

glacier, where we were bothered by bad weather and crevasses and had to establish two intermediate camps. We finally pitched our advanced base camp at 10,000 feet on the fringe of the great basin below Karstens and Pioneer ridges. Snowshoes were mandatory between all these camps. (We used the long Alaskan type; our equipment also included down parkas and pants and Korean boots.) We traveled at night on the Muldrow Glacier because of excessive heat in the daytime, although higher on the mountain the temperature always dropped to zero or colder during the night. Once camp was established at 10,000 feet, we returned to Gunsight Pass to meet Schoening and Krup, who had been unable to leave until nearly two weeks after we did and had come this far alone.

On Pioneer Ridge we plowed through knee-deep snow, technically not difficult going, to place camps at 12,000 and 13,000 feet. The weather would occasionally clear up and we would find ourselves above a sea of clouds, with Wickersham Wall, one of the world's great ice faces, towering above and below us. Schoening, Krup, and I reconnoitered in extreme cold from 13,000 feet to Taylor Spur, a very distinct promontory at 15,000 feet. Some of the climbing was in chest-deep powder and some on steep ice and broken rock, touchy but not really difficult. I believe that Pete used one ice piton. After reaching the top of the spur, we returned to our 13,000-foot camp while the others packed heavy loads up the route we had opened. That night it snowed two or three feet, covering our hard-earned steps. It took an entire day to kick steps to rejoin the rest of the party on the spur. We attempted to cross the knife-edged ridge that leads to Wickersham Glacier and the last part of Pioneer Ridge, but the unexpected steepness of the last part forced us back. Our try to cross underneath the knife edge also failed. We had to camp on a nearby col which divided the ridge, where a three-day storm, with snow and 60-mile-per-hour winds, pinned us. We abandoned our attempt there because of the avalanche danger and the lack of food and time, after having completed most of the touchy climbing. From there on, it would merely have been a matter of traversing the Wickersham Glacier and climbing the upper portion of the wall adjacent to Pioneer Ridge with another camp at about 17,000 feet.

DONALD CLAUNCH

*Traleika Glacier area, Mount McKinley Range.* The Parachute Brigade Alaska Expedition, consisting of Captain W. M. M. Deacock, second-in-command and meteorologist, Captain J. D. Kinloch, doctor; Lieutenant Ord Pritchard, photographer, with Captain James E. Mills as leader and geologist was sponsored by the War Office and the Mount Everest Trust

and was supported by the Royal Geographical Society. Our aims were as follows: To explore the Traleika Glacier system and attempt some of the unclimbed peaks around it; to carry out a program of medical and physiological work under the advice of the British Medical Research Council; to make a geological collection for Bradford Washburn, of the Boston Museum of Science; to test army rations and service equipment; to make a record of meteorological observations; to make a film of the expedition.

At Ladd Air Force Base, Fairbanks, we were taken over by the USAF. On 26 May the 74th Air Rescue Squadron, which also supplied rescue cover and subsequent airdrops, flew the party in a C47 to the airstrip at Minchumina, 200 miles west of Fairbanks. From here the expedition with all its equipment was ferried by helicopter across the 60 miles of tundra to the meeting place of the Traleika and Muldrow Glaciers.

By man-hauling a sledge and back-packing, we gradually moved our camps up the badly crevassed Traleika Glacier with two or three relays between each. With 24-hour daylight, we worked at night when the snow conditions were best. The cunningly concealed crevasses ran in a tortuous pattern across the glacier; in consequence, each of us broke through into them with monotonous regularity and even the sledge suffered this indignity more than once. After eight days we reached a point opposite a glacier tributary which we called the Albuhera. From a col 3000 feet above us this glacier tumbled in an ice fall to join the Traleika. Our plan was to reach the col and attempt Mounts Tatum and Carpé. The col was gained on 8 June after two days' climbing, the party being delayed when Deacock fell 50 feet into a crevasse, from which he was successfully extricated. On 9 June after six hours of ridge climbing we made the first ascent of Mount Tatum, 11,137 feet. The return to our two-man tent on the col took  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours, the last hour through a snowstorm. The proposed attempt on Carpé was frustrated by the snow which continued for another 36 hours. By lack of food we were forced to return to our camp on the Traleika.

We resumed our journey up the Traleika and pushed on up the left fork, our progress being hindered by continuing falls of snow. Since our arrival in the mountains we had been visited three times by USAF aircraft. We had radio contact, received mail, flares, and replacements for the two ice axes we had broken. The aircraft continued to come in about once a week whenever the weather was suitable and we received amazingly accurate maildrops and weather reports and exchanged news. From a camp at the head of the glacier we climbed with loads of over 70 lbs. each to a col 10,000 feet high on the rim of the mountains which enclose the Traleika. The climb of about 3000 feet took two days and in a blizzard on 21 June

we established our camp there, amid a jumble of ice cliffs and crevasses. We had hoped to cross the col, but the sheer drop on the other side made this impossible. Even our alternative of attempting the two peaks that stood on either side, and perhaps of gaining a large plateau which lay to the east, was all but frustrated by the weather. The snow fell almost continuously; despite this, on 23 June Kinloch and Pritchard climbed the peak on the west of the col and named it Mount Staghorn. The other peak we called Anniversary Peak and in the only two good days made two attempts on it. In the second attempt on 26 June we reached a point 200 feet from the summit before retreating in the face of dangerous snow conditions. We were out 15 hours. The descent to the glacier was in bad weather on 27 June, and after two days spent in collecting rock specimens, a journey up to the right fork of the Traleika brought us up under the rock ramparts of McKinley. The possibility of a new route up the mountain from the Traleika was confirmed. It is hoped that the first attempt up this route will be made by an Anglo-American party. Although the route looked difficult, a glacier tributary rising steeply to a col between mounts Koven and Carpé seemed to afford access to both mountains.

On our return to camp beneath the flat-topped peak which stands at the glacial fork, we made preparations to attempt it. Standing about 13,000 feet high and dominating the glacier, we had long since named it Pegasus Peak in honour of the emblem of British airborne forces. High winds prevented an immediate attempt, but we delayed withdrawal to make the climb. At 9:15 A.M. on 4 July we stood on the summit after an ascent of almost 6000 feet in just over ten hours' climbing. The descent was uneventful, but took us nearly eight hours.

We started the march out at midnight on 5 July. The lower glacier had changed out of all recognition in the past weeks and the enormous gaping crevasses forced us to abandon the sledge early. With 90-lb. loads we traveled for 28 hours with only three hours' sleep to reach Cache Creek in the early afternoon of the 7th. At 4:30 P.M. the helicopter landed and flew the first two out. By way of Kantishna and Minchumina we flew back to Ladd Air Force Base, arriving at 9 P.M. that same evening.

Journeys in these mountains demand not only normal climbing techniques, but also the methods and approach of an arctic expedition. The scale is vast and certainly appears more Himalayan than Alpine. All ascents start on ice and snow and the height difference from glacier to summit is immense, usually at least 5000 feet. There is little or none of the Himalayan problem of high altitude, but then there are no porters. The choice of route must be based on the capabilities of heavily laden climbers, but even so a

great deal of technically difficult climbing must be undertaken while carrying large and often awkward loads of considerable weight.

CAPTAIN JAMES E. MILLS, *Parachute Brigade, Mountaineering Club*

*Attempt on the East Buttress of Mount McKinley.* A four-man party (Walter Gonnason, Otto Trott, Paul Gerstmann, Bruce Gilbert) attempted the ascent of the east buttress of Mount McKinley during late July, 1956. Don Sheldon of Talkeetna landed them in his ski-wheeled Super Cub at 5500 feet on the southwest side of Ruth Amphitheater. They climbed a fork of Ruth Glacier to an altitude of 7700 feet right at the foot of the east buttress, where they received an additional airdrop. After establishing three camps above their airdrop site, they reached 11,400 feet on the crest of the ridge separating the Traleika and Ruth glaciers. They abandoned the attempt on July 27 after encountering conditions of extreme cornicing about their final (11,400-foot) camp. They returned to their 7700-foot cache and were flown out from this spot in relays by Don Sheldon after spending just two weeks on the mountain.

### *Canada*

*Waddington Region, Coast Range.* In August, 1956, a group of six, consisting of Adolph and Ulf Bitterlich, of Vancouver Island, Philippe de la Salle, Sylvia Lash, Sarka Spinkova, and Earle Whipple, organized a trip to the Mount Waddington area of the Coast Range, British Columbia. Approaching from the head of Knight Inlet, the group ascended Franklin Glacier, set up base camp at Glacier Island, south of the Waddington massif, and recovered an airdrop near Glacier Island.

On August 9, four of the group made what was probably the first ascent of Mount Agur (10,200 feet), while Adolph and Philippe reconnoitered Buckler Glacier, which they found to be impassable. Thus, no approach to the north side of Waddington via Spearmen Col could be made. The party spent August 11-14 climbing the northwest peak of Mount Waddington (13,200 feet) from Glacier Island, via Fury Gap, all six members reaching the summit.

After this success, Adolph and Earle decided to attempt the south face of Waddington (13,260 feet). From a snow hole at the top of Dais Glacier, they ascended two-thirds of the face by a new variation, starting up the short (400-foot) couloir, and connecting with Wiessner's route near a big triangular snow patch, where lack of pitons, only enough for rappeling, forced retreat. In the author's opinion, the rappel route off the lower face is by far the safest, provided one can rappel 200 feet at one spot. Rockfall is