THE LINK, A PROTESTANT MAGAZINE FOR ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL, SEPTEMBER 1970. VOL. 28, NO, 9

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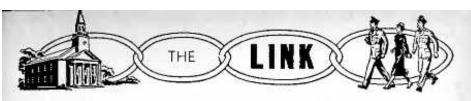
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ARMED **FORCES**

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Front: "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe"—H. G. Wells. Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts. Back: "Music is Love in search of a word"—Sidney Lanier. Photo by Phil

Roddey.

Inside Front: "Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer"-Lincoln. Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts.

Inside Back: Around the world they are stretching forth their hands for help; and they'll find it in the Bible. Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts.

ART WORK: Illustrations by James Talone.

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The Gear on the Inside Back Cover (June LINK)

Your idea was good but the execution poor. Inside back cover of the June 1970 issue you represent the 3 bulwarks of democracy as home, church, and school, and they are locked tight. That gear chain ain't never gonna work without something getting stripped. Your magazine is great.

-Bob Lantz, 5272-B Broadway, APO Seattle 98737.

I thoroughly enjoyed the June 1970 issue of THE LINK, as usual. Particularly fascinating was the H. Armstrong Roberts photo on the inside back cover showing five interlocking gears illustrating the home, the school and the church as three bulwarks of democracy. There must be a message here: The gears just won't work as photographed. Let's add another with a photo of a person voting: then the gears will work, and so will democracy!

-CDR Jim Seim, CHC, USN, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D. C.

20370.

(Thank you, chaplains, for catching this error. I'm passing the word on to H. Armstrong Roberts. I am sometimes amazed at how closely THE LINK is read. We have alert readers!—L.P.F.)

(Continued on page 65)

STAFF

Executive Editor	A. RAY APPELQUIST
EditorL	AWRENCE P. FITZGERALD
Assistant Editor	IRENE MURRAY
Circulation Manager	ISABEL R. SENAR

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All scripture quotations, unless etherwise designated, are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Man on the Climb

By Herbert Raditschnig as told to Dale Whitney

AS A mountain climber, I began my career when very young. I am not sure if every mountain climber is a skier, but this is important training. I was nine when I could ski down a mountain with tremendous speed.

Skiing is adventurous. Perhaps even more so to a boy of nine because of the motion—a speed that you can control by experience!

But as I skied, I never understood why some men, or women, climbed the mountain on foot! They often struggled in deep, deep snow, while we skiers by-passed them with the speed of a bird!

So, as I have said, even as a young boy the idea of climbing over rocks and hiking in woods did not



Herbert Raditschnig, shown here started out as a mountain climber when a child; became a member of the Austrian Alpine Club; became the official mountain guide for the Austrian Army; has climbed some the highest and most difficult mountains including the French A Grand Zinne Northwall, the Matte horn, the Himalayas. In 1961 in Argentina he struck his head on a old nail or screw resulting in serious brain damage; spent six months recovering and gave up mountain climbing as a career to become a professional cameraman. He began as a free-lancer in 1964 and has produced films, main documentaries, about Venezuela, India, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, etc.

appeal to me. But, one day when I was sixteen my friends and I wanted to go swimming. It was early spring and too cold so, for the want of something better to do, we began walking up a mountain. We reached the top and I, quite by chance, met there my first "sweetheart."

That was great fun and later on.

Extreme difficult climbing. On the south wall of the Schuesselkarspitze in Austria. Note the use of two ropes and two rope-ladders. Without these man-made climbing tools, it is impossible to climb/ascend such an overhanging wall. The climber is wearing a plastic belief for protection.





Herbert Raditschnig

during summer holidays, we and other friends often climbed that mountain together.

This was the start of my career in mountain-climbing. After a time, however, I was not satisfied by only walking. It was too easy, and so I began to scale a few simple rocky hills.

It was during one of these first venturous climbs that I met a member of the Austrian Alpine Club. He encouraged me to become a member and, from then on, my every free moment was spent high up in the mountains.

In the beginning, I just walked with other club members. This was near to my home in Carinthia, southern Austria. The geography of these mountains fascinated me, and I was impressed by the vastness, and by the gigantic structures and formations.

But then, in due time, I became curiously aware of nature! As you climb rocks you learn about their history. You learn how different weather affects nature at a specific time. You learn how to read the oncoming weather changes by various cloud-gatherings. And, you learn how to protect yourself from all kinds of weather.

High up in the mountains, a strong sun can be more disastrous than—say a storm. The weather changes so rapidly, and you must develop an instinct to know when the change is coming in order to protect yourself!

If you have been born in a city you don't learn this, because when there is a storm you have protection indoors. Up on the mountain there is no man-made shelter, (with exception of a very few huts) and so it is important to learn how to protect yourself!

Mountain climbing is a tremendous challenge!

As a beginner, you are never certain about finding the safest route to climb. Nor do you know how long it can take you to reach the top.

But from week to week you gain experience. In due time you learn by instinct where the route goes. You also learn about rocks—which rock to select because it is hard and strong and will not break, op-



A bivouac location on a mountain ridge. The party had climbed the very difficult south wall of the Austrian mountain range called Schuesselkarspitze. They arrived at this location in the early evening and camped here for the night. Of course, the bivouac had been planned ahead. They had to have warm clothes, warm sleeping bags, a gas-stove and enough food.

posed to a rock that is weak or loose and could mean your life!

Every so often stones are falling down from mountain walls. As you gain experience, you learn to select a climbing route to avoid (by-pass) weak areas that can be dangerous!

This, then, is what mountain



The Army man on top handles the rope and the rope-braking. Most of the time the man on top cannot see the action below; he must therefore have an instinct when to lower more rope. He must lower it very slowly and work with extreme caution.

climbers call "experience." As you gain it, your acrobatic or physical ability becomes trained. You learn how far your own body can go, as body-endurance is of utmost importance!

How did I learn technique?

From an excellent book on mountain climbing I learned how to make knots that are so necessary, and the use of ropes—what length to use according to the stage or difficulty of the climb.

In the learning stages you use a rope of 100 feet. As you graduate to the more difficult climbs you not only lengthen the rope, you use a double rope. These techniques you must learn. (If you are in the army, you may have the wonderful opportunity to learn with an army mountain climbing school.)

There are alpine clubs in most countries ready to teach you. And, there are books in many languages devoted to this subject. From such a book you can learn the basic techniques, and about equipment. So, before you "hit the trail" (as the cowboys say)—study. Learn technique. It may save your life!

How does mountain climbing work technically?

To begin, you always climb to-