

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

there we achieved a large number of ascents, of which the more important ones are as follows:

Tiskin, 3938 m: first ascent of North-east wall; 360 m, in seven hours from the Lépiney hut (20 August).

Tiskin, 3938 m: first ascent of North wall and North-west ridge; 400 m, in six hours from the Lépiney hut with one bivouac (21 August).

Lépiney Spur, 3750 m: first ascent of North face; 230 m, in two hours. The face rises directly above the Lépiney hut (16 August).

Tazarhart, 3874 m: first ascent of North face of middle Spur; 400 m, 6½ hours from the Lépiney hut (16 August).

Two other ascents, new routes, were made on the Finger of Tadat, 3837 m; both, although short (35 m), were difficult.

Several traverses were also made, among them the rather difficult traverse of the Tazarhart massif, with twelve summits between 3000 and 4000 m.

A member of the expedition also visited the summit of the highest of all the Atlas Mountains, Toubkal, 4165 m, and found there the wreckage of a British cargo plane.

We left the area on 25 August and arrived home on the 31st. The leader of the group had also led the Institution's previous international expedition (to Bolivia) in 1969.

Scottish expedition H. M. Brown and ten others were in the Toubkal massif for several weeks in March/April 1970. From Tachdirt hut (this hut must be regarded as a medical hazard at present) Angour was traversed from west to east. With one bivouac over the Tizi Tachdirt, a party descended the fine Ourika valley. Iguenouane's peaks were traversed and some of the party descended the 5000 ft on ski. Jebel Oukaimeden was climbed from the hut. Several visits were made to Azrou n'Tamdout and Assaoun above Imlil on the way home.

From Lépiney hut. Most of the party went via the Tizi Mzic and back over El Haj. Afella and Tazarhart were climbed.

From Neltner hut. Toubkal (4165 m), the highest peak in North Africa, was climbed several times—by the classic West-south-west arête and by a new route on the West-north-west arête. Both the Ikhibi Sud and the Ikhibi Nord were used on foot or ski. Imousser and Tibherine were climbed from Toubkal



85 *The West face of Angour above Tachdirt.* This and the next photo:
H. Brown

—the summit of the latter strewn with wreckage from a plane, including high explosives and ammunition! Bou Ouzzal, Ras and Timesguida n'Ouanoukrim, Akioud, Afella and Biuguinoussene were other peaks climbed (excellent winter ridges). A fine buttress on the east of the last-named gave a 1000-ft route (difficile), while others ascended the gully below it, a fast winter approach. Aguelzim was traversed back to Imlil while others climbed on the Tadat, where a new line was added.

A southern three-day event took in the Lac d'Ifni, the traverse of Iferouane and the return over the Tizi Likempt to Tachdirt and Imlil.

Notes: The Moroccan authorities are trying to cut down the inflow of undesirables, so unshaven climbers are likely to find entry refused! Good general information can be found in the two 1966 numbers of the *Alpine Journal*. There are endless chances of hard, new routes, lots of sunshine and the unfamiliar Arab world; ski-ing is possible, and travel too. It is so accessible and, once there, extremely cheap. Rock faces clear quickly of snow. A dozen peaks rise above 4000 m, but routes can be over 5000 ft on some of the bigger faces. It is hot.

I hope in the autumn of 1971 to write a guide-book to the High Atlas and would be glad of any information.

Hamish M. Brown



86 *The Tadat, a pinnacle between Biuguinnessene and Aguelzim*

Hoggar

French expedition A party led by Henri Agresti made some new routes at Easter 1970 as follows:

- a) *Garet-el-Djenoun*—East face. Climbed between 23 and 30 March by J. R. Abrial, H. Agresti, M. Bertinotti, V. Bourges, M. Gravost, F. Lespinasse, B. Soulat and F. Ucay. 400 m—ED—160 pitons and wedges. 'Without doubt the most difficult route in Hoggar so far.' For situation, refer to *Guide des Escalades du Hoggar* by Lhoste and Aulard, p 132. The route follows the large dièdre in the centre of the face. The rock is granite and very good.
- b) *Tehoulag Sud*—West face (Easter Route). Climbed in seven hours on 2 April by I. and H. Agresti and F. Lespinasse. 350 m—TD. sup.—25 pitons. For situation, refer to the above, pp 98 and 101. The route lies between the route 'des Espagnols' and the route 'Kohlmann'. **H. Agresti**

Kenya and Tanzania

General report In 1970, as far as is known, no major new routes were put up on Mount Kenya. In Kenya the exploration of crags, particularly those closer to Nairobi, continued. At one of these, Hell's Gate in the Rift valley, claims of first ascents on some of the excellent cracks have to be treated with reserve; for the only plausible explanation of the short, dead branches sticking out of some of the fiercest lines is that Masai or Wanderobo have developed their own impressive form of artificial climbing in their search for honey. Since it is important for them to get close without disturbing the bees, this technique of jamming branches may be better than banging in pegs and wedges.

Kenya and Tanzania are both eager to attract foreign visitors, mountaineers among them. To encourage tourism, Tanzania is building an international airport between Arusha and Moshi on the south side of Kilimanjaro. This will serve the normal (Marangu) route, the three huts on which are to be improved and expanded so that 7000 people a year will be able to attempt Kibo. For those who prefer solitude, the Kilimanjaro Mountain Club has built a hut on the Shira plateau to the west of Kibo, improving access to a large area.

1970 was, however, marred by what seems to be economic nationalism: in April Tanzania closed the Loitokitok route, which starts in Kenya and is far closer and more convenient for people in Kenya. The aim seems to be to channel all the 'tourist' climbers up through Marangu, and the prospects for reopening the Loitokitok route do not appear bright.

On Mount Kenya, two new structures have been put up by the Mountain Club of Kenya. The first is a hut sleeping nine persons in the Liki North valley. This provides a much needed staging-point between the head of the Sirimon track and Kami hut, and also opens up the area around Sendeyo and Tereri. The second is a 6½-ft square bivouac shelter erected at 5183 m just below the summit of Nelion. The parts were airdropped on the Lewis glacier and Ian Howell carried them up virtually single-handed in at least thirteen solo ascents. This shelter should make it easier for the slower parties to climb Batian by the South-east ridge, and reduce the dangers of accidents on hasty descents to avoid bivouacs.

The formation of a national Mountain Rescue Committee in Kenya was followed in September by the longest rescue so far carried out in East Africa. An Austrian doctor, Gert Judmaier, sustained a serious open fracture of the lower leg and other injuries in a 30-ft fall just below Shipton's Notch on the Firmin/Hicks route. He survived seven bivouacs at nearly 5180 m, the first



87 *A detail of the East face of Mawenzi.* Photo: Fritz Lörtscher

two alone and without a stove, reaching hospital 199 hours after the accident. His survival owed much to his companion, Oswald Oelz, also a doctor, who, after raising the alarm, returned and administered infusions and antibiotics. A helicopter bringing supplies crashed near Kami hut and the pilot was killed. The rescue descent was by the Firmin/Hicks route, the upper section being carried out by the Mountain Club of Kenya, the lower, longer section by six Austrians who flew out specially from Austria. The Kenya Police and the Mountain National Parks gave very full support in the air and on the ground.

In 1971 a revised edition of the *Guide to Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro* will be published.

Robert Chambers

East face of Mawenzi In the course of an expedition to Kilimanjaro I crossed the eastern flank of Mawenzi as far as the Great Barranco in the company of Fileki, a native guide of the Wadjaggas tribe. The starting-point was the Horombo hut. We were obliged to cross six more or less deeply incised valleys with flowing streams, at heights of between 3750 and 4270 m. This frequently involved some climbing. Before the descent into the Great Barranco we climbed two unnamed rock pinnacles on the western side of the rift. *En route* we encountered a serval cat and a herd of twelve oryx, antelopes which soon took to their heels on our approach.

After a bivouac in the upper part of the Great Barranco gorge, we started up the east face of Mawenzi at 4am. By dawn we had surmounted three steep pitches, interspersed with small terraces. I was able to get a rough idea of the

route before the clouds came down, and we stuck to this throughout with a few minor deviations.

Just as we were beginning to cast about for a likely place for a bivouac, the clouds parted and I had a momentary glimpse of the crest above us. This spurred us on and we reached the crest of the broad Latham Peak (5140 m) shortly after dark. We had been $14\frac{1}{2}$ hours on the face and our hands were badly cut by the rough rock. From eleven o'clock onwards we had been subjected to incessant stone-fall. After bivouacking in a crevice in the rock, we advanced towards Klute Peak whence we abseiled twice down the west face. Owing to the friable nature of the rock, the ascent of the Mawenzi East face is a risky undertaking. Although the holds are plentiful, they are not to be trusted.

Grade of difficulty. 3-4 in dry conditions, some pitches 5. Correspondingly more difficult in ice and snow conditions. (Fortunately, we only encountered a little ice and hard snow in cracks and crevices.)

Equipment. As in the Alps: rope, ice-axe, pitons and helmet.

Date. From 5 to 7 March 1970 in very good dry conditions. It did not snow until 8 March.

Maps. Only a photographic copy of Dr Hans Meyer's map taken from his book, otherwise we did not come across any other map of Mawenzi.

F. Lörtscher

Asia

Hindu Kush

SCOTTISH HINDU KUSH EXPEDITION 1970 Following the pattern of previous years, there was much activity in the Hindu Kush in 1970. The expedition was denied permission to visit Wakhan, though several parties (French, Austrian, English) were allowed as far as Quazi Deh to climb in the mountains around Tirich Mir and Noshaq.

Our expedition (Alan North, Ian Rowe, William Sproul and Wilfrid Tauber) arrived at Shah-i-Pari in the Munjan valley on 2 August, having made the long approach march from the north through the Kokcha valley to Ishkasser, then