

## ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

HONOURS.—We congratulate Mr. E. Mensforth upon receiving a Knighthood, and Commander G. L. Densham, R.N., and Mr. B. R. Goodfellow on the award of the O.B.E.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—On July 11, 1862, A. W. Moore and H. B. George made the first crossing of the Sesiajoch with Christian Almer (who 'led the way up with a skill and promptitude that could not be surpassed') and Matthias Zumtaugwald. A week later T. S. Kennedy<sup>1</sup> and W. Wigram with J-B. Croz and J. M. Kronig achieved the first ascent of the Dent Blanche. Kennedy deserved this success; he had made an attempt on the mountain a few days earlier with Peter Taugwalder *père et fils* and his defeat on that occasion was due to the failure of the Taugwalders who found the Dent Blanche altogether too much for them.

Among other great achievements of the summer was the first passage of the Jungfrauoch by six British climbers and seven guides. Leslie Stephen's account of the expedition is well known and ensures a place in Alpine history for Peter Rubi, the man who carried the ladder by which the great crevasse was crossed and who 'appeared to think it rather pleasant than otherwise to have his head fixed in a kind of pillory between two rungs of a ladder with twelve feet of it sticking out behind and twelve feet before him'.

J. Llewellyn Davies, who in 1858 was the first to reach the summit of the Dom, and J. W. Hayward made the first ascent of the Täschhorn: A. W. Moore and H. B. George with Christian Almer and Ulrich Kaufmann conquered the Gross Fiescherhorn and in August, Stephen and E. S. Kennedy<sup>2</sup> with the latter's man-servant, and Melchior Anderegg as sole guide, made the first ascent of the Disgrazia. Kennedy's entertaining account of this expedition is the opening article of the first volume of the *Alpine Journal*.

At the other end of the Alps F. F. Tuckett, having made the second ascent of Monte Viso and spent a night upon the summit, swept through the Dauphiné, making a new route on Mont Pelvoux and the first attempt on the Ecrins and—more important—he succeeded in solving

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Stuart Kennedy, 1841-94.

<sup>2</sup> Edward Shirley Kennedy, 1817-98.

many of the problems that hung over the topography of the region and showed that the mysterious Montagne d'Oursine or Pointe des Arcines was none other than the Barre des Ecrins.

To the Swiss pair, Edmund von Fellenberg and Abraham Roth fell the Weisse Frau and Doldenhorn.

T. S. Kennedy made from Zermatt the first winter attempt on the Matterhorn and in the summer Edward Whymper resumed his attempts from the Italian side and after reaching, by himself, a height of 13,400 ft. (the highest point yet attained on the mountain) he slipped on the descent and suffered the fall so graphically illustrated in *Scrambles*. So great was the urge to climb the Matterhorn that Canon Carrel of Aosta wrote to F. F. Tuckett to enquire if the Alpine Club would offer a pecuniary reward to the man who should find the way to the summit but the latter did not think it right thus to tempt people who might risk their lives on an enterprise with no scientific aim.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Alpine Club held on December 15, 1862, 'it was resolved that a Journal of the Alpine Club should be published quarterly and supplied gratuitously to the members of the Club and sold to the public and the Committee accept with cordial thanks the offer of Mr. George to undertake the Editorship of the Journal'.

ÖSTERREICHISCHER ALPENVEREIN.—We offer our heartiest congratulations to the Austrian Alpine Verein on the occasion of its Centenary. Founded in Vienna on November 19, 1862, by Paul Grohmann, Edmund von Mojsisovics and Guido von Sommaruga, the original organisation of the O.A.V. did not meet the requirements of the time; its main activities took place in Vienna in the form of meetings with lectures on mountain ascents, alpine journeys and scientific observations. Many of the members, however, did not live in Vienna and these demanded a greater activity on the part of the Association in founding sections outside Vienna which should be charged with the opening of the Eastern Alps by the building of huts and construction of footpaths in their own districts.

The younger members such as Franz Senn, the climbing *curé* of Vent, and Hans Stüdl, who supported these views, found that many German mountaineers, particularly from Munich, shared their opinions and in 1869 they founded the Deutscher Alpenverein at Munich. In the first years of its existence this had more Austrian than German members; from 1870-73 its Central Committee was in Vienna and it had sections in many Austrian provincial towns.

The result was that at the end of 1873 the two associations united to form the Deutscher and Österreichischer Alpenverein, the O.A.V. becoming the Austria Section of the new body and the Central Com-

mittee alternating every three—and later every five—years between an Austrian and a German section. An intense activity followed the founding of the D. und O.A.V. and it eventually had more than 220,000 members and some 500 club huts. Many of the huts were lost as a result of the revision of boundaries after the 1914–18 war, seventy-two becoming Italian property and twelve falling to Yugoslavia, but fifteen years later these losses had been made good by the construction of new huts in the Austrian Alps.

The end of the second World War saw the dissolution of the partnership and the O.A.V. once again resumed a separate existence. It had great difficulties to face, but all were overcome; today it owns 250 huts and has more than 166,000 members including a total of 10,000 living in Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark and Holland.

The activities of the O.A.V. are not, however, confined to the building of huts and paths. The *Mitteilungen des O.A.V.* is sent to members eight times yearly and in 1962 the *Jahrbuch* reaches its eighty-third issue (publication was suspended during the two wars). It supervises some 800 guides, and 80 per cent of the 3,000 volunteer members of the mountain rescue organisation of Austria belong to the O.A.V.

The mountaineering achievements of its members are too widespread and too well known to be mentioned here but it may be worth recalling that they include the first ascents of four of the 8,000 m. peaks of the Himalaya; expeditions to the Pamirs and the Andes have also been sponsored.

It may not be generally known that the O.A.V. is one of the largest land owners in Austria and owns not only the Gross Glockner (the highest mountain in Austria) and its surroundings, but also large areas stretching from south of the Hohe Tauern to the Italian frontier. All these are, or will become, protected districts, the equivalent of our National Parks.

We offer our best wishes to the O.A.V. for its continued prosperity.

AROLLA.—Arolla, recently made more accessible by the construction of a motor road, now faces a greater misfortune. *Les Alpes* reports that application has been made for a concession to build a *téléphérique* to the summit of the Pigne d'Arolla (12,454 ft.). We trust the concession will not be granted.

AN HISTORIC ICE-AXE.—Professor Finch, in his Valedictory Address,<sup>3</sup> recorded having seen through a telescope von Kuffner's ice-axe planted in the snow near the summit of the Eiger, and posed the question, 'I wonder where it is now?'

<sup>3</sup> *A.J.* 67. 1.

This axe was left on the Eiger in 1885 when Herr Moritz von Kuffner with Alexander Burgener, J. M. Biner, and Alois Kalbermatten made the first descent of the Mittellegigrat. It was found by G. A. Hasler's party, who made the second descent in 1905, and was seen again, still in position, on the occasion of the first ascent in 1921.<sup>4</sup>

Mr. S. Kuffner has recently informed me that his father's axe is now in the Zermatt Museum and was good enough to have sent to me a photograph showing it in one of the rooms of the museum; there is thus no doubt about its present location.

It has not yet been possible to ascertain by whom, and when, the axe was brought down from the Eiger and presented to the museum. M. C. Egmond d'Arcis has, however, kindly undertaken to make enquiries and there are thus hopes that the problem may be solved.

JUNGFRAU.—Fifty years ago, in August, 1912, the Jungfrauoch station was opened for traffic. Plans are now being prepared to extend the railway by way of a tunnel through the mountain to a point 200 ft. below the top of the Jungfrau. The journey will be completed by lift but the terminus will be underground and will not be visible from the summit.

This scheme will complete the original plan of the designer, Herr Guyer-Zeller, whose intention it was to terminate the line inside the Jungfrau a short distance below the summit.

It is worth recording that when the scheme was debated in the Swiss Federal Assembly in December, 1894, an amendment was accepted by which the right of all persons who reached the summit on foot to move about freely on top was specially reserved.

The promoters of the original scheme hoped to carry 10,000 travellers annually. It is now no unusual occurrence for 2,000 or more people to be conveyed to the Jungfrauoch in a single day.

PEAKS AND PASSES.—With reference to the Passo d'Aurona and the observations made in *A. J.* 66.386, Mr. Sanseverino writes that his well-intentioned but erroneous adoption of the afore-mentioned name seems to have created considerable confusion as there are no less than three cols with the same nomenclature in the Wasenhorn-Hillenhorn group of the Lepontine Alps. Replying to a recent enquiry from Mr. Sanseverino, M. Marcel Kurz wrote: 'I have read again your note in *A. J.* 66.155 and I can well understand the confusion. The col (2,731 m. C.N.) which you crossed is named Passo di Valgrande in my *Guide des Alpes Valaisannes* (vol. iv. p. 30). It is without a name on the *Carte Nationale*. I have adopted the name Passo di Valgrande because

<sup>4</sup> See *A. J.* 34. 167, where the axe is stated to have been Burgener's.

that of Passo d'Aurona employed by Brusoni<sup>5</sup> and Gerla<sup>6</sup> is much too vague. There are no less than three passes of this name which lead into the Aurona valley: hence the confusion. Your pass is certainly the least easy, at any rate on the Italian side. Your traverse of the Passo di Valgrande is the first known passage by a tourist but all these passes were crossed long ago by hunters. . . .'<sup>7</sup>

NORWAY:—The April issue of the *Bulletin* of the S.A.C. gives the latest official heights of some Norwegian mountains. Galdhøpiggen, at one time thought to be the highest peak in Norway, is dethroned and gives place to Glittertind. The three highest peaks are Glittertind, 2,470 m.; Galdhøpiggen, 2,469 m.; Store Skagastolstind, 2,405 m.

ANTARCTICA.—In the course of a sledge journey from Halley Bay Messrs D. Arduş and C. Johnson made an attempt on the highest peak (7,500 ft.) of the Tottan mountains in November, 1961. In brilliant weather they got to within 50 ft. of the summit when they were faced by a vertical rock wall which they were unable to climb in their soft-soled footwear.

The peak, which is in Norwegian territory, was named Mount Krone. The Tottan range, about 200 miles inland from the Caird Coast, was discovered by Sir Vivian Fuchs and his companions in January, 1957, while on a reconnaissance flight from Halley Bay, though the possible existence of high mountains in the area had been reported by Dalglish a few months earlier. Some of the peaks of the range were estimated to exceed 9,200 ft. and it is surprising to learn that Arduş and Johnson assign a height of only 7,500 ft. to the highest summit.

The Axel Heiberg glacier, by way of which Amundsen reached the Polar plateau on his journey to the South Pole, was descended in January last by the southern field party of the New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition. Members of this party also made the first ascent of Mt. Fridtjof Nansen (c. 13,500 ft.).

The fifth ascent of Mt. Erebus has been made by two members of the U.S. Antarctic Research Programme.

KILIMANJARO.—In March last three French parachutists were successfully dropped on the crater rim of Kilimanjaro (19,340 ft.). This is claimed to be the highest parachute landing yet achieved, the previous record being for a drop on to Mont Blanc.

RUWENZORI.—Mr. David Pasteur has kindly sent us, for the Club library, a copy of the second edition (November, 1961) of a draft *Guide to the Ruwenzori*, which has been prepared for the Mountain Club of

<sup>5</sup> E. Brusoni: *Guida alle Alpi centrali italiane* (p. 305), Milan, 1908.

<sup>6</sup> *Rivista Mensile*, 1892, p. 280.

<sup>7</sup> Translated from the French.

Uganda by himself and Mr. H. A. Osmaston. Mr. Pasteur stresses that the guide, which is at present duplicated in typescript, is still far from complete. Besides descriptions of the climbs, however, it contains much valuable practical information on such matters as access to the Ruwenzori and to the central peaks, maps, porters and guides, supplies, huts, equipment required, accident procedure, main walking routes, vegetation and animal life. Even in its present form, it is clearly indispensable for anyone planning to visit the range.

**MOUNT MCKINLEY.**—Lt.-Col. M. E. B. Banks, Lieutenant H. Wiltshire (both of the Royal Marines) and Chief Technician J. Hinde, R.A.F., reached the summit of Mt. McKinley (20,320 ft.) on the night of July 2–3, being the first British party to achieve the ascent.

**PIK STALIN.**—This, the highest mountain in Russia, has undergone yet another change of name. Formerly known as Mount Garmo it has now been re-christened Communism Peak. It cannot, however, claim the distinction of being the eighth highest mountain in the world, as reported in a T.V. news bulletin.

The summit was reached in August last by four members of the British Pamir Expedition, accompanied by four Russians. The British climbers are the first foreigners to have made the ascent.<sup>8</sup>

**KARAKORAM OR KARAKORUM ?:**—The correct spelling of this name and which form should be used in the *Alpine Journal* seems a permanent problem. It may be of interest to give the views of some leading authorities.

The Secretary of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names writes that his committee is in favour of Karakoram which is the conventional spelling as shown on British and British-Indian maps for many years past. The P.C.G.N. accepts this as an 'international' feature and their principle of work is that for features of this kind they must adhere to the conventional form.

Dr. T. G. Longstaff writes that 'it is to be regretted that Karakoram is now the official spelling of this name. The mistake probably arose from following the rules for the transliteration of Urdu into English. But the word is of the Turki language of Central Asia and not Urdu. The name of the ancient capital of the Mogul Turks in distant Mongolia always has been and still is written Karakorum. The camping place beside the Hispar glacier, half-way to that pass from Nagyr, is still written Makorum. As well might we change the Burush names Masherbrum and Gasherbrum.'<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> The first ascent of Communism Peak was made in 1933 by E. Abalakov.

<sup>9</sup> *This my Voyage*, p. 297.

The opinion of Professor G. O. Dyhrenfurth is to be found on p. 94 of *To the Third Pole*.<sup>10</sup> 'Karakorum is a Turkish word meaning 'Black Rubble'—a strange name for one of the world's most glittering high ranges, fantastically rich in glaciation. The name comes from the Karakorum Pass, with its dark mountains, over which goes the caravan route from Leh to Eastern Turkistan (Sinkiang), and has unfortunately been transferred to the mountain range. . . . English literature uses the form 'Karakoram', a spelling followed in our earlier German publications by Marcel Kurz and myself. We have, however, learned our error. It is surely more correct to write this name as it is written in the original Turkish, namely, Karakorum, with the accent on the final syllable.'

Monsieur Marcel Kurz shares this view: 'To conform to the chief authority of this himalayan chain and to the best existing maps we have until now adopted in all our publications the English way of spelling used by Burrard, *Karakoram*, but in 1933, in the second edition of his famous work (*A Sketch of the Geography and Geology of the Himalayan Mountains and Tibet*, Delhi, 1933), Burrard himself rejects this spelling and adopts *Karakorum*. We have long hesitated to do likewise. Thus, Dyhrenfurth has retained *Karakoram* in his classic work *Baltoro* (Benno Schwabe, Bâle, 1939) and even in his recent article 'Die Achttausender', (*Les Alpes*, 1945, nos. 1-7). But in the *Österreichische Alpenzeitung*, 1936, p. 59, Wilhelm Brandenstein proves beyond doubt that the spelling *Karakorum* is the only correct form.

In English the two forms of spelling are pronounced almost without any phonetic difference but for us continentals the Turkish spelling *Karakorum* alone is correct. Kara = black: korum = gravel. This is the name that the merchants of Turkestan have given to the pass (5,570 m.) that their caravans cross to Leh, the capital of Ladak. As a result, the name has extended to the whole chain of snow-capped mountains, which is most unsuitable because of its dazzling whiteness which catches the eye. . . . Henceforth we will adopt the Turkish spelling *Karakorum*.'<sup>11</sup>

Professor Kenneth Mason, on being asked for his comments on these opinions, points out that there is a distinct difference between the Turkish and Eastern Turki languages and that 'Aurel Stein and other authorities on Eastern Turki preferred *Kúram* or *Kóram*. It is entirely incorrect to accent the last syllable as suggested by Professor Dyhrenfurth. Nor is there any real authority to connect the Karakoram Pass with the old Mogul homeland. *Aq-su* (white water), *Kara-su* (black water), *Aq-koram* (white gravel), *Kara-koram* (black gravel), are all very

<sup>10</sup> This is the English edition of *Zum dritten Pol*, translated from the German by Hugh Merrick.

<sup>11</sup> *Montagnes du Monde*, 1947, p. 145. Translated from the French.

common names in Central Asia wherever Eastern Turki is the language.

Karakoram was adopted over one hundred years ago after consultation with the best authorities. Montgomerie and our early surveyors used it; and it has been consistently used by the Government of India, the Imperial Gazetteers, the Survey of India, and the Royal Geographical Society ever since.

Burrard, in the second edition of his Himalayan work, has misquoted several of the earlier travellers, e.g. Moorcroft. He also quotes Wahab as a linguistic authority but Persian and Arabic were his specialities, not Turkish or Eastern Turki. Neither he nor Burrard went near the Karakoram.

At the time when the Karakoram Committee met in London to discuss nomenclature (1936-37), the question of *RAM* or *RUM* was again considered and reference was made to India's linguistic experts who again advised *RAM*. Various travellers were also consulted; the Vissers were the only ones who preferred *RUM*. Burrard, who was shown the draft proposals before submission to India, assented to Karakoram. I do not know what the modern views of India and Pakistan are now. My official maps—admittedly not post 1950—still show Karakoram.'

So far as the *Alpine Journal* is concerned, it would seem that the best policy is that followed by the Editors for some years, namely, to allow contributors to use whichever form of spelling they prefer.

**MOUNT EVEREST.**—The first American attempt on Mount Everest will be made in the spring of 1963, led by Norman G. Dyhrenfurth of Santa Monica, California. Dr. William E. Siri, who led the California Makalu Expedition of 1954, will be Deputy Leader, and Dr. William Unsoeld, who reached the summit of Masherbrum in 1960, will act as Climbing Leader. Lt. Col. J. O. M. Roberts will accompany the eighteen-man American team as Transport Officer.

Although Mount Everest is the main mountaineering objective of the expedition, subsequent attempts on the summits of Lhotse and Nuptse (the latter would involve a new route from the Lhotse Face) are contemplated. Passang Phutar of Namche Bazar will be Sirdar, Chotari Assistant Sirdar, and Thondup chief cook. There will be a total of thirty-five Sherpas.

In addition to the somewhat ambitious mountaineering programme, scientific studies in the fields of glaciology, physiology, psychology, and sociology will be carried out. Among the principal sponsors of the expedition are the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, and several others.

The expedition has been incorporated as a non-profit organisation,

and all income from films, articles and books will go to the future American Everest Foundation.

The team plans to depart from Kathmandu on February 20, 1963, and to reach its acclimatisation camp at Pheriche on March 7. Base Camp, at the foot of the Khumbu ice-fall, will be occupied towards the end of March. With all of April devoted to the problems of the ice-fall and the Lhotse Face, it is hoped that weather and snow conditions will make it possible to attempt Everest and perhaps Lhotse and Nuptse as well between May 1 and June 1.

For the first time in the history of American Himalayan expeditions men high in government have expressed strong interest in next year's venture. The expedition has the blessing of President Kennedy and the active support of Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, as well as that of Senators Warren Magnuson, Clair Engle and others.

NORMAN G. DYHRENFURTH.

HIMALAYA, 1962.—MM. Desmason, Keller and Paragot, of the French expedition led by Lionel Terray, accompanied by a Sherpa, made the first ascent of Jannu (25,294 ft.) on April 27. Other members of the party reached the summit next day.

Japanese parties had several successes. On May 3 and 5 seven members of one of their expeditions reached the summit of Lönpo Gang (23,240 ft.).<sup>12</sup> Later in the month they made the first ascents of Nupchu (23,059 ft.) and of Chamlang (24,012 ft.) and Hangde (22,822 ft.), in the Mukut Himal, was climbed by another Japanese party.

The German expedition to Nanga Parbat succeeded in climbing the mountain by the Diamir face, on which Mummery disappeared in 1895. The summit was reached by T. Kinshofer, A. Mannhardt and S. Löw, but the last-named was killed on the descent.

Pumori (23,442 ft.)<sup>13</sup> was climbed for the first time by members of Gerhardt Lenser's Swiss-German expedition.

The second Indian attempt on Everest seems to have been even more unlucky than its predecessor and was forced to turn back by a blizzard when not far from the summit. It is hoped to print a full account of this expedition in our next issue.

Countess Gravina's all-women expedition climbed a 22,000 ft. peak in the Kanjiroba Himal, provisionally named Pinnacle Peak in honour of the club to which all six members of the party belonged.

<sup>12</sup> This is the highest summit of the Jugal Himal. It was on this peak that Crosby Fox's party met with disaster in 1957 and it had also been unsuccessfully attempted by the Japanese.

<sup>13</sup> On earlier maps the height of Pumori was given as 23,190 ft. The revised height as given on the latest R.G.S. map is 23,442 ft.

A lone German, while trying to climb Tirich Mir, was swept down by an avalanche at 21,500 ft. and badly hurt about the face.

Members of a joint Japanese-Pakistani expedition made the first ascent of Saltoro Kangri (K.36: 25,400 ft.) in the Karakoram on July 24.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> For an account of an attempt in 1935 see *A. J.* 47. 282.