

A premiere on the Eiger

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The specific contributions of Switzerland in these projects consist of a technical survey into the possible uses of an underground water-sheet in the region of Chiang Rai in Thailand and a plan for the irrigation of a 20,000 hectare area in Cambodia, on the West bank of the Mekong. In the region of Battambang, Swiss specialists will plan future needs and availability in electric power.

One contribution of Switzerland to Thailand which has already materialised is Bangkok University's new high tension laboratory, which has been equipped by Swiss specialists.

A PREMIÈRE ON THE EIGER

A party of six Japanese made an impressive première on the dreaded

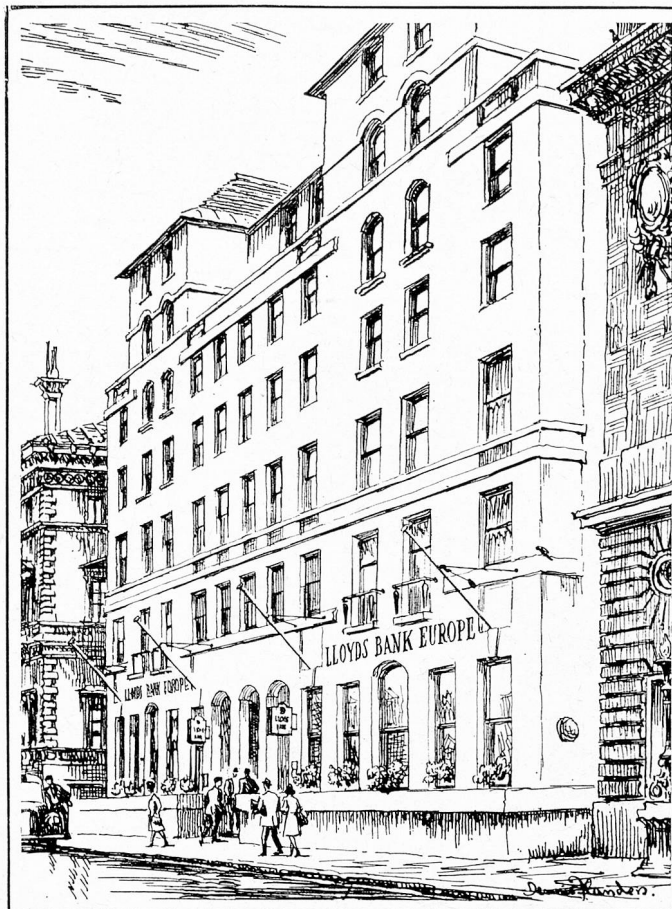
north wall of the Eiger. 50% of their 1800 m. climb was overhang. They took their time, spending 31 days in this uninviting environment, sleeping at nights strapped to the rock wall.

It was a surprise to see them return at the Petite-Scheidegg in perfectly good shape, as though they were returning from a hike, and enjoy a good entrecôte in the restaurant, surrounded by a throng of Japanese journalists. Most surprising of all, there was a lady in the party: a 27-year old medicine student. She said that she had felt the strain a little more than her male companions but was herself surprised at the way she had withstood the ordeal.

The six were all amateurs from a Tokyo alpine club. They had been

attracted by the Eiger, a mountain well known in Japan. In fact, a Japanese called Mati had made a première of a north-eastern route in 1921. Now that they have completed this feat, they are going to take a rest in Grindelwald, and then attempt the "Grandes Jorasses" in Haute-Savoie. Next spring, the party will attempt to reach the peak of the Batula, in the Pakistani Himalayas.

Apart from a 20 m. fall by a member of the roped party, in which he broke his nose, the ascension went without mishap. The last five days were the roughest. The weather worsened and the party was assailed by snow storms. Ultimately, a French guide climbed to their rescue, but his services were fortunately not necessary.



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