

EXPEDITIONS

HINDU KUSH.¹—The third ascent of Mir Samir, 5809 m.,² was made on June 19, 1966, by Philip Albrecht and Hans Pritschet of the Allgäuer Hindu Kush Expedition.

The Bayerische Naturfreunde, being unable to obtain a permit for Wakhan, finished the exploration of the Parshui Valley, commenced in 1965, and climbed more than a dozen peaks in the area, all, with one exception, over 5000 m. in height.

From a base camp on the Munjan Pass the six members of a Manchester expedition climbed a number of peaks, the highest being *c.* 5670 m. It is to be hoped that the lamentable names apparently bestowed on some of these peaks, e.g. 'Birthday' and 'Junction', are only temporary and will never find their way onto the map.

One of the Japanese parties climbing in the Hindu Kush made the fifth ascent of Koh-e-Bandaka.

Henry Edmundson, of the Cambridge University M.C., and two companions visited the Abi Valley, not previously explored by climbers. This expedition is described in an article elsewhere in this number.

The Kwaja Muhammad range was the objective of the Kärntner Hindu Kush Expedition. This party went to the northern section of the range and climbed eight peaks at the head of the Kesem Valley, K 1–K 8, all, except K 1, over 5000 m. in height.

The most notable achievement of Hanns Schell's party of the Graz section of the O.A.V. was the first ascent of Akher Chioh, 7020 m., which lies on the south side of the Kotgaz glacier on a branch ridge leaving the main chain at Kuh-e-Tez.³ This ridge carries other magnificent summits; Kotgaz Zom, 6679 m., climbed by Hanns Schell and Rainer Göschl on August 3, and Chikar Zom, 5285 m., climbed by Hanns and Liselotte Schell on August 6.

Akher Chioh was climbed by Hanns Schell and Göschl on August 10 from a final camp at 6600 m. below the summit of Kotgaz Zom.

Another O.A.V. expedition (Admont section) led by Dieter Oberbichler approached Tirich Mir West Peak by way of the Arkari Gol and Dir Gol. The last visit of an European to the Arkari Valley appears to have been in the 'thirties, probably that of Schomberg.⁴ The expedition climbed four peaks above the southern branch of the Dir Gol and Oberbichler and Dr. Rugar failed by only 60 m. to reach the summit of the

¹ We must once again express our great indebtedness to Dr. A. Diemberger of Salzburg for supplying the information from which this summary of Hindu Kush expeditions has been compiled.—EDITOR.

² This is the revised height; the old figure was 6059 m.

³ See map *A. J.* 71. 203.

⁴ See *A. J.* 48. 127–8.

c. 6240 m. peak on the spur separating the north and south branches of the Dir Gol.

On July 27 another summit, D IV, 5585 m., was reached, and a good view of the neighbouring glaciers obtained, including the Owir.

This expedition also probably touched the legendary and never clearly defined route from the Ojhor Valley by which Drs. Herrlich and Roemer wanted to attack Tirich Mir in 1935.⁵

A combined Belgian-Polish expedition, led by Dr. R. Sledziewski, went to the Qazi-Deh Valley of Wakhan, visited by the first Polish expedition in 1960. Several important ascents were repeated, Asp-e-Safed, 6450 m., Gunbaz-e-Safed, 6800 m., by a new route, and Noshaq by the 'Austrian' route. First ascents included two 5000-ers, M 10 (5700 m.) and Sad Ishtragh, 5859 m.

From a high camp on Noshaq three members of the party wished to go to the Darban glacier and climb Pt. 7291 m., Shingeik Zom,⁶ unaware that it had been climbed several weeks before by the Trübswetter expedition.⁷ Having reached the saddle between Darban Zom (Pt. 7220 m.) and Shingeik Zom they were compelled to retreat by a sudden change in the weather. During the return journey an avalanche fell from the North face of Noshaq killing one of the Polish members of the party, J. Potocki. Only after very great exertions did the two survivors succeed in getting back to the Qazi-Deh Valley, after sitting out a three-day storm without heating, drink, or provisions.

The expedition of the Lofer Section of the O.A.V. obtained important information about the prospects of ascents in the Istor-o-Nal massif.

In addition to the main summit, 7389 m., climbed by the Americans from the Upper Tirich Glacier in 1955, Istor-o-Nal has several satellites one of which is indicated on the maps as Istor-o-Nal North, 7248 m.; there are, in fact, two north summits. Dr. Pischinger of Graz has already drawn attention to several possibilities for an attack on these satellites, particularly from the south-east or east.

The Austrians fully considered all the possibilities and decided on an attack from the so-called South Atrak glacier, now more suitably named the South Udren glacier. (Dr. Gruber has pointed out that the designation 'Atrak glacier' is erroneously used in the Survey of India map).⁸

Base Camp was pitched at the entrance to the cirque forming the western limit of the glacier. In the vicinity rise Istor-o-Nal North Peak, Pt. 6999 m., and Shingeik Zom.

A thorough examination was made of possible routes on Pt. 6999 m. and on the North Peak, but with negative results. The objective dangers,

⁵ See *A. J.* 71. 206.

⁶ See map *A. J.* 71. 64.

⁷ See p. 85 of this issue.

⁸ In this connection see Dr. Gruber's article in this issue, p. 8.

particularly from ice avalanches, were too great. Istor-o-Nal itself towers above the glacier with a 2700 m. wall of rock and ice.

The glacier basin is divided by a spur falling in a north-easterly direction from the Istor-o-Nal massif. The Austrians, starting from the southern branch of the glacier climbed two summits on this spur. Pt. 6130 m. was climbed on July 3 by Franz Meiberger and Arno Steiner and on the same day Alfons Hagn (leader of the expedition) and Herbert Schmuck reached the summit of Pt. 5820 m. On July 8 Meiberger and Schmuck made the ascent of Pt. 6050 m. on the ridge forming the northern boundary of the glacier.

PERUVIAN ANDES.—*Keele University Expedition, 1965.* Almost two weeks after arriving in Lima a Base Camp was established in the Cordillera de Carabaya on July 15. The delays in extracting the equipment from the Peruvian customs, and then moving the 4000 kilos of equipment 1000 miles across Peru had proved more time consuming than expected. It had taken three days to ferry the equipment from the road head at the school-house of Antauhua into the deep, glaciated valley, between the Allincapac group and Chichicapac, where the camp was to be sited.

Within two days of arrival at Base Camp, P. Floyd and R. Gallagher departed to make a circuit of the peaks by way of Olleachea and Ayaparta, then back to Machusani and Base Camp. G. Bonney, B. Chase and A. Tomlinson began a reconnaissance of Chichicapac.

The circuit ended in disaster when the pack horse fell to its death off a narrow mountain track between Olleachea and Ayaparta. The attempt upon Chichicapac was successful when Tomlinson and Chase reached the summit by the West face on July 23 after negotiating a single 'bad step' in the form of a steep ice-wall. The only real problems were associated with altitude. A height of 5600 m. was recorded for Chichicapac.

On July 25, when the party was re-united, an attempt on 'Tower', one of our main objectives, was begun. The most obvious route, from a camp above Base Camp, via the East face, proved impossible; a second camp, much higher, was established in order to find a route from the north-east. A second attempt by Chase and Gallagher reached the upper shoulders of the mountain, but lack of time drove the party back. The following morning, reinforced by Bonney and Tomlinson, a third attempt was successful, the summit being reached by 1.00 p.m. A height of 5860 m. was recorded. Allincapac was clearly higher, the figure of 6100 m. given by the 1960 Oxford party appearing about right. Chichicapac appears lower at around 5600 m. 'Screwdriver', a peak further to the north of Tower is a fantastic rock spire which looked impossible from the south. Later a route up Screwdriver was found from the north, which was a pure rock-climb with two V.S. pitches. The problem of

establishing a camp at the foot of Screwdriver engaged the party for some time. A new higher camp was established at the head of Base Camp valley and then a second higher camp was established above a very difficult ice-fall.

Screwdriver was climbed on August 16 by Chase and Tomlinson, a height of 5700 m. being recorded. From the camps established for Screwdriver, nine smaller peaks were climbed between August 15 and August 25. These had heights of between 5500 and 5600 m., and stood out of the ice-sheet like nunataks. By August 26 the weather had deteriorated until it was snowing most days after lunch. The useful climbing period was at an end. A final trip through the mountains was made by Gallagher and Tomlinson to Ayaparta following a route almost due north from Base Camp which took them through mountains photographed by the Oxford party in 1960, but previously unvisited.

Base Camp was evacuated on September 9 and the journey home began. The only peak of any size left in the group is 'Wedge', which lies between Screwdriver and Tower. 'Cornice', a peak seen from 'Recce Peak' by the Oxford party, had faded into the ridge when viewed from the east. Wedge appeared to be about 5650 m. high, but due to the snow conditions would be very difficult to climb, as the snow on the ridges is both steep and loose.

RODNEY GALLAGHER.

PERUVIAN ANDES.—*Attempt on Yerupajá, Cordillera Huayhuash.* The unsuccessful attempt of the Scottish Expedition of 1964 to Yerupajá (*A.J.* 70. 245) left two of its members anxious to prove a route that seemed feasible. The 1966 party consisted of Des Hadlum, Ian Howell and Mike Kosterlitz and of Rob Brookes and myself of the 1964 group. We took 5000 ft. of fixed rope and in every respect were well equipped. Base Camp was established on Carhuacocha on July 1 and Camp I at 16,000 ft. two days later. A very dry season had created new difficulties on the glacier that falls from the East face, and it was not until the 7th that Brookes and I were re-climbing the overhanging start to the East spur of Pt. 5660 m. (18,570 ft.; Yerupajá Oeste). The route was forced without great difficulty to the final ridge about 200 ft. below this summit, and thereafter a great length of double cornice led to the col at the foot of the East buttress of the main peak. As a good route of supply, it was out. By good luck the same glacier which had yielded no route in 1964 now led us to the East wall of the North-east ridge, and in the three days from the 12th to the 14th Kosterlitz and Howell fixed rope on this steep wall. Camp II was established at 17,000 ft. Brookes and Hadlum climbed on and fixed rope as far as a minute ledge at about 19,000 ft. By the end of July I had to leave. Some time had been lost by two spells of bad weather. From Camp III Howell and Kosterlitz made a route through the towers

and ice overhangs that defended the access to the final East summit ridge of the mountain, until they were driven down by bad weather just as they ran out of fixed rope. On August 6 all four climbers occupied Camp III, and with heavy loads they set out for the summit bid, expecting to bivouac. They spent the night under difficult circumstances. The next day they faced a route of exceptionally steep, rotting snow. After reaching 20,250 ft., they turned back, gaining Camp III in the dark. Bad weather set in and the party regained Base Camp under difficult conditions. The attempt was abandoned as there was no further time.

C. G. MALCOLM SLESSER.

PERUVIAN ANDES.—*Ishinca, Yanamarey group, and minor peaks north of Alpamayo, Cordillera Blanca.* My wife and I came the whole way up the Amazon to Pucallpa and then by road to Huánuco. After a look at the Cordillera Huayhuash, we went on to Huaraz in the Cordillera Blanca and to the Quebrada Ishinca, camping by Pakliashcocha. After excursions to the glaciers and passes around Ranrapalca, on June 19 we climbed to the ice below Ranrapalca. The ice was easy to ascend to the crest of the South-west ridge of Ishinca. We continued towards the north-east, along the ridge over the top of Ishinca (18,143 ft.). Beyond this was very broken ice and it was very formidable. It is hard to say how far we went along the ridge towards Palcaraju, but I think we must have come to Palcaraju Oeste (20,046 ft.). We then left for the area around the Punta Cahuish and camped left of the road near the tunnel. On June 26 we went up into the corrie where there is a tiny lake and bore left up steep detritus and frozen snow to a pass. We climbed a moderately difficult rotten rock ridge to the right (north-east) to Pt. 5115 m. (16,781 ft.). The next day we went straight up from the tunnel, climbed slabs and a steep gully choked with highly unstable rocks to a small, quite steep glacier and finally to the summit of Yanamarey Sur (17,126 ft.; first ascent by the Swiss Ernst Reiss and Dr. Georg Hartmann, July 20, 1965). On the 28th we climbed on the other (south) side up grass slopes to tiny lakes and to a rock ridge, moderate in difficulty but unpleasant in places with loose rock. Above we climbed on detritus to the red, appallingly loose rock ridge and to the top of Pt. 5141 m. (16,867 ft.) A week later we went into the Quebrada Alpamayo, a rather long three-day walk. From a camp at the lakes below Pelanco Sur on July 11 we climbed the lowest three peaks (about 16,500 ft.) on the end of the ridge that descends from Tayapampa, close to the col between that peak and Pelanco Sur. One was the top of difficult rocks seen from the lakes, the middle one was a little ice dome and the third, towards Tayapampa, was a moderate short rock ridge of some 300 ft.

A. L. CRAM,

BOLIVIAN ANDES.—An expedition from University College, Bangor, consisting of Michael Birchall (leader), Robert Hall, Robert Winfield and David Challis, left Britain on April 28, 1966, and had established its base camp at just over 13,000 ft. by May 23. It was situated in the north-western part of the Cordillera Real of Bolivia, and was reached from La Paz by a twelve-hour truck ride followed by an eight-hour walk in accomplished with the assistance of forty-five llamas. Though relatively accessible, therefore, the Coocó valley has only been visited by two previous expeditions, the German-Austrian expedition of 1928 and the Reading University expedition of 1964; and throughout our stay we were completely on our own.

The aims of the expedition were to map the area known as the Humahallanta, to the east of the valley, which was hitherto untrodden, and to climb as many peaks as possible, with particular attention to Casiri Este (19,510 ft.) and Illampu (20,873 ft.). Survey work, by plane tabling coupled with photographs, was completed for the Humahallanta, enabling the two existing maps to be joined together. Over a period of twelve weeks in the mountains some twenty-one peaks were climbed, with fifteen first ascents. All these were over 18,000 ft., and the highest peak climbed by the expedition was Ancohuma (21,082 ft.), the second highest mountain in Bolivia. Illampu was not attempted in the end, as time and circumstances were against it.

Casiri Este was successfully ascended by Robert Hall, Robert Winfield and Michael Birchall. However, a tragedy happened on the descent, when Birchall fell 500 ft. to his death in a crevasse at the bottom of the South-east face of the mountain. Despite his dragging the rest of the party with him, they survived unscathed as a result of the last man clearing the crevasse and landing on its lower lip, so being able to arrest the second man, although the first reached the bottom of the crevasse and was buried. It took Hall and Winfield sixteen hours to extricate themselves from the site of the accident, and they owe their lives, not only to the miracle of Winfield clearing the crevasse, but also to the foresight shown in carrying full bivouac gear on every climb. The accident occurred on June 26, and after it the expedition returned to La Paz, not resuming its work until mid-July.

During the expedition several visitors joined us for a while. Wayne Wagner, an American Peace Corps worker, stayed for three weeks and accompanied me on the ascent of Ancohuma, as well as assisting after the accident. For the final month we were joined by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Smythe, who were touring South America in a small van for six months. The members of the expedition greatly appreciated the part played by these people, who helped to make the venture worth while and gave it a new lease of life when we returned to complete our work after the accident.

The Cordillera Real of Bolivia still provides a hunting-ground for the explorer and climber with a number of technically straightforward mountains still unclimbed. It is still a little known and little visited range with the added advantage that access is very easy compared with that to many of the greater ranges.

D. H. CHALLIS.

ANTARCTICA.—The highest mountain in Antarctica was recently climbed for the first time, the last high point of a continent to be reached.

The American Antarctic Mountaineering Expedition, organised by the American Alpine Club and also backed by the National Geographic Society, was led by Nicholas B. Clinch. The other members were Barry Corbet, Eiichi Fukushima, Brian S. Marts, Peter K. Schoening, Dr. Samuel S. Silverstein, Richard W. Wahlstrom, Dr. William E. Long, John P. Evans and Charles Hollister. On December 8 they were flown by Navy plane to the base of the Sentinel Range at 2000 m., some 2000 km. from McMurdo, the chief American station in Antarctica.

They first attacked the Vinson Massif (5140 m.), the highest mountain in Antarctica.⁹ The most difficult climbing was steep snow between Base Camp and Camp I, but the route was essentially easy. A severe storm flattened a number of tents both at Base and Camp I. From Camp III all ten members of the expedition reached the top in three successive days, December 18, 19 and 20. From Camp II all ten climbers also ascended Mount Shinn (4800(+) m.) on December 21, 22 and 24.

Attention then turned to Mount Tyree (4965 m.), Antarctica's second highest mountain, a very difficult rock peak. A ramp-like couloir on the flank of Mount Gardner provided the only break in the 1500 m. high quartzite wall. Two camps were established on Mount Gardner, whose summit (4688 m.) was reached by all ten climbers on December 31, January 2 and 7. There seemed to be no alternate route to Tyree and they had to descend difficult rock from near the summit of Gardner to the col between the latter and Tyree, where Camp III was established. Finally on January 6 Corbet and Evans moved along the nearly horizontal but difficult rock ridge, 4 km. long, and then climbed fifteen long rope-lengths on the sheer summit pyramid to the top of Tyree.

On January 12 Evans, Wahlstrom, Hollister and Silverstein climbed Ostenso (4179 m.), a lovely sharp summit, while Long, Schoening, Fukushima and Marts were climbing Long Gables (4152 m.).

H. ADAMS CARTER.

GREENLAND.—Qioqe Peninsula. North of Umanak and of the Alfred Wegener Peninsula in North-west Greenland there lies in the midst of

⁹ Mount Vinson was once thought to be 20,000 ft.; see *A.J.* 63. 261; 65. 236.—
EDITOR.

mighty fjords a peninsula with mountains rising from sea level to a height of 2300 m., often with impressively steep faces. Extensive glaciers reach down to the sea or discharge their icebergs direct into the waters of the fjord.

This peninsula, the Qioqe, was visited last summer by a party—of which I was a member—from the Tortona section of the C.A.I., led by Dr. Bruno Barabino.

Leaving Milan on June 27 we travelled by aeroplane, helicopter, coastal steamer and motor boat and on July 5 set up Base Camp on the Qioqe Peninsula. In the course of our three weeks stay we crossed the peninsula for the first time from one fjord to another after the discovery of a glacier pass, 1300 m. Three high camps were needed on this expedition. On July 16 we climbed the central summit of the peninsula, *c.* 2300 m., having three days previously made the ascent of another peak, *c.* 1770 m., from which we took an instructive panorama over three fjords and their surrounding mountains. The expedition also discovered a lake and was able to correct the available maps.

We left the peninsula on July 24 and completed our journey home on August 5.

This region, with its magnificent fjords and mountains, will certainly attract many other expeditions.

KURT DIEMBERGER.

SOUTH-EAST TURKEY: CILO DAĞ.—During August, 1966, the Nottingham Climbers' Club organised a thirty-strong expedition to Turkish Kurdistan. There were in the party six N.C.C. members, two Youth Club leaders and a mechanic, to guide twenty young climbers from Nottingham Youth Clubs. The expedition travelled overland in two Morris Commercial lorries and a L.W.B. Land Rover, covering 8000 miles on the outward and return journey. The mountains are in two main groups, the Cilo Sat and the Cilo Dağ. It was on the northern side of the Cilo Dağ that this expedition made several first ascents and climbed several new routes.

The mountains were found to be not unlike the Bregaglia in scale. There are several glaciers on the north side, the longest being approximately a mile long. The highest peak is Reşko Teppe (4168 m.), and the rock around it is a solid limestone, as was that of most of the peaks over 3500 m. The escarpment running to the north of Reşko from Maunsell's Peak provided routes of up to 1000 ft. on solid limestone. Rising from grassy alps, they were reminiscent of the Dolomites. The range running north from Suppa Durak was of limestone mixed with volcanic and metamorphosed rocks and did not offer such enjoyable climbing.

These mountains have much more to offer than excellent steep rock. There had been no rain for several weeks prior to our visit and there was

none whilst we were climbing; yet the mountains were not barren, as are the Atlas. Green alps and an abundance of alpine flora cover the valleys right up to the glaciers and scree-slopes. On these, Kurds graze goats and sheep. It was amongst the large, black tents of these nomadic Kurds that we made a high camp in the heart of the mountains.

To reach this camp we approached the area from Lake Van, and made a Base Camp by the Great Zab, a tributary of the Tigris, twelve miles short of Hakkâri and at the entrance to the Mia Huara valley. On the twelve-mile walk to the high camp several villages were passed, and later a geographical study of the whole valley was made, from the village of Diz to that of Suva. Snow-shoes and primitive skis hanging from the flat-topped roofs of the mud-walled houses gave some indication of the amount of snow which one might expect in winter.

From our high camp, some 5000 ft. above the Great Zab Base Camp, thirteen routes or more were attempted. The main ones were as follows:

Cafer Kule. This 700 ft. tower was ascended first by B. Palmer and D. Scott. It lies two miles north of High Camp, at the junction of the two glacial torrents, and south-east of the Demirkapu Pass. A gully led up from the col behind the tower to a shoulder, from which an exposed ascending traverse enabled a 200 ft. chimney to be reached on the east side. From the top of the chimney, easy rock leads to the top, affording splendid views of the steep North face of Reşko and Suppa Durak situated over four miles away to the south. Standard: V sup.

Yarik Sarp (Cracked Crag). This lies a quarter of a mile south-east of the Tower (Cafer Kule) and gave 1000 ft. of chimney climbing, solid jamming cracks and exposed, delicate footholds on bold buttresses. It was first climbed by two ropes: A. Watts and A. Scattergood; D. Stroud and G. Upton. Standard: V.

Both these routes resembled Dolomitic climbing.

Some three-quarters of a mile north-east of Suppa Durak lies a point marked on our German map *Pt. 3460 m.* Directly north of this a ridge, deeply serrated, runs up from a grassy shoulder above Base Camp. This ridge was ascended by four ropes. It was given the name *Tepe Sirt* (Pinnacle Ridge), and provided 5000 ft. of continuous climbing of standard III and IV, with the occasional pitch of V. The East and West faces were occasionally taken, but all the gendarmes on the ridge were climbed. A descent down the west side was made, and camp was reached after a sixteen-hour day.

Pt. 3460 m. was also reached by D. Scott and A. Watts, climbing a route of 2500 ft. up the buttresses and gully of the East face. The route took six hours; standard IV, with occasional V and V sup. pitches.

Suppa Durak (3670 m.) was attempted by S. Read and B. Palmer, C. Yeats and G. Upton. On the exceedingly steep West ridge, over-

hangs only 150 ft. below the top prevented the summit from being reached.

The northern side of *Reşko Teppe* was attempted twice, but on each occasion the summit eluded the party. (i) The North ridge was attempted, but after over 1000 ft. of severe rock-climbing from the upper glacier below Reşko only the first col and peak on the ridge had been reached. This peak was found to be cairned. Several other summits would have had to be traversed before Reşko itself could be attacked. (ii) The West ridge was attempted by S. Bowes, B. Palmer, A. Scattergood and R. Stroud. An easy walk up the glacier brought them to a difficult *rimaye* below the gully which runs up to the col on the west side of Reşko. After cutting steps in the ice, they reached good rock on the right side of the gully, and climbed up (standard about V) for 1000 ft. At this point a traverse across scree-ledges, snow and loose rock was made to reach the West ridge, where a bivouac was made. A peak was ascended on the ridge and a cairn placed on the summit. The final cone of Reşko was steep, and the rock very compact. The 700 ft. remaining would have required bolting and pegging all the way. Time, water and food ran out, and this side of Reşko was abandoned.

After twelve full days in the Cilo, the climbers and geographers departed for Base Camp and the long drive home.

DOUGLAS SCOTT.

THE ALPS

Mont Blanc Massif

AIGUILLE DU FOU, West face. The first direct ascent was made in 1966 by two British climbers, M. Boysen and J. Jordan.

AIGUILLE DE BLAITIÈRE, West face. On July 26 and 27, 1966, M. Galbraith and A. McKeith made a new route (ED) on the West face of the North summit: the West rib, situated immediately to the right of the *voie britannique* (Brown-Whillans).

Valais

MATTERHORN.—On September 28, 1966, two Zermatt guides, René Arnold and Josef Graven, accomplished the feat of following the four arêtes of the Matterhorn in a single day.

Leaving a bivouac at the foot of the Furggen ridge at 1.30 a.m. they reached the summit six hours later by Piacenza's route and descended by the Hörnli arête. After a meal they crossed the Matterhorn glacier and climbed the Zmutt ridge arriving on the summit at 4 p.m. Finally, they descended by the South-west arête to reach Breuil at 9 p.m.

The first British winter ascent of the North face of the Matterhorn was made by Dougal Haston and Mick Burke on February 10–12, 1967.

Dauphiné

L'OLAN.—The second ascent by the North-west face of the North (highest) summit, 3563 m., was made on July 15–16, 1966, by J. Midière and J. Reppelin, with two bivouacs, the second on the summit.

This great route was first made in 1956 by Jean Couzy and René Desmaison and was described at the time as 'without doubt the most important problem of Oisans'.

Their successors consider the climb comparable to the great routes in the chain of Mont Blanc. Some passages are more difficult than any on the West face of the Dru, but in general the extreme difficulties are not so sustained.

On September 20 M. Reppelin also made a solo ascent of the North-west face by the Devies-Gervasutti route in eight hours.