

EXPEDITIONS

HINDU KUSH.—The Lodz section of the Polish Mountaineering Club organised the third Polish expedition to the Hindu Kush last year.

The expedition, which was led by A. Wilczkowski, went to the Wakhan in Afghanistan. Base Camp, 3,807 m., was established in the Shachaur valley and the following ascents were made:

Kishmi Khan, *c.* 7,170 m. September 22, 1963. Third ascent. M. Gryczyński, B. Mac, A. Tokarski, J. Warteresiewicz. The fourth ascent was made three days later by T. Gozdecki and A. Miller.

M 2., *c.* 6,580 m. September 25, 1963. First ascent. T. Bartczak, J. Michalski. This peak is situated on the ridge between Kishmi Khan and Koh-i-Nadir-Shah.

Languta-e-Barf, *c.* 7,010 m. September 27, 1963. First ascent. M. Gryczynski, J. Warteresiewicz.

Kuh-e-Awar, *c.* 6,440 m. October 2, 1963. First ascent. T. Gozdecki, B. Mac, J. Miller, A. Tokarski.

B. CHWASCINSKI.

KULU PUMORI.—In *H. J.*, Vol XXIII, 1961, p. 60, J. P. O'F. Lynam writes of a lovely peak of 21,500 ft., resembling the Schreckhorn, attempted by Gwynn Stephenson and Harold Mellor of his party during the Bara Shigri expedition of 1961. They reached a height of 19,000 ft. on the formidable North-west ridge but were then forced by illness to retire.

The first ascent of this mountain (now named Kulu Pumori) was made on June 6 by a party consisting of Dr. Franz Mohling (American Alpine Club), myself, and the Ladakhis Wangyal and Ang Chook of Manali.

Twelve valley porters, including one Sherpani, were employed to establish the party near the snout of the Bara Shigri glacier in the valley of the Chandra river of Lahul. From Manali the route lay over the Rohtang La, 13,050 ft., to enter the snow-bound Chandra valley and then turned south-east for a march of twenty-five miles in stages between the rest-houses of Chetru, Chota Dara, and Batal near the Kunzum La, 14,931 ft., the pass between Lahul and Spiti.

We left Manali on May 12 and, after a day's delay due to a storm on the pass, entered the Chandra valley. The valley porters were paid off on May 17 in a camp near the snout of the Bara Shigri glacier. Thereafter the work of ferrying stores and equipment was borne equally between the four climbers.

Base Camp at Concordia, the junction of several glaciers, was finally

established on May 28, despite prolonged bad weather, with food supplies for a further twenty-one days including caches at intervals on the glacier.

Two days were spent in reconnaissance after which the routes selected by Lynam's party on the North-west ridge, and the eastern approaches to the mountain, were both ruled out. We decided to seek a route on the South-west ridge, the foot of which seemed accessible from a small névé draining the South face of Pumori. Accordingly, Advanced Base Camp was sited on the main southern tributary glacier of the Bara Shigri, near the junction of the névé ice-fall from the South face of the mountain, and beneath the impressive rock spire of Lal Qila (Red Fort), 20,830 ft.

Two ridge camps were successively established on the crest of the South-west ridge at 19,000 ft. and 20,000 ft. From the latter, at 6 a.m. on June 6, Wangyal and myself climbed to the summit via the South-west ridge, making a diversion onto the steep snowfield of the South face to avoid a rock step a few hundred feet above Camp 2, and regaining the ridge just short of the summit. This, a perfect snow cone, was sited some way to the north-west along a spectacular and corniced snow ridge. The time was 9 a.m., and, for once, the day was clear—permitting the identification of many mountain groups and their individual peaks as well as a round of photography. We commenced the descent at 9.30 a.m., and reached Camp 2 at 10.45 a.m.

Three days later, June 9, Franz Mohling and Ang Chook repeated the ascent.

We withdrew from the mountains on June 13, heavily laden, and re-entered Manali on June 20.

ROBERT PETTIGREW.

ALASKA

MOUNT HUNTINGTON.—J. Batkin and S. Sarthou, members of a French expedition led by Lionel Terray, made the first ascent on May 25; the six other members of the expedition reached the summit on the following day.

The very difficult Mount Huntington lies some eight miles south-east of Mount McKinley. The French party left their Camp II at 2.30 a.m. and having gained the North-west ridge by way of a couloir, followed it to the summit (12,240 ft.) which they reached at 4 p.m., getting back to camp at 1.30 a.m.

The greatest obstacles on the long ice arête were the five great towers, the second of which is 650 ft. high of green ice at an angle of 55–70°. The ice, 'hard as steel', was of a toughness never before experienced by Lionel Terray.

THE MOOSE'S TOOTH.—After two unsuccessful attempts from the south a party from the Bayerland section of the D.A.V. led by Walter Welsch, made the first ascent on July 3. From a camp at 7,875 ft. the West ridge was followed over the West Peak to the highest summit, 10,335 ft.¹

MOUNT KENYA.—Nelion, East Face.² First ascent. August 7, 1963. Heinrich Klier, Siegfried Aeberli, Barry Cliff.

The East face of Nelion, considered to be the last great problem on Mount Kenya, is an almost vertical 1,200 ft. wall with a number of overhangs on the upper and lower sections. In the centre of the face, a series of cracks runs down from the very summit of Nelion to the Krapf glacier. The party followed these cracks, and made the ascent in eleven hours, the first 400 ft. having been prepared the previous day. The last 15 feet of the summit crack ('Black Crack') were left unclimbed owing to a shortage of wedges, and a traverse was made to the right lower down to join the North-east Pillar top gully, which was followed to the summit. The party descended by the North-east Pillar, whose first ascent (described elsewhere in this issue) had taken place three days previously.

The route, described as 'VI, with A₃', becomes the first Grade VI route on the mountain.

MOUNT KENYA.—E. A. Wrangham and F. R. Brooke visited Mount Kenya in late January and early February, 1964. F. R. Brooke writes:

We based ourselves on Two Tarn Hut, which was approached by the Burguret route with the assistance of Mr. Raymond Hook's mules. The following climbing was done:

January 21. Midget Peak by Nek Pad.

January 23. Point Piggott by the South ridge.

January 26. Nelion and Batian by the normal route. We did not reach Nelion until mid-day, having lost at least an hour in trying to traverse in to the Amphitheatre too low. The crossing to Batian took a very long time, and we did not reach the summit until 3 p.m. Nelion was reached again at 5 p.m., and we were caught by nightfall just below Mackinder's gendarme at about 7 p.m. We had undoubtedly been climbing very slowly all day; lack of recent alpine practice was our only excuse. Although there was a full moon and a clear sky, we decided to act on advice given to us before leaving for the mountain and sit the night out. The night was long, but not too cold. Top Hut was reached early next day.

¹ A. G. Smythe and B. Biven reached the West Peak in July, 1962. See *A.J.* 68. 264.

² See illustrations, nos. 72 and 73.

January 28. Point Lenana, followed by a delightful walk down to the gorge below Hall Tarns.

January 30. We climbed the snow and ice couloir leading to the col on the South ridge of Nelion at the foot of Point John, from the Darwin glacier side. Two ice pitches. $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours—a slow time. The route was not mentioned in the guide book, and may be a first ascent.

February 1. Tereri, by an undistinguished new route. This started from the far end of the gallery from which the South face route also starts. We followed the ridge which terminates the gallery for a devious rope's length; then traversed into a sandy gully and continued traversing round the buttress on the right to another gully (still only 30–40 ft. above the gallery). A short chimney (IV) and traverse to the right then gave access to an expanse of slabby rocks, which led easily to the summit ridge and thence to the summit.

February 2. Return to Two Tarn Hut; I went via Lenana and Top Hut, thus competing a walk round the main peaks.

February 3. Descent via the Naro Moru track.

ALPS, 1964³

In the Mont Blanc area, and perhaps elsewhere in the Alps, the weather was mainly very good, anyhow in the valleys, all through July and at the very beginning of August. Higher up, however, it was less settled, with storms in the afternoon and the temperature too warm at night. Then there were a few days when the weather appeared really settled, but in the second week of August it broke badly and continued bad during most of the rest of the month. Before the weather broke, the rock routes on the aiguilles were in excellent condition, but the ice climbs and really high routes were always dangerous, and, owing to the mild winter and the mainly dry season, glaciers were unusually difficult.

There were numerous ascents this year of such climbs as the Éperon Walker and the South-west Pillar of the Dru. Among new routes which were being attempted, mention may be made of three. The Shroud (the ice-field to the left of the Éperon Walker) was climbed to about half height by the American climber, John Harlin, and Dougal Haston, who turned back in bad weather; they reported that it was very steep, an average of seventy degrees, but would probably go in good conditions. Harlin, with a variety of partners, made several attempts on the big groove between the West face and the South-west Pillar of the Dru, and reached a point about half way up it. Finally, the 'last great problem' of 1964 has undoubtedly been the Direct route on the North face of the Eiger, of

³ I am most grateful to P. Crew and to C. J. S. Bonington who, between them, have supplied most of the information for this section. Apologies are offered for any inaccuracies.—EDITOR.

which Bonington writes that 'all the aces are looking at it, though no one has yet got much further than the top of the Second Ice-field'.

Mont Blanc massif

AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PEUTEREY, PUNTA GUGLIERMINA, South face. P. Crew and B. Ingle. 9 hours.

AIGUILLE DE BLAITIÈRE, West face (Brown-Whillans route). H. I. Banner and K. Rhodes. P. Gordon and A. Bell. D. Scott and W. McCloughlin. The Fissure Brown is reported to be 'well jammed with wedges'.

DENT DU CROCODILE. The East ridge was climbed by several British parties.

PETIT DRU, South-west Pillar. M. Boysen and C. Rowlands; M. Burke and W. Bowker. Two bivouacs. P. J. Nunn and P. Fearnough attempted the Pillar, but had to descend from half way up it in a bad storm.

West face. D. Haston and B. Clarke. H. I. Banner and K. Rhodes. The North face was also climbed by several British parties.

GRANDES JORASSES, POINTE WHYMPER. The first direct ascent by the North face was made by Walter Bonatti and Michel Vaucher on August 6-10, 1964. Severe storm during the ascent. Falling stones are reported to have cut the party's rope several times.

ÉPERON WALKER. What was possibly the first ascent of the season was made in 16 hours by N. J. Estcourt, R. H. Roschnik, S. Martin and C. Jones. The climb was very icy in its upper reaches. Other British ascents were made by M. Boysen, C. Rowlands, A. Fulton and M. Burke; and (also in 16 hours) by J. J. S. Allison and P. Allison.

PETITES JORASSES, West face. N. J. Estcourt and M. Kosterlitz (11 hours). This party does not recommend the descent to Chamonix on the north side.

AIGUILLE DE LESCHAUX, West arête. A new ascent, described as 'a pleasant route of Difficile standard' was made on July 18, 1964, by T. W. Patey and J. Brown; C. J. S. Bonington and R. Ford. The route goes up the glacier to the foot of the Leschaux and then up the ridge to the summit ridge.

POINTE MIGOT, North face. The first ascent of this face was made, on July 22, by the same party. The Pointe Migot is the summit to the south of the Aiguille des Pèlerins. 'A pleasant rock route taking a fine line; the climbing on it is certainly more pleasant than the North face of

the Pèlerins.' Très Difficile. A second ascent was made by D. Haston and G. Jarvis.

Dolomites

CIMA GRANDE DI LAVAREDO, North face, Brandler-Hasse *direttissima*. D. S. Potts and R. Lewis. 14 hours, with descent the same day; a very fast ascent of the route. Pegs are reported to be in very poor condition. The route was also climbed by D. Moorhouse and N. Halls (one bivouac).

North face, new *direttissima* (Saxonweg). B. Shirley and M. Swift, on their first season in the Alps, mistook this formidable recent route for the Comici route. They were surprised by the number of pitons they found, but did not realise their error until they encountered expansion bolts and reached the 20-ft. roof! They completed the climb, however, with two bivouacs, unintentionally making the first British ascent.

CIMA OVEST DI LAVAREDO, North face, Cassin route. D. Moorhouse and N. Halls. 10 hours. R. McHardy and A. Williams.

MONTE CIVETTA, PUNTA TISSI (formerly known as QUOTA IGM), North-west face (Philipp-Flamm route). D. S. Potts and R. Lewis. 13 hours. This was the third British ascent of this route.

PUNTA CIVETTA, North-west face (Fessura Andrich). R. McHardy and A. Williams. D. Moorhouse and R. Whitely climbed this face by the Fessura Aste.

MARMOLADA, South-west Pillar. B. Shirley and M. Swift.

British parties were particularly active in the Dolomites this year, and many other good routes were climbed.

Italian Alps

MONTE DISGRAZIA. By the North-north-east ridge. C. B. M. Warren, I. H. Ogilvie and I. M. Waller. August 4, 1964.

One of the principal attractions of this noble mountain is its isolated position. B. R. Goodfellow's description⁴ of its ascent by this ridge in a lecture he gave to the Club in 1962 stimulated considerable interest and directed the attention of several members who heard him to this splendid climb. We would like now to endorse his opinion that it must be one of the most rewarding routes in the Alps.

Our 1964 party started the climb from the romantically situated Tavéggia bivouac hut. Conditions were perfect, 'all snow was ice' and the splendidly firm red granite on the lower part of the ridge was free from snow. The crux of the climb is the sickle of snow, or ice, in the upper third known as the Corda Molla. A previous party had left a line

⁴ See note in *A.J.* 68. 125-6.

of old steps in the steep and exposed ice going straight up to the rocks beneath the summit. This route proved dangerous, however, as the upper ice was unsound, and we preferred to traverse left when half way up the Corda by cutting steps in good ice to gain the rocks of a spur which descends from the North face slightly to the east of the summit.

The climb from the Tavéggia bivouac took $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours, including a halt of half an hour for breakfast. We descended by the South face to the desolate and unattractive Rifugio Ponti. In retrospect we consider that a more satisfying traverse would have concluded with a descent by the South-east ridge to the Cassandra Pass, and thence a return to the Ventina Alp down the Ventina glacier.

C. B. M. WARREN.

The Alps: various districts

The undermentioned new expeditions were made by J. Sanseverino between 1961 and 1963:

July 9, 1961. Orobian Alps. First ascent of Bocchetta del Vag (c. 2780 m.) from the north. Route: end of road in Armisa valley (left at 0115 hours)—Alpe Druet—Bocchetta del Vag—traversed Pizzo del Druet (2868 m.)—Passo del Druet—Valbondione. Weather unsettled a.m. but good p.m.

August 8, 1961. Rhaetian Alps. First crossing and first ascent from the west of Bocchetta del Zoccone (3027 m. CN.). Route: from a bivouac in Val Curciusa to Monte Spluga. Weather good.

June 22 and 23, 1962. Adamello Group. First tourist crossings of Bocchetta di Gana (2716 m.) and Bocchetta dei Cacciatori (c. 2900 m.). Route: Brate valley—Bocchetta di Gana—down to Adamè valley—crossed Bocchetta meridionale dei Russi (c. 2745 m.)—down to Fumo valley (bivouacked). Next day, crossed the Bocchetta dei Cacciatori (also known as Passo del Cop di Casa) to Breguzzo. Weather good.

July 8, 1962. Orobian Alps. First ascent of Pizzo di Scotès (2979 m.) by East face. Route: from end of road in Armisa valley (left at about 0100 hours) via Corti fixed bivouac. Descended to Armisa valley via Passo della Pioda. Weather fair. This face was previously *descended* by A. Fossati and R. Rossi on August 24, 1912, but there seems to be no record of an ascent. Although easy, the climb is not recommended as the rocks are loose.

July 20, 1963. Bregaglia. First recorded crossing of Colle della Scioretta (c. 3000 m.). Route: from Vicosoprano to the Sciora hut via Albigna glacier. Weather and conditions good. There is a faint possibility that the Colle della Scioretta may have been crossed by a party of Austrian climbers in 1959, but this could not be confirmed.

August 1, 1963. Bernina Group. First ascent of Sasso Moro (3108 m.) by South-east face. Route: from a bivouac near Passo Confinale (left at 0415 hours) descended to Campo Moro dam then up face. This reservoir proved quite an obstacle as it hindered a direct approach to base of face and much time was lost in finding the best route. The ascent was easy but most toilsome and 'dehydrating'. Descended to Franscia via North-west ridge and Forcella di Fellaria. Weather good. This face was previously *descended* by A. Balabio, R. Rossi and F. Barbieri on September 5, 1912, but there seems to be no record of an ascent.

August 3, 1963. Bernina Group. First crossing of Bocchetta di Sassersa (c. 2850 m.). Route: Chiareggio — Ventina glacier — Bocchetta di Sassersa — Chiesa. Weather fair. Complicated on the Ventina side — nearly gave up at one point!

J. SANSEVERINO.