

warmth, while just outside, the usual noisy turmoil of the rushing Visp, subdued by the snow of winter, rose up into the dazzling sunshine in a murmur of plainsong. But of all my memories of Josef there is one that I particularly cherish and would like to record here. He was spending the spring in his old chalet at Biffig, a lonely hamlet about twenty minutes' walk up the valley from St. Niklaus. I went there one day to find no Josef at home; the chalet was shut up. Disappointed, I tried the garden: not a sign of anyone; nor in the *raccard*²; but at the far end of the meadow where the bees were kept, I found Josef smoking his pipe. I went over to him and sat down. Above us was sky of purest blue, a small apple tree in blossom drooped over the humming hives, a runnel of water rushing by us sparkled in the sun; our talk, as was only fitting, was of climbing. All at once Josef stretched out his arm and withdrew it with a bee quivering on his hand. He gazed at it till it flew off again. And this man who had been the first to venture on a descent of the ice-hung Brenva route quietly remarked: 'I do so love to come and sit and smoke here so that I can listen to the singing of the bees.'

² A *raccard* is a small Valaisan chalet built on short pillars, used for keeping hay and often for things we keep in a cellar; *mazot* is another name for it.

EXPEDITIONS

Pennine Alps

ZINAL ROTHORN, 4223 m. = 13,855 ft. By the E. face. August 6, 1945. MM. R. Gréloz, A. Roch and R. Schmid. The party bivouacked 1½ hrs. above the Trift inn and set out at 2.30 A.M. They attacked the lowest rocks at 5.20 A.M., ascending to the left of the couloir followed by Mr. G. W. Young's party in 1907. After two hours' climbing they crossed to the right, making for a series of steep ledges which lie just N. of the great central cliff. They were separated from these ledges by a vertical wall 20 m. high, which required the use of six pitons. Above this wall they followed the series of ledges, exceedingly steep but with good holds. Two heavy stonefalls were encountered, one on the vertical wall and one higher up. The angle eases near the summit, but the final exit to the S. arête is by an overhanging chimney. The summit was reached at 1 P.M., 7½ hours having been spent in climbing the 800 m. of the E. face.

The route taken lies midway between that of Mr. G. W. Young's party (*A. J.* 23. 649) and of E. R. Blanchet, Kaspar Mooser and Richard Pollinger of 1933 (*A. J.* 45. 319). The general line, up the centre of the E. face, can be seen in the illustration *A. J.* 45, facing 313.

Bernese Oberland

JUNGFRAU, 4166 m. = 13,669 ft. By the N. face. July 23, 1945. The guides Karl Schlunegger and Otto von Allmen, Wengen. The party left Jungfrauoch at 5.15 A.M. and joined the Guggi route below the Schneehorn, following this up to the plateau to the left of the Klein Silberhorn. They crossed the bergschrund at the foot of the N. face at its highest point and made for the rocky outcrop on the slope above to the right. From this outcrop they ascended direct to the summit. Time from bergschrund to summit, 6 hrs. The route taken can be clearly seen in the illustration *A.ŷ.* 45, facing p. 45; it lies to the left of the Lauper-Schumacher route of 1926 (*A.ŷ.* 45. 44 *sqq.*).

GLETSCHERHORN, 3982 m. = 13,065 ft. By the N. face, July 14, 1945. Herren H. Etter and E. Reiss, with Fritz Jaun. This face was climbed in a direct line from bergschrund to summit; time, 29 hrs. including a bivouac 300 ft. beneath the summit. The same party in August repeated Dr. O. K. Williamson's route of 1911 (*A.ŷ.* 25. 742), with the exception that, where the first party were forced to traverse to the right not far below the summit ridge, Herr Etter's party climbed the ice slope direct. They took 8 hrs. from bergschrund to ridge. For illustration, see *A.ŷ.* 44. 316. The August route leads direct to the lower western summit of the peak.

GSPALTENHORN, 3442 m. = 11,293 ft. Descent by W.arête. August 1, 1943. Herren Edy Krähenbühl and Jörg Wyss. The party left the summit at 5 A.M., climbing in *Kletterschuhe*. The first tower was gained by the leader with the help of a shoulder without serious difficulty. Loose rocks were followed to a platform above the gap where Mr. G. W. Young's 1914 party took to the western side in order to turn the final tower. The gap was reached by a 50-ft. *Abseil*. The second tower was climbed with little trouble. The third tower presented the most serious difficulties, as there are three *Abseilstellen* to be taken in reverse by a party descending the ridge. The party climbed a couloir about 10 yards to the right of the gap at the foot of the tower; a shoulder was needed to overcome one section halfway up the couloir. Above the couloir climbing was easier as far as the ledge at the bottom of the highest *Abseilstelle*. From this point to the top of the tower the climbing was exceedingly difficult. The summit of this tower was reached at noon.

For the history of this arête see *A.ŷ.* 30. 103 *sqq.*, 32. 385-8, 33. 163 *sqq.*, with accompanying illustrations.