

Climbs and Regional Notes

This series of notes is arranged, in general, from west to east or north to south as the case may be.

We are greatly indebted to the various contributors named, but especially to the following who have co-ordinated reports from particular regions: Colin Taylor (Europe), Henri Snijders (South Africa), Robert Chambers (East Africa), M. Anufrikov and Eugene Gippenreiter (Soviet Union), Trevor Braham with Adolf and Kurt Diemberger (Hindu Kush, Kashmir etc), Jagdish Nanavati and Soli Mehta (India), Col James Roberts and M. J. Cheney (Nepal), Ichiro Yoshizawa (Japan), Warwick Deacock (Australia), Norman Hardie (New Zealand), Kenneth Henderson and Christopher Jones (North America), Evelio Echevarria (South America) and Leslie Holliwell, Paul Nunn, Bill Young, Hamish MacInnes, A. Fyffe and Joss Lynam (British Isles). Audrey Salkeld and Ken Wilson have also provided information and assistance.

Europe

Norway

ROMSDAL

Trollryggen, Rimmon route The Rimmon route was climbed by no less than seven parties in times varying between seventeen hours and three days. It has now had twelve ascents to date. Paul and Carl Fatti (Mountain Club of South Africa) made the first ascent of the season from 24–27 June in fairly wet conditions.

The first pitch on the wall itself (after the introductory wall and slabs) was found one of the hardest of the whole route and about six nuts were used for aid, there was too little snow to do the original pitch. Some of the pegs and wedges were in dubious condition and they will definitely deteriorate with time. The only water on the wall itself, below the summit gully, was a few drips below the Flake Crack. There was no snow in the Central Basin. **Paul and Carl Fatti**

Doug Scott and Geof Upton with Guy Lee and Ted Wells climbed the Rimmon Route in seventeen hours' climbing time on 20/21 August. Other ascents were made by Ben Wintringham, Nigel Helliwell and Dave Edwards, by Tony Wilmott and Ken Lockwood, and by two other parties.

Trollryggen, French route E. Ward-Drummond and Ben Campbell-Kelly reached in two and a half days a point half way up the French route on Trollryggen before being compelled to retreat by bad weather. Having made an earlier attempt in April with Dave Pearce, this was Ward-Drummond's third attempt on the route.

Sondre Trolltind, Hoibakk's Chimney On Sondre Trolltind Lockwood and Lee made the second ascent of Hoibakk's Chimney in thirteen hours on 24 August, followed the next day by Scott and Tony Boulger in eleven hours. The route was descended by eight abseils of 165 ft, so that it is 1300 ft long, not 2500 ft.

Adesfjell, South-east Cracks First ascent 13 August 1970. Doug Scott and Ted Wells in nine hours. VI—.

The route takes the left buttress of a shallow couloir below an obvious 100-m wall near the top of the south-east side of the peak. The crack offers good VS climbing with only 10 ft of aid at the base of the wall. (Description in *Alpine Climbing*.)

Doug Scott

Setnesfjell, South-east face First ascents August 1970. Ben Campbell-Kelly and Alistair Ferguson. Two new routes were made in the obvious rock bowl on the right-hand side of the Isterdal valley. The main feature of the cliff is a huge, curving overhang above a vast scoop of smooth rock about 150 m high. The Ordinary Route (5 August) goes up to the right of the scoop and overhang (600 m of roped climbing, eight hours, V— with moves of V+). The Direct Route (24 August) climbs directly up the central scoop and turns the overhang on the left, involving sustained and difficult climbing with four points of aid (600 m of roped climbing, eleven hours, VI— with moves of VI+). (Description in *Alpine Climbing*.)

Also in *Alpine Climbing* are descriptions to new routes by Liverpool University climbers J. Duff and J. Brazington on the West face of Skagastolstind, the North-north-west face of Store Skagastolstind, on the Eastern Slabs of Adesfjell, and (with G. Bradshaw) on the East face of the buttress north of Nodre Midtmoradalstind.

The Alps

(compiled by COLIN TAYLOR)

Summary On the whole, the weather during July and August of the 1970 season was not particularly good and there were several storms of long duration. In one particularly bad storm it has been said that sixteen climbers died in the Mont Blanc region alone (*Mountain*, Nov. 1970).

Major new routes were made on the 1100-m North-west face of the Olan by Desmaison, Delauney and Freret; on the West ridge of the Grands Charmoz by Addison, Cordier, Thierry, Jouty and Fagard; on the North face of the Grandes Jorasses on the Pte. Hélène right of the Croz Spur by the Poles Chrobak, Wrosz and Poreba. A Scots party made a direct ascent of the North Pillar of the Eiger (see below). Descriptions of many of these new routes will be found in the 1971 issue of *Alpine Climbing*.

Major new ski descents include the 1100-m North flank of the Balmhorn by the Swiss Siedhoff, Trachsel and Lauber, in June, the North face of the Marmolada di Penia by Lottersberger, Holzer and S. Messner, the North face gully between the Cima Tosa and the Crozzon di Brenta by Holzer and Tscholl and North face of the Similaun by Holzer and Messner (*Alpinismus*, Nov. 1970).

The following notes are largely confined to the activities of British parties and their comments. *Alpine Climbing* has a fuller list of notable ascents by Continental climbers, details of which can be found in the Continental journals, particularly *La Montagne* and *Alpinismus*. Much of the basic information is from Doug Scott, the Editor of *Alpine Climbing*, from Audrey Salkeld and Ken Wilson, the Editor of *Mountain*, as well as from those named below.

MONT BLANC

Goûter hut There seems to be some confusion over the best route up to the hut. The original route crosses the 'Grand Couloir' and so is avalanche prone at times. So it was decided to prepare, and mark in yellow, a new route avoiding the 'Grand Couloir' up the 'Payot Ridge'. Now, however, it has been decided to use again the original route for access, digging out protection niches on both banks of the couloir. Parties intending to use the hut would be well advised to consult the authorities, before leaving the valley, on the best route (*La Montagne*, Oct. 1970 trans.).

As usual there were many British parties active around Mont Blanc. The bad weather was the cause of several accidents. On the East face of the Grand Capucin three British parties were caught in the big storm and the second pair, de Kuzel and Caine, were fatally struck by lightning on the final pitch. Jones, Phillips, Minks and Dickinson, retreating in fresh snow from an attempt on the first ascent of the Central Pillar on the Brouillard face of Mont Blanc, all fell some 180 ft into a crevasse on the Brouillard glacier but managed to extricate themselves without serious injuries. There were at least two retreats of epic proportions. Morris and Fullalove were compelled to retreat in storm from the Chandelle near the top of the Central Pillar of Frêney, taking three days to descend to the Rochers Gruber and the Frêney glacier. Lake and Holden retreated, again in bad weather, from the top of the chimneys of the Bonatti-Gobbi route on the Eckpfeiler.

Several climbers were dramatically rescued: one of three Japanese on the North face of the Droites in bad weather broke a leg and was taken off from the North-east spur by helicopter; three young Americans, in trouble on the North face of the Aiguille du Midi, were dropped a 70-m rope from the téléphérique.

Aiguille Noire, West face, Boccalatte Route The French climbers Audoubert, Galy and Panozzo made what is thought to be only the second ascent of this route first climbed in 1935 on 14 August using twenty-five pegs, one more than the first ascenders—a fine free route on very good rock, ED, eleven hours.

Aiguille Noire, South ridge Several parties have had great trouble finding the start, so the following note from Richard Johnson, who had the advantage of following Desmaison at this point, may help.

The key is a triangular white slab on the buttress supporting the Pte. Gamba. Start as described in the guide, climb straight up to the bottom left-hand edge of the slab and leave by the top right-hand corner (belay pegs). Next traverse round to the gully coming down from the col between the Pte. Gamba and the main ridge, this is obvious. Follow the gully for 200 ft carrying coils then continue up easy rocks on the right-hand side (true left) to the col. From the col, follow the ridge for the next mile.

Mont Blanc du Tacul, Gervasutti couloir Eric Jones soloed this in three hours.

Pain de Sucre, South-east ridge direct (Rébuffat-Terray Route). In August 1970 John Brailsford and Lynn Noble put up a new direct variant of

500–600 ft following a long dièdre up the buttress above the middle easy ledges V, V+, A1/A2).

Petit Dru, South-west pillar Pete Boardman and Chris Fitzhugh made a fast ascent approaching from the Flammes de Pierre. They climbed the route and returned the same day.

Petit Dru, North face First solo ascent by Coqueugniot in 4 hours. Climbed by Fullalove and another in five days in very poor conditions with most pitches heavily iced.

DAUPHINE

Massif des Ecrins, Pointe de Bonne Pierre First British ascent and fifth overall of the Girod-Sandoz route by Chris Fitzhugh and Dave Cuthbertson in August. They were followed a day or two later by John Brailsford and Lynn Noble.

A serious route, steep and very sustained at V. The crux pitch is very exposed and serious. **John Brailsford**

L'Olan, Middle Summit, North-west face direct First ascent 7–8 August by Desmaison, Delaunay, Deudon and Fréret. The first 600 m of this 1100-m wall are of poor rock (IV) but higher the rock improved (VI).

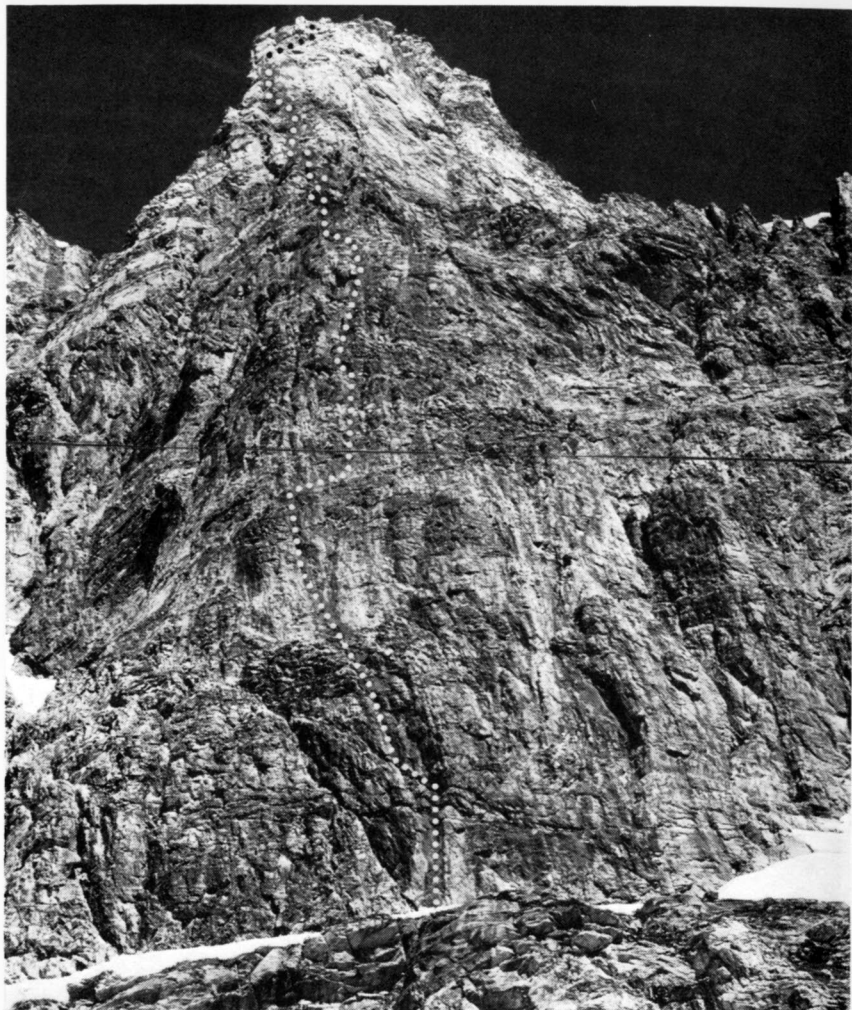
TARENDAISE

The following note from Jacques Dupont will be of interest:

The Pointe de Bazel, South-east pillar The Pointe de Bazel is situated on the French-Italian frontier between the Haute Tarentaise and Aosta valleys. The foot of the climb is reached in two hours from Val d'Isère.

The South-east face of 400 m in height still has several other possible first ascents to offer. An unsuccessful attempt was first made by a French and an Italian guide about fifteen years ago.

Albert Boson and I spent two days preparing our route and thus succeeded in climbing 200 m prior to our final attempt. On 11 August 1970 we attacked the main difficulties, a long and very impressive buttress. We reached the top in a thick mist at 5pm.



82 *The Pointe de Bazel.* Photo: J. Dupont

The climbing involved on this limestone pillar is very varied and one meets slabs, dièdres, overhangs and chimneys. The difficulty is fairly sustained and the pitches vary from IV with several passages of V. There are in all twenty pitches of 40 m and forty pitons. The climb takes six hours and is TD.

We recommend this climb early in the season as a training for the very difficult 'grandes courses' as it faces south-east, and so would be in condition very early.

Pointe de Bazel, South-east ridge I did this first ascent with another guide from Val d'Isère, Buddy Dubois, at the beginning of September 1970. The ridge is 400 m high and leads directly to the summit of the Pointe de Bazel. There are twenty pitches of approximately 40 m. The foot of the ridge is reached in two and a half hours from Val d' Isère. The climb is a D+ with several passages of V and one of V+. It takes about five hours.



83 *The Flatiron and the Second Ice-field—Eiger North face.* Photo: L. Dickinson

OBERLAND

Eiger Once again the Eigerwand provided much of the excitement, although only climbed a few times.

North face, original route Two ascents during July and August. Roger Brooks and three Germans made an ascent in early August with three bivouacs. Brooks took a 70-ft fall from the Flatiron while rock-climbing in crampons.

Cliff Philips, Peter Minks, Eric Jones and Leo Dickinson climbed the route 5–10 September after spending six weeks filming for Yorkshire Television. They filmed in stages as far as the Second Ice-field. Here the party was

bombarded by falling stones. Dickinson was hit on the shoulder and his arm was unusable. After spending the night in a cave on the right of the Ice-field, the party made a slow but safe descent. Three weeks later they made the successful attempt, filming all sections of the ascent except the Spider. The route was heavily iced-up, the face being in almost winter condition. The Ramp was particularly difficult. Even though the party started from Eigerwand Station Window, the climb took 6 days (*Mountain*, Nov. 1970 and Jan. 1971).

In late September several French parties climbed the 1938 route. Y. Seigneur climbing the face on 20–22 Sept. with M. Marchal and on 26–27 Sept. with R. Dietz. However the weather broke on 30 Sept. catching four French pairs headed by R. Desmaison in the Exit Cracks. Twelve French guides and eight young Swiss began rescue operations and contact was made on 2 Oct. Of the party on the wall, only Desmaison escaped frostbite (*La Montagne*, Oct. 1970).

North face, Harlin route Second winter ascent by a Japanese party 24 December to 21 March. Only forty-two days of this time were actually spent on the face, where some of the team spent up to twenty-four days without a break. The equipment taken included some 2300 m of rope and 350 pegs (in addition to the fifty to sixty pegs still in place from the first ascent). The cost is estimated at over £6000 (*Alpinismus*, August 1970).

North face, Japanese summer direct route Second summer ascent 28–30 July by the Swiss Berger and Müller.

Eiger North pillar direct First ascent 28–31 July 1970 after preparation I. MacEacheran, A. McKeith, K. Spence. ED+, 8000 ft of climbing.

For description see *Alpine Climbing* 1971. The route takes a direct line up the three subsidiary pillars of the North pillar, joining the Lauper route on the upper ice-field ten rope-lengths above the third pillar. In all, ninety-two pegs and six bolts were used for aid and six more bolts were used to secure fixed ropes.

Starting on 13 June, but hindered by very erratic weather and large quantities of snow remaining from the exceptional winter, gradual progress was made during a series of attempts totalling approximately ten days climbing time (actual progress) until the final continuous assault, which was made using fixed ropes to a point half way up the Third Pillar. It is a mixed route but unique in that it is clearly defined in two distinct halves, the first 1000 m entirely on rock and the remaining 1000 m entirely on ice. The serious difficulties are also

confined entirely to the rock of the first three pillars, and consist of a few hard, pure-aid pitches and several hard, mixed free and aid pitches as well as an assortment of easier free pitches. The route is exposed in a series of remarkable situations but is almost completely free of serious objective danger, and that fact alone makes it unique on this side of the Eiger. A selection of about seventy pegs, with a higher percentage of blade-type pegs, should suffice. . . . [from the Third Pillar] the route taken was far from direct, but followed the line of least resistance up the ice-field to the immediate left of the ice arête above the Third Pillar, then left up an ice-ramp to another short ice arête, then up diagonally leftwards to a rock island and fairly good bivouac for three at the lower left side of the upper Lauper ice-field. From the top of the Third Pillar to this point is about ten rope-lengths on ice at an average angle of 50–55°, thereafter the upper part of the Lauper route was taken and the crux of this whole upper ice-section was still that of the Lauper route.

A. M. McKeith

North-east face, Lauper route, Solo ascent by Gordon Hibberd. In view of the uncertainty surrounding the ascent by a Manchester pair reported in *Alpine Climbing* 1967, most will consider this to be the first British ascent. This was only Hibberd's second Alpine route, a few days earlier he had climbed the Eiger by the West face, the ordinary route.

Grosshorn, North face direct D. Davis and R. Colledge, R. Collister and R. Ferguson, 1 August 1970. The two parties met for the first time in the Schmadri hut. First British ascent. The direct rather than the original route (Welzenbach) was followed in view of the conditions.

Left the hut at 1.50am. Ran on to hard ice well below the nose of the middle rock barrier. Turned the nose on the left but did not find a pitch of V mentioned in the guide-book. Above the nose we found continuous hard ice, and step-cutting slowed us down. Head torches useful on reaching the summit at 10.40 pm. Bivouac on the rocks about 200 ft down descent route to the Lötschental.

I am certain it was harder than the Triolet North face, but we found quite difficult conditions. I am inclined to agree with Terray that under reasonable conditions the Grosshorn would be slightly easier than the Triolet. Certainly the ice-climbing as we found it was much more difficult than anything on the Eiger.'

Ray Colledge

Blümlisalphorn, North face direct This was climbed by Peter and Jeff Allison, followed a week later (1 August) by Alan Wedgwood and Colin Taylor. A very good introductory North face, very frequently in condition, about D in standard. The direct, as described in the English guide, is the best way and

there looks to be an easy escape right onto the North-west ridge level with the top séracs.

A 1969 route, omitted last year:

Scheidegg Wetterhorn North-east pillar (Talbot-Epp route) Possibly fourth ascent 1-3 August 1969 thirty-four hours. Clive Rowlands and Bob Toogood.

A very serious route with a lot of difficult pitches with little or no protection. Under normal conditions there is no water or snow until the saddle under the summit ice-field is reached.

The guide-book mentions a good bivouac site half way up the second tower. This is in fact very small and uncomfortable. It is better to stay on the terrace between the first and second towers, or try to reach the next terrace between the second and third towers. All the bolts were in place but there were only about twenty pegs in the whole route.

PENNINE ALPS

Fletschhorn, North Face (Vanis route) First British ascent, Rob Collister and Rob Ferguson 5 August 1970 in ten hours from a bivouac.

This little-frequented face rises from the Rossboden glacier. It is approached from the village of Eggen on the road to the Simplon Pass via the Griesseren glacier. There is a convenient bivouac site not far from the face on the col (3022 m). The left-hand part of the face has several rock buttresses and sérac barriers, through which the original route of 1928 picked a way. This looks hard and very dangerous in present-day ice conditions. The Vanis route of 1960 (*Les Alpes*, 1961, p. 169) takes instead the ice-face to the right, which leads on to the North-west ridge of the mountain a short distance below the summit. About a third of the way up this part of the face there is a large rock island. There is some stone-fall danger and several schrunds below this island, but the ice-wall above is climbed to the very steep sérac wall which is split by a 65-70° ramp. This leads via a shallow scoop and a blunt rib to steepening slopes which are followed to the corniced summit ridge.

The face is about 800 m high and the top half provides fine climbing probably almost always on ice and not snow, making the route TD. There is slight

objective danger and Vanis described it as one of the hardest, but safest, ice-climbs he had done.

Rob Ferguson

There is a description of the route and of the descent to the Rossboden glacier via the North-east ridge in *Alpine Climbing*.

Grand Combin de Valsorey, North-west Face (Vanis route 1958)

R. Roshnick, P. F. Rowatt and S. Bright, 23 August 1970 in six hours.

High-level route For those with sufficient time to spare, an interesting variation, taken by the brothers C. A. and J. M. Russell in September 1970, is to ascend from or descend to St. Niklaus by way of the Topali hut, which commands fine views of the Mischabel chain across the valley. The route taken, which included visits to the Tracuit, Moiry and Rossier huts and ascents of the Bishorn and Grand Cornier before returning to the Col de Bertol, was well worth the additional few days required.

C. A. Russell

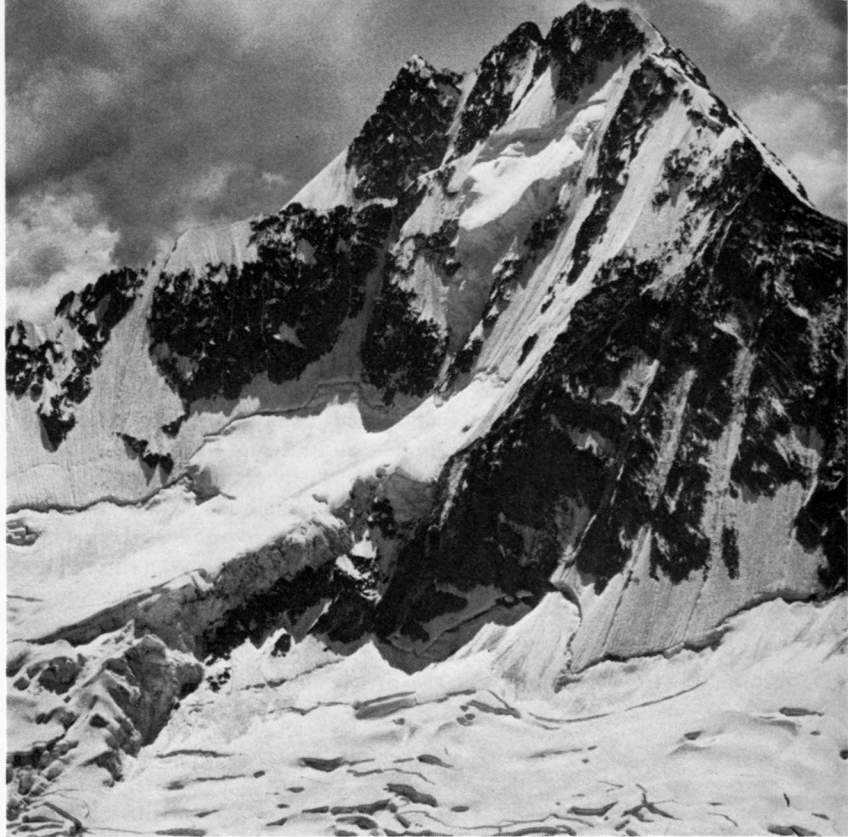
CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

Brian Fuller, Bob Toogood and Clive Rowlands did several routes, including the East wall pillar of the Bergseeschijen (V+, A2), the Gray wall on Pte. 3172 between the Gletschhorn and the Winterstock in July.

Rowlands and Toogood made the seventh or eighth complete traverse of the West ridge of the Salbitschijen.

BERNINA GROUP

Piz Palü, North face, West pillar The ascent by John Cleare and Ian Howell, 27 July, is thought to be the first ascent by a British party since J. Burton-Alexander's original ascent in 1899. Without a doubt it is the hardest of the three pillars (of the North face) and by far the most sustained—the guide-book is most misleading. It is worth remembering also that the climbing starts at the bergschrund and continues all the way to the summit without a let-up. Ian Howell and I found much loose rock, several good sections of excellent rock giving really enjoyable climbing, a lot of hard ice and much step-cutting. The steep snow/ice arête at the top was all bare ice and we by-passed it to the right on rather frightening mixed slopes. Very loose and very exposed. The last runner was 20 ft from the summit! In perfect snow conditions one could by-pass most of the rock on the lower sections and achieve a fast time—we took



84 *Monte Disgrazia—North face.* Photo: John Cleare

about twelve hours. Nevertheless, a good line and a very obvious route—but not aesthetically as pleasing as the Bumillergrat.

John Cleare

(See also article above by I. Howell)

Rob. Collister and Rob. Ferguson from Cambridge followed the route on 1 August taking twenty-one hours, bivouacking on the summit.

We followed the line of the direct route as less exposed than the ordinary route to stone-fall in the narrows, avoiding the long horizontal traverse at the top of the face. But no pitch of V, or indeed any rock-climbing worthy of the name, was found, very icy.

Rob. Collister

Monte Disgrazia, North face direct First British ascent 3 August. John Cleare and Ian Howell.

The North face has three main lines: the westerly bounding rib of the North face; the Spigolo Inglese, climbed in 1910 by the Scots Ling and Raeburn; the direct, climbed by Albertini and Schenatti in 1934; and the super-direct, climbed quite recently up overhanging ice by Diemberger.

The obvious line seemed to be not the Spigolo, as we had thought, but the direct, a broken, icy rib starting directly below the summit and petering out

into séracs and an ice-field which led up to the summit rocks. With the huge sérac of 1969 out of the way (it had fallen) it looked fairly safe and not too difficult. The climb turned out to be very sustained and longer than we had thought, about 2000 ft. The first section had some good rock, much bad asbestos-like stuff which was very slippery, and a lot of very hard ice. The second section turned out to be good snow-ice, easily cramponed, until above the final schrunds, where, on hard blue ice, I once again dislocated my finger. I was now one-handed and we climbed the final three ice-pitches and the quite difficult and icy summit rocks very slowly. We bivouacked on the summit and abseiled down close to the Corda Molla in the morning. Time twelve hours.

John Cleare

(Description in *Alpine Climbing*. See also article above by I. Howell.)

BREGAGLIA

Piz Cengalo, North buttress This was done by several British parties, including Trevor Jones and Bob Allen, Dave Potts and Gordan McNair, Bob Junkison and Z. Leppart. Trevor Jones's description will be in *Alpine Climbing*. The general opinion seems to be that the one in the guide-book is very open to improvement.

Piz Ligancio, West-north-west face First British ascent by Peter Biven and Ian Howell. The mountain is approached from Chiavenna. A path leads to a bivouac hut below the face. An ice-couloir is followed for 1000 ft and leads to a 2000-ft rock face similar in character and difficulty to the North-east face of the Piz Badile. The climbing is on excellent rock and consistently V broken only by short sections of VI and AI. Time taken was nine hours.

(Description in *Alpine Climbing*. See also article above by I. Howell.)

DOLOMITES

Tofana di Mezzo-Punta Anna, South-west dièdre—via Julian First ascent. Dave Riley and Bob Dearman. The climb is 1000 ft, VI+ with mainly artificial difficulties. About fifty pegs and fifteen bolts left in place. The route is easily seen from the Dibona hut, where a description was written in the log.

Furchetta, North Face (Solleder-Wiessner route) Climbed by Ron and Barbara James. Thought to be the first British ascent of one of Solleder's three major Dolomite routes of 1925–6.

CORRECTIONS TO THE 1970 DOLOMITE GUIDE-BOOKS

The following list of corrections is due to Chris Eilbeck:

First Sella tower (West ridge) '... traverse about 22 m R and return to the crest ...' should read: 'traverse about 22 m R and climb a 40-m chimney (IV). Traverse R again and return to the crest ...'

Second Sella tower (Messner route) The start is incorrectly indicated on the diagram on p 38. It should be to the *left* of the N face route.

Fourth Sella tower (West face direct) Difficult route-finding, several British parties have bivouacked on this climb. The descent should read:

'From the shoulder overlooking the col between the Tower and the Main Plateau, a series of abseils leads into the gully descending from the col towards the Third Tower. Descend this gully by abseils, including one free abseil of 40 m, to the scree cone between the Third and Fourth Towers. Abseil pegs, etc., mostly in place.'

Sass Pordoi (South pillar) Starts to the *R* of the steep yellow pillar. Climb the *gully* between the pillar and the main face for 75m to a ledge. ...

Cima della Madonna An alternative way of reaching the new bivouac hut, which sleeps ten and has blankets and cooking pots, is as follows:

Take the road S from San Martino for 5 km, to where a small road branches off, signposted 'Bivacco del Velo'. A car can be taken up this road for about 3 km to another signpost which points out the start of the path (no. 713) for the hut. From this point the walk takes 1 hr 45 mins.

NEW ITALIAN GUIDES (1970)

A new (private) guide in Italian has been published to the Pala Group containing over 300 routes fifty-six diagrams and three maps. It costs about 4000 lire. It would be interesting to know whether all the main routes are covered by the guide as the photographs seem to indicate plenty of possibilities between the route lines.

Dal Bianco and Angelini have just brought out volume 4 in the C.A.I. series. This excellent guide covers the Civetta and the Moiazza areas. Although in Italian, the guide contains many pitch by pitch topos, as well as eighty-eight good

photographs so it is not too difficult to make sense of the descriptions. Price is about 5000 lire.

JULIAN ALPS

Gruppo del Jof Fuart, Torre delle Madri dei Camosci, North-west face
First ascent 16 August by Chris Eilbeck and Umberto Iavazzo. 600 m. III/IV with one pitch of V.

An old-fashioned chimney climb . . . not recommended after rain. Description in *Alpine Climbing*. **Chris Eilbeck**

Cyprus

The mountains of Cyprus reach over 1800 m at Khionistra. During the last two years there has been an upsurge of interest in rock-climbing on the island. Numerous limestone crags offer routes of 30–500 ft of standards up to VS. The main centres are Kornos, Pentadaktylos and Kantara. The three guide books published so far are obtainable from N.C.O. i/c Mountain Rescue Team, R.A.F. Akrotiri, B.F.P.O. 53, Cyprus. Further possibilities are unlimited.

A. Jeffery

(Source: *Mountain*.)

(See also *A. J.* 57 192, 545 and 58 207).

Africa

Atlas 1970

Toubkal massif To commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of our institution, the Centro Excursionista de la Comarca de Bages, a group of fourteen climbers led by José M. Montfort left Spain early in August for the Great Atlas Mountains of Africa, where we expected to open new routes on the rock peaks of the Toubkal massif.

After some involuntary delays we arrived on 16 August at the Lépiney hut, which became our Base Camp for climbing in the cirque of Tazarhart. From