

tion during our more reflective and reminiscent club intervals. The other, of deeper import, the relationship which each of us, separately and alone, established between himself and the mountains he climbed, between his own personality and that of each new hill. In extending, therefore, the influence of this Club, and in enlarging its area of responsibility, I believe that we shall be harvesting, for other and future mountain companies, some of the rich yield of pleasure and of profit which we ourselves have been receiving, in surplus, through the years, from climbing comradeship and from our sympathetic mountain brotherhood. But we shall be repaying the greater debt, that which each of us has owed to the mountains themselves, that which they have brought to every one of us, in solitude, in storm and in sunlight, of inspiring enterprise and of tranquillising thought, if we can, by any directive or advisory action of ours, in conjunction with our fellow mountaineers, increase the opportunity for our younger countrymen, each to find his own adventure, each to form his own relationship with hills ; or if we can help by our experience to guide that relationship into harmony with the great mountaineering tradition we have inherited.

THE ALA DAĞ

By R. A. HODGKIN

A TRAVELLER in the northbound Taurus express will probably be fortunate enough to get some impressive views of the mountains, for although his timetable says that they are traversed at night, the operation of unknown oriental factors often decides that the train runs many hours late. Thus did I get my first view of the mountains as the train wove its way in and out of the innumerable tunnels which thread the vertical sided gorge of the Çakit Su. The two great engines then struggle up the long incline to Ulukişla where the original German-built line continues over the plateau towards Konya and a more modern line branches first north-eastwards to Kayseri (Caesarea Maxaca) and then north-west to Ankara.

From this line in early June of 1943 it was hard to believe that the mountains bounding the rolling plateau to the south were not a fully glaciated range. To the west lay the Bolkar Dağ range of the Taurus with plenty of snow in the folds of the high ridges and to the east extended the serrated chain of the Ala Dağ. They looked interesting, especially one peak which stood isolated and steep at the northern end. This turned out to be Demirkazik, visited by E. H. Peck in 1942, which we envisaged as our main objective for this year.

Before describing our climbs in the Ala Dağ I will give a brief outline of some of the main features of this little known but very worthy range, one of the most prominent of the many ranges which radiate like ribs over the Anatolian plateau from Ararat and the Armenian focus. The parallel ranges of Toros and Bolkar Dağ (of the Taurus massif proper) terminate abruptly at their easterly end above the Vale of Pozanti and the Cilician Gates. An isolated mass—the Hadçin Dağ—stands between the Gates and the railway, closing the Vale of Pozanti to the south. To the east of the vale a line of limestone hills runs north to the point where the Gürgün Su breaks through from west to east in an almost impassable gorge. North of this gorge is the separate range of the Karanfil Dağ (up to 10,500 ft.) and north again, separated from it by a low chain of pastures leading from the mid-Gürgün Su to the Zamanti Su, lie the peaks of the Ala Dağ which form a continuous chain northwards for 25 miles, falling away to the salt lake of Sultan Sazlık, which separates it from the isolated extinct volcano of Ercias Dağ (3964 metres), the Argæus Mons of classical times. Thus the Ala Dağ lies between Taurus and Anti-Taurus, massifs ill defined by geographers, and strictly speaking belongs to neither, though it is customarily included in the Taurus group. The southern peaks of Ala Dağ, known to the geologists as the 'White' Ala Dağ, are of greater interest to the climber than the scree mounds of the northern or 'Black' Ala Dağ.

The Ala Dağ are part of the great Alpine Himalayan fold-mountain system, but being less intensely folded they reveal none of the deep-seated igneous rocks so common in the centre of the greater ranges. Not far away there are plenty of comparatively recent volcanic mountains of which the biggest is Mount Argæus, but the Ala Dağ seem to have been little affected by this phase. They consist mainly of hard limestone which weathers to give a red colour, and in shape they resemble rather subdued Dolomites. Steep rock climbing is possible on many of the peaks owing to the frequency of holds, but belays are rare and loose rock abounds.

Two main phases of erosion seem to contribute to the relief of the region. The surrounding hills of the plateau show mainly smooth and maturely eroded slopes, but these are incised by little steep-sided valleys and occasional canyons of more striking aspect. A corresponding arrangement appears in the mountains themselves. Many of the peaks, especially those of the southern perimeter, have one side which is a fairly easy regular incline of shelving ledges or scree while the other sides tend to be precipitous and much eroded. The gentle side seems to be the relic of some old mature erosion form, whereas the steep slopes which dominate the centre of the range have been produced by the frost and ice erosion of the post-Alpine period.

Both Taurus and Ala Dağ receive a fairly heavy winter snowfall and, although the latter are higher and more steeply eroded, the former, owing to their more westerly and seaward position, have more snow. Owing to exceptionally heavy precipitation over Anatolia in the first

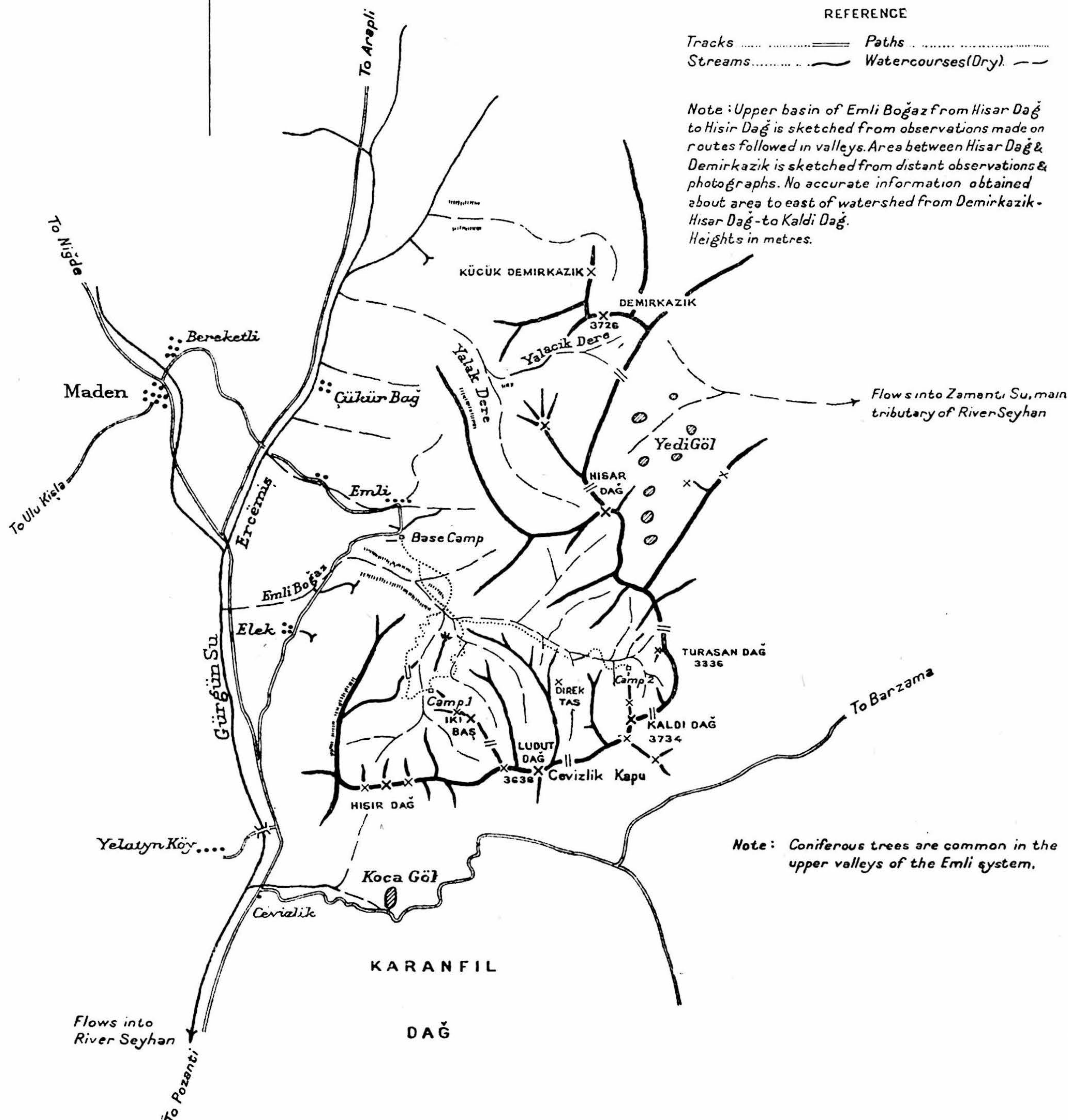
PART OF ALA DAĞ GROUP OF TAURUS MASSIF

MILES 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES

REFERENCE

Tracks Paths
Streams Watercourses (Dry)

Note: Upper basin of Emli Boğaz from Hisar Dağ to Hisir Dağ is sketched from observations made on routes followed in valleys. Area between Hisar Dağ & Demirkazik is sketched from distant observations & photographs. No accurate information obtained about area to east of watershed from Demirkazik-Hisar Dağ-to Kaldi Dağ.
Heights in metres.



five months of 1943, we experienced good snow conditions in June, though normally May would be the better month. Couloirs were well filled and only for short stretches had they turned to slushy ice or melted to expose the smooth rocks which lie beneath. It is doubtful whether there are any large masses of permanent ice in the range. In two of the higher corries there were masses of snow and recently jumbled moraine whose convex shape suggested a moribund cirque glacier beneath. Several of these *do* occur in the Taurus proper and on Mount Argaeus according to Peck, who was there in 1942.

The distribution of snow patches is important to the climber as they often supply the only water in large areas of dry limestone. The rocks are generally very porous and most of the large inner valleys are dry. Water can usually be found lower down in the surrounding valleys where it gushes out from subterranean channels to feed the rivers which flow from the range. Roughly speaking, water is only plentiful below 4000 feet and above 8000 feet, with a dry belt between these two levels. Even above 8000 feet it is often difficult to find a grassy camp site near to a good snow trickle, as owing to the extreme dryness of the atmosphere the snow tends to evaporate rather than melt.

Before the summer drought sets in fully the vegetation of the range is one of its chief joys. Masses of mauve vetch, blue cornflowers and brilliant poppies splash the hills with colour; many other types which I could not recognise found their way into my companions' tobacco tins. Fuel need never be much of a problem as small coniferous trees are common up to a height of about 6000 feet, and even above this there are many bushes which can be used.

In these days foreigners are very suspect in the rural areas of Turkey, especially where there is any element of officialdom. They are readily thought to be spies or 'tourists' in the modern sense of the word. The ordinary country people were almost always hospitable to us. On our approach to the mountains we avoided the large villages where questions would be asked; and on our way out, when our activities had already raised suspicions, Peck's fluent Turkish and his impressive diplomatic pass smoothed the protests which our *fait accompli* produced.

Our expedition started from Pozanti on June 22. Let us not get too coy about the word 'expedition.' It adds such a pleasant flavour to a journey which might otherwise have to suffer the indignity of being called a trip or a tour. Two weeks away from roads, with animal transport, much hard going, and no huts, seem to justify the use of the more romantic word. There were six of us altogether: L. H. Hurst (A.C.) who is Consul-General in Istanbul, E. H. Peck from the Embassy at Ankara, his stalwart house-boy, two pony-drivers and myself. The two nimble ponies which carried our baggage were an invaluable though extremely expensive addition to the little caravan. They cost about three pounds sterling per day for the two of them.

On June 22 we walked northwards from Pozanti over the low wooded saddle dividing its vale from the pleasant flowery valley of the Gürgün Su, which we then followed northwards. Every few

miles the track was punctuated by a refreshing fountain framed in stone. These had been built in the days when this was the main trade route between the Cilician Gates and Caesarea. In those days the jagged forms of the Ala Dağ must have been as familiar to the traveller as the gorges of the Taurus are today. The second march was a long one. The valley sloped gently upwards; the stream narrowed and we climbed up to the eastern wall, edging up over a shoulder to dodge the officialdom of a gendarme post below. Demirkazik blinked at us through clouds and another high snowy peak appeared for a few moments. We got rather tired, my feet being especially troublesome after two sedentary years in the Sudan. Peck, however, knew the path and strode ahead encouraging us with rather empty promises about the nearness of our destination. This was Emli, a small village a couple of hours short of the foot of Demirkazik. We arrived wearily as the sun was setting. Just above the village was a half-ruined Roman shrine with the roof partially fallen in and a stream gushing out beneath the altar and flowing out through the door to irrigate the fields of the village. The convenience of running water, an adequate roof and an altar stone which served as a table, made it an excellent base 'camp.' We hoped that Adonis or whatever other god reigned here was not offended by the very secular use to which we put his shrine. We planned to try Demirkazik on the next day, and so we had a quick meal before lying down to sleep, soothed by the music of the spring.

DEMIRKAZIK (3726 metres)

Leaving the shrine at 5 A.M. we made our way north-eastwards for two hours over a series of swelling downs and then scrambled across some steeply eroded slopes till we could climb into the Yalacik cirque, where there is a grassy alp and a stream flowing above ground for a hundred yards or so—an ideal site for a high camp. From here Demirkazik rises to the north-east in a 6000-ft. sweep of scree and cliffs seamed with a few snow gullies. Halfway up the scree, Hurst decided to drop behind and so we two pushed on up, sweating profusely. We traversed right up a scree rake which curved into the chief couloir at half its height. Then followed two hours of continuous step-kicking. At one point we took to a branch couloir to the right and found ourselves amongst the bulges and pinnacles of the face. Peck, however, spotted a way back into the main couloir which we followed as it gradually steepened till it landed us in a narrow notch on the main ridge of the peak. On one side of us was a huge gendarme, on the other was the summit and through the notch we could look down the awe-inspiring precipice of the north face. It was now 1 P.M. so we had a quick lunch before embarking on the last 400 feet of rock climbing. First came a difficult waterfall pitch which was followed by a lot of steep slabby rock devoid of belays but covered with potential missiles. On reaching the top we saw the true summit with a cairn on it ten minutes away along a ridge. There was a battered swastika flag in the cairn which we pocketed and replaced by a staid calling-card. So far it had taken about ten hours from the shrine.



Photo, R. A. Hodgkin]

IKI BAŞ, NORTH FACE.



Photo, R. A. Hodgkin]

DEMIRKAZIK, WEST SUMMIT.



Photo, R. A. Hodgkin]

LUDUT DAĞ, FROM WEST.
Route of ascent on snow and rock to left.



Photo, R. A. Hodgkin]

ON THE WAY TO LUDUT DAĞ.
Ridge to West of peak.

As we lounged on the sunny summit Peck took photographs and I sketched the panorama on a long strip of paper which I happened to have in my pocket. By now we had realised that Demirkazik was far from being the only fine peak in the range, for to the east and south lay many others which looked almost equally tempting. Only four of these were named on our map and even these we were unable to identify until later. I think it was here that we both decided that we would stay in the range as long as possible and not trek over to the duller looking Taurus for our second week.

The descent started well. After the rocks came the snow which we descended in gradually quickening tempo, finishing up with a 1200-ft. glissade at full speed. The rest of our return to the shrine was less pleasant. On the scree the heel of one of my antique boots became detached. After two hours hobbling I changed boots with Peck who nobly completed the day more or less on tiptoe. It was dark before we reached the temple which we only spotted when Hurst came out with a torch. We had been going for sixteen and a half hours, rather a long day for a first climb I felt.

LUDUT DAĞ^v (3638 metres).

After an idle morning, Peck and Hurst went up the central branch of the Emli valley on a reconnaissance to look for a camp from which to climb the other high peak, which we had seen as we approached the mountains and which we then thought to be Kaldi Dağ. Peck discovered several high alps of about 8000 feet, which were accessible to ponies and which lay on the south-west wall of the valley, but only one of these (known locally as Alaca) appeared to offer any running water. On the following morning we all went zigzagging up out of the Emli canyon, through a cool wood and up some steep rocks where the loads had to be carried until we reached the alp about four hours away. Here there was a spring, a huge wooden cauldron for collecting the water and a few cattle. In the afternoon Peck and I went up the steep north-western slopes of a two-headed peak lying directly behind the camp. We traversed its virgin summits (about 10,500 ft.) and christened it Iki Baş. From its top we could pick out a route up Ludut Dağ. Coming down the snow and scree of the easy side of Iki Baş we met Hurst who had found a good high-level route from the camp round the base of our peak.

Next morning (June 27) after a chilly breakfast, all three of us traversed round the south of Iki Baş, and in three hours we gained the summit of a good viewpoint from which three ridges radiated, one to yesterday's peak, one to Ludut Dağ much higher, about a mile to the south-east, and the third ridge leading to some interesting looking smaller peaks to the west—the Hisir Dağ of the map. The climb was rather easier than the other big peaks which we tried. Fairly steep snow and loose rock made up the west face and we dodged from one to the other up its left hand edge. After two hours we emerged over a little snow wall to find ourselves rather suddenly on the summit. It

was a good viewpoint and helped us to grasp the general layout of the range. Our chief problem had been to locate Kaldi Dağ, the highest peak of the range, which we had originally confused with the peak we were now on. But there it was, a mile or two away across an intervening mass of rather complex country, obviously higher than our peak with steep sides apparently all round it. The two problems of how to get to its base and how to climb it were to preoccupy us for the next three days. Demirkazik was clearly visible to the north and between us and it lay another peak which we had called Hisar Dağ when we had first seen its opposite side from the summit of Demirkazik. It was a square steep-sided peak fortified by many outer turrets which had suggested to us this name of 'Castle Peak.' It was obviously high, perhaps the third highest in the range and probably unclimbed. Both these peaks were obviously well worth attempting, especially Kaldi Dağ, which we hoped might also be a virgin. The descent was uneventful and we reached camp after a pleasant eleven hour day.

RECONNAISSANCE AND ASCENT OF KALDI DAG^v (3734 m.).

Hurst had to leave us to return to work, but before going he very generously surrendered his boots to me. My own, after a rough repair, had steadily deteriorated till they flapped round my feet in a most distressing manner. We returned to the shrine by different routes, Peck and I taking an eastern route leading down a steep scree track ably negotiated by our pony, beside an impressive buttress which bore a strange resemblance to the Wetterhorn as seen from Grindelwald. We wanted to explore some way up the left hand, northerly branch of the Emli valley which seemed to lead right into the heart of the range. Peck, who moves very fast, did a lightning reconnaissance for about two hours while I loitered lazily behind. When he got back he told me how he had not been able to see Kaldi Dağ owing to the minor peaks which crowded the southern wall of the valley. In this he proved to be mistaken as he had passed below the north face of Kaldi Dağ but had not recognised it. He had found no water below snow level, but there were several trickles from snow patches at about 8500 feet.

Next day we pushed up to this site with the remaining white pony which gradually acquired the appearance of a porcupine as we piled firewood on its back. A prominent landmark two hours below the site was a 400-ft. needle of absolutely vertical rock which is unimaginatively named the Direk Taş (Upright rock). We reached the snow patches after five hours' walking, pitched camp and then went off on a short reconnaissance. We scrambled up the southern wall of the valley and round a corner into a branch valley which ran into a splendid cirque of red limestone. It was rather like a small edition of the Argentièrè cirque with steep serrated pinnacles all round. Towering above an intervening bluff rose the fine tower of Kaldi Dağ for which we had been searching, but although it looked fairly tough we were still unable to see anything of its lower slopes.



Photo, R. A. Hodgkin]

KALDI DAG^v, NORTH FACE.

In the early light of next morning (June 30) we passed our previous observation point with some excitement, wondering whether we should find a route or not. Suddenly we rounded a corner and saw in front of us the tumbled boulders and snow patches of the cirque floor beneath which we suspected there lay a dying glacier, and from its western edge there rose the splendid east face of Kaldi Dağ. There were apparently two summits though we were uncertain which was the highest, and below them dropped 3000 feet of steep red cliffs. A broad sheet of snow swept up the cirque wall to where it joined the main peak, and branching from it an oblique snow couloir led hopefully upwards to disappear from sight about 1500 feet from the top. My mind immediately started toying with the idea of a north-south traverse of the whole mountain which would certainly be a splendid rock climb. It was clear, however, that whatever way we chose it would be best to gain as much height as possible on the snow sheet.

It is curious how the more tiresome aspects of climbing—the drudgery of hot paths or long snow trudes—often acquire an almost enjoyable quality which I cannot remember in my earlier climbs. Perhaps we get hardened to the physical discomfort, or perhaps our technique of detachment improves, but in any case the drudgery comes to be seen less as an unpleasant isolated item to be compensated for by later exhilaration, but rather as an integral part of the whole mountaineering scheme, the discordant prelude to the whole composition. It must have taken us nearly an hour to kick our way, laboriously but not discontentedly, up the hard snow to where the ridges joined. Here we could look south-eastwards to another cirque which was more open but with the same appearance of possible recent glacial activity. Beyond it the outer smoother peaks of the Ala Dağ merged into the tumbled foothills and beyond again, in the far distance, we could just distinguish the Gulf of Iskenderun, 80 miles away, and still further beyond, the Amanus mountains of the Syrian border. We were now both agreed on the route: we would bear right up the oblique snow couloir as far as we could and then take to the rocks. We traversed into it, kicking steps in hard wrinkled snow till we became gradually enclosed by the lower rocks of the two summits. The snow steepened and we took to the rocks of the northern peak until we could see that the other peak was at least 1000 feet higher. We were, however, able to get a good view of the next part of our route which we examined through a glass. There was a long nasty-looking rock gully about 400 feet high, a large 'Y' of steep snow above it, and steep loose rocks beyond.

We left an axe and a rucksack by the notch between the two peaks and prepared to enter the gully, which proved to be the most difficult bit of the climb. The rest of the gully was full of stones so we climbed it spider-like, always reaching out for the solid rock beyond and beneath the missiles. After 300 feet we escaped on to a little notch to the left, from which we could see the bottom of the snow 'Y.' We avoided the snow which looked dangerous and went up a series of ledges covered

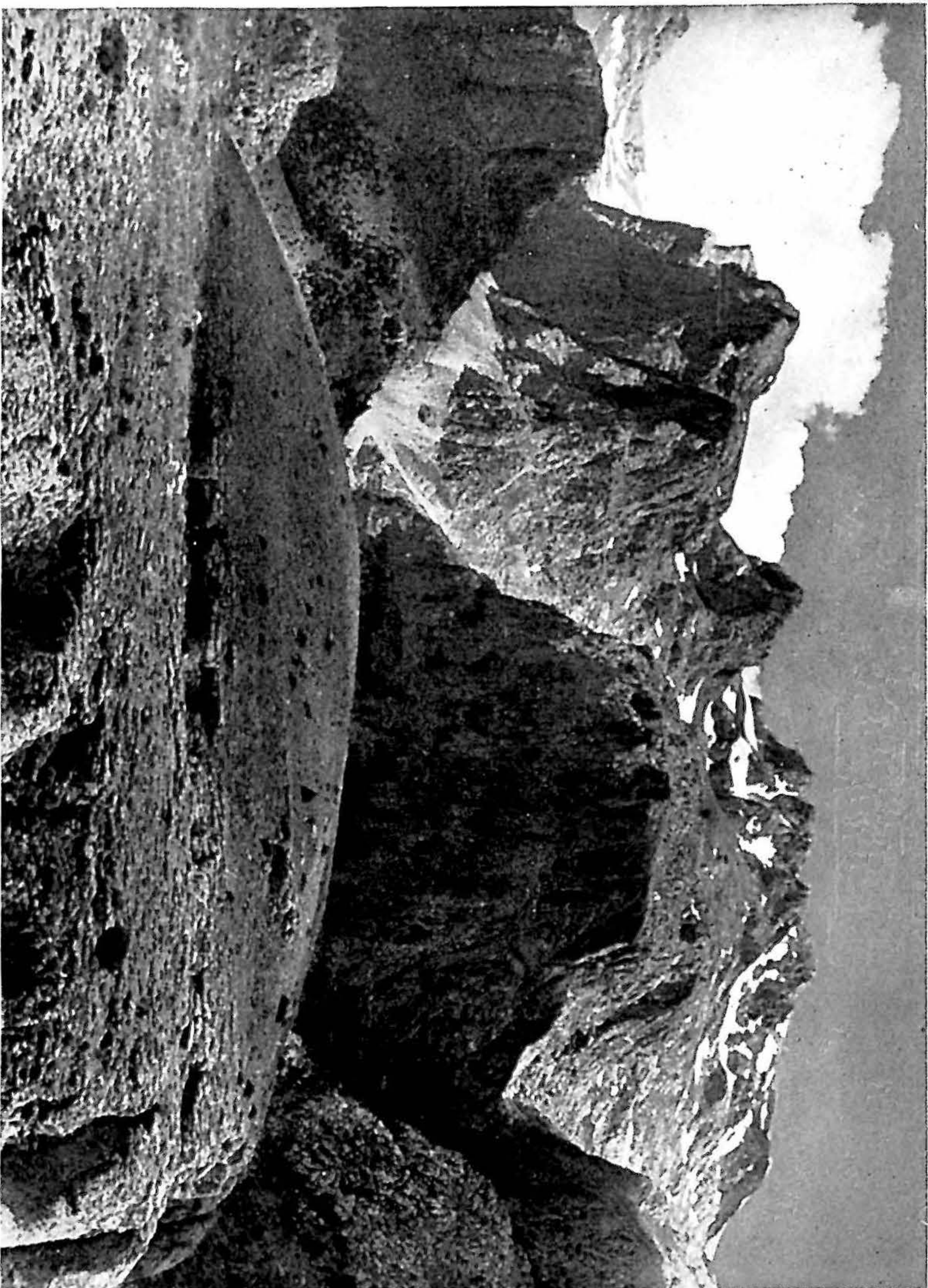
with rubble still further to the left. These continued for several hundred feet and were followed by some broken climbing which eventually brought us out on the summit. Here there was a cairn in which we found a card left by the German party who claimed to have made a *second* ascent of the summit, but the first of the tough-looking *Nordwand*.

It had been a very good climb, spiced with several difficult passages, continuously steep and with a pleasant element of the unknown. The traverse of the whole peak would probably be the finest rock climb in the range. We descended by our route of ascent except where the attractions of good glissades suggested otherwise.

ATTEMPT ON HISAR DAĞ (ca. 3650 metres).

We hoped to do two things in the last day's climbing which remained: to clear up as much as we could the topography of the central sections of the range and if possible to climb Hisar Dağ which dominates the main central range lying east of the Emli valley. We planned to reach this ridge somewhere near its southern end and do a 'topographical' traverse along it in the direction of Hisar Dağ. Leaving the men and horse to return to the shrine at Emli, we crossed to the northern side of the valley and ground up interminable scree and streaks of snow till we reached the ridge after three hours' climbing. From any point on this ridge there are excellent views of the whole range which helped to clear up some of the blanks in our mental maps. To our surprise we looked down into a high and extensive valley system draining away to a gorge in the east and linking up with the Zamanti Su system. The map had given a hint of this by marking the valley, whose true extent it concealed, as 'Yedi Göl' (Seven Lakes), but we could count more than seven bright blue patches of water studding the still considerable expanse of snow. According to the people at Emli, this valley is accessible from the west side of the range through the Yalacik gorge and flocks go there to pasture in late July. Admirable camp sites could be found in it from which to attack at least two interesting peaks, one on its southern perimeter and the other an isolated mass rising to one side of this high valley.

Continuing our way towards Hisar Dağ we crossed several small uncained peaks, traversing north-westwards till we found ourselves amongst the outer turrets of Hisar Dağ where climbing became more difficult. From here on, the views were mainly obscured by mist. We avoided parts of the castellated ridge by dropping on to the horizontal ledges of the east face. When we thought we were under the summit we forced a way up some rather unpleasant bulges towards a chimney which seemed to lead up to the crest of the ridge. Here there was a crack which involved some rather unorthodox ropework, and during a pendulum manoeuvre we both damaged our hands. As it was also getting rather late, we decided to call it a day and return. When we got back on to the ridge again there was much mist, and clouds churning in the valleys, but a sudden clearing revealed a glimpse of Hisar Dağ



Photo, R. A. Hodgkin]

LOOKING S.E. FROM EDGE OF EMLI BOGAZ GORGE.

which consoled us somewhat for our retreat, as we now saw that what had defeated us was not the final summit but only one of its many subsidiary towers. We could also see an obviously better route by the main south-west ridge.

Our problem now was to force a way down the steep unknown cliffs of the western face to the branch valley which we had named Scree Valley. A gentle patter of snow chilled us as we looked down through thickening clouds at the deceptive slabs and disappearing snow gullies below us. We were lucky, however, and managed to hit on a sinuous line of rock ribs and snow gullies which eventually landed us at the bottom of the cliff. When we looked back at the face we had just descended it was clear that we had happened to choose one of the only two possible routes of descent, as all the other gullies petered out in hopeless cliffs. Except for a few patches of snow there was nothing but scree on the next 3000 feet of descent. The whole descent was not a very pleasant route; as a line of approach this valley would be purgatorial. For some time a thunderstorm had been rumbling round the mountains and as soon as we reached the Emli valley it burst on us and soaked us completely. We arrived back at the shrine to find it quite sunny and put everything out to dry, so that we could get away punctually on the morrow.

We left the mountains by the direct route to Ulukişla, following the endless winding paths so typical of Anatolia. As we crossed the hills beyond the twin villages of Bereketli and Maden, we saw behind us the whole panorama of the Ala Dağ spread out like a diagram from a guide book. We had climbed three of its four highest summits and we were glad there remained at least one high virgin peak and many lesser ones for us or others to return to.¹ We were glad, too, to have found one more range not far from Europe where panoramas are not yet engraved in guide-books and where bowls of milk and bivouacs, unknown vistas and weary marches are the elements and not the ornaments of one's life, and where a mountain holiday can still deserve the name of an expedition.

NOTE ON PREVIOUS EXPEDITIONS TO THE ALA DAĞ^v

There appear to have been three recorded climbing expeditions to the Ala Dağ previous to our visit in 1943. All three were made by Germans or Austrians and combined geological or botanical research with mountaineering pure and simple. The topographical nomenclature adopted in the accounts of these expeditions is peculiar, since it does not agree with the names given on the official Turkish maps, except so far as Turasan Dağ (to the east of the range) and Demirkazik are concerned. Our Kaldi Dağ, marked as such on the Turkish 1:800,000 map, is shown in the Germans' photographs and sketch-map as Esnewit. The 'Hisir Dağ' of the maps is not unsuitably named Alaca, since this is the name given to the alp at its foot. On

¹ In the light of subsequent researches this is rather an exaggeration. See attached note.

the other hand, names such as 'Klagenfurter Turm,' 'Paschinger Berg' and 'Künnegipfel' given to the three fine peaks to the south-east of the Yedi Göl plateau, hardly seem suitable for a Turkish mountain range. In the accounts of both the second and third expeditions the Ludut Dağ of the map is called Borsdağ, while the peak which we christened Hisar Dağ is termed by both parties Lolut, a possible corruption of Ludut, since that name is not used for the peak known to us as Ludut.

The first expedition was made by the geologist Dr. Franz Schäfer of Vienna in 1901, who, however, did not do more than climb the summit named 'Alaca' (the Hisar Dağ of our map). An account of this climb will be found in Petermann's *Mitteilungen: Ergänzungsheft* 141, page 78, under the title 'Cilicia.' His glowing account of the peaks he had seen inspired Dr. George Künne, of the Hohenfinow section of the D.u.Ö.A.V. to undertake the first post-war German expedition outside Europe in 1927. Accompanied by Dr. Walter Martin and his wife, of Berlin, and a German non-climbing friend resident in Turkey, they set off from Bereketli Maden on July 15, 1927. They ascended the Yalak Dere and with difficulty induced their pack animals to take the narrow track into what they called the 'Wadi Narpis' (our 'Yalacik Dere') at the foot of the south-west face of Demirkazik. They then camped at the spot we had noted as a possible site for attacking Demirkazik, which they climbed on July 17 and 18. Their ascent took $14\frac{1}{2}$ hours; leaving camp at 4.20 A.M. they followed the 'Wadi Narpis' round the south foot of the mountain and after reaching a gap to the east, climbed by the east ridge, which they found difficult, while détours on to severe holdless slabs on the south face appear to have not been much easier. The summit was only reached at 6 P.M., so that an uncomfortable night in a bivouac on the face was inevitable. They regained their camp at midday on July 18 after a hungry 32 hours—almost double the time we took from Emli to the summit of Demirkazik and back. The expedition then moved round to the southern part of the range and from a camp which appears to have been situated in 'Scree Valley,' made an ascent of an easy peak they called Yedi Göl Dağ, the prominent pyramidical peak to the south of Demirkazik seen in the view of Hisar Dağ from Demirkazik.

The next objective of Dr. Künne and the Martins was our Kaldi Dağ (or Esnewit) and for this they pushed up the Direk Taş side valley to camp at a height of 2280 metres below the 'Gecebunar' Pass. This name, Night Spring, an apparent alternative for Cevizlik Kapu, seems appropriate enough in view of the fact that they found and made use of the water which flowed after sunset and ceased at sunrise. On July 26 they climbed to the pass and then crossed two minor summits to the foot of the south ridge of 'Esnewit,' which is a distinctive feature in the photographs taken from Ludut Dağ. They gained the ridge by a gully and followed it northwards to the summit which was reached at 2.40 P.M. in 12 hours from camp. They did not return to the pass until 6.30 P.M. and had an unpleasant time stumbling

about in the dark before finding their camp, which does not seem to have been well placed for an attack on Kaldi Dağ. From this camp the party also climbed 'Borsdağ' (Ludut Dağ), probably by the east ridge, although the ascent is not described in detail.

Camp was then transferred to some point in Scree Valley for an attempt on 'Lolut' (our Hisar Dağ), leaving at 4.15 A.M. on August 1. Their account is loud in complaints, which we, from our experience of the descent, could heartily endorse, of the purgatorial ascent of this valley as far as the foot of the south-west ridge of 'Lolut.' The climbing by this ridge is described as difficult and tricky with the same smooth steep little cliffs which we found but which were here interspersed with treacherous scree lying on smooth slabs. The time taken for the ascent was again 12 hours; the descent was made at some risk of stonefall by the south face and camp reached at 6.45 P.M. The party returned to Maden on August 3. The above summary of the Künne expedition is taken from the account given in the 1934 *Zeitschrift* of the D.u.Ö.A.V., pp. 196-203.

The third German expedition, organised in 1938 by the Klagenfurt Section of the D.A.V. under the leadership of Hans Spreitzer, was a much more ambitious affair and included a geologist and a botanist, as well as the climbing party proper. They spent over a month, August 15 to September 27, 1938, in the Ala Dağ region and climbed thirty peaks of which they claimed 25 as first ascents, while new routes were followed on the remaining five, of which the first ascents had been made by Dr. Künne and the Martins in 1927. The scientific results of the expedition have been published separately, but a brief account of the climbs will be found in the 1939 volume of the *Zeitschrift*. These appear to have been of a high standard and included the north faces of 'Esnewit,' 'Lolut' and 'Borsdağ' as well as numerous peak-bagging ridge climbs, and the ascent of the difficult 'Klagenfurter Turm.' This is the isolated tower rising from the Yedi Göl plateau which we saw from the ridge of Hisar Dağ; one of the peaks on the main ridge to the south-east of it was named Künnegipfel after the leader of the 1927 expedition. This party also made a second ascent of Demirkazik by the north-east ridge, leaving on the summit the swastika pennant which we removed. Their chief lament was the general unsuitability of the rock for the use of pitons and their account makes no secret of their joy at finding isolated points at which a single piton could be inserted. The heights quoted for certain of the peaks seem open to question. For instance, Demikazik is put at 3910 metres, nearly 200 metres over the height of 3726 metres given in the map at our disposal, while 'Esnewit' (Kaldi) is put alternatively at 3730 metres and 3780 metres, which is, however, not far from the 3734 metres of our map; but the height of 3840 metres for 'Lolut' seems manifestly inaccurate in relation to Kaldi Dağ and Demirkazik. The expedition covered most of the ground but, curiously enough, not the corner by 'Alaca' which we visited, and the sketch map accompanying the account might have been more accurate in view of the time spent by the party in the range.