Notes 1973 Europe

Colin Taylor

Once again I am indebted to Ken Wilson, the Editor of *Mountain*, for collating the information on which these brief notes are based. More information will be found in *Mountain*, and *Alpine Climbing* will contain full details of most of the ascents referred to below.

Continental parties made first ascents in winter of some notable routes including the Peuterey *intégrale*, the Petites Jorasses W face, the Tronchey ridge on the Grandes Jorasses, the Couzy route on the N face of the Droites, the N face of the Lauterbrunnen Breithorn, the NE face of the Gspaltenhorn (December 1972) and the NW buttress of the Piz Cengalo. In the Dolomites the first winter ascent of the Philipp-Flamm route on the Punta Civetta took seven bivouacs. In January Desmaison, with Bertone and Claret, completed his route up the left flank of the Walker Spur on the Grandes Jorasses.

British parties were again in evidence. In February Anthoine, Barker and Nannery made the first ascent of the NE face of Mont Blanc de Cheilon (the face left of the Jenkins ridge). They spent 2 days on the face threatened by the summit cornice which fortunately only collapsed just after the party had moved out of range. Again in February Braithwaite and Collister made an ascent of the Sentinelle Rouge on the Brenva flank of Mont Blanc in 8 hours, counting on the slower approach of bad weather in winter. The storm only broke during their descent to Chamonix. A few days later Collister made a solo ascent of the N face of the Col du Plan.

During the summer season many British parties were disappointed by the general bad weather which lasted from the end of the first week in July to the second week in August with good spells on either side. Renshaw and Tasker however still managed to include the Walker Spur and the N faces of the Eiger, Nesthorn and Dent Blanche in their ascents and lastly the third ascent of the Cecchinel-Nominé route on the Eckpfeiler of Mont Blanc.

In the Mont Blanc region new routes by continental parties included three on the W face of the Aiguille Noire de Peuterey (Desmaison, Claret and Bertone) and a major one on the Eckpfeiler between the two existing lines by Dufour and Fréhel. Audoubert, Lainez and Tomas made the first traverse from the Flammes de Pierre du Dru to the Courtes and the Col des Cristaux via the Verte and the Droites. Major solo ascents included the 2 routes on the N face of the Aiguille Blanche de Peuterey (Roulin and Afanassieff in August), the Dru N face by the American Sylvester, and the NE spur of the Droites by Rouse. Jaeger made the first solo traverses of the Chamonix Aiguilles and of the Grandes Jorasses via the Tronchey ridge and over the Aiguille de Rochefort. British ascents included the Eckpfeiler, Central Frêney Pillar and the Hemming–Robbins route on the Dru W face.

In the Oberland Cuthbertson and Wilkinson took a new line up the Ebnefluh N face left of the Rote-Fluh Ridge and descended the face by the line of the Jossi route. The two main routes on the Lauterbrunnen Breithorn had first British ascents from Boardman and Barton and Cuthbertson and Wilkinson. The former pair also made the first British ascent of the highly reputed N face of the Nesthorn.

In the Pennine Alps Renshaw and Tasker made the first British ascent of the N face of the Dent Blanche following the Vaucher route. E. Jones soloed the Schmid brothers' route on the Matterhorn N face in August.

Notable ski descents included the Couturier couloir on the Aiguille Verte (Çachat-Rosset, Baud and Vallençant), the Old Brenva route on Mont Blanc and the Biancograt on Piz Bernina, both by Holzer.

NEW GUIDE-BOOKS

*La Chaine du Mont Blanc—*1 *Mont Blanc-Trélatête.* L. Devies and P. Henry (Arthaud, 1973).
A third edition of the Guide Vallot: one wonders if individual volumes are not getting a little heavy—443 pages here weighing 10 ounces. Of its thorough competence on the subject there can be no doubt whatsoever.

Ski Guide—Austria Mark Heller (Quartet Books, London, 1973, £1·50).
This is a new guide compiled by Mark Heller, the ski correspondent of the *Guardian*, covering some 90 ski centres. It is full of useful information about the availability of skiing, with clear map diagrams. It is not a guide to hotels or après-ski.

Notes 1973 Asia

Bob Lawford

Hindu Kush

Mir Samir (5809 m) A small Austrian party made the first ascent of the SW summit.

Koh-i-Bandaka N (6725 m) A DAV expedition led by Ulrich Kamm with Base Camp in the Darrah-i-Sakhi made the second ascent by a new route on the N ridge. They also climbed Koh-i-Bandaka S (6843 m) and made the first ascent of Pt 6044 m S summit.

Koh-i-Bandaka Zeraghan (6280 m) was climbed for the first time by a team led by J. Dozier. Their route followed the NE Ridge.

Tirich Mir (7706 m) was climbed by a Spanish expedition led by Jose Mª Montfort. They also made first national ascents of Tirich West I (7487 m) Manresa Zom (7352 m) and Dir Gol Zom (6778 m). See page 199.

Noshaq (7492 m) The Polish expedition led by A. Zawada made history by climbing this major peak in winter. They reached the summit during the night of 12–13 February. See page 11.

Karakoram

Saser Kangri I (7672 m) The highest virgin peak in India was climbed by an Indo Tibet Border Police team led by Joginder Singh. The expedition approached from the Shyok valley and the Shukpa Kunchang glacier. They reached the summit on 5 June and the following 2 days.

Kishtwar

Brammah (6416 m) The first ascent was made by Chris Bonington and Nick Estcourt in August. They followed the SE ridge as did previous attempts.

Kulu-Lahul

Jon Fleming led a 39 member British Army expedition which made several ascents including Indrasan, Ali Ratni Tibba and Menthosa. Another British team led by R. Collister climbed in the South Parbati area. Articles on both these expeditions appear in this *Journal* (pp 21 and 121).

Ali Ratni Tibba (5490 m) was climbed by three different routes by a small expedition led by Adrian Burgess. They also made the first ascent of one of the Manikaren spires (*c* 5200 m).

Garhwal

Panch Chuli (6904 m) After nine previous attempts by five different nations this much sought-after peak was eventually climbed by an Indian expedition led by Mahendra Singh. The summit was reached on 26 May.

Kamet (7756 m) The third ascent was made on 20 September by a 14-member team led by Anil Deb.