

THE  
ALPINE JOURNAL.

---

November 1925.

---

(No. 231.)

NOTES ON THE ASCENT OF THE MATTERHORN BY CARREL'S  
GALERIE AND THE Z'MUTT ROUTE.

[Written not later than early 1908.]

BY THE LATE SIR EDWARD DAVIDSON.

[The following article was found among the papers of the late  
Sir Edward Davidson marked :

'To BE KEPT and handed over to Captain Farrar (or  
the Editor of the "A.J.") in case of my death.

'W. E. D.

'1.6.19']

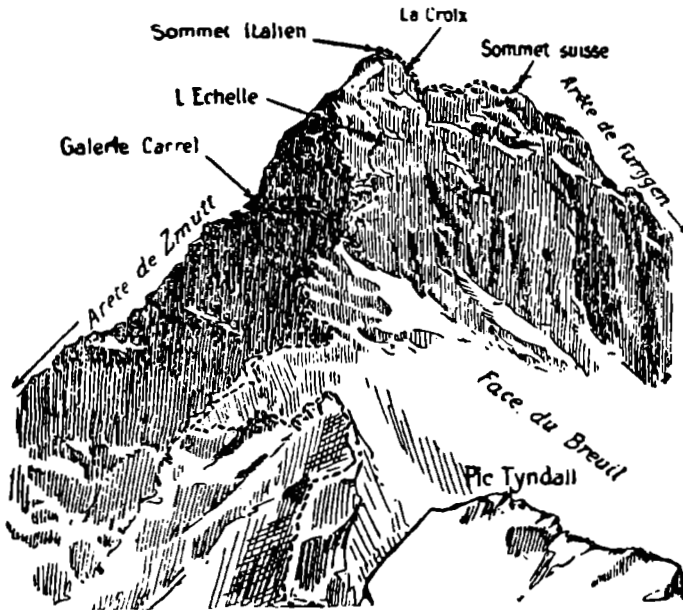
[Notes in square brackets are mine.—J. P. F.]

CARREL'S party soon *after* they had passed the 'enjambée,'  
and were therefore on the final peak, struck out to the left  
across the Tiefenmatten face and towards the Z'Mutt arête.  
When some way across the face the slip<sup>1</sup> occurred and they  
were embarrassed by falling icicles, etc. Moreover, the climb-  
ing became excessively difficult. They therefore, instead of

---

<sup>1</sup> [The original account in French, *A.J.* ii. 237 *seq.*, is very obscure,  
but the information given many years after to Sig. Cav. Guido Rey  
and printed at the end makes matters much clearer.]

continuing to traverse, started straight up towards the summit until they came across the ledge now known as Carrel's Galerie which they struck at a point from one-third to half-way across the face.



In their descent they followed the 'Galerie' in all its length, right across to the Breuil ridge and came out upon that ridge (or angle between the Tiefenmatten and Breuil faces) a little below the Col Félicité.

The Galerie route has been followed four times since :

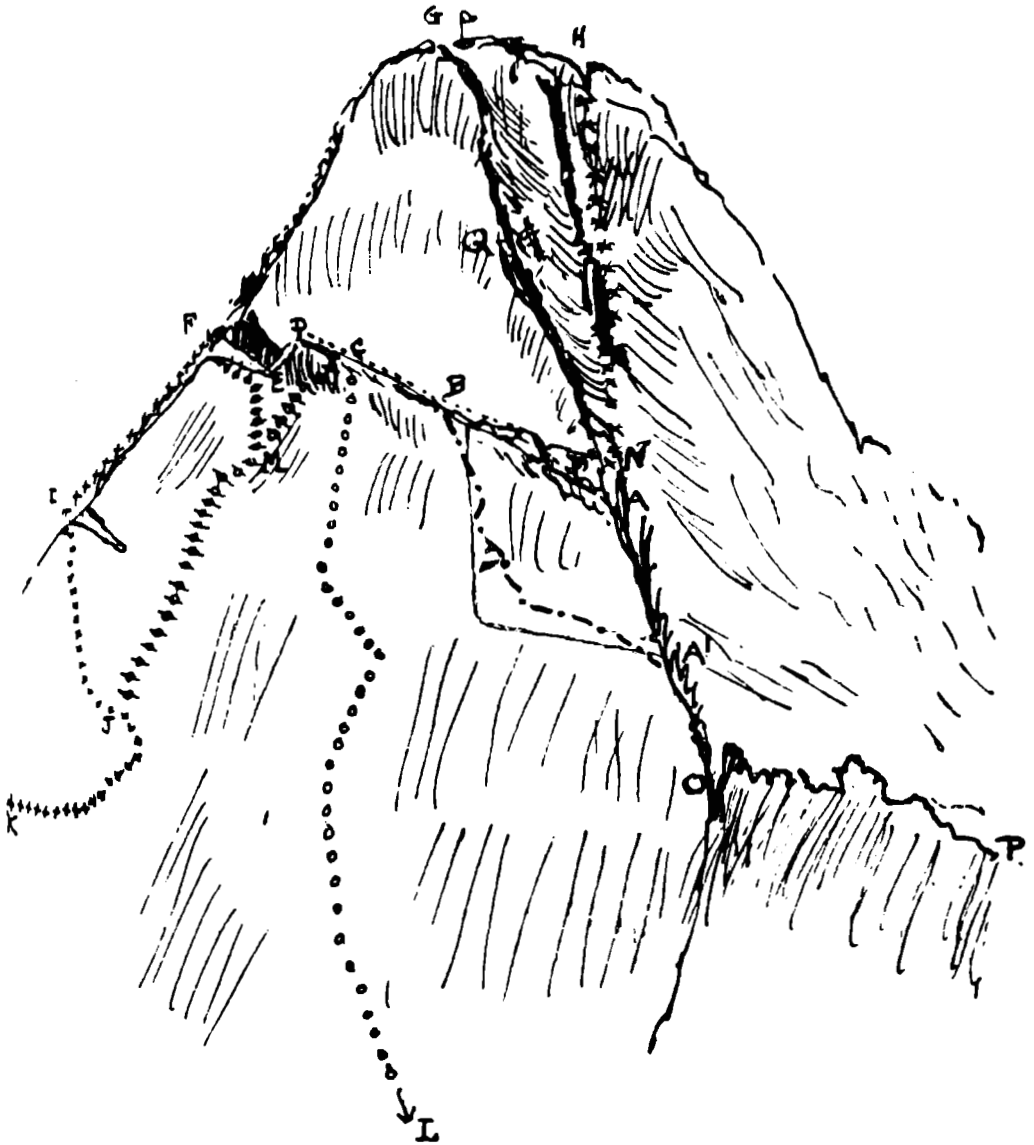
(1) In 1867 by Carrel himself, with Mr. Craufurd Grove, etc. They ascended and descended by the route of Carrel's descent in 1865, *i.e.* they followed the 'Galerie' in its entire length.<sup>2</sup>

(2) By Sir Edward Davidson, with C. Klucker and Daniel Maquignaz, on August 29, 1895. They almost certainly ascended by the route followed by Carrel on his ascent in 1865 and climbed up into the Galerie somewhat about half-way across. It was very difficult. They descended to Zermatt.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> [I cannot find that Grove published any account of this ascent beyond a note in the *Saturday Review*, March 7, 1868, reprinted *infra*, the fragment in *A.J.* iv. 188, and the note reprinted in *A.J.* xxxi. 89.]

<sup>3</sup> [His MS. diary for 1895 reads: 'Started across Galerie [*i.e.* the old line of Carrel's ascent] at 9.10. The early part was exceedingly difficult, and we found to my great surprise a *piton* driven into the rock 55 minutes after we had started. Subsequently we found a

(3) By Captain Percy Farrar, D.S.O., with Daniel Maquignaz and a porter, in 1903 [September 3]. They ascended and de-



scended by the whole length of the 'Galerie,' and then went

---

second, and finally, when about halfway across the face, we found another *piton*. We also found the cork of a wine tin near the same place. We arrived at the fault, which is quite close to the Z'Mutt ridge, at 10.40; and here we fixed a *piton* which we had brought with us and let ourselves down by the spare rope doubled [this is where, on Carrel's first ascent, the Abbé Gorret and Meynet stayed behind to haul Carrel up on his return, but the climb up is really quite easy]. We started up the Z'Mutt ridge at 11.20.]

over the top of the Matterhorn to Zermatt by the ordinary route and 'L'Echelle Jordan.'<sup>4</sup>

(4) By Sir Edward Davidson, with Joseph Pollinger, Heinrich Pollinger, and a porter<sup>4a</sup> who had never ascended a big mountain before (!), on September 4, 1906.

On this occasion the mountain was in magnificent condition, and the party took 30 minutes from the Breuil to the Z'Mutt ridge. They followed the 'Galerie' in its entirety and left the Breuil ridge at a much higher point than in 1895, and a little below the Col Félicité.

In 1895 the mountain was also in magnificent condition, and the party was a very strong one *quâ* guide power and every member of it was in very good training and fit on the day. Yet we took 2 hours to cross from the Breuil to the Z'Mutt ridge, and the first 50 minutes of these 2 hours, before we

---

<sup>4</sup> [My men were Daniel Maquignaz and a 21-year-old porter, Ange Perruquet. Times—left hut, 6.18; Whymper's highest point (letters on rock :

M. LUC EWAL

1861

C. + J. A.),

6.50; foot Corde, 7.22; W. end of Cravate, 7.50 (we branched off to visit the original Cravate hut, which lies off the line of ascent and involved step-cutting); reached hut, 8.16–8.20 (the first time, 1879, Daniel, then a porter, made the ascent of the Cervin with his uncle, J.-J. Maquignaz, the first thing he saw on reaching this hut was the body of a tall, black-bearded man lying across the door—Joseph Brantschen, *A.J.* ix 373–81); back, 8.35; Pic Tyndall, 8.55 (stopped 17 minutes); Col Félicité (enter Galerie), 10.3; on Z'Mutt arête, 11.9; summit, 11.38–44; back to Z'Mutt end of Galerie, 12.16–18; top of Carrel's chimney, 12.31; Col Félicité, 12.59–1.20; top Échelle, 1.45; summit, 2.2–18; Swiss summit, 2.24. The ascent was made the same day as Messrs. Hope and Kirkpatrick followed the ordinary Italian route. They were directly above us when we were about half-way along the Galerie. From this point on the Galerie I believe the summit could be reached by a direct escalade. The descent from and ascent to the longer bit of the Galerie by the 'fault,' or Carrel's chimney, to or from the short lower level bit close to the Z'Mutt arête, is not difficult. Cf. also Mr. R. W. Lloyd's narrative, *A.J.* xxxiii. 191.]

<sup>4a</sup> [Josef Imboden, chamois hunter of St. Niklaus. After the ascent Sir Edward remarks: 'The latter had gone most extraordinarily well all day, and is indeed a *rara avis*.']

reached the 'Galerie,' was extremely difficult—far harder than anything on the route followed in 1906.

The following rough sketch will give an idea of the routes :

SKETCH.

- ..... = A B C D E F = Ordinary route by Carrel's 'Galerie.'
- — — — — = A' B C D E F = Route of Carrel's ascent in 1865.
- o o o o o o o o o o = L C D E F G = Penhall's route—final part of.
- + + + ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ = K J M  $\frac{C}{B}$  E F G = Mummery's original route, 1879.
- + + + + + = K J I F G = Joseph Pollinger's route with the Duc d'Abuzzi and Mummery and Collie, 1894.<sup>5</sup>
- ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ = M F = A variation on Mummery's original route which avoids the Galerie and the fault (D E), but is otherwise as dangerous from falling stones as is Mummery's original route.

O = L'enjambée.

OP = La Spalla.

Q = L'échelle (Jordan).

N = Col Félicité—approximately.

NH = The Route (much foreshortened), now disused, by 'L'enjambée des trois Jean Baptistes.' I ascended by this route in 1889.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> [I question whether my party—Daniel Maquignaz leading—on August 31, 1894, was so far away from the Z'Mutt arête as this. We were forced out on the slabs, which were iced in places, only for a short time. The amount of diversion is, to some extent, governed by the amount of ice on the slabs. Those more to the right may get the sun earlier and dry quicker. We followed a somewhat irregular line dictated by the verglas.]

<sup>6</sup> [There had been a rock-fall, carrying away the échelle, which was not replaced for some time; hence the opening of this new passage.]

I = The spot at which the correct, and safe, route from Z'Mutt reaches the arête.<sup>7</sup> It is easily recognizable as the lower of two triangular strips of snow, of which F is the higher. From F to I the arête is easy. In 1895, going fast, we took 12 minutes from I to F and 30 minutes from F to the Italian summit. By the route K J I one is only exposed to danger from stones, etc., for 2 or 3 minutes; by Mummery's original route for a considerable time—30–45 minutes at least. The route K J I is now always followed by Joseph Pollinger and Daniel Maquignaz, who know this face of the mountain far better than anyone else. Daniel has made four or five ascents by the Z'Mutt route and one descent. Joseph has made about a dozen ascents, and one (the first) *descent* in which *he* (and not Zurbriggen, who had never been on this side of the mountain before) led the party.

I crossed the mountain the same day and saw the party [Miss Bristow with Pollinger and Zurbriggen who had ascended by the ordinary E face route] descending. Captain Farrar's party ascended from Z'Mutt the same day—and also Dr. Güssfeldt's with Emile Rey and César Knubel.<sup>8</sup> The former

---

<sup>7</sup> [The so-called Z'Mutt arête is not continuous to the summit. About 1½ hours above the prominent towers which succeed the lower snow part of the arête, the arête abuts against the edge of the Tiefenmatten face, making nearly a right angle with an arête which leads upwards to the summit. This upper arête does not, as such, actually connect to the lower arête, as it is driven in at the angle by the intrusion of the head of the great couloir which lies between the lower part of the main arête and the mass of the mountain. To circumvent this intrusion a diversion has to be made out on to the slabs of the Tiefenmatten face. The closer one can keep to the left the better—*i.e.* the narrower this diversion the better. See note *infra*.]

<sup>8</sup> [We all bivouacked close together. My party led all day, and on the descent we met the Doctor's party (ascending) on the Tiefenmatten slabs. Emile Rey, in a bivouac, was marvellous in the manner he saw to his *monsieur*, and on rocks he was a beautiful mover: he had a great reach. I never saw him on ice, but his work on the S. side of M. Blanc speaks. The Doctor was about fifty-three, and a bit heavy. He had been, as a younger man, a most enterprising and right valiant mountaineer, and his resolution was still very great.]

party descended to Z'Mutt and the latter by the ordinary way to Zermatt. [Friday August 31, 1894.]

Captain Farrar's party, of course, arrived at the top long after the [Miss Bristow]-Pollinger-Zurbriggen party had left it,<sup>9</sup> but he caught that party up on the way down—so that he may be said to have made the joint first *descent* by the Z'Mutt route.

Joseph Pollinger, who had been selected by Mr. Mummery to lead himself and the Duke of the Abruzzi [and Dr. Collie] in their ascent, of a few days before, from Z'Mutt, was also selected to lead Miss Bristow in the descent. He was at this time only a porter nominally, and under twenty-one years of age, but he was a good enough guide to discover the safe route K J I, and to lead his party that way, notwithstanding that Mr. Mummery indicated to him the route by which Burgener had previously led him in 1879.

In note 81, page 319, of the English translation [of Signor Cav. Guido Rey's great book] it is stated that Mr. W. Penhall went up by a 'SLIGHTLY *different route*' from that followed by Mr. Mummery.

The Penhall [final] route was—up to the point where it struck Carrel's 'Galerie' at C—an entirely different and distinct route. From C both climbers followed Carrel's route of 1865. Mr. Penhall's route was, I think, a very bad route,

---

<sup>9</sup> [We met Miss Bristow, a pupil of Mummery's—she could move—and her guides on the Tiefenmatten slabs at 10.45. They were rather further out than we were. We got back to the upper Z'Mutt arête at 11.10 and to the top at noon exactly, so their party had a start of us of about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours and, say,  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour = 2 hours. We caught them up on the path a little before Staffelalp. Miss Bristow's party and ours had already bivouacked for this ascent on the night of August 28-29. They led off, but both were compelled, by the stormy outlook, to turn back below the teeth. On returning to Zermatt I told Mummery of my proposal—I knew full well my leader would never demur—to ascend and *descend* by the Z'Mutt. He expressed surprise at this, as though such a possibility had not entered his head, and asked me how? When I told him he said no more to me. Joseph Pollinger was in those days about twenty—looked all legs, with eyes of the bluest. He already gave every promise of speedily becoming the great master which, by general consent, he has now long been. Mattias Zurbriggen was about forty, a good-looking man with a fiery red beard. He had had great experience, and was undoubtedly an able guide. I remember he wore crampons, which I first took to three years later for an ascent of the Höfats in Algäu, where they are needed !]

but it had, and has retained, the merit of novelty at any rate. In 1895 and in 1906 it could, I think, have been repeated without very great difficulty, and the upper part of the route is not probably quite so dangerous from falling stones as the upper part of Mr. Mummery's *original* route; but the middle section of the route is, I believe, far more difficult and also more dangerous.

Captain Farrar says of Carrel's 'Galerie': 'The Galerie starts 25 minutes below the Echelle Jordan. . . . It is not so much a corridor or ledge as I expected, but is rather the upper edge of the Tiefenmatten face, where it abuts against the precipitous final rocks. I thought it was going to be very difficult, as the ground looked, till one was actually on it, almost impossible, and I, mentally, several times, took off my hat to the bold climber who first passed that way.

'But actually we had no *great* difficulty—it meant simply *extreme care*. We left no rope at the descent from the higher to the lower level [*i.e.* at D E.—W. E. D.], and climbed it on our return with a little trouble. The length of the traverse made it trying. I do not remember any traverse of equal length elsewhere.

'It is a most interesting climb—one that I shall always remember vividly.'

. . . It was *Penhall* and not Mummery who was the first to try this route and to demonstrate its feasibility up to the teeth. He would undoubtedly have made the first ascent, as he deserved to do, but Mummery not ungenerously [*sic*] stepped in, and robbed him of the natural fruits of his labour.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> [Both Penhall's and Mummery's narratives (*A.J.* ix. 449 *seq.*), even with a good knowledge of the mountain, are very hard to follow, and the diagram hardly helps things. Penhall, led by Ferdinand Imseng, on their first attempt on September 1, 1879, apparently gained the snow arête of the Z'Muttgrat by much the same route as is taken now, and followed it to above the second great tooth. It was too late to go further, so they descended and bivouacked on a patch of rocks on the arête. Next morning the weather was bad, so they descended to Zermatt. On the way down they met Mummery and Burgener coming up. The same night (September 2) they started again at 10 and, strange to say—the text is very incoherent, but the line is marked on the diagram—they did not take their route of the previous day, but proceeded right out on to the Tiefenmatten face and climbed right up this, having to retrace their steps once, and only gained the upper Z'Mutt

On August 17, 1896, with Christian Klucker and César

ridge about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour below the summit—a piece of very bad mountaineering, as the whole route, up to the final ridge, is very exposed. (See, however, Sir Edward's possible explanation *infra*.) They had taken 17 hours from Zermatt.

Mummery's paper is none too clear. Alexander Burgener, then about thirty-five, was in command of the party, but Johann Petrus went ahead, unroped, all day. They bivouacked on 'a large stone-covered plateau, on the W. ridge of which, overlooking the Z'Mutt glacier, we found a suitable hollow. . . . Next morning we crossed the plateau, keeping to the right, as the huge ice-cliffs of the Matterhorn glacier . . . forbid all approach in their direction.' Anyway, by 5.50 they had gained the snow bit of the main arête, where they found Penhall's steps of the previous day, etc.

From this it would seem that they did, by some route or other, aim at and gain the lower Z'Mutt snow arête, the key of the ascent, and thus exhibited the same sound mountaineering as did Imseng on Penhall's party's attempt of September 1—abandoned, however, next day in favour of a thoroughly bad route. I have had to note before that Imseng was rather a desperate climber than a very sound mountaineer.

Mummery certainly had the advantage of watching Penhall's party on their first attempt on September 1, and, inasmuch as they adopted the route so far as it went, to that extent they benefitted; but beyond that they owed nothing to Penhall's party. I do not think they could be blamed for making the attempt, as Penhall had given it up—anyway for the time being. It was at that time greatly sought after, and men like Burgener, the conqueror of the Dru, and Mummery, though then little known, could not reasonably be debarred.

The diagram p. 264 of *Alpes Valaisannes* vol. ii. shows several routes on the Tiefenmatten flank of the lower Z'Mutt arête that do not seem to be dealt with or explained in the text.

It is difficult to reconcile Mummery's estimate of serious difficulty. Baumann, who repeated the ascent three days later with Petrus and Emile Rey, expressed an opinion as to the comparative absence of difficulty, which is quite in accord with modern ideas. My leader in 1894, Daniel Maquignaz, knew nothing of the route, which had only been repeated once since Baumann's expedition, but he was never for a moment in doubt; indeed, once the lower Z'Mutt snow arête is gained no first-rate man should have any hesitation. No doubt in the fifteen years between 1879 and 1894 the standard of sound mountaineering had made giant strides. I have never seen a greater master in route-finding than was Daniel.

It should not be forgotten that Conway was an early wooer of the Z'Mutt route (Penhall's narrative, *A.J.* ix. 449; my remarks, *A.J.* xxx. 184 and *A.J.* xxxi. 150.)

Knubel, I made an exploratory reconnaissance with a view of discovering whether the Z'Mutt ridge could not be reached, without unreasonable difficulty, from the Matterhorn Gletscher, and the ascent of the Z'Mutt arête made from the Lower Hut (Cabane Whymper) on the N.E. side of the mountain.

We left the Ryffel Alp at 5.30 A.M. in very uncertain weather, and stopped nearly two hours at the Schwarz See, as the weather continued threatening. Eventually we reached the Matterhorn Hut at 11.30 A.M., and left at 12.10 P.M.

From the hut we traversed the slopes of the Matterhorn Gletscher *below* the ice-cliffs until we came to some huge and very broken séracs, up which we forced our way, arriving on the upper plateau of the Matterhorn Gletscher (on to which Hudson's, Croz's, and Hadow's bodies fell in 1865) at 2 P.M. Thence we went upwards diagonally across the steep snow- and ice-slopes towards the Z'Mutt snow ridge, which we hit almost exactly at the spot where it is usually reached from the Tiefenmatten side in the ordinary ascent from Z'Mutt. There was a good deal of ice on the slope which we had to traverse, and step-cutting was continuous. We reached the Z'Mutt snow ridge at 4.10 P.M. and descended to the Tiefenmatten Gletscher, Staffel Alp, and Ryffel Alp, arriving at the latter very late the same evening.

This was the first time that the Matterhorn Gletscher had been visited since 1865, and the first time (nor has the expedition since been repeated <sup>11</sup>) that the Z'Mutt snow ridge has been gained from this side. The expedition proved the feasibility of ascending from the Matterhorn Hut over the Matterhorn Gletscher to the Z'Mutt snow ridge, and thence, of course, to the summit of the peak by the usual Z'Mutt route. In ordinary circumstances the traverse of the snow-slopes about the Matterhorn Gletscher ought not to present much difficulty, but it would probably always require a good ice-man to force the passage of the ice-cliffs separating the lower from the upper plateau of the Matterhorn Gletscher. This part of the expedition might be dangerous—though it was not so in 1896—except for about two minutes during which we ran over blocks of ice, the débris of former ice avalanches.

It is quite a feasible route, however.

---

<sup>11</sup> [The route was repeated by Mr. Moore in 1908 (cf. *Jahrbuch S.A.C.* xlvi. 283). Lately, somewhere, I saw this claimed as a *new* route! The Matterhorn glacier was visited by Mr. R. W. Lloyd in 1913 (cf. *A.J.* xxvii. 450).]

It may be interesting to mention, as showing that the idea of ascending the Matterhorn from Z'Mutt was in men's minds long before Penhall and Mummery successfully tried and accomplished it in 1879, that when I was on the summit of the Dent Blanche with Melchior Anderegg in 1876<sup>12</sup> he discussed the ascent by the route afterwards followed by Burgener when he led Mr. Mummery up it. Melchior said: 'Es geht, aber *ich* gehe nicht. Man muss einen Kopf von Eisen haben, der da gehen will. Das ist für . . .' (mentioning a well-known member of the Club who was then rather renowned for enterprise even to the verge of rashness).<sup>13</sup>

Ferdinand Imseng was also very anxious to try it with me in 1876 by the Grat—and not by the face—the route by which he took Penhall in 1879. This route was an entire afterthought, and would never have been tried at all had not Mr. Mummery's party been some hours ahead of Mr. Penhall's on the route which the latter had previously selected—on which they had attained a considerable height (*i.e.* as far as the teeth), and from which they had been temporarily driven back by bad weather.

I do not think that the best guides, even so early as 1875–6, had much doubt as to the feasibility of the route, but they thought it (as Melchior did) extremely dangerous from falling stones. This, experience has shown, is not the case when the proper route is taken, though the original Mummery-Burgener route was—as Mr. Penhall at the time pointed out—dangerous in its upper part, especially after mid-day. The route now followed, however, eliminates this specially dangerous portion of the route of 1879, and is not at all unduly risky.

W. E. D.

END.

[A letter dated March 6, 1908, from Sig. Cav. Guido Rey, is attached to Sir Edward's 'Notes'—which had been submitted to him. This letter gives a note of a conversation, some time before, while 'Il Cervino' was in preparation, between himself

<sup>12</sup> [Cf. *A.J.* xxx. 184.]

<sup>13</sup> [The late Mr. Middlemore; but it is now admitted that he was condemned on a misreading of his narrative. Cf. In Memoriam notice, *A.J.* xxxv. 271. Middlemore's leader, Jaun, moreover, was Melchior's prize pupil!]

and Abbé Gorret, one of Carrel's companions, reading as follows : ]

' Depuis l'Enjambée de l'Epaule à la tête [*i.e.* summit] il me paraissait de devoir continuer directement; Carrel ne fut pas du même avis et il voulait côtoyer pour atteindre l'arête de Z'Mutt par une pente d'une inclinaison vertigineuse. Notre chemin était presque horizontal; dans cette traversée folle Meynet fit un faux pas et, sans ma solidité, nous étions tous perdus. C'est alors que Bic dit que nous étions fous, etc.

' Il fallut donc changer chemin et se remettre à grimper tout droit, Carrel toujours en tête et moi second. Cette montée nous reconduisait vers l'arête<sup>14</sup>; j'étais content car j'avais toujours pensé que le bon chemin était par là-haut. Pour s'accrocher Carrel détache une pierre qui me tombe sur la main et roule en m'écorchant le bras. Enfin nous arrivons à un endroit presque raisonnable, mais il faudrait redescendre par un petit couloir perpendiculaire, etc.' [Evidently the fault or Carrel's chimney.]

[Sig. Cav. Rey also sends to Sir Edward a copy of 'Notes recueillies par G. Carrel,' published in *Rivista delle Alpi Appennini*, vol. ii., 1865. They do not contain anything fresh, and will be preserved in the Club Library with Sir Edward's original 'Notes.']

The claim of a 'new' route mentioned in note 11 reads as follows :

*Times*, Saturday, August 4, 1923.

' A NEW WAY UP THE MATTERHORN.

' (From our Geneva Correspondent.)

' The ascent of the Matterhorn (14,780 ft.) has just been made by a new route. Some years ago the guide Supersaxo made an attempt to reach the snow ridge of the Zmuttgrat by crossing the séracs of the Matterhorn glacier, but he failed. This route was taken last week by Mr de Bruyne, a Dutch tourist, with the guides Aufdenblatten and Gentinetta. The party crossed the Matterhorn glacier above the séracs, reached

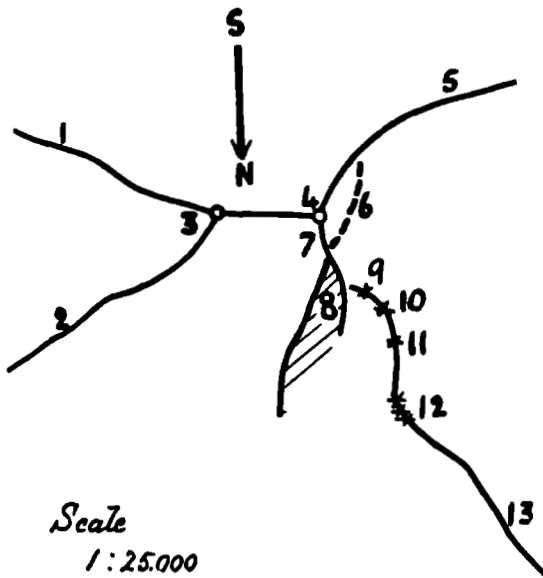
---

<sup>14</sup> [Gorret means that climbing straight up brought them more in the direction of the Breuil arête than their previous oblique line; but they soon hit the Galerie and then turned along it towards the Z'Mutt arête.]

the Zmuttgrat, and thence attained the top of the Matterhorn.'

Oskar Supersaxo's own statement in *Jahrbuch S.A.C.* xlvi. 283 contradicts the statement as to his failure. Moreover Sir Edward's passage of the Matterhorn glacier is well known in Zermatt. Thus not *any part* of this pretended *new* route is *new*.

Referring to note 7 Capt. G. Finch has been kind enough to construct a diagram.



1. Furggen ridge.
2. Swiss ridge.
3. Swiss summit.
4. Italian summit.
5. Italian ridge.
6. Carrel's Galerie.
- 7 to 13. Z'Mutt ridge.
8. Nose of Z'Mutt.
9. Head of great couloir falling away to Matterhorn glacier.
10. Bold gendarme.
11. Almost level step.
12. The three teeth.
13. Snow ridge.

He adds :

'Shortly below the point where Carrel's Galerie cuts the Z'Mutt ridge this ridge bifurcates into a short, western ridge and a longer, eastern ridge. The nose of Z'Mutt is formed by the precipitous face enclosed between these two ridges. Neither ridge reaches down to the Matterhorn glacier. The lower part of the Z'Mutt ridge does not quite connect with the western branch of the bifurcation of the upper part; the Z'Mutt ridge is therefore not a continuous one.'

Of his own ascent by the Z'Mutt arête—and he ought to be a judge of difficulty—he writes (in 1924) :

'Re difficulty of Z'Mutt ridge. I have only made ascent once, in 1911. We were two parties: (1) V. A. Fynn, F. Obexer (A.A.C.Z. President), and Maxwell Finch; (2) G. I. Finch, J. C. Case (the most talented beginner I have ever known), and E. Martini (one of the finest rock-climbers of the A.A.C.Z.).

'A heavy thunderstorm had left snow—though not much—on the mountain. We found ascent to beyond the three teeth (round which we traversed on the N. side) easy. Then bad traverse into couloir on left. Easy up to level step in Z'Mutt ridge. Driven by fresh snow off into couloir on left again. Ascended up couloir to gap on Matterhorn side of bold gendarme (this part was bad owing to fresh snow and cold). Followed ridge a short way, then worked out into Tiefenmatten face, cutting across a huge snow-slope about 250 ft. wide. Then work again became bad necessitating great care. Fynn kept almost straight up. I traversed out a bit more and then turned up again. Continually troubled by verglas, fresh snow, and sheets of ice between which and the rock underneath there was often an air space. We gained the Galerie at same time, my party at the foot of Carrel's chimney, Fynn's a good deal nearer to the Z'Mutt ridge. Galerie loaded with powdery snow, but easy all the way to Z'Mutt ridge and on to the summit.

'We all formed the opinion that the Z'Mutt ridge was, in such conditions, a difficult and big undertaking. Our times etc. are given in Dübi's "Walliser Alpen."

'I can only conclude that, when in the best of conditions, the Z'Mutt ridge may be a comparatively easy climb, but with fresh snow and verglas one is driven off the ridge a good deal and has to face really serious difficulties. . . . My party led throughout, up and down, but we asked for and took our instructions from Fynn.'

Whereas the Z'Mutt route has become a regular expedition the Galerie route has not been followed—or at least recorded—much since Sir Edward's time. Reference is made in 'A.J.' xxv. 359 to passages by Miss Meyer and Miss Brodigan. Mr. Lloyd, with Joseph and Adolf Pollinger, made, in 1919, the interesting combination of the Swiss, Galerie, and Z'Mutt routes, not previously done. He has described his experiences in a vivid article in 'A.J.' xxxiii. 190–192, of which perhaps the most remarkable and interesting incident is that this most redoubtable party for the first, and let us hope last, time in their experience slept out!

On August 29, 1923, Colonel G. E. Gask, with Joseph Péliissier and Camille, son of Daniel, Maquignaz, made the passage. He writes:

'I left the Italian hut at 5.20 A.M., arriving at the Col Félicité at 8.25 A.M. Here we turned to the left and traversed in a slightly downward direction over some rotten rocks

towards the Tiefenmatten face. About 30 metres along, we came across about 2 metres of old frayed-out rope lying close to but not attached to a rusty piton. We left it where it lay. We imagined it was a relic of some of the early parties. We waited for a few minutes because of a cannonade of stones started by a party on the Italian ridge. Before us was the Tiefenmatten face, which here is like a great wide-open gully, the edges being formed by the Italian and Z'Mutt ridges. About the middle is a well-marked ledge of rock, well seen in the diagram (p. 223). This is the "Galerie." It is not quite horizontal, but slopes upwards towards the Z'Mutt ridge; nor does it go right across, for it is cut off abruptly near that ridge, and Carrel's chimney has to be descended to gain, by a further short traverse, the Z'Mutt arête. We did not follow this ledge, but a smaller one just below it, which has a similar formation with the same abrupt ending on the Z'Mutt side. The whole traverse from the Italian to the Z'Mutt ridge took us just one hour, but we spent some time looking about us. The face was free of snow, and there was no extraordinary difficulty, and no place where a mountaineer of to-day would think of using a fixed rope. One can imagine, though, the feelings of Carrel on his first ascent: the terrors of the unknown and the terrifying aspect of the [stupendous Tiefenmatten face, traversed for the first time, would have made the stoutest heart quail.

'The passage of "Carrel's Gallery" seems only to increase the admiration felt for that intrepid mountaineer.'

---

#### AN ASCENT OF THE MATTERHORN.

[Mr. Craufurd Grove's ascent from Breuil in 1867, reprinted from the *Saturday Review*, March 7, 1868.]

**M**OST people who have been in Switzerland—and everyone who has been anywhere has been in Switzerland—confess that they feel some curiosity about those strange highlands which of late years have been so thoroughly explored, and accounts of Alpine expeditions are often found interesting even by those who think that there was little sense in making them. Some description of a recent ascent of the Matterhorn from the southern side may not be dull for those who have seen that wonderful ruined pyramid blocking up the end of