Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 7, 03434, 2005
SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU05-A-03434

Large rock avalanches on glacier since 2500 BP on the Italian flank of the Mont Blanc massif.

P. Deline

(1) Lab EDYTEM, Université de Savoie F-73376 Le Bourget-du-Lac cedex (pdeli@univ-savoie.fr)

Very steep and elevated slopes on the Italian flank of the Mont Blanc massif are prone to repeated rock avalanches which generally travel on glacier. The 1997 Brenva rock avalanche is the most recent event having affected this alpine area. Our geomorphological study shows that other events affected: (i) the Miage Glacier during the 20th Century ; (ii) the Brenva Glacier in 1920 and 1767 AD, during the Medieval period as well as around 2500 BP ; and (iii) the Triolet Glacier in 1717 and ca. 1000 AD. These Late Holocene rock avalanches are probably related to long term permafrost degradation rather than to glacial thinning and debuttressing.