

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor,
The *Alpine Journal*.

The Doon School,
Dehra Dun,
U.P., India.

DEAR SIR,

Major James Mills¹ in his article in the *A.J.* of May, 1962, 'Two Journeys in Swat Kohistan', referring to the history of mountaineering in Swat, states that Holdsworth, 'then (1940) a schoolmaster in Peshawar, climbed Mankial, 18,750 ft.'. This sounds as if Holdsworth—not then at the Islamia College, Peshawar, Pakistan, as stated, but at the Doon School, Dehra Dun, India—committed a solitary ascent of quite a formidable mountain. This is not true. Holdsworth was one of a party, with no leader, which achieved the ascent in June, 1940, when we felt that, on our return, we might find Adolf Hitler in charge of India, and that upper Swat was not a bad place to retire in. The party that reached the summit consisted of the writer of this letter, J. A. K. Martyn, now Headmaster of the Doon School, J. T. M. Gibson, now Principal of the Mayo College, Ajmer, and Tenzing Norkay.

I am interested to learn that, in the winter ascent of Khan Shai (18,500–19,000 ft.), no mention is made of any ice formations at all. On Mankial in June glaciers descended to 15,000 ft. and the greater part of our climb was on glacier, ending up on a rock ridge, though the whole thing was no more difficult than the ordinary route up Monte Rosa.

Yours etc.,
R. L. HOLDSWORTH.

¹ The news of Major Mills' death on Khinyang Chhish was not known when this letter was written.—EDITOR.