

## EXPEDITIONS

**HINDU KUSH.**—More than a dozen expeditions were in the Hindu Kush last summer. They faced many difficulties as a result of political conditions, war, and the closing of frontiers owing to cholera. Few expeditions were able to go where they wanted and the most fortunate were those which had from the start of their planning an alternative aim in view. We are grateful to Dr. A. Diemberger for supplying the information from which the brief summary of some of these expeditions has been compiled.

In the central Hindu Kush an Austrian expedition led by Johann Seitner made the third ascent of the highest, South, peak of Koh-e-Bandakâ, 6,660 m., and also the first ascents of Koh-e-Bandakâ Tawika, *c.* 6,130 m., and Koh-e-Bandakâ Uris, *c.* 6,010 m., the last two virgin 6,000-ers of this region. A peak of 5,710 m. was also climbed.

An Italian party was also in the area and two of its members climbed the North face of Koh-e-Bandakâ (IV +) and a nameless peak of 6,200 m.

In the north-eastern portion of the range Marcus Schmuck and Ulli Kössler made the first ascent of Darban Zom, 7,220 m., a near neighbour of Noshaq, on September 12. There now remains only one unclimbed 7,000-er in this area, Pt. 7,291 m. Q6, (6,240 m.) and M9, (6,260 m.) were also climbed on September 12 by other members of the expedition.

Two parties were in the Buni Zom district. Dr. Gerald Gruber led the Steirische Hindukusch Expedition which had its base camp on the Khorabohrt glacier. Gruber, with H. Gamerith and Hans Schnell, climbed the North Peak of Buni Zom, 6,338 m., and Dr. N. Zernig made a solo ascent of Khorabohrt Zom, 5,500 m.

Horst Schürer led an expedition of the Munich section of the D.A.V. to the same area and from a base camp on the Gordoghan glacier both Buni Zom II (6,120 m.) and Gordoghan Zom (6,210 m.) were climbed.

**SWAT KOHISTAN.**—All four members of the German Chitral Expedition, led by Steff Rausch, made the second ascent of Falak Sar, 5,918 m., and three of the party climbed a peak of 5,050 m. west of Mankial.

**KASHMIR.**—The Cambridge-Indian Kishtwar Expedition<sup>1</sup> spent the 1965 long vacation in South-east Kashmir. Inner Line passes were obtained from the Indian Government to climb and explore around the Prul and Brahma glaciers south of Nun Kun.

<sup>1</sup> C. R. A. Clarke, (leader); S. J. Brown; M. W. H. Day; H. E. Edmundson; M. G. Tughendat; D. S. Virk.

Four members of the party drove to Kishtwar in the veteran Land Rover *Ferdowsi* which had carried climbers to Persia and Pakistan in previous summers.

Base Camp was pitched near the snout of the Brahma glacier towards the end of July at a height of 12,000 ft. The monsoon omitted to water the Punjab this year, choosing Kishtwar instead. Careful research and enquiry had predicted a dry region but this was an unusual year. During a four weeks' acclimatisation period, when eighteen-thousanders should have been climbed in abundance, camps were made and broken all around the glacier.

Two of the party with two locals set off over an unknown pass of 17,000 ft. to look at the Prul glacier. The traverse so frightened their porters that they returned along valley bottoms, making a hundred mile journey.

A fine spell of sunshine towards the end of August encouraged a determined attempt on Brahma I (21,050 ft.). Camps were pitched at 14,500, 17,000 and 18,500 ft., but the assault party was turned back by the last of a long line of icy gendarmes at 20,000 ft. The support party half-heartedly reached a thousand feet less on a second bid.

Later, half the party drove to Srinagar. Returning to Delhi they drove through Jammu hours before Pakistani armour was launched in the Chamba sector. The Land Rover still lies abandoned in Delhi; the party returned home by air.

M. W. H. DAY.

## ANDES<sup>2</sup>

COLOMBIA.—An American expedition from Pittsburgh accomplished exploration and ascents in the western section of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, located near the shores of the Caribbean. John D. Peyton made the first ascent of an unnamed point about 17,400 ft. high east of Pico Colón, on August 17, 1965, and two days later, R. H. Goodwin and M. Tobías, ascended a 16,500 ft. peak west of it. A third glaciated peak, 16,400 ft., was also ascended by Peyton. Besides climbing other peaks hitherto unascended Goodwin and Tobías reached the top of the highest unscaled peak of the range, which they named Nieve de Naboba; it is about 17,700 ft. and it is located on the ridge between Pico Colón and the Chirigua saddle.

PERU.—The Cordillera Blanca, as usual, received a number of expeditions. An Italian party led by G. Frigerio made the first ascent of the highest peak of Aguja Nevada (5886 m.; 19,312 ft.) on June 25; the

<sup>2</sup> The writer is indebted to Mr. H. Adams Carter for much of the information included in these notes, and in 'Alpine Notes', about mountaineering in the Andes.—E.E.

ascent took twenty-two days of work, in adverse weather, and the summit party (G. Ascari and A. Pizzocolo) was exhausted by the struggle. The eastern peak of the Aguja Nevada is definitely higher than the western, which is 5840 m. or 19,160 ft. high, and which was climbed by the S.A.C. expedition of 1959.<sup>3</sup>

A South African expedition made up of R. Davies, H. Graafland, F. Kleine and G. Petousis, visited the Quebrada Honda (Deep Valley) in the centre of the Cordillera Blanca and attempted to ascend Nevado Chinchey, failing because of bad conditions, but several first ascents of lesser peaks were made; the 17,520 ft. high Mancaraju was climbed from its southern side on July 23, and the following day also Akilpo Sur, 18,111 ft., and Esparta, 17,684 ft., on August 1; they also ascended the East face of Chaco, 17,454 ft., which had been climbed previously by Americans.

A Japanese expedition from Waseda completed the first ascent of Ocshapalca (5,881 m.; 19,295 ft); this peak had been climbed to some 20 ft. below the top by an American-German party in 1961<sup>4</sup>; the Japanese T. Sato and A. Miyashita reached the top peak on July 10.

A large Swiss expedition, ten members, led by Herr R. Schatz, operated in the same range from the Santa Cruz valley and ascended a number of peaks, among which Quisuaraju, 17,651 ft., Millishraju twin peaks, 18,045 and 18,078 ft., and Curicashajana, 18,078 ft., were all first ascents. A joint American-Brazilian party, made up of Mr. H. Adams Carter, Editor of the *American Alpine Journal*, and Senhor D. Giobbi, of Sao Paulo, and reinforced by the Peruvian porter, Emilio Angeles, made the first ascents of Yahuaraju, 18,610 ft., and Rurec, 18,701 ft., above the Rajucolta valley, on July 17.

Attempts on Yerupaja were renewed this year; a Swiss party led by W. Uttendoppler and which included among its ten members Felix Marx, a strong Swiss-Peruvian, reached the southern point of the summit ridge at 6,515 m.; an Argentinian party of four climbed the South face, two of its members reaching 20 ft. below its top, unable to proceed any further because of poor snow conditions.

Another Japanese expedition, led by Y. Egami, achieved the first ascent of the difficult North-east ridge of Salcantay, 6,081 m. (19,951 ft), of the Cordillera Vilcabamba; the summit was reached twice, in late June, by eight members of the expedition, with the aid of four high camps and 4,000 ft. of fixed rope.

ARGENTINA.—A Catalonian expedition under the direction of Señor Félix Fernández made the first ascents of fourteen peaks between 14,000 and 18,800 ft. in the chain of the Chorrillos, located east of the high

<sup>3</sup> *Die Alpen*, 1960, pp. 41-43.

<sup>4</sup> *A.A.J.* 1962, p. 108.

Nevado del Plomo, 19,849 ft., in Central Argentina, Mendoza district. The expedition also opened a new route (West face?) on the same Nevado del Plomo; apparently it operated in the summer (January) of 1965. In the same Mendoza area, but now in the chain of La Jaula, R. Alfonso, M. Quiroga and R. Supkay made the first ascents of San Esteban, 17,719 ft., and Pico Rosa, 17,553 ft.

Also in Central Argentina, a joint group of the Club Alpinista Carioca, from Brazil, and of the Club Andinista Mendoza from Argentina, on February 25, 1965, made the first ascent of Nevado Palomares, 5,920 m. This peak is located within three miles of the international border with Chile and is in the Marmolejo group. The names of the summit party are not known.

On the same day, twelve hours later, a Chilean party crossed the border and made the second ascent of the peak. The summit party was composed of A. Amigo, C. Pereda and R. Roa who had traversed from the summit of Marmolejo Norte, 5,930 m., of which they had made the second ascent. This peak is located on the border.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA C.

NORWAY: TROLLRYGGEN (ROMSDAL), North Wall—'Trollveggen'. First ascent, A. Howard, J. Amatt, W. Tweedale. July 19–24, 1965. Length: 1,500 m. Sustained E.D.

A long climb of continuous verticality, perhaps technically more difficult than any other route in northern Europe. The length of route, extreme exposure and independence of line make it a very serious undertaking. Mainly sustained free climbing on good rock with some very difficult passages of artificial climbing. Above the central basin, étriers are rarely necessary. All the pitons and wedges were left in place (150–200).

From the head of the screes below the wall climb snow-slopes to the base of the introductory wall. Cross the bergschrund on the right and traverse into the centre of the buttress along easy ledges (70 m., III+). Climb the buttress, zig-zagging to avoid difficulties (130 m., passages of IV, A<sub>2</sub> and V+). Traverse left through séracs and snow walls to the undercut base of the wall (70 m., VI) which is followed for 100 m. to the head of the snowfield (IV+).

Cross the bergschrund and climb a heavily undercut groove to ledges (30 m., V+, A<sub>1</sub>). (Bivouac on first attempt.)

Traverse along ledges for 55 m. to the base of the Grey Dièdre (V–). Climb the corner and the left wall moving out left at the top to belay in an earthy corner (50 m., A<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>3</sub>)—poor pitons. Move up easily to ledge above the Dièdre (10 m., IV+). Climb the left hand crack in the wall behind (V+) and traverse snow and rock left to a snow platform facing the 200 m. wall. (Bivouac on first attempt.)

Climb the steep wall above the bivouac, then traverse left for 25 m. to a ledge below a large overhang at the base of the Grey Wedge (VI). Tension to the left and climb the wall for 120 m., moving left below the overhanging Prow (A<sub>2</sub>, VI, A<sub>3</sub>)—very loose pitons. (First bivouac in étriers below the last pitch of this section.)

Traverse across the steep wall (VI) and follow ledges to the base of an overhanging chimney which is climbed, moving out left at the top (40 m., IV+). Climb the short, vicious overhanging crack, then traverse left (15 m., VI+). Up cracks on the left to ledge. (Second bivouac—water.)

Climb the flake crack for 30 m. (VI), then the short wide crack on the left (10 m., VI+) to scree ledges at the bottom of the central basin. Scramble up the dirty gully (III) and climb the short crack (V-) to the flat-topped pedestal below the overhanging wall and on the edge of the magnificent slab. (Third bivouac—snow.)

Climb the cracked slab and the recessed groove, then traverse left below the overhanging wall to a minute stance (40 m., V, VI, pitons). Continue left for 30 m. through the huge roofs (tension moves) until it is possible to climb up and back right above the overhangs to a sensational ledge (VI, A<sub>2</sub>). Climb the groove on the left for 15 m. to a small ledge on the right (VI, pitons). (Fourth bivouac.)

Continue to the base of the overhanging chimney which cuts the enormous overhangs (20 m., VI). Climb the chimneys for 70 m. (VI), then the difficult wet crack through the overhangs (25 m., VI) to the base of the summit gully. Climb the left wall of the gully to avoid the difficulties (120 m., IV) until it is necessary to regain the gully for 30 m. (IV+). Climb the left-hand crack (80 m., VI, VI+, V+) to snow ledges. (Fifth bivouac.)

Climb the snow-slope in the base of the gully for 50 m. and pass the huge jammed boulder by a strenuous struggle through the small hole at the back (V+). Avoid the wet, overhanging chimney above and climb the slab and groove on the left for 25 m. (VI-) to a stance below an overhang. Climb the overhang on the right (VI) and traverse up to the col on the West ridge. Easy scrambling leads to the summit of Trollryggen (1,742 m.).

Climbing time on first ascent:—about 78 hours.

## THE ALPS

GRANDES JORASSES, THE SHROUD. As mentioned in our last issue, a lone Parisian climber made the first ascent of the North-east face of Pointe Walker by the Shroud. This route was one of the great problems of the Mont Blanc range and had been unsuccessfully attempted by some of the leading French climbers.

Roland Travellini, from Montreuil, reached Chamonix on July 3 and a few hours later started the ascent. After crossing the bergschrund he climbed a 90 m. dièdre to reach the Shroud. This, at an angle of  $65^\circ$ , demanded much hard work over the next 300 m. Towards evening Travellini was overtaken by a violent storm when he was some 450 m. above the foot of the wall. He bivouacked on the western edge of the Shroud on a minute platform cut out with his ice-axe. During the night snow fell. The storm had not altogether passed away by morning and Travellini could not resume the ascent till nearly midday.

Having overcome the remaining section of the Shroud he continued the ascent by a couloir-like dièdre, where he experienced considerable difficulties on slabs and steep pitches, to the foot of the very steep final wall. After a zone of slabs and a 60 m. couloir he bivouacked a second time. On the third day he reached the Hironnelles arête and followed it for the short distance to the summit, where he arrived towards evening. A third bivouac was necessary in the course of the descent on the south side.

Travellini had made an attempt on the Shroud, with a companion, in the summer of 1964 but abandoned it owing to the ceaseless stonefall. (Source: *Alpinismus*, November, 1965).