the three-day trek to Kaujan and a soldier was officially attached to us as protection. At Kaujan we were able to substitute horses for donkeys and on August 26 our party of two women, four horsemen, two porters and the soldier set off up the stream which flows down from Mir Semir to join the Panjshir at this point.

A Base Camp was set up at about 12,700 ft. and the horsemen went home leaving the two porters to carry higher. One of these went down without explanation the next day and another came up the day after—these men were very unreliable and it was difficult to plan ahead. We did however spend a week as intended in practice climbs, learning to our cost the poor quality of the rock. We climbed one of the 'Twin Peaks' but did not go on to the second because of the danger from loose crumbling rocks. On September 5 a second camp was set up at about 15,000 ft. from which we might hope to reach the summit of Mir Semir. The porters carried to this camp but insisted on returning to base the same day for they hated the cold. That night lying in our little tent we gazed out on a clear starry sky with high hopes of good climbing days to come.

The next day we made a reconnaissance of a route to the summit by the South-east ridge (to about 16,500 ft.) which appeared to be feasible with one bivouac on the way. That night, however, the weather broke and by daybreak it was evident that the climb could not be undertaken for several days. The heavy fall of snow on the unstable rock made conditions generally very dangerous and our camp site quite unsafe and an immediate descent to the camp below had to be made. After a few days the weather cleared but the porters would not go up again, so reluctantly, we had to abandon the attempt on the summit.¹

We returned to Kaujan and made a plan to follow the Panjshir to its source and beyond to the Anjuman Pass where we might reasonably hope to get at least a distant view of the Pamirs. Fresh horsemen were recruited with difficulty and all the way up the valley we met opposition from the natives who feared we would be murdered by Nuristani raiders. By sheer persistence we eventually reached the pass on September 19 and from a nearby camp made an ascent of 'Schönblick' (named by a German party the year before and estimated by them to be 4,270 m.). We also gained a height of 15,000 ft. on another unclimbed, unnamed rock peak, but here again a controlling factor was the dangerous loose nature of the rock.

On September 23 the expedition began to return to Kabul and after an interesting journey by train and bus through Pakistan and Kashmir to India, reached England again early in December.

JOYCE DUNSHEATH.

CANADA; NEW ASCENTS IN THE BUGABOO GROUP AND THE CASCADE MOUNTAINS

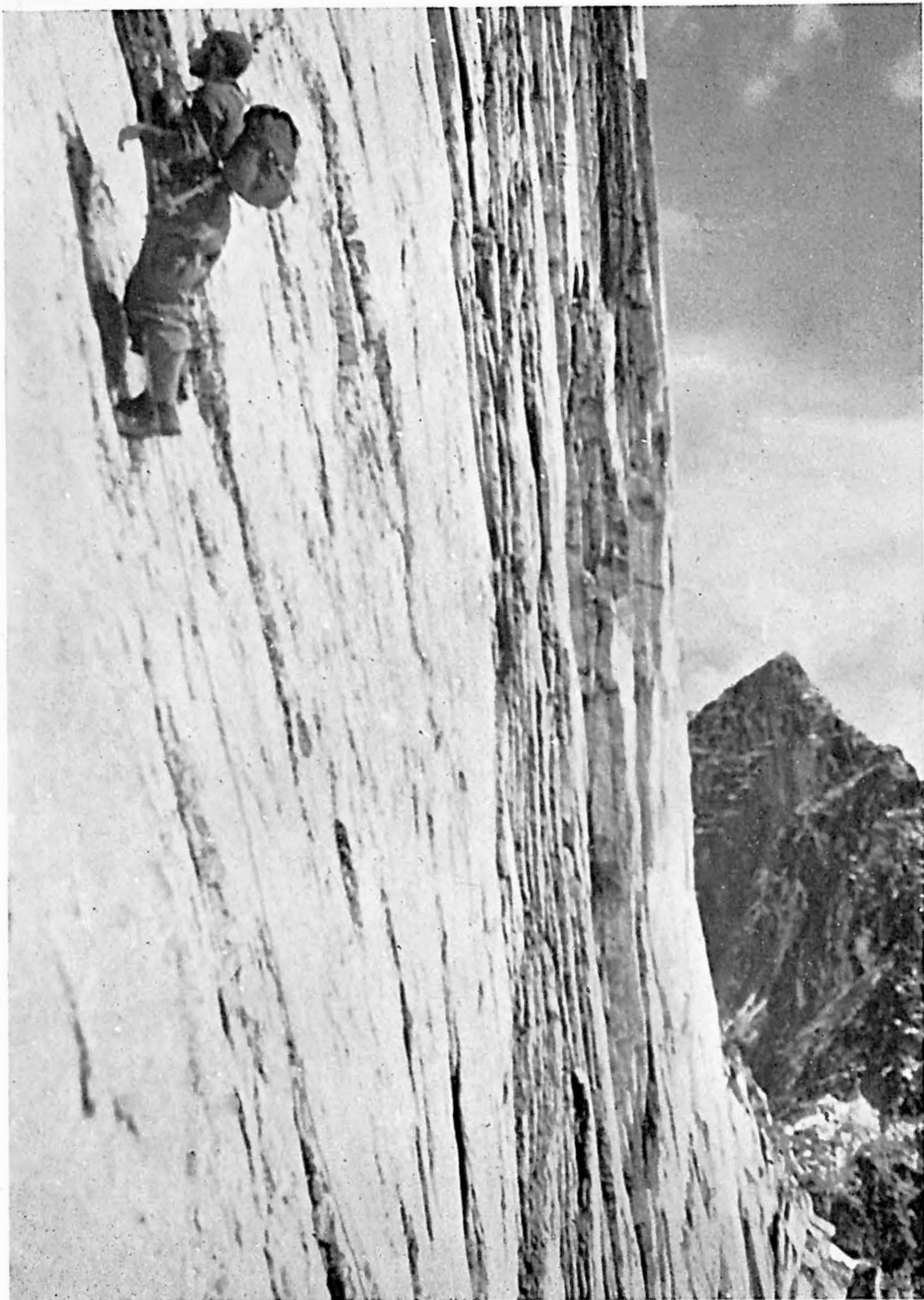
BUGABOO SPIRE: East face. All winter I longed to get back on the rock of the beautiful and inspiring East face of Bugaboo Spire.

¹ For another attempt see *A. J.* 61. 538.



Photo, Ed Cooper]

THE EAST FACE OF BUGABOO SPIRE, HEIGHT OF FACE ABOUT 2,000 FT.
Lowest X marks the Balcony, middle X the Bolt Bivouac, top X the Summit Bivouac.



Photo, Ed Cooper]

EAST FACE OF BUGABOO SPIRE; PRUSSIKING ON FIXED ROPES 200 FT. ABOVE THE BALCONY.

[To face p. 144

My attempt last year with Art Gran ground to a halt some 500 ft. from the summit when the bolt drill broke after a lead in which I had succeeded in lassoing a flake (which moved menacingly) and then pendulumed from it 30ft., after several tries and misses, to a corner which I foolishly thought had piton cracks. So we spent the night retreating down the face, after three days' work placing fixed ropes, etc., and one bivouac in a snow-storm.

Late in July this year I arrived in the Bugaboos prepared, if necessary, to spend the rest of the summer until I had climbed it. This is just about what happened. Upon my arrival I found that the climbing gods had other plans for me, as I spent four days quite ill, probably on food poisoning. I remained weak for several more days, but presently was packing gruelling loads to Boulder Camp. From here I packed, and then hauled by rope, some 800 ft. more of rope for fixed lines, and a large amount of hardware, to the 'Balcony'. This large ledge is some 250 ft. up the face and was gained by a vertical chimney (V). At this time the weather, which had been good, turned bad. I went down to the comfort of the cabin at the Forks where I spent a stimulating week reading Whitehead, Santayana, and Russell.

The good weather of the next four days proved to be the only good spell of weather for the rest of the summer. I went back to the Balcony and spent the night there to get an early start the next morning. Some 200 ft. of III on a left traverse led to the base of the difficulties. The first lead (V) went easily enough although it contained one short artificial section. I fixed a rope there. I now glanced up at the next lead, the 'black stain' pitch, and pondered thoughtfully. This was the lead that I feared the most. It goes up an overhanging chimney until one has to swing out on to the right edge of the chimney, which is quite narrow and overhanging. My stirrups kept slipping off the edge and I would swing into the left or into the right. I was quite ready to call it a day after this long exhausting artificial pitch (VI). Rappelling back down the two fixed ropes, I prussiked back up with a heavy load which threatened at all times to turn me upside down, and then returned to spend another night on the Balcony. The next day I managed to reach a point some 1,000 ft. up the face over leads that, though requiring aid in a few places, were not as tiring as the previous day's leads. There being a ledge of sorts here (bolt bivouac), I returned for hardware, ropes, and bivouac equipment, and prussiked back up to spend the night here.

It is at this point that there are three possible lines, all long dièdres leading to easier ground up higher. The left one reaches easy ground the soonest, but would be the most difficult of access. From the ground the middle dièdre looks best, but on last year's attempt we found it impossible to reach the middle dièdre without a bolt ladder and

so chose the one to the right, easy to get into, but which had led us into a cul-de-sac, as the upper part of it is barred completely by overhangs.

I did not waste time on the third dièdre this year, but started placing bolts immediately, above bolt bivouac, in an attempt to reach the second dièdre. Twelve bolts later, in the late afternoon of the third full day on the face, I reached a chimney that led to the middle dièdre. The drill had become stuck in the holder with the result I couldn't change drills, and used the same drill for all the holes. It became necessary to break the drill three times to get a sharp drilling edge, and after the third breaking, there was a drill only the length of the bolt left. If I had had to put in one more bolt, I would not have been able to proceed further since after the twelfth hole, the drill was a useless blunt stub. This trick of drilling with a fresh broken drill, something I discovered quite by accident, worked quite well, and is something which might be kept in mind by other parties in case of an emergency. The hangers were left in for the benefit of any future parties. Starting up the chimney, I noticed my piton hammer was coming apart. Being almost out of food and water, now so close to my goal, I decided to descend. Fixed ropes were now on all pitches, and I reached the glacier in one hour.

Upon my return to Boulder Camp I was surprised by the unexpected arrival of Art Gran, and it was immediately decided that he should accompany me on the final summit push, which would have to be on the next nice day. We waited a full week in bad weather and made several false starts, even going as far as the Balcony on one occasion. Finally came a morning that looked good, although the wind was still from the south-west and it was unusually cold. Our prussiking technique was in fine form and by 9 a.m. we had reached my high point. Much time was wasted in unsnarling ropes and straightening hardware, something with which any climber who does much artificial climbing is no doubt familiar. The next lead was a long, very narrow chimney formed by a flake and was quite difficult enough (VI) without my pack which made it seem downright desperate. Inserting pitons proved nearly impossible. To save time, Art prussiked up this pitch with the heavier pack, removing the pitons that were in. To our surprise it was now 2 p.m. We would have to hurry in order to avoid a bivouac. We gained the dièdre from the top of the chimney. Three long leads of artificial climbing in this corner brought us to what we thought were the end of the difficulties, some 300 ft. from the summit. The climbing was now Grade III and IV, a godsend as it was getting dark and the south-west wind, living up to its reputation, was bringing bad weather along with it. We hurried up the large ramp leading to the East ridge 100 ft. below the summit and were momentarily stunned when we encountered a 40 ft. vertical wall at the end of the ramp,

something that had not been seen from below. Art did a beautiful job leading this aid pitch in the inky blackness of the night, feeling the size of the crack with his fingers, and then choosing the piton accordingly. Try though we did to force the route through, in the end we had to bivouac on a small ledge right on the ridge, as we could not find the route in the darkness. The night was bitterly cold, well below freezing, and we watched the stars fade away and lightning play on distant peaks. We well remembered the unfortunate lightning accident on Bugaboo Spire in 1948, and knew there would be no escape here. After what seemed an endless night, dawn came, but a cold grey dawn in which the sun never rose. It required extreme will-power to start at the first light, but it was necessary. The cold rock was painful to the fingers. At 6.30 a.m. we stood on the East summit feeling numb rather than elated. We pushed on to the descent, and promptly the rappel ropes stuck on the gendarme pitch. An hour of combined efforts finally coaxed it to budge. Two rappels later, essentially the end of the difficulties, we gazed at the face from a good vantage point, watching the first flakes of snow coming gently down. Only then did we begin to feel the elation and sense of accomplishment that comes of a keen struggle.

This was not quite the end, as we had to descend the Snowpatch-Bugaboo col without ice axes over frozen snow, a very tedious procedure. The next morning we woke up to five inches of fresh snow at Boulder Camp. Attempting to recover the fixed ropes, we were deluged by falling ice and waterfalls down the face. Two nylon ropes are still hanging from the 'black stain' pitch, where they jammed. They are tied together and hang through a rappel sling, which is anchored to four pitons. This should not be trusted as a fixed rope by any future party since the pitons will loosen, and the rappel sling may be chewed by animals (several slings from the 1959 attempt were found chewed).

NORTH FACE OF MT. BARING, CASCADE MOUNTAINS. After seven attempts covering a span of nine years, and one accident in which a death occurred, Don Claunch and I finally succeeded in climbing the North face of Mt. Baring after five continuous days on the face. This face, more than any other in the Cascades, had become synonymous with 'unclimbable', and the name of it conveyed the same feeling that the North face of Half Dome² in Yosemite and the Diamond on Long's Peak³ in Colorado did before they were climbed.

The North face of Mt. Baring is quite different from these climbs.

² North Face of Half Dome—a 2,000 ft. vertical granite face in Yosemite Valley, California, first climbed in five days in 1957.

³ Diamond on Long's Peak—a 1,200 ft. vertical granite wall in Colorado, first climbed in three days in 1960.

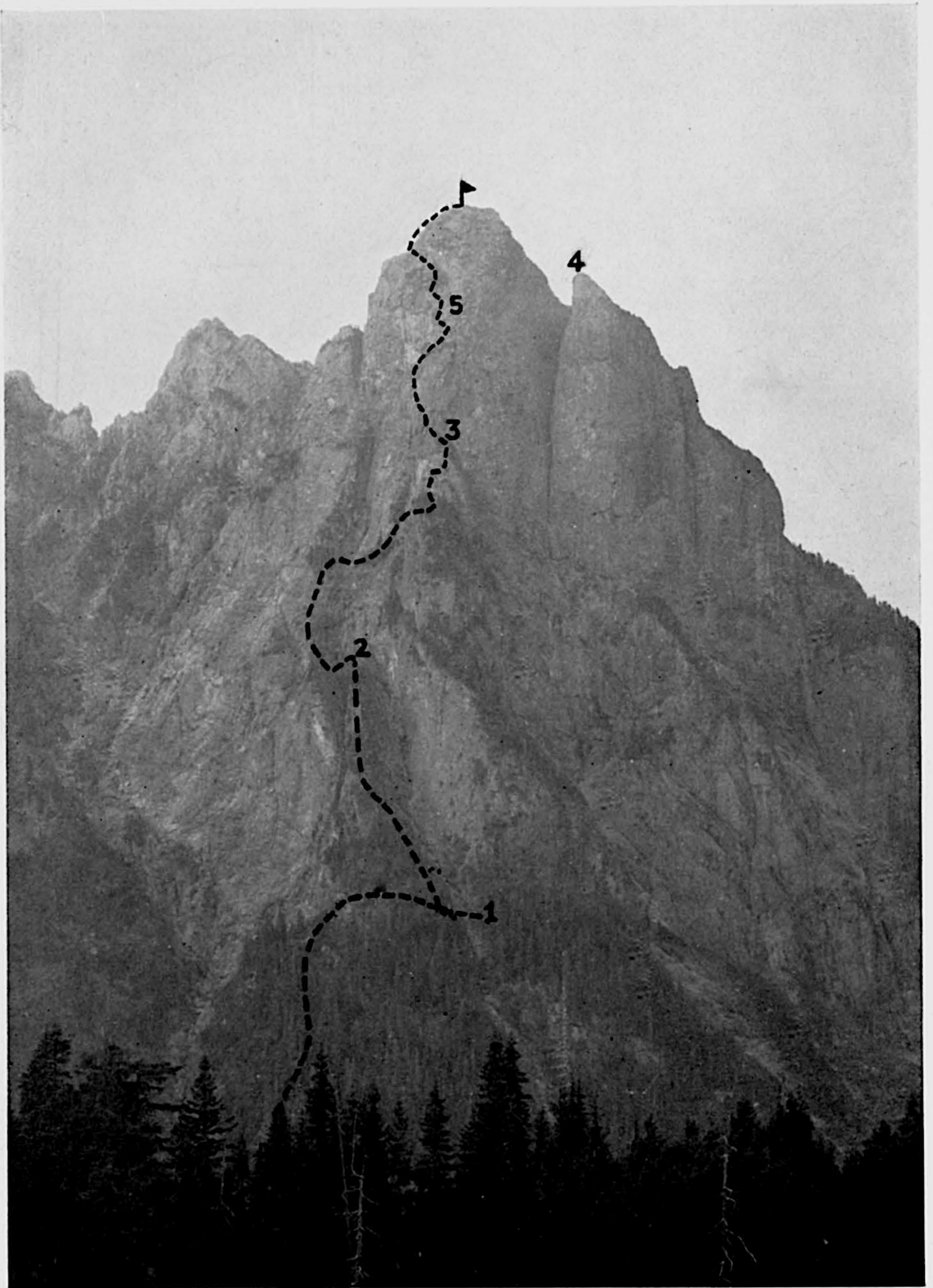


Photo Ed Cooper]

THE NORTH FACE OF MT. BARING, 3,500 FT. HIGH.

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Couloir Camp. | 4. Dolomite Tower. |
| 2. Rockfall Point. | 5. Third Step. |
| 3. Dolomite Camp. | |

In fact, Baring is in a class by itself in North American mountaineering. It does not have extremely long and sustained artificial pitches, and contains less than 1,000 ft. of actual piton protected climbing. Only some fifty pitons, and two bolts, were used on the climb, about twenty of them being for aid.

To understand the North face of Baring, it is necessary to know that it is located on the west slopes of the Cascades in the rain-forests. A six-mile trail brings one to Barclay Lake where the North face rises 3,500 ft. above the lake, to a height of 6,200 ft. The view from the lake is quite overpowering. The brush grows thick on the west side of the Cascades, very thick. The trail ends at Barclay Lake, at least it did before our siege this year. Four things had contributed to the defeat of all the parties to precede us. First, the beginning 2,000 ft. of the face consist of fiendish brush-fighting up steep cliffs, through tough scrub cedar and other unidentified plants. This generally demoralised previous parties, and if they did get through this, they were exhausted for the technical climbing to come. This was also the cause of Dick Berge's death, for it was on these lower brush-covered cliffs that he, unroped, misjudged what was below him and stepped into brush to find that it overhung a drop. Second, is the weather which in some summers on the west slopes of the Cascades never does become stable. This caused several failures directly. Also, the face is east-orientated, and becomes like an oven in the late morning. More than one party has suffered greatly from thirst and has been in part defeated by it. Lastly, and what we were most concerned about (since we could plan for and overcome the first three problems) was that the rock on the last part of the North face of Baring is unusually hard, and the efforts of four previous parties attempting to place bolts had resulted in only one $\frac{3}{16}$ -in. bolt successfully placed, hardly to be relied upon in event of a fall.

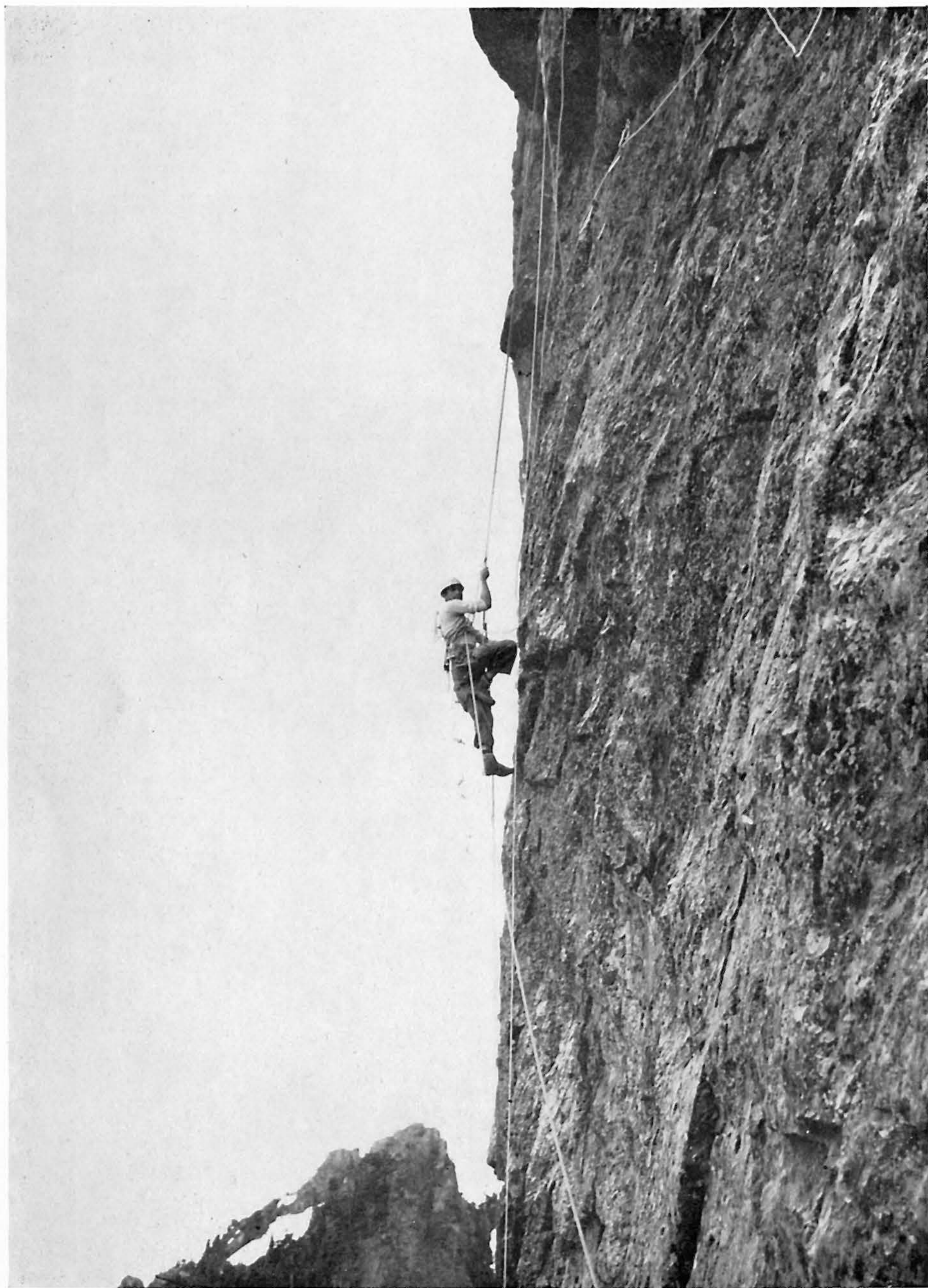
Roughly, the route is as follows: The first 1,000 ft. are up a steep forested and brushy hillside to 'couloir camp'. The next 1,300 ft. consist of two parallel ribs of cliffs and brush separated by a large couloir that contains snow often into August. The left rib is followed until it fades into another rib further to the left (at 'rockfall point') from the top of which rib a right traverse on ledges brings one to the base of the first step. At this point one is back on and directly above the original right rib. From here, four steps of 300 ft., 400 ft., 220 ft., and 250 ft., separated by spacious ledges, lead to the summit. The routes followed on the first two steps (V to VI free climbing) are the only ones possible. At a point 60 ft. up the third step (220 ft.) three parties have been turned back. This point is reached by a 70ft. upwards left traverse under an overhang (the traverse of the pioneers) then a 20-ft. traverse back to the right, resulting in 90ft. of

rope out, but only 60 ft. of altitude gained, significant in view of the fact that the next reasonable belay ledge (not visible from below) is 60 ft. higher. Piton cracks virtually disappear, and it was here that the attempts were made to place bolts, with one $\frac{3}{16}$ in. bolt successfully placed. This required an hour. The remaining 160 ft. to the top of the third step looked grim. To use an old mountaineering expression 'the rock was so polished you could see your own reflection in it'. The humour in this fell flat at this point, though.

This was the situation as of early June, 1960. In view of the problems mentioned, we decided that only siege tactics could assure the successful ascent. We started with cutting a complete trail through the brushy cliffs of the first 2,300 ft. This would keep the route open and make it easy for carrying heavier loads to higher camps. Yellow trail markers were placed, and hundreds of feet of sling rope were hung from the brush in steeper places. In several particularly bad places, various lengths of full width nylon climbing ropes were used.

The original party consisted of Don Claunch, Fred Beckey and myself. We all spent from four to six days preparing the lower part of the route, on weekends and other free days. We were fortunate in securing the help of Ron Priebe, who helped carry 60 lb. loads to couloir camp, and Ron Niccoli, who helped in the tedious task of hauling heavy loads by rope to the top of the first step. Eventually, we had almost a week's supply of food, besides tarps, sleeping bags, stove, gas, and a large quantity of water bags (there was still a patch of snow from which we could melt water) at 'Dolomite Camp', on top of the first step. This is a very spectacular camp spot, sitting somewhat out from the face and giving a terrifying view of the second and third steps.

On July 9, Fred, Don and myself started up on what we hoped would be the final assault. That night we reached Dolomite Camp, and put one fixed rope on the second step. The next day we reached the high point of the previous attempts. Fred spent four hours at this one point trying to place bolts. Results were very discouraging. Only one bolt, a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. whose hole spalled partially, was placed. This was possible only because a $\frac{3}{16}$ in. bolt which had been placed with much work, had popped out, and the $\frac{3}{16}$ in. hole was enlarged to a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. hole. Several drills were broken. (We had over fifteen along). Don spent another two hours on a hole that Fred had worked on, without appreciable results. This was perhaps the low point of the climb. And it looked like there would be 60 ft. of similar going. Late that afternoon after rappelling down the fixed ropes to Dolomite Camp, Fred, as Don and I, was feeling very low. He in fact said that he didn't care whether the attempt was continued or not. Perhaps it was that the North face of Baring was just not climbable by the techniques now available. Don and I decided to stay another day.



Photo, Don Claunch]

NORTH FACE OF MT. BARING. E. D. COOPER PRUSSIKING ON THE THIRD STEP. THE ROPE, TOP RIGHT, INDICATES LINE OF THE TRAVERSE OF THE PIONEERS.

The next morning, after spending several hours drilling and then abandoning all hope of making any further progress by bolts, I managed to place a 'chrome-molly' knife-blade piton six inches higher than the last previous piton. Not much progress, but it gave me confidence to place a wafer, spoon and angle, none of which I dared put full weight on. I was now ready to give up the attempt on Don's first suggestion that we do so. Fortunately, I didn't say anything, and neither did he, and he prussiked up to the knife blade after my descent. To my horror, he stood on my pitons (the wafer plus stirrup came crashing on to the ledge) and miraculously managed to place a good piton. We were now on our way. After making 20 ft. more on fair pitons, we returned to Dolomite Camp, and the next day Don worked his way to a good belay ledge, and I followed removing the pitons. We fixed a rope.

The next day we prussiked up into the fog and questionable-looking weather, to our high point of the previous day. I led over a short 120° roof and a long vertical dièdre which accepted pitons reasonably. As I approached the branch tips of the scrub firs overhanging the third step, I could see the dream of the last three years coming true. I was just able to touch them—I could now pull myself up on them—300 ft. of scrambling and the North face of Baring, the climb which Don and I had wanted so badly, was at our feet.

Not only did we have the physical barrier to break through, we had an ever more difficult psychological barrier which held us back when we could have pushed on had we known what was to come. The climb may soon, as many other formerly difficult climbs, become a weekend climb to the new generation of climbers, but in our opinion, the climb was all of what Berge and Schoening had said of it, 'just barely climbable'. (Berge and Schoening were two early climbers on the face; Schoening went later to K.2 and Hidden Peak.) This was a climb which gave Don and me more satisfaction than any other climb in many years. We had alternated between hope and despair, from the depths of depression to the heights of sublimity. There may be more difficult climbs, and more dangerous climbs, but there will never be another North face of Baring.

Summary

AREA: Cascades, Washington

ASCENT: First ascent of the North face of Mt. Baring

PERSONNEL: Donald Claunch and Edward Cooper completed the climb. Fred Beckey was also a member of the final team. Members of preliminary team—Ron Priebe and Ron Niccoli.

F. EDWARD COOPER

HIGH ATLAS. April 1960. Mr. Robin Fedden, Lord Jellicoe, and Lieut.-Col. D. C. Mather, in the course of a ski-mountaineering trip, climbed Djebel Toubkal (4,165 m.), Ras Ouanoukrim (4,083 m.), Afella (4,043 m.), and two other 'four-thousanders', and traversed the range southward over the Tizi n' Ouanoums (3,684 m.) and through the upper Tifnout to Assarag.

(*Note.* There are three C. A. F. huts in the central section of the High Atlas, north of the watershed. Hut guardian, but food and sleeping bags must be carried up (mules available). In April the snowline is between 8,000-9,000 ft. The weather in this month is usually good (we experienced one storm in three weeks), and in May, by repute, perfect. The ridges were in excellent condition even in April, and I suspect that rock-climbing is more rewarding here in late spring than in the arid summer.

Recent information about travel to the Atlas, maps, guidebooks, address of the C. A. F. representative in Marrakesh, and so on, is with the Ski Club of Great Britain.

R. FEDDEN

SALTORO:—The Saltoro Expedition spent three months working in the region at the head of the Saltoro valley, in the eastern Karakoram Range, Pakistan. This was during late May, June, July and August, 1960.

The members of the expedition were as follows:

P. J. Stephenson (Australian)—Leader—(Geology and Survey)

K. J. Miller (British)—Organiser—(Survey)

J. P. Hurley (American)—(Ethnology)

D. Haffner (British)

R. Sebastian Khan (Pakistani)—Liaison Officer

The expedition set out from Skardu in Baltistan on May 21. The approach from there to the Saltoro area was made on foot; ponies and, later on, local coolies were used to transport the expedition's equipment and supplies.

K. J. Miller unfortunately contracted dysentery and was forced to return to the hospital in Skardu for a week. He rejoined the expedition at its base camp two weeks later.

The journey to the uppermost village in the Saltoro valley, Goma, took eight days; this is a distance of 106 miles, and was made via Khapalu.

From Goma a course was taken up the Bilafond valley and glacier until the second major glacier tributary on the east side was reached. This glacier, opposite Naram, has no official name but is known locally as the Grachmo Lungba. After a short reconnaissance the base camp was established on June 1, three miles up this glacier on its north bank, on moraine at about 15,000 ft.

This glacier takes a sharp turn beyond this base camp, rising close

to the West face of peak K₁₂, the exploration of which was the expedition's central objective. A reconnaissance suggested that the glacier, even as Shipton had recommended in 1957, would offer a possible approach to the pass, which his party was the first to see, lying to the west of K₁₂.

Accordingly the several ice-falls on the upper part of the glacier were negotiated and two camps established (at 16,500 and 18,000 ft. respectively). An initial attempt to reach the pass, 19,500 ft., was unsuccessful since a route could not be found through the final ice-fall, immediately below the pass. At this early stage of the expedition, acclimatisation was incomplete, and members suffered from headaches and nausea. For this reason the party returned to Camp 1, in order to initiate the survey programme, and allow some days for acclimatisation to commence.

As soon as the weather had settled sufficiently, we returned to Camp 1, proceeding with the survey using plane tabling methods. Camp 2 was occupied by all of the five members of the party, together with the five high porters working with the expedition. A route was found through the upper ice-fall. This was unusual in that it was necessary to descend 70 ft. into a major crevasse at one point, follow it along for several hundred yards and then gain the snow basin above it.

A camp was set up in the pass next to K₁₂ on June 24, and this was stored with provisions for the party, to last ten to fourteen days. The weather then chose again to deteriorate for four days.

At the earliest opportunity, a descent was made north from the pass into the extensive snow basin, first seen by Shipton's party in 1957. Two fine days, the only ones experienced, allowed most of this basin to be surveyed both by plane tabling and partially by photo-theodolite. Movement in the basin, as on the approach to the pass, was most severely hampered by continuous conditions of a breaking crust, and generally soft snow surfaces.

In bad weather a group comprising Miller, Haffner and Captain Sebastian Khan set out to descend from the pass, since these last two men had been suffering from altitude sickness (nausea and insomnia) for some days. Hurley and Stephenson remained on the pass hoping to reconnoitre the K₁₂ ridge the next day.

Miller's group had difficulty in descending in deteriorating weather. Miller himself sustained concussion, from a blow received on his head by a block of snow, while he was negotiating the crevasse section. His eyesight was affected by double vision, and his balance was also temporarily impaired by the accident; it was most prudent for him to return to Skardu for rest and treatment, and this he did.

Stephenson and Hurley were forced to evacuate the pass camp,

without reconnoitring the K12 ridge on account of a particularly severe storm. They descended and joined the others at Base on July 4.

Haffner and Captain Sebastian Khan, by way of a rest from altitude, descended to the Saltoro valley and re-sorted the food dump which had been left at Dansam. They returned to Goma with supplies to provision the expedition on its projected explorations in the Chumik and Gyong valleys, which had been visited by no one since Longstaff was there in 1909.

Meanwhile, at the Grachmo Lungba, Stephenson and Hurley had remained. From July 5 until the 8th, a reconnaissance was made of a possible route to the summit of K12 (24,503 ft.). The camp on the pass was reoccupied on July 6. The following day a route was cut, during perfect weather, up the West ridge of K12, negotiating the first 1,500 ft. of the ridge's steps. In view of the doubtful continuance of good weather it was necessary for the follow up by porters to be made immediately; thus two porters carried a light two-man camp behind the climbing pair.

Hurley, without any previous direct mountaineering experience, reached a height of over 20,500 ft., and after seeing the camp (pitched just above this height) assured, elected to descend, to leave the strongest porter, Choo, with Stephenson to continue the reconnaissance next day.

On July 8, Stephenson and Choo continued, cutting up the steep ice and snow buttresses on the ridge, to reach the snow apron which covers the upper South-west face of the mountain. Continuing with crampons up this apron, Stephenson eventually reached a point close to 23,000 ft. At this stage the technicalities of the route had all been negotiated and only time barred a visit to the summit itself. The highest point was gained at 3 p.m., and it was necessary to descend to rejoin Choo who had rested at 22,500 ft. with a severe headache.

The descent to base was made in two days, the weather breaking badly again, on the final day. This had been the longest spell of fine weather, and lasted six days.

While Hurley left the group on July 12 to return to Skardu, making ethnological studies *en route*, the other three (Stephenson, Haffner and Captain Khan) joined up again to explore the Chumik glacier. The glacier proved to be shorter than suggested by the original survey map, and from the gap reached at its head, it was perceived that the country beyond, lying south and east of K12, is completely misrepresented on previous maps. The mapping of the Chumik glacier was hindered, as usual, by four days of bad weather.

After a return to Goma, Haffner had to make his way back to Skardu, and then to the United Kingdom to resume his occupation.

Captain Khan and Stephenson then spent ten days exploring and mapping the Gyong glacier system. Here considerable modifications

to the known topography were made and in fact a large blank area existing on the quarter-inch survey maps has been filled in.

Following this excursion, the expedition walked back to Skardu, arriving there on August 20, and flying to Rawalpindi on the 26th.

THE OXFORD ANDEAN EXPEDITION, 1960. Flying in the Oxford University Canada Club plane, the Expedition arrived in New York on July 6. A Greyhound coach was then taken to Miami, thence to Lima by Aerolineas I.N.I., an Argentinian airline who flew us at greatly reduced rates. Within two days of arriving in Lima the equipment was cleared by customs and two days later all the members, with kit arrived in Arequipa. The British-owned Peruvian Corporation then carried us by rail to Tiripata, the nearest railway halt to our area. Lampa Mines Ltd., another British run organisation, loaned us a truck to Macusani, and three miles beyond to a small village, Haunatuyo, only six miles from our base camp. Within two weeks of leaving England we were established in our base camp, in the Val de Antahua, at a height of about 15,000 ft. and at the foot of the vertical South face of Allinccapac.

Japuma, 18,100 ft., was climbed by Binnie and Kendell on July 20 as a recce for the northern side of Allinccapac. Japuma had been climbed by the late Dr. Francis in 1954 and by Piero Ghiglione and F. Mautino in 1959 (*A. J.* 65.86). The south side of Allinccapac, having been decided impossible, a camp was established at 17,000 ft. on the col between Japuma and Allinccapac. During the next three days recces were carried out on the northern side of Allinccapac, and a top camp established at 18,000 ft. On July 26, three weeks after leaving England, Allinccapac was climbed by Binnie and Kendell by the East ridge. The ascent was repeated by Cole, Rogers and Meldrum two days later. Readings showed that the height was 19,200 ft. (subject to confirmation).⁴

To the north of Allinccapac was an impressive cirque of snow and rock peaks none of which had ever been seen at close quarters. During the next three weeks the following mountains were climbed.

1. *Huaynacpac*, 18,700 ft. Lying directly to the north of Allinccapac this mountain had two summits. The lower of these was climbed by two routes simultaneously. Cole and Rogers climbed the South-west ridge, and Binnie, Kendell and Meldrum climbed the West face direct.

Huaynacpac I. The higher of the two summits (by about 50 ft.) was climbed by Cole, Rogers and Kendell towards the end of the expedition.

⁴ A previous ascent of Allinccapac in 1959 is claimed by two Peruvians but has not been confirmed.

2. *Tococcapac*, 18,500 ft. The next mountain to the north in this cirque. This was climbed by Rogers, Meldrum and Cole, by the South face and the West ridge.
3. *Uraccapac*, 18,350 ft. An outlier of the Tococcapac massif. It was climbed by the South face by Binnie and Kendell, when they were preparing the Tococcapac route. The ascent was repeated by Meldrum, Rogers and Cole when they climbed Tococcapac.
4. *Allinccapac II*, 19,000 ft. Climbed by Binnie and Kendell on the same day that Tococcapac was climbed.
5. *Recce Peak*, 18,000 ft. Climbed by Rogers, Cole and Meldrum in an attempt to find approaches to some fantastic rock spires to the east of the main Allinccapac group.
6. *Cacaccapac/Japuma*. A traverse of these two mountains was made by Cole, Rogers and Meldrum. A new route.
7. *Pico Carol*, 18,700 ft. A prominent gendarme on the West ridge of Allinccapac I. Climbed by Rogers, Binnie and Meldrum.

Although there are still many smaller and difficult mountains to be attempted, all the main peaks in this isolated group have now been climbed.

MONT BLANC, Sentinelle Rouge. July 25, 1960. D. Davis and R. L. Colledge.

Leaving the Col de la Fourche at 2.15 a.m., the summit was reached at 9.45. Rocks were avoided for crampon work on snow whenever possible, as quite wintry conditions existed. Progress in the snow should have been fast, but was in fact painfully slow. Ankles and feet aching from too much standing in crampons on the Triolet, rebelled at crampon work, despite the easy angle. Dennis, with only bruised toes, managed to show some enthusiasm for the work in hand, but it was unfortunate that thick mist prevented us from taking photographs on what must be a beautiful route. Once on the upper slopes of Mont Blanc, the worst wind we had ever experienced in the Alps reduced progress to a fight for movement.

R. L. COLLEDGE

AIGUILLE DE BLAITIÈRE, North-west ridge (Ryan-Lochmatter) July 14. Antony Smythe, John Cleare. Descent by the Spencer Couloir.

AIGUILLE DU GRÉPON, East face (Jones-Todhunter-Young) July 29. P. Gordon, G. Lee. Descent by same route.

AIGUILLE DE L'M. In a bad season this was a very popular summit. Both the voie Ménégaux on the North-west face and the North-north-east ridge were frequently done; the former by J. J. S. Allison and M. Boysen among many others, and the latter by W. F. Watson, T. Phillips and P. Wallace, A. Smythe and John Cleare and many others. The West face of Pointe Albert was similarly frequented.

AIGUILLE DU MOINE, East face, July 26. J. J. S. Allison, J. Teasdale.

CAPUCIN DU REQUIN, North-east face. August 10-11. J. J. S. Allison, A. Atkinson, P. Gordon, G. Lee. Fourth ascent.

AIGUILLE DU CHARDONNET, North face. June 28. I. Clough, Robin Wilkinson. 'A magnificent rock, snow and ice climb deserving more popularity. 5 hours.'

AIGUILLE DU MIDI, South-east face, Contamine Route. June 16. I. Clough, Jean Louis Bernazat. 'A twin to the Rébuffat route, difficulty sustained with mixed free and artificial climbing on magnificent rock. About 10 hours.'

AIGUILLE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. July 1. I. Clough, Robin Wilkinson. 'A fine airy route after a rather tedious approach. The summit block was not climbed.'

GRAND CAPUCIN, East face., June 21-22. I. Clough, Jean Louis Bernazat.

TOUR RONDE, North face. June 19. I. Clough, Jean Louis Bernazat. 'A short, steep, snow climb.'

PETITS CHARMOZ, North-west buttress. July 13. A. Smythe, J. Cleare. By a 500-ft. corner facing north-west, from below the Col de la Bûche. IV, interesting cracks and slabs, some loose rock. First ascent?

AIGUILLE DE TRIOLET, North face. July 22, 1960. D. Davis and R. L. Colledge.

After leaving the Argentière hut at 1.50 a.m., we spent half an hour below the *rimaye*, waiting for daylight to show us a crossing point. Once across, we kicked steps in slightly unstable snow on the 53° slope. Although equipped with *étriers* for the ice-wall, we had no idea if there was a way through or over, and so a line of steps for a possible descent was a comforting thought. In any case, the snow did not seem con-

solidated enough for comfortable crampon work. For the same reason, we moved one at a time. Every so often a vicious crack rent the air, and we felt that the snow was not far off avalanching under our weight. However, we judged it safe and continued, although slightly nervously after each crack. Powder snow avalanches from the upper rocks frequently flowed round us.

We had chosen to go left of the two rock islands in the centre of the slope, as this gave more snow than the Contamine variation to the right. Above the rock islands, we crossed a snow arête which descends to one of them, and commenced an upwards traverse towards the *sérac* wall. We still could not see anything but overhanging ice. The traverse was on ice with sufficient snow for encouragement. Leading through, as always, it was sometimes possible to use an axe belay and kick steps for our thirty-foot run-out, whilst at other times a piton belay was preferable or essential, and steps had to be cut in hard ice glinting under an inch of snow.

After a lot of tiring cutting in the very hard ice we at last reached a second snow arête above the second rock island. At last we saw a possible exit, a steep couloir to the left of the ice-wall, but we had a long traverse on hard ice to reach it. The previous traverse had been on steeper ground than the main snowslope, but this second traverse made the first seem easy-angled. We had to cut all the way of course and the nearer to the ice-wall we went, the steeper became the slope. Step cutting revealed rock about six inches underneath the ice, the continuation of the rock slab above our heads. Putting ice pegs in for belays required care. At last we reached the side of the *sérac* wall, and found a steep gangway leading to a crevasse overhung with crazy ice pinnacles. A few careful moves and we were on a gentle snow slope. It was about 1.30 p.m.; the ice traverses had been time-consuming.

The route continued on good, if soft, snow, and quickly steepened again. Without warning and before we had really chosen a line, the clouds obscured us, leaving a visibility of about five yards. We had no choice but to move straight up, choosing the best snow and avoiding the ice. The snow was wet and belaying was pointless, although twice I used an ice piton when the snow became less than six inches in depth.

Rocks loomed out of the mist above our heads and soon we embarked on the ascent of a couloir. Before progressing far, we dimly noticed a sort of overhanging *rimaye* to our right. In the thick mist it could be anything, but to make sure we traversed across the couloir, to find a cornice. Once through, we stood on the descent ridge and could see crampon tracks going down. These helped to speed our descent. We had reached the ridge by the Petites Aiguilles de Triolet at 4.10

p.m. There was no question of climbing the summit tower of the Triolet in the worsening weather, and so we were in the Couvercle hut by 6.30 p.m.

This climb was also done by MM. J. Puiseux and R Sandoz, on July 3, 1960.

R. L. COLLEDGE.

LES PERRONS, North-west face. July 17. A. Smythe, J. Cleare. About 1500 ft., mainly IV - V, with a pitch of VI on the *plaque grise*, a huge grey slab. First ascent. Followed by traverse of the complete Perrons chain.

PIGNE D'AROLLA, North face. August 4. T. A. H. Peacocke and Lieut.-Col. D. Ross. The party reached the foot of the face by ascending a couloir from the Breney glacier and following the very loose and rotten rocks of a rib which ascends in a southerly direction above the couloir. These rocks should be avoided and it is better to traverse off to the right below the final steep section, but the snow conditions made the traverse very difficult this year. The snow on the lower part of the face was fairly good, but on the upper part it thinned and much step cutting in ice was necessary. The steepness of the upper slope is approximately 50 degrees and the whole face is about 1,000 ft. The party was on the face for five hours and cut approximately 1,000 steps, of which 300 were in ice. Weather conditions were good.

This excellent climb seems to be done very rarely, judging by the *Gardien* at the Vignettes hut who stated that it had not been done for six years. It obviously merits more attention; though less hard than the North face of the Argentière and certainly easier than the Lyskamm (about a third of the height and less steep), it is very good training for this type of climb.

T. A. H. PEACOCKE.

JOINT MEET, SAAS-FEE. A joint meet of the A.C., together with the Scottish Mountaineering Club and the Climbers' Club, was held at Saas-Fee last August under the leadership of T. A. H. Peacocke. Excessive snow precluded high climbing on the Mischabel side of the valley, thus frustrating many plans. Climbs done by one or more parties included Weissmies North ridge and ordinary route, traverse of Fletschhorn and Lagginhorn, Portjengrat, Sonneggrat, traverse of Allalinhorn, Alphubel Rotgrat, Schwarzmies, Jägigrat. Peacocke had to leave early to fulfil an important engagement in England, another fell ill, and others, including the Scottish group, moved over to Zermatt to climb the Rothorn, some by the ordinary route and some by the Rothorngrat. Those present at one time or another were T. A. H.

Peacocke, M. E. B. Banks, J. Byam-Grounds, B. Fleming, G. G. Freeman, J. E. Proom, G. S. Roger, W. B. Speirs, D. Wagstaffe, D. Williams, J. R. Willis and F. H. Keenlyside.

A.M.A. MEET, SAAS-FEE. The Annual Alpine Meet of the Army Mountaineering Association, led by F. L. Jenkins, was again held at Saas-Fee, August 3-17, 1960. A dozen members attended and the following climbs were done:

Weissmies—Ordinary way and by the Nordgrat, Lagginhorn, Fletschhorn, Allalinhorn—North ridge, Rimpfischhorn, Dri Horlini, Portjengrat—in new snow, and the Alphubel from the Mischabel joch when a blizzard prevented the ascent of the Täscherhorn.

Afterwards F. L. Jenkins, H. H. M. Rogers and R. E. Langford moved to the Dolomites by a route which involved sight-seeing at Padua and a bivouac at Calalzo.

Climbs done included—first Sella Tower (R. E. L. and H. H. M. R.), Fünffingerspitze (R. E. L., H. H. M. R., F. L. J.), Vajolet Towers traverse, (R. E. L., H. H. M. R.), South wall of the Marmolada (F. L. J., H. H. M. R. with Cirillo Fosco).

Jenkins and Rogers returned to the Oberland at the end of August, and in the renewed bad weather climbed the Jungfrau in a blizzard.

FIESCHERWAND, NORDPFEILER. Robin Smith and B. Wakefield (of Edinburgh University M.C.) 'reached the top, not very frost-bitten'.

PASSES AND PEAKS. The under-mentioned new expeditions were made by J. Sanseverino between 1957 and 1960 inclusive.

March 2, 1957. Silvretta Group. Crossed the Winterlücke (c. 2,850 m.), the Vereinapass (2,585 m.) and made the first winter crossing of the Schwaderlochfurgge (2,920 m.). Route: Davos—Flüelatal—Winterlücke—up Süsertal to Vereinapass—Schwaderlochfurgge—down Vernelatal to Klosters. A long day! Weather good.

September 4, 1958. Lepontine Alps. First tourist crossing of Passo d'Aurona (2,731 m.). From Berisal to Alpe Veglia. Weather fair. Cloudy p.m.

July 4-5, 1959. Orobian Alps. Monte Torena (2,911 m.) and first recorded crossing of Passo del Serio (2,692 m.). Route: Carona (Valtellina)—up Caronella valley and bivouacked half-an-hour above Malga Caronella—Passo del Serio—Mte. Torena—back to pass—Valbondione. Weather good.

September 20, 1959. Bernina Group. First ascent of Pizzo Calino (3,022 m.) by South-east ridge. From Sant' Antonio in Val Fontana via Campello and the lower part of Valle Vicima in approx.

five hours. This ridge was first *descended* by A. Corti with P. Moretti on August 22, 1900, but there seems to be no record of an ascent. No difficulties were encountered. Weather good.

June 12, 1960. Bernina Group. First recorded tourist ascent of Cima dei Motti (formerly known as Il Rovinadone) (2,709 m.). From Sant' Antonio in Val Fontana via Valle Vicima and Bocchetta di Ron (2,642 m.). Weather good.

June 19, 1960. Bernina Group. Monte d'Acquanera (2,806 m.) and first tourist crossing of Bocchetta d'Acquanera (2,709 m.). Route: Near Franscia (Lanterna valley)—Alpe d'Acquanera—Bocchetta d'Acquanera—Mte. Acquanera—back to pass—Alpe Painale—Sondrio via Val di Togno. Weather good.

July 17, 1960. Bernina Group. Cima di Forame (3,058 m.) and first crossing of Bocchetta d'Aiada (2,701 m.). Route: Sant' Antonio in Val Fontana—Campello—Alpe Mortirolo—Bocchetta d'Aiada—Cima di Forame—back to pass—down to Valle Forame—back to Sant' Antonio. Weather fair. Cloudy a.m.

J. SANSEVERINO

SCIORA DI FUORI. The Sciora di Fuori rises on the left side of the rock cirque radiating from the Sciora hut in the Bregaglia. From the hut its North-west buttress is a slender 600 m. of granite catching the early morning sun. The route follows the skyline arête. It was first climbed in the thirties, but a considerable rock fall occurred in 1951; the route has been repeated some twenty-one times since. The crux is the final 900 ft. of steep rock leading to the ante-cima.

In spite of the poor weather, there did not seem to be overmuch snow on the mountain on July 10. An early departure enabled Peter Crew and I to reach the first rocks at 5 a.m. These were easy snowy slabs to be followed right for 300 ft. to where a slight descent into a gully gave access to a crack line breaking back right to the foot of the steep portion of the buttress after 700 ft. A few snowflakes fell and the weather looked very ominous; nothing happened, so an hour later we pressed on and reached the final section after four hours. This is very slow, but there was a lot of ice and snow. The weather was now improving. The first pitches were about IV, but the rock creaked. The fourth was an exposed traverse right, in from the arête up a fairly hard crack and outside a protruding flake to the foot of a 50 ft. slightly overhanging wall, in the upper half of which I could see some rusty pegs. To reach a peggable crack involved tying slings around two jammed flakes; there was an uncomfortable moment when two pegs began to pull out but Crew managed to clip into the lowest of the rusty pegs, which fortunately proved sound. This left us near a small brèche from which a crack line continued, splitting the arête and widen-

ing nearer the summit. From just above the brèche the crack was vertical for 100 ft.; this pitch, taking into account exposure, was just about VI. 350 ft. of extremely strenuous chimneying took the party to the top of the ante-cima.

From here, 150 ft. of ice-glazed rock led to a narrow ridge abutting horizontally onto the final summit. This I found rather harrowing, although there were several pegs in place to which I added a few of my own. We reached the ridge at about 7.30, Crew went down a steep snow slope towards the Colle di Scioretta while I belayed at the other end of the 250-ft. rope. With 150 ft. to go snow gave place to ice so we bivouacked on the level section of the ridge. It was a fine night. Next morning a crack for an abseil peg was excavated lower and a gully system reminiscent of Nevis brought us back to the hut at 10 a.m. It might be added that this was Crew's first climb in the Alps.

COLIN TAYLOR.

DOLOMITES. Joe Brown and D. Gray with L. Brown and T. Jones made the following ascents last summer:

Cima Piccolissima di Lavaredo, South face (voie Cassin). August 2.

Cima Piccola di Lavaredo, Spigolo Giallo. August 3.

Cima Grande di Lavaredo, North face (voie Comici-Dimai). August 5.

Pilastro di Rozes. August 8.

Torre di Val Grande, North-west face. August 10 (when S. Reid took the place of T. Jones).

Ian Clough and J. M. Alexander likewise did the Cassin route on the Piccolissima (July 13, 4 hours), the Spigolo Giallo (July 11, 5 hours), the Comici route on the Grande (July 15, 9½ hours). These three climbs had also been done a little earlier by T. Sullivan and N. Collinghan. Clough and Alexander did the *Preuss Riss* on Cima Piccolissima on July 16 and the Cassin-Ratti route on Cima Ovest on July 18; the last climb was done on the same day by Dougal Haston and J. Moriarty. On July 20 and 21, Clough and Alexander did the Gabriel-Livanos route on Cima Su Alto; 'a fine fierce route with many pitons and much poor rock', route-finding difficulties caused them to bivouac about 300 ft. below the summit.

SPIGOLO GIALLO. The Spigolo Giallo gives 350 m. of steep climbing at a very reasonable standard. At least nine English parties have been up the route. Unfortunately Alan Wedgewood and I chose a Sunday so that by the time we had reached the initial 250-ft. crack there were parties above. This crack was enjoyable although loose. Then followed 300 ft. of steep scrambling to a point 90 ft. from an

obvious traverse back left to below an overhanging crack skirting a ponderous overhang. The route was obvious as seven climbers were spread out all the way to the foot of the crack. The traverse made a fine pitch and Wedgewood led through to the foot of the crack. This was, I understand, the Kasperek variation; it started steeply and seemed to be composed of loose blocks jammed together with pegs. After a few feet of bridging, 20 ft. of A1 led to a traverse off left on to the top of the overhang, Wedgewood did the last pitch leaving 300 ft. of easier, although looser, rock to the top. A couple of abseils and scrambling brought us back to the foot again.

COLIN TAYLOR.