

NOTES ON THE U.S.S.R., 1959-1963¹

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MOUNTAINEERS of the big cities, republics and regions of the Soviet Union are united in the Mountaineering Federation of the U.S.S.R. All the climbs made in this country are subdivided into the following classes: (1) *High altitude class*, i.e. ascents of summits above 6,000 m.; (2) *Face ascents class*, i.e. routes up faces or buttresses with an average steepness of not less than seventy-five degrees; (3) *Traverse class*, i.e. routes up to and across two or more peaks.

In accordance with difficulty, we classify routes into five categories, each with two sub-divisions, A and B. The easiest route will be classified as 1A, the most difficult as 5B. The difficulty of a route is determined by its height, duration, steepness and technical difficulties. The Mountaineering Federation of the U.S.S.R. has a Referee Body, which considers each autumn the reports on the most difficult climbs and decides the best for each class.

The following is a list of the best ascents made by Soviet mountaineers in the Pamirs, the Tien-Shan and the Caucasus during the five years, 1959-63.

1959

High altitude class

1. Ascent of Peak of Communism (7,495 m.) up the buttress from Beliaev glacier, performed by a team from Burevestnik Sports Society. The party consisted of five members and was led by K. Kuzmin, Honoured Master of Sport. Peak of Communism is located at the intersection of the Peter the Great and the Academy of Sciences ridges in the Pamirs. This route is the most difficult of all the routes made on the Peak of Communism so far. It begins at 4,900 m. from Beliaev glacier. It took four days to climb from 4,900 m. to 7,495 m., having overcome technically difficult rock pitches at 6,900 m.

2. First ascent of Akhmadi Donish Peak (6,667 m.) in the Pamirs, made by a team from Spartak Sports Society of eleven members led by V. Abalakov, Honoured Master of Sport.

3. Ascent of Peak of Communism up the East ridge made by a party

¹ We print these notes by courtesy of Mr. John Neill, to whom they were supplied privately. For a full survey of mountaineering developments in the U.S.S.R. up to 1956, see *A.J.* 61. 310-29.—EDITOR.

of ten Uzbek climbers from Mekhnat Sports Society under the leadership of V. Elchibekov, Master of Sport; and another ascent of the same summit by the 'Georgian' route from Beliaev glacier made by a team of fourteen members from Burevestnik Sports Society, led by E. Ivanov, Honoured Master of Sport.

Technically difficult ascents class

1. Ascent of Chatyn-Tau up the chimney on the North face, made by a party of three members from Burevestnik Sports Society. It was led by L. Myshliaev, Master of Sport.

2. Ascent of Chatyn-Tau up the North face, made by a team of four members under the leadership of A. Snesev from Trud Sports Society.

The North face of Chatyn-Tau is 500 m. high, with several cornices and an average steepness of eighty degrees. Pitons for artificial climbing had to be used.

3. Ascent of the Central Buttress of Shkhelda, made by a team from Avangard Sports Society (Ukrainian Republic). It consisted of four men and was headed by B. Subartovich. Duration of the route is about 800 m.; steepness of separate pitches is about eighty degrees.

Traverses class

1. Traverse of Peaks Leningrad—Abalakov East, located on the ridge of Peter the Great in the Pamirs. It was carried out by a team of twelve persons from Burevestnik Sports Society. K. Kuzmin was the leader. The length of the traverse is about 8 km. at an altitude of above 6,300 m.

1960

High altitude class

1. Ascent of Revolution Peak (6,985 m.) up the South-east ridge, made by a team of four members belonging to Burevestnik Sports Society from Leningrad. It was headed by S. Savvon, Master of Sport.

Technically difficult ascents class

1. Ascent of Ushba South summit (4,709 m.) up the West face, made by Burevestnik Sports Society team of two men (L. Myshliaev and O. Kosmachev). Height of the key pitch is 200 m. The route is ninety degrees steep and has several overhanging cornices.

Traverses class

1. Traverse of the peaks of the Zalumartski and Zaalaiki ridges in the Pamirs (Trenirocochnyi, Oktjabrski, Edinstva, Lenin, Dzherzhinski

Peaks), made by a team from the Georgian Alpine Club consisting of twelve persons under the leadership of L. Akhvlediani, Master of Sport. Duration of the traverse is more than 30 km. at the height of 6,000 m. and above.

1961

High altitude class

1. Ascent of Peak of Communism from Bivachnyi glacier, made by Burevestnik Sports Society. It had fourteen members and was led by E. Tamm.

2. Ascent of Korzhenevski Peak (7,070 m.) from the south by a team of Trud Sports Society. It consisted of twenty-one members and was headed by B. Romanov, Master of Sport.

Technically difficult ascents class

1. Ascent of Free Korea Peak (4,740 m.) up the North face, made by a team of Burevestnik Sports Society. It included four members and was led by L. Myshliaev, Master of Sport. This peak is situated on the ridge of Kirgizskoe—Ala-Tau in the Tien-Shan. The face is 800 m. high; average steepness is eighty-five degrees, with several cornices.

2. Ascent of Kirpich (Caucasus) up the South-east face, made by a team of Trud Sports Society. The party consisted of four members and was led by Y. Chernoslavin, Master of Sport. Height of key pitch is 500 m.; steepness above ninety degrees; no water for drinking.

1962

High altitude class

1. Ascent of Revolution Peak (6,985 m.) up the North-west face, made by a party of twelve persons organised by Burevestnik Sports Society; leader, L. Myshliaev. The peak is situated on the Yazgulemski ridge (Pamirs).

2. Ascent of Peak of Communism from Beliaev glacier along the 'Georgian' route, made by a team of Spartak Sports Society consisting of five members under the leadership of M. Khergiani, Honoured Master of Sport.

3. Joint ascents made by the parties of the British-Soviet Expedition: Concord Peak (5,780 m.; pioneer ascent),² led by Sir John Hunt; Patriot Peak (6,450 m.), by V. Malakhov and N. Alkhutov; Garmo Peak (6,615 m.), under the leadership of W. Noyce; Peak of Communism, led by A. Ovchinnikov (now awarded the Honoured Master of Sport title) and M. Slesser.

² Sir John Hunt's article (*A.J.* 68. 96) gives 5,640 m. for the height of this peak, for which the name 'Cooperation' was then proposed.—EDITOR.

4. First ascent of Peak 6,565 m. (Western Pamirs), made by a team from Burevestnik Sports Society. The party had six members and was led by S. Savvon, Master of Sport.

Technically difficult ascents class

1. Ascent of Dalar Peak (3,979 m.) up the North face, made by a party of Trud Sports Society. It had five members and was led by A. Snesev, Master of Sport. This peak is located in the western Caucasus. Average steepness is about eighty degrees; height is about 800 m. It took six days to climb it.

2. Ascent of Shurovski Peak up the North-west face, made by a party of climbers from Kabardino-Balkarskaja A.S.S.R. under the leadership of M. Khergiani, Honoured Master of Sport. Average steepness of the face is about eighty degrees; height is about 600 m. This route was repeated by the climbers from the Ukrainian Avangard Sports Society.

3. Ascent of the South summit of Ushba, made by climbers of the Red Army. The party had four members and was led by G. Zhivluk, Master of Sport. The length of the route is about 1,000 m.; steepness of separate pitches is up to seventy-five degrees.

1963

In view of bad snow conditions, the Mountaineering Federation of the U.S.S.R. did not recommend that the Caucasus ascents should be allowed to qualify as the best climbs of the season. However, the ascent of the South peak of Ushba, made by a party of four members under the leadership of A. Kustovski, from the Avangard Sports Society, may be considered as the best.