

for exploration combined with all that *flair* and courage entail, finally his gift in dangerous situations of rallying the powers and courage of demoralised or scared companions.

The following is a list of his principal expeditions with Sir Seymour King: Eigerhörnli from the N. (1887); Gspaltenhorn; Jungfrau by the Rotbrett-Silberhorn (September 23, 1887); Kingspitze (Engelhoerner); Aiguille Blanche de Péteret (July 31, 1885: Supersaxo *led*); Mont Collon, E. face; Bouquetins (N. to Central Summits); Ober Mominghorn (1886).

Other first ascents or new routes include; Tête du Lion (N. face with J. H. Wicks and not since repeated, August 7, 1881); Fletschhorn by W. face; Laquinhorn, W. face and S. arête with Herbert Speyer (1898); Sonnighorn, W. arête; Egginer, N. arête; Strahlhorn, N.W. arête; Rimpfischhorn, N. arête; Stellihorn, E. arête, near Col d'Antrona; Lenzspitze, E. arête and descent by W. face (1882 with W. W. Graham), also new routes by W. arête and W. flank (1888 with R. F. Ball); Matterhorn by Matterhorn Glacier and Z'mutt arête; Cinque Torri in Dolomites, etc.

It would be superfluous to add a word or the name of a peak to this list. It speaks for itself to the extent of the loss suffered by the pastime of mountaineering through Ambros Supersaxo's death. I regret that to my unworthy pen has fallen the duty of sketching the career of this great guide; at the same time I am grateful to the editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL for the privilege he has granted me. I express also my thanks to Oscar Supersaxo for the details he has kindly provided.

E. R. B.

[Sir H. Seymour King writes:—'I would gladly comply with your request if I felt competent, but it is 32 years since I was last in Switzerland and saw Ambros; time has worked its wicked will and my memory is not what it was. Also, I have lost all my notes of the 20 happy years I spent in his company. He was a great mountaineer and fearless climber, but I do not feel I could now do justice to him. . . . I am over 80 and must ask you very regretfully to excuse my doing more.']

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

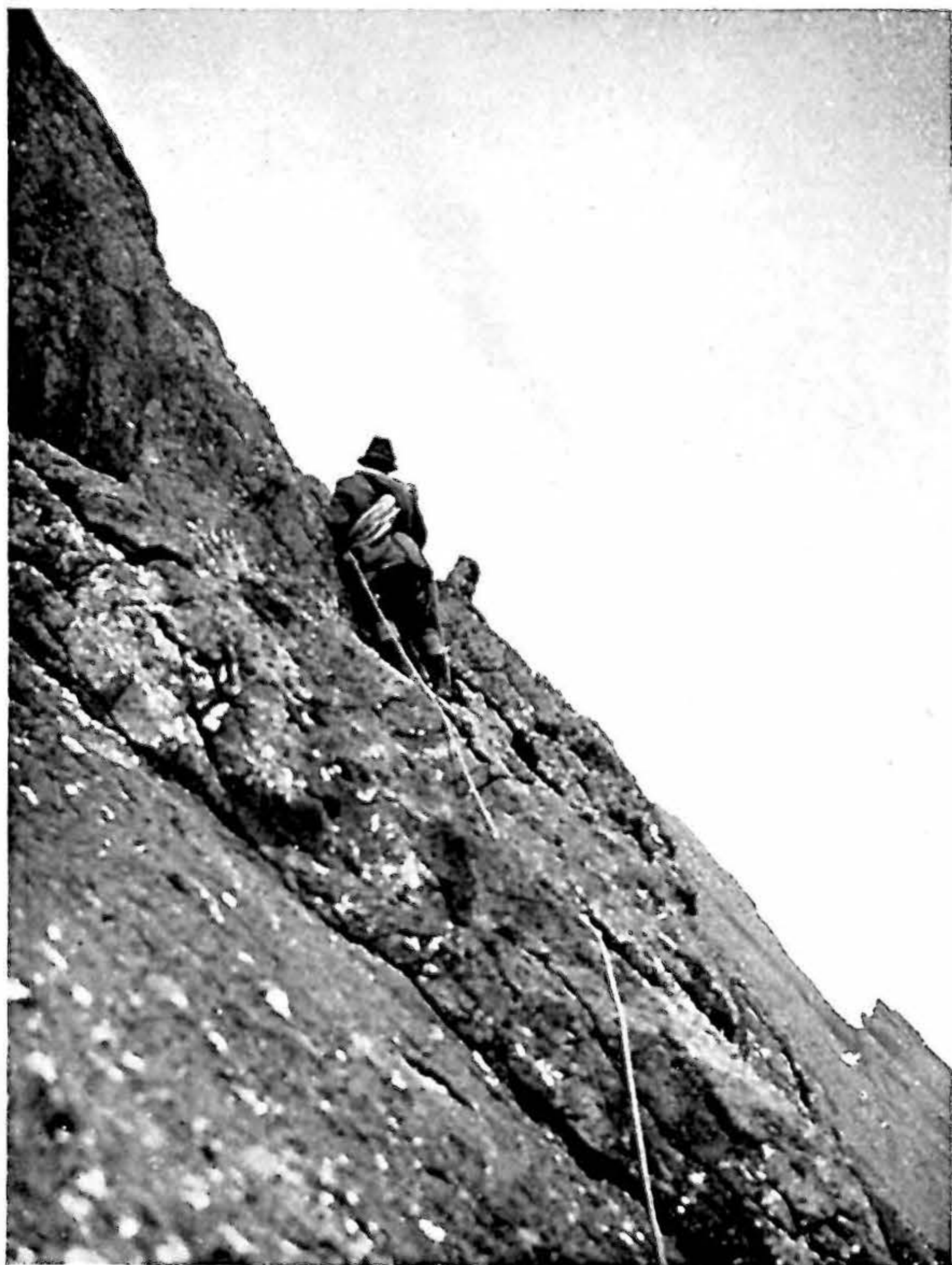
Dauphiné.

AIGUILLE MÉRIDIONALE D'ARVES, 3514 m. = 11,529 ft. (3510 m., *Helbronner*.) By the W. face. July 11, 1932. Messrs. J. L. Longland and Peter Lloyd.

In 1928 Mr. L. R. Wager and the writer made an attempt to climb this very steep face by the well-marked central rock couloir which splays out directly under, and some 600 ft. below, the actual

summit. After reaching the top of the left branch of this couloir (the right branch ending in a large overhang), the leader was defeated by smooth and very steep rocks leading to the abrupt amphitheatre from which the summital mass rises, and the party returned after climbing some two-thirds of the total height of the W. face.

On July 8, 9 and 10, 1932, bad weather prevented any adequate further reconnaissance, only occasional glimpses of the peaks being seen. We slept at the Rieu Blanc chalets on July 10, and set off for the Col Lombard at 05.30 the next morning. From the col, reached shortly before 08.00, a slightly ascending northward traverse on shale slopes led to the base of the W. face of the S. peak. Owing to lack of detailed reconnaissance the main central couloir was not attained, but a route was made over easy slabs of rotten rock to the foot of a couloir lying some 40 yds. to the right, S.W., of the central couloir. The steep and extremely rotten rocks of the couloir, or its banks, were followed until it gave out on a small shoulder. Here we were cut off from the central couloir, and also from an impossible-looking intermediate gully, by a vertical and at times overhanging wall to the N. We were therefore forced out diagonally to the right, S., up difficult slabs, above which an overhanging corner of untrustworthy rock, directly above the sheer cliffs of the S.W. face, caused some trouble. Steep but easier rocks, still trending to the right, led to a small bay, overhung on its right, but with a diagonal crack leading up to the left. This was climbed for about 40 ft., and left for the slab on its right. This slab proved very delicate, and the leader had to remove his boots half-way up, and afterwards drive in a piton at the top to safeguard the party. Direct progress was again barred by overhangs, so we worked up an exposed little corner to the right, by a hand traverse and swing up. This landed us, much to our surprise, on the S. face, high up on the edge of the 'plan incliné descendant vers le Cirque Lombard' (Gaillard), and about 150 ft. below the point where it ends in a broad ledge immediately under the vertical summit rocks of the S. face. Easy scrambling up the edge between this inclined plane and the abrupt wall of the W. face led us to this broad ledge. Here I remembered a note of M. Paul Montandon in 'A.J.' 40, 402: to quote, 'I wonder that no one has ever tried or inspected a route which would lead over the big horizontal ledge across the S. face, on to the S.W. or W. face, where the rocks leading to the summit seem to be broken and the inclination not over steep.' On this occasion we determined to take M. Montandon's hint, and 'have a peep at the rocks round its corner.' The easy ledge at once narrowed down to a narrow shelf, but 80 ft. or so of difficult horizontal traverse led us back again on to the W. face, to a triangular niche at the foot of an imposing chimney. This chimney was followed for 150 ft., and led us still further out on to the W. face, as it sloped considerably to the left. It proved very difficult owing to



Photo, J. L. Longland.]

START OF THE 'CORRA' AND 'RODET' VARIATIONS TO THE MAUVAIS PAS (S. AIG. D'ARVES).



Photo, J. L. Longland.]

ROPING DOWN THE MAUVAIS PAS, S. AIG. D'ARVES.
(Safeguarding belay, with loop of rope on it, can be seen just to right of Wager's knee.)

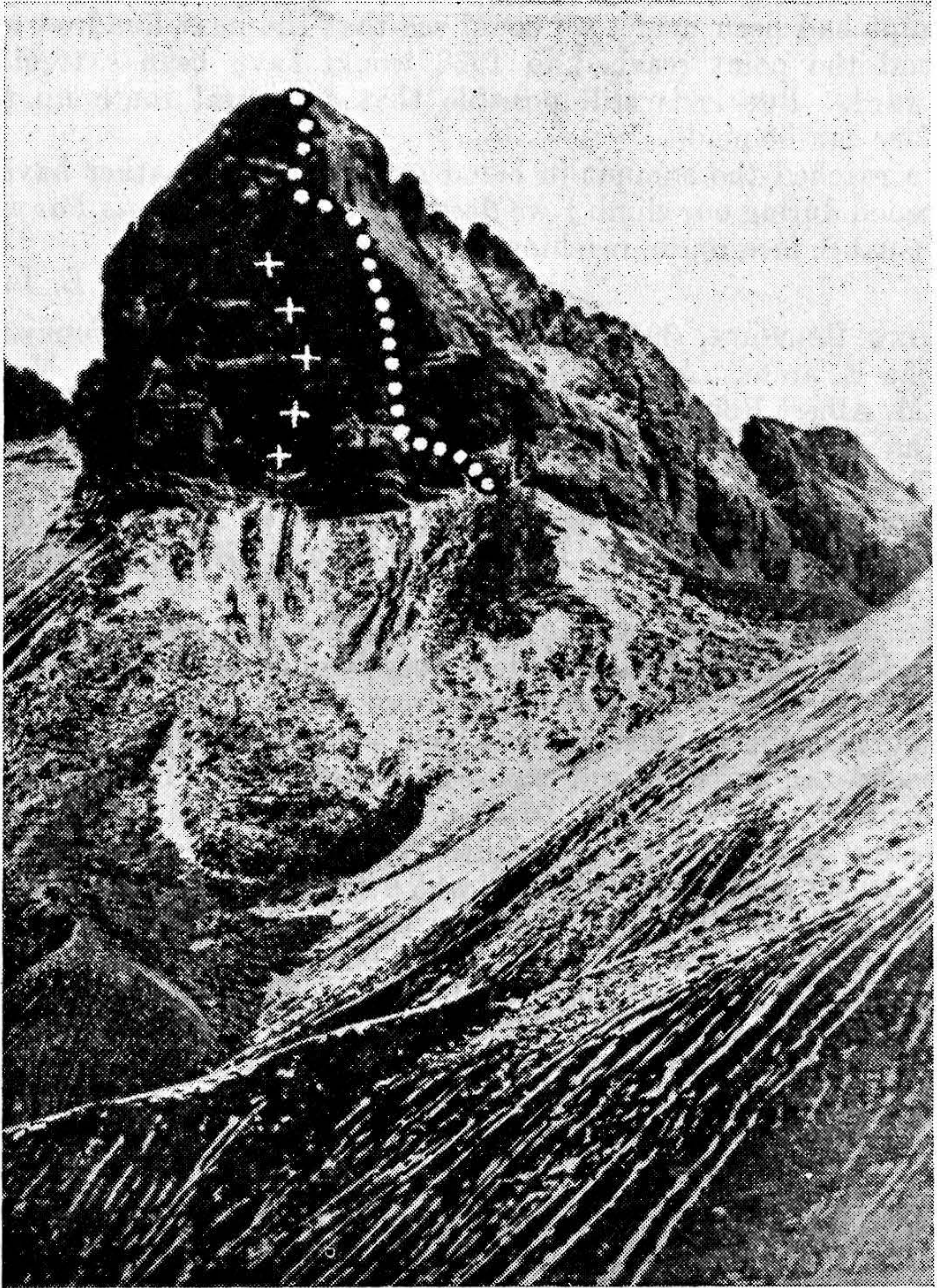
[To face p. 304.]



Photographer unknown]

LE SIRAC, N. FACE, FROM COL GIOBERNEY.

a continuously overhanging right wall, and a quantity of ice in the bed and on the slab forming its left wall. The leader had again to



Photo, J. L. Longland.]

W. FACE OF SOUTHERN AIGUILLE D'ARVES.

1928 attempt + + + +
1932 route

climb without boots. The chimney was eventually abandoned by an awkward traverse, still to the left, up the slabs of its left wall. From the point reached above the chimney the angle eased off rapidly and pleasant scrambling directly up an ill-marked S.W. arête led to the summit cairn, 11.55.

The climb was somewhat marred in its lower section by loose rock at steep angles, but the upper part is beautifully sound, steep rock. Looking down on the *central* couloir up which the 1928 attempt had been made, we could see that the next hundred feet beyond the point reached in 1928 would have been extremely awkward. But it is still possible that a central route up the W. face can be made.

We reached the summit in cloud and rain, the weather having worsened during our climb; we descended by the *Mauvais Pas* and the usual S. face route, reaching La Grave in the evening.

J. L. L.

MONT PELVOUX, 3954 m. = 12,973 ft. (3946 m., *Helbronner*). By the E. arête. August 9, 1932. M. and Madame J. A. Morin and M. Albert Roux.

[The E. (strictly E.S.E.) arête of Mt. Pelvoux separates the St. Pierre and Celse Nière glens. It commences at a height of 2300 m. in the wall over against the chalets of Ailefroide. This ridge to its junction with the Petit Pelvoux, 3762 m., is nearly 2 kilometres long with a rise of some 4000 ft.]

The above party, starting at 04.15 from the Lemercier hut, *descended* at first and then made a very long traverse to the E. in order to turn some buttresses and cross a broad ravine. During the course of this traverse, a rocky boss, some 300 ft. high, had to be *descended*—an awkward and exposed piece of work. The arête was attained at a snowy notch, 07.35–08.00, near the base of a lofty rock-step some 1000 ft. in height. This was scaled by a rocky gully, badly defined at first, but which higher up passes between two reddish rock bulges visible from the notch. Above the arête thins out once more: its crest was followed to a second snowy notch, 10.20–10.55, abutting at the base of a great square-cut tower, forming almost a separate peak—*la Tour Grise*.

Opposite the party were now the E. and N. faces of the tower, both perpendicular and of evil appearance. To the right, N., a ledge some 160 ft. long covered with a steep snow edge or slope afforded a very exposed traverse. At its end the party was forced to tackle the vertical wall. First scrambling up a very difficult slab and chimney, they contrived to reach a rocky gully descending from the arête and which splays out lower down into overhangs. By this vertical and much glazed couloir, they attained by a very difficult and exposed climb the top of *la Tour Grise*, some 280 ft. above the ledge. Thence to the gap W. of the tower, from which they climbed the following double tooth by an exposed scramble up rotten rocks. They now turned, to the S., two other gendarmes, whence good rocks led them to the last gap below the face or wall of the Petit Pelvoux, 15.05–15.35. Bearing now a little to the right, N., the party crossed the margin of a great icy recess opening out between this spot and the Trois Dents, then bore straight upwards towards the Petit Pelvoux, over very steep and difficult ice slopes covered

with incoherent snow alternating with glazed rocky outcrops, to the top of that peak, 17.45. Leaving at 17.55, Pointe Puiseux, 3954 m., was attained at 18.40. Descent by the Sans Nom Glacier, darkness preventing the Lemercier hut being attained before 23.30.

Weather magnificent. It appears that the route is quite new; some years ago it was tried, but given up for want of time, by a party led by the guide Pierre Engilberge. He most kindly gave me details in order to let me try in my turn. This aerial climb with superb views is certainly one to be recommended. The easy descent was unknown to us and the delay arose from losing our candles.

J. A. M.

LE SIRAC, 3438 m. = 11,280 ft. By the N. face. July 17, 1932. Messrs. Peter Lloyd and J. L. Longland.

On July 16 we took advantage of occasional cloud breaks to plan a route which should lead as directly as possible up the N. wall of the peak straight to the final summit, which lies at the eastern end of the long E.-W. summit ridge. One of us had already examined the face several seasons before from Les Bans, when its feasibility became at once apparent, and the writer is also much indebted to Dr. Wilson and Colonel Strutt for their information about the face.

Next day the route planned on the 16th was followed almost without deviation. We left the very pleasant Xavier Blanc chalet refuge at 03.10, and followed the Col de Vallonpierre route, crossing the torrent descending from the Signal de Vallonclos, and then traversing horizontally to the E., when still some half-hour below the Lac de Vallonpierre, along the rhododendron-clad slopes at the foot of the N. wall of the Sirac. The base of the most westerly of the well-marked rock ribs descending from the N. face low down into the valley was turned on the left, and easy snow slopes climbed until this rock rib to the W. became low enough to be easy of access. Pleasant scrambling up this now ill-defined rib led in a couple of hundred feet to the much steeper snow field which supports the steep upper rock face, immediately under the final summit. The base of the western section of this snow field (separated by a small rock rib from the larger eastern portion) can be reached either by circumventing a steep little rock wall on the E., or by climbing the wall direct, with considerable difficulty. Several hundred feet of step-cutting in hard snow then led us to the final rock wall. Very pleasant climbing, with occasional difficult steps, up the extreme W. edge of the N. face led to a N.N.W. arête bounding on the W. the steep final snow patch of the face. This ridge led direct to the summit cairn, reached at 09.45.

This is the first direct route to the main summit up the long N. face. Monsieur V. Cordier, in 1911, succeeded in climbing the N. wall at its easterly end, reaching the main summital ridge at a notch between the two easternmost gendarmes, and thereafter traversing the entire E. ridge to gain the summit. The 1932 route is straight-

forward, pleasant snow work in its lower sections, and very sound rock above. It can also be recommended as the most direct and



N. FACE OF SIRAC FROM SUMMIT OF LES BANS.

--- Route of M. V. Cordier, July 17, 1911.

.... 1932 route.

shortest route up Le Sirac from Valgaudemar. A party using crampons could materially reduce our times.

We left the top soon after 11.00 and descended in cloud by more or less the Coolidge route of descent in 1877, gaining the couloir running from the S.W. ridge fairly low down, and glissading it to the glacier that lies to the W. of the peak.

J. L. L.

Mont Blanc Group.

AIGUILLE NOIRE DE PÉTERET, 3780 m. = 12,402 ft. By the S.E. face. September 3, 1932. Signori H. Crétier and B. Olliatti. From Refuge de la Noire (Fauteuil des Allemands). Height of face 1050 m.—falling stones all the way—time taken, 9½ hours exclusive of halts—difficult climb. Account will be published in the next number.

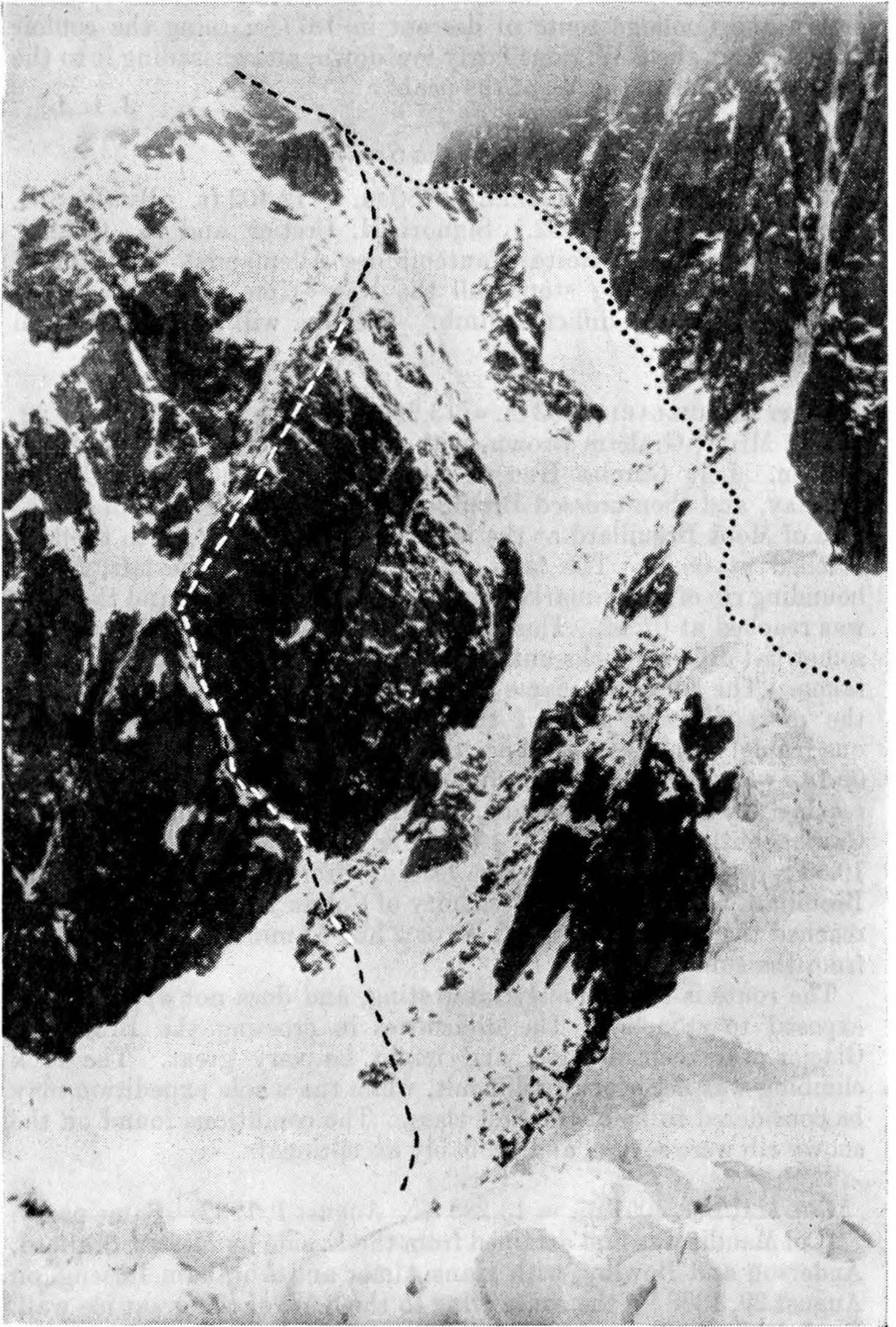
MONT BROUILLARD, 4053 m. = 13,298 ft. By the E. face. July 22, 1932. Mr. T. Graham Brown, with Joseph Knubel and Alexander Graven. Left Gamba Hut at 04.13. Ascended toward Col du Fresnay, and then crossed Brouillard Glacier to the base of the E. face of Mont Brouillard at the foot of a fault sloping up to the left, reached at 06.50. The fault was ascended until the left, N.W., bounding rib of a well-marked couloir (running up N.W. and then W.) was reached at 07.14. This rib, or arête, was climbed by good and somewhat difficult rocks until 07.53—when a rest of 23 minutes was taken. The rib now became one of ice and snow, and proved to be the most difficult part of the climb—double (and occasionally quadruple) corniches being encountered. The rib was followed until 09.18, when it joined the summit ridge: the summit itself was reached at 09.27, or in 4 hrs. 29 mins.' actual climbing from the Gamba hut. Left summit 10.01; reached Col Emile Rey about 10.35; descended the couloir leading from Col Emile Rey to Brouillard Glacier; reached vicinity of Col du Fresnay at 12.18 and reached the Gamba hut at 13.13, or 2 hrs. 52 mins.' actual climbing from the summit.

The route is continuously interesting, and does not *appear* to be exposed to stonefall. The difficulties in crossing the Brouillard Glacier were considerable, and might be very great. The rock climbing was occasionally difficult, while the whole expedition may be considered to be of the first class. The conditions found on the snowy rib were severe, and probably exceptional.

COL MAUDIT, 4051 m. = 13,288 ft. August 1, 1932. Same party. [Col Maudit was first attained from the E. side by Messrs. Stafford, Anderson and Bowlby, with Hans Almer and Abraham Imseng, on August 29, 1888¹; the route lying to the S.W. of the great ice wall. On July 26, 1921, it was again reached from the same side, but by a route along the rocks immediately N.E. of the ice wall, by Signori G. B. and G. F. Gugliermina, de Petro, and Ravelli.² The W. side

¹ *A.J.* 14, 151.

² *Ibid.* 35, 120, with illustration.



Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

MONT BROUILLARD AND COL EMILE REY, FROM L'INNOMINATA.

Broken line - - - - - 1932 route—*ascent.*

Dotted line route taken in *descent.*

of the col was ascended on August 4, 1927, by MM. Migot and Savard, who adopted an exposed and dangerous route.³ None of these parties crossed the col, neither slope of which had been descended by any route up to 1932. On August 1, 1931, the writer and Alexander Graven set out to cross the col from the Grands Mulets, and reached the upper basin of the Bossons Glacier through the icefall before weather and lapse of time advised retreat. The return was made by probably the first crossing of a small col immediately S. of the *Pointe du Président Wilson*, between the Glaciers des Bossons and de Tacconnaz. This col is useful as it enables the upper basin of the Bossons Glacier to be reached easily and the complicated (and sometimes impossible) icefall of the Bossons Glacier between the Grands Mulets and the upper basin to be avoided. The name *Col des 14 Points* is suggested for it, by analogy with the well-known idealist commemorated in the vicinity.]

Left Grands Mulets 05.43 ; ascended towards Petit Plateau until a deviation to the E. enabled the *Col des 14 Points* to be reached at 06.20. Descent was made to the Bossons Glacier, the schrund on to the glacier being crossed at 06.33. The glacier was traversed in an upward direction towards the S.E., and the far schrund crossed at a point considerably S. of the foot of Migot and Savard's route, at 06.55. The base of the first rocks was reached at 07.05, and a steep and ill-defined rib (sometimes of rock and sometimes of snow or ice) was ascended past a small gendarme to the highest rocks, attained at 08.43. A traverse to the left, N., along steep snow slopes, led to the W. edge of the more level plateau of the col at 09.11. Left again at 09.42 and reached Col Maudit itself at 10.11, or 3 hrs. 22 mins.' actual climbing from the Grands Mulets. Left again 10.30 and descended by 'Gugliermana' route until 11.25, when it was found that the only possible line of further descent was dangerously exposed to falling ice and unjustifiable. The party returned and reached Col Maudit again at 12.01. From the top of the col a traverse was then made round the rocks on its left margin, and the ridge or buttress immediately to the N.E. was reached with some difficulty. This ridge was followed down, a steep chimney having to be descended at 13.45. Ridge left at 14.45 ; crossed bergschrund 14.56 (45 mins.' halts on whole second descent) ; and reached Torino hut across Col des Flambeaux at 16.59, or 3 hrs. 36 mins.' actual climbing from Col Maudit during the *second* attempt to descend. The Torino hut was left at 18.05, and the Requin hut reached (with 12 mins.' halts) at 19.47—the actual climbing time of the *whole* expedition having been 10 hrs.

The expedition must be described as a very difficult one. The new route taken on the W. side (planned in 1931) is free from objective danger save during the crossing of the Bossons Glacier. The descent by the 'Gugliermana' route could not have been

³ *A.J.* 39, 331. *Alpinisme*, No. 8, pp. 250-7, illustrated.

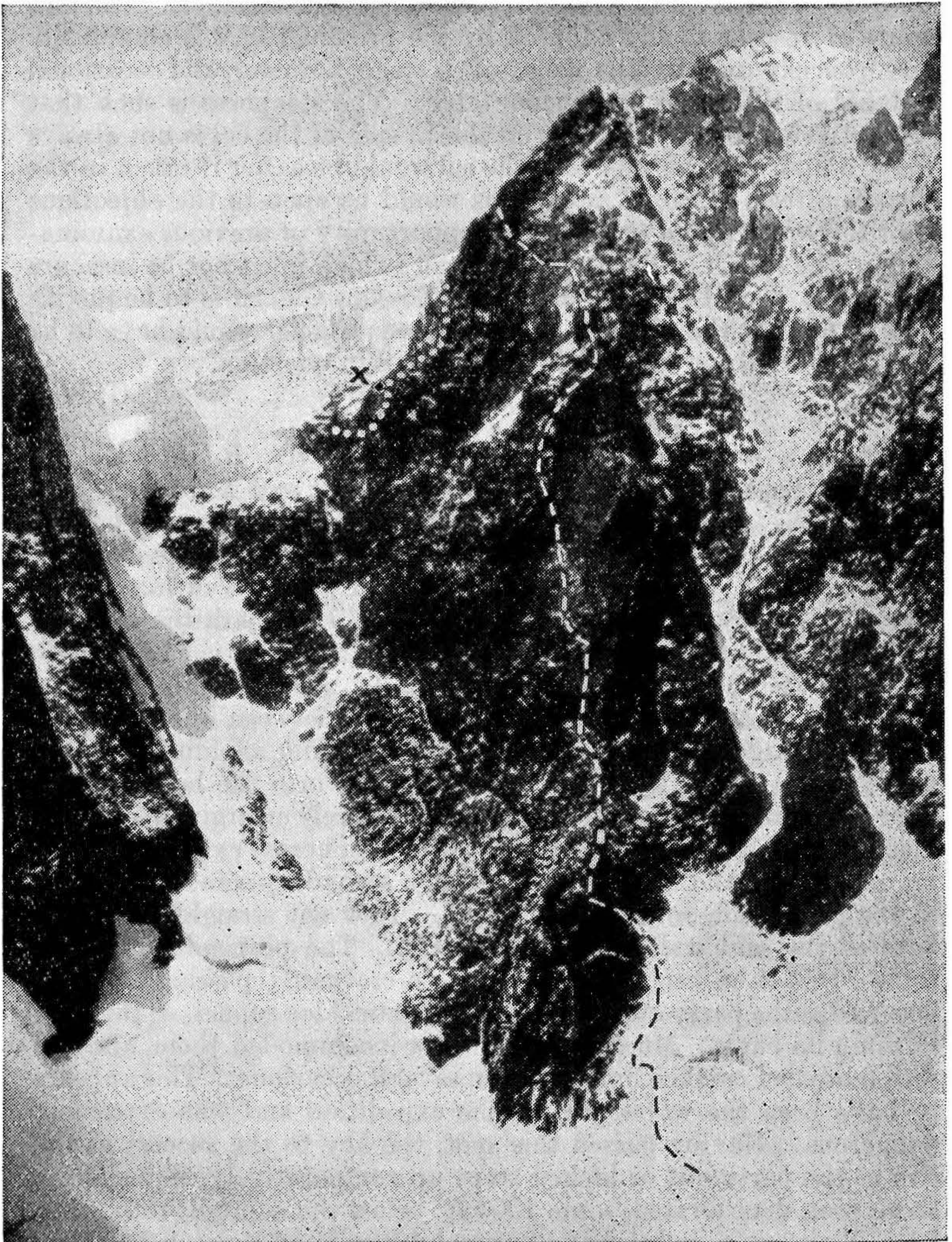


Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

COL MAUDIT, W. SIDE, FROM LOWER EDGE OF GRAND PLATEAU.

Dotted line lower part (traverse) and upper part of Migot and Savard's 1927 route.

Broken line - - - - - 1932 route (ascent).



Photo, T. Graham Brown.]

COL MAUDIT, E. SIDE, FROM FOURCHE DE LA BRENVA.

Dotted line approximate route of first attempt to descend, and
approximate point of arrest (= upper part of Gugliermine route).
Broken line - - - - - 1932 route of descent (approximate).

justified in its lower portion on the present occasion, and two falls of ice from the ice wall were observed during our attempt. The new route of descent finally adopted by the present party is completely free from exposure to falls of ice. It is steep, however, and occasional patches of loose rock are encountered. The steepness is such that a practicable route of descent on the E. side of the col is not always easy to find. Because of this, the col would be easier if taken in the direction from E. to W.; but this would be open to the objections that the party would not have the opportunity of previous examination of the icefall of the Grand Plateau (which must not be insecure at its N.E. end, if the crossing of the Bossons Glacier is to be justifiable), and that the traverse of the Bossons Glacier would have to be made after the sun had reached the icefall in question.

T. G. B.

AIGUILLE DE TRIOLET,⁴ 3876 m. = 12,717 ft. *B.I.K.* By the N. face. September 20, 1931. MM. R. Gréloz and A. Roch.

From the Argentière hut (dep. 04.30) mount the Argentière Glacier to the great bergschrund at the foot of the peak's N. face, attained 07.00. Mount the great snow and ice slope of formidable steepness at a point situated almost vertically beneath the summit. It was at first easier to advance in a somewhat diagonal line to the left, E.; then bearing back to the right, W., steer towards the great sérac wall descending from the snowy notch between our peak and the Petite Aiguille de Triolet, 3812 m. Carefully avoiding a snowy rib leading straight up, but which splays out into the hopeless face above, the party, from some scattered and barely emerging rocks, cut diagonally upwards still in a S.S.W. direction across extremely steep ice or powdery and incoherent snow, to a secondary sérac at the base of the great wall, some 180 ft. above. Now cut straight up to the base of the said wall, attained at 12.00. The perpendicular wall, some 40–50 ft. in height, is seamed by a crevasse; passing along its lower edge the party attacked a nearly vertical ice runnel, or the edge forming its bank. Much powdery snow incommoded them, and the wall moreover creaked ominously on several occasions. This appears to have been the worst part of the expedition and was extremely dangerous. Having passed this spot, the key to the success of the climb, the party cut or kicked steps up comparatively easy slopes; these soon deteriorated, some 1000 ft. below the summit, into steep ice. Traversing slightly, the party, by means of a patch of snow, attained the upper lip of the sérac wall and over extremely exposed ice or snow, the angle growing easier towards the end, the snowy notch in the summit-ridge, W. of the top, 15.00. Thence to the summit, 15.40.

Descent by a diagonal traverse of the S. face, bearing W. Held up by fog and bad weather after having attained the Col de Triolet at

⁴ See the excellent illustration, *A.J.* 40, facing 146.



Photo, Paul Schnaidt.]

N. FACE OF AIGUILLE DU TRIOLET FROM TOUR NOIR.
Showing 1931 route.

[To face p. 312.]

17.30, the party were obliged to bivouac lower down on its S. slope at 18.30, somewhere about the Talèfre séracs, whence on the following day they descended to Les Tines. One of the party was frostbitten in the feet.—From *Die Alpen*.

Pennines.

ZINAL-ROTHHORN, 4223 m. = 13,856 ft. By the S.E. arête, attained from the E. (Hohlicht Glacier). September 14–15, 1932. M. E. R. Blanchet, with Kaspar Mooser.

[In 1928 the same party, having reached the summit by the entire S.E. arête and E. face,⁵ determined to join this route by that portion of the E. face opposite and above the Hohlicht Glacier. This combination of the 1928 route with that of 1932 presents the finest possibility from Zermatt to the Rothhorn, since it provides an altogether fresh route independent of the ordinary or 'Young' itineraries.⁶]

September 14. Party left Trift inn at 03.00. Brilliant moonlight facilitated the way, except for an eclipse lasting 2 hrs.; on *September 15* the party regained the inn at 06.00, or 27 hrs. later. From the base of the E. face that portion of the climb between the crest of the S.E. arête attained and the base of the face (and which from below gives the idea of a level shoulder or step) could be climbed in 10 hrs. less. Our party lost half a day in searching for a more direct route to the right, N., very high up in the E. face. When we had attained the aforementioned 'shoulder' at 01.00 (on *September 16*), the problem was solved, although we renounced proceeding thence to the summit since we had already accomplished that part of the route in 1928.⁷

On attaining the shoulder a few feet of easy descent enabled us to rejoin the ordinary Trift route. Our descent was slow, owing to the gorgeous moonlight effects.

E. R. B.

[A full account will appear in the next number.—*Editor.*]

Bernese Oberland.

GSPALTENHORN, 3442 m. = 11,293 ft. By the N.E. face. *September 7*, 1932. Herren A. Drexel, E. Schulze and W. Welzenbach.

The N.E. face, nearly 6000 ft. high, was attempted in 1928, but the party through bad conditions and excessive danger deviated to the N.W. and crossed the Bütlassenlücke instead ('A.J.' 41, 214–5). This party took the strongly marked rocky rib in the face, called the *Kilchbalmgrat*, and the same rib was climbed by the 1932 party. Where the rib flattens out in the face, they bore to the left, S.E., and climbed straight up to the summit.

⁵ *A.J.* 40, 378.

⁶ *Ibid.* 23, 649–50; 42, 324.

⁷ *Hors des Chemins battus*, p. 119 (see pp. 365–7).



Photo, Wehrli.]

GSPALTENHORN, N.E FACE (BÜTLASSENLÜCKE TO RIGHT).
Showing 1932 route.

From a bivouac (02.00) near the Kilchbalm, 1547 m., over rocky, grassy steps to the foot of the great rib or buttress where it plunges into the Sefinental. Over crevassed avalanche débris formed by falls from the hanging so-called Hintli Glacier, then to the N., to the edge of two chimneys furrowing the buttress or *Kilchbalmgrat* ($2\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.). Bending round rather to the right, N., by partly difficult rocks and finally a series of chimneys, the crest of the buttress was attained ($1\frac{3}{4}$ hr.). This crest was followed to a snowy pinnacle in the edge. The party then turned slightly to the left, S.E., and, by crevices of rotten rock succeeded by many short traverses, attained a steep snowy couloir leading towards the N. arête. Crossing the couloir some 300 ft. above its base, they climbed straight towards the summit by a series of crevices and ribs. At about the level of the great teeth in the N. arête, they again bore to the left, S.E., and climbed a great rib protruding from the face in the line of the summit; first by its right flank, then by its left, finally, by its crest, they attained a snow patch about 300 ft. below the summit. Bearing again a little to the left and taking advantage of some crumbling rocky outcrops, they attained the summit at 15.00 hrs. (or 13 hrs. from the Sefinental, including halts).

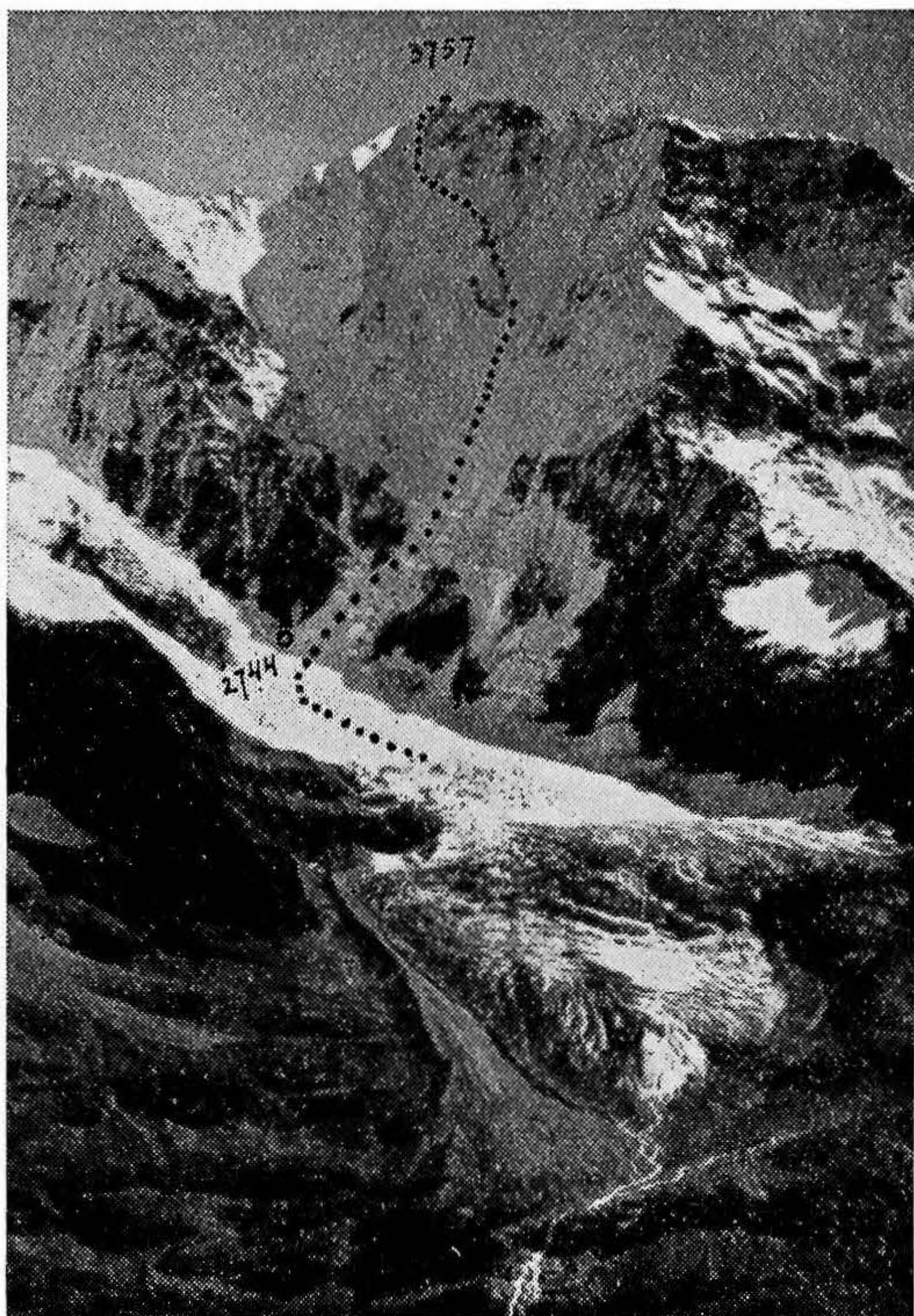
This limestone cliff is extremely difficult once the firm rocks of the *Kilchbalmgrat* are left. The rocks of the face proper are so dangerously rotten that the party discarded the rope as being more of an added risk than a safeguard—hence the rapidity (3 hrs.) with which the upper face was climbed.—*Communicated*.

GROSSHORN, 3765 m. = 12,353 ft. By the N. face. July 25–26, 1932. Herren W. Welzenbach, A. Drexel, H. Rudy and E. Schulze. From the Oberhornalp (02.30) by grass, screes and moraine to the Breithorn Glacier; across this glacier to a rocky islet situated between the tongues of that glacier and the Schmadri Glacier, 03.45. Thence up latter glacier to avalanche shoot at base of N. face of Grosshorn, 04.30–04.45. The N. face is some 4000 ft. high. Party proceeded upwards by very steep and crevassed névé slopes to the bergschrund at the base of the great ice slope of the peak, 07.15. Now straight up in the plumb-line falling from the gap between the E. and W. peaks, and make for a hollow between great rocky outcrops far above. Pass between the outcrops and then bear somewhat to the left, S.E., to another rocky step above the first outcrop or bastion. The step is furrowed by a steep ice-glazed crevice which must be climbed till it is possible to reach the crest of the bastion to the left, E., of the crevice. Over this edge and its connecting ice rib to a bivouac at 19.00 hrs.

July 26, 07.00. Continue by the rib and then bear diagonally S.E. towards the eastern extremity of the final rock rampart of the peak. Round the E. edge of the rampart and, keeping close to it, cut straight up to the N.E. arête, whence the summit is attained in a few rope-lengths, 14.30; bivouac owing to thick cloud and bad weather.

July 27, 05.30. Descent to Jägilücke, 07.00–07.30; Fafleralp, 14.30.

Conditions and weather of the worst. Latter cleared on July 27.



GROSSHORN, N. FACE, SHOWING 1932 ROUTE.

On July 25 over 3000 steps cut in hard ice.—From *Der Bergsteiger*, October 1932, p. 24, with good marked illustration.

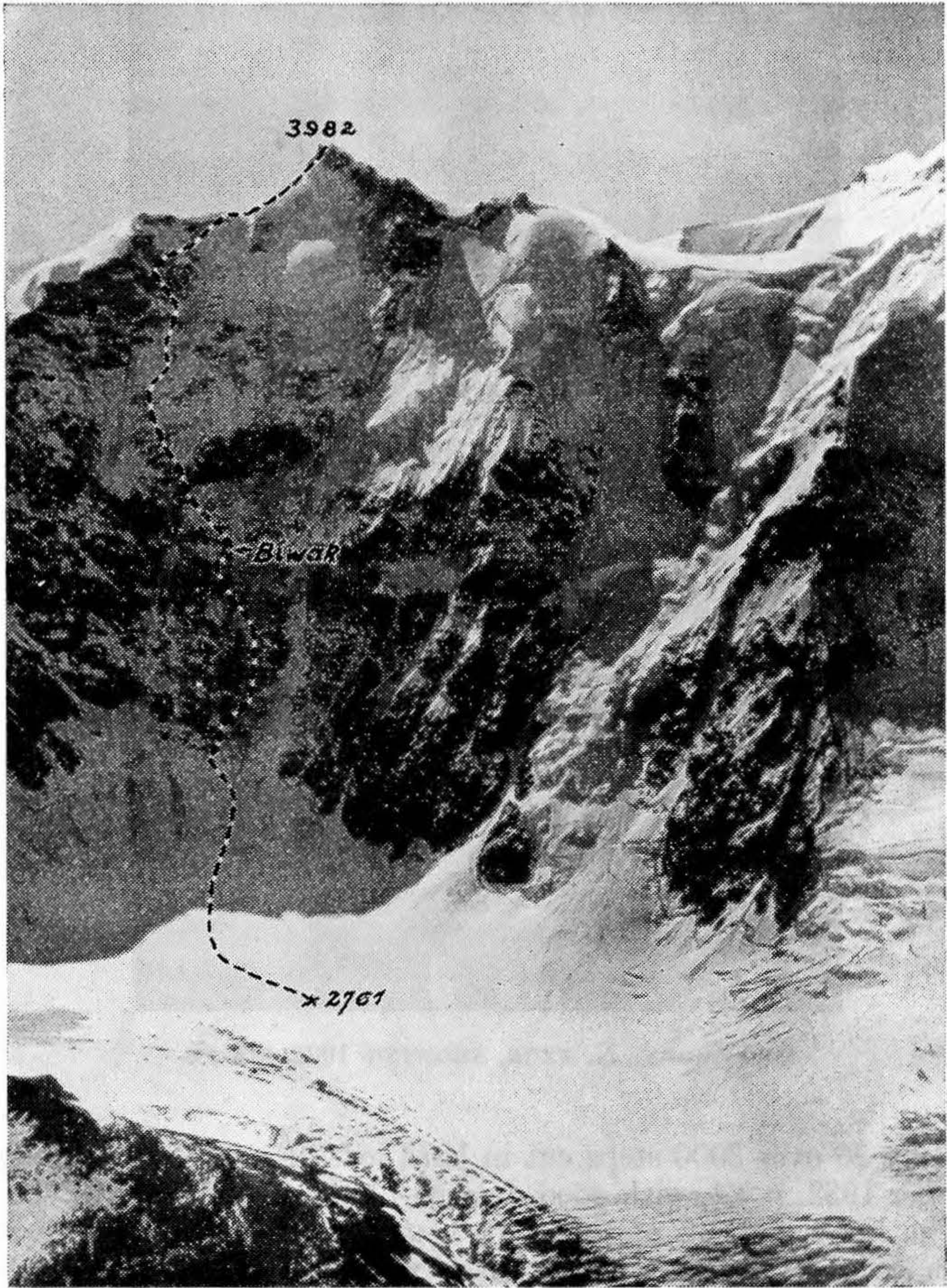
[The lower portion of this very steep and dangerous route was taken by Captain Farrar and Miss Frances Wills's party in their crossing of the Grossjoch in 1924, 'A.J.' 36, 403–5. Their route lies to the E. of the above in its upper two-thirds.]

GLETSCHERHORN, 3982 m. = 13,065 ft. By the N. arête, attained from the N.W. September 9–10, 1932. Same party.

The N.W. face rises some 4000 ft. above the innermost recesses of the Rottal. In the face, straight under the summit, clings a small hanging glacier; the part of the face below the glacier forms a nearly vertical rocky rampart. Below this again, the face is seamed

by a great, steep gully, down which the mountain discharges all its rubbish.

September 9.—The party, in *rain*, left the Rottal hut at 12.00, attaining the head of the Rottal without difficulty (1 hr.). Now to



Photo, Ad Astra.]

GLETSCHERHORN, N.W. FACE, SHOWING 1932 ROUTE.

the left, S.W., of the main couloir to the bergschrund which was crossed where the broad rib E. of the couloir descends farthest into the névé. For some rope-lengths up this rib, then into a shallow gully separating the rib into a broader part, E., and a narrower portion, W. The party mounted the gully, till the hitherto firm rocks became rotten. At about this spot they bivouacked as

planned, at 15.30 (3½ hrs.). The rain was turning into snow, and the bivouac, barely affording sitting room, proved most unpleasant.

September 10.—The weather cleared towards morning, and the party continued at 05.45. First, diagonally over a crumbling ledge to the S.W. for some 400 ft.; then at the termination of the ledge, first right, then left, towards the N. extremity of the summit rampart which cuts off the entire middle portion of the face. The party bore straight upwards till the rampart became fully visible. The weather was now rapidly worsening. The upper portion of the face below the N. arête consists of extraordinarily steep ice from which occasional outcrops of crumbling rock project. Climbing up these rocks, with great difficulty and risk, the party attained a very steep gully, running diagonally left to right, in the final W. slope of the N. arête. This gully was mounted with extreme difficulty for two rope-lengths, then abandoned for rocks and steep ice to the right, S., over which the crest of the N. arête was attained some 300 ft. below the summit (15.45). The ridge was then followed to the top (16.15). The Jungfrauoch was attained at 19.00 hrs.

With fine weather and good conditions the summit could doubtless have been attained direct.—*Communication* from Dr. WELZENBACH through Dr. LAUPER.

[We must congratulate this very skilful party on having, *pace* Captain Farrar ('A.J.' 36, 400), discovered new and extremely unpleasant exits from the Rottal and Sefinen glen respectively.—*Editor.*]

BIETSCHHORN, 3953 m. = 12,970 ft. (*S. map*: true height is 3934 m.). By the S.E. arête.⁸ August 9–11, 1932. Herren W. Stösser and F. Kast. The party, leaving the [? Baltschieder] hut at 02.00, attained the base of the S.E. arête at 05.30. The first tower was attained at 07.00. Tooth after tooth was scaled and by evening the party had reached the second great step, where they bivouacked. On *August 10*, at 12.00, the party attained the base of a tower reached by them in an attempt on the S.E. arête in 1931, and which had then defeated them. Although appearing inaccessible, the tower was nevertheless forced, despite some overhangs, by a direct assault. In 1931 the party had considered this tower to be the last on the ridge before the summit; on this occasion they found it to be a buttress of the last tower but one. Having overcome the buttress, the party lost a rucksack containing vital articles. The sack fell 350 ft. through the air and the party was forced to descend some 1600 ft. on the E. flank to search for its contents. Much was lost, including nailed boots and money. The undaunted party then regained the ridge with much difficulty at the spot of the mishap, but long after nightfall. Here they were forced to bivouac again on a slight projection. On *August 11*, at 09.00, they attained the last tower,

⁸ See *A.J.* 42, illustrations facing 49, 54, 236 and 237, showing parts of this extremely savage ridge.

followed by the summit which overtops the former by some 150 ft.—
From *Allgemeine Bergsteiger Zeitung*,

[We offer our congratulations on the well-merited success crowning the prolonged efforts of the party.—*Editor.*]

EIGER, 3974 m. = 13,038 ft. By the N. face. August 20, 1932. Herren Alfred Zürcher and Hans Lauper, with Alexander Graven and Joseph Knubel.

The N. face of the Eiger, that is the face between the *Mittellegi*—or N.E. arête—and the W. arête, is divided into two halves by some sort of a crest or edge descending to the N. (towards Alpiglen) from the *Mittellegi* arête about 150 m. N.E. of the top of the Eiger; the western half faces the Kleine Scheidegg, forming the so-called 'Eigerwand,' while the eastern half faces Grindelwald. These two parts connect in the above-mentioned angle, which does not run down in one continuous ridge or crest but is broken up, especially in its lower section, by many rocky steps or buttresses, and which, from that spot where the N. face abuts in the pastures and scree slopes above Alpiglen, to the top of the Eiger measures some 1600 m. (5,520 ft.). The line of our ascent leads over the eastern half of the N. face and the edge between the two halves.

We left the hotel at the Kleine Scheidegg (2064 m. = 6,772 ft.) at 01.50, descended over the railway track towards Grindelwald for a quarter of an hour and, leaving the track at the red house (a little railway-building S.E. of Point 1951 m. of the *Siegfried map*), we approached in an eastern direction over pastures, screes and avalanche débris, the foot of the Eiger's N. face. We attacked the great wall at 03.40 due N. of the summit (P. 1 of the photograph).

Turning to the right, W., we climbed up some shaly rocks in order to overcome the first step of the wall, then turning back to the left, E., and slightly ascending, crossed over ledges and rocky steps to the little glacier above Alpiglen, the *Hoheneis* (marked on the *Siegfried map*). We traversed this little glacier from W. to E., ascended its eastern bank and still inclining towards the E. (in the direction of the Eiger-Hoernli) climbed several steps of rather broken rocks until we found ourselves straight below the *Mittellegi* hut. Here we turned back to the right, W., and ascending more direct, reached some sort of a ledge which was followed towards the right, back to the gully that runs down to the little hanging glacier or *Hoheneis* (P. 2). Over steep, hard snow Graven cut steps up and across the gully to the foot of a conspicuously huge buttress. This buttress was climbed by means of a deep-cut crack or chimney, quite sensational but safe, the rocks being firm and not difficult, with the exception of three or four overhanging but low steps. At the upper end of this chimney we came on foul snow filling up the bottom of our chimney and, therefore, made an exit over the right-hand (western) wall. This landed us on a steep but well-defined crest, on the second step of which we rested for forty minutes for breakfast (P. 3). Cutting



Photo, Schweiz-Landes Topographie.]

EIGER, N. FACE, SHOWING 1932 ROUTE.

A° = Alpiglen, 1619 m. = 5312 ft.

[To face p. 319.]

steps, Graven led us up the steep snow slopes well seen on Donkin's admirable photograph of the Eiger, 'A.J.' 40, facing p. 329. Working up at first straight, then crossing diagonally above the frightful-looking abyss of the wall, we approached again the above-mentioned angle, where the eastern and the western parts of the N. face meet. Here, at a height of about 3600 m. (11,811 ft.), we reached this edge after 3 hrs.—for Graven—very strenuous work, at a sort of balcony protruding out of the wall in a most impressive way, where we rested again for 40 mins. (P. 4).

From this place we had to cut steps up to a narrow strip of rotten rocks which were climbed up to another slope of icy snow. We bore to the right once more and attained over these slopes—where the snow often changed into solid ice—the barrier of rocks which comes down over the N. face from the final rise of the *Mittellegi* arête. An ice-filled crack (quite awkward) was forced up to a last, less inclined snow slope over which we reached the snow arête that forms the uppermost part of the angle between the two halves of the N. face (P. 5). Over this snow crest we gained in 20 mins. without any difficulty the *Mittellegi* or N.E. arête and in another quarter of an hour, at 16.45, the top of the Eiger.

We were favoured with excellent conditions. The rock-climbing was not very difficult, except the ascent of the narrow rib on the final slopes, and the last oblique crack, both of which were extremely hard for the leader. But the ascent and the traverse of the snow slopes called for uninterrupted step-cutting, a most strenuous and, at many places, very delicate piece of work. Alexander Graven did this with superb skill, and he and Joseph Knubel led and safeguarded us with their usual infectious enthusiasm and chivalrous consideration throughout the whole day.

Times were :

Departure from Kleine Scheidegg	01.50
Foot of the wall (P. 1 of the photograph)	03.40
Traverse of little glacier, 'Hoheneis'	04.45–04.55
Halt E. (left) of the gully (P. 2)	06.00–06.10
Upper end of chimney	08.20
Halt at about 3100 m. (P. 3)	08.35–09.15
Halt at about 3600 m. (P. 4)	12.10–12.50
Lower end of snow arête (P. 5)	15.50–16.10
N.E. or <i>Mittellegi</i> arête	16.30
Top of Eiger	16.45–17.30
Back at Kleine Scheidegg	21.15

H. L.

[We must congratulate our members on a superb expedition, by far the most important of the 1932 season. We might add that it is a source of gratification to us that the N. face of the Eiger, the last important problem of the Bernese Oberland, should have been solved by this unsurpassed all-Swiss party.—*Editor.*]