

## EXPEDITIONS

HINDU KUSH.—Several parties were active in this range last summer. An Austrian expedition made the third ascent of Noshaq (24,581 ft.) on August 21. The party reached the summit from the west making also the first ascent of the West Peak (23,622 ft.). The two previous ascents of Noshaq were both made by way of the South ridge.<sup>1</sup>

W. Pongratz and S. Kutschera of another Austrian expedition made the first ascent of Koh-i-Kesnikhan (23,622 ft.), and Urgend (23,091 ft.) was climbed for the first time by members of the first Swiss expedition to the Hindu Kush, led by Max Eiselin.

The Italian expedition 'Oxus 1963' explored Wakhan. From Qala Panja it reached the Little Pamir, discovering Jade Peak, known to the inhabitants of the region as Baba Tangi, *c.* 6,000 m. This was climbed by G. Bissin, G. Castelli, and C. Pinelli after three intermediate camps and a difficult ascent.<sup>2</sup>

PUNJAB HIMALAYA.—On October 7, 1963, R. G. Pettigrew and the Ladakhi Wangyal climbed the unnamed pass of 16,391 ft. between Kulu and the Bara Bangahal in the Dhaula Dhar range of the Punjab Himalaya. The pass is marked on the Survey of India Sheet 52H/SW, somewhat optimistically, as carrying a track westwards from the head of the Solang nullah, where we camped at 12,000 ft., into the valley of the Bara Bangahal. The new border road from Manali to the Rhotang La runs past the entrance to the Solang nullah at Pulcharn—a distance of six miles. The pass is situated a further ten miles and 9,000 ft. up the nullah in the terminal west wall which also forms the east face of the great ridge that runs from south to north linking Pk. 19,450 ft. (Bruce's Solang Weisshorn, known to the local hillmen as Hanuman Tibba) with Pk. 19,910 ft., Mukar Beh. In a brief reference to this pass in *H. J.* 5. 77, A. P. F. Hamilton described it as both difficult and high (16,890 ft.). A prominent, curved couloir, which retained snow though the lower wall had none, accommodated us for three-quarters of the climb. The last quarter was made in a poor relation; a steep little gully choked with rotten scree right up to the crest of the ridge. The aneroid barometer registered 16,000 ft., agreeing neither with Hamilton nor the Survey of India. We had a splendid view of the probably unclimbed North ridge of Pk. 19,450 ft. (Hanuman Tibba). It rises some 3,000 ft. to the south

<sup>1</sup> *A. J.* 66. 243 *sqq.*

<sup>2</sup> *O. A. Z.*, no. 1331, contains an article about the Hindu Kush, with notes on recent expeditions and several sketch maps.

of the pass, is more than a mile long and offers some magnificent snow arêtes. The view west into the upper Bara Bangahal showed an easy glacier leading down at a gentle angle. The difficulties, such as they are, lie on the Solang or east side. This appears to be a new pass for mountaineers from Europe but it has obviously been used in the past by the nomadic shepherds known as ghaddis.

On October 12, 1963, Pettigrew and Wangyal reached the summit of an unclimbed and unnamed peak at the westernmost point of the north containing wall of the Solang nullah. It is situated two miles south of Mukar Beh, 19,910 ft., and two miles west of Shiti Dhar, 17,358 ft. Its height by aneroid barometer is 17,525 ft. The summit climb along the East ridge, with occasional excursions onto the North face, was made from a camp at 16,500 ft. situated on the névé of a glacier draining south into the Solang nullah. Good all-round views were obtained of the impressive and little known mountains, such as Mukar Beh, at this northern extremity of the Dhaula Dhar range. Mention must be made, too, of the edelweiss growing in profusion on a grassy alp between 13,500 ft. and 12,500 ft. and noted by us during the descent. The party consisted of I. R. Menzies, R. G. Pettigrew and the Ladakhis Wangyal and Zangbo.

ROBERT PETTIGREW.

**SRI KAILAS.**—An Indian expedition is reported to have made the second ascent of this peak, 22,742 ft., on June 14, 1963.<sup>3</sup>

**SAIPAL.**—Unsuccessfully attempted in 1954, Saipal (*c.* 23,080 ft.) was climbed for the first time on October 21, 1963 by a Japanese party from Kyoto.

**LANGTANG HIMAL.**—Signor Pietro Meciani writes that an Italian expedition organised by the Uget section of the C.A.I. visited this range in celebration of the centenary of the Italian Alpine Club. After climbing two peaks including Phrurang, an attempt was made on Gangchen Ledrub, 23,770 ft., but at about 19,700 ft. G. Rossi and C. Volante fell, struck by falling ice or stones. Rossi was killed on the spot and Volante died a few days later.

**PERUVIAN ANDES.**—The annual camp of the Colorado Mountain Club took place in the Quebrada Honda, in the central section of the Cordillera Blanca. Forty-one members, including eleven women, attended and it was perhaps the largest expedition that has ever visited the Andes. The first ascent of the impressive Copapamparaju, 17,520 ft., was made on June 28 and next day a party of seven reached the summit of an unnamed peak, 17,454 ft., which was christened Pico Colorado. Other first ascents were Copap, *c.* 17,400 ft., Paccarish, 17,311 ft.,

<sup>3</sup> See *A.J.* 51.83 for the first ascent.

an unnamed peak of 18,256 ft. on the Copap plateau, and another unnamed peak, 18,196 ft., north of Tocllaraju. Chaco, 17,450 ft., was climbed on June 29 and this, too, was believed to be a first ascent. Other peaks climbed were Chinchey, Tocllaraju, and Huascarán. Both peaks of the latter were also climbed by a Peruvian party.

In the Cordillera Huayhuash another American expedition reconnoitred the approaches to Jirishanca North (19,734 ft.) and made an attempt on Yerupaja (21,760 ft.), being forced to turn back at 20,700 ft. through lack of time and supplies. In the same range a Spanish party made the first ascent of the East face of Nevado Siula, 20,840 ft., by way of a very steep ice and snow couloir, descending by the North-west ridge. The Spaniards had previously been to Yauyos Province in Central Peru, and from a base camp near Huascaicocha lake had made twenty-two first ascents, including Cotoni, 19,090 ft., and Llongote, 18,970 ft. Such high peaks were not known to exist in the area, as it was thought that Huagaruncho, 18,799 ft., was the highest in Central Peru. The Spaniards, however, have not indicated by what methods their heights were obtained.

In the Cordillera de la Viuda, Peruvian parties climbed Michipinahui, *c.* 17,000 ft., and made the fourth ascent of Nevado Lasontay, *c.* 18,000 ft., the highest peak of the Huaytapallana range.

A Swiss expedition was also active in the Cordillera Huayhuash and made several first ascents including Cuyoraju, 17,454 ft., Cutatambo, 17,208 ft., and Sueroraju, 17,843 ft.<sup>4</sup>

An Italian expedition led by Fulvio Ratto visited Southern Peru last June. It discovered that the so-called Cordillera Paucartambo does not exist as a separate Cordillera but is a ramification of the Cordillera Vilcanota. The party, after exploring the Terihue or Terijuay range and climbing the highest peak (5,380 m.), and six other peaks over 5,000 m., went to the Sahuasiray massif and climbed both the North (5,720 m.) and South (5,670 m.) Peaks. During the descent from the North Peak Carlo Pivano, the deputy leader, was struck by a falling rock and killed.

PATAGONIA.—Pier Giorgio (9,515 ft.), the last virgin summit in the FitzRoy group, was climbed on January 16–17, 1963, by P. and J. Skvarca, members of an expedition organised by the Centro Andino Buenos Aires.

VENEZUELA.—Pico Bolívar (5,002 m.). October 26, 1963. On the occasion of a visit by Eric Shipton, the summit was climbed in wintry conditions,

<sup>4</sup> We are indebted to Senor E. Echevarria for the information contained in the above summary.

in the company of seven Shell staff and one wife. The ascent and descent were accomplished in the day from Mérida with the help of the *teleférico*.

GEORGE BAND.

ECUADOR.—The first ascent of Altar, 17,450 ft., in the Ecuadorian Andes, was made in July, 1963, by three Italians, F. Gaspard, M. Tremonti and C. Zardini.

Altar is an extinct volcano; the highest point lies on the southern rim of the crater, the second peak—only a little lower—is opposite on the northern rim.

The mountain was climbed from the south; a difficult ascent (V); pitons required.

The Italians also climbed Chimborazo.

MOUNT MCKINLEY.—The Wickersham Wall, which rises over 14,000 ft. to the North summit of Mount McKinley, was climbed for the first time in June last by H. Gmoser, G. Prinz, and H. Schwarz.

LOGAN RANGE.—After some very pleasant rock climbing on the East coast of the U.S.A. and some climbs in the Sierra Nevada and Yosemite, I joined up with three members of the A.A.C. and went on an expedition to the Logan range in North-west Canada, at about 61° N. This range is extremely inaccessible and very little explored. Entry was achieved by landing a float plane on a small lake.

Ten virgin summits of between eight and nine thousand feet were attained. The peaks were granite and offered climbing of excellent quality. The weather, in utter contrast to the McKinley range at much the same latitude, was above reproach. There is fine scope for further exploratory climbing in this range.

M. E. B. BANKS.

GREENLAND.—The 1963 Scottish East Greenland Expedition, led by Dr. Phil Gribbon and composed of members of the mountaineering clubs of St. Andrews University and the Royal College of Science and Technology, Glasgow, (four from each club) spent nine weeks in King Christian IX Land at the Caledonia group of the South Staunings Alps, East Greenland,

On July 3 we flew by chartered aircraft to the air strip at Cape Dan on a small island off the mainland. We sailed fifty miles, first by schooner through thick pack ice and then by motor boat, to establish our base camp at the head of the Tasissarssik inlet of Angmagssalik fjord. Our objectives were the unclimbed Quervains Bjoerg (8,850 ft.) and Pointe de Harpon (8,970 ft.), ninety miles inland, and close to Mount Forel (11,024 ft.), the second highest mountain in Greenland.

We hired two dog teams and drivers but after one night's work at

3,000 ft. on the ice-field they retired, owing to dangerous snow conditions. It was impracticable, even by hauling the minimum of gear on our pulka sledges, to continue to the objectives. A successful attempt would require an expedition to drive its own dog teams, or have an advanced air-drop.

Four perfect weeks were spent in the spectacular Caledonia group, west of the Knud Rasmussen glacier, and south of the area in which Hans Gsellmann's 1959 Austrian expedition operated. We made twenty-one first ascents, the routes chosen being normally long, sustained, and in the upper grades of technical difficulty. Most ascents were clean, steep rock ridges, the finest being Gruagach (5,370 ft.), Igitur (5,770 ft.), Trident de Neptune (5,980 ft.) and Obelisk (6,200 ft.). A four-man party ascended the rock and ice North ridge of our highest peak, Rytterknaegten (7,020 ft.) on the same day as two members of the Schweizerische-Deutsche Grønland expedition repeated André Roch's 1938 West ridge route, and bivouacked on the summit.

The final week was spent at the largest settlement, Angmagssalik, assessing the results of the subsidiary scientific programme. Both expeditions left Greenland on September 6 by charter plane to Iceland.

P. W. F. GRIBBON.

In the summer of 1963 an Italian climbing expedition, organised and led by Guido Monzino of Milan, visited the range of the Staunings Alps on the East Coast of Greenland.

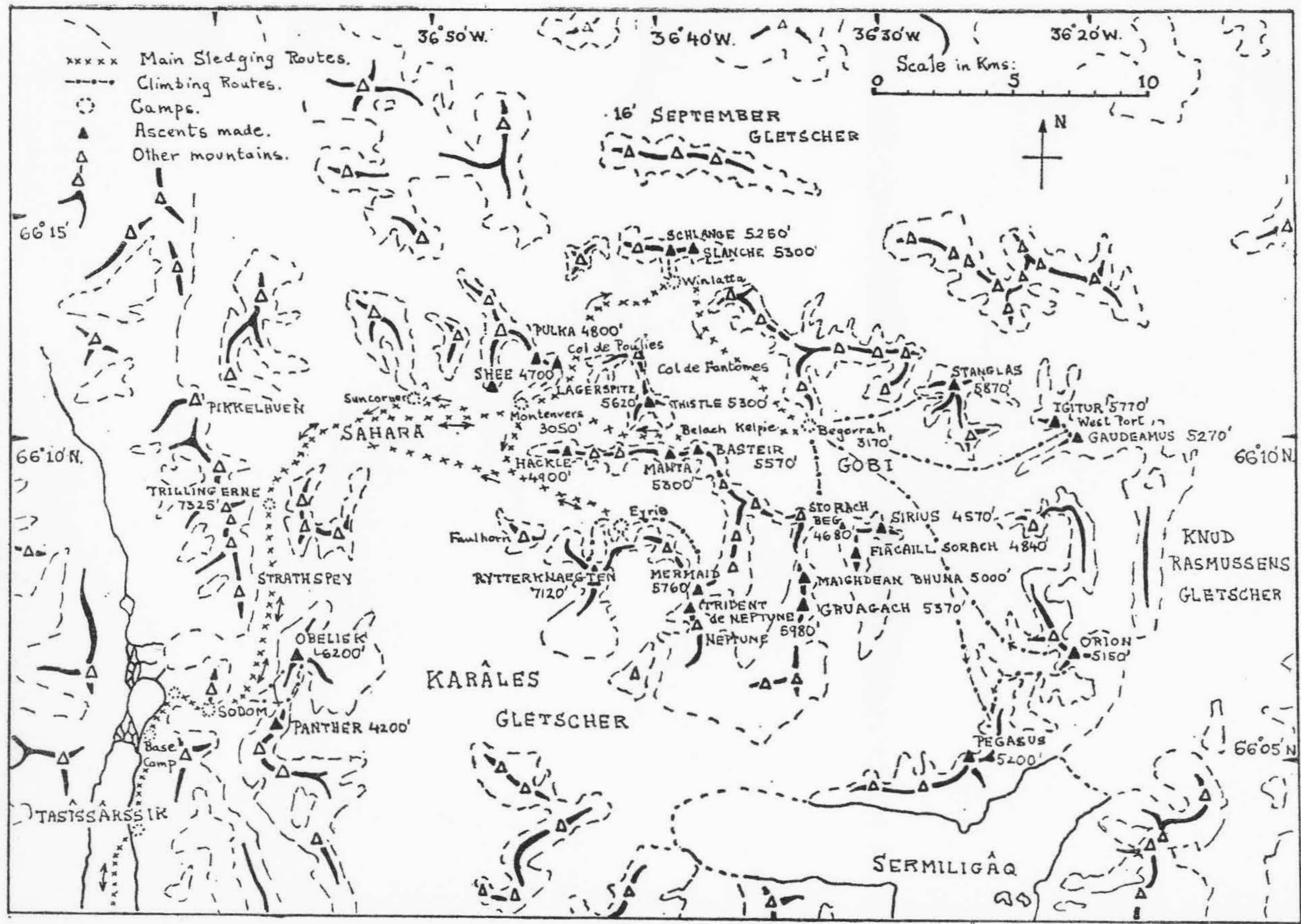
This expedition was the natural outcome of Guido Monzino's previous activity in Greenland during past years; he has already led three expeditions to the West coast.

The group, comprising various alpine guides of the Valtournanche, flew by chartered plane from Iceland to the Danish base of Mesters Vig, at approximately 72° latitude north, on the banks of Kong Oscars Fjord. According to the original programme, the expedition was supposed to reach the Petermann Peak zone from Mesters Vig by sea, along Kaiser Franz Joseph Fjord, but the presence of pack ice in Kong Oscars Fjord prevented navigation in the fjord. It was therefore decided to carry out a climbing programme in the eastern sector of the Staunings Alps, a range containing many interesting peaks.

After leaving Mesters Vig, the expedition reached a Danish mine in the Tunnelv—a large valley—and from there a pass which led into the Skeldal valley.

From the Skeldal, the expedition reached the Bersaerker glacier, one of the biggest descending from the Staunings Alps, which was climbed for some distance.

After setting up four camps the head of the Bersaerker glacier was reached, and from here a pass at *c.* 1,500 m. where a fifth camp was set up.



GREENLAND, STAUNINGS ALPS: CALEDONIA GROUP.



*Expedition photo]*

STAUNINGS ALPS: PEAK 2,220 M., CLIMBED IN AUGUST, 1963, BY THE ITALIAN GREENLAND EXPEDITION (*See p. 129*).

(No. 28)



KISOI MUNYAO ON THE SUMMIT OF NELION, DECEMBER 12, 1963 (*See p. 141*).

(No. 29)

A wonderful rocky peak, 2,200 m. in height, was climbed from this pass by the North-east ridge (see illustration, no. 28). Apart from carrying out the first ascent of the mountain, this was also the first ascent made by Italian mountaineers in the Staunings Alps.

Many photographs and a film were taken during the course of the expedition.

GUIDO MONZINO.

KAÇKAR (NORTH EASTERN TURKEY).—The Kaçkar group<sup>5</sup> lies towards the eastern end of the Pontic Alps of north-eastern Turkey, some thirty miles inland from the Black Sea and about the same distance west of the Georgian frontier of Soviet Russia. The district has been very little visited by mountaineers, and, so far as we are aware, no previous British ascent of any of the main summits has been made. W. R. Rickmers made several journeys there before the First World War and describes them in *A. J.* 46. 282. It has been visited by a glaciological expedition, whose report was published with a deceptive sketch-map in the *Revue de la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université d'Istanbul* (Series B, volume xiv).

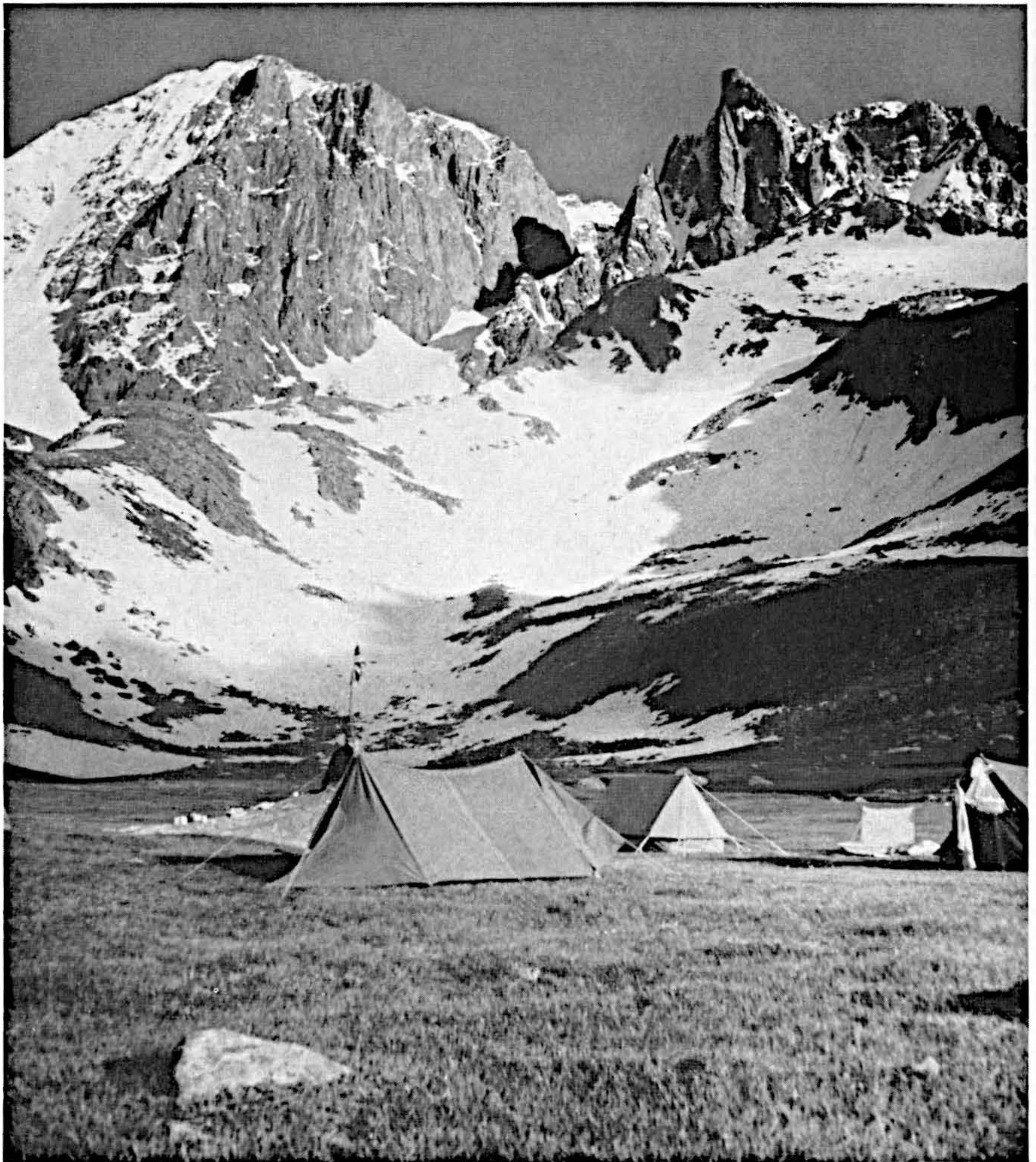
The largest scale map is 1/200,000 printed by the Army Cartographical Institute at Ankara and normally unobtainable. This gives the height of Kaçkar Dag, the principal peak, as 3,937 m., which seems to be generally accepted, and that of the other main peaks further north-east as between 3,500 m. and 3,600 m. A peak of 3,711 m. (Verçinin Tepe) commands a separate group fifteen miles to the south-west.

Robin Fedden and Basil Goodfellow spent two and a half weeks in these mountains from June 28, 1963, with Patrick Brunner and David Winfield, an English archaeologist working in the area whose fluent Turkish was of inestimable value. Although our activities were much restricted by the weather, for which this Eastern Black Sea hinterland is notorious, we were able to ascend the two principal peaks and see a good deal of the terrain on these and other expeditions.

The mountains are good second-class peaks, comparable to alpine groups of 3,200/3,500 m. Each of the main peaks appears to have an easy route up it, generally from the south by snow-slopes which probably dry out to scree in the height of summer. But the south was then a prohibited military zone and we, being thus compelled to climb from the much grander northern side, were able to get some first-class rock climbs on the pinnacles which characterise these mountains. These offer sustained climbs of 400/500 m., often at a very high angle and of every degree of difficulty. The rock is mainly granitic, generally of superb quality on the steep faces, but sometimes execrable on the ridges.

In 1963 the season was alleged by the locals to be nearly a month late, as in Europe. Snow lay down to well under 3,000 m. and, though it

<sup>5</sup> See illustrations, nos. 36 and 37.



*Photo: B. R. Goodfellow]*

KACKAR DAG (3,937 M.) AND OUTLYING AIGUILLES. CAMP AT THE HEAD OF THE KAVRON VALLEY (*See p. 129*).

(No. 36)



*Photo: B. R. Goodfellow]*

LOOKING WEST TO CLOUD BANKS OVER THE BLACK SEA FROM SUMMIT OF KAÇKAR TEPE (3,605 M.) (*See p. 129.*)

(No. 37)

rarely froze at night, the snow conditions for climbing were markedly better than would have been the case in the Alps in similar circumstances. Thus we were able to reach the ridges or rock towers by snow couloirs, though attention had to be given to avalanche risk.

Kaçkar Dag has two glaciers on its north and west flanks, the latter steep and narrow, falling about 600 m. There are two or three smaller glaciers further to the north-east and there are many small lakes amongst the massive ice-age moraines. We found the higher ones still frozen.

The weather conditions are curious and inconvenient. The Black Sea breeze brings muggy air and a Scottish drizzle. Though the cloud-mantle in June and July rarely reaches above 3,000 m. or crosses the watershed into the dry Anatolian hinterland, it seems habitually to rise above the height (usually not much more than 2,500–2,700 m.) at which camps can comfortably be pitched. Though it is possible to climb most days in sunshine, return is all too often made to dank and dripping tents. Snow-sodden boots never dry out; ice-axes rust in the pervading damp and bread grows mouldy overnight.

The Turkish map is highly inaccurate as to the location of the upper valleys and of the summits. The heights tallied reasonably well with our aneroid readings. Our own attempts at map making were utterly frustrated by cloud and by strongly magnetic rock. On one summit a stone held in the hand swung the compass needle through 60°.

We set up our first main camp by the snow-line at the head of the Upper Kavron valley on an enchanting meadow of alpine flowers at 2,750 m., just below the Kaçkar Dag moraines and in full view of this splendid group of mountains. This camp was about six hours march from the last main village of Ilica. From this camp Fedden, Goodfellow and Winfield climbed Kaçkar Dag, 3,937 m., on July 1. Avoiding the obvious route by the North glacier and the North-east ridge because of cornices and avalanche menace, we went up the main West glacier under the cliffs falling on the North side of the peak, over a little bergschrund and steeply up to the col at its head and then up the South-west ridge. This was an easy climb of about five hours, excluding halts. On July 3 the most conspicuous aiguille north-east of Kaçkar Dag gave us an excellent rock climb to about 3,450 m. There was no sign of any previous ascent. There are at least a dozen similar climbs to be done, but the weather broke hopelessly and we moved camp to the head of the Avgeçor valley about twelve miles along the range to the north-east. From here in bad weather we climbed various summits up to 3,400 m. (none of them with any trace of previous parties), hoping to see some good mountains to climb. Fortunately we were able to mark two more good routes both on Kaçkar Tepe, 3,605 m., the highest summit of the North-eastern group of peaks. This is known locally as the Altiparmak ('Six Fingers'), and one of these six buttresses gave us a rock climb of admirable standard.

We later climbed the main peak taking an easy snow route in order to beat the weather.

A few general remarks on the character of the area may be of interest. A luxuriant rain-forest lies between 500 and 1,800 m. On the pastures above the tree-line there are no dwellings but *yaylas*, primitive shepherd settlements, occupied only in high summer. The shepherds are as honest as they are hospitable and friendly; but they are very unwilling porters. Later in the season horses are more readily obtainable. The women dress like peacocks in splendid costumes. In the easterly pastures are found the Laz, a curious ethnic and linguistic minority, numbering in the area between Kaçkar and the sea some 10,000. Their unwritten language is related to Georgian, and they are perhaps descendants of the early inhabitants of Colchis whom Jason and the Argonauts found on this coast.

Once we had established a proper understanding with the local people we were able to get milk, butter, cheese and honey from them. *Raki*, the local spirit, bread, tomatoes, onions, and occasionally meat and eggs, could be brought up from the road-head village of Ilica. We brought about half our estimated food with us from England and this proved to be more than enough.

The flora is impressive: in the forest belt *Rhododendron ponticum* and the elegant Pontic lily; near the tree-line sheets of yellow azalea; and flourishing from 2,300 m. as far up as the snow-banks at 3,000 m. the white low-growing *Rhododendron caucasicum*. The area is also noted for that energetic alpinist, familiar in the Himalaya, the Snow Cock (*Tetraogallus caspius* is the local form). A grey-speckled bird, otherwise resembling an enormous hen-pheasant without tail feathers, it is in the Kaçkar at the extreme western limit of its range. There are a few chamois and ibex, and bears are said to be common in the forests.

To avoid air freight it is tempting to bring heavy baggage as far as Istanbul by the Orient Express. It should be noted that the customs inexplicably close an hour before the arrival of this leisurely train, and are themselves more than leisurely in clearing the baggage when it does arrive. These operations lost us two days. From Istanbul the most convenient approach to Kaçkar is by air to Trabzon. (The church of Aghia Sophia at Trabzon with its wonderfully restored murals is now one of the most impressive monuments of the Byzantine era, and should not be missed.) Thence a jeep must be hired for the hundred-and-twenty-mile trip eastwards above the coast to Ardeşan and up the Büyük valley to the road-head at Ilica. The road deteriorates in proportion as the landscape grows more spectacular. The journey takes a full and fascinating day. It is not only courteous but politic to call on the Vali (the governor) at Rize and the Kaimakam (district commissioner) at Cemli Hemşin, the head village of the valley. At Ilica there is a very primitive

and very clean inn (2s. 6d. a night) with a friendly Laz innkeeper. Transport onward, whether horses or porters, is a problem that calls for infinite patience and more Turkish than one is likely to command. Even the most superficial knowledge of European languages is confined to the towns on the coast. Transport is not cheap. The jeep costs about £20 each way; a horse 28s. a day and a porter 16s.

R. FEDDEN.

B. GOODFELLOW.

### THE ALPS

(Further particulars of some of the climbs briefly reported in our last number have now been received.)

#### *Mont Blanc massif*

AIGUILLE VERTE, Couloir Couturier. July 24, 1963. A. Phillipson and H. D. M. Wilkin. In general, the Chamonix ice routes were in bad condition from the third week in July onwards, owing to the absence of frost by night. Although it froze slightly on the night of July 23, this was of little use beyond the first few hundred feet as the couloir, facing north-east, is directly exposed to the morning sun. Owing to the hot weather a lot of snow had already avalanched, which meant prolonged step-cutting in the steeper middle section. The snow that was left was fairly soft near the top of the couloir, so we traversed to the right onto the summit arête. Nonetheless, being over 3,000 ft. from bergschrund to summit, the climb must rank with the best routes in the area, and the views down the couloir were unforgettable. The Verte is a tricky mountain to descend and there are strong arguments for doing the climb by night, and aiming to be down by 9 a.m.

GRAND CAPUCIN, East face. August 11, 1963.—A. Phillipson and H. D. M. Wilkin. Fifteen hours from the bergschrund to the summit. Bivouac on the summit in a storm and descent next day in bad conditions. At least one other British party did the Capucin in a day, but I think ours was the first straight ascent from the Requin hut.

H. D. M. WILKIN.

AIGUILLE SANS NOM, North-west spur. August, 1963.—J. Brown and T. W. Patey. This first ascent is described as 'a fine, mixed route, E.D., and a bit longer than the North face of the Dru'. Time, 12 hours.

#### *Oberland*

EIGER, North face. July 29–August 1, 1963. D. Haston and R. Baillie. Three bivouacs; the first below the Difficult Crack, the second on the Flatiron, the third at the end of the Traverse of the Gods. Stonefall

was negligible, as the whole of the upper part of the wall was masked in verglas. This, however, made the pitches in the Ramp and the Exit Cracks very difficult and time-consuming. Two Austrians were passed at the Waterfall pitch in the Ramp, trying to get up the variation pitch. A rope was thrown down to assist them, and thereafter the party remained as a team of four.

ENGELHÖRNER: GROSS GSTELLIHORN, South-west pillar. July 22, 1963. Martin Epp and J. O. Talbot (second ascent). 'The Pillar is 500 m. high, and must be one of the hardest and most strenuous routes in its class (VI). With the exception of one short pitch, it is all free climbing.'<sup>6</sup>

MÖNCH, North face. July 27, 1963. Same party. 'A magnificent climb, free from objective dangers, with a comfortable start from the Guggi hut and a short, easy descent to the Jungfrauoch. The wall is predominantly ice, and to get through without a bivouac it is essential not to cut steps.'

WETTERHORN, North-east pillar. July 29/30 to August 2/3, 1963. Same party (first ascent). 'Height, about 1,700 m. The route is strenuous and many of the pitches are extremely difficult, but there is little or no objective danger. From the scenic point of view it must rank as one of the most beautiful in the Alps.'

### *Dolomites*

BRENTA ALTA, North-east face (Detassis route). July, 1963. D. Hadlum and D. Gray. A fine free climb on a magnificently exposed face.

North face (Oggioni-Ajazzi dièdre). July, 1963. D. Haston and I. S. Clough. The climb lies to the right of the Detassis route, and was running with water. A grand mixture of hard artificial and free climbing, comparable perhaps with the Cassin route on the North face of the Cima Ovest di Lavaredo. 12 hours.

CROZZON DI BRENTA, North face (Aste dièdre). (An excellent picture of this route appears opposite *A. J.* 67. 276. The dièdre, in shadow, reaches the North ridge below the final step.) July, 1963. D. Haston and I. S. Clough.

This route, which reads like a well-established classic in *Selected Climbs in the Dolomites*, proved to be unusually difficult. We were caught in a storm high in the main corner and in consequence had to

<sup>6</sup> This and the two following extracts are quoted from the full technical descriptions given in the *A.B.M.S.A.C. Journal*, 1964, pp. 38-40. A photograph of the North Face of the Mönch appears in the same number, opposite p. 25.—  
EDITOR,

bivouac early. We reached the North ridge early the following afternoon after having several problems of relating the guide-book description to the route (the most difficult section of the climb is completely missing from the description!). On reaching the new bivouac hut on the summit of the Crozzon we discovered the reason for our difficulties; the route was not classic, we had just made the sixth ascent and our immediate predecessor, Livanos, had carefully added most of the pegs which had accumulated in the route to his own collection! Haston and I both considered the route rather more difficult than the Livanos route on the Cima Su Alto, Monte Civetta.

Reaching the summit of the Crozzon was not the end of our difficulties. The description for the descent consisted of one sentence—'Go across to join the descent from the Cima Tosa'. We assumed that the descent must be from one of the cols along the ridge connecting the two peaks but, after several abortive attempts to descend various unpleasant gullies, we returned to the summit of the Crozzon and spent our second night in the bivouac hut there. The following day, having guessed the solution, we crossed to the summit of the Tosa (the highest peak of the group) and descended without difficulty on the far side. This was only one of several errors and vagaries we came across in the new guide-book.

I. S. CLOUGH

CATINACCIO: RODA DI VAEL (Bühlweg). This route, of which three British ascents were reported in our last number, was first climbed in 1959. It has now become a classic, having had over a hundred ascents. All the pegs are in place, and the route is now climbed in a single day. One of the finest climbs in the Dolomites.