

and our warm friendship was continued by correspondence since the war, with the hope of meeting once more in Tyrol. He is referred to, and his likeness appears in a photograph, in 'From Tauern to Bernina,' *A.J.* 48. 58. In the 1914-18 war he served in the Austrian army and was taken prisoner by the Russians in Przemyśl after which he was sent to Siberia and worked in the salt mines at Vladivostok, finally, on the outbreak of the revolution, finding his way on foot home to Tyrol where he was subsequently employed under British officers on the delineation of the new Austro-Italian frontier. During the recent war he was imprisoned for six months in Innsbruck for expressing anti-Hitler sentiments in public—a matter of no surprise to me, as his remarks on this subject used to be embarrassingly outspoken in pre-war days! Although his climbing days were really over, he had hoped we should once more have 'done something together'—now, alas! not to be. He leaves a widow and nine children.

J. E. M.

EXPEDITIONS

WEST RIDGE OF BATIAN (MOUNT KENYA)

ON July 23, 1948, Mr. Arthur Firmin and I repeated Messrs. Shipton and Tilman's 1930 climb up the W. ridge of Batian;¹ we had previously made an abortive attempt in August 1947, when we were held up on the rocks of the Grand Gendarme and had to rope down to the Northey Glacier.

This year we followed what must have been the same as the 1930 route except that we climbed almost directly over the Petit Gendarme instead of traversing beneath it on the S. side; and near the summit we turned on the E. side a gap into which Shipton and Tilman had roped down. We wore rubbers from the base of the difficult climbing on the Grand Gendarme as far as the junction of the W. and N. ridges. Leaving our bivouac at the side of the Joseph Glacier at 6.05 A.M. we reached the summit of Batian at 12.55 P.M.

For the descent we chose the N. face which was climbed by Firmin and Hicks in 1944.² Getting caught in a snowstorm at the top of the Tower, progress was very slow and we only managed to get off the final rocks ten minutes before darkness would have made climbing impossible. Near the Tower I was struck by an electrical disturbance which caused my hair to sizzle and crackle; Firmin, though unaffected himself, heard the sizzling from 50 ft. away.

The expedition was a most enjoyable one, involving first rate snow, ice and rock work. Two days earlier, Messrs. Firmin, J. Inglis Moore and I made an ascent of Point Piggott. An empty Brand's beef essence tin, evidently left by the first party, was found on top.³

J. W. HOWARD.

¹ *A.J.* 43. 131-146.

² *A.J.* 55. 76-81.

³ *A.J.* 43. 144.