

ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

CHANGE OF EDITOR.—Mr. F. H. Keenlyside having resigned the Editorship of the ALPINE JOURNAL owing to pressure of business, the Committee has appointed Mr. A. D. M. Cox, University College, Oxford, to succeed him.

Mr. T. S. Blakeney and Mr. D. F. O. Dangar continue as Assistant Editors.

GEORGE ANDERSON (1873–1961).—Our late member retired in 1960 from the Alpine Club, to which he was elected in 1932. He only commenced Alpine climbing in 1926 and concentrated mainly on rock climbing, of which he had much experience both in Scotland and the Lake District. He was a great lover of open air sports, being a fine golfer and a most enthusiastic fly-fisherman; later in life, when walking became too much for him (he had often done twenty to thirty miles a day), he took to cycling, which he kept up till he was over eighty.

A naval architect by profession, he was Managing Director of the Westminster Dredging Co., Ltd., until his retirement. He had been in failing health for more than a year, and died in August, 1961.

HAROLD JOHN HENRY IRISH (1870–1961).—H. J. H. Irish resigned at the end of 1960 and so, at his death on May 24, 1961, was no longer a member of the A.C. to which he was elected in December, 1920, when over fifty years of age. Although his first visit to the Alps was in 1899 (Monte Rosa and the Breithorn), he did not climb every year between then and 1912, his last season before the outbreak of the First World War, and his list of climbs was a short one. He used laughingly to say that Farrar told him that his was one of the worst qualifications to pass the Committee's scrutiny, and indeed, had his season in 1920 not been the equal of about three of his earlier seasons lumped together, it is doubtful if he would have been elected. But he never made any pretence to being a notable climber, and his visits to the Alps were to enjoy himself without regard to the number of peaks he might climb in the process.

He was born in Devon on August 9, 1870, and educated at Sherborne and Brasenose College, Oxford. He made a name for himself as a college oarsman and stroked his College head of the river in the Torpids.

After leaving Oxford he went round the world with a friend, and on his return studied for the Bar, being called at the Inner Temple in November, 1898. He practised as a barrister until April, 1907, when he joined the well-known wine merchants Christopher & Co., becoming a Director shortly before the 1914-18 war, and remaining at the head of the Company until his death, an immensely long record of service.

During his time with the wine trade Mr. Irish had been both Chairman and President of the Wine Merchants Union and during his time of office as Chairman in the Second World War he was largely responsible for protecting the interests of the trade in its dealing with the Government. He was also Chairman of the London and Provincial Association and President of the Wine and Spirit Association of Great Britain from 1956 to 1957.

He had an immense circle of friends, both in the wine trade and out, and he will be much missed. I invariably found it a cheering thing to look in at Jermyn Street and have a chat with him; he radiated goodwill and was always glad to hear any Club gossip or news. He was the very first member of the Club to contribute to the Endowment Fund, and it is certain that he would not have resigned his membership had not the increasing failure of his eyesight made it impossible, not merely to attend meetings, but to read the ALPINE JOURNAL either.

T. S. BLAKENEY.

ROBERT PEEL MEARS (1884-1961).—R. P. Mears, who died on November 25, 1961, at the age of seventy-seven, was descended from a brother of Sir Robert Peel, the founder of the Metropolitan Police. He joined the Alpine Club in 1927 and resigned in 1960 owing to ill health. He served on the Committee in 1953-1955. His application form to the Club shows him as having started climbing in 1904, in North Wales. He made use of any opportunity afforded him whilst in India to get up into the hills, even if it was for nothing more than walks and scrambles in the Western Ghats.

He was educated at Westminster and Trinity College, Cambridge. A civil engineer by profession, he worked for many years in India, where he specialised in bridge building until the climate finally undermined his health. He returned to England in 1932, and for the next twenty-two years he held an appointment with the well-known firm of Rendel, Palmer & Tritton. He played an important part in the construction of the great bridge across the Neath Estuary in South Wales. He was a very keen member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and he read a number of papers which were highly thought of in the engineering world. He retired in 1954.

He had, however, always been a very hard worker, and after a few

months he found that time was hanging somewhat heavily on his hands; he therefore obtained an appointment with another firm of engineers and finally retired in 1959.

He will be best known to members for the research work which he did on climbing ropes for the British Mountaineering Council, and his house on the outskirts of Reigate was frequently to be found festooned with ropes which he had been testing in the chalk pit on Colly Hill. Of a somewhat shy and reserved disposition, he had, nevertheless, a dry sense of humour, and on the rare occasions when he could be prevailed upon to make a speech at a dinner he was always extremely witty and very much to the point; he was most scrupulous and conscientious in everything that he did, and always set himself an extremely high standard. He will be sadly missed, and we should like to tender to his widow our deepest sympathy in her loss.

M. N. CLARKE.

ALPINE ANNIVERSARIES.—To celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the first ascent of Monte Viso¹ by W. Mathews and F. W. Jacomb with Michel and J-B. Croz on August 30, 1861, an Italian party carried a Union Jack and the Italian flag to the summit. A commemorative plaque was unveiled at Crissolo.

Celebrations were held at the Wengernalp on September 2-3 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first ascent of the Jungfrau, the first of the Swiss 4,000 m. peaks to be climbed, on August 3, 1811. These included the showing of a film, a reconstruction of the first ascent, in which the actors were members of the Lauterbrunnen Section of the S.A.C.² The Swiss actor, Alfred Lohner, read the original account by the brothers Meyer of their exploit and also extracts from Byron's *Manfred*, composed at the Wengernalp in 1816.

AIRCRAFT IN THE ALPS.—The decision to allow aircraft to fly passengers to the upper regions of the Mont Blanc range has not been welcomed by mountaineers. Objection has been taken to the selection of the Dôme du Goûter as a landing ground for sight-seeing tourists.

A protest has also been made to the Swiss Alpine Club against the excessive use of aircraft for the same purpose, especially in the Engadine.

Mountaineers must now include aircraft among the dangers to be faced while climbing. Seven Swiss climbers were making the ascent of the Brunegghorn one day last summer when four aeroplanes flew past at a low altitude. It is alleged that the vibration set up caused the

¹ 'Mount Monviso', according to a leading London daily.

² Through the kindness of Professor Alexander von Muralt this film was shown at the conclusion of the Alpine Club dinner last December.

breaking of a cornice which, in its fall, carried away two of the party who fortunately were held by their comrades.

FAMILY FIRST ASCENTS.—M. Marcel Kurz informs me that the ascent of the Balmhorn was not the only occasion on which a father, son and daughter made the first ascent of an Alpine peak.³ The West (highest) summit of the Six Niers was climbed for the first time on July 24, 1907, by M. Kurz with his father and sister.⁴

The Six Niers (9,921 ft.), as M. Kurz remarks, does not rank with the Balmhorn and there may be other examples of family first ascents among the lower and less important peaks of the Alps, though not, we believe, of summits over 12,000 ft. in height in the Swiss Alps.

LÖTSCHENTAL.—To judge by a news item in the *Financial Times* of January 30, part of which is reprinted below, there seems every prospect that the Lötschental will be ruined within the next few years.

'An Anglo-Swiss company is to spend £8m. over eight years in developing into a winter and summer sports centre the Loetschental, in the Canton of Valais, Switzerland, described as a "forgotten valley". Close Bros. are raising part of the initial finance privately in the U.K. . . .

The new resort will cover 25 square miles, and will be built at two levels—4,200 feet and 6,300 feet. The present plan includes three cable lifts, other ski lifts, a swimming pool, hospital, 500 chalets and villas, 35 shops, restaurants, 16 hotels and 20 apartment houses.

It is hoped to start work in the early Spring.'

We may express the hope that the Swiss authorities, before it is too late, will find some means of saving the Lötschental and of preventing the execution of this dreadful scheme.

MATTERHORN.—The first winter ascent of the North face was made on February 3-4 by the Swiss Hilti von Allmen and Paul Etter. Two Austrians and three Germans who were also attempting the ascent reached the summit on the following day.

Unsuccessful attempts on the North face had been made in January, one of them by a party which included Herren Hiebeler and Kinshofer who took part in the first winter ascent of the Eigerwand.

EIGERWAND.—In the course of last summer a party of guides recovered the bodies of the German climbers Günther Nothdurft and Franz Mayer who disappeared on the Eigerwand in August, 1957. The Germans, it will be recalled, were on the face at the same time as the Italians Longhi and Corti, the last-named being the only survivor of

³ See *A.J.* 66. 89.

⁴ Guide Vallot: *La Chaîne du Mont Blanc*, vol. iii, p. 307.

the four. Corti was also the last man to see the two Germans alive when they left him in an endeavour to reach the summit, some 650 ft. above, and to bring back help for the two Italians.⁵

From the position in which the bodies were found it is said to be evident that Nothdurft and Mayer had completed the ascent of the Eigerwand (fourteenth ascent) and perished while descending by the ordinary route.

La Montagne et Alpinisme (December 1961, p. 155) reports that as the result of enquiries at Grindelwald last summer Herr Toni Hiebeler has established that Heinz Gonda and Uly Wyss, who attempted the climb in 1953, did in fact achieve the ascent and met with a fatal accident not on the face, but on the Mittellegigrat; they were last seen about 150 ft. below the summit.

A list published in the same issue of *La Montagne*, which includes these two additional ascents, records twenty-three ascents of the Eigerwand in which sixty-seven people took part.

NESTHORN.—The fourth ascent of the North face was made by an Italian party on July 2, 1961.

COOLIDGE AND THE AIGUILLE VERTE.⁶—I am indebted to M. Pierre Henry for letting me know that his authority for the statement that Coolidge made an attempt on the then unclimbed Couloir Cordier on the Aiguille Verte is a mention of the attempt in an article by Henri Cordier in the *Annuaire du C.A.F.* of 1876, p. 169.

More information about this expedition, if it ever took place, would be welcome. It is not mentioned in Mumm's *A.C. Register* nor in *A. J.* 8. 289, where J. O. Maund names some of those who had made unsuccessful attempts to climb the Verte from the glacier d'Argentière.

If Coolidge had, in fact, made such an attempt it is likely that, with his passion for exactitude, he would have taken good care to ensure that Mumm mentioned it in his *Register*.

SIMPLON.—A scheme for a road tunnel under the Simplon Pass is reported to have been approved in principle by representatives of the Cantonal government of the Valais and the Italian province of Novara. The proposed tunnel would run from Berisal to Varzo.

FROM AUSTRIA.—We regret to report the death of Dr. Karl Prusik, who died on May 28, 1961, a few days after celebrating his sixty-fifth birthday.

⁵ An account of the tragedy can be found in Heinrich Harrer's *The White Spider*, pp. 187 *sqq.*

⁶ See *A. J.* 66. 180.

The inventor of the Prusik knot, his name was well known in mountaineering circles throughout the world. He was a very active climber, particularly in the years following the 1914-18 war, and is said to have made about seventy new routes.

Prusik was twice President, and subsequently an honorary member of the Österreichischer Alpenklub.

Another distinguished Austrian mountaineer, Dr. Rudolf Jonas, has also died. He was a member of Schwarzgruber's 1938 Garhwal expedition and took part in the first ascent of Sri Kailas (22,742 ft.). He was leader of the Austrian expedition that attempted Saipal in 1954 and was also President of the Österreichische Himalaya Gesellschaft.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS.—The annual summary in *Die Alpen* shows that as a result of eighty-seven accidents fifty-four people were killed in the Swiss Alps between May 1 and October 31, 1960.

The worst disaster occurred in August on the North face of the Aiguille d'Argentière and involved the loss of five lives.

LA BRUYÈRE.—This delightful arête is well known to local climbers, but has probably not achieved much publicity.⁷ It can be very useful when the main massif of the Pelvoux-Ecrins group is out of condition. We climbed it with an officer of the French Alpine Infantry in mid-October 1961.

The route starts from the Pont des Alpes, on the road from Briançon to the Col de Lautaret. From here a good path runs north, on the east side of a valley. La Bruyère is the prominent, not very high rock peak straight ahead, with a steep arête rising up from the river. It is not named on the map.

The path goes round the back of the peak, away from the river, and the arête is thus attacked at its western end on the north side (quite high up—about 150 ft. from the crest). This is about 1-1½ hours from the road. The first pitch, IV inf., follows a diagonal line of weakness from left to right; piton; this is perhaps the hardest pitch on the climb. Once on the crest, this is followed from west to east, an airy romp over several nice gendarmes on goodish, schisty rock. The formations are interesting and the final tower is imposing but easy.

The descent down the eastern slope is unexpectedly steep. Veer rather to the right (south) to gain a prominent brèche at which all difficulties end.

The whole thing is reminiscent of the Jägigrat at Saas Fee. Shorter, slighter, less serious, but with the same pleasures. The atmosphere is rather Scottish.

M. F. R. JONES.

⁷ There is a brief mention in *A.J.* 64. 263.

A SLOVENE ANNIVERSARY.—On August 5 and 6 the mountaineers of Slovenia celebrated the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the T.K.S. (Tourist Club Skala), of which I had the honour of being elected a member.

The Skala was from the first a club of alpine climbers, different from the older generation of mountain lovers in Slovenia, who did not approve of what they called 'courting suicide' on rock faces and pinnacles. With other members of the Skala I made every notable ascent in the Slovene Alps and my notes were published in various English periodicals, including the *ALPINE JOURNAL*.⁸ During the years of war and foreign occupation the members of the Skala distinguished themselves in partisan warfare. In the new Yugoslavia the club was absorbed by the Slovene Alpine Union, which has abandoned the old-fashioned outlook of its predecessor.

The tradition of the Skala has been worthily carried on by Slovene alpinists in the French Alpes Maritimes and, above all, by A. Kunaver and his companions in their successful ascents of Trisul II and III in the Himalayas in the summer of 1960.⁹

The 40th anniversary of the club's foundation was celebrated at the head of the Vrata valley, below the great North face of Triglav in the heart of the finest alpine scenery in Yugoslavia.

F. S. COPELAND.

AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CHAMOIS HUNTER.—Between the years 1760 and 1800 it became the fashion to admire the simple peasant folk of Switzerland and the rugged environment of their daily lives. Rousseau, who knew little at first hand about either, idealised them in the *Nouvelle Héloïse* (1760), and thereafter enthusiasts began to visit scenes which, nearly a century later, hoteliers, railway engineers, and guide-book writers were to throw wide open to the tourists of the modern world. The artists were quick to cash in on the new fashion, and turned from conversation pieces of high life to studies of the customs and costumes of the peasantry. Among these, Nicholas König (1765–1832) published a book of portraits, now very much a collector's prize, mostly of Swiss women in their 'Sunday best'; though he gives us their names, in that aristocratic age the briefest biographical details sufficed. For instance, of one cantonal representative, whom the twentieth century would probably call Miss Schaffhausen, we are simply told that her soul was as beautiful as her physiognomy. She is, however, wearing a hat which might give Paris ideas.

Of the few male portraits in this collection, the most interesting is

⁸ See *A. J.* 40. 331, and 52. 90.

⁹ An account of the expedition can be found in *H. J.* XXII, p. 70.



Canton de Glarus.

J. Keitz, ou le fameux Chasseur aux Chamois.

JOHANN KEITZ, CHAMOIS HUNTER.

*By courtesy of the British Museum from the collection of the late
R. W. Lloyd.*

that of Johann Keitz of Glarus, a mighty hunter before the Lord and a mountaineer more than half a century before the sport of climbing mountains was discovered, but contemporary with the earliest pioneers of high alpine ascents, with de Saussure on Mont Blanc, and the Meyer family in the Oberland.

The man we see in the picture here reproduced is obviously of the same stock as the great alpine guides who came after him. A carpenter by trade, he achieved fame as a hunter of chamois, claiming over nine hundred successful forays, and is thus depicted, accoutred for the chase, standing on one of his native glaciers.

Doubtless chamois were more plentiful in the central Alps two hundred years ago, when even the bear was still seen on the mountain side, but the feat argues great endurance and skill. His equipment is of interest as the artist evidently took pains to show it accurately. The iron spikes, which appear to be bound to his shoes, seem very like the heavy and cumbersome eight-point crampons offered for sale at alpine resorts forty years ago. To his leather belt are attached his powder horn and the cords he used to tie the feet of the animal he had shot, which he had, of course, to carry on his back at least as far as the highest chalets, where he might have a mule in readiness for the rest of the journey home. The stout alpenstock was normal mountaineering equipment, even for guides, until the middle of the last century and the writer can remember seeing it carried by tourists on excursions fifty years ago. The Chamonix men are shown in some early pictures using a pole instead of a rope on glaciers.

No doubt Keitz often hunted with companions, but probably he was frequently alone. A risky game. Shortly before König's book was published in 1804 Keitz had met his end upon the mountains, his body having been found among some rocks. Even if he had not fallen over a precipice, a leg injury in such a situation would lead to death from exposure, a tragedy by no means unknown in our own hills today.

H. R. C. CARR.

POLISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUBS.—Polish mountaineering started in the Tatra in the first half of the nineteenth century. At that time the Tatra were quite unexplored and even a journey to the foot of the range was not easy. A Polish scientist, Stanislaw Staszic, visited the Tatra in 1805 and climbed Kolowy Szczyt, 2,425 m., and a few days later climbed the second highest peak of the range, Lomnica, 2,634 m. Although his aim was a scientific one he describes in his book about the Tatra the beauty of the scenery. For that reason we consider him to be the first Polish mountaineer.

In 1818 the poet Anthony Malczewski climbed the virgin lower

summit of the Aiguille du Midi, 3,795 m.,¹⁰ and also ascended Mont Blanc.¹¹

But both these cases were isolated ones. The real mountaineering movement started on a larger scale a little before the middle of the nineteenth century and by the end of the century nearly all the peaks of the Tatra had been climbed, several of them by different routes. All these ascents were, of course, done with guides.

In 1873 the Polish Tatra Society was founded. It united all mountain tourists and climbers and covered with its activities not only the Tatra but the whole Carpathian range. The aims of the Society were the encouragement of mountain tourism, the building of footpaths, hostels and shelters, and nature conservation. In 1876 the Society began to publish a yearly Journal which still appears, under the title *Wierchy* (The Peaks).

In 1903 some young members founded a separate section within the Tatra Society for climbers only. They advocated climbing without guides. The membership of this section was by ballot and mountaineering qualifications were demanded of its candidates. It was called *Sekcja Turystyczna* and was the first exclusively mountaineering organisation in Poland. In 1907 this section started to publish its own journal *Taternik* which is still issued today under the same title. Members of the section climbed in the Tatra and frequently visited the Alps.

But after some years the younger members considered this club as insufficient. The members of the *Sekcja Turystyczna* were scattered all over Poland. They only met each other in the mountains and once a year at a general meeting and the young climbers wanted to discuss mountaineering problems and to talk about mountains not only when they were in the hills but also in the towns where they lived; they had, too, rather different views about mountaineering. So in 1924 and 1930 two other organisations came into existence: the Mountaineering Section of the Academic Sport Union in Cracov and the Mountaineering Section of the Warsaw branch of the Polish Tatra Society. These two organisations were not rivals and nearly all their members were also members of the old *Sekcja Turystyczna* but they regarded the old organisation as a very respectable institution only consisting of elderly gentlemen with old-fashioned ideas about mountaineering. All young climbers considered membership of this body as a great privilege but it did not give them sufficient scope for their activities.

As the committees of all three organisations consisted, more or less,

¹⁰ See *A.J.* 17. 197, for an account of this ascent.

¹¹ According to the list in Graham Brown and de Beer's *The First Ascent of Mont Blanc* this was the twelfth ascent. For a note about Malczewski see *A.J.* 61. 394.

of the same people an understanding was soon reached. All three bodies united in 1935 within the mother club, the Polish Tatra Society, and assumed the name of Klub Wysokogórski Polskiego Towarzystwa Tatrzańskiego (Mountaineering Club of the Polish Tatra Society) and they regarded this as the continuation of the old Sekcja Turystyczna founded in 1903. But there was one substantial difference between this and the new club, for the latter was divided into three branches at Warsaw, Cracov, and Zakopane. Each local branch had its own committee and managed its own affairs and above all the local branches stood the Chief Committee elected by a general meeting.

In 1950 the Polish Tatra Society joined with other organisations practising tourism in the lowlands and lost its mountaineering character; this new body is known as the Polish Tourist Society. The members of our mountaineering club formed, as one of its many sections, a mountaineering section.

In 1956 the members of this section decided at a general meeting to revive the Polish Mountaineering Club, but as an independent organisation. So once again the Klub Wysokogórski is the only club uniting all Polish mountaineers. It publishes *Taternik*, which is the Polish word for alpinist, and is divided into twelve local branches. The members are divided into two classes, ordinary and candidate. In addition to election by ballot each class requires mountaineering qualifications including both summer and winter ascents. The standards required today are much higher than before the war.

We have also in Poland the Tatra Volunteer Rescue Service. This was founded in 1911 by Polish mountaineers within the Tatra Society and was formed from professional guides and amateur mountaineers. Its aim is to give immediate help in any accident occurring in the mountains. Although the organisation today is somewhat different to that of 1911 the original name is still retained.

Polish climbers carried out some notable ascents in the Alps in 1961, including the North face of the Matterhorn, the Petit Dru by the Pilier Bonatti, and the Eigerwand. A Polish mountaineer was a member of the party that made the first ascent of the Central Pillar of Fréney on Mont Blanc.

B. CHWAŚCIŃSKI.

LANIN.—In *A. J.* 45. 328 there appears an article by the late E. de la Motte in which he announced that he had made the first ascent of Lanin, a 12,390 ft. high volcano located on the Chilean-Argentinian border; actually, he made the third ascent, being doubtless unaware that two parties had previously reached the top.

The first ascent of Lanin was made by Dr. R. Hauthal, alone, on May 28, 1897 (*Zeitschrift des D.A.V.* 1904, p. 53); the second by

F. Fonck and R. Kremer on February 12, 1921 (*Revista Andina* 68, p. 38) and then followed E. de la Motte's ascent in 1933.

There are claims that F. von Eckert, a German diplomat in Chile, made the third ascent together with Guillermo Avanda and Pablo Gethlog in 1923, but it must be stated that this party did not reach the summit because of an accident in which von Eckert perished (*Revista Andina* 68, p. 30).¹²

O. Meiling and J. and N. Neumayer made the fourth ascent of the mountain in 1939, and A. Hemmi the fifth in 1942; these two ascents are recorded in E. Feruglio's *Geografía de Argentina*, vol. iv, p. 161 (Editorial Coni, Buenos Aires). Several other ascents, particularly by Chilean and Argentinian mountain troops, have taken place since then.

E. A. ECHEVARRÍA.

ELLESMERE ISLAND.—In the summers of 1953 and 1954, and in every summer since 1957, I have led scientific expeditions to northern Ellesmere Island organised by the Defence Research Board. In the course of survey and geological work, we have climbed a number of peaks in the area to the north of Lake Hazen in lat. 82° N. Most of the higher peaks rise as nunataks from the central ice cover which is broken into three distinct ice-caps by two deep valleys running roughly from north to south. In 1953 we climbed Mount Grant (c. 6,000 ft.),¹³ one of the highest peaks rising from the eastern ice-cap. A number of peaks rising from the central ice-cap exceed 7,000 ft. in height, and several exceed 8,000 ft. In 1957 we climbed Mount Oxford (7,250 ft.),¹⁴ a nunatak standing some 1,200 ft. above the general ice cover in the area, and first climbed by A. W. Moore¹⁵ and the Greenland Eskimo Nukapinguaq on the Oxford University Ellesmere Land Expedition in 1935. The latter party were the only visitors to the ice-cap before 1957.

In 1958, one of our parties climbed Mount Arrowhead (7,010 ft.), ten miles to the east of Mount Oxford, and another climbed Mount Nukap (5,840 ft.) on the east side of the Gilman glacier.

It was not until 1961 that we found an opportunity to climb what we had decided was probably the highest peak in northern Ellesmere Island, situated near the head of the Henrietta Nesmith glacier. This mountain may have been the one sighted by Greely, the discoverer of Lake Hazen, in 1882, and named by him Mount Whistler. We determined the height as 8,500 ft. within a hundred feet. We encountered no particular mountaineering difficulties on any of these

¹² See *A. J.* 45. 329 for a brief account of this accident.

¹³ *G. J.* vol. 122, 1956, pp. 13-23.

¹⁴ *G. J.* vol. 124, 1958, pp. 280-81.

¹⁵ *G. J.* vol. 87, 1936, pp. 419-27.



Photo, Royal Canadian Air Force]

PART OF THE CENTRAL ICE-CAP OF NORTHERN ELLESMERE ISLAND LOOKING NORTH-WEST, FROM 20,000 FT. THE PEAK OF *c.* 8,500 FT. IS PROBABLY THE HIGHEST IN THE CANADIAN ARCTIC.

peaks, although on the last we had to face a 30 m.p.h. wind at a temperature of zero F. On the ice-cap we relied on motor toboggans and dog teams for travel, so that there was little or no walking involved between survey camps. The western ice-cap has never been visited.

The fiord country to the north of the central ice cover has many fine peaks, with Commonwealth Mountain at the head of M'Clintock Fiord probably the highest, rising to about 7,500 ft. in a distance of ten miles from tide-water and by far the most spectacular peak we have seen in northern Ellesmere Island. One of our sledge parties travelled up M'Clintock Fiord in 1954, and in 1961 we travelled halfway down M'Clintock glacier from the ice-cap; otherwise no party has been into this fiord country.

The north coast of the island has been travelled by very few parties, and along its entire length by only two—Peary's in 1906 and ours in 1953-54.¹⁶ The northernmost point of this coast, Cape Aldrich, was the site of the advance camp for Peary's North Pole journey of 1909. The twin peaks of Cooper Key Mountain (c. 2,000 ft.) stand over the cape, and it was on the summit of the Eastern peak that Peary left a record and a piece of his sledging flag which we recovered in 1953.¹⁷

Until recently maps of northern Ellesmere Island showed elevations of nine, ten, and even eleven thousand feet. Although over most of this area ground surveys have yet to be made, we can now say with reasonable certainty that there are no elevations over about 8,500 ft. But the mountains in this area are the highest in the Canadian Arctic, and in fact the highest in Canada east of the Rocky Mountains.

G. HATTERSLEY-SMITH.

MOUNTAINS OF WOKKPASH.—Captain M. F. R. Jones has been good enough to send a list of the names suggested by the Royal Fusiliers Expedition of 1960 for the mountains in this area, all of which have been approved by the Canadian Board on Geographic Names. Names have been bestowed on twenty-eight peaks, thirteen of which were climbed by members of the expedition.

MOUNT COOK.—The East face was climbed for the first time in November last by D. Cowie, P. Farrell, V. Walsh and L. Crawford.

The party flew to the Grand Plateau and started the climb at midnight. Snow conditions were good and after eighteen hours' climbing they reached the summit ridge—having at one period taken an hour to progress 60 ft.—traversed the high peak and descended by the

¹⁶ *G. J. loc. cit.*, 1956.

¹⁷ *A. J.* 59. 216.

Linda glacier. After passing an uncomfortable night roped to the rocks because of the violent wind, the party reached the Haast hut.

KILIMANJARO.—As part of the celebrations of Tanganyika's Independence Day an attempt was made to hoist the Tanganyika flag on Kaiser Wilhelm Spitze, 19,340 ft., the highest peak of the massif. The weather, however, was so bad that the party charged with the task was unable to reach the summit.

According to Press reports Kaiser Wilhelm Spitze is to be renamed.

ANTARCTICA.—Mt. Menzies, 11,000 ft., in the Prince Charles Range¹⁸ was climbed for the first time on December 20, 1961, by an Australian party, D. Keyser, J. Seavers, and D. Traill.

It was fitting that the day of the first ascent was the sixty-seventh birthday of the Prime Minister of Australia after whom the mountain was named in 1956.

ANDES.—The Schwabische Andine Expedition of 1961 achieved some notable successes in the Cordillera Blanca including the first ascent of Nevado Uta, 5,875 m. An attempt on the unclimbed Ocshapalca, 5,880 m., ended about 60 ft. from the top when the bad and dangerous snow conditions prevented further progress.

Chopicalqui was climbed from the Ultatal for the first time; this was the third ascent of the mountain. Another first ascent was that of a nameless peak of 5,600 m. for which the name of Chugllaraju was proposed.

A New Zealand party is going to the Cordillera di Vilcabamba this summer hoping to climb the virgin peaks of Mitre and Sacsarayoc. Both these peaks are near neighbours of Pumasillo.

ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN.—A hitherto unrecorded mention of this old friend comes to light in the Presidential Address to Section X of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, given by the Earl of Cranbrook at Norwich on September 1, 1961. It is printed in *The Advancement of Science*, January 1962 (vol. xviii, no. 75, p. 480), and reads:

'In 1930 in Tibet on the Irrawaddi-Salween Divide at about 12,000 ft. I wrote in my diary

there are vague descriptions of some animal of which they are very frightened which they say kills cattle, ponies and even men. From the description it seems to be an ordinary black bear: black, hairy, long claws, mark on chest: all seem reasonable. It is also said to

¹⁸ See *A.J.* 61. 214.

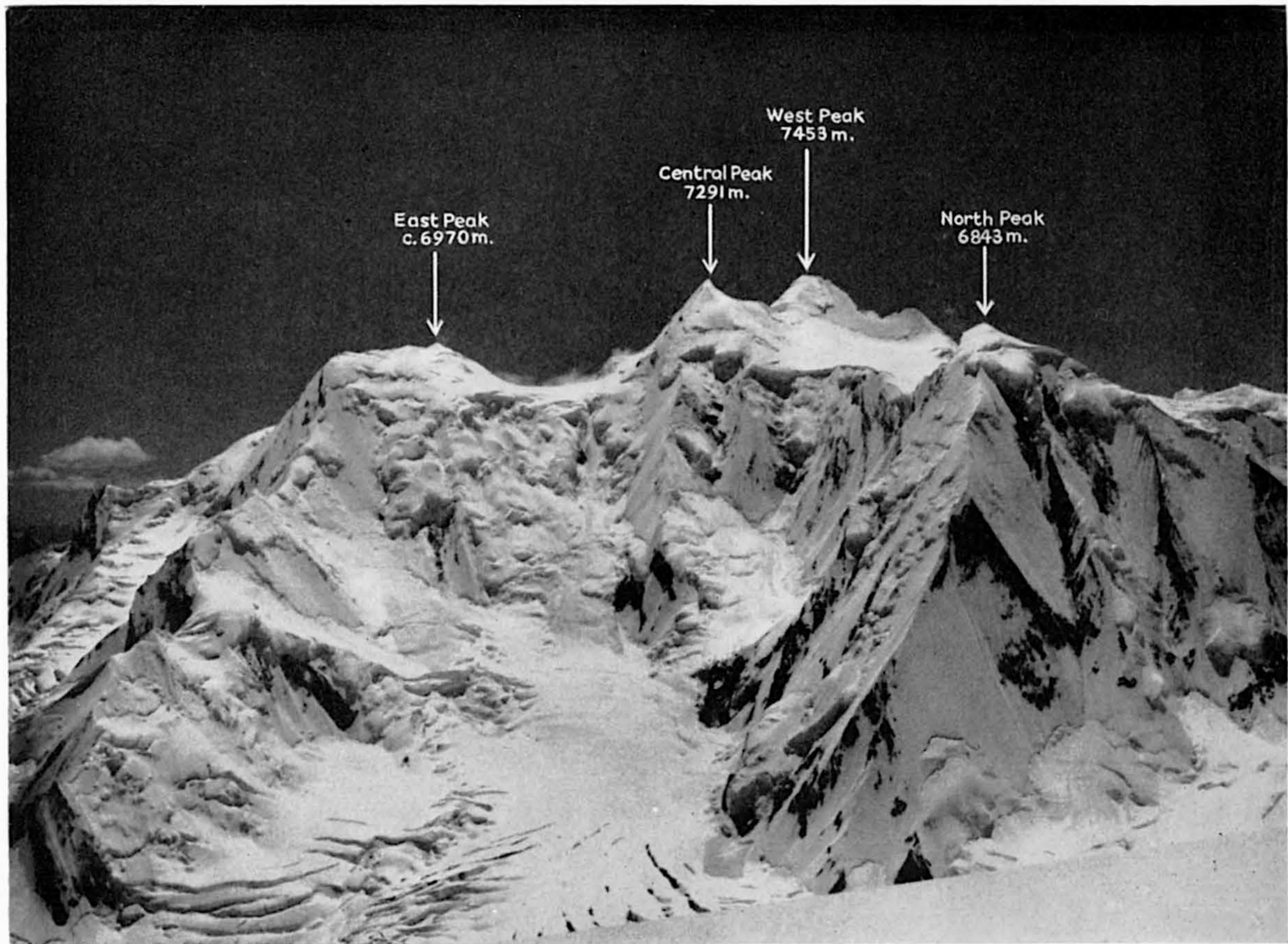
be shaped like a man and to walk about on its hind legs, which seems less reasonable, though a skinned bear can look distressingly human.

It was not until many years later when I happened to look in my diary after I had read of Abominable Snowmen and Yetis that I realised what I had missed.'

MALUBITING.—The highest mountain group of the Chogo Lungma glacier region is the Malubiting massif. Its principal summit, Peak 46/42 L, was intersected at a distance of eighty-eight miles and at a very acute angle by the Survey of India in 1863 and assigned a height of 24,470 ft. (7,459 m.). The peak was again measured, and this time more favourably, by the 'Indo-Russian Connection' triangulation of 1912-13 from the Hunza region, though its situation and height remained unaltered. In all, the Survey of India fixed the height and position of seven peaks in the Chogo Lungma region. Engineer Wilhelm Kick, to whom I am indebted for this information, adhered to these seven points in the course of his survey in the autumn of 1954. As a result of several days' work among the official archives in London he obtained accurate information about the base-lines and the trigonometrical starting points and the method of calculation utilised. As his survey of the district itself was far more detailed he was able to establish the relative difference in altitude between the seven peaks but not, naturally, their true height above the level of the sea, so he had to relate his trigonometrical net, in itself unaltered, to the whole block of seven points by a Helmert-Transformation.

As a result, he arrived at a height of about six metres lower for the highest peak of Malubiting, 7,453 m. (24,451 ft.). The greatest difference, however, was obtained for the beautiful peak 56/43 I ('Laila'), whose previous 'official' height increased by 33 m., from 6,952 to 6,985 m.

As Wilhelm Kick's sketch map shows, the Malubiting massif has not merely two, but *four* summits. The Central Peak is, according to Kick, 7,291 m. (23,920 ft.) high, and this figure was accepted by the Survey of Pakistan and communicated to Major H. R. A. Streater. The East Peak is the only one to have been climbed until now and its height is not yet officially established. The East shoulder, which can only be seen from the lower Chogo Lungma glacier, has, according to Kick, a height of about 6,870 m. (22,540 ft.) but several photographs taken by the Frankfurt Expedition of 1955 in a south-westerly direction during their ascent of Spantik (7,029 m. = 23,062 ft.) show clearly that the ridge of the East Peak continues to rise in a westerly direction so that its highest point must be assessed at about 6,970 m. (22,868 ft.). There is thus only a small difference between this figure and Streater's



East Peak
c. 6970m.

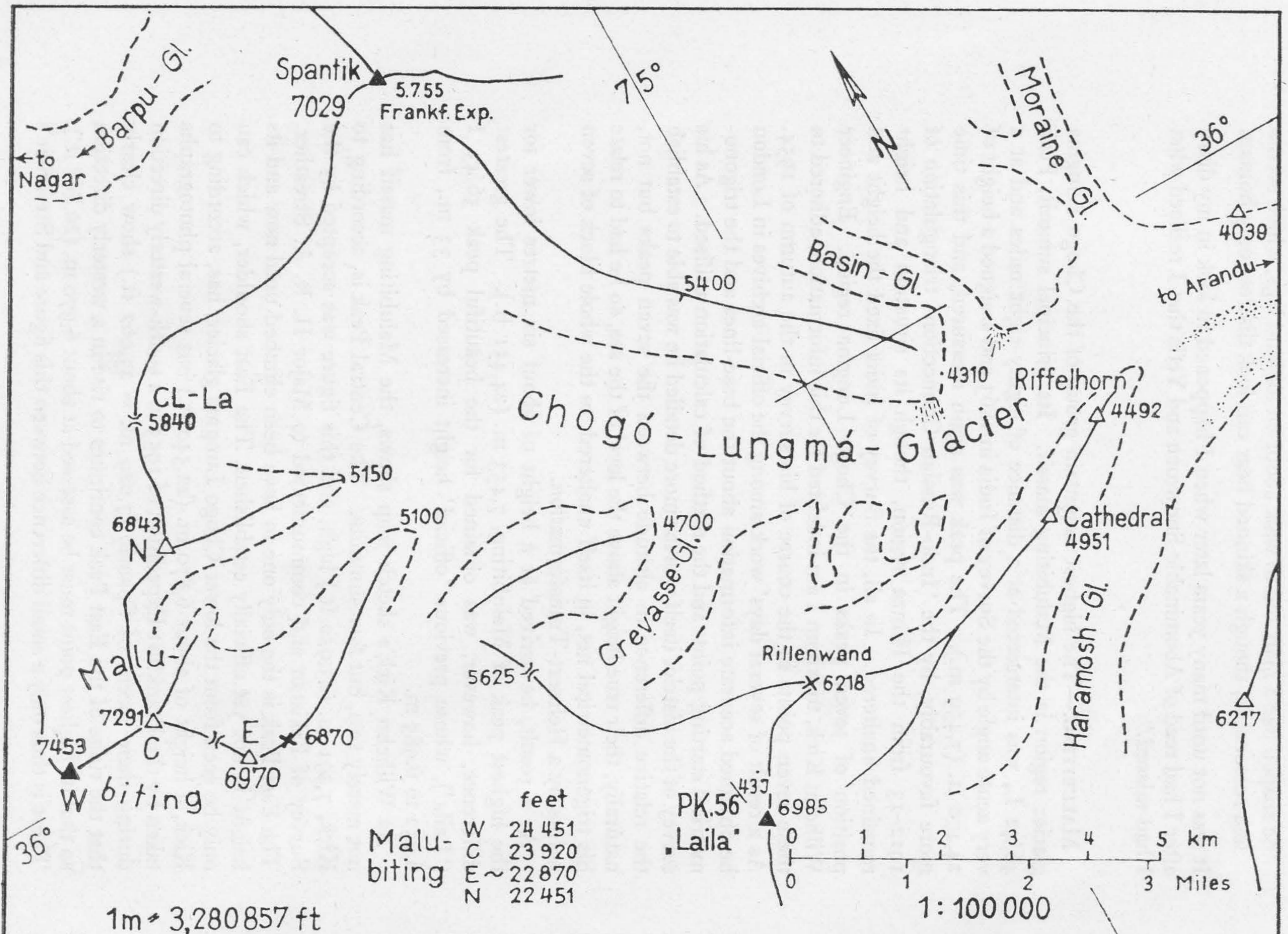
Central Peak
7291 m.

West Peak
7453 m.

North Peak
6843 m.

Photo, Frankfurter Karakorum Expedition, 1955]

THE MALUBITING MASSIF.



Sketch of upper Chogó Lungmá based on the triangulation and survey of W. Kick, Regensburg, Oct. 1954.

estimate, which gave a height of 'about 23,000 ft.' for the East Peak (*A. J.* 65. 47). The first ascent of this summit was made on August 2, 1959, by A. J. Imrie and J. Akhter.

The North Peak (6,843 m. = 22,451 ft.) has not yet been climbed but there are two certain 'seven-thousanders' still virgin in the Malubiting massif, the Central Peak (7,291 m.) and the West Peak (7,453 m.).

G. O. DYHRENFURTH.

NANGA PARBAT.—A German party, under the leadership of Dr. Karl Herrligkoffer, made an attempt by the Diamir face last summer. The route selected lay between the Mummery rib of the 1895 attempt and the rib chosen by the German 1939 expedition.

A party of three occupied the highest camp at 23,458 ft. on June 20 but was forced to retreat next day by bad weather.

The problem of a route on the Diamir face appears to have been solved by this expedition for there was no apparent difficulty between the camp and the Bazhin Scharte some 2,200 ft. above, and from here it would be possible to follow Hermann Buhl's route to the summit.

PUMORI.—A tragic accident occurred on Pumori on December 7 when the Swiss climber Werner Stäuble and a Sherpa fell into a crevasse in the course of a photographic expedition. Both were killed.

Stäuble was a member of the Swiss-German 1955 expedition to Dhaulagiri when he reached a height of 7,400 m. and was leader of the 1958 expedition which was defeated by almost persistent bad weather.

HIMALAYAN PLANS.—Major E. J. E. Mills is leading a mixed British-Pakistani expedition to the Karakoram to make a reconnaissance of Khinyang Chhish (25,762 ft.) and Pumarikish (24,457 ft.). An attempt will be made to climb one of these peaks should a possible route be revealed on either mountain.

An all-women expedition led by Countess Gravina is going to Western Nepal to explore the area between the Patrasi Himal and the Kanjiroba Himal and hopes to climb whatever presents itself as practicable.

Lionel Terray leads a French party to make another attempt on Jannu (25,294 ft.) and a Swiss-German party, leader Gerhard Lenser, will attempt Pumori (23,190 ft.).