

the
MOUNTAINEER



CATHEDRAL MT., CRADLE MT. RESERVE, TASMANIA
Photo John Chapman

DECEMBER 1977

20¢

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ROSS SEEDSMAN ON MACALISTER RIVER
Photo Jol Shelton

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THE BUREAUCRACY

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The Journal of M.U.M.C.

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We would like to welcome all new members to the

club in 1978 and hope you will come on as many and

varied trips as possible. As this is our last issue

we would also like to thank the people who have

helped us produce The Mountaineer. Particularly

Nick Reeves for his encouragement and many helpful

hints, Andy Rothfield for the duplicating work and

Nick Dow for sorting and posting The Mountaineer.

Julie West

Cathie Seccombe

THE BUREAUCRACY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on Wednesday, April 19th, 1978.
in the Sisalkraft Theatre, Architecture Building
at 7.30 p.m.

Nominations are called for the 1978 committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Stores Officer, Assistant Secretary, and Editor.

Nominations should be given to the secretary in writing with proposers/seconders signatures, 7 days before the meeting. They must also be signed by the nominee.

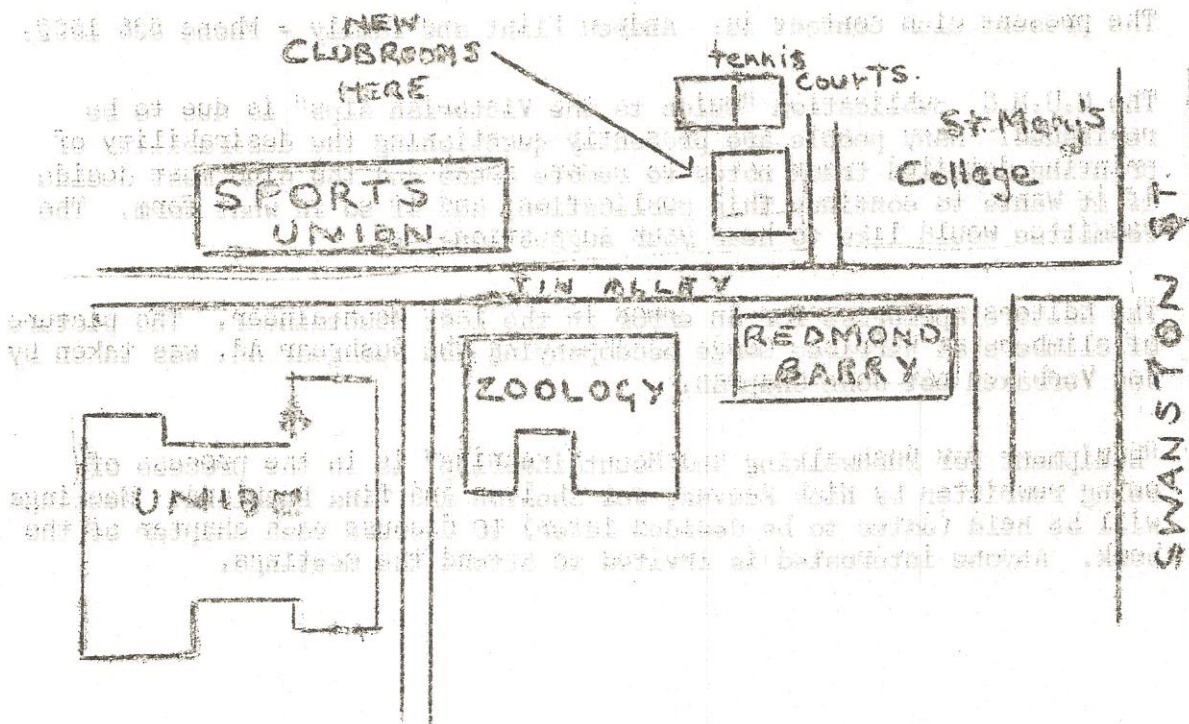
Correspondence: The Editor, "Mountaineer",
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Melbourne University,
Garten Street,
Parkville, 3052.

NEWS & OTHER ODDS & ENDS

1. New Club Rooms

These are situated on the north side of Tin Alley between the Sports Union and St. Mary's College.

The club is open between 1-2 p.m. each weekday and on Tuesday nights. Equipment such as sleeping bags, tents, packs, stoves, skis and climbing gear may be hired from the club. There is also a small library and a store selling health bars, freeze dried and dehydrated meals, dried fruit, chocolate etc.



2. Trips Programme and Bookings:

Some trips, such as orienteering events, are usually planned well in advance and published in the "Mountaineer". Other trips, in particular climbing and canoeing trips, may be organised at short notice. For information about trips, the appropriate convenor may be contacted or you may look in the "Trips book" kept at the club-rooms. Details of all trips are posted in this book along with a leader's name and phone number. People wishing to go on a trip should: (1) write their names in the trips book, (2) contact the leader.

"NEWS & OTHER ODDS & ENDS"(Cont.)2. Trips Programme and Bookings (Cont.)

Standard of Trips - Most trips, especially bushwalking trips, are classified as follows:-

EASY - considered easy for those who are moderately fit but not necessarily experienced.

MEDIUM - fair for fit people. Some previous hiking experience is desirable.

HARD - difficult for fit, experienced walkers.

Club Contact System - If a trip is overdue for any reason the leader of the trip should notify the club contact. Parents or anyone else worried about an overdue trip may then obtain any information from the club contact.

The present club contact is: Andrew Flint and family - Phone 836 1602.

3. The M.U.M.C. publication "Guide to the Victorian Alps" is due to be re-issued. Many people are presently questioning the desirability of printing detailed track notes to remote areas and the club must decide if it wants to continue this publication, and if so in what form. The committee would like to hear your suggestions.
4. The Editors apologise for an error in the last Mountaineer. The picture of climbers at Werribee Gorge accompanying the Bushgear Ad. was taken by Jos Verbaken not John Chapman.
4. "Equipment for Bushwalking and Mountaineering" is in the process of being rewritten by Nick Reeves, Jol Shelton and Tina Buckland. Meetings will be held (dates to be decided later) to discuss each chapter of the book. Anyone interested is invited to attend the meetings.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments will be debated and voted on at the A.G.M.

1. The committee after some discussion has proposed the following constitutional amendment with regard to the methods of changing the constitution.

Clause 44 - delete "incorporated in the notice summoning the meeting" and replace with "(a) incorporated in the notice summoning the special general meeting, or (b) posted on the notice-board at the club at least 14 days before an A.G.M."

The addition of an alternative method (b) of informing members of a proposed amendment would save the club considerable time and expense in doing away with the need to specially post out notices of amendments to all members.

2. Constitutional Amendment proposed by Neil Blundy.

Clause 13 - the words "elected by the A.G.M." to be inserted between the words "committee" and "shall". The clause would then read: "No member of the committee, elected by the A.G.M., shall hold the same office for more than 3 successive years....."

"The pleasure of reading this journal is something like your first successful affair. You knew it would be good but you had no idea that it would be that good!"

"MOUNTAINEERING '78"

The Journal, is edited by Nicholas Reeves and Neil Blundy and is on sale, for \$1.60, at the club-rooms and bushwalking shops.

LETTER TO EDITOR

The Editors,

Mountaineer.

Dear Ladies,

I was somewhat surprised in a recent edition to see myself quoted on the treatment of Snakebite - a topical subject at this time of the year. The treatment quoted was wrong so here is the "official treatment" at this time.

1. The patient must immediately lie down.
2. A constrictive bandage (rubber at least 5 cm. wide) should be placed above the wound on the upper part of the limb. The arterial supply need not and should not be occluded. The bandage should be left on for at least an hour and then removed and not replaced.
3. Wound washed.
4. Injured part placed below the level of the patient.
5. Patient should be treated for shock.
6. Notify help - don't take the patient to help.

N.B. Beware, the snake may be still around and if possible, the snake should be identified.

Hoping these points may be of help.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Henderson.

CLIMBING REPORT

NEW ZEALAND

Indifferent weather in early December ensured that few peaks were climbed during this period. Peter Martin and Neil Currie crossed the Copland Pass but didn't descend to any of the Westland huts. Rather they bivvied above the snowline and climbed Lean Peak on the return journey. Nick Reeves and Ed Neve were fortunate in snatching a new route on the Reay Face of Mt. Chudleigh with New Zealanders Hugh Logan and Dave Begg. An account of this climb appears elsewhere in The Mountaineer.

After completing courses with Alpine Guides Peter and Neil, and Hugh Foxcroft, Neil Blundy and Tim Keliher, returned to the Tasman Glacier, climbing Rumdoodle from Matte Brun Hut before moving up to Tasman Saddle. Hut-bound for several days both parties walked out in miserable conditions, although one fine morning enabled Blundy, Keliher and Foxcroft to complete the short south ridge of Mt. Aylmer. Whilst others were doing courses Nick and Ed spent some time at Tasman Saddle and successfully climbed a difficult rock buttress on Mt. Annan. However poor visibility enforced a descent of the east face. After a bivvy in a crevasse they returned to the village via the Mannering and Murchison Glaciers somewhat the worse for wear.

Seeking fairer weather, M.U.M.C. climbers (read alpinists) travelled further south to Mt. Aspiring National Park. Nick and Ed made the third ascent of the North Ridge of Mt. Barff from Hector Col whilst Robyn Stover and Gary Wills made an attempt from Liverpool Bivvy. Graeme Oakes and Iris Jahnke both did instruction courses with Geoff Wayatt at this time; Graeme climbing Mt. Bevan from the West Matukituki and Iris doing Plunkett Dome. Neil and Hugh climbed the small peaks of French and Joffre whilst crossing the Bonar Glacier to Colin Todd Hut. Bad weather prevented climbing so they returned to Aspiring Hut via Bevan Col.

After Christmas Peter Cockerill and Andrew Rothfield arrived at Mt. Cook. Immediately they flew up to Tasman Saddle Hut and from there successfully climbed Hochstetter Dome and Mts. Walter, Green and Elie de Beaumont. The first spell of fine weather arrived over New Year and M.U.M.C. climbers were amongst many at Plateau Hut, sorely testing its sleeping capacity. From Plateau Peter and Andy climbed Silberham and Mt. Cook (via Zurbriggens) and Nick and Ed made a rapid ascent of Mt. Dixon. Neil and Hugh climbed Mt. Sealy (N.E. Ridge) from Mueller Hut during this spell of delightful weather. At the same time Graeme, Iris and Robyn crossed the Copland Pass and attempted Mt. Sefton from the west.

Nick and Robyn, with Richard Garvie, flew to Tasman Saddle and in magnificent weather climbed Elie de Beaumont and a most attractive ridge on Mt. Broderick before flying home. Andrew Rothfield and Tim Hughes traversed St. David's Dome (Hicks), Dampier and Vancouver. A bivouac was made on Dampier and the return via La Perouse Glacier. Down at Aspiring Neil Blundy climbed Mt. Jumbo. Neil Currie and Peter Martin have returned to Mt. Cook for some more climbing and Keith Egerton, with Dave McLean, Andrew Walker and Greg Craven will all be doing alpine instruction courses.

On rock Hugh and Nick made a short new route, Alien (13), on the Mt. Pleasant cliffs overlooking Lyttleton Harbour near Christchurch.

(Cont...8)

CLIMBING REPORT (Cont.)AUSTRALIA

Considerable activity over the summer vacation has seen several climbers raising their standards with concentrated climbing.

At Mt. Arapiles Tony Marion has led Virginia (17) and seconded several of the harder routes, following Peter Watson on Hyaena (19), Morfydd (19) and Electric Warrior (20) and Tony Dignam on Little Thor (2), Bam Bam (20) and Dramp (21) with a couple of rests. As well as leading Yo Yo (15), Libretto (14) and Saracen/Arab (15), John Stone has top-roped more difficult routes such as Swinging (17) and Stoat Steps Out (18). John's lead of Golliwog's Cakewalk was a strong effort involving two falls before the climb was overcome. Jane Landman seconded many of John's leads. Jos Verbaken has come from retirement to lead Mari (17), Brickdust (17), Jason (18), Decibel (17) and variations of Checkmate and Saracen (both 15) with Karen Miller. He has also seconded Rod Young on many routes including Cadenza (19), Cantata (18) and Dirge (17).

Jim Pitt and Jim Mitroy have climbed Tiptoe Ridge (3), Mantis (11), Boomer (12) and Stalacmite (11). With Gordon Talbett (ex MUMC member) Jim Miltroy has done Watchtower Chimney (11) and Siamese Gach (14). After his sojourn in Tasmania hiking Peter Megens returned to climbing leading Golliwog's Cakewalk (17) and Hard Ears (17), both recent additions to Central Gully. Over on Mitre Peak Andrew Kincaid, Julie West, Jim Mitroy and Cathie Seccombe climbed Serpent (9), Armageddon (9) and Jim soloed "HellsBells" (8).

At Mt. Buffalo, Peter Megens, Don Hird and Neil Blundy climbed the classic "Where Angels Fear to Tread" (17). A minor variation involving one aid was deemed to be necessary above the bulge where a dirt ledge had disappeared. Jim Mitroy had earlier climbed Devil's Cream (13) and The Pintle (14). Jim Grellis spent a rather wet week at Frenchman's Cap in Tasmania hoping to do one of the long routes for which the cliff is renowned. Unfortunately the rain prevented any more than a couple of short routes being climbed.

DEPARTURES

A few climbers are leaving for overseas in the next few months. Peter Watson is departing for a climbing holiday to the U.S.A. and Europe. The hard rockclimbing in Yosemite Valley seems to be the main preoccupation: as Peter Megens says "We'll have to break his legs to keep up!" Reg Marran will be travelling to South America hoping for a good season's climbing in Patagonia. His presence (the word is used advisedly) will be missed by both climbers and bushwalkers from M.U.M.C. Andrew Kincaid has returned to New Zealand to complete his degree after a year's study at Melbourne. His introduction to climbing was marked by enthusiasm and incredulity. Hopefully the retention of both will enable us to renew a friendship next summer climbing in the Southern Alps.

HUGH FOXCROFT.

CANOEING 1977 - 1978

Last year was quite a good canoeing year overall, although many rivers remained low throughout the year. Successful trips were undertaken on most of the well known rivers with notables being the high level Barwon trip, the mass attacks on the Mitta over Easter and again in August and those annual highlights, the Intervarsity Slalom Championships and the W.H.C.C. Barkly River Race. The climax to the year was undoubtedly the twin Tasmanian trips on the Pieman and Franklin Rivers which will be featured at a later date.

In 1978 I look forward to a good canoeing year with a resurgence of interest, especially much needed slalom practice for this year's J.V. to be held in N.S.W.

On site investigation indicates that provided heavy rains come suddenly this winter there is time for yet another last Mitta Mitta trip before Dartmouth Dam floods too many of the rapids. The dam is at present only rising about 3 cm. each day and a rise of 110 m. is required to inundate the Mitta Gorge section.

Other trips predicted for 1978 are a Swampy Plains and Indi River assault, possibly at Easter, Upper Thomson and Mitchell trips to see these rivers before the dams progress too far and of course the many other trips around Victoria and N.S.W. to be decided as the rain falls.

BILL CRUICKSHANK
Canoeing Convenor.

CANOEING ACTIVITIES OVER THE SUMMER VAC...

Over the holidays quite a bit of serious and not so serious activity has been going on in the canoeing world. Firstly, after much organisation (enquiries being met with the statement "the matter is in hand"), Judy Downe, Sandy Morrison, Ross Seedsman, Prue Dobbin with Martin Elias and Charlie Williams (two members of Whitehorse Canoeing Club) went to Tasmania, boats having been sent a month earlier, and canoed a high level Pieman. High level Thompsons, Upper Mitta in flood etc. etc. eat your little hearts out - this water was BIG! After this adventure, Martin and Charlie departed and we were met by Jol Shelton, Barry Stuckey and Karen Roberts, who had arrived for the second Great M.U.M.C. descent of the Franklin River. We all found this a wonderful experience due to the canoeing, the scenery, the wilderness experience and the deep sense (terrifying) of commitment. After several epics, including a swim across the river in 20 ft. of grade 3 water flowing between a grade 6 and a grade 5 rapid, we made it down. It was a good trip, but don't ask Jol for a while if he likes swimming!

Meanwhile, back at the Uni., Rob Marshall had organised a super low level Snowy River trip with Christine Ireland, Leo Cussen and Jacqui Parry. They went from Willis to MacKillops Bridge in what may only be described as "The Long Walk"

With summer upon us once again and a drought making the rivers very low, a canoeists interest sometimes turns to (you guessed it)..... the sea! Surfyakking has hit off with several members trying yakking under instruction from Bill Cruickshank, a yakka of about 5 years experience, at Wilson's Prom. Other canoeists have begun building surfyaks and although two moulds are currently available, all are sticking to the older style. With the advent of interest in the sport and especially with the increasing popularity of difficult manoeuvres that can be made in the surf, it will be interesting to watch the growth of yakking in the club. Several trips were planned for February.

Older canoeists will be interested to hear that our ex-convenor, John Templar, and wife Heidi are back in Melbourne. Let's hope we see them on some trips soon.

All good canoeists should be on their knees praying for rain, as the current drought is making us all want to go back to Tassie.

PRUDENCE DOBBIN.

ORIENTEERING REPORT

'5 DAY EVENT'

Five days of orienteering! In midsummer! Running through the bush for five days in a row under a blazing summer sun! Mad as Englishmen. However, 700 entrants turned up for Australia's first five day event - not one continuous event, but five separate events with winners in each level being determined by their aggregate time over all events. Fourteen M.U.M.C. orienteers took part.

Centered near Ballarat, the areas chosen were as interesting as their names: 'Bungal', 'Borhoney Ghurk', 'Champion Hill', 'Little Hard Hills' and 'Canadian Forest'. Terrain varied from the wide open scrub free 'Borhoney Ghurk' to the more typical bracken and scrub covered 'Little Hard Hills'. 'Borhoney Ghurk' and 'Bungal' were dotted with mine shafts, and here and there hillsides had been removed by thousands of Chinese during the elusive search for gold last century. Country that now bears no sign of habitation is scarred with networks of trenches, some kilometres in length, used for directing water to the digging sites. Many kangaroos added to the interest for all, and particularly for the hundred or so entrants from overseas. The many Scandinavians, expecting the foretold summer heat, donned parkas and jumpers as temperatures remained in the low twenties and high teens - a fortuitous change in the weather. The seven-thirty a.m. starts, designed to minimise the absent summer heat, caused many stomach rumbles. Course lengths varied from 9 km. each day for the open mens level to one km. for the novice events.

Seven hundred people in the bush is a little mind boggling, however, it is a far cry from the 10,000 entrants attracted annually to a similar event in Sweden. Also, with the staggered starts on each course, it was normal to see no more than 20 or 30 people in the bush during your own event.

An event to be repeated? I hope so. Orienteering is an activity in the bush, all orienteers respect the bush. To be with 700 others all who liked and enjoyed being on foot in the bush, with a map and compass only was enjoyable.

COMING EVENTS

M.U.M.C. orienteers will be organising two events this year, the first in late April. If you would like to be involved, please contact Tony Kerr (874 2726). Regular V.O.A. events begin again towards the end of February.

MAPPING

With the near completion of mapping at Borhoney Ghurk, we are looking at two new areas for mapping: Korweinguboora and Steiglit. Interested in helping? Contact Tony Kerr or Ron Frederick (870 4033).

WHY DO WE DO IT?

It's 12 pm., or should we say 00.0 am. It's cold! Sheepleyard Flat, we're here. The moon filters through the mist in the trees, a ghostly promise of a good day to follow. Christ it's cold!

It's 7 am. and it's still cold, "I had cold feet last night!" We laugh, standing around in a circle to decide the day....

It's 11 am. and we've just driven 11 miles along a 6 foot wide, snow floored tunnel of trees. "That snow is real!" "Yeah, an' it's cold." "Let's go, lunch is at the top." "You mean we don't have to carry it."

Bodies groan under the weight of laden packs, legs goosebump at the chill of the air. Crisp snow crunches at the stomp of boot. "A hill.....life wasn't meant to be easy; that' sun's hot; I'm sweaty already and we've only gone half a mile; who said that snow walking was easy...."

We're climbing Bluff (N.E. face), a team of city softened mountaineers. We've come miles from Melbourne to find pleasure; what pleasure?

Stomp, stomp, stomp, I can't make it; stomp, stomp, stomp, gee the air really is getting thin; stomp, stomp, puff, puff, stomp, stomp. My gut feels like it's hanging inside out; stomp, stomp.

A stop to admire the view, an excuse for a rest. Snow everywhere, they sure didn't lie on the news broadcast.

"There's Buller, think of those snow bunnies yo-yoing up and down."

"We're just here to experience the snow the hard way!"

"That's your excuse!"

The track's dead, we go straight up, stomp, stomp, 2 feet up and 1.5 feet down; stomp, stomp, why do we do it?

It seems a shame to mash the beauty with lines of footprints.

We're at the top..... for miles around the snow is real. It's white, not grey, like the sky enshrouding the city, nor brown, like the dull ugliness of our city.... it's white.

In the full clear rays of the sun we experience the white as a whole, we're not under the pallid yellow electric lights, looking at the white in the dappled, worn pages of a well thumbed book, dreaming.....We're here and it's real.

We're just escapists from the city, to see it as it is.....That's why we do it!



JOHN STONE ON "WITCH", CAMEL'S HUMP
Photo James Pitt

Kimpton SLEEPING BAGS

arctic bag

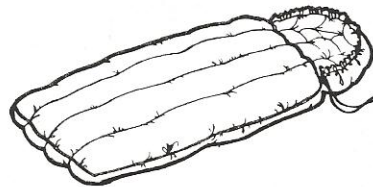
For sub zero temperatures and high altitudes. Cellular walls form lengthwise flutes, this stabilises the filling, ensuring even insulation and maximum resistance to cold throughout. There are no cold spots on the stitching, not even on the side seams because of these walls. The quilted flap hood is fitted with a draw tape and permits almost complete envelopment of the sleeper except for a small breathing aperture. When tied, the end allows no heat loss, however, in hot weather, the down can be compressed to the bottom and the end left open for ventilation, this makes the Arctic a dual purpose bag.



Filled with 2½lb. superdown.

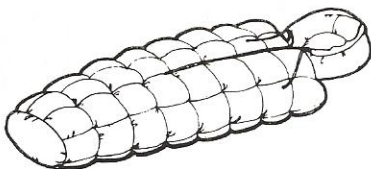
Body of bag cut 6'6" long x 32".
Total weight of bag 5¼ lb.

walled, hooded combination bag



Walled construction, the same as our Arctic bag. This hooded bag unzips to open into a blanket. Or, you can zip two bags together to make a double bag. Superdown filled

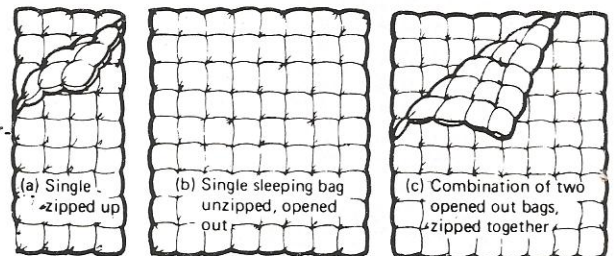
snow bag



For skiers, bush walkers and sportsmen who want warmth without weight: Fitted with an inside closing zip and adjustable hood. An added feature is the heavily padded, circular foot panel, for protection in cold conditions. Supplied with our special waterproof container bag.

combination sleeping bag

opened out to make a 6' 6" x 5' warm, light eiderdown, equalling the warmth of two pairs of blankets. For caravanning or camping purposes, it is simply zipped together, forming a single sleeping bag, or two bags opened out, can be zipped together, forming a perfect roomy double bag, capable of accommodating two adults or three children. Needs no bedmaking.



Economic Down Quilt Co.

39 Sackville Street, Collingwood, 3066.

Phone: 41 4878

CHUDLEIGH'S REAY FACE. THE LEFT-HAND BUTTRESS

We bivvied in the Reay Basin expecting wind and rain. Upon awakening a climb seemed possible as the sky above was clear; last evening's storm clouds still battled to pass the barrier of the main divide peaks. Hugh and Dave looked at the clouds debating whether to proceed or not. From their comments it appeared that true contentment came with a mere presence in mountains; that the bivvy had been a bonus, and, as for that slender unclimbed buttress above, well, its presence was completely irrelevant. Ed ignored all this, ate his breakfast and announced that he was ready to climb. I meekly agreed. The others, their bluff called so effectively, chorused approval. So, we wandered up to the foot of Chudleigh's Reay face.

This face has three prominent buttresses. The right hand buttress is the most broken, but it is the highest, leading direct to the summit. It has had a few ascents. So far as we knew the other two buttresses, which finished on the west ridge, were unclimbable. A steep, slender rib of rock on the left buttress appealed most from our bivvy. So, to look at it, we went.

The climb itself commenced with many shambles, as both teachers climbed up similar ground at the same time. However, a steep section of jamming soon sorted matters out and some more practical order sequence of climbing evolved. Easy angled climbing generally occurred, but each pitch seemed to have a short steep wall or two to provide interest and the occasional thrill. It was fun having two parties so close together on an alpine climb as conversation at each belay provided a crag-like atmosphere which even the onset of cloud could not dispel.

It was my turn to lead when what proved to be the hardest pitch came. Opening slabs were deceptively innocuous, but too soon steepened suddenly. Traversing out left on to the side of the buttress easy angled, pleasant climbing was quickly forgotten as I grappled with steep cracks, an overhang and poor rock. A runner was placed, then others and our alpine ramble had turned serious. Bridging wide I climbed the crack, with an absorbed attention that hard moves seems to bring. Ed followed the pitch with his usual unhurried style, and the other two, tired of waiting, found an easier way up past the bulge.

The latter half of the rib continued to provide enjoyable climbing with the succession of slab, step and ledge. A very casual race seemed to develop. Dave, with cunning, suggested a likely looking jamb crack which I foolishly attempted. As I grappled with off width crud, they slipped past, shimmying up the easy way. We followed suit, and slip streamed behind them, all moving together.

The buttress ends at the ridge about 1000' below the summit. Weather prevented any attempt to reach it. Rotten rock, steep snow climbing down a gully and an abseil saw us back on Reay snow. Dave gave a loud joyous yell and bum-slid away from us at dramatic speed. We copied, as he weaved a cresta run amidst the steep slopes. A few minutes and 1000' later we were near our bivvy site. Exhilaration faded with increasing rain and the less said about the wet plod home, the better.

The Party: Dave Begg
Hugh Logan
Ed Neve
Nick Reeves

THAT BROWN MONOLITH WAS NO ROCK.!

AN ACCOUNT OF A HIGH LEVEL PIEMAN RIVER TRIP - - - - -

The river was extremely wide and turbulent, and even on the flat water one was continually doing support strokes to stay upright due to the amazing behaviour of the water. "I don't like this", Charlie confided to me at the top of what should have been an easy grade 3 rapid, but at this level had sent people swimming, "I'm getting out." Charlie is not a good piker and therefore naturally kept going.

We followed Ross through face washing wave after wave - many 4 ft. high or more. It was then that we all had the same strang experience. We were paddling along when we saw this big brown rock-like object sticking out of the water. We all assumed it was a rock ---- till it disappeared! We then realised it was a huge haystack; the water dyed brown from tannin!

Ross was feeling super-brave and led the way down most of the rapids. He soon learnt that you should be able to see the bottom of a rapid before shooting. I was following Ross and decided that since I couldn't see where he had gone I might get out and have a look. Up till now I had been blindly following. Ross was running up the bank. The rapid was much larger than he had imagined and at about the limit of his ability! We all took the "chicken shoot", by paddling down eddy by eddy on the right.

The first night we camped opposite a pretty little creek, just past the first dams site. At about 6 p.m. that night a thick brown-grey sludge began to pour out. We were camped by the Electrolytic Zinc mine's effluent outlet! The water beyond this point was undrinkable. It seemed really strange at later campsites where probably no one had been for quite a long while, to be unable to drink the water.

The next day we paddled 40 km. of nearly flat water. It was quite boring after the excitement of the previous day's paddle, although the surrounding open beech forest was quite beautiful. Due to the level, which although dropping, was still high, the many pebble races offered good 3 ft. plus waves.

The third day dawned and we paddled cheerfully off to the second gorge, fully expecting it to be minor compared to that of the first day. We were in for a rude awakening! The very first rapid of the day had a HUGE pressure wave - the biggest any of us had ever seen. Ross and Martin made it through with much instability and many support strokes. Judy and I, although the day was cool, decided the moment was just right for a swim and came to grief. We were swept by the strong eddy round towards the shore but then out into the current again - we were clearly going to go round and round. Ropes were thrown and we were dragged ashore. After seeing this, Charlie piked, but had trouble re-entering his boat below the rapid in the rough water. Sandy (wise lad) took the chicken shoot.

For the next half day we were confronted by rapid after rapid of huge water - it was great fun. We perfected the sideways, backwards and upside down methods of paddling - just for practice (or so some said).

After the trip, 6 people, 6 boats and 6 lots of gear fitted into or onto one hired car. We almost made it to Zeehan till the roof-rack collapsed with the strain. Six boats were carefully hidden in the bushes near a small approaching bushfire till the morrow. Thus ended a great trip that was not exaggerated. (Last line inserted for the benefit of those canoeists who didn't go and will forever be sceptical of just how good it was!

Prue Dobbin.

Party: Ross Seedsman (leader), Judy Downe, Sandy Morrison, Prue Dobbin (me), Martin Elias and Charlie Williams (from Whitehorse Canoe Club).

"MT. ANNE BLUES"

Maybe it was because we set off on Friday the 13th that our trip to Mt. Anne went from bad to worse. After catching the bus to Frodshams Pass we tried unsuccessfully to hitch to the beginning of the Mt. Anne track that night. Getting impatient we camped in the middle of an undulating, gravel quarry, not realising that only 200 yards away was a nice picnic shelter. Next morning Paul and I were having a leisurely breakfast when Paul, who had been waiting 3 hours, hitched a lift for all of us to the Mt. Anne track. Not having packed yet, we had to roll everything up in the tent and throw it into the back of the car. At the start of the track we met a party who were leaving a few 'tinnies' in the creek to cool. They said 'see you on the way down' - this was rather discouraging as we didn't think we looked that slow.

At 10 o'clock we started walking - it was to eventuate into a trip with a lack of early starts. Despite the hot, sunny weather the track, obviously well used, was a deep, black bog. After 3 hours of reasonably gentle climbing we reached High Camp Hut 2500' above the road and not wanting to overtax ourselves on the first day decided to stay there for the night. Whilst having lunch outside the hut we saw, to our disgust, a helicopter land on Mt. Eliza. About an hour later 4 people, looking quite exhausted, arrived at the hut and we realized they were the ones we had met earlier at the creek (they turned out to be the leading local citizens who had consumed a second supply of beer on the summit). After lunch we carried day packs up Mt. Eliza which rose about 300' above the hut. The summit was very windy but we had fantastic views of Pedder, Anne and the Western Arthurs (unfortunately the Scotts Peak Road ruined the wilderness feeling). The southern side of Eliza's 2000' sheer cliffs dropped majestically down into Lake Judd and we had our first view of the remainder of the Anne Circuit, including Mts. Lot and Sarah Jane dominated by their spectacular rocky outcrops.

We returned to the hut for dinner and waiting 'til 9 pm., watching the spectacular sunset over Pedder. The next day, making an early start, (well at 10 am. anyway) we re-climbed Eliza to find that the wind was much stronger than on the previous day. Walking across the exposed plateau we were frequently forced to sit down when extra strong gusts pushed us off balance. High waves were whipped up out on the lakes and for awhile hail was blown horizontally across the plateau, cutting our legs and faces.

Half way across the plateau we found one of the few sheltered spots for lunch. In search of the Mt. Anne shelf we climbed down about 300' to a gully full of boulders which had to be negotiated. Due to a minor navigational error we ended up camping on the wrong shelf. It wasn't the ideal camping site but there was plenty of water and we managed to wedge our tents in-between rocks and thick scrub. However we later discovered our tent site to be a very good catchment area. To compensate we had superb views of Lot, Sarah Jane, Lot's Wife and Anne, which was 600' directly above us.

After dinner we went to bed looking forward to a peaceful night.. This peace was short lived. A couple of hours later, the wind sprang up from a different direction and began buffeting the tents. The wind, accompanied by driving rain, became extremely strong and Paul's tent soon decided to collapse. For the rest of the night the three of us lay in cramped positions in Paddy's goretex tent. It was by now snowing quite heavily and we soon made the unfortunate discovery that goretex ceases to function effectively

"MT. ANNE BLUES"(Cont.)

in such conditions. On one of the many occasions that I was to awaken that night, I found my breaths were becoming increasingly shorter and shallower. Thinking that Paul's cheesecake at dinner hadn't really been that bad, I was convinced I was about to be the second person to die on Mt. Anne. I called to Prue who, in reply gasped 'Quick open the door'. Between us we ripped open the door and took gulps of the cold, fresh air. Paul, however, was not so impressed with snow blowing onto his face for the rest of the night. It was a long night but when morning finally arrived the weather conditions hadn't changed at all and visibility outside was about four feet. During the night water had somehow seeped into the tent so that we were sitting in soaking wet sleeping bags in pools of water, wearing all the clothes we possessed, which were also soaking wet. Prue however consoled us by reading that the climbers in 'Everest the Hard Way' were also sitting in "clumps of useless feather". For about five hours we sat in the tent and going outside to get food we returned, freezing cold from the icy wind. Finally at about 12 o'clock the mist and snow slowly disappeared to be replaced by weak sunlight. The wind however still hadn't relented but when the temperature had risen slightly we packed up and not being very inspired to continue the circuit we returned to the hut. The wind on the plateau was comparatively mild and at the hut the sun was shining and we quickly dried out tents and sleeping bags whilst sunbaking and reading.

The next day was again beautifully sunny and it was very disappointing to have to return to civilization after only three days. But we had enjoyed the experience, that is, after it was all over.

Tricia Seccombe (author)
Prue Dobbin
Paul Thomas.

TRIPS PROGRAMME

BUSHWALKING:

February

Leader:

Robert Dunning,

178 Poath Rd., Hughesdale.

Ph. 56 2960

CLIMBING:

Every weekend at the Grampians, Mt. Arapiles etc.

Contact: Hugh Foxcroft.

Ph. 24 2084.

ORIENTEERING:

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Function</u>
Wed. 16 March 7.30 p.m.	Sports Union Activities Room	<u>Introduction to Orienteering.</u> Films, slides and instructions on most aspects of orienteering, including map making.
Sat. 18 March 2.30 p.m.	Yarra Bend	<u>Instructional Orienteering Afternoon.</u> Practical navigation and map reading using the Orienteering Course established at the Yarra Bend Park.
Fri. 7 April 7.30 p.m.	20 Craithie Ave., Park Orchards.	<u>Social Evening for all M.U.M.C. Orienteers.</u> Come and talk Orienteering and meet other orienteering mountaineers. Please let John or Jill Turner know if you are coming. Ph.876 1128.
Sun. 30 April 9 am. until 5 pm.	'Borhoney Ghurk'	<u>M.U.M.C. Organised 'STATE' Orienteering Event.</u> Come to Borhoney Ghurk country, near Meredith (between Ballan and Geelong) for an enjoyable event on scrub-free terrain. Apart from kangaroos, the country exhibits many scars from the gold-rush era of last century. Come for part of the day or remain for a barbeque tea.

NOTE:

M.U.M.C. Orienteers also attend most Orienteering events organised for the Victorian Orienteering Association. These are held on most Sundays. Also watch the Orienteers notice-board at the club-rooms.

ORIENTEERING - FREEDOM IN THE BUSH

To go orienteering is to be given the freedom of the bush. You choose whether the track pushing steeply up the spur or the contours sidling around the hill will more quickly take you to your next check point. Perhaps speed is not wanted; your aim is to see and enjoy; you strike directly down to the creek and then meander up amongst the giant tree ferns.

Today you are on your own, previously you have gone with a group. You feel more secure walking on a direct beeline and you wonder if the person going diagonally up the spur opposite is on your course. Some of the top orienteers apparently never go on bearings; it is told that they convert the brown doodles on the map into a three dimensional panorama through which their minds are kilometres ahead of their legs. What is that flash of red ----- aah! the check point marker; the slight tenseness washes away; your beeline has taken you right there. You get your control card and clip it in the square with the punch swinging beneath the marker. Swinging! There is no breeze; someone has just been there, but there is no trace, just the swinging punch. Two feelings; one of remoteness - only having seen 3 people since starting one hour ago, and one of security - one of the 250 participants was here only a minute or so ago.

It is your last checkpoint, there are the streamer trails leading to the finish. Let's jog this bit - not that it matters - there are few spectators, just a couple of organizers checking people in and taking times.

You are not a competitive orienteer, I mean, you just started this a few weeks ago - didn't even know how to use a compass then, but, well, you didn't lose any check points today. You amble across to the result board, Mick got around in a shorter time. You collect your lunch gear and go to Mick's fire for a barbeque and to swap notes you saw more kangeroos!

Tony Kerr

MILFORD REVERSE

7 p.m. Across the other side of the still, deep water was our destination, Sandfly Point. To the left, the steep slopes of Mt. Sheerdown plunged into the dark waters of Milford Sound. How to get across to the end of the famous Milford Track?

Emerging from the bush, we saw a wharf and a boat. Perhaps the fisherman? Luckily he was going out to pick up some lobster pots so we clambered into his boat. Foot to the floor, a white foaming wake behind us. He seemed to know something about the track...

"A couple of hours up the track, you'll find a hut you can sleep in."

A wave goodbye, as he pushed off from the wharf at Sandfly Point, and we picked up our packs and turned to start our walk. To be confronted with a sign.

"Turn back. The Milford Track cannot be walked from this end....." Apparently, to control the number of people on the track and ensure that the huts are not over-crowded, the National Parks Board restrict the number of people on the track and only allow you to walk in one direction.

After hesitating for only an instant, we accepted the challenge, and hoping we wouldn't meet any rangers, strode off. Anyway the sandflies were too aggressive to stay here.

Soon we came upon a mileage post. And 25 minutes later another! With a picture of a native bird! We began to wonder what else was in store ahead of us.

An hour to Lake Ada where two kiwi girls gave us a map. Not that you need a map to walk along the track as it is dead flat and as obvious as Swanston Street. But it's nice to know where you are and what's ahead.

As the light faded, we began to doubt whether we would reach the hut at Boatshed before darkness overwhelmed us. As the Milky Way appeared we knew we wouldn't.

"Got your torch handy Iain?"

"Torch?" so by the light of one torch we pressed on.

Duckboards over swampy sections. Through the dark, damp beech forest. To each side, glow-worm type insects winked at us. At 11 we reached the swing bridge, and shortly afterwards, the THC huts. The THC (Tourist Hotels Corporation) was formed to grab some of the tourist \$ for the NZ government. It operates hotels in popular tourist areas of both islands and just about runs the Milford Track. Till a few years ago, only parties led by THC guides were permitted on the track. Now, so called "freedom walkers" can walk along the track. For only \$17, to cover boat fares, hut fees and a "track fee". You stay at huts maintained by the National Park Board while the THC parties sleep on deep mattresses at well-stocked huts. For almost \$80!

MILFORD REVERSE (Cont.)

In through the unlocked back-door and lo and behold, real mattresses and chocolate biscuits. Unfortunately an early departure was required to escape detection by the THC party which would be making their way to Sandfly Point today. A mile down the track and time for breakfast, and pondering over what we would say to enquiries from those we would meet.

"Hey you're going the wrong way."

"Yeah, I forgot a stove at the hut."

"I left a roll of film at the hut...." and finally -

"We know".

The track was similar to that we had travelled along last night. Passing through damp beech forest, with the Arthur River away somewhere to our left. Easy walking along a flat track. Till the forest opens out to the THC huts at Quintin, with the base of MacKinnon Pass. The pass rises about 1500 feet above us, to the left. To the right, Sutherland Falls cascades 1900 ft (yes 1900 feet!) in three bounds to the forest floor. As we approach, the track up the hillside to the Pass becomes visible. An exposed, long zig-zag. And the weather is deteriorating.

Above the treeline and the cold blasts of wind from the Tasman Sea strike us with their full force. Still up. Till the sanctuary of the emergency shelter at the top of the Pass. Time for a brew. Good value. Out again, but once below the top of the pass the wind died. Again a long zig-zag but this time downwards. Easier on the body. To the THC hut at Lake Mintaro.

So far we hadn't seen any rangers. We expected to see one around every bend or at every hut. We'd been told that most of them had left at the end of January - it was now the 4th of February.

Next morning we were slow to leave. A THC guide sprung us in the middle of packing, so we went up to the nearby Park Board Hut. And there a ranger told us to chop some wood before leaving. But he didn't ask us where we'd come from, or where we'd been last night.

Aiming to reach Glade House (the end of the track and the docking point of the ferry) on Lake Te Anau by 5 p.m. we set off once more. The track was seemingly dotted with huts, as we passed THC huts at Pampoloma and Bus Stop till we reached a spot for lunch. While resting and having some chocolate, an inquisitive little wren decided to find out what boot-laces tasted like. And sock. But not legs.

Finally Lake Te Anau. Disappointingly, the weather had been poor once again, persistent mist covering the ridge tops at the sides of the valley. The walls of the valley disappeared into the mist; here and there a waterfall tumbled out of the cloud. But we couldn't judge whether the Milford Track really is "the best walk in the world". But photographs show that it does lay claim, in fine weather, to being a magnificent walk. That is if you ignore the huts, ignore the mileage signs and don't stay in a hut with the same 10-16 people every night & if you like walking on flat tracks all the time.

But we walked it.

Once.

Backwards.

Undetected.

Anonymous.

BOOK REVIEW

by: Michael Henderson.

"MOUNTAINEERING FIRST AID" - a guide to accident response and first aid care.

By: Dick Mitchell.

The Mountaineers, Seattle, Washington.

This little book (120 pages) is based on a first aid course conducted by the Mountaineers of Seattle. One might imagine that a book written for alpine climbers and American conditions as well would have little relevance for Australian bushwalkers, climbers, or cross-country skiers. On the contrary however, there is a very similar spectrum of problems even if alpine accidents do tend to be more serious and isolated.

The first few chapters of this book are by far the most important for they define an approach to the subject that is rarely seen, but desperately needed. Particularly encouraging is the chapter on preparation for and prevention of accidents. Another chapter defines the aim of first aid while putting the role of the mountaineering first aider into perspective. This short chapter also emphasises a very commonsense approach to psychological management - which may be summarised as 'tender loving care', telling the truth without denying all hope, encouraging yet informed. The absence of panic in both patient and first aider is imperative for effective management of the problem.

This chapter also contains a flow diagram which summarises the immediate response to an accident. The patency of the airway (A), maintenance of breathing (B) and adequacy of the circulation (C) in that order must be assessed and corrected. Then and only then can fractures etc. be looked at. Patients with problems of respiration or circulation can die within minutes, hence every first aider should know and have practised the basic techniques of Mouth to Mouth Resuscitation and Heart Massage. All other knowledge and experience pales in significance with these techniques because they really do save lives in an emergency situation.

This book then goes on to describe many other conditions, some of which are life threatening. At the start of each chapter there is often a small explanation of the "How & Why" of the particular subject and then guides to the prevention diagnosis and treatment of the problem. This makes for a logical, easily understood text which is lucid without being wordy. There are very few technical terms in the book and the illustrations, though they are few in number, are excellent. The slant on the book is obviously American i.e. legal aspects of first aiding, but even this can be forgiven.

It is possible to find a few criticisms of this book but they are unwarranted if the book is used as it ought, in conjunction with a First Aid Course. The role of practical knowledge cannot be over-emphasised in the management of first aid problems, nevertheless this book serves well as a standard reference on first aid. It is hoped to have several copies of this book in the club library and eventually perhaps, in the club first aid kits.

The size of this book is convenient (approximately 13 cm. x 20 cm.) and is only 120 pages long. I would recommend all to read it, study it in a practical class and to take it bushwalking. It is the most complete and lucid of first aid books for outdoor people and one of the best as far as presentation of information is concerned.

In other words a must for all concerned mountaineers.

Dr. Michael L. Anderson

BOOK REVIEW

THE MANAGERIAL FIRST STEP: A GUIDE TO MANAGERIAL PROGRESS AND FIRST STEP

By: Jack H. Hirschman

The Management, Boston, Massachusetts

This little book is a guide to the first step in the management process. It is a book written for the manager who is just starting out. The author, Jack H. Hirschman, is a well-known management expert. He has written many books on management. This book is a very simple guide to the first step in the management process. It is a book that every manager should read.

The first step in the management process is to define the problem. This is a very simple step, but it is one that many managers fail to do. The author explains why this is so and how to do it. He also explains how to define the problem in a way that is clear and concise. This is a very important step in the management process. It is the first step that leads to the rest of the process. The author explains how to do this step in a way that is easy to understand. This is a book that every manager should read.

The second step in the management process is to identify the causes of the problem. This is a very important step in the management process. It is the second step that leads to the rest of the process. The author explains how to do this step in a way that is easy to understand. This is a book that every manager should read.

The third step in the management process is to develop a plan of action. This is a very important step in the management process. It is the third step that leads to the rest of the process. The author explains how to do this step in a way that is easy to understand. This is a book that every manager should read.

The fourth step in the management process is to implement the plan of action. This is a very important step in the management process. It is the fourth step that leads to the rest of the process. The author explains how to do this step in a way that is easy to understand. This is a book that every manager should read.

The fifth step in the management process is to evaluate the results of the plan of action. This is a very important step in the management process. It is the fifth step that leads to the rest of the process. The author explains how to do this step in a way that is easy to understand. This is a book that every manager should read.

In other words, a manager who follows these steps will be successful.



Paddy Pallin

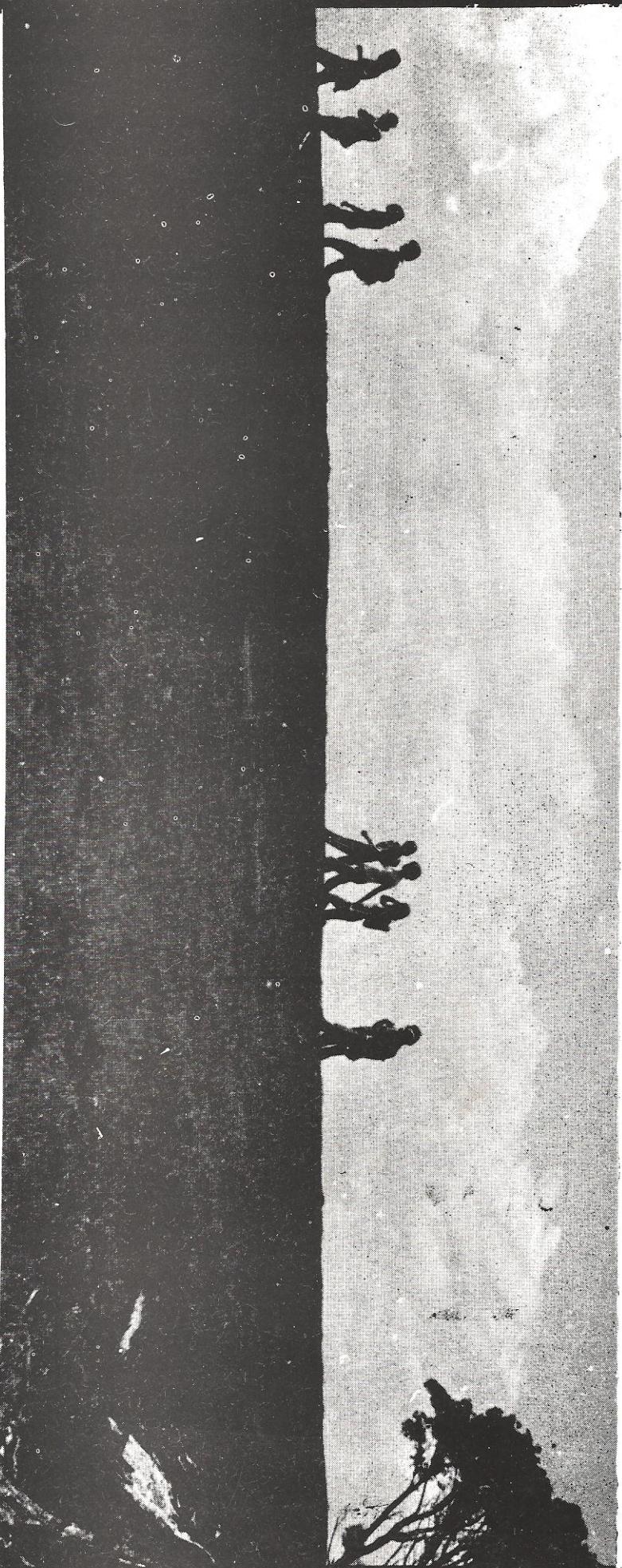
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