

EXPEDITIONS.

Dauphiné.

L'AILEFROIDE (Central Summit), 3928 m. = 12,887 ft. *E.M.* map. By the N. (Coste rouge) buttress.¹ July 30, 1934. Messrs. P. Lloyd and G. A. Dummett.

The party left the Temple-Ecrins hut at 00.15, and followed the easy route over the Col de la Temple and the head of the Glacier Noir to the Col de la Coste rouge, 3152 m., arriving at 04.25. At 04.45 the steep rocks to the W. of the col were attacked and climbed to the gap behind the first great gendarme (08.15). A traverse on the W. face of the succeeding teeth led to a gap at the foot of the great, red rock buttress forming the Coste rouge proper. This was climbed direct. Other parties appear to have used a steep couloir directly E. of the rib, but this would seem to be less interesting as well as dangerous. A halt (13.35 to 14.10) was made after turning a massive gendarme by its W. flank, some 1000 ft. beneath the summit. The upper tower of the ridge was climbed by iced rocks and névé on its E. side to the level ridge leading to the very steep summit rocks. A series of difficult cracks and chimneys led directly to the summit, which was reached at 19.25. A bivouac was made some hundred feet down a wide rock couloir a little to the W. of the summit, which was descended the following day.

The conditions were good and neither crampons nor *Kletterschuhe* were used. The climb is a long and arduous one, on rock which is continuously steep and difficult, but on the ridge itself very good, especially in the final section. It would, therefore, seem to be better to start from a bivouac on the Col de la Coste rouge rather than to take either of the long approaches from the Temple-Ecrins or Cézanne huts.

Times were :

Temple-Ecrins hut	. . .	dep.	00.15
Col de la Temple	. . .		02.30
Col de la Coste rouge	. . .		04.25-04.45
Gap at base of Coste rouge	. . .		09.30
Gap behind 'massive gendarme'	. . .		13.35-14.10
Foot of final summit rocks	. . .		16.30
Summit	. . .	arr.	19.25

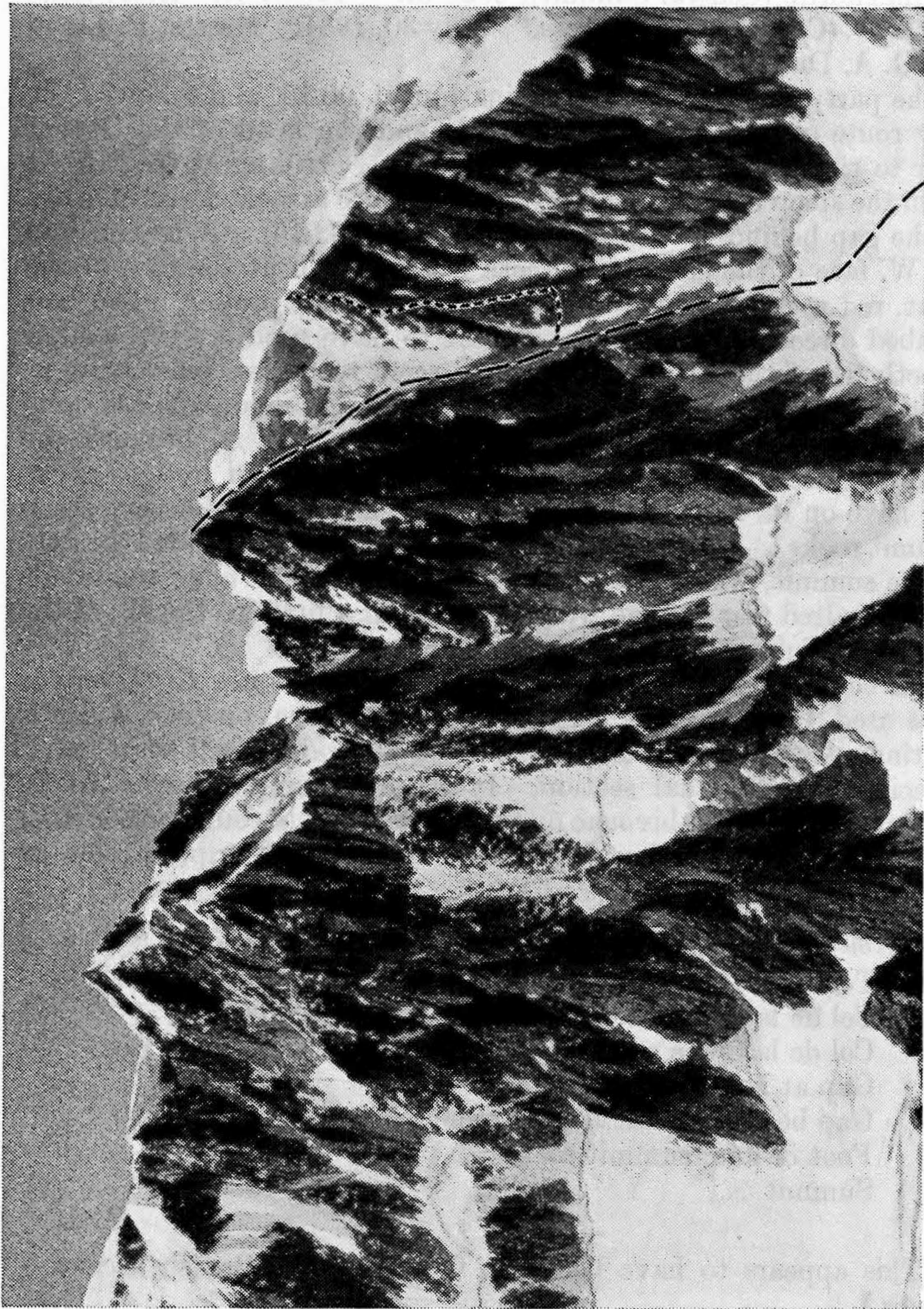
P. L.

[This appears to have been the fifth but first British ascent.—*Editor.*]

¹ Cf. *A.J.* 27, 437-9, with a superb Sella illustration on which the route of the first party (Herr Guido Meyer with Angelo Dibona, July 1-2, 1913) is marked. The 1934 line of ascent varies but little save that the steep couloir at the base was avoided.

Mont Blanc Group.

MONT BLANC DU TACUL, 4249 m. = 13,941 ft., *B.I.K.* By the N.E. face. August 13, 1934. Signori Renato Chabod and Giusto Gervasutti.



Photo, R. Chabod.]

MONT BLANC DU TACUL, E. FACE, SHOWING 1934 (LEFT) AND 1929 ROUTES.

The length of the couloir seaming the N.E. face is about 800 m. (bergschrund 3465 m. ; summit 4249 m.)

The route taken by Signori F. Ravelli, P. Filippi and P. Ghiglione in 1929 ('A.J.' 42, 314-17), follows the couloir for less than 300 m. ;

it then proceeds along the rock rib to the true left of it. We, instead, followed the great couloir as far as the summit. Therefore we climbed for the first time the last 500 m., constituting the hardest part of the ascent.

Instead of keeping near the rocks as Ravelli did, we kept, for the first part, in the middle of the couloir in order to mount faster. That part of it under the séracs is of formidable angle and turning the séracs was accomplished on a very exposed slope.

Our climb was *favoured* by bad weather, because, owing to the couloir facing N.E., if it had been a sunny day we should have been swept away by an avalanche, given the great quantity of snow lying up above. We decided on the climb because the weather promised to be overcast and we finished it in a storm, arriving at about 10 m. from the E. peak.

Times :

Rifugio Torino	dep.	02.15
Bergschrund		04.15-04.25
Summit		13.05-13.15
Rifugio Torino	arr.	17.45

The descent took place in thick mist and in a storm, which obliged us to stop frequently so as to steer properly in the right direction, all tracks being completely obliterated.

R. C.

Pennines.

DENTS DES BOUQUETINS, 3848 m. = 12,685 ft., *S. map*. Complete S.-N. traverse, descent by N. face from N. peak. August 18, 1934. Miss M. R. FitzGibbon with Joseph Georges, *le skieur*.

We left the Bertol hut at 04.30 for the little rubble col to the S.E. of point 3396 m. of the Dents de Bertol, *descended* by scree to the Arolla Glacier and continued up that glacier. After rounding point 3097 m., we made for a snow couloir running down from a large gendarme on the arête; leaving the couloir about halfway up we took to the rocks on the right wall, then by smooth slabs and chimneys gained the arête just to the N. of this prominent gendarme.² We then followed the arête over the *Pointe Barnes* to the foot of the difficult step. This consists of two vertical walls, the angle of which juts out like the prow of a ship, and is about 40 ft. high. The ascent is made exactly on the vertical edge on small holds, the most difficult portion being about half-way up, when a move to the right has to be made in order to surmount a bulge. There are better holds for finishing on to a large platform. We changed into rubbers for this, otherwise we climbed in boots. We reached the summit of the S. peak at 11.45 and then followed the arête over about 20 gendarmes—three of which must be nearly 100 ft. high; their

² *Alpes Valaisannes*, ii, p. 15.

general inclination is to slope towards the N., and they are all very characteristic. The perpendicular wall of the Central peak towers above the last gendarme. In avoiding this a slightly descending traverse on the E. flank leads to two vertical chimneys which conduct the climber back to the arête, and so on to the summit.³ Continuing along the arête over more gendarmes to the N. peak (there is one gendarme seeming large enough to be a subsidiary 'north peak'), we encountered snow and ice on this portion of the traverse. The leader chose to descend down the N. face, as we had only about 2 hours of daylight left. We started down from the summit in a N.N.E. direction on an ill-defined rock rib; the rocks were covered with soft snow and there was some ice. When the rocks petered out and we were forced to take to the snow it was steep and very soft. I had no axe and we had to take the utmost precautions. We eventually attained the bergschrund, finding after some search a place to cross it and, over the little untracked glacier below, reached the Mont Miné Glacier as dusk was falling. The Bertol hut was reached about 20.00 hrs. Georges said that he had descended further to the S. with Mr. Richards.

The traverse of the Bouquetins is an excellent climb; the best part is from *Pointe Barnes* to the Central peak, which gives as good climbing as can be found anywhere. The rock is on the whole good, at any rate where it matters; the northern portion is more inclined to be loose, but is always interesting.

Times :

Bertol hut	dep.	04.30
Foot of couloir		07.30-08.00
Arête		10.25
S. peak		11.45-12.00
Central peak		15.10-15.30
N. peak		17.00-17.45
Bertol hut	arr.	19.50

The first complete traverse of the massif of the Dents des Bouquetins from the S. was made on July 21, 1925, by Mr. I. A. Richards with Joseph Georges, *le skieur*.⁴ They mounted from a bivouac on the Arolla Glacier to the E. of the col between point 3097 m. and the W. buttress of *Pointe Barnes*, thence reaching the S. arête to the S. of *Pointe Barnes*. Two other traverses were made as far as the Central peak in 1925: Dr. Kühlemann on August 18,⁵ and Mlle. Pasteur on September 8. Both these parties descended from the Central peak. Georges considers that the route from the Arolla Glacier used by us in 1934 is the best for attaining the arête.

³ It was while descending these chimneys that M. d'Okolski fell.

⁴ *A.J.* 37, 368-9. *Alpes Valaisannes*, ii. p. 16.

⁵ *Die Alpen*, February, 1926.



Photo, Miss M. FitzGibbon.]

JOSEPH GEORGES ON DIFFICULT STEP IN TRAVERSE OF DENTS DES BOUQUETINS.

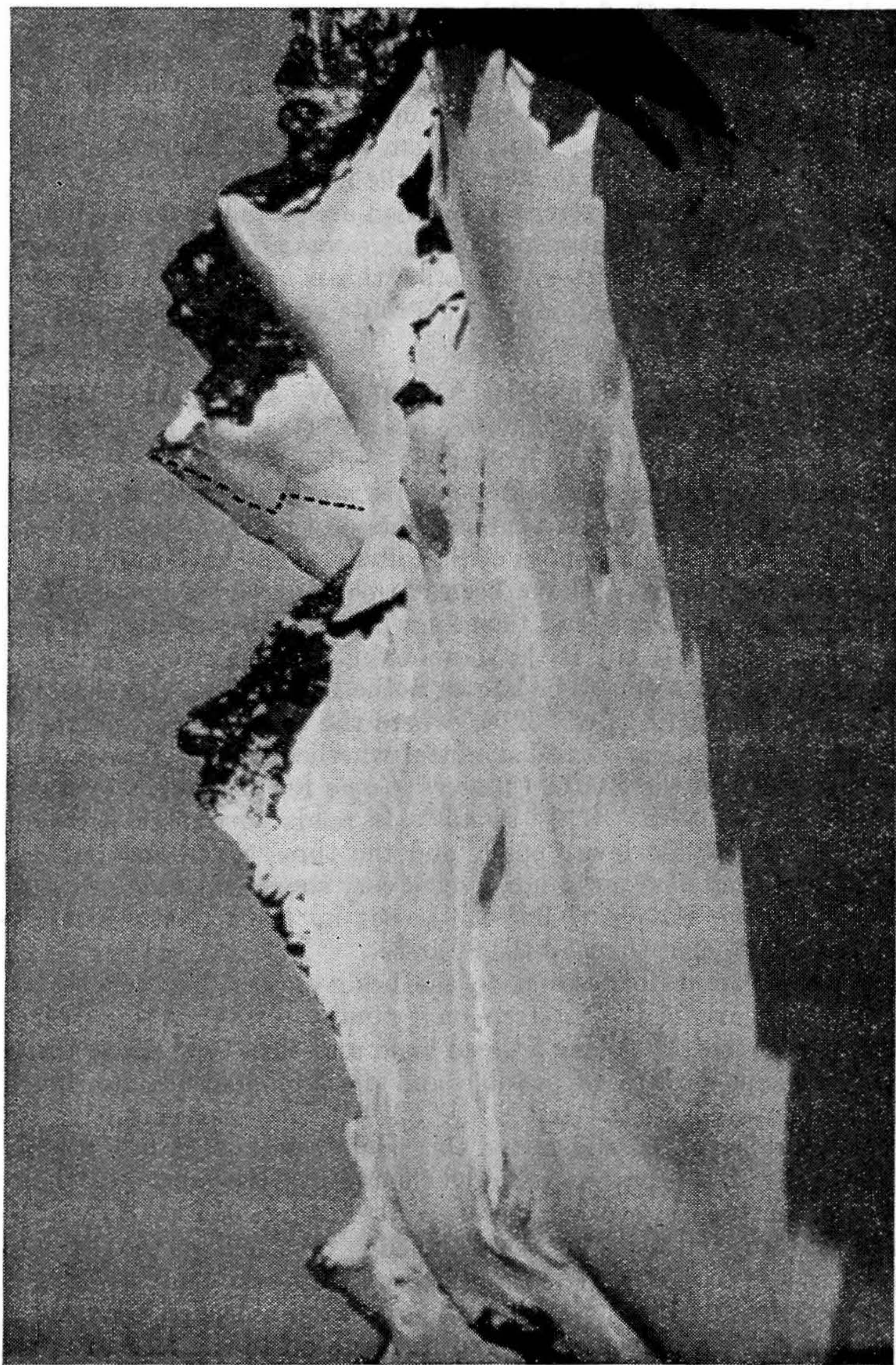
[To face p. 141.



Photo, Miss M. FitzGibbon.]

THE S. (LEFT) AND CENTRAL PEAKS OF DENTS DES BOUQUETINS, FROM
POINTE BARNES.

We knew nothing of the accident to M. Ladislas d'Okolski, aged 19, of Lausanne, until our return to the hut. He fell while descending



N. PEAK OF DENTS DES BOUQUETINS WITH MARKED LINE OF DESCENT.

the Central peak in attempting the traverse in the reverse direction, guideless, with two companions. The accident happened at mid-day, 3 hours before we had arrived at the site. We knew that another

party was on the Bouquetins, but not meeting them, concluded that they had abandoned the traverse and had descended from the Central peak. As far as I could ascertain the victim was descending the chimneys on the E. flank of the Central peak when a stone fall occurred; the other two had reached the traverse and on returning to look for him found that the rope had been cut by the stones. He fell several hundred feet. His companions at once descended to the Bertol hut for help; the guardian and some others went to look for the body, which was recovered the next day.

Future parties should exercise care when ascending or descending on the E. flank of the Central peak. There was a quantity of loose rock at the top of the chimneys—whether this is usual or was caused by the stone fall I do not know. This route seems to be used only on the traverse.

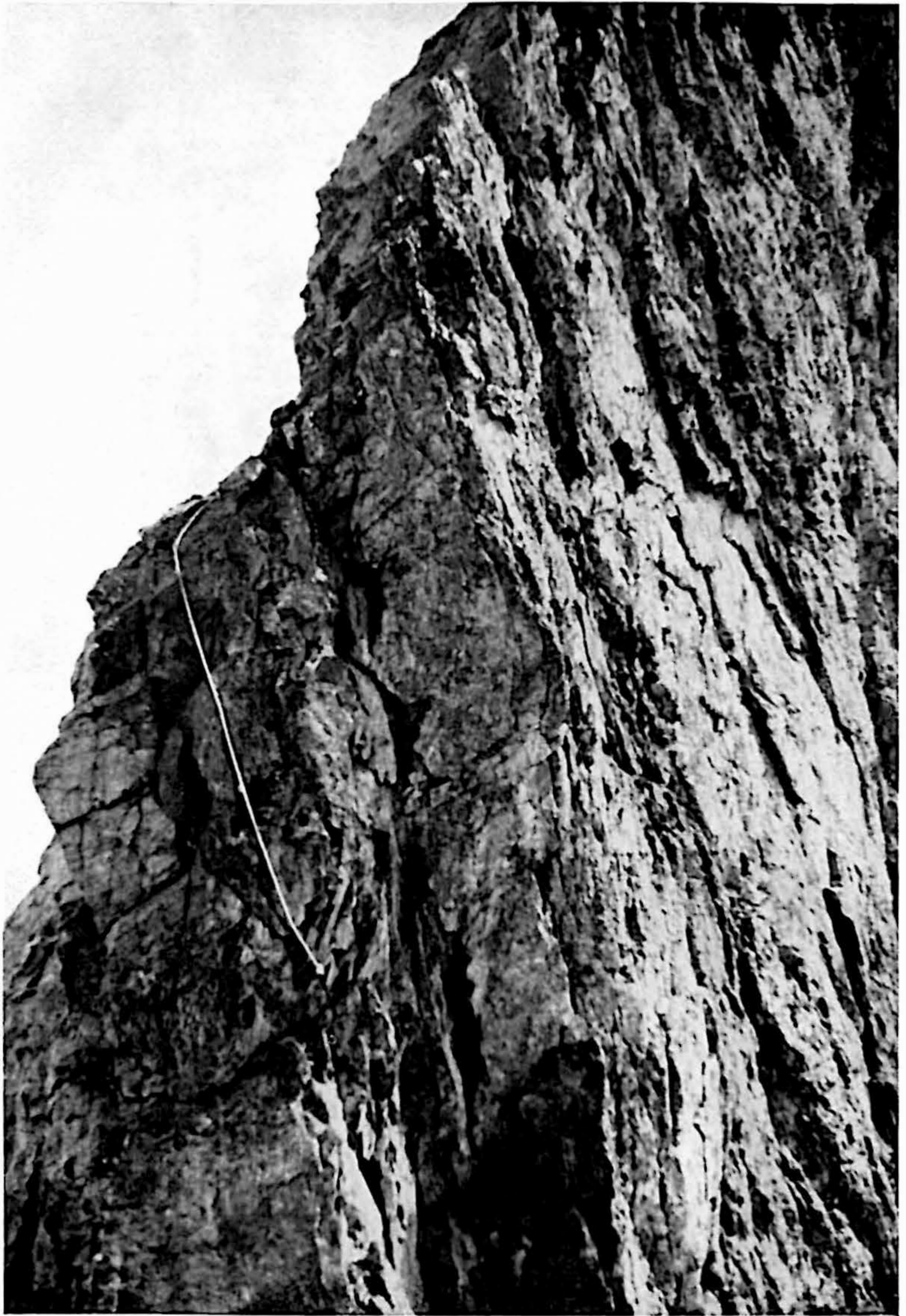
LEITERSPITZ, 3412 m. = 11,195 ft. By the W. arête. August 11, 1934. Miss M. FitzGibbon with Joseph Georges, *le skieur*; Mr. G. R. Speaker with Hans Kohler.

Literature regarding the Leiterspitz is strangely reticent. On the *Siegfried* there are two measured points on the *Teufelsgrat* of the Taeschhorn below the Kienhorn or Strahlbett. The lowest of these, point 3218 m., appears to have been the peak ascended by Mr. H. Heldman on July 9, 1888, and then known as the Leiterspitz.⁶ The next peak, point 3412 m., is the more definite of the two, and it is *this* point that now seems to be known as the Leiterspitz. The usual route is from the gap E. of '3218,' where the true W. ridge of the Leiterspitz commences. I feel doubtful whether the description of the route given in the S.A.C. *Climbers' Guide* for the ascent of the Leiterspitz deals with '3412' at all.⁷ It reads as though it was more likely to be the lower point, and the times given—5½ hours from Zermatt and 6½ from Randa—seem very short; we took nearly 7 hours from the Taeschalp, but the ascent by the W. arête would probably take longer than by the S. arête.

From the Taeschalp descend to the bridge; crossing this bear upwards to the right, E. of a steep craggy outcrop; above this turn sharply to the left, W., along a green band and then upwards to the right; we kept as high as possible and did not descend into the couloir running up to the gap E. of '3218.' We reached this gap over steep slabs E. of and above this couloir (about 1½ hrs. from the inn). From this gap we followed the crest of the ridge over the first gendarme to the overhanging step where there is a fixed rope; above this we continued on the knife-edge of the ridge and soon arrived at the foot of a gendarme furrowed by two cracks. That on the left looked the most interesting and we ascended by this; above the crack a movement has to be made on to the face to the left over a bulge and thence to the top. This tower gives an excellent climb.

⁶ *A.J.* 14, 152.

⁷ *Alpes Valaisannes*, iii, p. 236.



Photo, G. R. Speaker.]

THE FIXED ROPE ON THE LEITERSPITZ TRAVERSE.

Continuing over the ridge we reached the last gendarme. Unless one knows the secret of this a *rappel* appears imperative, as the top curls over and one looks down through space over a considerable drop to the gap below. Georges, having climbed the Leiterspitz before, knew the secret, which consists in lowering oneself boldly over the edge, climbing down on the inside of the concave top of the gendarme. There are large holds completely hidden until one is actually launched over the edge. This gendarme must be interesting in the reverse direction.

The descent from the summit of the Leiterspitz is made to the S.E. First a few metres of scree leading to a vertical wall where it is usual to rope down (rope ring); it provides, however, an excellent scramble on small holds. Below this wall, go to the right, W., round an awkward corner, then back to the left, E., down an easy chimney, afterwards descending in a S.E. direction. To regain Taeschalp it is necessary to cross the glacier torrent as high up as possible and descend by the pastures on the true left bank of the stream.

In M. Blanchet's account of his traverse of this ridge,⁸ he appears to have turned some of the gendarmes, and also to have encountered loose rock. Perhaps the ridge has been successfully 'cleaned' since 1926, as we cannot remember anything loose. If the gendarmes were turned on either face, a party would be liable to get on to rotten rock—especially on the slabby N. side—but the actual knife-edge is sound. We climbed over all the gendarmes (there are certainly five, possibly six) and kept to the very crest of the ridge; we found no necessity for *rappels* (we wore *Kletterschuhe*; boots would make the climb harder). Taken in this manner the traverse of the Leiterspitz is an excellent climb, while the peak is low enough to be dry and free from snow when the higher summits round Zermatt are inaccessible. The ridge is about 600 metres long.

M. R. FITZGIBBON.

Bernese Oberland.

MITTAGHORN, 3897 m. = 12,786 ft. By the N. face. July 4, 1934. Herren Dr. K. Dahlem and E. Feuz left a bivouac at a height of about 2900 m. at 04.20, and crossed the bergschrund at 06.15. To avoid possible stone falls the party took the rock rib E. of the gully leading straight towards the top. This rib was reached at 08.45, and the steep but good rocks ascended, without putting on the rope. This came into use at one place only. The top was gained as early as 11.05. This is a fine and moderately difficult route.

GROSSHORN, 3765 m. = 12,353 ft. By the N. face. July 8–9, 1934. Herren Ernst Teuz and W. von Allmen. The party left the Tauzhubelalp, 1845 m., on July 8, at 02.30, and crossed the

⁸ *Die Alpen*, March, 1926, p. 90.

bergschrand at 05.30. There were four of these, all of which could be turned on the right. At 21.00 hrs. the rocky ledges below the top were reached, and from 23.00 to 03.30 of July 9 the party had to bivouac secured by pitons. A horizontal traverse to the left (E.) brought the climbers to a steep ice-couloir up which steps were cut. The top was reached at 11.30.

The descent was made by the W. arête; leaving the top at 12.30 and climbing down the ridge an overhanging step was reached at 13.00, where it was necessary to rope down for about 40 m. The Schmadrioch was gained at 16.30, the Oberhorn tarn, 2030 m., at 20.30, and the climbers were back at Mürren on July 10 at 01.30.

This is the second ascent by the N. face proper.

TSCHINGELGRAT, 3140 m. = 10,309 ft., and TSCHINGELSPITZ, 3318 m. = 10,885 ft. June 17-18, 1934. Herren Ernst Feuz and Walter von Allmen.

Leaving Mürren at 09.15 on June 17, the party gained the 'Schneeige Lücke' at the foot of the N. face of the *Tschingelgrat*. This was reached at 18.00, and the night was passed a little below the top. On June 18 the snow arête led up to the first rock step. This, a tower of a height of 15 m., was turned by W. Richardet and H. Salvisberg on August 12, 1923 (*A.A.C.B. Jahrbuch*, 18, p. 21). It was now climbed direct (very exposed and difficult). A snow-crest leads to the easier rocks of the final edge and another snow-crest to the top of the *Tschingelspitz*, 3318 m., which was reached at 16.30.

At midnight, 39 hours after their start, the two climbers returned to Mürren.

BLÜMLISALPHORN, 3671 m. = 12,044 ft. By the N. face. June 10, 1934. Herr O. Im-Obersteg of Spiez, *alone*.

The ascent was made on a line similar to that taken by Herren Amstutz-Salvisberg-Richardet in 1924 ('A.J.' 36, 399), but where this route bends outwards to the left to the saddle between Blümlisalphorn and Weisse Frau, Herr Im-Obersteg ascended direct to the top. The icefall and overhanging step just underneath the summit afforded work of the most trying kind. It took 6 hours to ascend the last 70 m., the whole ascent from Blümlisalp hut to the top taking 12 hours.

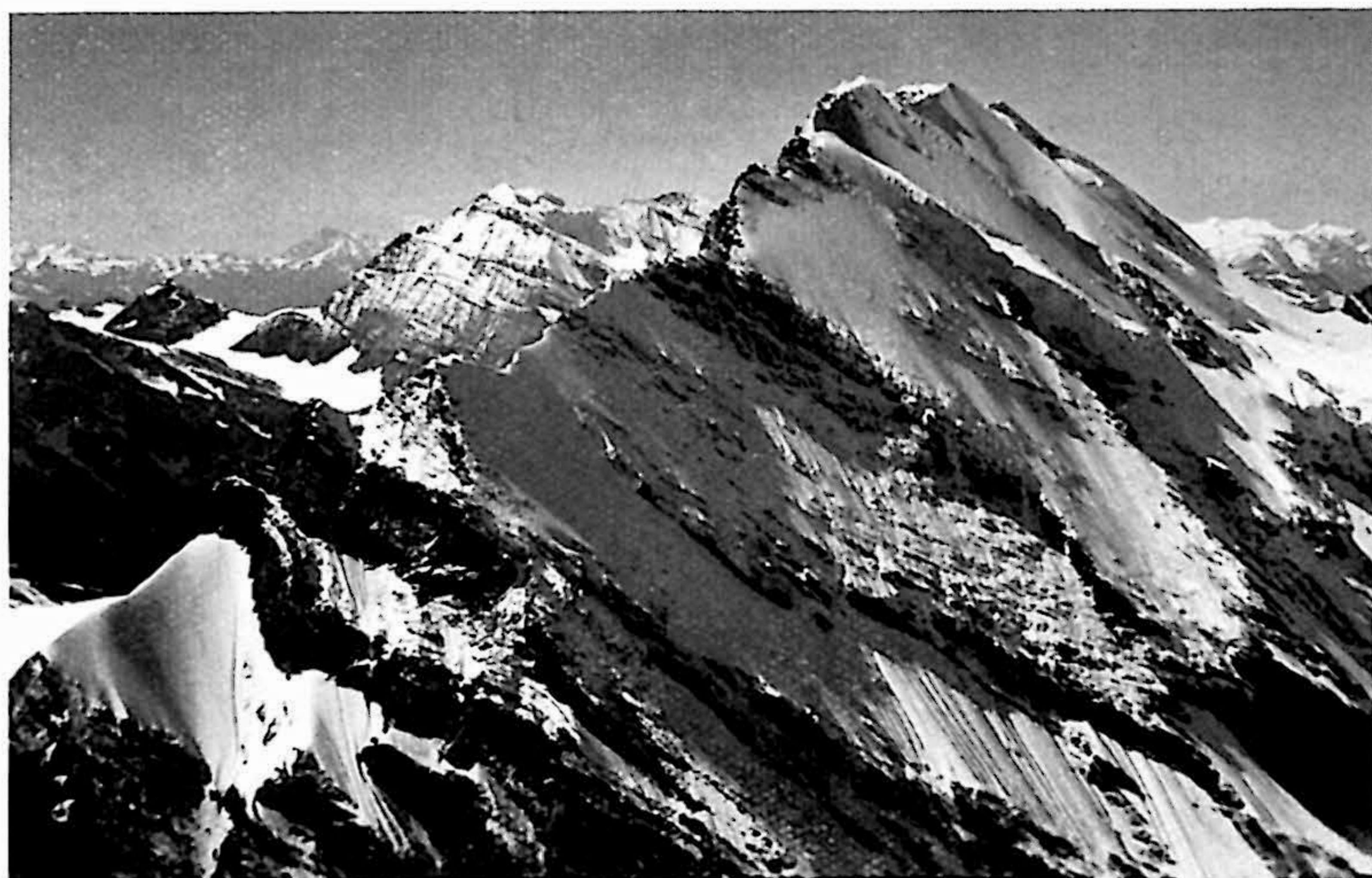
GSPALTENHORN, 3442 m. = 11,293 ft. By the E. arête. August 18-19, 1934. Herren O. Im-Obersteg and E. Hermann.

From the gap between the Tschingelspitz and the Gspaltenhorn the E. arête was ascended to the first of the two great towers. The night was passed in a small cavern at the foot of the first gendarme, and on August 19 the day's work began with a *descent* of 35 m. by means of a doubled rope on the N. face of the gendarme. A short ascent led up to the gap between the two towers. Herr O. Brugger with Hans Kohler, jun., turned both gendarmes on the



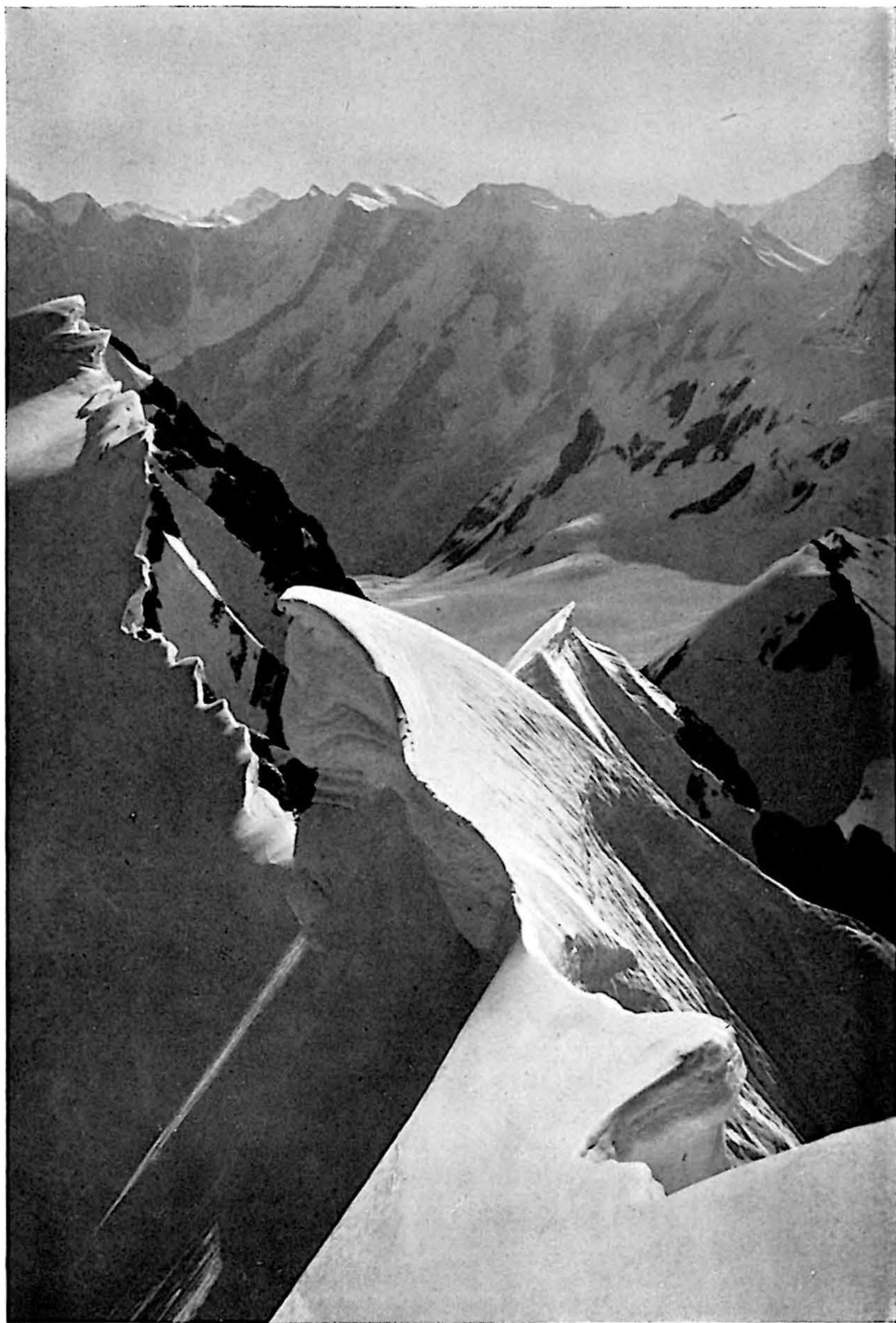
Photo, A. Klopfenstein.]

BLÜMLISALPHORN, N. FACE, SHOWING 1934 ROUTE.



Photo, E. Gyger.]

MORGENHORN, E. ARÊTE AND N. FACE.



Photo, E. Gyger.]

WEISSE FRAU AND MORGENHORN.

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S. face ('A.J.' 45, 154), but the 1934 party turned the second gendarme or tower on its N. face. The rocks were dreadfully rotten and it took 3 hours' hard work to reach the gap above the second tower. The ridge leading to the top was in very bad condition, but the summit was gained at 13.05. The whole expedition from Gspaltenhorn hut *via* the Gamchilücke and including the ascent of the Tschingelspitz had taken 32 hours, of which $13\frac{1}{2}$ hours were spent bivouacking.

MORGENHORN, 3629 m. = 11,906 ft. By the N. face. August 10, 1933. Herren M. Aurich and E. Stauffer.

From the Gspaltenhorn hut the Gamchi Glacier was crossed to the foot of the N. face, to the right of and below the hanging glacier. This glacier was mounted, then the rocks to the left of it were ascended over iced slabs, still keeping to the left. Two rock-steps are now climbed whence a strip of snow leads to an overhanging cliff. A direct ascent proved to be impossible and a narrow chimney on the right had to be ascended. The direct ascent of a steep snow-slope exposed to falling stones brought the party to a last rock step. Surmounting this over loose rocks the E. arête was gained, and over this the top. 14 hours from Gspaltenhorn hut.

The route is very exposed to stone fall.

MORGENHORN, 3629 m. = 11,906 ft. By the E. arête. Herr O. Im-Obersteg, *alone*, ascended the Morgenhorn by the E. arête on September 30, 1934. Leaving the Gspaltenhorn hut at 05.00, he gained the top at 14.45 and the Hohtürli hut at 16.00 hrs. Conditions were bad.

BÜTTLASSEN, 3197 m. = 10,489 ft. By the W. arête. July 8, 1934. Herr E. Köchli with Lebrecht Mani.

This ridge was taken in the *descent* by Messrs. G. W. Young and S. Herford with Josef Knubel and Hans Brantschen on July 6, 1914 ('A.J.' 30, 99). There are at least 10 gendarmes to be ascended and the *ascent* from the point where the first step or gendarme is attacked (about 2360 m.) to the top took 10 hours, including halts.

Lebrecht Mani, guide at Kiental, thinks the ridge ought to be very attractive once it is cleared of loose stones.

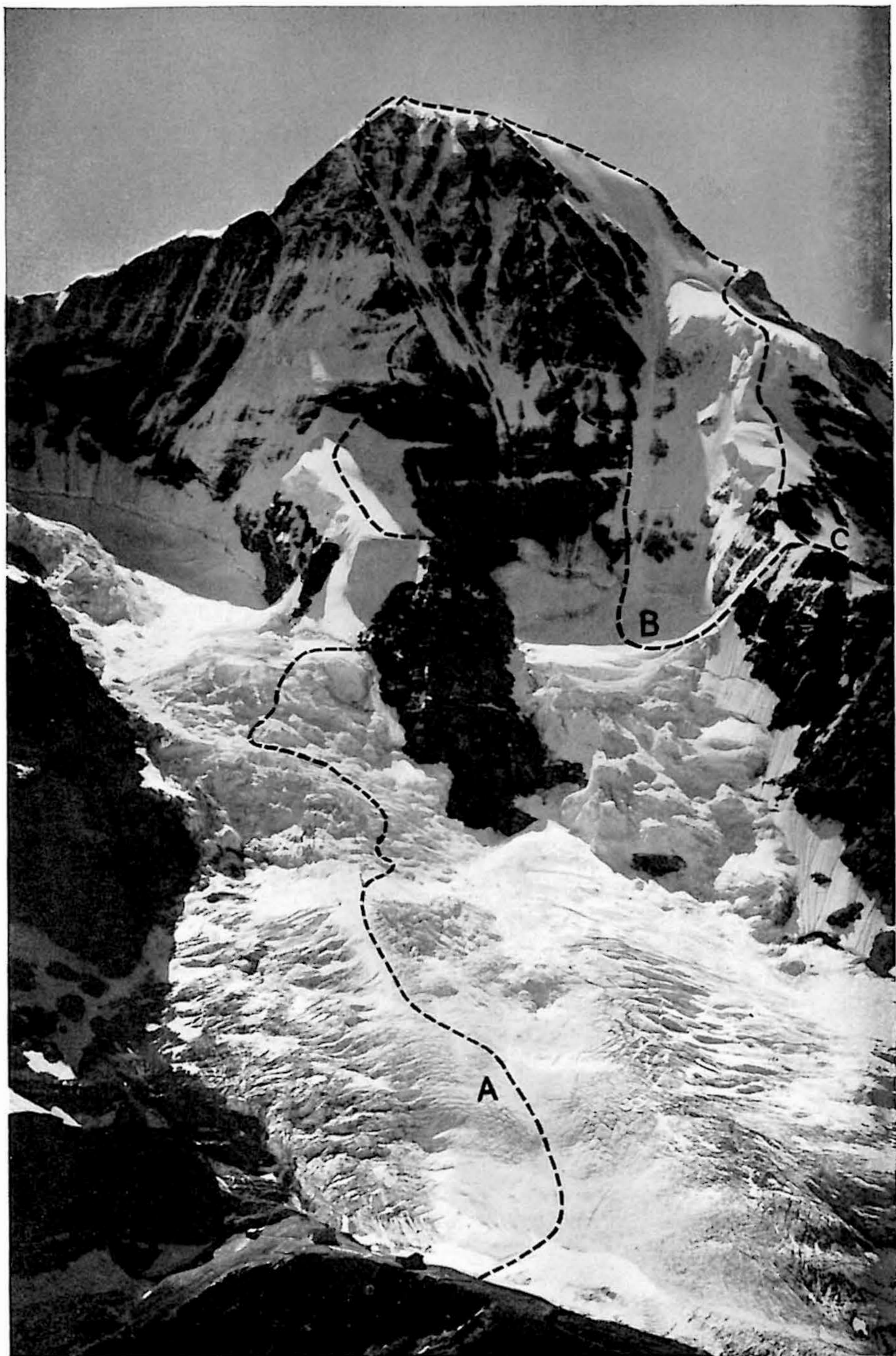
EBNEFLUH, 3964 m. = 13,006 ft. By the N. face. July 9, 1933. Herren G. A. Michel and W. von Allmen. From Mürren the party ascended the N. face in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the bergschrund ($2\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the Rottal hut to the bergschrund). On the lowest two-fifths of the face the snow was hard and conditions excellent, on the third-(?)fifth ice was met with, while on the upper two-fifths powder snow covered the surface, except on the last few metres before the top was reached, where again steps had to be cut in ice.

The first two ascents of this face were led by Christian Jossi, on August 2, 1895, with Mr. Claude A. Macdonald (and Peter Bernet



Photo, E. Gyger.]

EBNEFLUH, N. FACE, SHOWING 1933 ROUTE.



Photo, Gyger.]

MÖNCH, N. FACE. SHOWING 'NOLLEN' ROUTE 'C'; 1934 'B'; 1921 'A'.

[To face p. 148.

as second guide) ('A.J.' 18, 45-6), and again on June 23, 1904, with Mr. Gustav Hasler ('A.J.' 22, 322).

MÖNCH, 4105 m. = 13,468 ft. By the N. face.⁹ August 18, 1934. Mrs. Hutton-Rudolph with Adolf Rubi and Peter Inaebnit.

From the Guggi hut, leaving at 03.00, the Mönch plateau was ascended, and by means of steps cut the previous day a *descent* made down to the little glacier bay at the foot of the great wall of the Mönch. Owing to the good snow clinging to the smooth and vertical steps the lower part of the face was climbed in a short time with relative ease. At 09.00 a rest was made at the height of the *Nollen*, but nearer to the rib described in 'A.J.' 45, 49-53. From here onwards conditions were very bad. A good deal of powdery snow and glazed rocks tested the skill of the leader to the utmost, and progress was very slow. In addition the rocks sloped the wrong way and it took 3 hours of the hardest work to ascend about 120 m. Another direct ascent and a traverse to the right took 2 hours and brought the party to a gully swept by avalanches. This couloir was ascended for a short time in spite of the great danger, until the rocky rib to the left of it could be climbed. This latter led to the top, 15.30.

The height of the face climbed is 1100 m.

H. L.

[We are indebted to our member Dr. Lauper for these interesting accounts of recent Oberland (the Mönch excepted) all-Swiss expeditions.—*Editor* 'A.J.']

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY:		Date of Election
Holmes, The Hon. Mr. Justice Oliver Wendell		
	(Ordinary Member)	1866
	(Honorary Member)	1932
Greenwood, Eric	.	1891
Unwin, T. Fisher	.	1894
Furneaux, L. R.	.	1895
Ellis, F. N.	.	1898
Harris, E. B.	.	1898
Vail, E. L.	.	1900
Robson, J. W.	.	1903
Villiers-Schwab, H. B. de	.	1921

⁹ The route to be described is straight up the centre of the face between the *Nollen* and the line taken by Dr. Lauper in 1921, *A.J.* 45, 49-53, with marked illustration. It must be among the most difficult and dangerous expeditions in the Alps.—*Editor.*