

EXPEDITIONS

HINDU KUSH.—Last summer the Steierische Hochtouristengruppe of the O.A.V. sent out another reconnaissance party to the Hindu Kush. The previous year's expedition had succeeded in climbing the West, Main and East summits of Noshag; this time the objective was the mountain tract lying to its east.

The members of the party, Rainer Göschl of Liezen and Dr. Gerald Gruber of Graz (leader), travelled overland accompanied by Mrs. Hildegund Gruber. At Rawalpindi we met the successful first Steierische Karakorum Expedition to Momhil Sar; of its members, Horst Schindlbacher and Dr. Rudolf Pischinger, both of Graz, joined our Hindu Kush venture. We proceeded to Chitral by road and air, with a Puch 'Donkey' Land Rover type of vehicle placed at our disposal by the Steyr Daimler Puch works. Thence, as far as Kuragh we were able to use the 'Donkey' and a jeep as our means of transport. After that we had to cross the 4,100 m. Zani Pass to Shagrom in the Tirich valley, using porters and mules. A three days' march up the Udren valley (shown as the Atrak on our maps) brought us on August 11 to our site for Base Camp at about 4,600 m.

Two days later we pitched Camp I on a rocky spur at about 5,400 m. and on the 16th Camp II was erected at 6,200 m. in a great glacier hollow with three seven-thousanders towering above it. The very next day Pischinger and I made the first ascent of Shachaur (7,116 m.) from whose summit we had a marvellous view of the Hindu Kush ranges. Time and again our eyes came back to 7,492 m. Noshag, from which we had looked across in this direction last year as we stood together on its summit.

On August 19 we climbed Point 7,131 m. for the first time and gave it the name of Udren Zom, as befits the highest of all the peaks in this range rising above the Udren valley. The heights of this whole sector given on the map are very wrong for these peaks. Shachaur and Udren Zom are obviously higher than Koh-i-Nadir Shah, marked as 7,125 m., and even Koh-i-Kishmikhān, given as 7,200 m.

On the 19th Schindlbacher and Göschl, who had been laid up below with colds, came up to Camp II and made the second ascent of Koh-i-Nadir Shah next day, this time by a new route up the East ridge. (The first ascent in 1962 had been made by the Polish-French party from the Wakhan.)¹ On the 22nd Schindlbacher made a second

¹The Polish-French party made two ascents of Koh-i-Nadir Shah, on August 27 and 29, 1962. See *A.J.* 68. 121.

ascent of Udren Zom, Göschl unfortunately having to turn back only just below the summit because he had not quite recovered from his heavy cold.

We left Base Camp for home on August 24 as our permit was running out. All members of the expedition reached home in good health in mid-September by the overland route.

G. GRUBER.

The German Wakhan Expedition of seven members was fortunate enough to receive permission to enter Wakhan. They travelled in an ancient yellow post bus to Kabul and the Wakhan and from Langar went up the Langar valley where the Poles were in 1962, and where, in the following year, a Swiss party, daunted by the impregnable appearance of the North faces of the Langar group, left them undisturbed and went on to climb Urgend. The Germans discovered a route to the east of the face by a not very steep ice-slope. Camp II (5,850 m.) was pitched below the first Vorgipfel and from there four Langar peaks were successfully attacked, the Vorgipfel (6,170 m.); North Peak (6,750 m.); Highest Peak (7,061 m.), and the *c.* 6,800 m. peak lying a little to the south-east. Otto Huber climbed the last two by himself on July 8. Attempts on Languta-e-Barf (*c.* 7,000 m.) climbed by the Poles in 1963, were defeated by bad weather, but two summits on the ridge were climbed.

The party then went further east. From Qala Panja they went on foot with horses and yaks towards Sarhad and Bay-Qara (Baikra). They were then roughly north of the Batura group and not far from the Chinese frontier. No other mountaineering expedition had come so far east in the Wakhan Corridor. Koh-i-Bay-Qara (5,420 m.) was climbed and a magnificent view enjoyed over the Batura, Hindu Kush and Hinduraj mountains. This peak belongs to the Pamir-i-Wakhan group.

A Munich party was in the Khwaja-Muhammad range, previously explored by another German expedition in 1963. After the ascents of several 5,000 m. and 4,000 m. peaks in the Rakhuy valley two members of the expedition, E. Rinkl and W. Strass, were murdered.

An expedition from the Bremen section of the D.A.V. led by Josef Ruf, refused a permit for Wakhan went to the Sanglichtal. This is east of the Bandakâ area and north of Koh-i-Chrebek (20,506 ft.) climbed by Ruf in 1961. From Kabul the expedition travelled with two lorries via Faizabad to Zebak and thence on foot with baggage animals to the Sanglichtal. Access to the Rosdaratal, leading to the Pakistan frontier, was at first made difficult by the military but eventually the party entered the valley and between July 29 and August 13 succeeded in climbing thirteen peaks, eight of which exceeded 5,000 m. in height. Other ascents were made from the Machtal and Agramtal.

The Norwegians R. Hoibakk and A. Opdal made the first ascent of the East Peak (7,692 m.) of Tirich Mir, reaching the summit on July 25 by way of the 2,500 m. high South face.²

A. DIEMBERGER.

HIMALAYA

ISLAND PEAK.—*Alpinismus* reports the third ascent of the higher (North-east) summit of Island Peak, 6,189 m. (south of Lhotse, between the Lhotse and Lhotse Shar glaciers), by the Danish mountaineer Jesper Trier in May, 1964.

Previous ascents were made by H-R. von Gunten and two Sherpas in 1956 and in 1958 by members of A. Gregory's expedition—one of them being the late Piero Ghiglione, then in his seventy-sixth year!

The lower summit, 6,100 m., has been climbed at least twice.

HIMLUNG HIMAL (7,126 m. = 23,380 ft.).—A Dutch party, J. Boon, A. J. Driessen, C. Dufour and J. de Lint with the Austrian guide Hubert Schriegl reconnoitred this peak on the Nepal-Tibet border last autumn. Frequent avalanches rendered access to the West ridge impossible, though the ridge itself appeared not to be too difficult. An attempt to cross over to the East face by way of the South ridge was also unsuccessful. Finally we attempted to climb the very long South ridge but after many trials we decided that this way also was much too difficult, especially the last 3,000 ft., for our small expedition.

We believe the most hopeful route would be to follow the east side of the easterly of the two glaciers descending from Himlung Himal and so reach the 'ice-plain' between this mountain and Cheo Himal; it should then be possible to attain the East face of Himlung Himal at about 20,000 ft. and by this face (45° – 50°) climb to the summit. A strong expedition might succeed by this route and perhaps also climb Cheo Himal by its North-west ridge.

MANASLU NORTH PEAK (7,050 m. = 23,130 ft.)—First ascent. Having crossed the Larkya Pass we reached Sama and on October 19 pitched a Base Camp at 4,200 m. Following along the Manaslu glacier Camp I was at 5,200 m. and Camp II at 5,600 m. Camp III was in the ice-fall at 6,000 m. Considerable difficulties were overcome in this ice-fall and at one point four hours were taken in the ascent of a 30 m. high perpendicular, and in part overhanging, ice-wall at 6,300 m. Camp IV was just above the ice-fall.

From the North Col the narrow ridge was followed to the summit, reached on October 25 by de Lint, Driessen and Schriegl with the

² We are greatly indebted to Mr. Hugh Merrick for translating the above Hindu Kush notes from the original German.

Sherpas Nima Tenzing and Ila Tsering. Our altimeters indicated a height of 7,050 m. and Dufour calculated the same figure with a theodolite from Sama.

A. J. DRIESSEN.

ANNAPURNA GROUP.—*H.C. Newsletter no. 22* reports that on October 13 last a Japanese party (H. Yoshino, M. Kimura, U. Ageta) made the first ascent of Ganesh (Moditse), 23,804 ft. The ascent was repeated two days later by Professor Higuchi and two Sherpas.

Glacier Dome, 23,801 ft., was climbed for the first time by another Japanese party, M. Nishimura and a Sherpa reaching the summit on October 16.

TURPIN PEAK.—The Bavarian Karakorum Expedition was refused permission by the Pakistan Government to attempt its original choice, K 12, and was offered as an alternative the Mazeno Peaks of the Nanga Parbat group; but bad weather and unfavourable conditions on the mountain prevented any ascent.

Three members of the party, however, including Philip Rosenthal the leader, succeeded in making the first ascent of the *c.* 6,000 m. Turpin Peak at the head of the Rupal valley. The summit was reached in twelve hours from a camp at 4,350 m.

Side valleys south of the Rupal nullah were explored and a pass at the head of one of these, leading to the lower Rupal valley, was reached and named Sheila Col. Two nearby 5,000-ers were also climbed, Sheila Peak and Sheila II.

ANDES

ECUADOR.—The American Edwin Bernbaum and the Ecuadorians L. Droira and R. Pazmiño made the first ascent of the South peak of Nevado Antisana, *c.* 18,300 ft., on August 22, 1964, at the third attempt. It is believed to have been the highest unclimbed peak in Ecuador.

A Japanese expedition from Waseda made the sixth ascent of Cayambe, 18,993 ft., according to modern surveys; the Japanese also claimed the first ascent of the two lesser summits of Cayambe, which they put at 5,820 m. and 5,700 m. (19,095 and 18,701 ft.), probably basing these figures upon Whymper's results; they also claimed the first ascent of the highest peak of the Altar group, Obispo, 17,451 ft. Altar, 17,450 ft., was climbed by an Italian party in 1963.³

³ 'Altar is an extinct volcano, having a crater in the form of a horse-shoe open towards the west, with an irregular rim, carrying some of the finest rock peaks in Ecuador.' E. Whymper, *Travels amongst the Great Andes of the Equator*, p. 305. An illustration at p. 233 of this book shows well the three summits of Cayambe.

PERU.⁴—In the Cordillera Blanca a light Brazilian expedition under Senhor Domingos Giobbi made the first ascent of Nevado Pongos Chico (Indian name: Jatunllachsa), 18,635 ft., in the southern section of the range; the party also climbed Pongos Grande, 18,737 ft., by a new route on the South face and attempted Uruashraju, 18,815 ft., reaching *c.* 18,500 ft. on its South face before being stopped by cornices.

A ten-strong American party operated amongst the higher peaks of this range; they made the ascent of Nevado Copa, 20,350 ft., which had been climbed several times before, and then the second ascent of Palcaraju, 20,583 ft. A new route was opened on Huandoy South, a difficult peak overlooking the town of Yungay, via its West buttress. The last climb was that of Chacaraju, *c.* 20,000 ft., (second ascent) via its North ridge; seven bivouacs were required; all ascents were made in July and August.

In the Cordillera Huayhuash a party of six climbers from the Argentinian Federacio de Andinismo y Ski attempted Yerupaja (21,759 ft.) between June 17–24; they reached a height of 21,400 ft. on the West face before having to withdraw because of technically adverse conditions. Meanwhile two members of the group had made the first ascents of Tsacra Chico Norte, 18,088 ft., and Tsacra Grande Norte, 18,754 ft., and the second ascents of two peaks in the Ancocancha group.

An Italian expedition was also active in this range and between July 4 and 16 climbed seven 5,000-ers. The most important achievement was the first complete ascent of Tsacra Grande (5,774 m. = 18,942 ft.). A first attempt, made on July 3, was unsuccessful, the two-man party turning back at 6 p.m. owing to the late hour and the difficulties still to be overcome. The next day, S. and N. Calegari, P. Nava and P. Bergamelli succeeded in reaching the summit from a camp at 5,400 m. on the col at the foot of the East ridge. The ascent was repeated on July 5 by the other three members of the expedition.⁵

BOLIVIA.—A Japanese expedition from Tokyo led by I. Muko operated in the northern section of the Cordillera Real and made the following ascents: Vinohuara I, 18,400 ft.; Vinohuara II, 18,501 ft.; two unnamed peaks of *c.* 19,000 ft.; the four Jailihualla peaks (three of them over 19,000 ft. in height); the southern peak of Chachacomani, 19,784 ft.; 'Yarigatake' (an unofficial name), 19,029 ft.; all these were

⁴ See also 'Peruvian Notes' elsewhere in this issue.—EDITOR.

⁵ In 1954 the Austrians S. Aeberli, W. Gruber, H. Klier and W. Mariner attempted Tsacra Grande but because of the gigantic cornices, often 100 ft. high, on the summit ridge were compelled to turn back before reaching the actual summit. See *The Mountain World*, 1955, p. 174 and *Cordillera Huayhuash* (H. Kinzl and others) p. XXI. Neither account gives any estimate of the height of the highest point reached, nor of its distance from the summit.

first ascents and they also made the second ascent of the main peak of Chachacomani.

They made other ascents in the northern section of the range, including that of Ancohuma, and climbed the virgin unnamed peak between Illampu and Ancohuma, which the Chileans had named Huayna Illampu, 19,870 ft. On their way out of Bolivia they also made the fifth (?) ascent of the volcano Sajama.

ARGENTINA.—In Central Argentina the highest peak of the Tres Mogotes group (18,000–19,000 ft.) was climbed in January, 1964, by three Argentinians who named it Nevado Excelsior. In the Enanos group, just south of the Tres Mogotes, five other climbers made the first ascents of Pico Boyan, 17,717 ft., Pico Elmer, 18,045 ft., and Pico Dopa, 17,061 ft.

Mr. R. N. Gallop notified me of these ascents in Central Argentine and in the course of his letter wrote: 'I saw a very interesting article in the magazine *Leoplán* the other day. It appears that El Toro, 20,953 ft., in the San Juan province, was climbed for the first time (in modern times) on January 25, 1964, by one Enrico Groch who found the frozen body of an Indian from Inca times on the summit, wearing only a breech cloth, with a nasty wound in the back of the neck (assassinated?). A second expedition was sent from Mendoza, which climbed the mountain and brought down the body.'

EVELIO ECHEVARRIA C.

ANTARCTICA.—The first ascent of the highest peak of Mount Paget, 9,625 ft., the highest mountain in South Georgia, was made on December 30, 1964, by Lieutenant S. H. Down, Sergeant T. J. Lynch, and Senior Aircraftman J. R. Chester, members of the Combined Services expedition to the Antarctic.

The route followed was that of the 1960 expedition which made the first ascent of the slightly lower West peak (*A. J.* 67. 226).

As we go to press newspaper reports state that the first ascent of Big Ben, Heard Island, was made on January 25 by five members of an Australian expedition led by Major Warwick Deacock. No other details are at present available.⁶

NORTH BORNEO.—The North face of Kinabalu (13,455 ft.) has been climbed for the first time by three members of a six-man party of Royal Marines. This face is described as 'a 6,000 ft. sheer granite wall'.

KILIMANJARO: MAWENZI, East face.—The first ascent of this 5,000 ft. face by two R.A.F. climbers, Flight-Lieutenant J. Edwards and Corporal W. Thomson, is reported. No details have been received, but according to press reports the climb began at 6.30 a.m. on October

⁶ See *A. J.* 68. 300.

24, 1964, and took more than fifty hours. Two bivouacs were involved, both said to have been spent standing up and tied to pitons.

TIBESTI MOUNTAINS.—At the end of December, 1963, an expedition under Guido Monzino went to the western part of this range and climbed a peak in the massif of the Aiguilles de Sissé; although only rising less than 800 ft. above ground level the ascent proved very difficult and required five hours.

GREENLAND.—The Italian Greenland expedition of 1964, led by Guido Monzino of Milan, visited the Staunings Alps on the east coast of Greenland. In 1963 Monzino led another expedition to the same region and visited the area of the Bersaerkerbrae (see *A. J.* 69. 128). Last year the aim of the expedition was the Viking glacier and the surrounding area on the Alpefjord side of the range. The expedition flew to Reykjavik, Iceland, and thence to Mesters Vig, where there is a small Danish meteorological station. A week was spent here waiting for the ice in Kong Oscar's fjord to break up.

The expedition then sailed to Alpefjord in small inflatable boats with outboard motors. A base camp was placed near the snout of the Vikingebrae. From a higher camp on this glacier ascents were made of two interesting rock peaks, *c.* 7,500 ft., never previously climbed. After these climbs a second camp was placed on the upper plateau of the Vikingebrae and from here the Italians climbed Dansketinden, 9,613 ft., the highest peak of the Staunings Alps, climbed only once before by three Swiss mountaineers in 1954. During the following days the weather changed for the worse and the expedition sailed back to Mesters Vig under great difficulties because of the weather and sea conditions.

PIETRO MECIANO.

TASMANIA.—During a break in the summer snowstorms a notable ascent was achieved in the mountains of Western Tasmania. On January 7, B. Allen, President of the Sydney Rock Climbing Club, and J. Pettigrew made the first ascent of the South face of Frenchman's Cap.⁷ Five parties, including one British, are said to have made unsuccessful attempts on this face. Allen expressed the opinion that the 1,500 ft. of cliff rising to the summit presented problems as difficult as any to be found in Britain.

ELBURZ MOUNTAINS

TAKHT-I-SULEIMAN. May 17–18, 1964. S. E. P. Nowill, Miss Esme Speakman, Miss Ann Kerr. We started up a steep avalanche cone at

⁷ 'Frenchman's Cap is a striking peak of 4,700 ft., its bonnet set at a rakish angle, and unless its outline is deceptive there ought to be some abrupt routes up the final cone.' *A. J.* 51. 256.

the foot of the South-east face, then crossed a shallow gully. Continued across a barely defined rib and a second shallow gully (exposed) onto the South ridge and by this to the summit. Crampons were used up to the ridge. The ridge is barely more than a walk. Though marked on the map lent to me as 4,880 m. we deduced the height as 4,650 m. by reading off the average of two Thommen double dial altimeters (set up at Rudbaran village), and making a slight upward adjustment for higher temperature in accordance with the book of tables. The altimeters gave an average reading of 4,600 m. at the top, uncompensated for temperature.⁸

S. E. P. NOWILL.

TAURUS MOUNTAINS

DEMIRKAZIK, 3,726 m., June 5, 1964. Same party with Mrs. Hilary Nowill.

The Hodgkin-Peck route was used for both the ascent and descent. Initially climbing with my wife, we joined up with the others at the start of the main difficulties, and I led the combined party during a nine-hour period. Due to climbing four on a rope from the V-notch upwards, the last 130 m. took four hours on the ascent and five hours coming down. The waterfall pitch was ice and was climbed in crampons. Two rock pitons were used. Our main difficulties were caused by iced-up rocks and a storm on the descent. In dry conditions there are no serious difficulties.

S. E. P. NOWILL.

In June, 1964, a party of thirty-two mountaineers from Northern Ireland visited the Taurus mountains of South-east Turkey. We carried out a systematic survey of the area, measured the heights of all the main peaks and made a detailed map. Also a collection of nearly one thousand plants growing between 8,000 and 13,000 ft. was made, as well as daily meteorological observations.

The Taurus range lies 120 miles north-east of Adana, the principal town in south-east Turkey, and occupies an area of about 200 square miles. It is composed of formidable reddish limestone peaks of Dolomite proportions, as well as having considerable snow and ice climbing early in the season. The peaks rise from the Anatolian plateau to a height of over 13,000 ft. There are no glaciers, but plenty of snow-fields, which shrink considerably by August.

The expedition, as well as carrying out its scientific programme, climbed about twenty major peaks. These included: Ala Dağ, North-west ridge; Kucuk Demirkazik, South-east face; Esnevit, West ridge;

⁸ The first recorded ascent of Takht-i-Suleiman was made by L. Steinauer in 1936. The height has been accurately surveyed by H. Bobek at 4,619 m. (15,154 ft.).

Kayacik Basi, South-west ridge; Yildiz Basi, South-east ridge; Demirkazik, South-east ridge; Directas, South-east face; Emli Basi, South-east ridge and traverse; Alaca Basi, West face; Kizilkaya and Cebel Basi. All these peaks are over 12,000 ft., but varied in severity from Kucuk Demirkazik, needing étriers by the route done, to Emli Basi, which is an easy climb. There is unlimited opportunity, and even a replica of the Eiger North wall in the 2,500 ft. North face of Demirkazik. The climate is quite severe and by July midday temperatures were over 100°F. Also available water supplies begin to dry up, or the few remaining ones get contaminated by the herds of sheep and goats.

The main centre for the area is Camardi on the western edge of the mountains. It is at an altitude of about 5,000 ft. and has approximately 2,500 inhabitants. Here, one can buy bread, wine, fresh fruit and vegetables as well as poor quality paraffin. One man, Mehmet Donmez, who has a shop with his name on it in the main street, speaks good English and will arrange for the hire of mules and donkeys (£1 per day each).

This area has seldom been visited by Europeans, there being three visits up to 1942. E. H. Peck, who was on the staff of the British Embassy at Ankara, visited the area about this time and a record of one of his expeditions by R. A. Hodgkin appears in *A. J.* 54. 235. Hodgkin's map is quite good for the northern half, but is inaccurate for the southern Kaldi Dağ range of mountains. Confusion over the names of the various peaks adds to the difficulty.

Since the second world war the area has increased in popularity and an Austrian expedition in 1952 made a survey of the area, climbing several of the major peaks. Recently visits have been made by the R.A.F. mountain rescue group from Cyprus led by Peter Addis and by Sidney Nowill (A.C.). There is, however, still a profusion of interesting climbs of all grades of severity waiting for the experienced mountaineer, as well as some possibly virgin peaks in the south-east around Torasan Dağ.

J. H. ELWOOD.

THE ALPS

Mont Blanc massif

AIGUILLE DE LESCHAUX, South-west arête (intégrale, from the Leschaux glacier).⁹ July 18, 1964. J. Brown and T. W. Patey; C. J. S. Bonington and R. Ford. First ascent. D.Sup. 650 m. (Another British party, Barry Cliff and friend, who made the second ascent a week later, also descended by the same route.)

⁹ Brief details of the two routes described by Dr. Patey appeared in *A. J.* 69. 278-9.

It is rather extraordinary that this fine route was not climbed years ago. Reference to the diagram on p. 382 of the Vallot Guide, vol. 2, shows an obvious unexplored section on the right-hand border of the West face. The apparent ridge shown on the sketch is, however, somewhat of an illusion, the true line of the South-west arête lying to the right of this, parallel to and alongside the unclimbed ice-couloir running up to the Col des Petites Jorasses. The easy upper part of the arête which is skylined above the col had, of course, been followed by earlier parties who traversed across onto it from the col, but no previous attempt had been made, as far as is known, to climb the ridge proper from the Leschaux glacier.

Thus completed the South-west arête provides an excellent route, perhaps the most satisfactory way of gaining the summit of the Aiguille de Leschaux from the French side. Rock is excellent, the climbing exposed and free, and objective danger virtually absent. This is in marked contrast to the *voie normale* on the West face which we descended. Indeed, despite the slightly greater technical difficulties involved, the South-west arête perhaps deserves to become the standard route of access from France.

We avoided the bottom slabs by traversing across rightwards from the initial éperon of the *voie normale*, but the direct start is probably climbable. Then 150 m. of grade III and IV climbing, where the holds were so good that we were able to continue unroped despite the flattering exposure. Above a slight shoulder the angle steepens slightly and the crux of the route is reached in the form of a long, formidable looking dièdre. About 30 ft. up the dièdre a piton (meantime in position) marks the point where a short tension traverse to the left round a corner (V, but well protected) allows an unexpected escape from the dièdre onto easier ground. A steep face of 30 m. (IV Sup.) and a long chimney gully then lead up to the easy upper continuation of the arête.

T. W. PATEY.

POINTE MIGOT, North Éperon. July 22, 1964. J. Brown and T. W. Patey; C. J. S. Bonington and R. Ford. First ascent. Six hours.

Five hundred m., sustained T.D., 'dans une ambiance Face Nord' (as the Vallot Guide would say). The route follows the obvious, and indeed only line up the éperon (which lies between the giant lower icefall of the North glacier of the Plan, and the North face of the Aiguille des Pèlerins). Like the last named route, it is often heavily iced up and in these conditions a very serious climb, but unlike the Pèlerins route it follows a well-defined line throughout and there is little objective danger from falling debris. The route may be dissected into three sections:

1. From the glacier de Blaitière a chimney couloir of 150 m. well to the left of the main couloir used by the Pèlerins route. Pitches of IV, after a strenuous first pitch (V sup.—2 pitons).
2. A triangular snow patch marks the start of the prominent 'rampe-dièdre' which cuts diagonally leftwards across the blank wall for fully 150 m. Five long pitches, each of grade V and providing interesting and continuously difficult climbing amid most impressive scenery.
3. This leads to the upper part of the éperon alongside the couloir which ascends from the Plan hanging glacier to the Col Supérieur des Pèlerins. Climb the left flank of the éperon for 90 m. (pitches of IV and IV sup.) before breaking back onto the backbone of the éperon, which is then followed directly to the top of the Pointe Migot.

On the second ascent of this route later in July D. Haston and G. Jarvis reached the triangular snow patch by traversing across from the couloir of the North face of the Pèlerins, but this involved three pitches of VI.

In spite of some loose rock on the lower half of the climb, this route deserves to become popular with British parties. Route finding should present few difficulties, and it is perhaps one of the most serious routes in the area that one can include in a single day up and down from Chamonix.

T. W. PATEY.

Bernese Oberland

EIGER.—The second ascent of the South-east face is reported to have been made last summer by a Swiss pair, A. Schelbert and G. Steiger. The first ascent was made by a German party in 1937. See *A. J.* 49. 269.

FINSTERAARHORN.—North-east face. We notice in the *A.B.M.S.A.C. Journal* for 1965 (p. 39) that this great face was climbed last summer by J. O. Talbot and Martin Epp. The approach was made from the Ober Studerjoch, reached in two hours from the Oberaarjoch hut. The time taken on the face was twelve hours, and it proved very cold with extremely rotten rock. There was constant heavy stone-fall. The date of this ascent was July 29, 1964.

KLEIN WELLHORN, South-east face.¹⁰ This imposing wall of the Wellhorn (2,701 m.), an outlier of the Wetterhörner on the west side of the Rosenlauri glacier, faces the Engelhorn group.

It was first climbed by Ernst Reiss and a companion in 1950, after

¹⁰ See illustrations, nos. 47, 48.

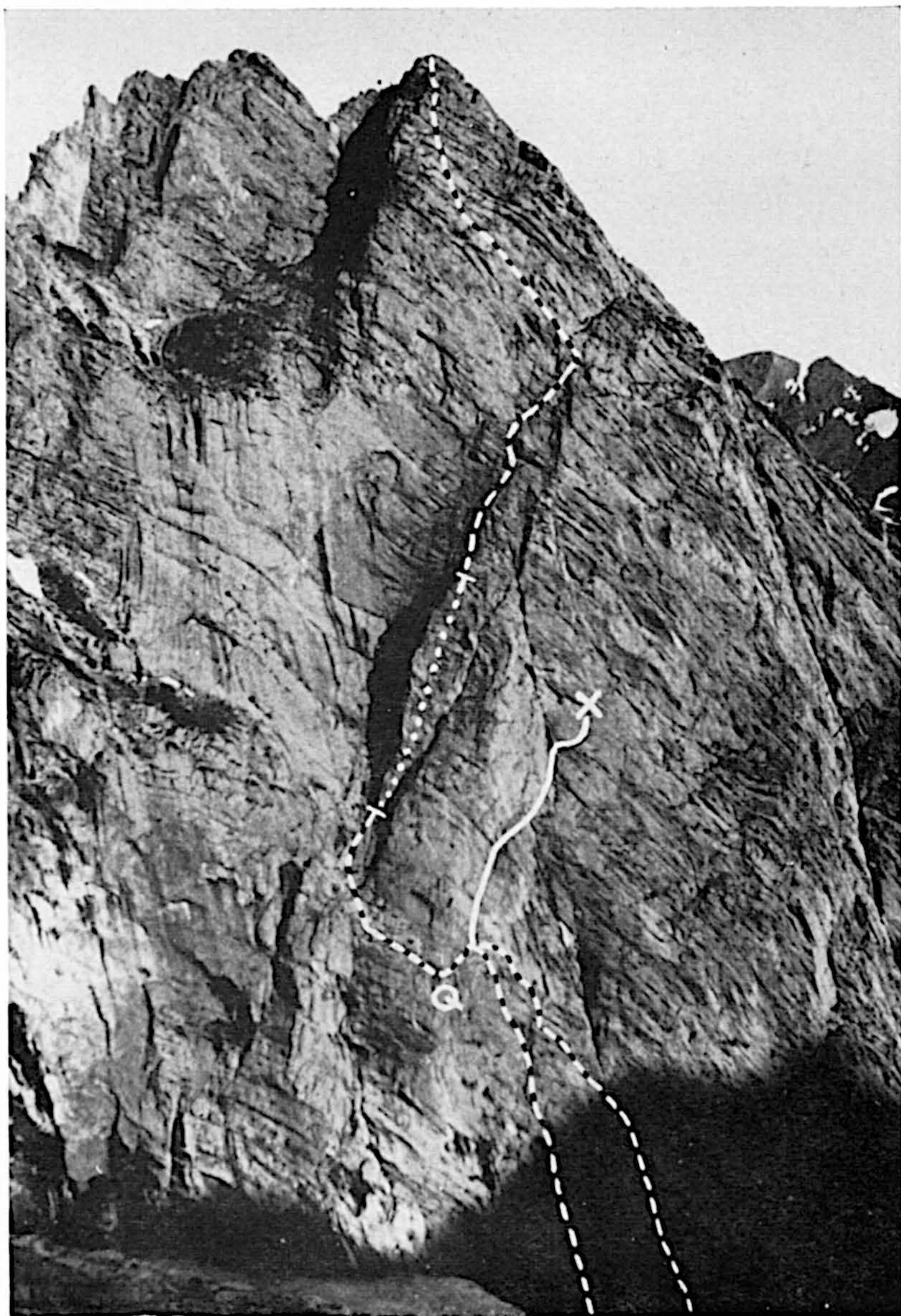


Photo: Ernst Reiss]

KLEIN WELLHORN, SOUTH-EAST FACE. THE ROUTE OF ASCENT STARTS (OUT OF THE PICTURE) BOTTOM RIGHT. THE LINES OF ANOTHER START AND OF AN ABORTIVE ATTEMPT ON THE FACE ARE ALSO SHOWN.

(No. 47)

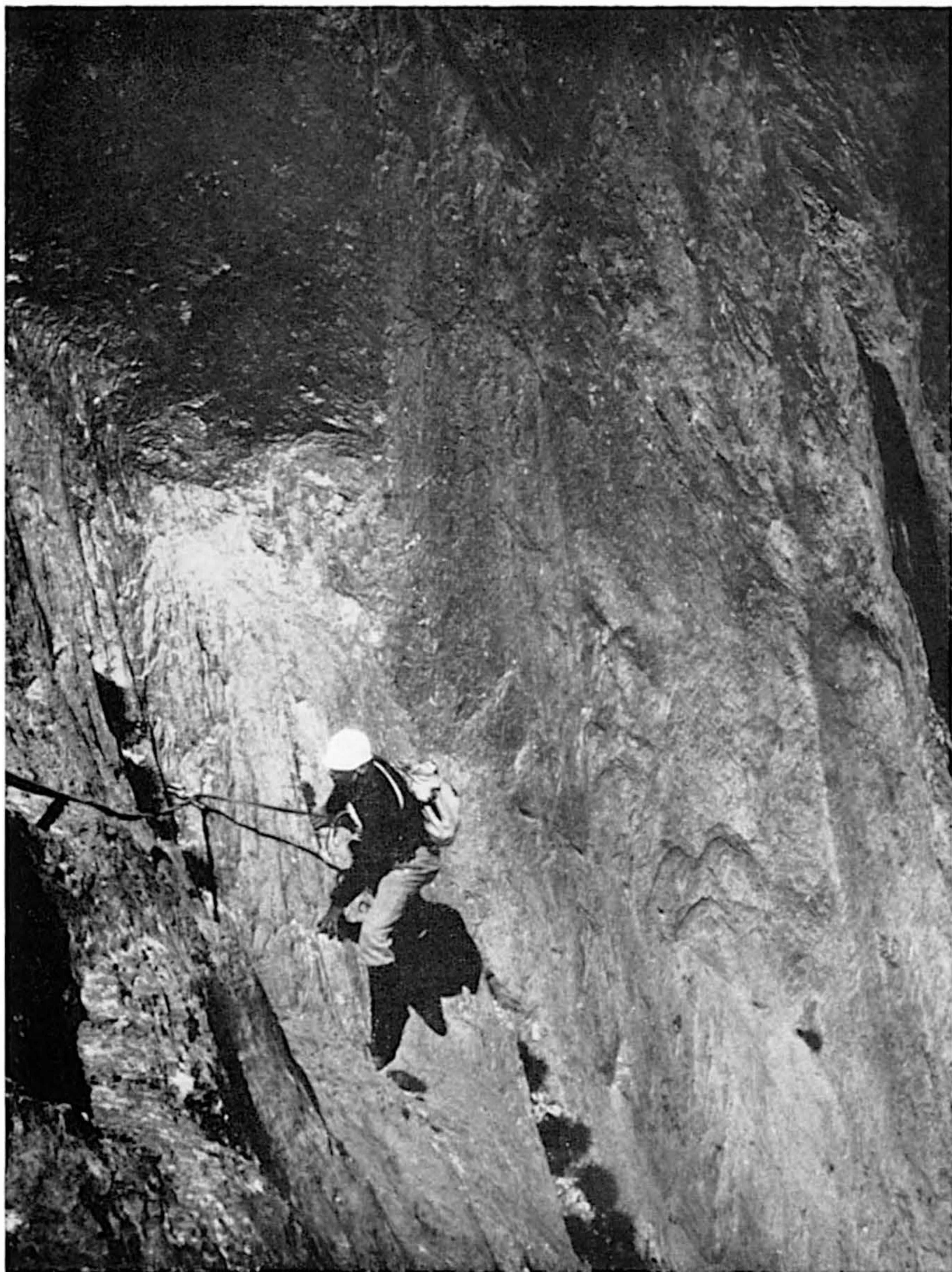


Photo: Sir John Hunt]

KLEIN WELLHORN, SOUTH-EAST FACE. ALBERT EGGER AT THE TOP OF THE GREAT SLAB,
ON THE FIRST SECTION OF THE ROUTE.

(No. 48)

a number of previous attempts by Reiss; Ernst Feuz, Secretary of the S.S.A.F., had also tried to force a route in the 1940's.

The wall rises 700 m. from the ice-scoured glaciis at the edge of the glacier. It is graded as 'aüusserst schwierig' in the 1955 edition of the S.A.C. guide-book to the Oberland, volume V; but I would estimate the standard today, in French terminology, as 'T.D.' rather than its grading as 'E.D.'.

A main feature of the wall is a huge pillar at mid-height, flanked on its left side by a deep runnel, which continues as a rake beyond the top of the pillar towards the East ridge of the mountain. This runnel is not continuous from the screes and it appears impossible to reach directly from below; but it is the key to the climb.

The route falls naturally into three sections:

- (i) From the foot of the cliff at a point approximately in the direct line of the summit, a narrow and exceedingly steep slab, flanked on its right side by the overhanging wall of the main face, leads upwards for about 150 m.; it is very reminiscent of Longland's climb on Clogwyn du'r Arddu. The exit is on the left, where a series of ascending traverses on the vertical face lead to a remarkable concave slab of smooth, compact limestone. This is climbed, without great difficulty when the rock is dry, but with extreme exposure, towards the left-hand top corner, whence a dramatic traverse brings the climber onto the front of the great pillar. This is descended by an abseil of 40 m. From the point reached it is then possible to traverse further round the pillar by ascending ledges, to reach the shelter of the runnel.

All this section is extremely steep and exposed, with several passages of V. (*c.* 300 m.).

- (ii) Via the runnel and out onto the pillar to its top. This is easier going (III and IV), with some poor rock on the upper face of the pillar (*c.* 200 m.).
- (iii) From the pinnacle to the summit. Straight up a kind of pent-house roof to the foot of the vertical summit rocks, where a deep, tunnel-like cave houses the 'summit book'; it would make an excellent shelter for three people in emergency. From the cave to the top the route traverses away right-handed beneath the vertical cliff, still on very steep ground (III and IV), until another rake or groove, running upwards from the right, leads up to the North-east ridge close to the top. It is easy but the rock is poor (*c.* 200 m.).

Our party on August 25, 1964, consisted of Ernst Reiss, Albert Eggler (both of the 1956 Everest Expedition), Werner Munter of the

Akademischer Alpen Club, Bern, and myself. Leaving the Broch hut at 7 a.m. in magnificent weather, we roped at the foot of the face at 9 a.m. and, climbing in two pairs, reached the top at 6 p.m. The first section required $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours. We descended shortly afterwards by the East ridge and North face, arriving at Rosenlauri in darkness at 8.30 p.m.

I found the climb one of the finest rock routes I have done.

JOHN HUNT.

NORWAY.—LOFOTEN ISLANDS, Moskenesoy. A party consisting of J. Mustoe, G. Somerville (N.Z.A.C.), B. Warner and J. Scott travelled to Moskenesoy seven hundred miles direct from the north coast of Scotland in a 25-ft. sloop in the summer of 1964. The outward journey took twelve days, the homeward journey eighteen (in poor conditions).

The party did not use an ice-axe, but pitons were used a great deal for belays and abseils on the face climbs, which tended to be smooth. The following first ascents were made:

GJERTIND (837 m.). Complete traverse, south to north. June 20, 1964. Warner, Scott, S. H. Ellingsen. An airy ridge with a 130-ft. abseil into a cleft, followed by some steep pitches on the second peak (IV).

OLSTIND (680 m.), North-east face. June 23, 1964. Mustoe, Somerville, Warner, Scott. The route followed was a fault bisecting the smooth face; 1,100 ft.; IV.

South-west face. July 2, 1964. Somerville, Warner, Scott. 400 ft. of open slabs to a ledge (III). Then, to the left of a black hump, a line of slabs and grooves gave 750 ft. of climbing (IV and V).

ERTENHELLTIND-HERMANDALSTIND, traverse. July 11, 1964. Somerville, Warner, Scott. A long, rotten ridge, falling into the Arctic sea 3,000-4,000 ft. below.

Climbs near Refsvik:

HELLAGER (393 m.), North face. July 7, 1964. Somerville, Warner, Scott. A buttress rising out of the sea to the west of Cathedral cave leads to the summit. 900 ft. of sustained IV, with two pitches of V through the overhangs.

POINT 607 M., West ridge. July 8, 1964. Somerville, Warner, Scott. This consists of four pinnacles with a descent between each; pitches of IV on the first and third pinnacles.

No times are given for these routes, as the sun never sets and time is immaterial. The party tried to climb south faces in the day, north faces at night.

J. SCOTT.