



 Picture showing the difficult ascent over ice and snow.

## HOLIDAY ON THE EIGER

**O**n August 29, 1961, the Zurich magazine "Blick" carried on its front page a picture of the northern slope of the Eiger with the heading *Mordwand* (Wall of Death). Eighteen crosses mark the tragedies paid by human lives which occurred on this slope, one of the six most difficult climbs in the Alps. The latest cross had been added the previous day. The 22-year-old Austrian Adolf Mayer, a mountain guide of Innsbruck, fell to the depth of 600 metres.

And a few days later not only "Blick" but the whole Swiss Press enthusiastically reported the successful ascent of two Czechoslovak mountaineers Radan Kučář and Zdeno Zibrin who negotiated the menacing Eigernordwand in three and a half days.

When on September 2 the 33-year-old clerk from Liberec, Radan Kučář, and the 30-year-old chemical engineer and meteorologist on the Chopok weather station in the Low Tatra Mountains, Zdeno Zibrin, descended from the top of the 3,974-metre high Eiger peak to the Kleine Schneidegg station they were surprised halfway down by a crowd of newspaper and radio reporters who hurried to meet them. The two had been the first in the course of two years to negotiate the Eiger in the summer and since 1938

the seventeenth team which had succeeded. Nobody had heard of Czechoslovak mountaineers before in this neighbourhood.

But neither Kučář nor Zibrin are novices in mountaineering. Two years ago both negotiated the northern slope of the 4,208 metre high Grandes Jorasses and a year earlier Kučář together with Oldřich Kopal climbed the northern slope of the 3,733 metre high Dru which is one of the most difficult Alpine climbs. Both are therefore highly experienced mountaineers. Before ascending the Eiger they climbed on August 25 in one and a half days the northern side of the Matterhorn, a "training" exercise to the height of 4,482 metres.

"We climbed the Matterhorn to check our equipment and stamina as we did not want to undergo any unnecessary risks on the Eiger," Radan Kučář explained to reporters. After a short rest both Czechoslovaks went with their Škoda car to the Dolomites where in a single day they climbed the northern slope of Cima Grande di Lavaredo (3,003 metres) as a fitting conclusion to their summer holiday.

These, however, were not the only successes of Czechoslovak mountain climbers during this year's summer season. A four-member team of young mountaineers, led by František Paška, climbed the eastern slope of the



SPORTS REVIEW  
OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

**6** 1961  
6 d, 10 c, 3 Kčs

*Czechoslovak Sport*



ZDENO ZIBRIN



*Zdeno Zibrin gets ready to resume his ascent to the peak.*



# NORDWAND

Grand Capucin in the Mont Blanc area. Other mountaineers returned to the Caucasus as guests of their Soviet colleagues. The three-member team of Karel Cerman, Jiří Mašek and Oldřich Kopal climbed the northern slope of the 4,270 metre high Nokra-Tau peak. Other teams, including women mountaineers, climbed several other Caucasian peaks. This year has been a very successful one for Czechoslovak mountaineering and demonstrated the high standards reached by individual climbers.

GUSTAV VLK

*The first pair which reached the top of the Eiger (3,974 metres) during a mass ascent resting after the strenuous climb. It is better to record their experiences immediately and to sign autographs.*

