

## ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

KENNETH CHETWOOD PRICE STRUVÉ (1876-1961).—Struvé resigned from the A.C. in 1959, after 36 years of membership. He was educated at Birkenhead School and at Vevey, later going up to St. John's College, Oxford, to read Geology and, incidentally, to row for his college. He was in the Egyptian Irrigation Service from 1899 to 1901 and in the latter year he joined the newly formed Sudan Political Service. In 1913, the year of his marriage, he was appointed Governor of the White Nile Province, and in 1919 Governor of the Upper Nile Province, remaining there until his retirement in 1926.

He was an omnivorous reader and also very fond of the theatre and opera, but his great love was for climbing, and he spent almost all his leaves at it and, on his retirement, he went to live at Geneva, later near Vevey, remaining there until the summer of 1939. He then came to England and lived near Guildford for the remainder of his life, dying on February 5, 1961. He soon explored on foot the whole district round Guildford, and this was to stand him in good stead when in the Home Guard.

He was proposed for the Alpine Club in 1923 by F. P. M. Schiller, with F. N. Schiller his seconder. His first season in the Alps had been in 1891, and his last was in 1948, though he went abroad, to Norway, in 1949 and 1950, as well as climbing during these last years in Scotland and Ireland, 1953 being his last recorded season. He kept meticulous notes of his expeditions, which totalled 475 peaks and passes; in Switzerland, the Oberland and the Valais would appear to have been his favourite areas, but he had a wide experience of the Alps in all regions.

His climbing companions included E. C. Oppenheim (in early days), R. W. Workman and, most constant of all, Anthony Robinson, who wrote of their climbs in his book *Alpine Roundabout*. Struvé contributed to the *A.J.* the obituary notices of Workman and Robinson, and, to volume 58, an article on 'Hill-roaming in Norway'. Much of his climbing was done guideless and he was remarkably active almost to the end. He leaves a wife and son, the latter an active mountaineer, and we express to them our regrets at the passing of our former member.

T. S. B.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—The Alpine season of 1861 was one of fine weather, an agreeable contrast to the previous summer. William

Mathews, arriving in Turin at the end of August, reported that 'the sky had been unclouded for weeks and for five months not a drop of rain had fallen at Turin', and E. N. Buxton referred to the 'unusually hot summer'.

There were two ascents of outstanding importance. On August 19 the Weisshorn was climbed for the first time, by Professor Tyndall with J. J. Bennen and Ulrich Wenger. The Matterhorn excluded, the Weisshorn was considered the greatest prize of the Alps; Stephen and the Mathews brothers, Melchior Anderegg and other guides, had attempted it in vain.

Bennen had been sent by Tyndall to reconnoitre the mountain and thought that an ascent from Randa would be possible. He led throughout and though at one time Tyndall says there was a 'kind of sickly despair in his eye', so far away did the summit seem, he persevered and brought his party to the top ten hours after leaving the bivouac. Neither Tyndall nor Bennen had ever seen such a view; the effect on Tyndall must have been indeed prodigious, for science was driven into second place. 'I had never before witnessed a scene which affected me like this one', he wrote in *Hours of Exercise in the Alps*. 'I opened my note book to make a few observations, but soon relinquished the attempt. There was something incongruous, if not profane, in allowing the scientific faculty to interfere where silent worship seemed the reasonable service.'

Five days earlier Leslie Stephen had made the first ascent of the Gross Schreckhorn, 'owing to bad diplomacy encumbered with three guides, Peter and Christian Michel and Christian Kaufmann,<sup>1</sup> all of them good men, but one, if not two, too many'. The ascent was without major incident but on reaching the arête Stephen was impressed; 'the scene was in itself significant enough for men of weak nerves. Taking a drop of brandy all round, we turned to the assault, feeling that a few yards would decide the question.'

On the same day that Tyndall climbed the Weisshorn a party of fourteen made the first ascent of the Lyskamm. Within the next eight days Castor and the Nord End were both climbed for the first time. On August 30 Monte Viso fell to William Mathews and F. W. Jacomb with Michel and J.-B. Croz, and on October 4, Michel Croz, at Mathews' suggestion, made by himself the first ascent of Mont Pourri.

Edward Whymper made the first British ascent of Mont Pelvoux and also his first attempt on the Matterhorn, while the Parker brothers, without guides, made their second attempt, again from the Swiss side. Stephen and Tuckett, with three guides, made the first complete ascent of Mont Blanc by the true St. Gervais route (Aiguille and Dôme du

<sup>1</sup> Stephen was in error; Ulrich, not Christian, Kaufmann was the third guide. See *A.J.* 14. 321.

Goûter and les Bosses). British mountaineers were still striving to open a high-level route from Chamonix to Zermatt and in furtherance of this aim the Col d'Argentière, Col d'Oren, Col du Sonadon, and Col de Chermontane were all crossed for the first time in 1861.

At a meeting of the Alpine Club on June 4 John Ball called attention to the want of a guide-book 'which should deal with the whole chain of the Alps and should be drawn up with especial reference to the requirements of mountaineers'. The suggestion was adopted and two years later Ball's *Guide to the Western Alps* was published. John Ball, in addition to his many other services to mountaineering, can lay claim to have been the originator of climbers' guides.

GREAT ST. BERNARD.—It has been announced that the road tunnel under the pass is likely to be opened to traffic by the summer of 1962. This is some months later than originally planned.

DENTS DES BOUQUETINS.—The second complete traverse was made in 1934 by Mme. Alice Hermann with Pierre Maurys and Henri Trovaz, and not in 1942 as incorrectly stated in *A.J.* 66. 163.

A GLACIER AIRPORT.—The first glacier airport in the world has almost been completed at the Diablerets mountains, enabling ski fans to hop over from the Lake Geneva region in less than an hour and practise their favourite sport all the year round. Constructed at an altitude of 10,000 ft., its natural runways will be longer than those of the international airports of Geneva and Zürich. The airport will be connected with lower levels by a new aerial cableway rising almost 5,000 ft. in three sections.

(From *The Swiss Observer*.)

FROM ZERMATT.—The Riffel Alp hotel, opened by Alexander Seiler in 1884, was completely destroyed by fire in February.

A proposal to build a motor road to Zermatt having been twice defeated by a majority of the electors, a scheme was put forward to construct a road as far as Täsch. In spite of this proposal having also been defeated, by a vote of the Commune of St. Niklaus, the road will be built and the first section, as far as Herbriggen, was due to be completed this year.

C.A.A.I.—We offer congratulations to our member Count Ugo di Vallepiana on his nomination as President of the Club Alpino Accademico Italiano.

JOSEF KNUBEL.—Josef Knubel, the last survivor of the great guides

of the days before the 1914-18 war, died in hospital at Visp in June last at the age of eighty.

We hope to publish an obituary notice in our next number.

### JOSEPH GEORGES (1892-1960)

JOSEPH GEORGES DE PIERRE, of La Forclaz above Les Haudères, was known as *Le Skieur*, because as a young boy he had made himself a pair of skis from a magazine picture—and was for some time the only ski-runner in the Val d'Hérens. There was a gay originality and initiative about his climbing and a mastery which impressed all who went with him. He had a modest but justified confidence in his powers and his judgment, which enabled him often to make ascents no one else would start for—and this without any rashness.

He was a compact, lightly-built man who on a path gave little sign of his inexhaustible strength. A simple-seeming, friendly face; but with piercing eyes which looked through and beyond you. On rock or ice, if they became exacting, he was suddenly released or possessed but always with the shrewdest professional care for the safety of the party.

His *Carnet* opens with two premonitory entries. The first (1919) is an ascent with Cornelis Tromp of the Dent Blanche, his neighbour peak, the scene of his chief triumph. The second is an admiring account by high officers in the Diablerets Section of the S.A.C. of a swift *solitary* ascent of the *Za par devant* which, they happened, from the Douves Blanches, to catch Joseph making. He was highly reticent about them, but there is little doubt that Joseph—like Klucker—was fond of lonely reconnaissances. At 11, he nipped off (he confessed to this) leaving Canon Girdlestone, his employer, sketching at the Pas de Chèvres, and traversed the Mt. Blanc de Seilon. A few years later, having been taken over the Col d'Hérens and told to go home via Sion, he filled in the time by a solitary high level exploration of the Zermatt glaciers, leading him somehow back to Bricolla. These were the errors of ignorant youth; he came to have the gravest suspicion of crevasses. The itch to see 'how it might go' could catch him out. On the North-east ridge of the Jungfrau in 1923, a rotten gendarme (since fallen) pushed him on to a solitary second ascent. Ours, next day, was the third. On the Boussine arête of the Combin de Chessette (1925), to quote from his *Carnet*, 'Joseph left me to reconnoitre and found the rocks so difficult that he had no option but to continue to the summit'. When he got back to me, from the first ascent across the South flank, a rain-storm drove us down to our bivouac.<sup>2</sup> A similar threat probably explains his ascent with W. G. Standring of the North-west face of the Scheidegg Wetterhorn. Starting at 10.30 a.m. for a look at ground neither had seen,

<sup>2</sup> A.J. 37. 369.

Joseph decided at a certain height that it would be safer to go on than to climb down that limestone in a rainstorm.

Looking through his *Carnet* one is struck by the return of certain themes: climbs seized between storms, infectious enthusiasm, cheerfulness, skill as a teacher, thoughtfulness, companionship, an amateur readiness to linger on summits to sundown, quickness and imperturbability in crises, mounting good humour through times of stress. Of a descent (with night out) of the Ferpèche ridge (1921) G. M. Bell recounts: 'During the whole time of 32 hours he was unfailing in helpfulness and good humour.' Jean Gaspoz, as leading guide, had been disabled and Joseph had taken command: 'His quickness and attention prevented an accident caused by a stone from assuming fatal proportions.' In the night Bell fancied he saw a guardian angel taking care of Gaspoz. The idea of Gaspoz having 'un ange gardien' was somehow ever after a source of inextinguishable mirth in Joseph.

The fifth entry (1919) is already prophetic: 'Il possède, entre de qualités qui en font le plus agréable camarade de course, une connaissance de la montagne (tant en ce qui concerne la neige que pour le rocher) qui lui acquerrait bientôt la réputation d'un des meilleurs guides Valaisannes. Puisse cette prophétie se réaliser au plus vite.' (G. Colladon, ingr.) It was to be. In 1921 he made (with Myrtil Schwartz) the first ascent of the North-north-east arête of Mt. Collon, '24 heures d'efforts ininterrompus'. Joseph had a low opinion of this as a reasonable route. Later in the year (with Dorothy Pilley and I. A. R.) he made the first ascent from the Arolla glacier of the Pte. Sud des Bouquetins, with first descent of its East face. Next year (with R. B. Graham, R. S. T. Chorley and M. H. Wilson) the traverse of the Dent d'Hérens with descent to Breuil by the Col des Grandes Murailles to the Mont Tabor glacier. Joseph used to recall, wonderingly, how, in the steep couloir, seeing a stone coming straight for him '*j'ai sauté en pleine pente*'—to alight on one foot on a pebble stuck in the ice slope. They returned over the Matterhorn (no other parties that snowy day) and back by the Quatre Ânes to the Bertol.

He was happiest on ground he had never seen before, and the Montanvert peaks and glaciers that year (1922) were as often as not in cloud. It was characteristic of him that when his party was taking a needed poor weather rest-day, he could not resist taking John Pilley over the Grépon with 'a stiff storm on the summit'. Thenceforward he was to range widely, visiting most parts of the Alps.

In 1924, the Graians: the North ridge of the Grivola, then all ice, gave him perhaps his biggest feat in step-cutting, 6½ hours.

In 1925 (with I. A. R.): first south to north traverse of all the peaks of the Bouquetins; (with Dorothy Thompson) down from Mt. Blanc via Mt. Maudit and Mt. Blanc du Tacul to the Torino after bad weather—

'no other party on that day'. At the Aiguille du Goûter Cabane the night before: 'at 9.30 p.m. Joseph descended alone to search for 3 people calling for help—About 1.30 a.m. he returned, laden with rucksacks, having brought a chilled and exhausted party up on the rope in complete darkness, the lantern being blown out ten minutes after he left the hut.'

In 1926: the Dent Blanche with a novice he was teaching (J. H. Hannah)—'in spite of the opinion of the local guides that it would not be possible for a week'—and the Zmutt arête under similar conditions. . . . 'When his own client is settled in Club huts, he lends his help to any caravan present.'

In 1927 (with R. Ogier Ward): first ascent of the Mer de Glace face of the Aiguille de Leschaux with descent to the glacier de Frébouzie and Col des Hirondelles. In 1928 (with his brother Antoine Georges, Dorothy Richards and I. A. R.): first ascent of North arête of the Dent Blanche. 'Bricolla, 1.0 a.m. Col du Grand Cornier, 5 a.m. Surplomb, 10.30–1.30 p.m. Summit, 5–5.20 p.m. Foot of S. Arête, 7.15 p.m.' With this 'a hope shared with J. G. for many years was realised and his genius found its full expression'.

In 1929 (with Dorothy Thompson and Meyseiller Marcel as porter): Brouillard arête, Mont Blanc; untracked, unknown ground, 'arêtes on Mt. Blanc de Courmayeur covered with iniquitous snow'. Later, a big sampling of Dolomite climbing with Winifred Murray, Joseph going off by himself to do the Kleine Zinne by the Zsigmondy Kamin, Winkler Thurm by Winklerreis traverse (in 30 minutes), Fünffinger Spitze No. 3 by Sudwand, in between neighbouring climbs. In 1930 (with the same): spring climbing in Corsica. July (with Ella Mann): Bregaglia; Il Gallo direct from South col Ago di Sciora in much snow. August (with W. G. Standring): North-west face of the Scheidegg Wetterhorn. August 24 (with J. M. K. Vyvyan): 'Charmoz-Grépon, including the first ascent (as an experiment) without artificial aids of the Grand Gendarme on the Grépon, by a chimney and flake on the Nantillons side. 26th: 'starting from the Tour Rouge (with porter Junien of Chamonix) we traversed the Grépon from the Mer de Glace side to the Nantillons, descending by the couloir Charmoz-Grépon, climbing the Grand Gendarme and passing on to the summit by the Cheminée Knubel.' Sept. 5 (with J. M. K. Vyvyan and A. E. Foot): Mont Blanc *via* Dames Anglaises, Aiguille Blanche, Grand Pilier d'Angle, left Gamba at midnight, reached Grands Mulets 7 p.m.

Then come gaps in his *Carnet*. Entries are filled in later and many ascents are no doubt missing. He cared little about it. In 1932 he was triumphing with the Comte de Grunne and the Mission Scientifique Belge on the Ruwenzori peaks from the Belgian Congo side. In 1933 (with Molly FitzGibbon) he did the first complete traverse of the Hörnli ridge of the Eiger, from Bonern to the Mittellegi and repeated

the North-west face of the Wetterhorn. In 1934 (with Molly FitzGibbon) he repeated the Bouquetins traverse. In 1935 (with Molly FitzGibbon and G. R. Speaker); the Ryan route on the Plan. In 1933 (with Dorothy Thompson and Meyseiller Marcel); Mt. Blanc by the Bionnassay, descent by the Peuterey (first combination of these arêtes) 'nearly 34 hours' climbing—delayed by the treacherous condition—unexpected recent snowfall at the Grand Pilier d'Angle and the icy condition of the rocks above the Col de Peuterey which involved abandoning the ordinary route.' 1935 (the same); Mt. Blanc by the Innominata; icy conditions, Grands Mulets 9 p.m.

In the following years Joseph's detachment from his *Carnet*, and perhaps his shyness of it shows. His friends can testify that it was rarely available. By 1942 his health was failing. And with that he withdrew as firmly as he had advanced, turning to farming and to the building of a model chalet for his sisters, for whom he would seek in Aosta the choicest of traditional ribbons. He never married.

Three more notes from the *Carnet*: 'Joseph Georges being not only a model instructor but a perfect companion with whom one would wish to climb indefinitely,' (H. W. A. Freese-Pennefather, J. M. K. Vyvyan, Quintin Hogg). 'I have never enjoyed any two days of my life more than these last two; and this is entirely due to him' (Godfrey Nicholson), from an absolute beginner, after the Petite Dent de Veisivi and the *Za en face*. The last entry: 'Tout le long de ces journées, la joie et la bonne humeur et la jouissance de la montagne ont formé un lien solide entre nous' (E. and E. Aebi, La Forclaz, Sept. 1942).

I. A. RICHARDS.

EIGERWAND.—Favoured by the exceptional weather conditions T. Hiebeler, W. Almberger, A. Kinshofer, and A. Mannhardt completed the first winter ascent of this face on March 12; six nights were spent on the mountain.

Further details of the expedition appeared at a later date and from these it transpired that the ascent had not been carried through in one continuous climb but had been made in two stages. The D.A.V. issued a statement condemning Herr Hiebeler for what was alleged to be an attempt to deceive the public and said that in a number of publications, including the American magazine *Life*, he had claimed that he and his party had climbed the Eigerwand in a single ascent and that he maintained the deception until weighty evidence, broadcast on the Bavarian radio, forced him to admit the true position.

Herr Hiebeler, for his part, denied that there had been any attempt at deception and quoted the Swiss paper, *Der Sport*, as having given a clear account in its issue of March 13 of how he and his companions had made the ascent. It was only after his return to Germany, he

said, that trouble had started. Nobody there had asked him for his account; he had always been willing to tell the truth. The S.A.C. *Bulletin*, May 1961, draws attention to the fact that Hiebeler, in his account in *Der Bergkamerad* of April 13 summarises the climbing on March 6 as being 'von Einstieg bis nahe Hinterstoisser Quergang'. 'Einstieg' would be taken to mean the commencement of the climb and not a point near the Gallery Window.

The attempt on the Eigerwand began on February 27 when the first 400 m. were climbed and the party bivouacked near the Gallery Window of the Jungfrauoch railway. Bad weather then set in and, leaving the equipment at the bivouac the party retreated by way of the Gallery Window and the railway line. The ascent was not resumed until six days later, March 6, but instead of starting at the bottom of the face Hiebeler and his companions emerged from the Gallery Window and resumed the ascent at the point where they had left off on February 27.

The positions reached after each day's climbing were:

March 6. Near the Hinterstoisser Traverse.

„ 7. End of the first ice-field.

„ 8. Flat-Iron.

„ 9. Middle of the Ramp.

„ 10. Commencement of the Traverse of the Gods.

„ 11. End of the Exit-cracks.

„ 12. Summit.

By commencing the second attempt at the Gallery Window the climb was shortened by over 1,200 ft. and a seventh night out was avoided.

WINTER MOUNTAINEERING.—The first winter ascent of the *via direttissima* on the Cima Grande di Lavaredo was made in February by three Munich climbers; the ascent took four days.

Walter Bonatti and Giovanni Panei made the first winter ascent of the Sentinelle Rouge route on Mont Blanc in a remarkably fast time on March 9 and six days later the Pilier Bonatti on the Dru was climbed for the first time in winter by Robert Guillaume and Antoine Vieille.

WATZMANN.—The East face of the Watzmann was the scene of a lamentable accident in March when three climbers were killed by an avalanche released by a sudden rise in temperature. The bodies, still roped together, were recovered several weeks later.

It may be worth recalling that this year sees the eightieth anniversary of the first ascent of the Watzmann's East face, nearly 6,000 ft. in vertical height, by Otto Schück with Johann Grill (der Köderbacher) on June 6, 1881.<sup>3</sup>

Captain Percy Farrar made the fifth ascent with Johann Grill in 1892.

<sup>3</sup> Not May 6, as stated in *A. J.* 31. 263.

PEAKS AND PASSES.—Count Aldo Bonacossa has been good enough to send further information about some of the peaks and passes mentioned in *A. J.* 66. 155–6. The Passo d'Aurona has been crossed by several parties of tourists since 1920 and in 1944 by prisoners of war who, helped by Italian partisans, used this route for their escape to Switzerland.<sup>4</sup>

An exact description of the Passo del Serio will be found in the Italian guide *Alpe Orobie*, 1957, pp. 208–9; the pass was crossed by tourists in July, 1912.

Count Aldo himself, with Miss Rosamond Botsford, crossed the Bocchetta d'Aiada from north-west to south-east on September 9, 1912, but this passage, like many other expeditions in the district, is not recorded in the 1959 Italian Bernina guide.

PETER GRAHAM.—Peter Graham, by universal consent the greatest of New Zealand mountaineers, died at Waiho on April 7 at the age of eighty-two. He was the last survivor of that gifted band who did so much to reveal the glories of the Central Southern Alps at the beginning of the century. Born a few miles from the Franz Josef glacier, he acquired his first interest and skill in the mountains in the company of Dr. Teichelmann and Canon Newton on the West Coast. His reputation grew and in 1903 he was invited by the Tourist Department to join the staff at the Hermitage. In 1906 he became Chief Guide in succession to Jack Clarke, and occupied that responsible position till 1922. During those busy years he made in all thirteen ascents of Mt. Cook itself, a record only recently surpassed by Harry Ayres; they included the first traverse from east to west in 1906, the first ascent by Earle's route from the Hooker in 1909, and the first Grand Traverse of the three peaks in 1913 with the Australian girl, Miss du Faur, who also accompanied him on the second ascent of Tasman, the first traverse of Sefton and the first ascent of Dampier. Her book, *The Conquest of Mt. Cook*, is a lasting monument to his merits and virtues as guide and man. As Chief Guide he exercised a benevolent but autocratic control over every mountaineering activity. He established a tradition of superb icemanship and above all of safety in the mountains. In all his innumerable expeditions he never had an accident. He trained many good guides and won their lifelong devotion.

In 1922 the Government decided to cut its losses and leased the Hermitage to a private Company. Peter disliked the change and returned to Waiho to join his brother, Alex, as joint proprietor of the Glacier Hotel, which over the years their genius transformed into one of the best in the country. There was, however, still one notable

<sup>4</sup> A description of the route across this pass is to be found in the Conway–Coolidge guide to the Lepontine Alps, published in 1892.

mountaineering achievement in store for him, when in 1924 Samuel Turner after five unsuccessful campaigns against the formidable Mt. Tutoko in the far south implored Peter to accompany him for one last try. This he did, and led Turner to the summit at the first attempt.

Thereafter he became an almost legendary figure, with a vast knowledge of all the history of that Golden Age, in which he himself had played so conspicuous a part. It was a delight to spend an evening with him, studying his unique collection of photographs and absorbing his fascinating stories of various episodes in his career, the most famous of which was the mysterious business of the ghost in the Hooker hut. A man of magnetic personality, happy in his wife and family and in his life-work, he won the admiration and affection of a host of friends among his own countrymen and the very many overseas climbers, to whom he acted as guide and in later years as host at Waiho.

H. E. L. PORTER.

FRANÇOISE DE GRUNNE (1927-1960).—Mlle Françoise de Grunne, who died in 1960 on the slopes of Mt. Dobany in Gilgit, was a remarkable woman who, had she lived longer, might well have made valuable contributions to our knowledge of the regions of Swat, Gilgit and Chitral, in which she was greatly interested.

She was born on October 20, 1927, the daughter of our former member, the late Count Xavier de Grunne, and was educated in convent schools and at Louvain University. Mountaineering being in her blood, she took to it easily in the Alps, in Greece and in Syria, and she was in addition particularly attracted to Byzantine art and history.

In 1957 she took up a post at Peshawar University and became deeply interested in Gandharan art, that unique blend of Greek and Indian-Buddhist culture to be found in those regions. She travelled widely, especially in the semi-independent tribal areas, where her presence was apt to be a thorn in the flesh to the officials who sought to administer the rather sketchy police-administration of those parts. However, Mlle de Grunne, though usually travelling alone, with a minimum of porters, managed, by her combination of charm, adroitness and perseverance, generally to get her requests granted, and was in fact never involved in serious trouble.

In 1958 she travelled in the Astor, Punial and Yasin regions of the Gilgit Agency, and in 1959 was allowed to visit the territories of Darel and Tangir—previously only entered by Sir Aurel Stein (1913) and Dr. Karl Jettmar (1956 and 1958). Later, in 1959, she proceeded via Swat and Dir to join a climbing party of the Karakoram Club on Tirich Mir, and though unsuccessful in the ascent, she got a view of

other mountains, to the north and west, that fired her enthusiasm, and she sought to visit them in the winter of 1959-60.

T. S. BLAKENEY.<sup>5</sup>

FRITZ BECHTOLD.—We are sorry to report the death of this distinguished German mountaineer, who died at Roth, near Nuremberg, in February at the age of sixty. Bechtold had made many new ascents in the Eastern Alps and had also visited the Caucasus where, in 1929, he made the second ascent of the South Peak of Ushba by Schulze's route.<sup>6</sup>

He took part in the German expeditions to Nanga Parbat of 1932, 1934, and 1938. He escaped the disaster of 1934 as it fell to him to take down two exhausted porters from Camp VII on July 6, the day before the storm broke. He was also one of the search party that flew out from Germany after the tragedy of the 1937 expedition when almost the entire party was overwhelmed by an avalanche.

A CLIMBING CRIMINAL.—The Colonial Office has announced the award of the Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry to Mr. A. C. Stuart, a member of the Special Branch of the Uganda Police, for arresting a dangerous criminal, Kibuku Kiganira, who had escaped from prison while serving a life sentence.

Kiganira was found delivering revivalist speeches to several hundred people from the top of the Kunga rock in the Kyadondo country, which is regarded as inaccessible except to practised mountaineers. Mr. Stuart led a party of members of the Mountain Club of Uganda up a chimney to the summit of the rock. Kiganira picked up a large stone and attacked him.

Mr. Stuart then tried to outflank the African by traversing a large pinnacle but, with a 100-ft. drop behind him, was again attacked with spear and stones. Defending himself with a police baton he chased Kiganira across the top of the rock, overpowered him and arrested him.

KILIMANJARO.—Lt.-Col. Sir Lionel Fletcher has sent us news of some ascents of Kilimanjaro. The summit was reached earlier this year by two one-legged Austrians, Otto Umlauf and Thomas Kacher. Both men were crippled in the war but, determined to continue their skiing and mountaineering, had special crutches made designed to take their main weight on the elbows. They went up Kilimanjaro in the course of a ten-day visit to East Africa.

<sup>5</sup>I am indebted to Mr. J. Hurley, of the School of Oriental Studies, London, for information.

<sup>6</sup>See *A.J.* 42. 116.

The first ascent by a Merchant Navy party took place in March, when two cadets from the British India cadet ship *Chantala*, led by the ship's Instructor Officer, reached the summit of Gillman's Point; a third cadet had to give up when within 100 ft. of the top.

WOMEN'S ALTITUDE RECORD.—The claim of two Tibetan women to have beaten the women's altitude record by reaching the summit of Kongur Tiube Tagh, *c.* 24,918 ft., is unlikely to remain unchallenged. Different estimates of the height reached by Madame Claude Kogan and Raymond Lambert in their attempt on Cho Oyu in October, 1954, have been put forward varying from 24,770 ft. to 25,260 ft. If, in fact, they reached the latter height the claim of the Tibetan women is not valid.

It was subsequently reported that one of the women, Shierab, had died on the way down. She was described as 'one of China's (*sic*) outstanding mountaineers'.

THE INNER LINE.—Through the kindness of Mr. Gurdial Singh we have received a copy of the Government of India order regarding the Inner Line near the Northern frontier of India. Copies of the order are available on application to the Assistant Secretary.

THE HEIGHT OF SHILLA.—M. Marcel Kurz asks us to point out that by an unfortunate oversight his views about the height of Shilla were omitted from *Chronique Himalayenne*, although they may be found in *The Mountain World*, 1954, p. 221, as Mr. Braham states in his letter.<sup>7</sup>

The following was intended to appear on p. 128 of *Chronique Himalayenne* as the concluding sentences of para. 5:

'Ce panorama prouve indubitablement que la Shilla n'atteint pas 7,000 m., peut-être même pas 6,500 m.! Sa situation a, paraît-il, été "fixée" par deux visées seulement et son altitude par une seule visée (!), ce qui a probablement entraîné une grossière erreur.'

M. Kurz's opinion is quite clear and it is indeed evident that he is not one of the pro-23,000 ft. faith.

Any reader of *Chronique Himalayenne* wishing to have a slip with the missing sentences to attach to p. 128 of his copy should apply to M. Kurz.

HIMALAYAS, 1961.—Four members of Sir Edmund Hillary's expedition, Dr. Michael Ward, and Messrs. B. Bishop, M. Gill, and W. Romanes, made in March the first ascent of Ama Dablam. The expedition had not received specific permission from the Nepalese Government to climb this peak and in addition to the usual royalty fee

<sup>7</sup> *A.J.* 65. 274.

a fine was imposed. Later an attempt without oxygen was made on Makalu. The first assault party reached a height of *c.* 26,300 ft. before being turned back by the violent wind. A second party reached 27,400 ft. but this too had to return owing to the illness of one of its members. Sir Edmund Hillary considers that the long period spent at a height of 19,000 ft. was detrimental to the party and that the risks involved in attempting a peak of over 27,000 ft. without oxygen make the effort hardly worth while.

Mr. J. Walmsley's expedition achieved a double victory on Nuptse, 25,850 ft. The first ascent was made on May 16 by D. Davis accompanied by the Sherpa Tashi and next day C. J. S. Bonington, L. Brown, J. Swallow, and the Sherpa Ang Pemba also reached the summit.

J. B. Tyson led a successful small expedition to the Kanjiroba Himal. The range was explored and it is hoped to publish a detailed map. Three peaks were climbed, including one of over 21,000 ft.

Two Japanese and a Sherpa, Gyaltsen Norbu, were killed by an avalanche, which swept down on Camp III in the course of an unsuccessful attempt on the highest peak of the Langtang Himal. Another Japanese expedition got to within about 120 ft. of the top of Löngho Gang, 23,240 ft., in the Jugal Himal and a third party was unsuccessful in an attempt on Manaslu II (Peak 29), 25,705 ft.

Two Indians and a Sherpa reached the top of the hitherto unclimbed Annapurna III, 24,858 ft., on May 6, and members of Mr. Pettigrew's Derbyshire expedition made another ascent of Deo Tibba but failed on Indrasan.

An expedition to Garhwal, led by Mr. Gurdial Singh, though defeated on Nanda Devi by the early onset of the monsoon and hazardous ice conditions, made the first ascent of Devistan I, 21,910 ft., on June 16, when eight members of the party reached the summit and on June 21 a group of nine made the second ascent of Maiktoli, 22,320 ft.

A notable achievement of another Indian expedition, led by Capt. N. Kumar, was the first ascent of Nilkanta, 21,640 ft., on June 13 by O. P. Sharma and two Sherpas, Phurbu Lobsang and Lhakpa Giyalbu Lama.

The Austrian Karakoram expedition, led by Erich Waschak, was refused permission to attempt Saltoro Kangri on the ground that it was too near the frontier and changed its objective to Mount Ghent, 24,280 ft. The first ascent of this peak was made by Wolfgang Axt, by himself, on June 4. Leaving Camp IV (21,000 ft.) at 2.30 a.m. he reached the summit ten hours later.

**MOUNT MCKINLEY.**—A party of six Italians led by R. Cassin<sup>8</sup> has

<sup>8</sup> Cassin has achieved many notable ascents in the Alps including the first ascents of the North face of the Pointe Walker of the Grandes Jorasses and of the North-east face of Piz Badile.

made the first ascent of the South face of Mount McKinley, 20,320 ft., the highest summit of the North American continent.

Mr. Bradford Washburn is reported as having described the ascent as 'the greatest achievement in American mountaineering history'.

PAMIRS.—The Russian authorities have given permission for a joint A.C./S.M.C. expedition to the Pik Stalin area of the Pamirs in the summer of 1962.

THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS.—The following 23,000-ft. peaks have been climbed since the publication of the last list in *A. J.* 64. 136, (where the names of M. E. B. Banks and T. Patey should have been in italics, as members of the Alpine Club).

- |    |      |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----|------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 64 | 1959 | July 19 | KANJUT SAR, 25,460 ft. Karakoram.<br>C. Pélissier.<br><i>A. J.</i> 65. 89.                                                                                                                              |
| 65 |      | Aug. 2  | MALUBITING EAST, <i>c.</i> 23,000 ft. Karakoram.<br><i>A. J.</i> Imrie, R. J. Akhter.<br><i>A. J.</i> 65. 46.                                                                                           |
| 66 |      | Aug. 24 | SARAGHRAR, 24,110 ft. Hindu Kush.<br>F. Alletto, G. Castelli, P. Consiglio, B. Pinelli.<br><i>A. J.</i> 65. 151.                                                                                        |
| 67 | 1960 | May 10  | API, 23,399 ft. North-west Nepal.<br>K. Hirabayashi, Gyaltsen Norbu.<br>(M. Teraska and Y. Tsuda made the ascent on<br>the following day.)<br><i>A. J.</i> 65. 246.                                     |
| 68 |      | May 13  | DHAULAGIRI, 26,795 ft. Nepal.<br>K. Diemberger, P. Diener, E. Forrer, A. Schel-<br>bert, Nyima Dorji, Nawang Dorji.<br>(M. Vaucher and H. Weber made the ascent on<br>May 23.)<br><i>A. J.</i> 65. 246. |
| 69 |      | May 17  | ANNAPURNA II, 26,041 ft. Nepal.<br><i>C. J.</i> S. Bonington, R. H. Grant, Ang Nyima.<br><i>A. J.</i> 65. 143.                                                                                          |
| 70 |      | May 24  | HIMAL CHULI, 25,801 ft. Nepal.<br>M. Harada, H. Tanabe.<br>(H. Miyashita and K. Nakazawa repeated the<br>ascent on the following day.)<br><i>A. J.</i> 65. 246.                                         |

- 71 June 2 AMNE MACHIN, 23,491 ft. Western China.  
Pai Chiu-Lsiao and seven other Chinese.  
*A. J.* 66. 274.
- 72 June 9 DISTAGHIL SAR, 25,868 ft. Karakoram.  
D. Marchart, G. Stärker.  
*A. J.* 66. 1.
- 73 July 6 MASHERBRUM, 25,660 ft. Karakoram.  
*G. I. Bell*, W. Unsoeld.  
(*N. B. Clinch* and R. J. Akhter made the ascent  
on July 8.)  
*A. J.* 65. 248.
- 74 Aug. 13 MOUNT DEPAK, c. 23,457 ft. Karakoram.  
M. Anderl, E. Senn.
- 75 Aug. 17 TRIVOR, 25,328 ft. Karakoram.  
*W. Noyce*, J. Sadler.  
*A. J.* 66. 9.
- 76 Aug. 17 NOSHAQ, 24,581 ft. Hindu Kush.  
G. Iwatsabo, T. Sakai.  
(A Polish party made the second ascent ten days  
later.)  
*A. J.* 66. 244.
- 77 1961 May 6 ANNAPURNA III, 24,858 ft. Nepal.  
M. S. Kohli, S. Gyatso, Sonam Girmi.  
*A. J.* 66. 390.
- 78 May 16 NUPTSE, 25,850 ft. Everest group.  
D. Davis, Tashi.  
(*C. J. S. Bonington*, L. Brown, J. Swallow and  
Ang Pemba repeated the ascent next day.)  
*A. J.* 66. 209.
- 79 June 4 MOUNT GHENT, 24,280 ft. Karakoram  
W. Axt  
*A. J.* 66. 390.