

that descends from the ridge between the Lyskamm W. summit and Point 4084. Over this glacier, first bearing to the E., afterwards more to the W., with much step-cutting, we reached the ice-slope leading to the ridge above Point 4084. As the rocks at C below Point 4084 were very loose and rotten, we preferred cutting about 400 steps on this ice-slope, which was covered with a thin layer of very bad snow. An ever-increasing storm also made progress very slow and forced us, as soon as we reached the easy snow-slopes at 4300 m. (D) at 10 A.M. to cross to the W. ridge leading to the Felikjoch.

'The average incline between Point 4084 and the Grenz glacier surpasses 50°. Bad weather and bad snow. We had to cross some very nasty *Schneebretter*, which cost us much time.'

Bernina (West Wing) Group.

PIZ CENGALO (3374 m. = 11,070 ft., *S. map*). By the S. ARÊTE. October 18, 1925. Count Aldo Bonacossa and Signor P. Orio.

[See in general, 'A.J.' xxxvii. 150-4 (*upper* photograph facing 143), where pessimistic remarks on S. arête should now be amended accordingly.]

From the Badile (Gianetti) Club Hut, skirt the base of Piz Cengalo's S. arête over debris and snow, as far as the great slab, S.W. of that peak (in *up* to the small teeth which are taken direct. A broad and flowery ledge now appears on the W.; follow it for some 160 ft. and then mount up a slab about 90 ft. high. Next, by a slanting and *descending* traverse to the right, S., of some 10 ft. over a smooth slab—the most difficult place of the whole expedition—attain some cracks by means of which the crest of the arête is nearly attained. Another great ledge now leads N. to a gully; follow it, climb the gully by the very steep rocks of its N. bank and so arrive at a spot close to Point 3214 m. (*Lurani map*). The comparatively easy (S.)² arête is then followed to the summit (7 hrs.).

Rocks firm but generally difficult throughout. A very complicated route, the 'times' of which could now be reduced by some 3 hrs.

A. B.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS.

Le Dauphiné.

AILEFROIDE, CENTRAL SUMMIT (3925 m. = 12,878 ft.), BY THE N. ARÊTE. July 17, 1925. MM. J. Lagarde, H. de Ségogne, G. and J. Vernet.

² *A.J.* xxxvii. 151. Under route 2.

This is the first repetition of this route since it was first made in 1913 by Dr. Guido Mayer with Angelo Dibona of Cortina, as fully described in 'A.J.' xxvii. 437-439.

It was well worthy of the attention of these finished mountaineers of the G.H.M. The full details must be sought in :

(1) *La Montagne*, December 1925, 'Autour du Glacier Noir,' by M. Henry de Ségogne,¹ a masterly article with four illustrations including a marked route.

(2) *La Revue Alpine*, vol. xxvii. (1926) pp. 42-46, an article with a route-marked illustration by M. J. Lagarde, as careful a student of topography as he is a sound and enterprising mountaineer.

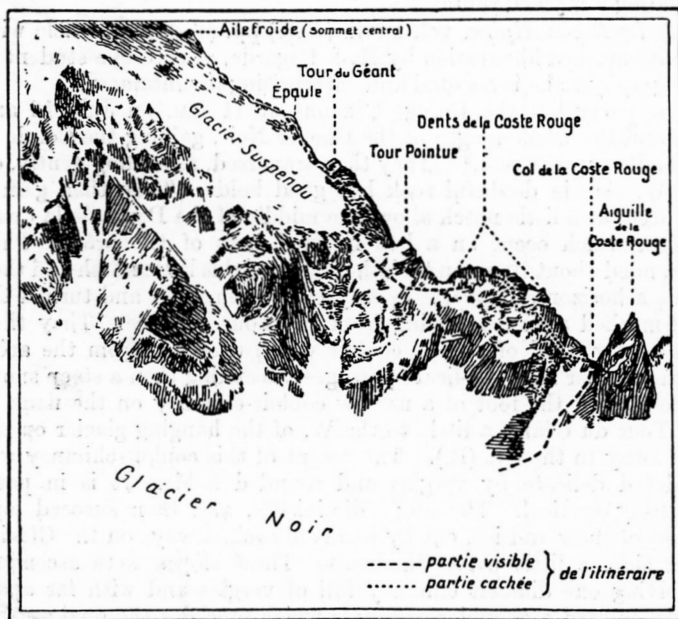
The party left the Refuge Cézanne at 11 p.m. on July 16 and followed the whole length of the Glacier Noir, gaining the Col de la Coste Rouge at 5 a.m.² They then traversed, ascending gently, on the W. side in doubtful rock but good holds. They then gained the arête at a little notch about the middle of the Dents de la Coste Rouge, which occur on a less inclined part of the arête. They descended about 10 m. on the other flank of this little notch and then made a horizontal traverse in easy but rotten rocks and turned the well-marked spur descending from the Tour Pointue. They then crossed the head of a deep couloir which descends from the arête to the Glacier Noir—delicate passage—ascending then a steep snow-slope toward the foot of a narrow couloir-chimney on the flank of the Tour du Géant, a little to the W. of the hanging glacier on the face away to the left (E.). The ascent of this couloir-chimney was rendered delicate by verglas and rounded holds. It is in parts probably vertical. The angle diminishes, and then succeed long slopes of snow and ice, cut by bands of rock, always on the Glacier Noir side, a little below the crest. These slopes were ascended, involving one difficult chimney full of verglas and with far apart holds, toward a shoulder or *épaule* which precedes the final escarpments. They regained the arête at this *épaule* and turned a gendarme on the W. side. At the foot of the final wall, by insouciance, the leader started to climb the face away to the left, but soon came on really extraordinary difficulties—greyish slabs with very rare, minute and rotten holds. The party retraced its steps, after vain attempts and much loss of time, and returned to the arête by which Mayer had ascended. They turned over to the Coste Rouge flank at the actual foot of the final wall by a *cheminée* blocked by an enormous quantity of snow and ice which led them to the foot of deep vertical chimneys of red rock with well-marked holds

¹ I cannot forbear reproducing the dedication: 'A Jacques de Lépiney, au fondateur du groupe de Haute Montagne du C.A.F., au grand serviteur de l'Alpinisme français, à mon maître et ami.' Such words bestow and reflect honour. J. P. F.

² Mayer on the first ascent bivouacked on the col, which is possibly best, although one would not be able to start very early.

and generally solid. They climbed these and gained the summit at 8 P.M.

Intending to descend by the ordinary way they followed for a few dozen metres the W. arête and then, descending a little on the S. face, bivouacked near the head of the supposed couloir of descent (the second great couloir to the W. coming from the central summit)



about 30 m. below the arête, not far from one of its most remarkable gendarmes. At 5 A.M. they descended this couloir until, about 50 m. above the glacier, it fell away in a vertical wall of smooth rocks. They then followed a sort of sloping *vire* to the E. This ended in a slab about 15 m. above the glacier, to which they roped down and returned to Ailefroide by the route described in Mr. Coolidge's guide, viz. by the left bank of the Ailefroide Glacier.¹

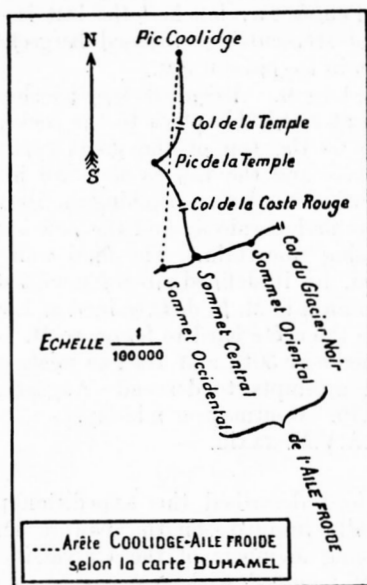
'An expedition of rare beauty. Few objective dangers. No very redoubtable difficulties for determined mountaineers.'

(Verbatim from M. Lagarde's article.²)

¹ Cf. sketch, *A.J.* xxvii. 439. Dr. Mayer was cut off from the left bank by 'savage icefalls' and got benighted in seeking another route.

² This ascent is of such importance that I have ventured to ask M. Lagarde's permission to reproduce his route-marked sketch, by

M. Lagarde points out, what is indeed confirmed by the photograph in 'A.J.' vol. xxvii. opposite p. 438, that the Carte Duhamel is in error in making the N. arête descend from the W. summit,



and he is good enough to allow us to copy his sketch, which makes the point quite clear—that the N. arête descends from the central summit.

Mont Blanc Group.

M. BLANC DE COURMAYEUR (4753 m. = 15,595 ft.), BY THE PEUTERET ARÊTE. July 27-29, 1925. Herren W. Welzenbach and Dr. W. Allwein.

Bivouac on left (orog.) bank of Brenva Glacier at about 2700 m. Left bivouac¹ at midnight. Crossed crevassed glacier to right bank (4·30-5·0)—extremely tiresome and time-wasting by lantern light.

Ascended steep glacier at foot of Dames Anglaises and crossed the terrace of the Aig. Blanche—constant exposure to stones—as well

the aid of which the description can be followed with ease. The honours seem to have fallen—well earned—to the G.H.M. these last three years at least.—J. P. F.

¹ It would have been much better to cross the glacier the same afternoon and bivouac at the foot of Dames Anglaises and thus avoid risk of stonefall next morning.

as a névé field with many stone furrows, to gain the N.E. arête of the Aig. B. The upper part of this arête was deep in snow and demanded delicate rock- and ice-work. Summit Aig. B. (4109 m.) 12.30 P.M. Left 1 P.M. The descent to the Col de Peuteret was tiresome and owing to the Peuteret avalanche¹ the last ice-slope to the Col demanded hours of step-cutting—Crossed bergschrund on doubled rope over a driven-in ice-piton 6 P.M.

July 29. Started 6 A.M. Ascended steep ice-slope on left of main arête and crossed at a suitable place to the rocks, then always on left of main arête to the top of the great corner bastion. The following bit of arête and the towers were all in deep snow and corniced. The névé arêtes before reaching the ice-wall were thickly covered with snow and corniced, and the new snow on hard névé and ice made going uncertain. The final wall was climbed, in approaching storm, up ill-defined ribs of névé and through a low cornice and the summit of M. B. de C. gained at 4.30 P.M. Mist and bad weather made the arête hard to follow to M. Blanc 5.30, Vallot hut 6.30. Detained here 30th and 31st, as mist, snow, and stormy weather defeated attempts to descend—August 1 left 5.30 A.M. Dôme hut 7.45–8.15. Courmayeur midday.

Jahresbericht A.A.V.M. xxxiii.

[In the conditions described this expedition put the greatest demands—splendidly fulfilled—on the powers and endurance of these brilliant young members of the University of Munich. In 1893 we were not troubled with any new snow and little with cornices. We had, however, constant step-cutting and a gale of wind, and took, from a bivouac at foot of Dames Anglaises to the summit of M. B. de C., 20 hours practically continuous going without change of leader.—J. P. F.]

COL DES CRISTAUX (3609 m. = 11,838 ft.). June 30, 1925. S. B. Van Noorden and P. W. Harris.

We left the Gallois hut at 3 A.M. in clear weather and gained the foot of the Col at 4. The Col has a ridge inclined at an easy angle running down into the glacier which makes it an easy way to the Couvercle hut.

We passed right round the foot of this ridge and attacked it on the left or S. side. We crossed three incipient bergschrunds and by easy snow-slopes and rocks reached the crest behind a strikingly sharp gendarme (4.15). Immediately ahead stand three rock towers which we passed on the left. The rock was good but in places difficult. Above lies an easy snow-ridge which abuts against a snow-slope. We found the condition of the slope very bad, due

¹ See illustration, *A.J.* vol. xxxv., opposite p. 113.

to recent snow. The slope gets steep at the top and ends in a face of rotten rocks which, although not difficult, needed great care. This landed us on the Col just below a small gendarme and some 500 ft. to the right of the Aiguille Mummery.

The descent to the Couvercle we found to consist chiefly of easy snow-slopes interspersed with snow-covered rocks.

P. W. H.

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPINE CLUB OBITUARY :	Date of Election
Wagner, H.	1869
Coolidge, W. A. B.	1870
Beachcroft, Sir R. Melvill	1871
Waugh, H. D.	1894
Spender, E. Harold	1896

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE WESTERN ALPS.—The edition (1898) by Mr. Coolidge covers the Maritimes, Graians, Dauphiné, Mt. Blanc group, and Pennines to the Simplon. With maps of each district, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 10s., or 10s. 4d. post free. Obtainable from any bookseller or the Assistant Secretary.

'BALL'S ALPINE GUIDE,' THE CENTRAL ALPS. PART I.—The edition (1907), by Rev. A. A. Valentine-Richards, covers Switzerland and N. of the Rhone and the Rhine. With nine maps, 1 : 250,000, and a general map. Price 5s., or 5s. 4d. post free, or unbound 2s. 6d., or 2s. 10d. post free. Obtainable as above.

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The volumes of the 'Central Alps' are, for the mountaineer, the best general guides to the districts described and contain the well-known Ravenstein maps.