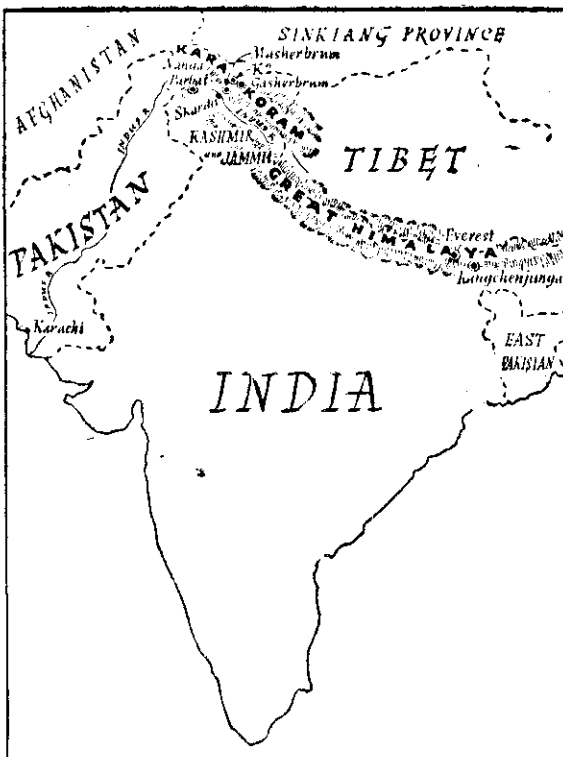


of Central Asia. The history of this vast terrain is complex. Of immediate importance to Conway's party is that one of the British climbers of 1938 is Lt-Colonel J. B. Harrison, now Military Secretary at Army Headquarters in Wellington. His help and goodwill have been most encouraging. His attempt on Masherbrum only failed when six hundred feet from the summit, and when misfortune came, his story became as eventful as any of the period. As there has been no account available in New Zealand, I now summarise the *Himalayan Journal* (1939) article by J. O. M. Roberts. This will make New Zealanders familiar with the objective of the Canterbury party and with the variation of conditions of storm and snow which they may meet; it will also stand as a reminder of their gratitude to men whose gallant attempt was in the high traditions of Himalayan climbing.

Of this 1938 party Waller and Harrison were the most experienced in Himalayan climbing. Roberts was beginning

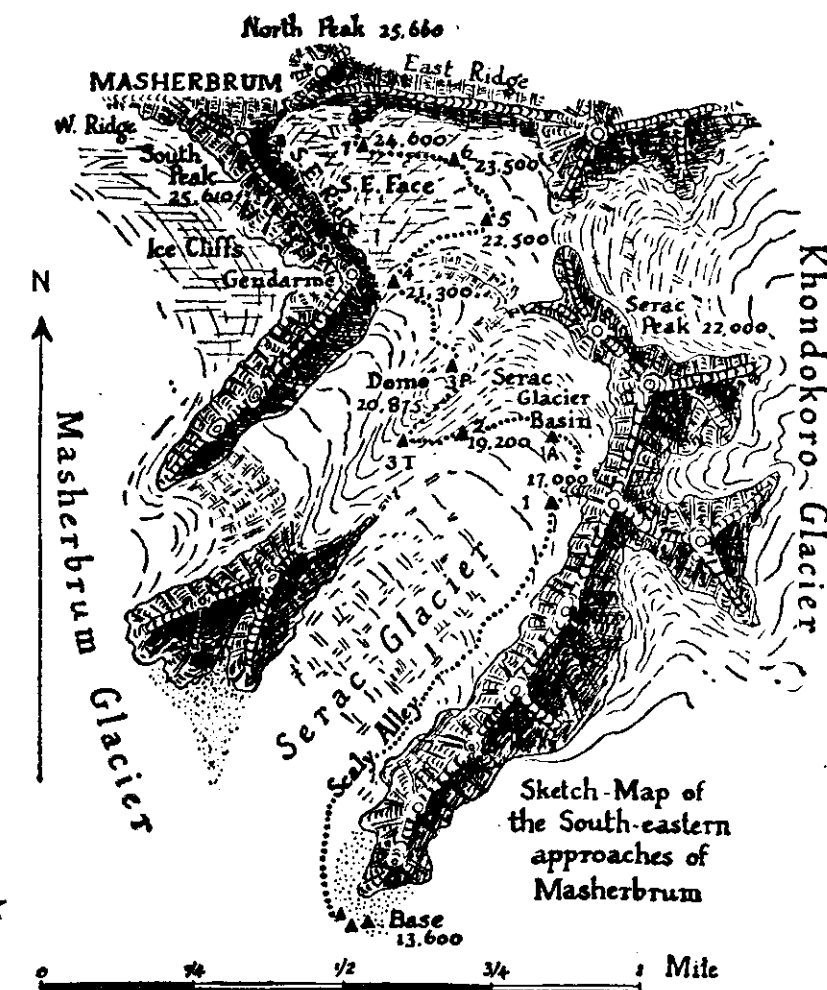
a good Himalayan career. Graham Brown joined them from England with R. A. Hodgkin, who had experience in the Caucasus. Masherbrum had not been attempted before. While Harrison and Hodgkin reconnoitred the Masherbrum Glacier approach, the rest of the party found that the access from the Khondokoro was not feasible. Harrison reported that a route lay up the Serac Glacier (see Sketch map). After eighteen days of heavy work by the party and their Sherpas, the first assault pair, Harrison and Hodgkin, with Waller and others in support, were ready. The top camp (seven) was at 24,600 feet. On June 17 Harrison and Hodgkin made their bid, but luck was not with them. They kicked steps and then ploughed up snow, waist-deep, for four hundred feet. Only six hundred feet to go! But the floury snow made it impossible to stamp firm steps, still less to cut them. A high wind increased the risk of frost-bite. And the rocks on the east ridge were iced and very difficult. Exhausted, they retreated. Back at camp seven they rubbed their frozen hands and feet. That night a blizzard raged. At first light of the next morning a snowslide buried their camp. They struggled down from the abandoned tent, and as the weather became worse were unable to see the line of descent to camp six. They sheltered tentless in a crevasse. Below, Waller and his Sherpas could hear shouts but the soft snow and the storm prevented them from reaching their friends. Harrison and Hodgkin spent a terrible night in a crevasse at 24,000 feet. The next day they did reach camp six, but frost bite had taken too great a hold. The attempt on Masherbrum was off, and the first essential was to get the injured men down alive. Neither could use their hands and their feet had no feeling.



★ THE sketch-map above shows the remoteness of the Karakoram and its separation from the Great Himalaya by the Upper Valley of the Indus. RIGHT: The route to the Masherbrum Summit (from the "Himalayan Journal") ★

After four days they were met by Dr. Teasdale and his wife, who, as Base Camp Medical relief did what they could. But no suitable drugs were available, and the daily dressings were very painful. Those who have read Hertzog's *Annapurna* will know something of what the wounded men endured. It took nineteen days for them to reach Sringar and hospital. Harrison and Hodgkin suffered amputations to parts of the hands and feet.

Thus Masherbrum guarded its defences with its natural weapons. It is



Sketch-Map of the South-eastern approaches of Masherbrum

fitting that the Canterbury mountaineers have been encouraged in their enterprise by Colonel Harrison, and they will be happy men if they can exploit his route to a first ascent.

"The Karakoram have been described as the 'whitest' of all ranges. They contain the greatest concentration of high peaks on the earth's surface." This passage from Scott Russell's book

is a challenge to young New Zealanders. To make the trip will cost them their savings. They will face the routine monotonies as well as the exhilaration of high climbing. If the public of New Zealand is aware of the aims of the party, the expedition members will welcome the good wishes which will accompany them on their adventures. And their friends and parent club will add material support.

## "Boldness Be My Friend"



RICHARD PAPE

RICHARD PAPE'S book *Boldness Be My Friend*, as many thousands of readers of war stories will not need to be told, is the story of a prisoner of war obsessed with the idea of escape. In a foreword to the book Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder wrote: "I could not put it down and I shall not forget it." A four-part BBC radio adaptation of this story is now being heard from 2YD at 9.30 p.m. on Tuesdays, and it will start from 2YA at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, October 3. Later it will be heard from other stations.

Warrant Officer Pape, an R.A.F. navigator, was shot down after a bombing raid on Berlin in 1941—his 10th successful bombing mission over Germany. From the moment his crippled Stirling touch ground he set about plans to escape with a fanaticism that has led to his story being regarded by many as the greatest saga of escape yet written.

The first part of *Boldness Be My Friend* contains a graphic description of the Berlin raid, the crash-landing, the subsequent adventures of Pape and his companion with the Dutch underground,

and their capture by the Gestapo. After that the programmes go on to cover Pape's escape with a Polish prisoner after both had changed places with two New Zealanders. Pape was tortured for refusing to betray the Poles who helped them, and was placed in front of a firing squad. After that he was returned to a prison camp and again became a member of a working party—this time in Czechoslovakia. The last programme is an account of how he escaped once more and crossed into Hungary, only to be captured by the Hungarian police. Handed over to the German Army he was nursed through meningitis and the resulting temporary blindness.

In this serial the part of Richard Pape is played by James McKechnie, but in a personal contribution at the end of the series Pape himself tells how, aided by a clever ruse, he was finally repatriated through the Red Cross. Back in Britain he returned to flying, was involved in a serious crash and came under the care of the famous New Zealand plastic surgeon Sir Archibald McIndoe, at whose suggestion *Boldness Be My Friend* was written as a means of recovery from his experiences. The book is dedicated to Sir Archibald and the Guinea Pig Club which he sponsored.