

OREAD  
MOUNTAINEERING  
CLUB

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

Editorial .....	Page 1
Dr. Norman Cochran .....	2
D. Burgess: Wasdale Meet .....	2
Oreads in Shorts .....	3
L. Burns: Arenigs Meet .....	3
L. Burns: Abergwesyn Meet .....	3
Oreads on Meets .....	4
R. Hanley: Clogwyn Meet .....	4
D. Burgess: Chamonix 1959 .....	5
Anon. A Broad View .....	7
The British in the Alps .....	8
R. Hanley: New Routes .....	9
Colin Holday: Sketches .....	10

OCTOBER, 1959.

EDITORIAL

A new Editor usually takes up his biro with some trepidation, like the novice with his first piton and I cannot claim to be any different. They say a new brush sweeps clean but after the sauce of H.P. there can only be a period of retrenchment while the ropes are anxiously fingered.

Harry had his swan song last Newsletter and we are all very sorry he finds it impossible to continue the Editorship. It is rumoured however that he is now supplying his landlord vicar with spicy sermons in lieu of rent.

Not being a native of Derby or an old and venerable member of the Oread many readers are bound to say "who is this fellow Frost" so perhaps a little background or Rakes Progress, will not be out of place.

Born within 10 miles of that northern centre of English mountaineering, living in the foothills of the Peak, introduced to mountaineering while at University by an R.A. "Dawn (Invisible) on Snowdon" trip some seven years ago.

My association with the Oread started with a chance meeting, three years ago, with that elder woodland nymph John Welbourn and Mike Gadd (I think) at Black Rocks while free-lancing. As I was now working in Derby a visit to the Bell on a Tuesday night inevitably followed with a talk with Brian Cooke about the Oread.

The first Oread meet was, for me, a memorable week-end in N.Wales at the old hut some two years ago. The Pennant Horseshoe was prescribed by R.G.P. and the trek was enlivened by Fred Allen wetting his feet within 10 mins of departing and by my introduction to the broad spicy humour of a mountaineering club when Dave Penlington discovered a pond full of copulating toads. Memories of Chuck standing, stripped to the waist, posing as a caveman outside one of the tunnels near the old mines, and of that long flog up the last rise to Moel Hebog in the wake of Pettigrew's lanky tireless legs.

My only claim for H.P.'s indulgence lies in providing the latter with his very subtle title to his account of the 1958 Easter meet in Glencoe - "The Frost was white but not at night". However, the association which engendered this equip has since borne fruit (metaphysical) and has since landed me the doubtful title of future brother-in-law to Mike Harby.

And what of my aims - to try to follow in Harry's and Doug's shoes - to persuade you my reporters to enliven these pages with lively accounts of Oread "doings" - to strive for a balance between high comedy, wit and ribaldry and factual reporting on mountaineering matters. Gentlemen (and Ladies) I am at your mercy at:-

The Caravan,  
Cinderhill Farm,  
Belper Road,  
Kilburn,  
Nr. Belper,  
Derbys.

TOM FROST.

DR. NORMAN COCHRAN

I'm sure all Oread members would wish to express their sympathy to the family of Dr. Norman Cochran who died in the Dauphine Alps earlier this summer. Dr. Cochran was an old friend of the club and of many of its members. He was a guest at numerous of our past dinners and in fact last year judged our photo competition. He will be missed not only in his own club - M.A.M., of which club he was a past President, but in general mountaineering circles.

T.F.

WASDALE MEET - WHIT 1959

D. Burgess

The Whit Wasdale Meet was blessed by fine weather for a change and the climbing fraternity witnessed the rare Lakeland phenomena of dry rock and sunshine.

Parties arrived at various times on Friday night and camped amongst the gorse bushes by the Lakeside. On Saturday the prospect of a good day soon saw the energetic parties plodding up the Brown Tongue to Scafell whilst the more lazy (or sensible?) ones basked in the sunshine at the campsite. Paul and Betty Gardiner arrived about this time having broken their journey at Broughton and went on Gable with the Ashcrofts. The evening was spent playing with the childrens' cricket gear (the Allens were there en bloc) and rounded off with a drink at the pub.

Sunday followed the pattern of the previous day with numerous Oread parties active on Scafell and Gable. A party of true mountain nymphs were even observed bathing in the stream.

On the Monday Esk Buttress was visited by several parties who motored round to Eskdale for this purpose. The walk up the valley was very pleasant and the climbing excellent: Bridges Route - severe - must surely be one of the finest climbs of its standard in the country. The majority returned by the same route, calling at the Woolpack for a pint of cider on the way back whilst the energetic returned over Mickledore. The route via the latter would be the quickest approach to the Buttress.

A chill wind and dull skies dampened the enthusiasm of most on Tuesday and many departed early. However, two parties availed themselves of the still dry surroundings, Ashcroft and Co. climbing on Gable (what about "Hebog-Jack-Gable", can't keep him off it. Ed.) whilst Stan Moore was on Esk Buttress.

The meet was attended by Mike Turner, J. (Gable) Ashcroft, J. Bridges, R. Dearden, Paul Gardiner, P. James, and F. Allen with respective wives, sweethearts, camp comforters and families, also L.K. White, D. Chapman, S. Moore, R. Handley and D. Burgess. Non-members on the meet included Kim Rufford, Nat Allen and wife, Ray Colledge and W. White.

- During the week-end the following routes were climbed:-
- Scafell - Scafell Pinnacle, Slingsby's Chimney, Pisgah Buttress, Moss Ghyll Grooves, Central Buttress, Botheralls Slab, Mickledore Grooves, Overhanging Wall and Great Eastern.
  - Great Gable - Eagle Ridge, Tychet Wall, Tychett Girdle and Sepulchre Route, Arrowhead Arête.
  - Esk Buttress - Medusa Wall and Bridges Route.

\* Pronounced "Garble"

OREADS IN SHORTS

It is reported that:-

Welbourn recently got lost in m (Bleaklow)

Burgess regards the only uses o bed or maternity jacket.

Mike and Allison Harby are now Eskdale Avenue, Chesham, Bucks.

Pettigrew only just got back fr Black Rocks Anniversary Meet.

Daphne and Sadie from Duffield Went off to Rhydd - Du in a Nuff Their only delight

Was to a) sit up at night (Edit b) shine a red light (Ed With Rufford and White in a Luv

(\* Prospective members)

Pete Cole after an absense of 2 a wife with him.

ARENIGS 1st May - 3rd May

As far as the Oread is c Solo with a prospective member - st was explored and the crags above Lly

Abergwesyn Meet - 5th - 7th June

Two cars travelled on Fr campsite by the River Irfan on the delightful evening and everyone enjo mtered something about the wall of the Gear lever knob off. Two tents

Here it was discovered. Club had forgottem what is considere of camping equipment - namely - a te suggest that someone, a local Scoutn with the view to circulating a serie entitled "Hints and Tips for the Can both to the newcomer and the older n senility.

Saturday morning being u bound. The Meet leader, surreptiti bound, but the sound of his starter most lassitudinous into immediate ac figure\* picked up on route, the enti dominoes and drinking ale. The aft group walking up the Irfan following Here the vastness of the moor impres reign supreme, Buzzards wheeling and company desirable.

Sunday - Further explor found and explored. This remote R at its upper reaches and is really a run home, dropping Kershaw at Craver

\* Kershaw.

OREADS IN SHORTS

It is reported that:-

Welbourn recently got lost in mist in his own back garden (Bleaklow)

Burgess regards the only uses of a Duvet jacket to be a bed or maternity jacket.

Mike and Allison Harby are now installed in a Flat at 59 Eskdale Avenue, Chesham, Bucks.

Pettigrew only just got back from the Continent to lead his Black Rocks Anniversary Meet.

\* \* \*  
Daphne and Sadie from Duffield  
Went off to Rhydd - Du in a Nuffield

Their only delight  
Was to a) sit up at night (Editor)  
b) shine a red light (Editor's fiancée)  
With Rumford and White in a Luv-field

(\* Prospective members)

Pete Cole after an absence of 2½ years has returned, bringing a wife with him.

ARENIGS 1st May - 3rd May

L. Burns

As far as the Oread is concerned this was a Burns Solo with a prospective member - Stan ? A considerable area was explored and the crags above Llyn Arenig Fawr visited.

Abergwesyn Meet - 5th - 7th June

L. Burns

Two cars travelled on Friday 4th June to the appointed campsite by the River Irfan on the Cambrian Moors. It was a delightful evening and everyone enjoyed the run down. E. Phillips muttered something about the wall of death and said he had worn the Gear lever knob off. Two tents were erected.

Here it was discovered that an eminent member of the Club had forgotten what is considered by some, an essential part of camping equipment - namely - a tent. In view of this, may I suggest that someone, a local Scoutmaster perhaps, is approached with the view to circulating a series of articles to the Newsletter entitled "Hints and Tips for the Camper". This would be of value both to the newcomer and the older member who is perhaps entering senility.

Saturday morning being unpleasant, kept people tent-bound. The Meet leader, surreptitiously entered his car, male-bound, but the sound of his starter motor galvanized even the most lassitudinous into immediate activity, and adding a plodding figure\* picked up on route, the entire cast was soon playing dominoes and drinking ale. The afternoon, being fine, saw a group walking up the Irfan following the river to its source. Here the vastness of the moor impresses, solitude and silence reign supreme, Buzzards wheeling and newing eerily overhead make company desirable.

Sunday - Further exploration, the River Gwsyn being found and explored. This remote River has neither road nor path at its upper reaches and is really a satisfactory place. A pleasant run home, dropping Kershaw at Craven Arms.

\* Kershaw.

OREADS ON MEETS - D. Burgess

Whenever women are discussed the name of Burgess is usually prominent. Be there a meetless week-end and no is organising a social evening in the flat. Beware the Oread who thwarts his progress for we hear of two recent occasions when so called fellow travellers have been thrust aside.

There is the sad touching scene of that celibate husband, Janes, wending his weary way towards Pedgellert in car-less fashion while Burgess entertained some local Fortmadoc piece in his recently acquired tin box. There is the more recent occasion when he was observed trying out the latest continental techniques in Coniston. Two young ladies lashed to the rocks, a sort of modern Greek Saga while Burgess fought his way up a Mod. Diff.

Above stood Ashcroft gazing longingly out at Gable and wondering if he would ever get back to Janet before dusk when his peaceful reverie was disturbed by "I hope you don't mind old Chap" There was B, in true Matterhorn fashion, shinning up Ashcroft's rope (to avoid the crux of course). As he disappeared above, faint mutterings, about Indian Rope Tricks and Ashcroft's chances with the two ladies, were heard.

T.F.

CLOGWYN MEET 12th - 14th June

R. Handley

People arrived in dribs and drabs until midnight after one of the best rides as far as weather and views were concerned.

Saturday

Clogwyn D'ur Arddu

Curving Crack, Sunset Crack climbed by 3 parties:\*

- R. Handley, F. Allen R. Colledge
- D. Davies, P. Janes
- D. Hadlum and friend.

Route on Far West

- L. Hadlum, L. White and friend

Craig-y-Bere

- Angel Pavement:- J. Welbourn, T. Frost and Colin Hobday.

Sunday

Cloggy

Chimney Route - R. Handley, R. Colledge and D. Davies

Pigotts Route - do do do

Sheafe Chimney - D. Burgess, D. Chapman, N. Allen

These three climbed Lion and Ribstone Crack on Saturday on Carreg Wasted.

Nantlle Y Garn

Eastern Arete - 3 parties:-

- F. Allen and P. Janes
- J. Welbourn and Frank Davis
- T. Frost, Colin Hobday and Suzanne Harper

Llivedig

Route 2. - L.K. White and G. Hayes.

Taken by and large this meet has been an outstanding success and the weather was perfect.

CHAMONIX 1959

There are two main difficulties on a holiday; one is the climbing itself and the other is getting it up afterwards. Last year the writing was on the wall.

The climbing party this year consisted of R. Handley, R. Colledge and myself. Our route was the Aguille du Fou by the S.W. Ridge. This was a long and tiring start from Montevens, not exactly well planned. The previous night and a long trudge on footpath and up to the Nantillons Glacier we passed and we crumpled below the upper part of the Blaitiere. This was ascended by a series of ledges and chimneys was followed by a face to the Reynier Couloir. These ledges were as the guide book implied and at one point we had to reach a lower ledge. From the couloir we went up below the Fou itself to the Col de la Roche. The sun, ate some well earned snap and we were tired. The S.W. Ridge is not terribly long but the guide book, but it certainly looked long. The first pitch appeared to be a simple matter, then however, we were able to turn by using artificial pegs already in place. This was followed, none particularly easy and a series of the climbing, until at last we were faced with a final problem, a pear shaped boulder which was usually ascended by throwing a rope over it and holding for one hand. However, none of us was to worry over the last few feet and we reached the route no doubt considered us "done".

The view from the summit is magnificent. Granite is an expression used to describe the true it is. All round rock fangs still stand. Crocodile and Plan next along the ridge. Our position as indeed did the Blaitiere until it dawned on us we had to bypass the ridge. A vague traversing line led round beneath the Blaitiere and the Bregault ridge was descended to the Nantillons Glacier, where we reached Montevens at 21.00 hrs.

We had a lay-in the next morning. Aching muscles shelved the ambitious plan. We descended to go to the Coverle Hut. R.H. descended to the valley to fetch the car. I put off on the return by a storm.

Our plan was to traverse the summit and descend from the Col de L'Est. I call saw us away by 3 (why is it mind at that hour) and we were soon crumpled. A steep snow couloir, a long tedious snow arete led to the E. Summit which was very rewarding for apart from the view was crystal clear in the morning sun. I thrust their summits through a belt of clouds in a manner.

The traverse started with a long climb in the ridge, until a rappel led to the top. Here the character of the climbing changed. It was rock; the last 60 ft. to the W. summit was a comb of rock, hanging first on the other and finishing up sitting astride. The S. face led to a traverse line over the snow back to the ridge near the col. We descended to the Talefre glacier but did not reach it.

CHAMONIX 1959

D. Burgess

There are two main difficulties with a climbing holiday; one is the climbing itself and the other is writing it up afterwards. Last year the writing proved insurmountable:

The climbing party this year consisted of D. Chapman, R. Handley, R. Colledge and myself. Our first objective was Aguille du Fou by the S.W. Ridge. This necessitated a 3.C. start from Montenvers, not exactly welcome after having traveled all the previous night and a long trudge along the Plan-de-L'Aguille footpath and up to the Nantillons Glacier. The Rognon was passed and we cramponed below the upper ice fall to the N. Ridge of the Blaitiere. This was ascended to the third Breche where a series of ledges and chimneys was followed across the West face to the Reynier Couloir. These ledges were not as continuous as the guide book implied and at one point a rappel was necessary to reach a lower ledge. From the couloir an obvious rake ran up below the Fou itself to the Col-de-Fou. Here we basked in the sun, ate some well earned snap and gazed at the route before us. The S.W. Ridge is not terribly long, only 150 ft. to quote the guide book, but it certainly looked impressive as we gazed at it. The first pitch appeared to be an overhanging layback crack, then however, we were able to turn by climbing a steep slab artificially on some pegs already in place. Pitch after pitch followed, none particularly easy and all strenuous, a characteristic of the climbing, until at last we were all assembled beneath the final problem, a pear shaped boulder perched on the summit. This is usually ascended by throwing a rope over and using it as a hold for one hand. However, none of us appeared purist enough to worry over the last few feet and we considered the route done - the route no doubt considered us "done".

The view from the summit is fantastic, a forest of granite is an expression used to describe the Aguille and how true it is. All round rock fangs stick in the air, the Caiman Crocodile and Plan next along the ridge seemed unclimbable from our position as indeed did the Blaitiere in the other direction; until it dawned on us we had to bypass it on the descent. A vague traversing line led round beneath the N. Summit of the Blaitiere and the Bregault ridge was reached eventually and descended to the Nantillons Glacier, which we soon descended and reached Montenvers at 21.00 hrs. - 10 hrs. on the hoof.

We had a lay-in the next day, and after flexing aching muscles shelved the ambitious idea we had in mind and descended to go to the Coverale Hut. This we did, although R.H. descended to the valley to fetch Gloria to the hut but was put off on the return by a storm.

Our plan was to traverse Les Droites from the E. to W. summit and descend from the Col de L'Aguille Verte. A 2.a.m. call saw us away by 3 (why is it mind and muscle won't co-operate at that hour) and we were soon cramponing up the Talefre ice fall. A steep snow couloir, a long tedious scramble, and a beautiful snow arete led to the E. Summit which we reached at 8.a.m. The view was very rewarding for apart from the nearer peaks standing out crystal clear in the morning sunlight, the more distant peaks thrust their summits through a belt of cloud in a most picturesque manner.

The traverse started with snow aretes linking Gendarme in the ridge, until a rappel led to the breche half way along. Here the character of the climbing changed, snow giving place to rock; the last 60 ft. to the W. summit was along the top of a cock's comb of rock, hanging first on one side and then the other and finishing up sitting astride it. Two rappels on the S. face led to a traverse line over very loose rock and poor snow back to the ridge near the col. From here a couloir descended to the Talefre glacier but the snow ugh! soft slush

on top of ice, terrible. We descended this very slowly and utilised rock belays wherever possible until we were able to move together again. A final rappel over the bergschrund led us to the glacier and a long wade through slush to the hut. Ray Handley met us at the hut full of enthusiasm for another route. We all felt rather shattered and Don and R.C. decided to descend to Chamonix the next day. I decided however, to accompany Ray on the traverse of the Ag. Ravanel and Munnery, a route we had attempted the previous year. This year we had no set backs and thoroughly enjoyed the route, an easy approach, pleasant climbing up to about V. Diff standard on beautiful rock, and some most spectacular rappels all combined towards this end. We were back at the hut at 2.15. and after a leisurely meal descended to Chamonix where we had a tentative arrangement to meet Don Corner on the next day.

In the valley the British were arriving in force, numerous parties were at the camp site including Des Hadlam and friends and Jim Bury in his Trojamobile.

Friday was very unsettled and it wasn't until Sat that we set off again. This time the Torino was our objective, reached after a Telefrique ride to the Midi and a walk across the Vallee Blanche. A violent electric storm over Italy and cold wind put us off an ascent the next day; but more favourable weather on the Monday morning saw us away once more by 3.0.a.m. (how I hate that hour) Our objective was the Aguilles du Diable Traverse to Mt. Blanc de Tacul shared it would seem with a party of French (or Italian) climbers.

An abortive attack on the 'schrund put us behind the other party, but we were pleased to accept a pull over from them. Their leader had attacked the ice overhead in masterly fashion, driving ice axes in above and with his friend holding him in with an ice axe from below (using the blunt end). The Col de Diable was reached after a broken scramble and the Breche between the Corne de Diable and Point Chaubert shortly after. Here the climbing began so we lengthened the rope and continued at a more leisurely pace. A short steep slab commenced the difficulties but soon relented and Don and I reached the summit and fixed the rappel rope whilst the others were climbing. Three short rappels led to the foot of the Mediane, the next point on the ridge. A traverse right led to the foot of a long groove which we followed for about 60 ft. to where we were able to break right onto the bounding arete. A steep crack in the wall led to the next pitch in arete where a traverse was made to the right onto the N. face. A steep slab led up again and a step across the top of the long groove led to a terrace from which the summit platform was easily reached.

A deep narrow breche separated us from the Point Carmen, reached by a 100 ft. rappel - gripping long cracks led back into the sun again and the top of the Carmen was soon reached (or the rappel point just below the top). More rappels led to the foot of the Isalee and a scramble round the base led to where the climbing commenced.

A thin traverse left led to cracks partly filled with ice beneath an overhanging tongue of rock; this was climbed and a move left made to the ridge which was followed to a stance a few feet higher. The use was made of two or three pitons for these manoeuvres, but we had considerable respect for Armand Charlet who first led this in nailed boots and used no pegs. From the stance easy rocks led to the summit. The weather appeared to be breaking so we quickly descended, more rappels and followed the now easy ridge to the summit of the mountain. An icy wind, mist and snow met us there and we were thankful to find tracks leading down to the Col de Midi. The walk across the Vallee Blanche again was not exactly relished, but it had to be done (who said Telefrique) and we eventually arrived back at the Torino at 6.0.p.m.

Our plan now, was to go to bivouac hut for a route on the S. side weather appeared to be breaking so we that and decided to move back down to the next day, the descent of the Geant fascinating and confusing and we tried before we got through; a shortage of

From a climbing point of over as the weather broke more or less the remainder of the time eating and

A BROAD VIEW

O hark to the tales of the Oread  
Of wonders and deeds quite unkno  
How Janes took us bathing in Ga  
When the tags of good manners ha  
For we raced to the lakeside fro  
And flung off our clothes and co  
We dived in the water with less  
Except for the masculine Welbour  
Who felt with his toe and retire  
And how of the whispers that ree  
As we drink down the Bass at the  
Of Harry divulging his secrets  
In the ears of the eager, how be  
To the lures of the pretty youn  
When he drank the pure water mu  
Until he grew older and wiser  
And married Miss M. and retired

Of the Welsh walk heroics to me  
I mustn't forget those of two,  
For in spite of some gear too s  
Together they tackled the peaks  
But the week-end was rather a w  
For apart from L. Kay and the F  
who defying the water climbed  
Twas the women that conquered C  
And the men who retired.

But one weeps at the history of  
Who was in his youth crude and  
Who conquered the Cullins of Sl  
With his feet and his iron nerv  
But no more will the mountains  
For he's off to the south with  
But as a reporter I've said mo  
And the frost's coming cold  
So I feel that its time I retir

Our plan now, was to go to the Col de la Fourche bivouac hut for a route on the S. side of Mt. Blanc, but the weather appeared to be breaking so we had to scrub around that and decided to move back down to Chamonix. This we did the next day, the descent of the Geant icefall was rather fascinating and confusing and we tried several false tracks before we got through; a shortage of snow added to the difficulty.

From a climbing point of view the holiday was now over as the weather broke more or less completely and we spent the remainder of the time eating and drinking - great.

A BROAD VIEW

Anon.

O hark to the tales of the Oread  
Of wonders and deeds quite unknown,  
How Janes took us bathing in Gadair  
when the tags of good manners had flown  
For we raced to the lakeside from Y Garn  
And flung off our clothes and conventions,  
We dived in the water with less than we oughter  
Except for the masculine Welbourn -  
Who felt with his toe and retired.

And how of the whispers that reach us  
As we drink down the Bass at the Bell,  
Of Harry divulging his secrets and sin,  
In the ears of the eager, how badly he fell  
To the lures of the pretty young piece'up at Boniston  
When he drank the pure water much less than he oughter  
Until he grew older and wiser  
And married Miss M. and retired!

Of the Welsh walk heroics to mention  
I mustn't forget those of two,  
For in spite of some gear too short for the weather  
Together they tackled the peaks - until one stayed behind  
for a brew!  
But the week-end was rather a washout, and only a few  
brave ones throve.

For apart from L. Kay and the Rumford  
who defying the water climbed on as they oughter  
Twas the women that conquered Crib Goch and the weather  
And the men who retired.

But one weeps at the history of Harby  
Who was in his youth crude and bold,  
Who conquered the Cullins of Skye  
With his feet and his iron nerves cold,  
But no more will the mountains roll belching  
For he's off to the south with his golf and his wife....  
But as a reporter I've said more than I oughter  
And the frost's coming cold  
So I feel that its time I retired.

-----  
The main event was undoubtedly the climbing of the  
Pinnacle by Colin Northrop and Wilfred Noyce, by the Pizetta Route.  
Evidently this is mainly a free climbing route rated approximately  
Hard V.8., five pitons being used. In addition the same party,  
together with an American - Gardner, had previously done the N. face  
breakfast and can make for the proper way.  
house for fossils, cookhouse where English may indulge in huge  
conditions from four Bioness. Storage space for equipment, clearing  
British parties. That is about this place is - free advice on  
As usual the Balmuccia "cellar" was the centre for many



THE BRITISH IN THE ALPS - SUMMER

Oread and Associated Parties

- a) D. Burgess, R. Handley, D. Chapman and R. Colledge - Chamonix account already rendered.
- b) J. and J. Ashcroft, J. and R. Welbourn, June Telfer, John Fisher, Colin Hobday - Zillertal  
J. Bury and friend - Haute Route
- c) Des Hadlam, Doug Scott, Wes Haydn and Phil Wilkinson - Chamonix
- d) T. Frost, Jim Tyler, Mike Doyle, Gordon Oates - Arolla and Zermatt
- e) L.K. White and Kim Rumford - Oztal

Accounts of b. - f. will no doubt appear at a later date.

Other parties

The British appeared to be in the Alps in force this summer and are rapidly gaining a good reputation. A summary of outstanding climbs at the two main centres is given below:-

Chamonix (D. Burgess)

Numerous parties were in the valley and the following is a resume of their routes etc.:-

Grandes Jorasses - Point Walker

- 1st British Ascent - Robin Smith (Edinburgh) and party (?)
- 2nd -do- D. Whillans, J. Streetly, L. Brown  
H. McKinnis

("Marty" & "Matey")

J. Smith and E. Metcalf did the W. Face of the Blaitiere. Unfortunately there was an accident near the summit when "Matey" fell and injured his knees, necessitating being left on the mountain in a storm whilst his friend rappelled down the N. Ridge for help. He was rescued by a party of guides etc. helped by several British Climbers and was in the local hospital when we left.

A group of Northumberland parties did the W. Face of the Dru; one lad had cycled over, did that one route and then cycled home again.

O.U.M.C. parties were active at this time and had to my knowledge done the E. face of the Gran Capucin and the N. Ridge of the Peigne, Colin Mortlock, a Derby lad being in these parties.

It is worth noting that the English guide book is rather vague in places and is better used in conjunction with the Vallot guide which is far more informative - even if you can't read French. The Fou, for instance, had diagrams illustrating the traverses to it and beneath the Ciseax in the French guide and only a sketchy description in the English book.

Zermatt

As usual the Bahnhof "cellar" was the centre for many British parties. What a boon this place is - free advice on conditions from Herr Bienee, storage space for equipment, clearing house for gossip, cookhouse where English may indulge in huge breakfasts and can make tea the proper way.

The main event was undoubtedly the climbing of the Furggen by Colin Mortlock and Wilfred Noyce, by the Pienca Route. Evidently this is mainly a free climbing route rated approximately Hard V.S., five pitons being used. In addition the same party, together with an American - Sandler, had previously done the N. face

of the Dent D'Herens. It appears are going to the Himalayas next year their leader. This was all part of the expedition.

Two Nottingham student Rothorn and two climbers from Liverpool discovering an injured guide and (of the Obergabelhorn) and descending to initiate rescue operations.

NEW ROUTES

Two new routes were approximately 100/200 yds. n. of the obvious white slabs. Route 1. has been done in parts.

Route 1. 370 feet.

Start: Cairn in centre of

- 1. 50 ft. Ascent slabby ground block. Belay.
- 2. 50 ft. Continue up a broad stance.
- 3. 45 ft. The slab on the upwards to the right to
- 4. 50 ft. Traverse left and the skyline, with perpendicular
- 5. 35 ft. Horizontal traverse rake to a ledge on the
- 6. 70 ft. Ascend groove to (running belay) then to Ascend diagonally left thread belay.
- 7. 70 ft. Step right into broken rocks to the top

First Ascent: R. Handley, W. Ri  
Second Ascent: N. Allen, D. Burgess

Route 11. 355 ft. - very  
Start: Approximately 20 ft the foot of an obvious groove

- 1. 90 ft. Ascend the groove belay. The white slab
- 2. 30 ft. Ascending traverse (halfway) across the slab belay at the foot of a
- 3. 45ft. Ascend the groove with Route 1.
- 4. 70 ft. Continue on up to the upper slab.
- 5. 45 ft. Step right around 30 ft. Stance on grass
- 6. 75 ft. Traverse back to right to the grassy bank and return to the rib. top of the buttress.

First Ascent: D. Burgess and N.  
Second Ascent: R. Handley and W.

of the Dent D'Herens. It appears that a group of young climbers are going to the Himalayas next year and have invited Noyce to be their leader. This was all part of their training and familiarisation.

Two Nottingham students did the E. face of the Zinal Rothorn and two climbers from Liverpool were responsible for discovering an injured guide and his client (trying the S. face of the Obergabelhorn) and descending very rapidly to the valley to initiate rescue operations.



NEW ROUTES

R. Handley

Two new routes were ascended on Cader Idris, commencing approximately 100/200 yds. n. of the Cwfray Arete and are on the two obvious white slabs. Route 1. is cairned and has in all probability been done in parts.

Route 1. 370 feet.

Start: Cairn in centre of buttress.

1. 50 ft. Ascent slabby groove tending leftward to a large block. Belay.
2. 50 ft. Continue up a broken groove to a good belay and stance.
3. 45 ft. The slab on the right is climbed diagonally upwards to the right to a large ledge. Belay.
4. 50 ft. Traverse left and up a steep block to a ledge on the skyline, with perched blocks.
5. 35 ft. Horizontal traverse to the right for 10 ft. Ascend rake to a ledge on the right. Belay.
6. 70 ft. Ascend groove towards the overhang for 20 ft. (running belay) then traverse left across the slab. Ascend diagonally left to the Sentrybox. Stance, thread belay.
7. 70 ft. Step right into a crack, climb this and then broken rocks to the top of the buttress.

First Ascent: R. Handley, W. Richardson - 7.6.1959.

Second Ascent: N. Allen, D. Burgess - 7.6.1959.

Route 11. 355 ft. - very severe

Start: Approximately 20 ft. to the right of Route 1. at the foot of an obvious groove.

1. 90 ft. Ascend the groove to a grass ledge on the right, belay. The white slab can be seen on the left.
2. 30 ft. Ascending traverse to the left (a difficult move halfway) across the slab. Step round the rib and belay at the foot of a groove.
3. 45ft. Ascend the groove to a ledge and belay. Junction with Route 1.
4. 70 ft. Continue on up the groove ahead. Stance beside the upper slab.
5. 45 ft. Step right around the rib and ascend this for 30 ft. Stance on grass ledge 10 ft. to the right.
6. 75 ft. Traverse back to the rib, ascend 10 ft., move right to the grassy break. Ascend a further 10 ft. and return to the rib. Climb this directly to the top of the buttress.

First Ascent: D. Burgess and N. Allen - 7.6.1959.

Second Ascent: R. Handley and W. Richardson - 7.6.1959.



