

Silly Me: Branx

It was in March 1952, there were seven of us including Fred who was our leader. Our plan was to climb up a mountain which is part of the Dinar Mountain chain which runs through the Balkans. It was a little bit more than a thousand metres. We were dropped off by a member of the mountaineering club to the bottom of the hill. The climb was rather easy, and we found ourselves on the top in no time. For a moment we couldn't say a thing we just had a big sigh of delight. The view all around was magic.

Looking towards the south, the air was simmering. You could almost see the mixing of the air which was cold below the knee and warmed by sun above the knees. Tom came close to me and said, 'I am happy to see you again.' And I answered, 'I am happy to see you again also.'

Fred found the box which had a logbook, for our comments. I wrote 'The view is magic. That is one of the things that makes me love mountain climbing.'

'What is the other reason you come climbing?' Tom asked. I said 'Oh, wouldn't you like to know? And he said, 'Yes' and I said 'You do know what it is.'

When we came down Fred decided to take us to another mountain. We came to a T-junction, where the sign was broken. We didn't know which way to go. Marko said, 'Look there is a cliff, it's almost vertical, it would be wonderful to climb.' We all agreed. It had grip bars which created a ladder. One of them was a 'u' shape where you jam your foot and the other was an 'L' shape where you hold on with a hand.

As we started to climb. Eddie was shouting 'Don't look down just look up.' It was a hard climb, and we were all very happy to reach the top. When we came up, we saw there was even more to climb. When we got right to the top, nobody spoke. We were all stunned that we were on the same mountain top that we had climbed earlier. Fred was stamping his foot on the ground. 'I should have known it was the same mountain. Silly me.' Then Marko came in again and said, 'We were all mistaken' and Carla shouted 'Silly us!'