# NEW EXPEDITIONS.

## *Mont Blanc Group.*

PETITES JORASSES, 3658 m. = 12,002 ft., *B.I.K.* By the N.W. face. July 16–17, 1929. MM. Migot and O. C. Schaub, with Armand Charlet.

[The N.W. face of the peak is characterized by a very prominent hanging glacier situated at about one-third of its height. This glacier is supported by a prominent rocky spur. Above the glacier, and close to the latter's upper slopes, starts a rocky couloir debouching a little to the left, N.E., of the summit. The general line of ascent is indicated by glacier and couloir.]

From the Montenvers follow at first the ordinary Couvercle route, then leaving the former to mount the Leschaux Glacier, steer towards the Col des Hirondelles. When on a level with the rocky spur of our peak turn to the left and mount steep snow, thus gaining the spur on the slope facing the Dôme de Rochefort. By a smooth slab attain a small platform. Above rise two parallel chimneys; take the left-hand one which is climbed with great difficulty between the wall and a large overhanging flake; traverse to the right to a platform above the top of the other, or right-hand (ascending), chimney. Above is another difficult and overhanging step, followed by slabs leading to a narrow terrace. Beyond lies a great smooth slab, holdless, but for a narrow crack (piton fixed). Go up the slab—the hardest bit of the climb. By easier rocks at first and then by an overhanging chimney attain the hanging glacier. Mount the glacier, very steep and icy in its upper slopes, with great danger from falling stones, striking the rocks to the left of the couloir. Gradually approach the true right bank of the couloir till latter is barred by an overhang. Cross and recross the couloir—many falling stones—and by one or other bank mount by climbing great split slabs. Now by a badly defined rib, forming the right bank of the couloir, and easier rocks attain the summit ridge close to the top.

Bivouac below the summit ridge on its Italian slope.

On the following day party descended N. arête, keeping slightly on its E. slope to the Col des Petites Jorasses.[1] Hence the Aiguille de Leschaux, 3770 m., was gained over snow slopes.[2] From that summit the party gained the N. branch of the Leschaux Glacier, flowing from the Col de l'Eboulement by descending—almost entirely *en rappel*—the N. arête and N.W. face of the peak.[3]

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[1] 3526 m., *Vallot*; *A.J.* **39,** 334.
[2] *A.J.* **39,** 143.
[3] *Ibid.* **39,** 312–3; **40,** 52–5.

Times, halts included :

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| Montenvers dep. | 09.40 |
| First rocks of Petites Jorasses | 14.25[4] |
| Hanging Glacier | 16.30 |
| Couloir | 17.35 |
| Main ridge | 17.40 |
| Bivouac arr. | 20.00 |
| Bivouac dep. | ? |
| Col des Petites Jorasses | 06.05 |
| Aiguille de Leschaux | 07.45 |
| Surface of Leschaux Glacier | 12.45 |
| Montenvers arr. | 16.50 |

From *La Montagne.*

*Caucasus.*

GIULCHI, 14,680 ft., Lower peak, called *Rziwaschkitau, ca.* 4400 m. [?corresponds with Mr. Freshfield's Ptysvachki,[5] see his map]. First ascent and first crossing of the massif (Sugan group) from N. to S. July 9–12, 1929. Herren F. Bechtold, W. Merkl, and W. Raechl.

*July* 9.—From Balkar, 04.00, up the Ptysvachki glen and glacier of that name to a bivouac on the right lateral moraine of the glacier, *ca.* 3100 m., 18.00.

*July* 10.—Left bivouac at 08.50, then up to uppermost, very crevassed, basin of Ptysvachki Glacier to a bivouac S. of a rocky needle emerging from the N.W. steep névé slopes of Ptysvachkitau, *ca.* 3950 m., 19.00. Bad weather.

*July* 11.—Left bivouac at 03.15; steering straight towards summit, a shapely snow pyramid, the N.W. face of which is some 1600 ft. high and set at an angle of 45°–53°. Summit at 10.30. Bad weather, consequently ascent of Giulchi abandoned. [Herr Egger courteously informs us that Giulchi was climbed by an Italian party on July 25.] Party turned down W. arête to a broad saddle and thence over steep névé to the Kokursu Glacier, down the right bank of that glacier—icefall descended with a 100-ft. *rappel*—to *ca.* 2400 m. below the moraine. Bivouac at 19.30.

*July* 12.—Left bivouac at 06.45, arriving at Karaul (5500 ft.) at 10.00.

KOSHTANTAU, 16,680 ft.; 5145 m., *Merzbacher.* By N. arête. July 23–26, 1929. Herren F. Bechtold, W. Merkl, and W. Raechl.

[The N. arête [6] rises from the so-called Mishirgi Pass—connecting the Kundium-Mishirgi with the Ulluauz Glacier—in a difference of

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[4] The late hour of approach to the peak must have increased the danger incurred from falling stones ?—*Editor.*

[5] The Russian and Greek 'P' correspond with our letter 'R.'

[6] The possibility of ascending this ridge is pointed out in Mr. Freshfield's *Exploration of the Caucasus*, ii, p. 110.

level of some 3500 ft. The S. arête has been followed on the two previous ascents, while in 1888 Messrs. Donkin and Fox attempted the rocky E. arête.]

*July* 23.—From the Misses Kosh (06.00), a good track on the true right bank of the Bezingi Glacier was descended for an hour, when the party deviated to the E. and mounted the Mishirgi glen to the flat end of that glacier (11.45). The party mounted the glacier containing four icefalls, all of which must be climbed or turned, and bivouacked at a height of about 3730 m. (19.45).

*July* 24.—Left bivouac at 04.30, passing through the two upper icefalls with difficulty and attaining the upper névé fields, at a height of some 4200 m. (10.15). The N. arête is now plainly visible. It rises from the Mishirgi Pass in a great rocky tower, followed by a lower and then an upper snow dome, whence the ridge continues, snowy, and set at a high angle, to an enormous rock pinnacle, after which it rises with no further difficulty to the summit. At 12.00 the party attained the Mishirgi Pass, *ca.* 4350 m. The first tower was climbed by its W. slope over iced and difficult rocks, and from its top a *descent* of some 180 ft. to the S. brought the party to the gap between the tower and its neighbour. By a ledge on the W. slope of the second tower and by mounting a little snow-gully, they attained the snow dome and bivouacked at a height of some 4530 m. (19.00).

*July* 25.—Leaving the bivouac at 24.00, the party mounted over snow below the snow dome and arrived at 01.00 in the notch whence the arête steepens. At dawn (03.50) they proceeded upwards, climbing over a few little teeth, and embarked on the great snowy portion of the ridge. It is fairly moderate in inclination at first—some 45°—and is followed partly by the crest and partly by its N.W. slope. At a height of about 4800 m. the arête bends to the S.W., not regaining its direction till the point where it abuts against the great rock pinnacle. This latter is mostly turned by a kind of cleft or chimney in its W. flank over icy and most dangerous slabs—a 3 hrs. climb—and the level of the top of the pinnacle attained at 09.30. Then over the fairly easy crest of the ridge (10.50) to the summit (12.20).

Descent commenced at 13.40, the great pinnacle was turned more to the W. than in the ascent, but proving just as difficult—a 4 hrs. climb—party only attained its base at 18.15. [It was impossible on account of the ice to take the pinnacle direct which should, under good conditions, prove the most advisable course, but the party think that the very steep snowy E. flank *might* prove feasible.] Bivouac on the ridge at about 4800 m. (19.30).

*July* 26.—Leaving bivouac at 02.00, party descended by same route, attaining base of snowy portion of ridge at 02.55, snowy basin below Mishirgi Pass at 08.25, descended the four icefalls of the glacier—the last necessitating a *rappel*—arriving at the Misses Kosh at 21.15.

Skala Bodorku, 13,720 ft. By the W. arête. August 3, 1929. Herren F. Bechtold, W. Merkl, and W. Raechl. From a camp, *ca.* 2650 m., on the Seri Glacier, the party, 04.15, crossed the Tuiber Glacier in a N. direction to the Zynal and Litsha Glaciers. Then to the western of two snow couloirs seaming the main mass of Skala Bodorku, 08.45. Up this couloir, icy in parts, to a broad gap in W. arête, whence, 12.00, over steep ice and névé to a W. and secondary top, 13.00, and the sharp névé ridge to the summit, 13.40. Descent by same route.

Kulaktau, 4062 m. Traverse of the three peaks. August 4–5, 1929. Herren F. Bechtold, W. Merkl, and W. Raechl.

[The massif consists of great ice cliffs rising to the S.E. of the Kulak (or Sqimar) Glacier. The E. peak rises in a short arête to the basin connected with the upper Kulak Glacier by an icefall. The W. peak rises from the long and be-pinnacled ridge starting from the Tuiber Pass.]

*August* 4.—From a bivouac on the Tuiber Pass, 3601 m., starting at 03.45, party bore S.W., thus turning, some 200–300 ft. below the crest, the many towers on the ridge. This took much time, and arête of W. peak not attained till 09.00, *ca.* 3660 m. Arête followed over the steep and broken rocks of its right-hand slope; some 300 ft. higher up ridge becomes snowy, and, under favourable circumstances, could be followed to the summit; party, however, owing to much ice, obliged to proceed below crest over dangerously loose rocks. These rocks eventually improve and are climbed to the W. peak, *ca.* 4000 m., 15.45, whence the central peak, *ca.* 4000 m., is easily attained, 17.05. Thick mists compelled a bivouac in a snowy hollow below the central peak, 18.30.

*August* 5.—Left bivouac at 03.50, and from the gap between the central peak and summit, party took to an icy ledge leading diagonally to the right towards the W. arête. This latter attained after much cutting, and summit of Kulaktau reached after a fine climb, 06.10. Descent to S.E. over rocks and ice-gullies to a snowy plateau and thence to a gendarme lying S.E. of the plateau. Hence the steep névé walls of a basin, set at an angle of some 55°, lead downwards. Keeping some 300 ft. from the W. and rocky bank of the hollow or basin, party took a rib between two avalanche gullies; descending this with much cutting and some *rappels*, they thus attained the base of the hollow. The long avalanche trough descending N. to the Kulak Glacier, or its left margin, was descended with much peril. Many ice pitons employed to the upper avalanche débris, whence the surface of the glacier is quickly attained, *ca.* 3300 m., 14.10. The Tuiber Pass bivouac reached at 03.30.

The summit of Kulaktau appears far easier of access from the Kitlod Glacier to the S.

[The next group of peaks and passes is situated in the chain W. of the Tuiber Pass forming the S.E. boundary of the névés of the Leksur Glacier.]

Bashil Pass, *ca.* 3450 m., between Tot and Bashiltau. First crossing. August 6–7, 1929. Herren F. Bechtold, W. Merkl, W. Raechl, G. Anosow, W. Semenowski, and A. Worobioff.

*August* 6.—From camp on the Seri Glacier, party leaving at 12.50, mounted in N. direction over Tuiber Glacier to Zynal Glacier, of which a small portion is traversed to that glacier descending in a steep icefall from direction of Tot. Mounting or turning, to its true right, the said icefall the upper uncrevassed glacier is followed to a grassy rock buttress projecting from Tot, *ca.* 3160 m.; bivouac, 18.15.

*August* 7.—Bivouac left at 05.00; after short descent to glacier, the pass easily attained over gentle névé, 06.45. The descent over the Leksur Glacier is easy.

Navirianitau, *ca.* 4130 m. First ascent. August 7, (? 8), 1929. Same party as on August 6–7.

[This peak lies on the ridge leading S. from Sarikol Bashi, 13,965 ft.; this ridge is snowy on its W. slope, but the E. slope falls in rocky precipices to the southern névés of the Bashil Glacier.]

From a camp on the Leksur Glacier, *ca.* 3300 m., party started at 12.30. The icefall of the Leksur Glacier is scaled, and then progress is over the level surface to the bergschrund at the S. base of the massif, *ca.* 3700 m., 14.00. A snow couloir to the W. of the highest visible point is followed to a broad snowy saddle whence the summit first becomes visible, 14.55. The top is attained by bearing N. over a snowy hogsback, 17.00. Descent by same route.

From *Jahresbericht* des A. A. V., München, 1928–9.

For the ascent of Ushba, S. peak, see under 'Various Expeditions.'

[We would express our congratulations to the party, and can only admire their skill and determination, surpassed only by their power of resistance.—*Editor* 'A.J.']

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# VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

## *Mont Blanc Group.*

Pic 'Moore,' *ca.* 3530 m. = 11,580 ft. No height or name on *B.I.K.* July 31, 1929. Messrs. T. Y. Kagami and T. Graham Brown, with Alexander Graven and Gottfried Perren. Party left Torino hut at 04.40 and traversed Calotte de la Brenva (summit 07.00) to Upper Brenva Glacier. Thence to foot of *Col Moore*, the ridge of which was reached at the lowest point. The extremely narrow snow and ice arête was followed S. to the first rocks of Pic 'Moore,' against the face of which it ends. A traverse to the right on small but sufficient holds led to a sharp rock arête continuing without interruption to the first point which was reached at 08.45. After 20 mins. rest the party descended the steep S. arête of the