## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## EDITCRIAI

The Annual Report of the British Mounfeineering Council which appears in this ispue raises once again the grave topic of mounta ineoring accidents. Perhaps the conclusions of the B.IF.C. could have been foreseen; after all, there is only one fundamental rule for safe climbing - use your loaf. This statement is not the problo f reducin the incish of Tor pr sue ation in the olomery principlos of thoir craft boforo boin let loose on reat mounta ins. The following is specimon paper of the twpo that mi ht be soto It is not intended to be taken too seriously.

Subject Elementary Mountaincraft. Time allowed: any odd week-end.

Answer all questions. Write on the paper provided, if you can write.

1. Describe the construction and theoretical principles of the Primus stove. llustrate your answer with diagrams where neoessary
2. Your leader has fallen 100 feet on to a rock ledge. Should you (a) apply first aid and wa it to be rescued, or
(b) abseil off and consider yourself lucky not to have been pulled off, or (c) send for the undertaker? Explain the reasons for your choice.
3. Explain the ings of the following technical terms: Pitoh (both senses) toss; arod in bithobe; drop a clanger; overhang; hangovere
4. Name all the pubs within twenty miles of Snowdon, indioa ting those in which you have drunk to excess. Name the brewers of the beer sold at any five of hese establishments.

## Part. II: Practical.

1. Clagify the given pitches. Comment where necessary.
2. Climb the given mountain. Extra marks will be given for not falling off sing map and compass, sense of smell or any other means, find your way through the given fog to the nearest pub.
3. Pitoh the tent provided (a) onsolid rock; (b) in a blizgard; (c) into the nearest stream. Sleep in it in pouring rain. Rather you than me. D.C.C.

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## RROGRESS REPCRT III..............by DAVE PENLTNGTOK

Since my last report work at our hut, Bryn-y-Wern, has gone on non-stop. ny members spent their holida ys toiling away at the many tiald in hand. hese included Britton, Fisher, Betty Bird and the Pres and family. Endless hours ha ve been spent digging out the back of the house in preparation for rain to prevent da mpnessof the roar wall. Fisher, Hayhurwat obtained blist


Thw hall wass decorated by Britton, Bird, Smith and $00_{0}$, the floors sorubbed and landing cloanode

August 27th same 25 odd mombers and friends turned up. Burns and Phillips departed for Portmadoc, bought timber for the dining room benohes and then spent the reet of the aftornoon making thomo The ladies, cullum, Wright, Doardon, Bird, Thillips a nd Loverton of course the paint, clean up a nd do a host of Other jobs, plus cooking looking like a Park Lane rashing up. They managed very woll and lont bey-w looking like a lark Lano Hotal. 3

Being an extremely hot day it was diffioult to induce people to labour at the rear of the house; most people had a go in the evening however. The Hon. d. and Falker showod their skill with a piok and shovel. Someone went so far as to say that thoy had se obtained their skill on ":nthe Moor"。

Work wot on the Cookes arrived and set to irmodiately with Fishor, Bird and Webiba

A multitude descended again the following week-end, among them Ernie A multitude de out of hospital. The Welbourns and Janes: arrived, John Makin. sure of the "blue rom". Later on came the Bedrord and its load Ho Turngir does it I don't lnow, nor doos any one olse: apart from ono pas sideand kit, out came the boiler, two la rge boxes of pots and one oncrmous an in board, a also $n$ fevi small a rticles. It took about half a don the sideboard. It was positicned in the lounge and Eyno an on the top shelf. Noxt morning tho boilor was having done a wonderfial job in reconditioning it. So our hot wator supply parts including the safety valve are still on order only awaits thoir dolivory.

To make life moro comfortablea number of smaller jobs havo been done. The gas burnors have been incroased by $200 \%$ - we now have six! Bofore Christ.m mas we hope to install a largo gal but awaits ereotion of beds. In the mean timo wo hope wothey lwon't find the floor too hard:

Thanks are due to all meribers and ospecially to non-members who havo given so much of their valuable time to the hut in this last four monthse


If you ann spare the odd weok-end lot me know. Your help is needed.
Finally a few odd items are still needed for the hut. They are:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { four single mattrasses } \\
& \text { soup and dinner platos } \\
& 100 \text { blankets }
\end{aligned}
$$

Primus stoves.

If you havo any lot mo know. Romomber, every little holps. Let me know also if you havo any complaints or suggostions to make about tho hut. Thank you.

## ---0--.

ANNUAL REPCRT OF THE BRITTSH LUUNTATNEERING COUNCIL SAFETY CQMMITEE:1954.
(The full report is in a number of soctions, of which only those headod "Report" and "Conclusions" are givon in full horo, through considerations of space. The report covers the (2n) 1st April 1954 to the3lst Decomber 1954, a nd during thatt period the Co thee had notice of 29 accidents involving people. Detailed questionnairos ior only 14 of these accidents have been returned, and the report, therefore, is basod on these only.)

## REPCRT.

Elevon of the acoidents took place during rock climbing. The majority of these followed a simple pattern of the leader falling and being eithor injurod or killed. The leaders near the upper limit of their capabilities. That climbers should olimb noar the upper limit, on occasions, seoms obvious to tho Comaittoe, and this simple fact requires no comment. Since, however, this situation obviously incroases the risk of slipping, the following factors, other than shoer difficulty, found in the reports are worthy of comment.

In two oases the leader was tired, having overdono his programe. In one case he had been out of training for a yoar. In another oawe a wrist, which was known to bo weak, failed to stand tho strain. Such factors should obviou ly have beon considered, bofore attempting routes oalculated to improve ono's standard, or even reckoned to be just within one 's powers.

In two cases, accidents occurred when a leader was leading two pitchos in one runout. In anothor case, a leador wes believed to have been over-aager to finish a climb, after being hold up by a slower party. In these cases a desire for speed on a olimb was a possible contributory oause for an accident.

The above two factors, namely, being below standard physioally and boing in haste, are reasonably obvious and oan, with modorato understanding, be expected.

Other factors, which could scarcely be oxpocted, are, unfortunately, apparent in several cases. In a number of instances it was obvious that climbers, often of relativoly good experience, placod moro reliance on information
obtained from guidebooks, and similar sources, than a simple, intelligent appris aisal of the rocks which they were about to olimb. In one case a loador franky stated he had not studied the guide sufficiently, suggesting this as a roasonn or failure. Another case involved a climber who considered the guide book was not clear at the point where a fall had occurred. Yet another olimber blamed not clear at the poin no guide book for his being on rooks "above his standard"

Outsi.de what general pattern could be dotected, there ocourred two acoidents involving simple olementary principles. In one case, a man climbing alone was killed in unkncwn circumstances. In anothor, a relatively experienced leader killed in unleacwn a stance, which did not deal with tho expectod line of pull. In this case the second feil, pulling the leader sideways and injuring bothe

The worst accident of the yoar ocourred in winter conditions near the summi of Ben Nevis. Five climbers with little combined oxpof which was not visible due without axes glissaded or ran down a slope, the for of tho slope to mist. As it transpired, they were to the left of here again broken. merely led to a shoor drop. An olsmentary Glissading should only take place when an entir is a known danger point, but the the slope is familiar. The point in question, and moved with caution, this committee feels that had unfortunate occurrence might have

Only two walking accidents were reported. In one case a knee was twisted Only two walkling accidents were reported. In found dead at the foot of the on rough ground. In the Presumably the correct path had been missed, as has oocurred previously at this point.

## CONCLUSIONS.

The andteo doos not consider that it would be justified in drawing an firite arciusions from the information available, due to the lact that, oniy aocui $50 \%$ o: tho accidonts reported was detallod ing goneral contributory Ieels, HOWOVOr, That it migh accidents.
(a) Below standard physical condition.
(b) Unidue speed on a climb
c) Unau rolianco on guida books.
(d) Failure to regard the simple rules of liountaineering, in this case regarding belays, glissading and lone climbing.

The Conmittee also feels that, if any one point has omerged from the past yoar's observations, it is that judgement, in its broadest sense, is the quality greatest required in mountaineers. This judgement must be applied to the problem in hand, related to the conditions prevailing, and also, above all, to the mountaineer's own capabilities at the time in question.

## GLFANINGS FROM GIARDCM:S

Just five years have passed since the Oread finishod the guide to Gardom?s Edge and the manusoript wont to press, incorporated in the Sheffiold Aroe guide book. In that book was wtitten the following: "There ard still many fine cracks and walls whom ha in climbing ground."

This prophetic statement has beoone faot. The odge has roceived attention from a multitude of climbers from the various boundaries if the Poak, and yet, perhaps because of its charaotor, it has romainod unspoilt, and its buttresses, though conquered, still rotain the challenging aloofness of virgin rock. Very fow poople indeed know of the nowor routes, and I think thorefore it is begin with the Oread officially to record these in some briof manner. To tradition...........

6a. Allen's Routo, Black Waje 35 ft , severo, Six feet loft of Routo II.
an A.J.Allen, D.Charman, $3 / 2 / 51_{0}$
. Black Wall Tra vorso. $25 \mathrm{ft}_{0}$, sovora. From the base of the towor to Route II, then up left. Valkyrie, 7/9/51.
12\&. Lightning Wall. 45 ft 。, very severe The left hand wall of Overhang Buttress, incorporating a move out on to the arete and up. D.Chapman,
12b. Thunder. Unclimbod.
ab. Thunder. "Unclimbod: The wallalas abovo but kooping furthor lefte Attempted by R.A.Brown but defeated by ioe on final holds.
15a. Nowanda. 40 fto , very severe. A boautiful route up tho thin orack at the extreme left hand ond
15b Tondsict 40 fto
Lane On the same wall as Nowanda but up an littlo right of the centro. P.Bivens, 1953.
24. Hoathor Wall Diroct. 40 ft., vory difficult. Starts up the centre of the wall, various finishos. R.A.Brown, WaSollars, R.Lowroy, 14/6/51. 26a. Coh Ayo, Tartan Start. 40 ft ., sevore. Dolicate travorsing movement ach fir om the dirty corner on the right. ReA.Brown, 20/3/51.
32e. Moyer's Buttross Chinney. 60 fto, vory severe. The cave chimnoy, thon the arote, at left side of buttresss The Cave, W.B.Whito, Sept. 1950; the Arete, E.Byne, D.I.Byne, Eastor 19420
32. Moyor's Buttross. 70 fto, excoptionally sovero. Lod at last by Peter Bivens, $/ 9 / 55_{0}$
32b. Ovorloaning Craok, I- oyor's Buttress. On tho right hand side wall. p.Bivens.

34a. Marshall Aid. Difficult. The "Groon Slab" and flake orack to tho right of Pine Crack (NO. 34). EeMarshall, Foba 1953.
36a. Junglo Cornor. Vory severe 15 foot right of Elliott's Buttross. . 8 D. Penlingt on, 6/6/52.

36b. Doad Troe Arote, 60 ft, , very difficult. Start at the cutaway on left of D'ead Tree Wallil E MiArshall, PoG.Titterton, $3 / 5 / 53$
360. Evasion. 40 ft ., difficult. The slab, left of tho cutaway. E. Marshall, 1953.
47. Undertaker's Buttress. 70 ft ., very severe. Yiolded just too late for inclusion in the guide book. J.Brown, M.T.Sorrell, $3 / 2 / 51$, in rajurd miectes.
47a. Hesage Atorte. Unclimbed. The arete of Undertaker's has boen tried,
Mav starting from the guly bsa. 60 f.to, severe. A fow foot of White's

48h。Ro:t日 IIIA 50 fte, Whi3. Z Marthall, No Sho imposing flake
 Wosewhith, $3 / 5 / 50$
Wosemites, 15 fte, vory severo. A move left and over the
54b. Bínid Vaniatino 35 ftio , vory anconquerablo Flake. D.Whillans, Sept. 1951. On the face to the right of a. Bail Boaring Wa.ll, 35 fto , hard sevore, 203 , 53.


57a. Troe No
a sew freotright of whseond picoh E.i3yno, $7 / 2 / 50$ the overhung $V$, chimey oraok.

57b. Thividim Dowapman,Sopts. 1951. A. Alens Doken
Ao.JAlien, Dowkapman, Right hand edge of Broken

63b. Finnla Cr oovo, 50 its,
Freft Wa. Do Doponington, Betweon Finale and Central.
65c. Babyion's us oove:
D.Charmen, Aodullen, $\quad 30 \mathrm{ft}, 0$, very severe. Left of the Flako Craok
70. Appie Buttyoss Laybask.
(i) Appe 35 fto , vory diríiculto On rigt of Apple Crack.
720. Cilar Applo. 35 fto, vory , 7/10/50.
F.Knapp, B.Byne, 50 fto, very sovere Loft of Apple Crack. I

71a, Appie Areto, RoHordy, $6 / 6 / 520$

740. Cidor. Wall. Do Penisingtion, Fi, ivive, 7/10/50.

5a. Bischeim Guilys $4 \cup \mathrm{It}_{0}$, mild setore. The difficult section followed
75a. Bletheim wall of buttress. F.Penlington, J.Adderley, E.Byne, Sept. 1950
75b. Orchrrd. Very severo. A girale traverse of the Apple Buttress area
75b. starting from Layback Crack (No. 70) and finishing w.
Bienheim Buttress. E.Marshall, EoRaynor, $14 / 11 /$ forming the left
78.. Presidont's Arete. 40 ft., Sovoroe The allerio members, $3 / 9 / 50$.
corasar of prosident's Wall. The narrow tower just left of and
84a. Scoup Tower. 35 Ft., severo. Axon, E.Byne, G.R.Sutton, Oct. 1950. behind the Loaning Block. K.Axon, EeByne, Gorla nowo oan deny the So much for the climbin. As for the oln thoso now developments. The fact the Oroad nembers have played thoir part in the of a standard loss than severe is that only five of the cinios listed here are of a future developments may bring. The brillianco of

Ernie Narshall couplod with his undoubtod familiarity with Gardom's Edge and iউs bewildering rook formations was beginning to pay the dividends which nany of us had beon antioipatingo. But for his unfortunato motor-cyolo accident, there is no tolling what this wondor?uliy good woathor of 1955 would havo soon him doing? in tho way of more moarwhit the rocks awajt vur ntiner nanbors and no doubt in tho pativeo the Dread will continue to follon in the Gavion's tracitions of tho laet sis zeraso

## BROTEER 'S WMTRE, SEPTEABIR $24 / 25$.

Phil Falker sends the iollwing shert note on an unofficial moets
Last woekend (i.o. Sopto 2h/is5) thero was ono of thoso ploasant spontanoous meots which the Croad cocastionary precluces at short notico - camping at Brothor: Watera julst of: tho Kirksturo Mand Presont wore the Hendleys, Poto Janos, Mick Harby fin Fury, dohn Fishor. Botity Rird, lijok Gadd, Amo loverton, Nargaret Doardon, Wike Iurnor and Ejwocr wobb, apart incin rysolf. Saturday was rathor wot, ard mest partios did a ploasant shors clind on some slabs noar the camp. The riatia route was about $D$; iwo pitchos, 60 feat anf 110 foot, the lattor being absolutoty continuws and unbrokon by ledgos, but nowhere harde

On Sunday some partios visited.Dóve Crag and found it vogetatod and dirty. Mike, Margaret, Eiloen and I ascended Helvellyn via Striding Edge. Mike and I thought it rather djsappointing. Wo were back in Patterdale boforo the pubs closod at 2.00 .

Ernie Phillips sends this brief report on the Meet of September 16/18.
The moet, which was the first to be hold at Bryn-y-Worn, was attended by a boikt twonty peoplo. John Fisher and phil Falknor took partios to Cwm Silin on Satucday to do Great Slab, Ovorhanging Chimeys, oto. Tho meot loader was inveigied by the oustodian into taking hin to Portmadoc to search for gas tar and sorap iron. The Lengworthys did most if not all of the "Horseshoe".

Phil Falmor and Mike Gadd spont a considorable part of Sunday on oar repairs, while Davo, Ronni and myself wero porsuaded into a stroll by Iawrio Burns, which developed into a marathon circumnavigation of Mool Hobog. (Well what do you expect of a man who troats dumb animais the way Burns doos? - Ed.) The highlight of the meot was considered to havo occurred on Friday evening, when Mike Moore left a carrier bag containing fifteon bob's worth of food on the stops of the Garrick thootre in Lichfield. from the "Alto Adige" of July 261955.
harm from the symbol Yesterday about 10.45 ANR 185 doesn't reply 8 passed from mouth to mouth ANR185. ANR 185 ? ANR185? the telephone wires. What has happened? What is and ran incessantly along A host of suppositiond seized every citizen and the meaning of this symbir. Then the bomb exploded: ANR 185 emerged from questions flew back and proved to be the registration number of an the mystery which surr ounded Englishetuds on parked at Dimaro from Tuesday the 19th.

We the reonstructed by our correspondent from partioulars Here are the owner of the Hudson, Signor J.G.Thompson. On Tuesday July obtained fr om them. there arrived at Dimaro, makeng for Madonna just outside
 two English cars, thevin exhausted the petrol. and was parked on the righ was only a woman with thig. On the spot at that hour of the morning rema parked theree the the ardishers arranged to ask if the machine ould radies and two gentleThe woman said yes and the members of the fudson, firiends and in this men transhipped with their baggages to the machine the Brenta Group. Being atteined Campiglio, their base for an excur in fact certain that no-one would touch the olose fifugio Brentei to they carried themselves into the mountains par tranuillity. Mearwhile at Dimaro Tosa to Pedrotti to Tuckett with the maxicht petween Friday and Saturday unknown overything went well until, during on the $\begin{gathered}\text { Hith the ovident intention }\end{gathered}$ persons broke the wind ow of the door ond remained completely: deluded since they of giving a glance at the contente, and remaide books - there was nothing else. excluded everything except some maps an ghat had happened,

In the morning the may or of Dimaro being informed of carabiniere D'Avolio to the notified the police station at Nale, and they towin色 away of the machine to spot for the first investigation and evemtual towing aworts of the Conta garage Male. A thing which was done with the help ono English tourists of passage, at Male. During the trip there in establishing that the proprietor of the who, being questioned, succeeden in of Iambley -Nottingham. While the mach machine was the Signor J.G.Thompson proceeded to Dima ro and on and his frien. identity of a for a pair of telephone calls made to their documents of our core expectantly, the friends prooeeded with our one After the machine and concluded their adventure in a satisfactory manner their machine and wsual formalitios they re-entered in fact into possess towrope expert, could uar having eventually conveniently compensated thout thanking all those who resume their journey towaras Great bat or the towing away of the had helped them. (Especially the thowrope experitorio.) had helped them. with the tears in the eyes. - Editorio.

THE RUBAIYAT OF GEORGE SUTTON - II.................................... GECVGE SUTTON .
Spent a second week at White Hall recently, a Rangers' course. Not so hot or so strenuous, as the last time. One day I walked from the Iamb Inm, near Hayfield, up to Edalo Rocks, then to the Pagoda, and finally to the Moated Bouldor This I triumphantly asconded after a mud traverse, leaping from the top to regain the bank. How often have I followed Cyril Machin over this oourso, and I think was the sight of Harry, up to his thighs in mud and water at the loated Bouldas be said for the Peak District - south Georgia is a loveloss placo be said for the Peak District - South Georgia is a loveless place, I, do not rocommend it. I heard from a mutual friend last night that Cyril is looking well. ordinarily tough person, and it wasn ft for his slight inconvenience Itm extr he 'd be chasing Peter Bivens up Moyer's.

The following day John Hird (Ass. Wardon) persuaded no that I wentod to tako the caving partfi - we wont round Gantry's. This was ny second visit, but I remembered the way easily enough - one tunnel is a dead ond; memories of lying on my tummy in mud for agos whilst the tail-enders retreated egain. Next day two Welsh girls had not had enough of this mud-wallowing lark - must be mining in their blood - and so I found mysolf leading a strange cavo, Stanley Cave, noar Harpur Hill. Pleasant walk over to it. Fixed rope had to be rigged. It twists down spirally for some distance, then drops sabuptly down a narrow shafte After that it levels off and disintegrates into dozens of passagos which all go in circlos. Some very fine stalactite/stalagmite formations too. We explorod every avenue - if I didn't think a passage would go anywhere I sent one of the girls. After all, there's more women than mend In that cave anyway. Said ond Wolsh girl: "There's a difference between me and mountaineersd Mountaineers have a peculiar sense of humour." I must point out that I can't accopt the whole blame for this remark - she had mot Panther as well.

Getting out was the prime consideration - especially up the narrow shaft I suppose it would be oalled a chimney since one could and indeed had to get into its $8^{11}$ oonfines. Ond the anguish as the first girlis boot ground into the second girls shoulder, and so on down the line How was sutton to get out with no the firs ron chimney - and only that many, at a most inconvonient distance apart.

Meanwhile, having listened to my lectures on how to light a primus whilst lying in a sleoping bag, one girl succeeded in burning down her tent and slooping bag. I shall be surprispit if half the peat on Kinderscout is not also ablaz at this moment. I have still not learnt how she got away unscathed - the know ledge could be useful sometime.

As a finale to my week there was Val. Val was not a climber, but sho loved rock. She had in her brief spa $n$ of life romped blithely over fell and crumbling cliff without the purgatory of a rope - but she was not a climbore She protested it. How her eyes shone when she saw a running belay on aren craoseat Windgather. "Wo must do that, she said, to her intropid (but not a this moment leader. We had done nost most everything else. I led up the middle - decided to have a top rope - finished easily across the balance mom:
and up the overhange Val followed. Grew even more tired on the balanco move. Did not rest long enough under the overhang, and stayed too long on the overhang. She said, "Can I take my hands off?" I asked, "Are your feet on a ledge?" Apparently they were. She took her hands off, and disappoared from sight. Since was kneeling at the edge fond how dould you, Vice-Pres. - my thumb got itself between grit and rope, a deplorable state of affairs which I hastened to remody. I lowered away - remind me to take up tunny fishing one day Has However, I think I was a friend for life - there must be easier ways of making friends.

A foul morning in a tea-room, and a bright afternoon at Castle Naze rounded off the weok. May I protest that instructors should be protected from the following? "Do you know how to tio on?" "Oh, yes, when I did the Rimpfischover the rise of hill, past the Buxton Boss and filled my spirit as I ploughed should never see Peter Mosedale at White Boss and on into the metropolis. I same because of that. God, is it five lies $\}$ We laughed together over the mion tim ors who had passed throuch white Hall in the time, party. There would be over three hundred of them. What a dod

## CREADS IN SHORTS

As predicted in this column last month, Colin Morris and Jeanne Challands were married on September 30th. Congratulations, the pair of you.

Quote from Laura Pretty during the Cwm Silin meet: "Mummy, Daddy started the oar and it went ${ }^{\prime \prime}$

John Welbourn has declared his intention of spending his honeymoon at Blof.W
Eric Byne had a narrow escape on Horned Crag recently, when about half a tor of boulders missed him by an inch or so when he was 20 feet up a pitch.

Pete Cole, out in Burma, has beer in jail for travelling without the necess ary permit. He is (it is believed) the first Oread to attain that distinction. He recently met a tiger devouring its kill. Dociding that a shot-gun was not
 recognised as a world record.

