

EXPEDITIONS

SCHRECKHORN, 4080 m. = 13,386 ft. By the S.W. arête. August 1, 1939. Messrs. J. M. K. Vyvyan, M. S. Taylor and J. R. Jenkins.

This route, while offering no passages of great technical difficulty, is strongly recommended to rock-climbing enthusiasts who are driven to exasperation by the débris-covered, slabby, sloping slates which form the northern foundations of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. The climb can be divided into two distinct parts, the gaining of the shoulder and the passage of the ridge beyond. The latter section affords steep and exhilarating climbing on rock which rivals Chamonix granite in quality.

Rising at 02.30 at the Strahlegg hut, the party were delighted to observe all the evidences of bad weather and returned to their bunks. At 05.00 signs of clearing were observed, and when the hut was left at 06.00 the weather showed great promise which it did not belie during the rest of the day. The rocks of Gagg were rapidly gained, the Schreckfirn crossed and the bergschrund negotiated without difficulty. At 08.30, the party roped up at the foot of the couloir below the shoulder and ascended the snow slope on its (true) right-hand flank.

The covering of snow was of just sufficient thickness to dispense with step-cutting and the shoulder itself was reached an hour later. After a long halt, the steep rocks ahead were ascended, the route keeping for the most part on the S. side of the ridge. Rock-climbing of a most enjoyable sort continued without interruption until a steep and forbidding ice-filled chimney barred progress, just within hail of the summit. After the leader had grappled with this for some time, a small cairn marking a traverse across the west face was observed. A ledge led, via some loose snow- and ice-covered blocks, back on to the ridge. After the passage of two narrow snow arêtes, the summit was gained at 12.15. The latter part of this climb was reminiscent of the S.W. ridge of the Obergabelhorn. Descending by the well-known S.E. ridge, a rapid descent was made to the Schwarzegg hut which was gained at 16.00. (cf. *A. J.* 21. 269, 501.)

MÖNCH, 4105 m. = 13,468 ft. By the N.W. buttress or 'Nollen' route. August 3, 1939. Messrs. G. L. Travis, M. S. Taylor and J. R. Jenkins. (cf. *A. J.* 2. 264; 6. 94; 45. 49.)

The hardest part of this route lies in the successful negotiation of the loose, slaty slabs immediately above the Guggi hut. Guideless climbers are advised to reconnoitre this section on the previous day. Leaving the hut at 04.15, without previous exploration, the party overcame the initial rocks with the aid of lanterns and fixed wire ropes. Thereafter they diverged a little too far to the left and were committed

to much dodging back and forth across ledges and scree before gaining the snow slope below the first shoulder. In daylight the following of a series of small cairns which indicate the best route would have helped to save valuable time. The first and second shoulders were passed without difficulty and the long slope below the 'Nollen' ascended under a raking fire of ice chips from a German guideless party already at grips with it. They took 4 hours to cut steps up the 400 ft. of steep blue ice, and the second party resigned themselves impatiently to a chilly wait. The best route began at the left-hand base and mounted diagonally to the right into the centre of the ice-bulge. The initial stages were exceedingly steep and the liberal use of their predecessors' ice pitons gave the party much-needed confidence.

The névé above the 'Nollen' was gained at 10.15 and the summit of the Mönch was achieved in a leisurely manner at 13.00. The Jungfrauoch was reached by the Obermönchjoch at 15.00.

JUNGFRAU, 4166 m. = 13,669 ft. From the N., variant ascent of Silberhorn by N.E. face. August 11, 1939. Messrs. M. S. Taylor and J.R. Jenkins.

The objective dangers experienced on this route gradually diminished in direct ratio to the height gained. The route from the Kleine Scheidegg to the Silberhorn hut in particular should not be underestimated in technical difficulty, objective danger and route-finding. It is more difficult than the ascent to the Gamba hut from the Val Veni.

Leaving the Kl. Scheidegg at 17.00 on August 10, the party soon became lost among alps, woods and minor cliffs. Eventually a hardly distinguishable track was found leading across the slope below the huge precipices of the N.W. flank of the Jungfrau. It appeared that the séracs discharged by the Giessen Glacier choose to fall in an alarming and sensational manner down a deep funnel (the Giessen-lau) in these cliffs. (cf. *A.J.* 45. 46-47.) While the party were but a hundred yards distant from the base of this funnel, their nerves were shaken by a particularly impressive avalanche which fell right across the track and for a while filled the air with thunder and snow dust. They nervously dashed across the fallen débris. The path soon narrowed down to an exposed ledge and the critical point at which the cliffs were attacked was marked by iron spikes and patches of red paint. A series of these was followed meticulously to the Silberhorn hut which was reached at 20.10. The route is a fascinating and intricate one and provides a worthy expedition in itself.

The hut is situated on the crest of the Rotbrettücke in a magnificent situation and is well appointed and of recent construction. The hut book was carefully scanned for evidence of visits by members of the Club without result.

It was proposed to ascend the Jungfrau by the N.W. ridge of the Silberhorn, but after 7 days of bad weather the rocks both on the ridge and on the W. face were seen to be plastered with snow. A hope was expressed that the summit of the Silberhorn could be gained via the



Photo, M. S. Taylor.]

JUNGFRAU FROM N. DESCENT TO SILBERLÜCKE FROM
SILBERHORN.



Photo, E. Gyger, Adelboden.]

SILBERHORN, N.E. FACE.

[To face p. 126.]



Photo, M. S. Taylor.]

JUNGFRAU FROM EIGER S.W. RIDGE, SHOWING LINE OF ASCENT AND POSITION OF SILBERHORN HUT ; ALSO 'NOLLEN' AGAINST THE CLOUD ON LEFT.



Photo, M. S. Taylor.]

UNTERMÖNCHJOCH, FRESCHERHÖRNER AND FINSTERAARHORN, FROM S.W. RIDGE OF THE EIGER.

Giessen Glacier following the lower section of the Lauper-Schumacher 1926 route. (*A. J.* 45. 47. See Fahrni's sketch facing p. 62, Route 3.)

Leaving the hut at 03.45 on August 11, the party gained the top of the horizontal névé band lying below the Silberhorn cliffs, and immediately encountered steep ice. After descending somewhat, and traversing left, the angle became easier. This ground is in continual danger from falling ice and stones and should be passed at the maximum speed. The long snow slope at its eastern edge was mounted, and on arriving at the foot of the steep N.E. face of the Silberhorn, this was found to offer a rapid and safe route to the summit. The snow was in excellent condition and good progress was made using crampons until powder snow in the final and steepest section caused some anxiety. When the final snow cone was gained, the angle eased appreciably and the summit itself was reached at 07.30, i.e. in 3 hours 45 minutes from the hut.

The descent to the Silberlücke occupied 30 minutes, but the rocks beyond had to be swept free of powder snow before the névé of the Hochfirn could be reached. As the major difficulties of the climb now lay behind, the party dawdled to the summit of the Jungfrau, arriving at 12.00. The descent was made to the Jungfraujoch by the Rottalsattel.

EIGER, 3975 m. = 13,042 ft. S. ridge from the Bergli hut. August 13, 1939. Messrs. M. S. Taylor and J. R. Jenkins.

Leaving the Bergli hut at 04.30, the S. Eigerjoch was gained at 06.00. Owing to the excessive quantity of new snow, the passage of the ridge to the N. Eigerjoch over Pt. 3766 m. was an expedition of considerable difficulty. Gaining it at 08.30, the party left at 09.30 and reached the Eiger summit at 10.20.