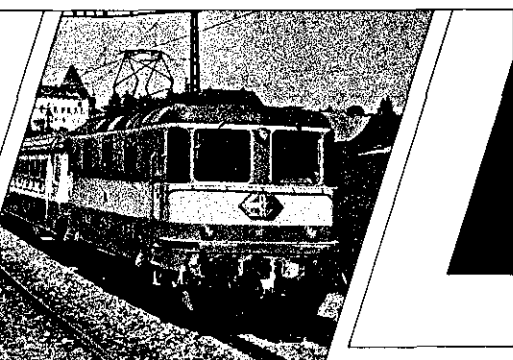


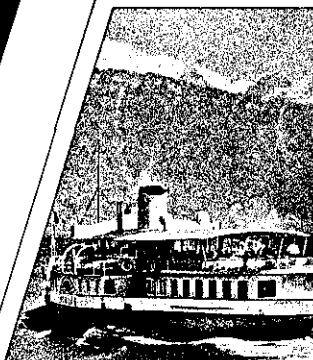
THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB JOURNAL 1985

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DIARY FOR 1985

- 6 January Fondue Party
- 1-3 February Northern Dinner meet, Patterdale
- 15-17 February Newtonmore
- 13 March The Goddess of Turquoise. Matthew Priestman
- 22-24 March Patterdale maintenance meet. Leader D. Hodge
- 4-8 April Easter meet, Reddgelert. Leader John Berry
- 4-8 April Patterdale
- 3-6 May Patterdale
- 22 May Buffet Party
- 24-27 May Patterdale
- 14-16 June R.W. Lloyd Hut - Welsh 3 Thousands.
Leader John Berry
- 27 July-10 August Camping Meet, Grindelwald.
Book through M. Pinney
- 9 August-1 September Alpine Meet, Fischbiel.
Book through Harry Archer
- 23-26 August Patterdale
- 4-6 October Buffet Party, Patterdale. Leader Marion Porteous
- 16 October Members' evening. Slides of the Alpine meet.
- 15-17 November Alpine reunion meet. Leader Jeff Harris
- 20 December-
1 January 1986 Patterdale

Lecture meets will be held at the Alpine Club, 74 Audley Street, London, W.1. at 7.15 p.m. Cash bar refreshments will be available from 6.30 p.m. and coffee will be available after the lectures. Please book with the person named for outdoor meets. Further details will appear in circulars.

Book for Patterdale through John Murray, 4 Sunny Point, Crook, near Kendal, LA8 8LP. Telephone: 0539 821754.



AT THE BRITANNIA HUT

Barbara Attridge

EDITORIAL

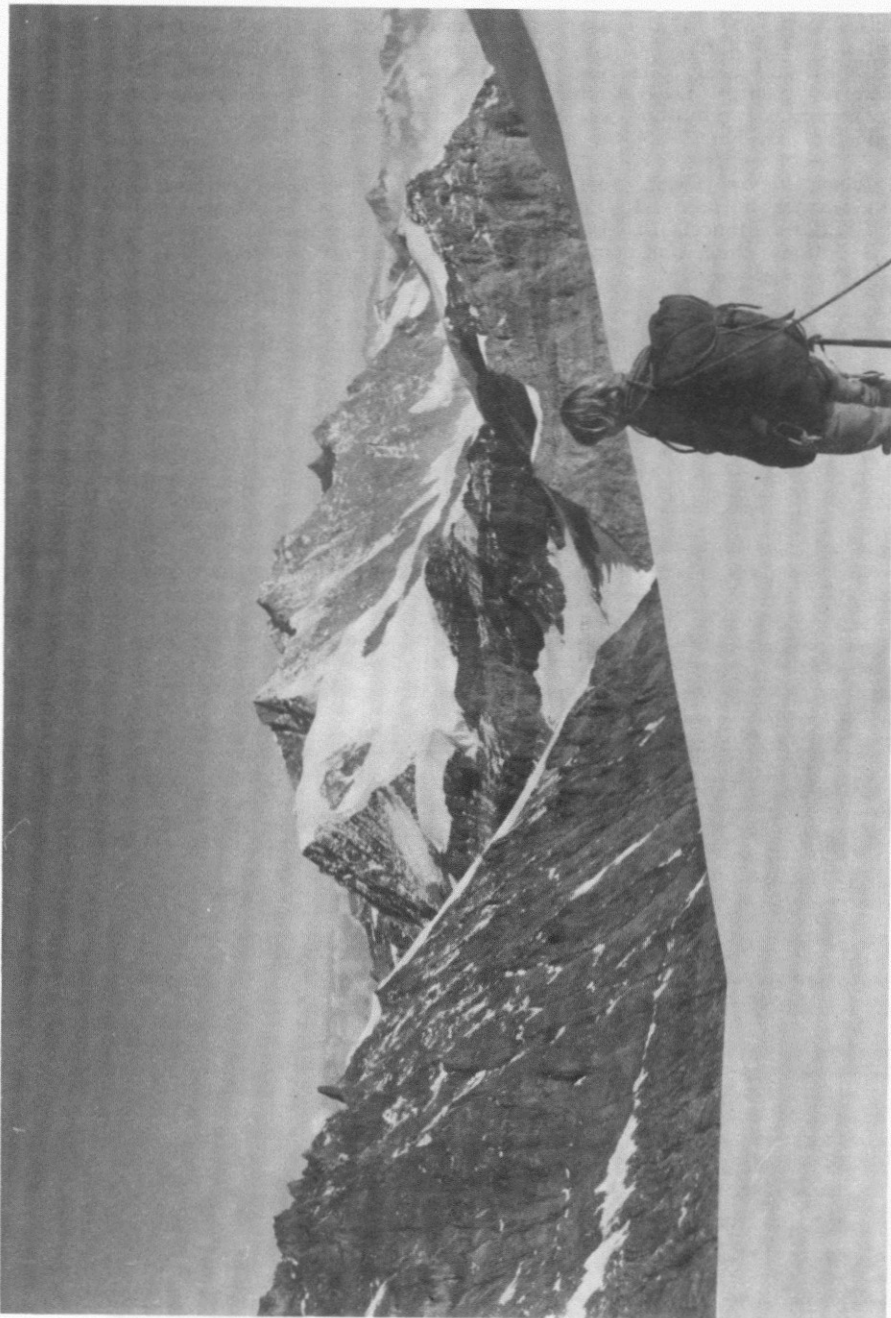
1984 was the 75th anniversary of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club. Great celebrations were held at and around the Britannia hut near Saas-Fee. The Association built this hut in 1912 as a fraternal gesture towards the S.A.C. To mark the occasion further, a commemorative exhibition was held at the Alpine Club. These events were reported.

A very happy Swiss gesture was made under the auspices of the Anglo-Swiss Society. In November His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Francois-Charles Pictet invited a large body of our members to a reception, which was very well attended and greatly enjoyed. The year saw the end of a President's term of office.

THE NEW PRESIDENT

Wing Commander H.D. Archer D.F.C.





ALPHUBEL, TASCHHORN AND DOM,
TAKEN FROM THE TOP OF THE STRAHLHORN

A.N. Husbands

THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Peter Ledebøer served as President for an unprecedented four years. The Association's constitution was relaxed to make this possible, because we could not contemplate entering the Anniversary year without his leadership. His term as President was the crown on an altogether exceptional record of service to the Association. The Editor's direct knowledge goes back no further than 1964, when Peter was joint secretary with another towering figure, Maurice Bennett. This arrangement operated from 1963 to 1970, after which Peter served alone until 1972. In the early part of that period we had a limited programme of hotel-based meets in the Alps and at home. Peter initiated hut-based meets at home. The importance of this development can be judged from the extent to which it has grown, as can be seen by reading the programme of events for any recent year. Perhaps even more important was the George Starkey hut. Peter was a prime mover of this project and he scoured the Lake District until he found a suitable building. After we finally took possession, he served as Chairman of the Hut Management Committee from 1974 to 1977. These activities, combined with regular attendance at all kinds of meets at home and abroad, made him one of the most widely known of members, as excellent preparation for presidential office.

He was Vice President from 1978-1980, and President 1981-1984, and other climbing organisations called on his services. His term of office ended on a high note with the festivities at Saas-Fee, to which he contributed so much in conception, preparation and carrying out.

THE NEW PRESIDENT

Harry Archer became a member of the ABMSAC in 1967, when he joined the meet at Fäfleralp in the Lotschental. The events on that occasion included the epic 26 hour traverse of the Bietschorn, ending with Harry and Hamish Brown running down to summon the rescue helicopter. Harry has climbed extensively in East Africa and the Alps, has taken part in short expeditions to the Himalayas and Morocco, and for ski-touring to Norway. He is a familiar figure on meets at home and abroad, acting as leader from time to time, as at Arolla in 1981, and on other occasions planning and leading the climbing expeditions. He and his late wife Valda, supported by the rest of their family, organised and ran very successful chalet based at Saas-Fee in 1975 and at Fischbiel in 1976.

Harry's devotion to the Lötschental is widely known, and not a few of us have enjoyed his hospitality there. It is fitting that in his first year of office in 1985 we shall meet under his leadership at Fischbiel.

Harry served on the Committee during 1968-1970, 1972-1974 and 1976-1978, and was Vice President in 1984. He has found time to give service to other climbing organisations, including a spell as Secretary of the A.C. He has expressed the view that the foundations which sustain the ABMSAC are the Alpine meets and the activities centred on the Patterdale hut, and the hope that he can strengthen these activities and hence the ABMSAC.

He served with the R.A.F. for 36 years. An experienced pilot, he was awarded the D.F.C. and the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Services 'n the Air. His wife Valda died in 1978. He has four children, well known to meet attenders, all skiers and all fond of the hills.



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE MISCHABELS
AND THE COMPANY

A. N. Husbands

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABMSAC.

by S.M. Freeman

Long planning and not a little fund raising effort preceded this notable event. This work was done very successfully by a sub-committee which is content to remain anonymous. It was decided very early that the celebrations should be centred at Saas-Fee and the Britannia Hut. So much had to be arranged locally that it would have taxed us to do everything from London. The SNTO had, however, suggested a combined operation from the beginning, and that course was followed. They were enthusiastically helped by their counterparts in Saas-Fee and surrounding areas. As the plans grew, other bodies were drawn in to take various parts in the festivities. These certainly included the SAC, represented by high officials from the Central Committee and a number of Sections, the Church, press and television from both countries, the Swiss Army, various local bands and singers and other groups who joined the procession, the hoteliers and it seemed at times, much of the population of the Saas Valley. Apologies are made for any unintentional omissions, but at least the opportunity will be taken to mention the central part played by Mr. Albert Kunz of the SNTO in London.

The advance programme expressed the hope that 75 people might attend the meet. In the upshot there were 126 participants in the full fortnight's meet, with many more joining in as events unfolded. The full-timers were divided between the Hotel Alphubel (headquarters), the Hotels Marmotte and Sport, and various apartments nearby.

The meet was preceded in time-honoured fashion by a walk-in led by Paul French, who contributes the following account:-

"Half a dozen of us made a four day walk-in to Saas to help gain a little acclimatisation. We started by taking the rather remarkable new underground from Zermatt to Sunegga, a foretaste of the modernistic "Metro Alpin" to be opened shortly at Saas, taking skiers from Felskin to Mittelallalin at 3500m. Thence by Tufert to Täschalp and the Täscht hunt, followed by a pleasant lazy day to the head of the Mellichtal, where the direct path to the Allalin pass has been carried away, necessitating a climb above the hut over the intervening promontory, and additional tribulation we experienced when traversing the Allalinjoch in the opposite direction a week later.

Day 3. Back to the valley, down to St. Niklaus and so the long and laborious trudge to the Bordier hut where we had the pleasure of meeting members of the Camping Meet, an excellent and comfortable haven 1½ hours across the glacier.

Day 4. Hotel luxury in Grächen. The Pension Abendruh is to be recommended. We were expecting the Hannig Gondelbahn to lift us on the way to the Hohenweg and Saas, and were at first dismayed to find it closed until Christmas. However, to our relief, the new and higher lift to Seetalhorn was now in use, taking us to a convenient 2870 m. and a pleasant days walk along the Hohenweg to arrive in Saas in time for dinner."



GATHERING FOR THE BANQUET

F. Solari

The official meet began on Saturday August 18th 1984. The first few days were taken up with walks to such places as Mellig and Plattjen in informal groups, and no serious mountaineering was reported to the editor. On Monday, a party set off on the first official event, the ascent to the Britannia Hut. Next day more than 40 crossed the Allalin Pass to Zermatt.

Another party travelled there next day by special bus and train. The weather was excellent, as it had been from the start, and so were the arrangements. The climbers' changes of clothes were transported to Zermatt and by a happy thought the Gymnasium was placed at our disposal for washing and dressing. Everything went according to plan except that there was not time for a formal visit to the Alpine Museum. (The quicker climbers and those of the other party had time to make an informal visit).

There was a service in the English Church, at which the Bishop of Dunwich gave a very appropriate address and our member Fred Jenkins read the lesson. We then went to the Hotel Mont Cervin for a reception (and drinks) in the garden. Daniel Lauber, Mayor of Zermatt and Constant Cachin, Director of the Zermatt Tourist Office, spoke, and our President and John Hunt replied. The day ended with an excellent and convivial dinner and trouble free transport back to Saas-Fee.

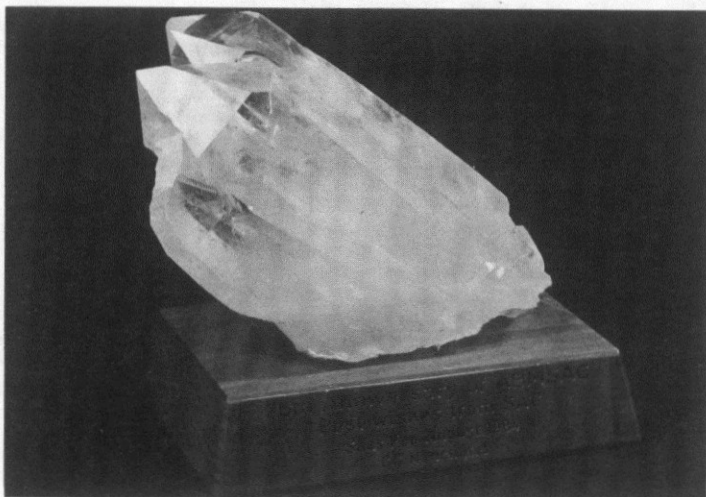
Wednesday and Thursday were left for informal walks. Continued good weather encouraged activity and various excursions in the Almagell - Mattmark - Monte Moro region were reported. Friday marked the beginning of the great central celebration. Unhappily it also brought in a deterioration in the weather, which created some small difficulties. We all put on our 1909 climbing clothes to visit the Britannia Hut and ascend the Allalinhorn. Not everyone still had his own original gear in good order, and no doubt there was much ransacking of attics, visiting of secondhand establishments and, for some noble and devoted souls, commissioning of made-to-measure replicas.

The result was a wonderful display which combined authenticity with period charm, indeed beauty, enough to give rise to many a nostalgic sigh. The Swiss joined in enthusiastically and I should have awarded them the prize for colour and drama of costume. I think we won for period accuracy: one rope of four ladies in particular was a joy to behold. We drifted up to the hut in small parties, so there was no fancy dress parade at that stage. This turned out unfortunately to be an opportunity missed, as later circumstances, particularly the weather, prevented us from being gathered together to provide the pictures which the occasion and the efforts warranted. As we assembled in the hut, grateful to escape from the elements, we saw more and more arrive, until the place was full to capacity. The attainment of this state did little to slow down the influx. Very happily, the kindly and thoughtful organisers had seen to it that bed places were reserved for the British group. Among our comrades at the hut were our Swiss climbing friends, singers and players and other entertainers, press and television people and a substantial contingent of the Swiss Army. We re-enacted, by candlelight, the first dinner in the Britannia Hut, and the menu was the same as at that famous occasion in 1912. We concluded that the pioneers were happy with simple fare but were worthy trenchermen. The romantic illumination and the circumstance that once seated one was wedged in made it difficult to get round to see all the costumes, which was rather a pity, as what one could see in one's immediate vicinity was splendid. The entertainers and musicians seemed tireless, and selflessly continued to provide an ample lullaby after weaker ones had retired. Even they flagged eventually however, and the music ceased or became subdued about half an hour before we were due to get



AN EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES

Barbara Attridge



THE MOUNTED CRYSTAL

F. Solari

up. We were then preserved from any danger of oversleeping by a burst of recorded music sufficient to meet the needs of even the heavier sleepers.

The climbing party set off for the Allalinhorn at about 2.30 a.m. The plan was to complete the ascent in time to get down to a point on the Mittelallalin for a second breakfast at about 9.00 a.m. A second party was to ascend later to the breakfast place to join the others. This tight schedule really required very favourable climbing conditions which we did not get. Those who had obligations to return in time to take part in the later activities were reluctantly compelled to turn back before reaching the summit. Some who were feeling strong or were less burdened with responsibilities pushed on to the top. These included 8 ABM people and a number of Swiss. We of the supporting party had a walk in quite pleasant conditions to the breakfast place, going at a comfortable pace and free to admire our beautiful companions. Authenticity was sustained by the use of old type ropes and axes, provided in ample numbers by the Swiss Army. The breakfast, provided by the Valais Tourist Office, was good and convivial. Very soon we had to make our way back to the hut. The weather held out, and the supporting party found this trip up and down a most enjoyable part of the day's activity. (It may well be that the climbers who had pushed on regardless were even better pleased). Pressure of time forced us to forego the ski demonstration and the visit to the Metro Alpin, but the remaining events took place according to programme, despite problems caused by the weather. All was well enough as we enjoyed the drinks provided by the Saas communities. After we assembled for the outdoor events, the snow began to fall, and became worse. The participants were mostly caught without waterproofs, but continued in the best of spirits, without concession to the elements. There were singers, yodellers and instrumentalists. Hans Wyer, President of the Government of the Canton of Valais, gave a welcoming speech and John Hunt replied. Benjamin Bumann, Mayor of Saas-Fee, unveiled the "Steinmannli" holding a treasure box containing the document bearing the signature of guests and items symbolic of the year 1984. Some of our members helped to build up this structure. The culminating event was Holy Mass, celebrated by the Deputy Bishop of Sion and The Bishop of St. Albans. Those gentlemen deserve the highest praise: they were last of all, they had stood throughout in their unprotected clerical robes, and they still conducted their Holy Mass and sermon, all as it ought to be, in the falling snow.

At some stage during these events we were given luncheon, provided by the community of Saas-Fee, served in inscribed army billicans, which were given to us as souvenirs.

Eventually the worsening weather forced us indoors for a happy exchange of courtesies. Andre Roch, President of the Geneva Section, unveiled a plaque and our President reciprocated by presenting a Lake District picture specially painted for the occasion by Syd Prentice. There were so many distinguished guests on this occasion that it has seemed safest not to name any except speech makers and the like. This rule has to be broken to record our great pleasure at seeing at the hut a survivor of the 1912 opening, Noel Odell.

We had to hurry to the cable car to get down to Saas-Fee in time for the Grand Procession. The snow at 3000 m. gave way to heavy rain at the lower level. All our beautifully clad people were forced into waterproofs. The Swiss faced this problem with great aplomb, and played their parts as

if nothing were amiss. Bands in finery, ladies in traditional dress, the fire engine, a wood chopping display and all manner of other shows filed past in good order. At the rendezvous in the village square it was too wet to stay out, and we all went indoors for a celebratory drink and the Mountaineering Festival. We were entertained to a late hour by typically Swiss yodelling, horn blowing, band playing and so on.

On Sunday we rested until the midday banquet. The weather had improved, and the bad spell on Saturday, at the worst possible time, turned out to be the only blot on an otherwise lovely fortnight, which got better and better.

The Banquet at the Hotel Glacier was a grand affair. 128 guests sat down. These included Their Excellencies the Swiss Ambassador in London and the British Ambassador in Bern, the Central President of the SAC and a number of Section Presidents, distinguished representatives of Swiss Tourist Bureaux and guides, and on the British side of the Church, press, AC and BMC. After the banquet Hermann Milz (Central President of the SAC) presented a mounted crystal and Louis Pictet (President of Diablerets) gave a pewter salver. (We have since had an opportunity to display these at the exhibition at the Alpine Club).

The Banquet brought the official events to an end. In the good weather of the following week, further parties climbed the Allalinhorn and other ascents included the Nadelhorn and a Weissmies traverse. Everyone not climbing was walking, the highlights being the two high level routes from Grächen and Gspon, the latter very well attended and enjoyed.

The highlight of the social events was an organ recital in the Church by Susi Lady Jeans. Two little English pieces, then Bach: two choral preludes, two movements of the trio sonata No. 5 in B minor, and a Prelude and Fugue in the same key. This was not the end of the music, as Harold Flook gave an all too brief piano recital in a room kindly put at our disposal at the Hotel Glacier. Many entertainments were provided at the Hotel Alphubel, particularly an evening of alpine horn blowing and flag waving followed later by a virtuoso performance by Herr Supersaxo who played a great variety of instruments, performed tricks of prestidigitation and goodness knows what else.

We finally dispersed to our various homes with memories of a meet that had exceeded all expectations. Our own members had made a great effort, which might be seen as being in the line of duty. The enormous contribution by the Swiss was a bonus, and we owe all gratitude to the SNTG, the communities of the Saas Valley and Zermatt, the SAC and many dignitaries and humbler folk not covered by those categories.

It is rumoured that we may be 100 years old in a mere quarter century: keep it in mind.

Many of us were to meet again shortly, firstly at a very successful and well attended slide show in October, then at the Swiss Ambassador's Reception. Then there was the exhibition at the Alpine Club.

THE BRITISH AND THE SWISS IN THE ALPS

On 20 November at the Alpine Club, His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, M. Francois - Charles Pictet, opened what was justly described in the catalogue as "a unique exhibition of pictures, books and documents". Most

of the material, much of it priceless, came from the AC's archives. Members also lent items from their private collections and the ABMSAC was able to display its own treasures. These included photographs back to 1912 and banners and other gifts presented by The SAC on anniversary occasions.

More than 50 books were displayed, classified as follows:

Early travellers in Switzerland, dating back to 1522.
Natural history, back to 1555.
Dragons, 18th Century.
Guide books, back to 1701.
Books with coloured plates. These were folio books 1775-1825.
Literary associations.
Children's books, 19th Century.
Club Journals: AC., SAC., and ABMSAC.

About 60 pictures and prints were hung. These were on Swiss Alpine subjects, several of them depicting incidents and occasions of the early days.

There were the *Führerbücher* of several guides, and letters and manuscripts, particularly concerning the first ascent of The Matterhorn.

One's regret after seeing the exhibition was that it could not stay permanently. Happily most of it is accessible, and no doubt all is safe.

REPORTS OF MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Ken Baldry

I took my wife and one stepson skiing to Öbergurgl in February. The skiing had expanded rather since my last visit in 1975. Avis stayed in a class but Richard left his after four days. A complete beginner, he came down a black run in a blizzard with me on his sixth day. I was impressed.

In July, my Father and I made our first trip based on Pontresina. With no rucksacks, we could get some miles in and started by traversing Piz Languard to the Val dal Fain and back by Bernina Suot and the river. We visited the Tchierva and Boval Huts and were much impressed by the Val Roseg. So we went back up it and over the Fuorcla Surlej, traversing round on a new-looking high level path to above Pontresina, an excellent walk. By starting at Bernina Suot Station, we completed the pass walk to Poschiavo via the Alp Grum. There are impressive views up the south side of the Pix Cambrena. The only bad weather in the week washed us off Piz Nair, above St. Moritz. This was supposed to be a relaxation day.

Will McLewin

After a year missed (1982) and a year (1983) when I did go to the Alps but had totally unsatisfactory weather it was pleasing in the extreme to get back to normal! In contrast to recent years I managed some worthwhile outings on gritstone, even if most of the activity was repeating favourite routes on automatic pilot. Some rather indifferent fell running races left me wondering about my fitness, but reasonable performances in the Ennerdale and the Wasdale cheered me up. Once in the Alps themselves it was as if I had never been away.

Grand Combin, traverse, W. to N. solo.

A very good value expedition - continuously interesting and remarkable on such a fine day to find no sight and no evidence of anyone else on the mountain. The corridor route is now regarded as dangerous (perched seracs) and a more direct line on the N. face is used.

Barre des Ecrins and Dome de Neige des Ecrins; with Anne Brearley.

I had intended visiting the Ecrins again and Anne had been unwell, so the straightforward N. side and W. ridge seemed just right. Choosing a week-end was just wrong - I've never seen so many people.

Aiguille Verte: Whymper Couloir; with Anne Brearley.

Straightforward but nasty, in ascent and descent. An indifferent day's weather obligingly produced its best spell for Anne to sunbathe on the summit while I visited the Pointe Croux. We thought all the stonefall in the couloir was unpleasant but it was nothing in comparison with the next route.

Mont Brouillard; via Col Emile Reg; with Anne Brearley.

After a fine bivouac at about 3400 m. on the Brouillard glacier and sometime trying to find a direct line to the couloir up to the col we

eventually had to settle for a long anticlockwise circuit almost up to the Eccles bivouac hut and then across under the Brouillard pillars. The couloir itself was very unpleasant so we stuck to the very broken rock buttress up the middle while assorted debris tumbled down either side. I don't mind that sort of thing, but Anne didn't enjoy it at all and sat in a cosy niche on top of M. Brouillard while I went over to the Punta Baretti. The traverse across the ridge was a total delight in a fine situation. Our descent from the Col Emile Rey, on loose rock in the midst of a continuous barrage down the couloir was not for the squeamish.

Since then I greatly enjoyed a respectable performance in the Karrinor International Mountain Marathon which made up for an indifferent performance in the Sierr-Zinal race.

G.B. Pennett

We spent the latter days of 1983 in Swaledale where we walked in the Muker area. We did a delightful walk from Muker over Kidson Fell to Keid and back by the valley. The weather was perfect with glorious views. In January, February, March and April, we did short walks in Wharfedale. On February 21 my wife Valerie and I visited Appletreewick and walked to Troller's Gill.

Easter saw us at the hut in Patterdale where we spent three enjoyable days. On Good Friday, having arrived mid-afternoon, we did a short walk to Lanty's Tarn, Keldas (1020ft), Easter Saturday was a bright and sunny day so we took the opportunity to do the Fairfield Horsehoe which takes in Nab Scar (1450ft), Heron Pike (2003ft), Great Rigg (2513ft), Fairfield (2863ft), Hart Crag (2698ft), Dove Crag (2603ft) Black Brow (1962ft), High Pike (2155ft) and Low Pike (1875ft). The walk is about twelve miles in length. A pint at the Kirkstone Inn was very much welcomed. On Easter Day we walked from Patterdale over Striding Edge to Helvellyn (3118ft). The last pitch leading to the summit of Helvellyn was covered in thick snow. This caused a slight problem, not having crampons or axe, but nevertheless we slipped and slithered to the top. We then continued to Lower Man (3033ft), then to Whiteside (2832ft) and onto Raise (2889ft). The walk down to Glenridding and onto Patterdale was very pleasant. The total mileage was about 12 miles.

We visited Arran in late May and early June and enjoyed a most delightful holiday. Not very many people climb Cioch na h-Oighe. They are put off partly by the formidable appearance of the peak when viewed from the entrance to Glen Sannox. It is a stiff scramble but well worth the effort. We did the ridge taking in Mullach Buidhe (2687ft), North Goat Fell (2659ft), Goat Fell (2866ft), Meal Breac (1900ft). The weather was superb throughout but the most interesting part of the round was the scramble up Cioch na h-Oighe (2168ft). We were a little tired at the end which was not really surprising as we had had a long journey from England the previous day. However, a few pints at the Corrie Hotel soon revived us. On another day we did the Cock of Arran round and on other occasions we walked on the moors above Mackrie and along the cliffs.

The hot summer did not really encourage hill walking and most of our spare time was spent in the garden or watching our son David, now 15, playing cricket. We did have a week down in the South of England during August and managed a walk to Woodbury Beacon in Devon. We also did a short walk from Budleigh Salterton over the cliffs to Ladrarn Bay. This walk takes in part of the South West Coastal Path. Autumn was spent "strolling" in Wharfedale. Not a particularly exciting year but hope to do more in 1985.

Les Swindin

The last three months of 1983 I spent convalescing and it was only at Christmas that I was able to venture out into the hills again during the eight days spent in the Lakes over the holiday. I was restricted to relatively easy walks but then conditions didn't favour much else. As winter progressed I became more active and adventurous and was thus able to profit from two week-ends when the snow cover was good and climbing conditions propitious. The result was a buttress climb on Great End, a gully/buttress climb on Cambridge Crag and, a week later, two Deepdale gullies to develop an appetite for the Northern Dinner.

I was not sure how my back was going to stand up to ski-mountaineering and so I planned a not too demanding tour in the Vanoise National Park. Intended two and three day short tours in the event were replaced by one lasting six days which saw us visiting the Carro, Prariond and Evette huts and climbing the Cime du Carro, Grande Aig. Rousse, Levanna Occidentale, Pointe Francesetti and Albaron, the latter, traversed from the Evette hut being particularly fine.

The main objective of this Easter visit to the Alps was to add the Gran Paradiso to my list of 4000ers. Having had no adverse reaction so far from my back and feeling fit from the tour just completed we drove to Pont and on to the Vittorio Emanuele hut, which, contrary to all expectations, was not crowded. The ascent of the peak went very easily and enjoyably but I feel we made the descent a little too early in the day and so had a somewhat icy run downhill to the hut. Still this did give us time to reach Chamonix that day and ski the Vallee Blanche before heading back to G.B.

The usual Whit visit north of the border saw us combining Munro bagging and rock climbing. Ben Cruachan, the Great Ridge of Farbh Bheinn of Ardgour, Diamond Buttress (for the first and last time) and Etive slabs were the most interesting outings we had in the week. Although this summer has been particularly suitable weatherwise, somehow my rock climbing never really got off the ground although I was particularly pleased with a day on Esk Buttress when I climbed Trespasser Groove with Geoff Causey.

Back to the Alps in summer with just two objectives, but before these could be tackled a little acclimatisation was needed and so I paid my first visit to La Berarde. We chose this base because Peter Fleming wanted to climb the Barre des Ecrins and so rather than repeat a route I'd done previously we chose to do the traverse. Les Bans and Pic Coolidge served to get us fit. On the Ecrins itself we experienced some difficulty route finding before eventually getting ourselves on to the upper slopes. In fact we never did find the fixed cable but instead moved too far right but on to some excellent if exposed rock. My companions were not amused at the time. Nor was Barbara amused by the descent from the Col des Ecrins which followed. Courmayeur greeted us with sun but it didn't last. We'd come here to traverse the frontier ridge from the Torino hut to the Jorasses thus climbing the two 4000ers that I'd still not done. To cut a long story short I'll just say we made three visits to the Torino hut (in the process spending a vast number of lire) over a ten days period and were frustrated each time by adverse weather. With Barbara I did manage to climb the Jorasses by the ordinary route which we both thoroughly enjoyed. This was followed by a brief visit to Randa, joining the club meet for a day or two, so that Peter could get the Durrenhorn and Hohberghorn done. Our fast climb to the Dom hut in the rain was

justified when the next morning dawned fine and we were rewarded with an excellent days climbing, that is if you ignore the descent from the Stecknadeljoch.

The late autumn of 1984 sees me recovering again. This time from a fall, not from rock I'm pleased to say but from the roof of my house. The result being two cracked bones. Still I should be fit enough for the Dome de Rochefort next year.

A.B.M.S.A.C. Headsquares and Neckties

New Item: Ladies' headsquare in navy blue polyester 27" square with badge in one corner. £5.00 each including p. and p. Available to members and wives/partners of members.

New supply of neckties now available at £4.50 each including p. and p. Navy with red and silver badge. Fashionable style with 4" blade.

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ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

THE A.G.M.

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at the Alpine Club, 74 South Audley Street, London W.1. at 6.00 p.m. on Saturday 24th November 1984.

The President, Mr. J.P. Ledeboer, was in the chair.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th November 1983 which had been circulated in the Journal, were signed by the President as a correct record.

After being proposed and seconded, the following Officers and Committee Members were elected for the ensuing year:-

President	Wing Cmdr. H.D. Archer, D.F.C.
Vice Presidents:	Mr. F.A.W. Schweitzer, F.R.C.S. and Mr. A.I. Andrews
Hon. Secretary:	Mr. A.G. Partridge
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. M. Pinney
Hon. New Members' Secretary:	Mr. T.G.B. Howe
Hon. Meets Secretary:	Mr. J.C. Berry
Hon. Social Secretary:	Mrs. P.M. Boulter
Hon. Hut Secretary:	Mr. D.R. Hodge
Hon. Editor:	Mr. S.M. Freeman
Hon. Solicitor:	Mr. M. Bennett
Committee Members:	Mr. D.E. Bond Mr. B.G. Bowes Mr. V. Odell Dr. G. Attridge Mr. P.J. Bull Mr. Ross Cameron Dr. N. Cooper

Mr. D.M. Bennett was elected Auditor for the ensuing year.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1984 and it was resolved that the accounts should be adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer explained that the Committee had fixed the flat rate S.A.C. subscription for 1985 at its last meeting at £21.00. He proposed that the Association subscription and the subscription for Affiliate Members be £10.00 and the joint "husband and wife" subscription £14.00. It was resolved that the subscription be so fixed.

A vote of thanks was given to the Treasurer for all his work with the accounts.

As Mr. N. Moore, the Auditor, has resigned this year, a vote of thanks was given for all the work he has carried out over the past few years.

Mr. Freeman said that this year the Journal would be slimmer and that because of this financially we should be considerably better off. The Committee congratulated him on his efforts.

Mr. N. Bennett proposed, and it was carried with acclamation, that a vote of thanks should be given to Peter Ledeboer for all his work over the past 20 years, on the Committee, as Honorary Secretary, and as President, and especially for all his work with the organisation of the Anniversary Celebrations, both in England and Switzerland.

The President expressed his thanks to the Committee for their work over the year and proposed a vote of thanks to the Swiss National Tourist Office for all their help given to the Club over the year.

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the year ended 30th June 1984

	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>
INCOME FROM MEMBERS		
Subscriptions (Note 1)	2008	1914
Life Membership Credit	55	50
Northern Activities	25	-
Donation	<u>250</u>	<u>-</u>
	2338	1964
LESS: EXPENDITURE		
Hire of Rooms	350	350
Journal (Note 2)	1395	1068
Printing, Postage, etc. SNT0	289	202
Printing, Postage, etc. ABM	170	178
Insurance	19	17
Entertainment	40	86
BMC Subscription	84	89
Sundries (Travel Expenses)	51	65
Depreciation	2	2055
	<u>2400</u>	<u>-</u>
	(62)	(91)
ADD: INVESTMENT INCOME		
Association Investment	255	268
Building Society Interest	30	34
Bank Deposit Interest	94	94
	<u>379</u>	<u>396</u>
LESS: Taxation (Note 3)	114	151
	<u>265</u>	<u>245</u>
ADD: Surplus/(loss) on S.A.C. fees	203	154
VAT	(110)	(290)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>93</u>	<u>(136)</u>
NOTES		
1 SUBSCRIPTIONS	Subscription income is derived as follows:-	
MEMBERS	Year to 31.12.83	162 @ 7.5
	Year to 31.12.84	164 @ 7.5
	3 @ 10.5	32
	1230	1215
AFFILIATE MEMBERS	Year to 31.12.83	60 @ 7.5
	Year to 31.12.84	84 @ 7.5
	5 @ 10.5	52
	570	450
	<u>1884</u>	<u>1665</u>
Adjustment re subscriptions in advance	(109)	53
In respect of earlier years	<u>233</u>	<u>196</u>
	2008	1914
2 JOURNAL	Cost of the journal is made up as follows:-	
Printing	1255	923
Despatch costs and other expenses	<u>140</u>	<u>165</u>
	1395	1088
LESS: Advertising Revenue	-	20
	<u>1395</u>	<u>1068</u>
3 TAXATION	The Ass. is liable to Corporation Tax on its income from investments	

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB

BALANCE SHEET

30th JUNE 1984

	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>
FIXED ASSETS	-	2
INVESTMENTS AT COST (Note 4)	2216	2216
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of Ties at cost	86	86
Debtors	439	470
Cash on Deposit	2311	1696
Current Account	<u>34</u>	<u>95</u>
	2870	2347
DEDUCT CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	489	109
Subscriptions in Advance	<u>942</u>	<u>832</u>
	1431	941
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>1439</u>	<u>1406</u>
	3655	3624
SOURCES OF FINANCE		
Life Membership Account	667	652
Accumulated Revenue	2632	2432
ADD Profit on redemption		336
ADD Excess of Income over Expenditure	93	2725
Donation and Bequests (Note 5)	<u>263</u>	<u>340</u>
	3655	3624

J.P. Ledebøer - President
M. Pinney - Hon. Treasurer

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR

I have examined the books and vouchers of the Association and report that the attached accounts, together with the notes, are in accordance therewith.

N. Moore - Hon. Auditor

NOTES

- 4 INVESTMENTS
These are as follows:-
4320 Brunner Investment Trust Limited Ordinary Shares of 25p
1043 United States Deb. Corporation Ordinary Shares of 25p
1500 3 Treasury 1985
Cost of these holdings was 2216 (1983 - 2216). Aggregate market value at 30th June 1983 was 5635 (1983 - 5784).
- 5 77 has been utilised for repair of projector.

THE ANNUAL DINNER

This was held at the Washington Hotel on 24 November. Around 80 members and guests were present. After dinner, the President pronounced the loyal toast, Frank Schweitzer spoke of the Swiss Confederation, and His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador replied. The President reviewed the Association's year and welcomed the guests. Lord Chorley replied on behalf of the Alpine Club. We then withdrew to the bar to reminisce once again on this great year.

S.M.F.

THE OUTDOOR MEETS

Inverness - 27-31 December 1983

Alasdair Andrews

The meet was based on a comfortable guest house in Inverness and was attended by Bert Bowes, Roger James, John Dempster and Alasdair Andrews. The weather from the start of the meet was foul and got steadily worse. However, this did not prevent the party from ascending hills in Glen Affric and the Fannichs.

Rhyd - ddu - 27-29 January

M. Pirney

Members are reminded that the Association has reciprocal rights for the use of the Oread Club's well appointed house.

There had been snow earlier, but rather than the clear skies and overnight freezing to give a possibility of winter climbing, it had become overcast with some rain. Saturday was a day of extremes - brilliant sun in the morning leading to heavy wind and rain, washing away much of the remaining snow. Snowdon was approached by a number of routes, including a thinly snow covered gully on Cloggy.

Sunday was generally overcast and a walk beneath the clouds in order, a circuit over Mynydd Mawr proving popular.

Northern Dinner Meet 1984

W.B. Midgley

There seems to be little point in changing the meet format when we have turnouts of this magnitude each year. From the organiser's point of view it is very satisfying. So it was - as usual - Patterdale/Glenridding. Hut and Hotel full and overspill into surrounding Hostelries.

Saturday was perfect; sunny, fairly still and plenty of snow, though some of it had odd characteristics. There were parties plastered all over the district (not sobered up from the previous evening). The Guest Speaker persuaded a party to join him in a trip up a gully on Blencathra and down Sharp Edge - probably the most photographed hill and party on the day.

A record number of 110 members and guests attended the dinner at the Glenridding Hotel. The hotel staff did a magnificent job coping with the party.

John Cleare was Guest Speaker and his commentary and slide show of skiing in China and Kentmere (Kentmere looks better) was up to his usual magnificent standard.

The weather on Sunday was not so good, but after Saturday it did not matter and it was not bad enough to keep members indoors.

Because of the wonderful turnout and the hotel waiving their charges for our guests we made a surplus which helped to swell the Anniversary Fund.

Glencoe - 17-19 February

Alasdair Andrews

The meet was based at Onich, a venue which has been popular with ABM parties for many years. On the Saturday groups climbed Ben Nevis and the Mamores. The weather was beautiful but very, very cold. The conditions were dangerously icy but the scenery was magnificent. On Sunday the weather was still clear, but a gale force wind prevented anything other than modest low level walks. Those present were Colin Armstrong, Alf Lock, Sheila Lockhart and friend, Ernest Sondheimer, Jim Strachan and Alasdair Andrews.

Ardgour, Spring Bank Holiday 1984.

S.M. Freeman

This meet, once more led by Alasdair Andrews, enjoyed the glorious weather that we have come to regard as our right on these occasions. We have also come to expect that we have only to present ourselves at Edinburgh, whereafter we will be looked after hand and foot by the leader, and so it was again. We were based on Strontian, and we had our first taste of the impeccable organisation when we caught the last ferry at Corran with a full ten seconds to spare. Once there, we were content to enjoy the lovely (and to some little known) country without too much climbing ambition. We managed to ascend Beinn Resipol, Fuar Beinn and Beinn na Seilg.

We got as far west as Ardnamurchan Point, and we also set out one day with Ben More on Mull in mind. We had reckoned without the highland tempo, particularly as regards ferries, so that pressure of time saved us from trying a hot and rushed climb. We had a most enjoyable sight-seeing tour instead. A splendid meet.

Alpine Meet - Zermatt 4 - 18 August.

M. Pinney

The meet based at the Atermenzen campsite was held jointly with the C.C. and A.C. with approximately 30 climbers and families in attendance. From the ABMSAC this included M. Baldwin, D. Brown, P. Bull, G. Bull, N. Cooper, J. Harris, C. Hird, P. Howard, F. Jenkins, N. Moore, D. Merton, P. Pinagli, M. Pinney, C. Raves and L. Warris. A number of others looked in, the Swindins and P. Fleming ascending the Hohberghorn before heading on in search of Les's final 4000er.

After comparatively good conditions the weather broke, the first weekend with new snow and periodic top up's during the meet. This proved somewhat taxing on knowledge of the area, reference to the guide books and pure inspiration. In addition to visits to the Southern Oberland and the traverse Pigne d'Arolla - M. Blanc de Chellon, peaks achieved included in various conditions Durrenhorn-Hohberghorn, Allalinhorn, Leiterspitz, Rimpfischhorn, Strahlhorn, Weisshorn, Brunegghorn, Zinal Rothorn, Ober Gabelhorn (several parties having to settle for the lesser objective of the Wellenkuppe) and not least the Breithorn. In the following week with

improved weather a number of parties were able to cross Monte Rosa to the Marguerite Hut followed by a traverse of Liskamm and Castor and across to Chli Matterhorn with one rope including Pollux and walking down to Zermatt, the Younggrat on Breithorn, Weissmies, Jagergrat and Fletschhorn - Lagginhorn.

Alpine Reunion, Patterdale - 2-4 November

M. Pinney

27 of the 28 places in the hut were occupied. The weather was reminiscent of the Alps - rain in the valleys and snow on the mountains. Saturday's sport was rained off, but conditions cheered up for the fireworks display held during an interval in the slide show. (None of the shops in Ambleside sold fireworks - too dangerous. One wonders what plans they have for our crags!) Sunday saw all members out on the snow covered fells, the sun breaking through.

Other Meets

Meets were held at Llanrwst at Easter and at Grindleford in June.

OBITUARIES

V.O. Cohen, M.C.

With the death of Vincent Cohen, the Association has lost one of its most dedicated members. He joined the Association in 1930 and with the exception of the war years was a regular attender at Association lectures and functions until prevented by illness some fourteen years ago. He became a member of the Alpine Club in 1961. His nephew, John Cohen, also became a member of the Association and of the Alpine Club.

Vincent first visited the Alps at the age of sixteen with his French master from Bancroft's School. This gave him an abiding interest in the mountains and thereafter he went to the Alps as often as he could. As a young man he used his talents as an artist to help to finance his climbing, painting pictures and selling them while he was on holiday. During this period he climbed extensively in the Alps and did some routes with Josef Knubel as his guide.

During the war Vincent was commissioned in the 1st Mountain Regiment, Royal Artillery. It was ironical that following rigorous training for mountain warfare, he took part in the landings at Walcheren. These landings involved heavy fighting and casualties and Vincent was awarded the Military Cross.

Had economics allowed, Vincent would have followed a career as a painter but he was forced to utilise his talents in the commercial field. After spells with the de la Rue organisation and other concerns, Vincent joined Metal Box where he was Design Manager at the time of his early retirement due to ill health.

In 1966 Vincent began his three year period of office as President of the Association. He proved to be a most popular President who had the affairs of the Association very much to his heart. He was assiduous in the performance of his various duties and in this he was most ably supported by his wife Kay. They formed an outstanding team and endeared themselves to all with whom they came in contact.

Tragically, it was during his Presidency that the illness which was to incapacitate him first manifested itself. It was during the Association Meet at Fafleralp in 1967 that Vincent collapsed during an ascent of the Bietschhorn although the nature of his illness was not then appreciated. He walked vigorously during the Meet in Austria in the following year but again experienced difficulties which were subsequently diagnosed as multiple sclerosis.

Vincent was a man of many interests, including photography. Many members of the Association will remember the high standard of his slides and he considered it a great compliment when Walter Kirstein borrowed one of them for a lecture tour in North America.

Although he was unable to leave his flat in his later years, Vincent never lost his love of the mountains and his interest in his fellow mountaineers. He continued to follow the affairs of the Association and of the Alpine Club with great interest. In fact, his last visit to the Alpine Club was to speak in favour of the merger with the Ladies Alpine Club, which he insisted on doing notwithstanding that his illness was by then causing him considerable discomfort.

His many friends will remember Vincent as a man of great charm, humanity, courage and humour. These qualities, together with the devotion of Kay, helped to sustain him during his long period of disability. Our sympathy goes to Kay and to his other relatives.

M.B.

W.R.H. Jeurwine

Wynne Jeurwine, who joined the Association in 1954, died in 1984 at the comparatively early age of 64. Although he had not been seen at Association functions for some time, he was for many years a regular supporter of the lectures and the Meets. Wynne enjoyed rock climbing in the United Kingdom as well as Alpine ascents. He had also climbed in Greece.

Wynne started his Alpine career in the early 1950's with several solo ascents in Austria and later led guideless ropes with friends both in Switzerland and in Austria. Some of these climbs were made during Association Meets. He became a member of the Alpine Club in 1960.

Wynne was well known in the art world both as a journalist and as a dealer. For some years he was the editor of the magazine "Apollo" and as a dealer he specialised in Old Master drawings. The Association had the benefit of his editorial experience when he was Hon. Editor of the Journal in 1963/64.

Wynne was a somewhat reserved character but he could be both enthusiastic and eloquent on matters that interested him. He was a steady companion on a rope and his quiet sense of humour enlightened many odd moments. Those who climbed with him remember Wynne with affection.

M.B.

E.L. Theobald

One of the Association's senior members, Eric Theobald, died in 1984 in his nineties. He joined the Association in 1937 and became a member of the Alpine Club in 1944.

Few who climbed with Eric survive but his application for membership of the Alpine Club showed that he accomplished a wide range of ascents in the Alps in the seasons 1935 - 1939. The majority of these were in the Valais and included the Matterhorn and the Zinal Rothhorn. Bernhard Biner was his guide on many of these climbs.

In the years after the war, Eric was a regular attender at Association lectures and he also came on several climbing Meets. He still enjoyed mountain walks although his active climbing days were over. Small of stature and light of weight, Eric remained remarkably fit until an advanced age but in recent years ill health restricted his ability to come to meetings.

Eric was a cheerful and engaging companion and those who knew him will have happy memories of their contacts with him.

M.B.

Brigadier E.A.L. Gueterbock, ex R.E.

Brigadier Gueterbock was a distinguished regular member of the Corps of Royal Engineers, with whom I was associated during the second Great War. He had served in Norway during the British Army's attempt to counter the activities of the German invasion of that country. At that time I was serving on the instructional staff of the School of Military Engineering at Chatham and later Ripon. Gueterbock had returned to the staff in the War Office, and subsequently to a new post in the War Cabinet Office, to assist in organising, with Naval and Air Force staff, a plan under Churchill for Special Future Operations and Plans (F.O.P.S.) I was then called upon by Gueterbock to proceed to Cornwall to assist in training No. 5 Army Commando in coastal assault work, with a view to attacking selected localities, on the coast of Norway in particular. Incidentally I had done a good deal of cliff climbing in Cornwall, apart from Norway. This assignment lasted for me until I was posted out to the Indian Army at the end of 1941 to undertake Commando type of training.

Inevitably I lost track with Gueterbock until the end of the War. But he had returned to Alpine climbing, and joined the Swiss Alpine Club, the Alpine Ski Club, of which he became President in 1955-56, and the Himalayan Club, of which he was Hon.Sec. from 1934-36. He joined the A.B.M.S.A.C. in 1925, was a Veteran and Life Member, and served as Vice President in 1949.

He was born in Bowdon, Cheshire, in 1897, and after School at Rugby, passed into the R.M.A. Woolwich and then to Trinity College, Cambridge to read for the Mechanical Science Tripos, graduating 1st class, prior to Corps duties.

N.E.O.

I am indebted to Mrs. Gueterbock for providing further information which has been inserted in Dr. Odell's note and for the following details - Editor.

Brigadier Gueterbock won the Sword of Honour at the R.M.A. From 1918-1924 he served with the Bombay Sappers in Iraq, Iran and India. 1922-1924 Trinity College, Cambridge. 1927-1929 Adjutant, Training Battalion. 1930-1931 Staff College, Camberley. 1932-1937 India, mainly on staff. 1937 married Cynthia, daughter of Colonel F.W. Foley and Baroness Berkeley. 1937-1940 Instructor, Staff College, Quetta. 1940 aircraft crash during preparation for expedition to Norway. 1942 Brevet Colonel and acting Brigadier, general staff Eastern Command. 1943 Italy. 1945 Reparations and Restitution Division Germany. 1947 retired. Became Secretary, University College London and retired in 1964.

He climbed in the Alps 1929 - 1931, ascents including the Breithorn Triftjigrat and traverses of the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc de Tacul. He joined the Himalayan Club in 1932 and in the course of a visit to the Himalaya in 1934 he contributed to mapping the area. He had other sporting interests, and represented his School and College at shooting and hockey. (He also played squash, tennis and polo).

BOOK REVIEW

"Magic of Mont Blanc" by Walter Bonatti
English language edition Victor Gollancz Ltd. February 1985.
Translated by Geoffrey Byrne-Sutton.
200 pages of photographs. £29.95.

This is a magnificent collection of photographs printed on large pages 340 x 240 mm., uncluttered by any writing other than a page number. The problems of identification and indexing are solved by reproducing all of the pictures on a small scale at the end of the book, and providing the required legends there. There is also a note on photography and an account of a solo climb of the Peuterey Ridge and Mont Blanc de Courmayeur to the summit of Mont Blanc.

Most of the photographs were taken on the main massif; others include the Grandes Jorasses range and the Chamonix Aiguilles, extending as far as the Aiguilles Verte, Courtes and Droits. Nature has provided a great variety of dramatic scenery in this wonderful group, and the author has added another dimension of variety by taking his pictures in many different conditions of light and weather. There are views by day and by night, in sunlight and shadow, and the natural effects depicted include avalanches, snow storms, floods, clouds, wind effects and Brocken spectres.

About half of the photographs show general mountain views, many taken from a climbers' privileged situation. These are interspersed with other subjects. A score or so show examples of ice architecture that have caught the author's observant eye: seracs, crevasses, caves, icefalls and some extraordinary "monsters" that nature has carved. Running water in conditions of spate provides further remarkable subjects. There are living things too: chamois, birds, insects, trees and flowers, all, including close-ups of flowers and little creatures, enlarged to full page scale.

Climbing is well represented. There are isolated pictures of various climbs on Mont Maudit and Mont Blanc de Tacul, and three of the first ascent of the Whymper Spur of the Grandes Jorasses. Then there are two longer series. Half a dozen photographs give a dramatic impression of the Grand Pilier d'Angle on the Peuterey Ridge. The book ends with 16 pictures of the East Face of Le Grand Capucin. These were taken in the course of a climb made in 1976, 25 years after Bonatti's first ascent of this notable route. The original climb took four days of almost continuous artificial climbing for 1500 ft. with severe problems of route finding. We are taken from bergschrund to summit, with the steepness and exposure plain to see, and overhangs and other obstacles revealed in close-up.

This is not a volume to be looked through and put aside, but rather a coffee table book in the best sense, to be left in view for the continued pleasure of oneself and one's visitors.

S.M.F.