# ALPINE NOTES

(Compiled by D. F. O. Dangar)

PERSONAL.—We congratulate Mr. F. P. Farquhar on being elected an Honorary Member of the American Alpine Club.

S.F.A.C.—We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the Schweizerischer Frauen Alpen Club, founded in 1918, on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

LORD FRANCIS DOUGLAS.—Lord Francis Douglas won his place in mountaineering history by sharing in the first ascent of the Matterhorn, with its tragic aftermath, but he had already begun to make his mark in climbing and was elected to the Alpine Club while still in his eighteenth year, in December, 1864.

Mumm's *Alpine Club Register* (vol. ii) shows very little for the year 1864, but Dr. H. F. von Tscharner has recently discovered fresh evidence of Douglas's alpine activities that year. This is an entry in the book of the guide Joseph Lauber (born 1844), and runs as follows:

> 'Joseph Lauber accompanied me with another guide (Pierre Perren) to the top of the Adlerpass and back to Zermatt, which took 21 hrs owing to the snow being about 3 feet deep (at Zermatt a foot and a half). He also went with me (& Pierre Perren) to the Breithorn. He is a fellow who understands his work well & although neither of these expeditions are much in themselves, yet owing to the immense amount of snow they became very fatiguing. Throughout he took a good share of the work & seemed to be very strong. He was also very attentive.'
>
> (Lord) FRANCIS DOUGLAS.

The entry is not dated, but as it is the first in this book, and the following entries are dated July 27, 1864, and August, 1864, it can be estimated as around June–July 1864.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—In 1868 the first of a long line of British expeditions visited the Caucasus. D. W. Freshfield and C. C. Tucker, after travelling in Egypt and the Middle East joined up with A. W. Moore at Tiflis in the middle of June. François Dévouassoud of Chamonix accompanied the party and was the first Alpine guide to visit any of the distant ranges. Much of the expedition's time was spent in travelling from one end of the chain to the other. On July 1 the four

men made the first ascent of Kazbek at the eastern end of the range and at the end of the month the first ascent of the East-or lower-summit of Elbruz.[1] Intense cold rendered the ascent toilsome but no serious difficulties were encountered.

There were dangers other than the perils of mountaineering to be encountered in the Caucasus in those days. Of Jibiani Freshfield wrote that, 'the people were very hostile. Our things were stolen and then sold to us again. We only got away after a violent row, revolvers in hand, and it was fear of our firearms alone which prevented our being plundered. The walk down the valley of Ingour was a series of disputes with the man who led our baggage horse and who did all in his power to delay us and expose us to the violence and extortion of his compatriots.'

The end of that day found them at Pari where, for the first time since leaving Kazbek, they 'met Russian officials in the shape of ten Cossacks who were most civil'.

In the Alps, Horace Walker with Melchior Anderegg and Johann Jaun as guides made the first ascent of the highest peak of the Grandes Jorasses, the Point Walker, and the Ebnefluh fell to T. L. Murray Browne with Peter Bohren and Peter Schlegel.

The first ascent of the Matterhorn from Zermatt since the accident of 1865 was made by the Rev. J. M. Elliott and two guides. Several other ascents were made from Zermatt and the mountain was also traversed for the first time in both directions. Its reputation was beginning to decline and the *Alpine Journal* remarked that 'though other peaks that have been ascended are certainly more difficult, it is obviously very far from being an easy mountain and it is strongly to be hoped that ambitious novices will not be tempted to begin there the acquisition of Alpine experience'.

Few other first ascents were made in the Alps; Coolidge records only nine in all, the lowest figure since 1860, among them the Grosshorn, Bellavista, and Aiguille de la Tsa, which was climbed by a rather unusual party of five guides.

Overseas, E. T. Coleman made a third and successful attempt on Mount Baker, 10,750 ft., in the Cascade Range of the U.S.A.

C.A.F.—For the first time since its foundation in 1874 the Club Alpin Français now has a membership in excess of fifty thousand, the figure at the end of 1967 being 50,660. At that date the section Paris-Chamonix was by far the largest section with 11,823 members followed by Isère with 4024.

ACCIDENTS.—In 1967 there were 110 fatal accidents in the Swiss Alps,

[1] The higher peak was first climbed by another British party in 1874.

forty-three of them in the High Alps, involving 135 deaths, one less than in 1966.

Eighty-five lives were lost in the six months April-September. Falls on ice and snow were responsible for nineteen accidents and falls on rock for fifty-three. The Eiger had most fatalities, with four accidents and nine deaths.

Weather conditions were more favourable in 1967 than in the two previous years and the number of overnight stays in the huts of the S.A.C. increased from 193,000 in 1966 to 210,000.

The average cost of the 189 rescue operations was 666 francs, but in three cases the expenses were over 4000 francs.

(Source: S.A.C. *Bulletin*, July, 1968)

A Record Fall?—A New Zealand student from Christchurch was reported in the newspapers to have survived a fall of 7500 ft. whilst climbing in the Southern Alps in February. He 'slid down an ice-face into a crevasse'. Though his companion was killed he himself escaped with concussion, a hand injury, and bruises.

It would be interesting to know whether any climber has survived a greater fall. In the accident on the Col de Miage in 1861, so graphically described in *Peaks, Passes and Glaciers*, John Birkbeck fell, in perpendicular height, 1767 ft. He too escaped with his life but suffered injuries a great deal worse than those of the New Zealand student.

Crampons in a Fifteenth Century Campaign.—It is well known that crampons were used by natives of Alpine countries far back in history. There are few references, however, in the *Alpine Journal*. One of the few is Martin Conway's letter of January 1921 to the Editor (*A.J. 33.* 455.), in which he states . . . 'The earliest (use of crampons) dating from the first Iron Age, comes from Hallstatt, and may be referred to about 500 B.C.' And . . . 'Crampons were also used by the Gauls in Roman days'.

I recently learned of a reference to their use 500 years ago in a military campaign.

Last autumn I was privileged to attend a conference at Bellagio in the splendid Villa Serbelloni which is so wonderfully maintained by the Rockefeller Foundation. The Director, Mr. John Marshall, is a keen student of local history and, learning of my interest in the Alps, he told me that he had come across references to military operations below the Alpine passes in which the use of crampons by the Swiss turned the scales against the Italian defenders.

Mr. Marshall has kindly supplied me with a copy of the text, extracted from *Storia di Como* by Professor Maurizio Monti, Como, 1831., and a translation of the relevant pages (Vol II pp. 38–41).

After explaining the complex political background of which it is enough to record here that the Swiss, in 1478, were besieging Bellinzona, the narrative runs, on p. 40, as follows:

'The Swiss withdrawing, the Italian commander designated Count Torello, who had specific orders, to overpower the advance guard of the enemy in the Leventina and to recapture the defile of Giornico. Taking with him some fifteen thousand soldiers he fought with good success and already having victory in his grasp, he paid little attention to the rules of military discipline in those defiles, so apt for surprise and stratagem. Enrico Troger, the guardian of the defile of Giornico, knew the rashness of our troops and lost no time in taking advantage of it. Having dammed up the Ticino, he covered the meadows around it with a shallow layer of water, and then withdrew towards the Gotthard; and the Italians, as he had thought, were on his flanks, giving chase. The night breeze froze the artificial lake, so that the Swiss hidden on the overhanging rocks, rolled down massive boulders and fell with fury on our men, attacking them from the front, the sides, and the rear. With their feet equipped with crampons the Swiss moved on the ice with incredible certainty, ready in the attack or safe in the defence. The ducal forces confused by this untoward happening, sliding about, one falling on the other, prevented from deploying themselves, got more and more bunched up, and became a prey to horrible slaughter. Some fifteen hundred perished by the sword or were drowned in the Ticino. The booty taken rendered the victory all the more splendid.'

Mr. Marshall adds that Professor Monti unfortunately gives no precise sources for this section of his history; but that he is generally so able an archivist that it is virtually certain that he was drawing from some contemporary source.

Mr. Marshall has kindly given me his permission to publish this translation in the *A.J.* My thanks are also due to Conte Ugo di Vallepiana for kindly confirming that the phrase 'guerniti di ramponi i piedi' used in the Italian text does indeed mean crampons as we use them today. But, he adds, the crampons of 1478 vintage were probably the two or four-point instep crampons which are still used by Alpine peasants for mowing grass on very steep slopes.

B. R. GOODFELLOW.

GRANDES JORASSES.—In the summer of 1965 it was reported that a young Parisian, R. Travellini, had succeeded in climbing the Shroud by himself.[2] Doubts about this achievement were expressed in Chamonix at the time. There were no witnesses of the ascent, which was carried out in bad weather and no-one saw the climber during his descent on the South side. Travellini's 'ascent' is not now accepted by the French

[2] See *A.J.* 71. 140. and *Alpinismus*, November, 1965, p. 25.

authorities and the credit for being the first to climb the Shroud must be given to R. Desmaison and R. Flematty, who made their ascent in the period January 17–25 this year. An account of the expedition can be found in *La Montagne et Alpinisme*, February, 1968.

A Glossary for Mountaineers.—We may draw attention to a small pocket size climbing lexicon published by the Swiss Alpine Club. This contains common climbing terms in English, French, German, and Italian, and should be of help to climbers making use of guide-books written in a foreign language with which they are not acquainted.

W. Brockedon.—William Brockedon is well-known as the author of the two volumes of *Illustrations of the Passes of the Alps*, published in London in 1828–9. He was also the author of *Journals of Excursions in the Alps*, which appeared in 1833, and of five important articles in *Blackwoods Magazine* for 1836 describing his journeys in the Western Alps.

Brockedon was among the first British tourists to visit the Graian Alps and his journeys in the range are described at some length in *A.J. 56*. 159–167. This 'enterprising traveller. whose example had a profound influence on British Alpine travel',[3] was born in 1787 at Totnes, Devon, and when thirteen years old was apprenticed to his father who owned a watch and clock maker's business in the town. On his father's death he completed his apprenticeship in London and returning to Totnes at the age of eighteen he took over the family business but, though a capable watch maker, he preferred to spend his time sketching and painting. He was also an inventor in a small way and took out patents for artificial lead for pencils and for corks made of vulcanised rubber.

Brockedon's talent as an artist came to the notice of the Governor of Dartmouth Castle, who assisted him to study at the Royal Academy from 1809–13 and for twenty-five years his pictures were regularly exhibited. In 1815 he left London and began his extensive travels on the Continent. He became a member of the Academies of Rome and Florence and a self-portrait hangs in the Uffizi Gallery. His descriptions of some of the lower passes crossed in the course of his journeys formed the basis of Part II of the first edition of Murray's *Handbook for Switzerland, Savoy, and Piedmont*, published in 1838.

Brockedon helped to found the Royal Geographical Society in 1830 and four years later he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He died in 1854.

7000 m. Peaks of the U.S.S.R.—There are held to be about three hundred summits over 7000 m. in height. Now that Aconcagua has

[3] *A.J. 56*. 159.

been definitely downgraded from its former status as one of them, all these great peaks are situated in the mountain ranges of Asia. In view of the ever increasing activity and interest in mountaineering in the U.S.S.R., it is pertinent to recall that there are five peaks in excess of 7000 m. on Russian territory. These are, with the year of the first ascent in each case:

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| Pik Kommunismus | 7482 m. | Pamir | 1933 |
| Pik Pobeda | 7439 m. | Tien Shan | 1956 |
| Pik Lenin | 7134 m. | Pamir | 1928 |
| Pik Eugenia Korchenevskaya | 7105 m. | Pamir | 1953 |
| Pik Dostuk | 7003 m. | Tien Shan | 1958 |

Pik Dostuk is the East peak of Pik Pobeda, but is some five kilometres from the main summit.

Pik Lenin is the most frequently climbed of these 7000-ers and by the end of 1966 thirty-six ascents had been recorded, some of them by large parties.

The two Pobeda peaks and Korchenevskaya had each been climbed only four times by the end of the same year.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.—During a visit to Czechoslovakia in April–May, Hamish MacInnes and I were treated with the most wonderful hospitality and friendliness everywhere we went and we established what we hope will be a permanent link with the Mountain Service of Czechoslovakia. Two of their members will be visiting Scotland in February, 1969, and it is hoped to send two members of our local teams out there in the summer.

One and a half million people visit the mountain areas of Czechoslovakia each year. It is not surprising therefore to learn that the Mountain Rescue Service is a highly professional organisation, with some eighty full-time members, assisted by 1300 volunteers and a budget of some £150,000 per year. The 'Mountain Service', as it is called, is a quite distinct section of the State controlled monolith, the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Physical Culture. It has its own permanent secretary and administrative staff and runs its affairs independently of the mountaineering and ski-ing sections.

The mountain ranges fringe the northern border of the country with Poland, from the Giant Mountains in the west, much like the Cairngorms in form and height, to the High Tatra in the east, a jagged wall of Skye-like peaks, rising to over 7500 ft. This variation of mountain form is reflected in the distinct type of search and rescue problem in each area. And it is a problem. In 1967 there were over 5000 recorded incidents; 1603 seriously injured, and twenty-nine people killed. The death toll this year will be even higher since Czechoslovakia too suffered

the heavy January snowfalls which resulted in many avalanches in the popular ski-ing areas. In one incident, seven students were killed and two weeks before we arrived an avalanche engulfed forty-five tourists on the Polish side of the Tatra, killing seventeen.

Each area has its own headquarters and some of them are quite palatial. In the Low Tatra, for example, a modern building has been erected at a cost of over £25,000, which includes a lounge, offices, radio control room, accommodation for permanent and voluntary staff, treatment room, garage and so on. Work will start soon on an extension to house a snow and avalanche research station on the lines of the Weissfluhjoch Institute in Switzerland. This headquarters is in touch by radio with its various sub-units, based on the mountain huts. The hut system itself is unusual. There are no mountain or club huts as we know them, but a series of hostels or hotels, most of which appear to be owned by various organisations, including the Unions. Some of them have been built in incredible situations, such as the Lučni Bouda, really quite a reasonable hotel, accommodating some 350 guests, which stands like a vast barrack block right in the middle of the Giant Mountain plateau. Imagine such an edifice on top of Ben Macdhui and you have some idea of the situation—and of the safety problem. Radiating out from the hotel in all directions are tall posts placed at ten yard intervals, to guide walkers and skiers in bad weather.

These safety lines are constantly maintained by the Mountain Service as are all the notices and warnings concerning avalanche danger. They have the absolute authority to close ski runs or to take such steps as may be necessary to safeguard the public. On the vexed question of sanctions they are empowered to charge up to 10 per cent of the total cost of any operation in the case of gross negligence by the victims. The degree of blame is determined by the local Rescue Chief, and so far people have been fined for ignoring 'run closed' signs and for not leaving behind sufficient information of their intended route.

During our stay discussions were taking place concerning possible reorganisation of the Mountain Service. It is difficult to imagine how this already highly efficient organisation can be improved upon, but changes, if they do come, are more likely to affect the overall control and distribution of funds, rather than practical matters of mountain rescue. Czechoslovakia is really a merger of two nations, the Czechs from the west and Slovaks from the east. As in the United Kingdom, the degree of devolution of power is often at the source of many of their problems. It seemed at that time that they were moving towards allowing a greater measure of regional independence which was likely to be reflected in the reorganisation of the Mountain Service.

One fact dominates all our impressions and that is the fact of hard cash. The Mountain Service in Czechoslovakia is a highly professional

organisation backed by the State to the tune of some £150,000 per year. Our problem is on a similar scale, discounting ski-ing accidents and yet we operate on a shoestring. The Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland receives nothing from the Government, although money is made readily available to the very sportsmen whose safety is our concern. Our total recources accumulated over the years amount to £779 6*s.* 7*d.*

ERIC LANGMUIR.

TIRICH MIR.—Tirich Mir and its satellites have been much in the news of recent years. The main peak, and highest summit of the Hindu Kush (7706 m.), was first climbed by a Norwegian expedition in 1950;[4] the second and third ascents were made in 1967.[5]

The East Peak (7692 m.) was not climbed until 1964 when two Norwegians, R. Hoibakk and A. Opdal, made the first ascent, by the South face.[6]

From the main summit a ridge runs north-westwards carrying four peaks, the Tirich West group. Tirich West I (7487 m.), the highest of the group, was climbed by a Czechoslovak party in 1967 (see p. 250 of this issue). Tirich West IV (7338 m.), at the northern end of the ridge was first climbed by K. Diemberger and D. Proske in August, 1967.[7] At the time of writing neither of the two central peaks has been climbed and they are two of the few remaining virgin 7000-ers of the Hindu Kush.

On the north side of the Lower Tirich glacier rises Tirich Nord, first climbed by K. Diemberger, H. Handler, and F. Lindner in September, 1965.[8] This summit was at one time thought to be a 7000 m. peak, but Dr. Gerald Gruber, in the course of his 1965 journey, established its true height as 6732 m. Three other peaks of the North group, all under 7000 m., lie further to the east.

A photograph showing the East and Main Summits, the four West Peaks, and Tirich Nord can be found in *O.A.Z.* no. 1357. p. 36.

FIXED ROPE FAILURES.—The failure of fixed ropes on the Central Tower of Paine (*A.J. 68.* 179), Eigerwand (*A.J. 71.* 256) and Cerro Torre (see page 197) prompt some reflections on the performance of fixed ropes exposed to storms. (I refer here only to ropes installed by climbing expeditions and not to those much more massive affairs on certain popular routes in the Alps). In each of the cases cited, ropes had been fixed before the onset of storm caused the climbers to retreat for periods of some days. When they returned, the ropes were found to be either destroyed or very seriously weakened—with fatal consequences on the Eiger.

[4] *A.J. 58.* 6. [5] *A.J. 73.* 89.
[6] *A.J. 70.* 122. For a full account see *Alpinismus*, 1964, no. 10, p. 40.
[7] *A.J. 73.* 89. [8] *A.J. 71.* 65.

That ropes should be weakened in such situations is hardly surprising. Mountains provide a harsh environment for a rope at the best of times—harsher, perhaps, than any that industrial ropes have to put up with. To leave a rope stretched across a rock face in a storm is to expose it to severe abrasion and internal wear due to thrash, and if the storm occurs at very low temperatures the material of the rope may be dehydrated to such an extent as to lose much of its ability to withstand such degradation. The rate of deterioration of fixed ropes during storms will depend on such a range of factors as to be virtually unpredictable, but it is clear from the cases cited that it can be disastrous. It is also clear that the extent of the deterioration may not be immediately apparent to the eye—even to that of the experienced climber.

The obvious conclusion to be drawn from this argument is that fixed ropes must be replaced after having been exposed to storm, but this could lead to a substantial increase in the amount of rope required for an expedition with corresponding logistic problems that may not always be acceptable. And it may not be possible to provide the effort necessary to replace the ropes. It is therefore worth considering whether some ropes may be better able than others to withstand storm, even though in such extreme cases as the Cerro Torre storm no practicable rope may be expected to survive.

Of the three factors referred to, *abrasion* is the most obvious, although the resistance of ropes to abrasion is not at all simple. Thus, nylon rope has better wearing properties than manila when tested with a fine abrasive or on a winch with a smooth surface, but the order is reversed when the ropes are made to rub over coarse abrasives such as granite chips or over coarse surfaces. Obviously, we must consider only the case of coarse-surface abrasion. It is likely that the poor performance of nylon over coarse surfaces is due, at least in part, to the very fine dimensions of the filament used in rope manufacture. (One mile of nylon filament weighs one gramme). Thus, while the tensile strength per unit area of nylon is very high, individual filaments can be broken with quite small forces. It takes little imagination to visualise a mechanism whereby individual filaments are plucked by sharp points of a height equal to or greater than the diameter of the filament, and so torn as to leave other filaments exposed to the same process. The much sturdier manila fibres will be relatively unaffected by such sharp points. If there is anything in this argument, an improvement is only likely to be found in ropes made of fibres or filaments substantially larger than those used in nylon rope. Terylene may be discarded, as having even finer filament than nylon. Polythylene filament is much more substantial than nylon but its tenacity is inferior. Polypropylene is more promising, and is available in three forms, all more substantial than nylon filament. Heaviest is twisted fibrillated tape, which is comparable with manila.

Next is spun staple yarn, and the finest—continuous filament—is over three times the weight of nylon filament. So we may expect polypropylene ropes to be more resistant to coarse abrasion than nylon. Tests to confirm or confound this idea have been put in hand, but results are not available at the time of writing.

*Resistance to internal wear* is still more elusive than resistance to abrasion. It is, however, probable that it is dependent on freedom from internal friction, and so manila and polypropylene fibrillated tape are at a disadvantage. Low internal friction between yarns and filaments is, however, not likely to be the whole story as nylon ropes perform much better on reverse bend tests than other ropes with similar frictional properties. In the absence of comparative tests under conditions simulating those on a rock face in a storm this must remain a very uncertain area.

The effects of *dehydration at low temperatures* may be expected to be more severe in those materials with substantial water content in their normal condition. We may therefore discount natural fibres, and perhaps nylon, with four per cent water, may fare less well than polypropylene with no measurable water under room conditions.

So far, polypropylene seems to have advantages over nylon in storm conditions. A further factor in favour of polypropylene is its low density, resulting in a rope of substantially greater circumference for a given weight than nylon. The tensile strength of fixed ropes is scarcely relevant, and the sheer bulk of the rope may be the significant characteristic in determining whether it survives after a given amount of wear. In this connection, the statements in Peter Gillman's report on the Eigerwand accident that the rope that broke was of 7 mm. perlon and that it broke where it ran over the edge of a slab seem significant. Such thin ropes need only a little wear to become disastrously weakened and a more substantial rope may well have survived.

The Eigerwand rope failure closely resembles the failure of an 11 mm. nylon kernmantel rope in the course of a recent descent of the Sotano de Rio Iglesia (1750 ft. deep) in Mexico by a party from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. This involved a number of deep vertical descents and the party's technique was to descend by abseiling and to emerge by using jumars on a single rope. For the last pitch, a clear drop of 80 ft., the rope was anchored some way back from the rim of the pit but was not padded where it passed over the edge of the pit. As the ninth man to emerge neared the rim of the pit, the sheath parted and slid down the core of the rope. Failure was undoubtedly due to the combination of abrasion over the edge of the pit with mechanical damage caused by the sharp serrations of the jaws of the jumars. In a subsequent tensile test on a new length of the same rope with the load applied through a jumar, the sheath failed at one quarter of the normal

breaking load when dry and one fifth when wet. If such a failure can occur in so substantial a rope with no storm damage, is it surprising that a much thinner rope used in much the same way after exposure to storm should have failed?

FRANK SOLARI.

NEW TYPE OF ICE-AXE.—The Italian makers Grivel and Cassin have been marketing this year an ice-axe with a new design of head. It has an adze of conventional type, but instead of the normal tapering pick, it has a short blade about 1–1½ in. deep in a vertical plane, at right angles to the adze. At first sight it looks as though a pick of normal type had been sawn off half way along.

Italian guides who have experimented with prototypes say that the new shape is extremely effective for cutting steps in pure ice.

Both Grivel and Cassin continue to make axes of the normal type as well.

A. K. RAWLINSON.

G. L. MALLORY.—Mallory's name is firmly fixed in mountaineering history, and since more than forty years have passed since his 'Life' was written by David Pye, a new biography, by David Robertson, expected to be published in February next, is something to look forward to. As a by-product of his work (which is based on long and intensive study of much manuscript material), Mr. Robertson has compiled a calendar of Mallory's climbs before he went to Everest in 1921.

This calendar fills over thirty typewritten pages and it would not be practicable to print it in full in the *A.J.*, but a few references may be made here to indicate something of what is to be found in it.

Prior to 1904 Mallory had virtually not climbed at all; one of his qualifications for the Climbers' Club (1909) was a traverse of the Malvern Hills, which R. L. G. Irving says was Mallory's nearest approach to a mountain until Irving took him to Switzerland in August, 1904, on the climbs described in 'Five Years with Recruits' (*A.J. 24.* 367–81). This paper by Irving elicited protests after its reading and by correspondence (*A.J. 24.* 453, 456): Irving may be said to have had the better of the exchanges, and he was to write years later that he had had to laugh when he compared the ambitious climbs of more recent beginners with the relative modesty of those undertaken in 1904. It is curious, now, to look at the list of signatories to the protest; some names one could expect —Freshfield, Davidson, Sydney Spencer—but the presence of Longstaff surprises one. Farrar refused to join in, and wrote good humouredly but reprovingly to Geoffrey Young for signing the protest, when his own record made it so much a matter of Satan rebuking sin! (Farrar, it may be added, was an admirer of Irving, and, as he was to observe on one occasion, all Irving's recruits turned out well.)

Mallory was married on July 29, 1914 and though it had been his intention to go to the Alps, the outbreak of war on August 4 prevented that. Since 1913 had been spent climbing at Land's End and in the Lake District, Mallory's return to the Alps in 1919 was after a lapse of seven years. During the war (Mallory was in the Royal Garrison Artillery) he was able to get occasional climbs during leaves. He was, of course, a regular attender at Pen-y-Pass and other British climbing centres for many years. Mr. Robertson has obviously put a great deal of work into the compilation of this compendium of Mallory's climbing and the document will form a valuable addition to the Club's records of one of its most distinguished members.

T.S.B.

ERIC BYNE. Eric Byne was born in 1910 and died in January, 1968. He probably had more friends among climbers than any man of his generation and he evoked from them all a warmth and affection that no-one else would have earned. When, in July 1967, he held at Birchen Edge in Derbyshire the last of his Anniversary Meets (begun more than ten years ago to commemorate thirty consecutive years of climbing) some 200 climbers came from all over the country to greet Eric and talk and climb with him.

He earned this unique affection by the integrity and simplicity of his character, by the unselfish help he gave to hundreds of climbers who consulted him, particularly the young and active, and by his devoted services to climbing and walking in the Peak District, services freely given over nearly the whole of his adult lifetime.

He began his climbing in a hard school, unemployed in Sheffield in the 1930's, exploring the gritstone edges in working overalls and with rudimentary .climbing equipment, or spending ten days walking to North Wales and back, for the glory of one day's climbing there.

Eric Byne pioneered many fine gritstone routes, routes that were full of character, and with his unrivalled knowledge of the High Peak, he was always generous in suggesting new crags, and new lines on older ones, to his friends. He began collecting material about the history of Peakland climbing well before the war, lost it in the Blitz, and characteristically started all over again. There is no-one now who can begin to match his encyclopaedic knowledge of climbing in those parts.

He edited the first gritstone guide-books to appear after the war, and was the only possible choice as Editor-in-chief of the new series, 'Rock Climbs in the Peak', sponsored by the Peak Committee of the British Mountaineering Council. Probably only Eric could have recruited and continued to inspire all those friends of his who worked so hard, climbing, measuring, recording. These guides are part of the record of his life, but his best memorial is his book *High Peak*, started

before the war, enduring various vicissitudes, and finally published, in collaboration with Geoffrey Sutton, in 1966 (*A.J. 72*, 167).

For Eric Byne the High Peak was a passion. It was the only place in which he could afford to climb for much of his life. He fought, sometimes in violent conflict with gamekeepers, the battle of access to the moors, and so welcomed specially the designation of the National Park, and the success of the Planning Board in making access agreements. He was one of the first to recognise the special value of practising gritstone climbing, not only for its own pleasures, but as the training ground for nearly all the most brilliant mountaineers we have watched emerge since the war. And, though he was much too modest to see himself as a symbol, Eric Byne was the living link who brought together the two main groups in British climbing, those from an academic, professional, traditionally leisured background, and those from the cities and industrial towns who had to learn their craft during evenings and snatched weekends in the nearest climbing ground.

I think I can speak for both groups in placing it on record that we could not have had a more valuable or stauncher friend.

J. L. LONGLAND