

ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

PERSONAL.—We congratulate our New Zealand member, R. M. Algie, on the award of a Knighthood in the Birthday Honours.

We also offer our congratulations to the President, Mr. Howard Somervell, and to Sir John Hunt, on being made honorary members of the Italian Alpine Club.

L. V. S. BLACKER.—Lt. Col. Latham Valentine Stewart Blacker, who died on April 19 at the age of seventy-six, was chief observer in the Houston Mount Everest Flight in 1933, which made the first aerial survey of the summit. He came of a family of soldiers, and himself had wide experience of the North-West frontier of India, and of travel in Central Asia; his book, *On Secret Patrol in High Asia*, told the story of some of his adventures. He was a notable inventor in the realm of military weapons; in early days he played a part in developing the 3.5 infantry mortar and during the Second War he was responsible for the invention of the P.I.A.T. (projector infantry anti-tank), more than 100,000 of which came into use.

P-L. MERCANTON.—In *The Polar Record* for May, 1964, there is commemorated Paul-Louis Mercanton, the eminent Swiss glaciologist and meteorologist. He was born at Lausanne on May 11, 1876, and died there on February 2, 1963. He did much work in the Arctic, visiting Northern Norway in 1910, and Greenland in 1912. In 1921 he was with J. M. Wordie in Jan Mayen, and took part in the first ascent of the Beerenberg.¹

CORRIGENDA.—*A. J.* November, 1963: illustration no. 29. The last word of the caption should read BOVÉ not BOYE.

Index to vol. 68: the pagination of this index should be 367–371, not 411–415.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—On February 28, 1864, there occurred the first recorded accident to a winter mountaineering party, M. Boissonet and the guide J-J. Bennen of Laax, who led Tyndall on the first ascent of the Weisshorn, losing their lives in an avalanche on the Haut de Cry; four other members of the party survived.

In June, Whymper, Moore and Horace Walker set out on a visit to the Dauphiné which included the first crossings of the Col des Aiguilles

¹ *A. J.* 34. 179.

d'Arves, Brèche de la Meije and Col de la Pilatte and culminated in the first ascent of the Ecrins. It was on this journey that two of the great contemporary guides, Christian Almer and Michel Croz, were employed together for the first time. The amateurs of the party had, quite needlessly, a little anxiety as to how the Franco-Swiss professional element would combine. 'We are slightly wondering', wrote Moore a few days before he left England² 'how Almer and Croz will get on, each being ignorant of a word of the other's language.' Almer's famous leap, depicted in *Scrambles*, and years later to cause such a storm in the Alpine Club and a violent controversy between Whymper and Coolidge, took place on the descent of the Ecrins.

Whymper and Croz moved on to Chamonix where, apart from Mont Blanc and its immediate satellites, the only two peaks to have been climbed by the end of 1863 were the Aiguille du Midi and the Dôme de Miage. Within a week Mont Dolent, the Aiguille de Trélatête and the Aiguille d'Argentièrè fell to Whymper, Adams Reilly and their guides. A few days later Moore and Whymper met at Zinal and, with Croz and Almer once again, made the first passage of the Moming Pass, so graphically described in *Scrambles*. The crossing of this pass was a formidable achievement in those days; in some quarters it was thought to be impossible. Melchior Anderegg, with his habitual caution, would have nothing to do with it. 'You may make the attempt', he said to Moore, 'and you may lose your life but, take my word for it, you will never get over; it is impossible.'³

In August, Leslie Stephen, F. C. Grove, and R. J. S. Macdonald, with Melchior and Jakob Anderegg and J. Bischoff made the first ascent of the Jungfrau from Lauterbrunnen. Hornby and Philpott crossed the Jungfrauoch from the Faulberg, making the first descent to the Wengernalp, and in the Graians T. Blanford with E. P. Rowsell and R. M. Cuthbert made the first ascents of the Dent Parraché and the Grande Motte; two hundred feet below the summit of the former they found a cairn erected some years previously by two *chasseurs* at the highest point they had reached.

Elsewhere, Monte Confinale, Monte Cristallo and the Königsspitze fell to F. F. Tuckett and his companions, while in the Dolomites the Marmolata and Sorapis were climbed for the first time. Nor must the achievement of the Walker family be forgotten. Led by Melchior Anderegg, father, son and daughter made the first ascent of the Balmhorn.

MEIJE.—A great mass of rock broke away from the Brèche Zsigmondy in the middle of May and fell on to the glacier des Étançons, carrying with it a large piece of the Pointe Zsigmondy.

² In an unpublished letter to William Mathews in my possession.

³ *A.J.* 2. 192

The appearance of the Brèche has been completely changed and there is now a great overhang on three sides of the Pointe Zsigmondy. An announcement issued by various mountaineering associations of the Dauphiné reported that the Brèche was likely to remain in an extremely dangerous condition for the remainder of the summer as further falls of rock were possible. Until all danger of these had passed climbers were advised not to attempt the traverse of the Meije. Two parties are reported to have attempted the traverse in June but both were turned back at the Pointe Zsigmondy.

The ascent of the Grand Pic by the ordinary route, and most of the routes on the South face, were not affected.

SIR HUMPHRY DAVY AT CHAMONIX.—During the summer months of 1814 that Sir Humphry Davy spent at Geneva, he made an excursion to Chamonix which is referred to by Thomas Raffles (cousin of Sir Stamford Raffles) in his book *Letters during a Tour through some parts of France, Savoy, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands in 1817* (Liverpool, 1818, p. 217) as follows: '... We repaired to the Museum of *Joseph-Marie Carrier*, who styles himself *Marchand-Naturaliste au Bourg de Chamonix*. His collection, though not extensive, was very interesting. It consisted of specimens of natural history, gathered from the immediate neighbourhood. Complete sets of the minerals and plants were to be had neatly arranged in papers and in boxes, regularly catalogued and ticketed, for nine, and twelve francs each. The minerals are stated to have been arranged after MM. de Saussure and Pictet. The arrangement is doubtless correct. Here, too, was an album, and amongst many other illustrious names inserted in connexion with the purchases made, was that of Sir Humphry Davy. Mons. Carrier was extremely abundant in his praise of this gentleman. "The Chevalier Davy was", he said, "a wonderful man. He had never seen his equal. He knew the name, and composition, and qualities of every stone in his shop and was, in short, a prodigy of science." This was something for a Frenchman (*recte*, a Savoyard) to say of an Englishman, for they seem, generally, to speak as though they thought all the *scavans* and *artistes* belonged to them. That the renowned Sir Humphry Davy should have excited the admiration of the *Marchand-Naturaliste au Bourg de Chamonix* is, therefore, a matter that should not be unrecorded.'

The purpose of this note is to point out that the best authority on minerals at Chamonix at the time was Dr. Michel-Gabriel Paccard. (T. Graham Brown & Gavin de Beer: *The First Ascent of Mont Blanc*. London, O.U.P. 1957, p. 56. Gavin de Beer: 'New Information about the first ascent of Mont Blanc', *A.J.* 67. 230) and it is difficult to believe that Davy did not pay him a visit. If so, it would be very interesting to know what Davy thought of this remarkable man. I hope, therefore, that

some reader who may know of a letter or memorandum of Davy's, or of Michael Faraday's who was in Geneva with him at the time, containing such information, will come forward with it.

GAVIN DE BEER.

MONT BLANC; EARLY REFERENCES IN AMERICA. Dr. Monroe Thorington has found what may well be the first account of climbing on Mont Blanc to appear in the United States, in the *New-Hampshire Mercury*, October 4, 1785, published in Portsmouth N.H. This is the same narrative as that noted in Graham Brown and de Beer, *The First Ascent of Mont Blanc*, p. 443, No. 4, which is a translation in *The Scots Magazine* for January 1785, of Bourrit's attempt in 1784, entitled 'Account of the Discovery of the White Hill, or Mont Blanc, in the Alps' (see *A. J.* 57. 214). It implies some quick work for a French pamphlet to be written, printed, translated and again printed for the *Scots Magazine* by January, 1785, since Bourrit's attempt appears to have been lateish in 1784. And someone must have been very alert to have noticed the English version, and to have got it across the Atlantic in time to appear in October, 1785.

In fact, the American press in the first half or so of the nineteenth century was evidently alive to mountaineering, particularly but not exclusively on Mont Blanc. Dr. Thorington has found in *The Statesman* (New York), October 16, 1827, a notice of H. H. Jackson's ascent of 1823, together with a list of earlier ascents since that of Paccard-Balmat, and the following further references may be recorded:—

1. *Providence Gazette*, May 22, 1820—Visit to the Summit of Mont Blanc by an American (Howard and van Rensselaer, July 12, 1819).
2. *National Intelligencer*, Washington, D.C., Nov. 18, 1820—the Hamel accident.
3. *National Intelligencer*, Oct. 2, 1835; a long account of Parrot's ascent of Mount Ararat.
4. *Utica Herald*, N.Y., Aug. 28, 1865; the accident on the Matterhorn.

ETNA.—Recent eruptions of Mount Etna are reported to have raised its height to 3,370 m. = 11,057 ft. This is some 300 ft. higher than the old figure.

ICELAND.—Hvannadlshnukur (2,119 m.), the highest mountain in Iceland, was climbed in August, 1963, by two Italians A. Bignami and P. Bernasconi. The ascent offers considerable difficulties and there had been several previous unsuccessful attempts.

MOUNT KENYA.—Too late for inclusion in my note in *A. J.* 68. 141, I received further details of the 'flag-hoisting' climb on Mount Kenya by

Kisoi Munyao, Robert Chambers and Denis Rutovitz. The ascent of Nelion by the standard route in very difficult conditions and with heavy rucksacks took ten hours and ten minutes. The same party moved the flag to Batian, the higher summit, on December 29.

Kisoi, it may be worth recording, also climbed Margherita in the Ruwenzori in 1963 and is thus the first African to have climbed to the highest points of the three main mountain masses of East Africa. A Ugandan, Joseph Malibbo, became the second African to climb Batian when he made the ascent last year with R. A. Hockey of the Mountain Club of Uganda and another climber.

J. W. HOWARD.

ETHIOPIA.—In *A.J.* 64. 217 there is a note by Professor Smeds on the Batu Mountains of Ethiopia. Dr. Herbert Mooney has now reported on his travels in this region ('Two Journeys to the Araenna Mountains'. *Proc. Linn. Soc.*, 172 Session, September, 1963). Dr. Mooney was unaware at the time of Professor Smeds' visits. His paper is illustrated by sketch maps and photos. His primary interests were botanical, but he ascended the three highest peaks, Saneti (4,315 m.), Tigrita (4,302 m.), and Dimtu (4,433 m.). None of these presents the slightest mountaineering difficulty, but the whole area is still very little travelled and Dr. Mooney has added to our knowledge.

D. L. BUSK.

KUEN LUN.—A correspondent in South America writes that he has for many years been intrigued by the complete absence of even passing references in mountaineering literature to the great mountain of Ulu Muztagh in the Kuen Lun range on the northern border of Tibet. This peak, situated at about $87\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{E}$ and $36\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{N}$, is marked on maps as being 25,340 ft. in height.

Professor Kenneth Mason, in response to an enquiry, says that he is not aware that the *eastern* Kuen Lun, which is locally known as Ulugh, or Ulu Muztagh, has ever been rigorously surveyed and that he is suspicious of the height attributed to its highest point, neither does he remember so high a mountain in this area when he helped Sir Aurel Stein adjust his exploratory triangulation some forty-five years ago. It is possible that the Russians or Chinese have carried out some surveying here in recent years, but unless they have done so, and based it on good triangulation, the height of 25,340 ft. for Ulu Muztagh can only be regarded as very questionable, and it would be interesting to know from what source this height was obtained.

There is considerable confusion about the mountains of the Kuen Lun. The self-styled *Standard Encyclopedia of the World's Mountains* adds to this by affirming that 'the highest peak of the Kunlun so far

measured is the old E 61 (25,340 ft.), now known by its Turki name of Ulugh Muztagh.' This is a grievous error; the two mountains are 400 miles apart. E 61 was first approached by the surveyor Johnson in 1865—though his claim to have climbed it is not now accepted. Its height of 23,890 ft. was fixed by triangulation in the early 1860's. There is no doubt that it is the highest and most conspicuous peak of the western Kuen Lun.

Another mystery peak, in western Tibet, is Aling Kangri, *c.* 24,000 ft. It was discovered in 1874 by the 'pundit explorer' Nain Singh who gave its height as 24,000 ft. in round figures. It is shown on C. G. Rawling's map (with no height) on a 'high snowy range', and it was also seen and sketched from a distance by Sven Hedin. Neither its position nor height have been accurately fixed by triangulation. Little is known of these Tibetan mountains; a pre-war atlas, published so late as 1935, marks an unnamed peak of 26,274 ft. = 8,008 m. in the Dupleix range of eastern Tibet!

ANTARCTICA.—An expedition of men from the three Services, led by Lt. Cdr. Malcolm Burley, R.N., was due to leave in October to retrace the route that Sir Ernest Shackleton and his companions followed in their epic journey across South Georgia in 1916. Later, the party will visit the Allardyce range and attempt several unclimbed peaks, including Mount Paget (9,625 ft.), the highest mountain in South Georgia. The lower, West, summit of Mount Paget was climbed by Lt. Cdr. Burley and two companions in December, 1960.⁴

Antarctic reports that another attempt will be made on Big Ben on Heard Island.⁵

LANGTRANG HIMAL.—This range was formerly known as the Langtang Himal and we are greatly indebted to Dipl. Ing. Peter Aufschnaiter for the following note explaining the reason for the change of name and dealing with other points of nomenclature: (i) 'Sometimes when saying "Langtang" I was corrected; "it is Langtrang", the inhabitants said; in an inscription on a votive stone of a prayer wall east of the main village of Langtrang the spelling is "glang-krang". The headman of the village confirmed this but added that in the old records it was "klang-krang", that is, Langtrang according to the rules of Tibetan pronunciation. (ii) Langtang Lirung (7,245 m. = 23,771 ft.): formerly called Dayabhang on the Survey of India maps. Dayabhang is the name of a Tamang village to the north of Katmandu. On the $\frac{1}{4}$ -in sheet of the 1924-27 survey the peak was called Langtang Lirung. I heard Leru Gang in Kyirong and Gangchhen Ledrub in Langtrang itself (as one of five

⁴ See *A.J.* 67. 226 sqq. and for a map of South Georgia *A.J.* 61. 466.

⁵ See *A.J.* 68. 300.

Gangchhen = great snows). On one of Toni Hagen's sketches it is marked as Kengi Lotu. Ledrub (Leru, Lirung, Lotu) is the name of a saint whose spirit is supposed to exist on this mountain, so I was told in Kyirong, from where it is most conspicuous.

Quite independently, from different people in Tibet and in different places, when speaking about this mountain, I heard also the name "Luri Gang". On the new Nepal-China boundary atlas, published in Peking, it appears as Luri Himal (corresponding to Luri Gang). But since the mountain is now entirely in Nepal it is justifiable to call it by the name in use in Langtrang—Gangchhen Ledrub.⁶ (iii) Langtrang Ri: This peak and Porong Ri are sketched in by contour and without names on the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch sheet 71 H; Langtrang Ri as over 22,500 ft. and Porong Ri as over 24,000 ft., but the geographical position there is rather far out. I have observed these peaks from all directions and from far and near distances, and computed heights are not too far out, but not accurate enough to say which is the higher. Being the northernmost point of the Langtrang valley I called it Langtrang Ri, and the other peak just beyond the border in the Porong region Porong Ri.'

GANGAPURNA.—This peak and Annapurna III are often confused and identified with each other, although J. O. M. Roberts' sketch map clearly shows that they are two separate mountains.⁷

As this error has even found its way into mountaineering literature (e.g. Marcel Kurz: *Chronique Himalayenne II*) reference may be made to a little known photograph (illustration no. 79), which was taken from the air by Toni Hagen in 1952. This shows from left to right Pt. 6,700 m., Gangapurna (7,315 m. = 24,000 ft.), Annapurna III (7,577 m. = 24,860 ft.), and part of Machapuchare (6,997 m. = 22,958 ft.). The aeroplane was flying at about 4,500 m. above the Modi Khola. The difference in height between Annapurna III and Gangapurna is apparently not large; the old figure of 24,000 ft. for the latter is evidently too low. A photograph taken by M. S. Kohli's expedition from the summit of Annapurna III on May 6, 1961, clearly shows this.

The name Hiunchuli on Roberts' map does not seem to me a very happy choice as it could lead to confusion with Putha Hiunchuli (7,240 m.) in the Dhaulagiri Himal. Ganesh (7,196 m. or, apparently more correctly, 7,256 m.) would be better indicated as Moditse, so that it may not be confused with the Ganesh Himal, east of the Buri Gandaki, the highest peak of which is 7,406 m. = 24,299 ft.

G. O. DYHRENFURTH.

⁶ For a map of the Langtrang-Shisha Pangma area, by Herr Aufschneider, on which the peaks mentioned in these notes are marked, see *Les Alpes*, 1959, p. 195.

⁷ Wilfrid Noyce: *Climbing the Fish's Tail* (1958). See also *The Mountain World*, 1958-9, p. 158, and G. O. Dyhrenfurth: *Der dritte Pol* (1960), p. 122.



Photo, T. Hagen; copyright G. O. Dyhrenfurth]

AIR VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-WEST UP THE MODI KHOLA. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: PT. 6,700 M., GANGAPURNA
(7,315 M.), ANNAPURNA III (7,577 M.), PART OF MACHAPUCHARI (6,997 M.).

(No. 79)



Photo: P. R. Steele]

CLOUD FORMATION OVER DHAULAGIRI. (*See p. 291*)

(No. 80)

HINDU KUSH.—For the benefit of those interested in this range we would draw attention to *Österreichische Alpenzeitung* no. 1331 (September–October 1963) where much interesting information may be found, with details of the peaks climbed and several sketch maps. In a well-illustrated article in no. 1334 (March–April 1964) some suggestions for future expeditions are given. There are still a number of unclimbed 7,000-ers in the Hindu Kush.

Further details of last year's expeditions will be found in no. 1335 (May–June 1964).

THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS.—With the ascent of Shisha Pangma (Gosainthan) by the Chinese (see p. 211) all the 8,000 m. peaks have been climbed, within a period of fourteen years. The complete list, with dates of ascent, is as follows:

1950 June 3	Annapurna I	1956 May 9	Manaslu
1953 May 29	Mount Everest	May 18	Lhotse
July 3	Nanga Parbat	July 7	Gasherbrum II
1954 July 31	K 2	1957 June 9	Broad Peak
October 19	Cho Oyu	1958 July 5	Gasherbrum I
1955 May 15	Makalu		(Hidden Peak)
May 25	Kangchenjunga	1960 May 13	Dhaulagiri
		1964 May 2	Shisha Pangma

In addition to the 8,000-ers, more than eighty others peaks over 23,000 ft. in height have now been climbed.

The highest independent unclimbed peak is Gasherbrum III, 26,090 ft.

HIMALAYA 1964.—Other notable successes, in addition to the ascent of Gosainthan, have been achieved during the summer. On April 10 the Japanese Y. Kato and K. Sakeizawa, with the Sherpa Pasang Phutar, made the first ascent of Gyachung Kang (25,990 ft.) Two other members of the expedition repeated the ascent next day.

Talung Peak (24,112 ft.), in the Kangchenjunga group, was climbed for the first time on May 19 by Franz Linder and a Sherpa, and members of an Austrian expedition made the first ascent of Momhil Sar (24,090 ft.) in the Karakoram on June 28.

The third ascent of Cho Oyu was made on April 26 by Fritz Stammberger and a Sherpa; skis were taken to nearly 26,100 ft. Two members of this expedition died of exhaustion on the mountain.

A German attempt in the spring on the Rupal face of Nanga Parbat reached over 19,000 ft. but failed to get higher owing to the appalling conditions encountered. The expedition experienced considerable difficulties with the liaison officer, who appears to have been more of a hindrance than a help.

Two Sherpas of an Indian expedition are reported to have reached the summit of Nanda Devi (25,645 ft.), first climbed by N. E. Odell and H. W. Tilman in 1936.

KINGSPITZ.—In my note in *A. J.* 69.143, this peak of the Engelhörner was stated to have been named after Sydney Locke King, A.C., who was killed in New Zealand in 1914. This was an error; instead it should have been H. Seymour King, A.C., who made the first ascent with Ambrose Supersaxo and A. Anthamatten on August 13, 1887, as recorded in *A. J.* 13.416. I may add that this has been confirmed for me through the kindness of Herr Ernst Feuz, of Zürich, and of Herr Arnold Glatthard of the Swiss Mountain Climbing Institute at Meiringen, who have duly examined the Swiss records.

N. E. ODELL.

THE SUPPOSED TIBETAN NAME OF EVEREST.—In *A. J.* 69.144, Mr. G. W. Creighton, in quoting the new Tibetan-Russian dictionary, writes, 'we do now have a Tibetan name (for Everest) for the first time'. But have we? It would seem that neither the Russians nor the Chinese Communists have produced any more convincing evidence than that which has so far been available. Must it be repeated that that outstanding Tibetan scholar, Sir Charles Bell, established long ago that the Tibetans themselves have no name for Mount Everest? The passports issued by Lhasa to successive Everest expeditions could never state more than that permission had been given to visit the high mountain situated in the 'southern district where the birds are kept', i.e. the former royal aviary. The word used was *Chamalung*, not *Chomolungma*; 'cha' meaning a bird.

It is perhaps unnecessary to add that twenty-nine years ago I ventured to discuss the question in an article in this Journal under the nearly identical title used above (*A. J.* 47. 127); and again in 1960 (*A. J.* 65. 239). But there seems to be as much confusion, as well as wishful thinking, on the subject as ever; and the Russian and Chinese claims for a solution of the problem must be considered as equally ill-founded and unacceptable, as far as a Tibetan native name is concerned. In the absence of the latter Mount Everest has ample justification historically and otherwise.

N. E. ODELL.

AIGUILLE VERTE.—A disastrous accident occurred on the Aiguille Verte on July 7, 1964. Fourteen men, roped in pairs, had nearly completed the ascent by the arête des Grands Montets and were climbing the final slopes of the calotte when, a little more than 200 ft. below the summit, an avalanche broke away above them and swept the entire party down onto the Argentière glacier. All were killed.

Those who lost their lives included some of the élite of French mountaineers: three instructors from the École Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme, Jean Bouvier who had taken part in five expeditions to the Himalaya, Charles Bozon the world ski champion, and nine *aspirants-guides*.⁸

We offer our sincere sympathy to the C.A.F. and the E.N.S.A. on the grievous losses they have suffered as a result of this lamentable disaster.

GUIDES.—Sergio Viotto, the well-known Courmayeur guide, slipped on wet rock in the course of a *varappe* exercise, fell 100 ft. and was killed on the spot. Viotto, who was thirty-seven years of age, was a member of the successful Italian expedition to K 2 in 1954.

Pierre Maurys, who had many friends and clients among British visitors to Arolla, disappeared on the Innominata ridge of Mont Blanc with a Belgian climber. It was later reported that his body had been found and that he had been killed by lightning. He was fifty-eight.

NEW GUINEA.—The *Sydney Morning Herald* of July 31, 1964, publishes an account of the ascent of 'Mount Sukarno' (15,585 ft.) in the 'Djajawidjaja Mountains' by a mixed party of Japanese and Indonesians and for the information of its readers explains that Mount Sukarno is the peak formerly known as Mount Wilhelmina in the Oranje (or Djajawidjaja as they are now called) Mountains.

The account is based on a report of the expedition in *News and Views*, a journal published by the Indonesian Information Service in Canberra. The expedition was not a happy one; the main trouble seems to have been that the Japanese, all of them experienced Himalayan climbers would not, or could not, keep up with the Indonesians, who had 'no experience in mountain climbing compared with the experienced Japanese'. Two of the latter 'withdrew from the expedition soon after it had started, unable to face the difficult terrain'. The Japanese were a hindrance from the start; 'throughout the journey they were left far behind by the Indonesians and when the expedition began from Enarotali they told the leader of the Indonesian group not to walk too fast'.

It is pleasing to report that, in spite of their slow speed, three Japanese completed the ascent and reached the summit with three Indonesians. It would be even more pleasing, perhaps, to see a Japanese account of the expedition.

A STRANGE CLOUD FORMATION.—We are glad to print an unusual photograph (illustration no. 80) of the summit of Dhaulagiri I, taken with a telephoto lens from Jomosom by Dr. P. R. Steele when returning

⁸ One of these was François Lods. According to a press report his father and two sisters were killed a few weeks later while climbing in the Dauphiné.

from his reconnaissance of Hiunchuli Patan (described in *A.J.* 68. 198-204) in the autumn of 1962. Dr. Steele writes: 'The photograph, which I call 'Guardian of Dhaulagiri', shows the extraordinary cloud formation which appears over the mountain at about midday. I believe there is a technical name for it. The formation changes minute by minute, but in this shot it seems to have the shape of a huge bird, or possibly, looked at the other way round, an angel.'