

## ASIA

*Tibet*

*Mount Everest from the North.* The Chinese propaganda magazine, *China Reconstructs*, of August, 1960 states that on May 25 the Chinese Wang Fu-chou and Chu Yin-hua and the Tibetan Gonpa reached the summit of "Mount Jolmo Lungma, the world's highest peak." An expedition of 214 Chinese and Tibetans was led by Shih Chan-chun with deputy leader Hsu Ching. It was a relatively inexperienced group; none of them had climbed for more than five years and the experience of the summit trio actually totaled less than five years. An advance party was on the mountain a month ahead of the rest and established Base Camp at 16,800 feet, Camp I at 17,700 feet, Camp II at 19,350 feet and Camp III at 21,000 feet. The climbing party arrived at Rongbuk Monastery on March 19 and advanced up the East Rongbuk Glacier as far as Camp III by March 27. While the main group descended towards Base Camp the next day, Hsu Ching led a party up the 60° to 70° (sic) slopes of the North Col and up a final "narrow ice chimney with a gradient of 70°." The North Col slope was prepared and climbers left Camp III on April 25 to climb as high as 26,000 feet for a final acclimatization. On April 29, they left Camp IV at 23,000 feet and kept on despite a storm the next day to establish Camp V at 25,000 feet on May 1. On May 2 Shi Chan-chun and Hsu Ching with the Tibetans Lhagpatsering and Migmar in ten hours climbed to 26,500 feet. The Tibetans descended to Camp V for food during the night and returned at dawn with Wang Feng-tung, Shi Ching and Gonpa. Their account of the next section is interesting: "At dawn, five of us set out again. We rounded the 'First Step' and climbed a steep rock slope called the 'Yellow Ribbon.' At 8500 metres (27,888 feet) we set up the assault camp (Camp VII). Then with Wang Feng-tung I decided to explore the route to the summit. Before long we came to the famous 'Second Step'—a 30-metre-high rock face which British mountaineers had found insurmountable. We started to climb it and by nine o'clock at night had got to within three metres of the top. We peered at each other in the darkness. It was too dangerous to go on or back. We had neither tent nor sleeping bags and the temperature was about 40° C. below zero. After some search we found a shelf in the snow along the rocky wall, and dug a hole with our ice axes. It was barely large enough to hold us both. We sat in one another's laps, trying to keep warm. There was not much oxygen left in our cylinders, so we decided to turn it off. Next morning as the bright rays of the sun lit up Jolmo Lungma, we emerged from our hole, having made world mountaineering history by

spending a whole night at 8600 metres without artificial oxygen." The whole party was back at Base Camp again by May 13.

Following the supply train, which set out on May 15, the summit party and support team left Base Camp on May 17. On May 23 they reached Camp VII at 27,900 feet. At 9:30 the next morning the summit trio, accompanied also by Liu Lien-man, left camp with 22-pound packs, which included the oxygen gear and ice axes. The Second Step caused them great trouble and took them five hours. Its last ten feet were particularly difficult. Liu Lien-man fell four times as he tried to lead it. Chu Yin-hua even attempted it in bare feet to get better purchase but failed too. He finally made it after three hours of attempts with a *courte échelle*. These efforts had so exhausted Liu Lien-man that slightly higher, already at seven P.M., he found that he could go no farther. In an "open Communist Party meeting" they decided to leave him behind and to continue into the night. At 28,700 feet they had knee-deep snow to wade through. At 28,970 feet, just as their oxygen ran out, they reached the bottom of a cliff. Gonpa led them to the top, which they reached in the dark at 4:20 A.M. They stayed for fifteen minutes on the summit, leaving a Chinese flag and a bust of Mao on the rocks on the northwest side. At dawn they joined their companion who had saved them a little of his oxygen. It is regretted that they published no pictures taken on the upper slopes of the mountain. It must also be emphasized that the account given here is taken entirely from Chinese sources. The details are such that mountaineers in nearly all parts of the climbing world have received the news with considerable skepticism.

### *Nepal*

*Indian Expedition to Mount Everest.* The principal of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Brigadier Gyan Singh, led an expedition of 13 climbing and 7 non-climbing members to Mount Everest. On May 9 Ang Temba and A. B. Jungalwala established Camp VI on the South Col. Bad weather conditions prevented any attempt higher until May 22. On May 25 Nawang Gombu, Sonam Gyatsho and Narindar Kumar reached a height of 28,300 feet before bad weather forced them to retire. A second party was ready to try to climb to the summit but the oncoming of the monsoon forced the decision to abandon the attack on May 26.

*Annapurna II.* An expedition organized by the Services of Great Britain, Nepal and India and led by Lieutenant Colonel J. O. M. Roberts made the first ascent of Peak 26,041 feet in the central Nepal Himalaya, commonly known as Annapurna II, in the spring of 1960. The summit was

reached at 4:30 P.M. on May 17 by Captain R. H. Grant, Lieutenant C. J. Bonnington and Lance Corporal Ang Nyima Sherpa of the British Army. Other members were Major G. Lorimer, Captain W. A. Cranshaw and Flight Lieutenant S. Ward, British; Captain Prabakar Shamsheer and Lieutenant Gadul Shamsheer, Nepalese; and Captains Jagjit Singh and M. A. Soares (Medical Officer), Indian. The route followed was from the north and had already been pioneered by several expeditions to Annapurna IV. (24,630 feet, first ascent by Steinmetz's German party in 1955. *A.A.J.*, 1956, 10:2, pp. 140-141.) Camps I to IV were set up at 17,600, 19,000, 21,000 and 22,600 feet respectively. Camp V, at 23,850 feet, marked the farthest limit of exploration towards Annapurna IV and it was from here that the summit trio set off on the morning of May 17, using oxygen to traverse the remaining 2½ miles of narrow ridge leading to the foot of the final pyramid. Meanwhile two Sherpas carried forward Camp VI to 23,650 feet (the ridge descends from Camp V) and here the successful trio arrived as night fell after a day probably as arduous as any in the annals of safe and well ordered Himalayan climbing. On May 18 and 19, ascents were made of Annapurna IV. Although sponsored by the Services of Britain, Nepal and India, the great bulk of expedition finances were from civilian and private sources. The expedition arrived back in Kathmandu on June 3.

J. O. M. ROBERTS, *Alpine Club*

*Ganesh Himal.* The Englishman J. Wallace, accompanied only by two Sherpas, made the second ascent of Ganesh (24,300 feet) on May 31. The first ascent was made by Raymond Lambert, Mme. Claude Kogan and Eric Gauchat in October, 1955.

*Pigferago.* A light French expedition operated in the Rolwalung Himal, between Gaurisankar and Namche Bazar. The group was led by Robert Sandoz and consisted of Mme. Cécile Barbezat, Alain Barbezat, Pierre Girod, Claude Maillard and Maurice Martin. They abandoned their original objective, Chobutse, because of the dangers from falling ice. They then turned to Pigferago (21,720 feet), which was climbed on October 21 by M. Barbezat and the Sherpa Nawang Dorje by the steep and difficult west ridge. They also climbed three other peaks above the Tolam Bau Glacier, none of these first ascents. These were Pimu (20,830 feet) and Parchamo (20,730 feet), both first ascended in 1955 by Davis and Boulton, and Singkar (20,630 feet), climbed for the first time in 1952 by Shipton, Evans and Gregory and for the second time in 1955 by Gregory and Courtney.

*The 1960-61 Himalayan Scientific and Mountaineering Expedition, Mount Everest and Makalu region, Preliminary Report.* This expedition, led by Sir Edmund Hillary, is one of the largest, longest and most diversified ever to enter the Himalayas. Although an attempt will be made to climb Makalu this spring (1961) without using oxygen, the primary objective is scientific research in high altitude physiology, meteorology and glaciology. The twenty-odd expedition members are from New Zealand, England, India, the United States and Australia. There are five journalists or photographers, eleven professional scientists, one radioman, one builder, and seven veterans of one or more Himalayan expeditions. The American members include John Dienhart, public relations director of the sponsor, *World Book Encyclopedia*; Larry Swan, Biologist, Marlin Perkins, director of Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo; and American Alpine Club members Barry Bishop, Tom Morrison and Leigh Ortenburger. Only a few members will be present for all phases of the nine month expedition.

The first phase was carried out last fall by two separate parties. A group, led by Hillary, conducted an extensive and much publicized snowman hunt in the upper Rolwaling valley. The Ripimu Glacier area was thoroughly explored and several ascents were made of the surrounding peaks (ca. 19,000 feet). Briefly, we do not believe there is a snowman. Numerous sets of "snowman" tracks were photographed only a few miles from Shipton's famous discovery in the Menlung valley. In each case we could follow the man-like prints to a place where they were protected from the sun. Here the prints retained their original round shape, which resembled the paw marks of a small animal such as a fox. For years the evidence of the celebrated Thyangboche "Yeti scalp" has been a strong argument in favor of the existence of a snowman. This has been shown by scientists in this country and in Europe to be not a scalp at all but a bit of goat fur which had been stretched into a pointed shape while still fresh. Likewise the "Yeti fur" brought back by Hillary proved to be the skin of a Tibetan blue bear. Following the snowman search, Hillary's party and over 100 porters crossed the 19,000-foot Tesi Lapcha and joined Norman Hardie's hut building group, located on the southern slopes of Ama Dablam. By the end of November, the expedition had completed a small frame hut at 17,500 feet and a larger prefabricated hut at 18,900 feet. The latter is situated at the edge of a broad snowfield. It is roughly cylindrical in shape, made up of some 100 curved sections consisting of three inches of plastic foam insulation between sheets of thin plywood. The shell of the hut was assembled in just two days. The hut, ten by twenty-two feet, is now fitted with a heating stove, six bunks, electricity provided by a wind generator,

a laboratory section providing unbelievably good working conditions at an altitude of practically 19,000 feet. Just outside the door is a magnificent ski run.

During the fall period, the weather was excellent and a number of members made one or two-week trips exploring valleys and passes of the region. On October 31, Pat Barcham of New Zealand and I made the first ascent of an unnamed peak (20,240 feet), highest in the Chakri Range, a long snow and ice climb of moderate difficulty which started from Chola Col (ca. 18,800 feet). We had made an unsuccessful attempt the previous day along with the Sherpa Annallu. The summit afforded spectacular views of Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, and Cho Oyu. On November 18, Jim Millege of England and a Sherpa made the first ascent of a 21,083-foot peak one-half mile north of the expedition's upper hut. Two earlier attempts to make this extremely long ridge climb with ropes of three had failed for lack of time. Mike Gill of New Zealand and a Sherpa made an ascent of the highest peak of Island Peak (20,305 feet), south of Lhotse Shar. (As the *Journal* goes to press, news comes of the first ascent in March, 1961 of Ama Dablam by Barry Bishop,\* the New Zealanders, M. B. Gill and M. Romanes, and the Englishman, Dr. Michael Ward.—*Editor.*)

During the winter, six to eight scientists are spending upwards of three months in the upper hut to study the physiological effects of prolonged exposure to high altitudes, under the direction of Dr. Griffiths Pugh. Six other doctors and one medical student are working on various aspects of high altitude physiology. Barry Bishop is conducting an extensive glaciological and meteorological program. In the spring, the physiologists will continue their studies at 22,000 feet and above on Makalu and, if possible, hope to carry out research on climbers on the summit itself.

THOMAS O. NEVISON, M.D.

### *India*

*Chaukhamba, Garhwal.* An Indian Air Force expedition under the leadership of Air Commodore S. N. Goyal made the second ascent of Chaukhamba in October of 1959.

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\* The following was contained in a letter to the editor from Barry Bishop written at Mingbo Base Camp on March 20, 1961. "The climbing news is that four of us climbed Ama Dablam on March 13 after a three-week siege . . . We experienced difficult climbing from 19,500 feet on and used 1400 feet of fixed ropes, 46 pitons, three étriers and 100 feet of wire ladders on overhangs. Four camps were installed, the last at 21,000 feet being an ice cave."

*Trisul.* The first Yugoslav Himalayan expedition visited the Trisul region of Garhwal. The seven-man group reports that it has made the first ascent of Bethartoli (20,890 feet), on June 5 of Trisul II (21,949 feet) and on June 7 of Trisul III (20,243 feet).

### **Pakistan**

*Army Mountaineering Association Expedition, 1959, Chogo Lungma Region, Karakoram.* Last summer (1959) our Army Mountaineering Association sponsored an expedition to the Karakoram. The object was to introduce new people to the area and to train them; we were not after any particular peak. We were a large party of sixteen in all, which included three officers from the Pakistan Army (Capt. Jawed Akhter, Capt. Inayat Ullah and Lt. Abdul Ghani) and two from the Royal Navy (Lt. M. B. Thomas and Lt. V. J. Fricker). The rest of us were soldiers (Capt. H. R. A. Streather, leader, Maj. F. L. Jenkins, Maj. P. G. H. Varwell, Capt. A. J. Imrie, Capt. R. G. S. Platts, Capt. T. Hardman, Lt. G. F. Chapman, Lt. D. H. Philpott, Sgt. M. Quinn and Dr. P. J. Horniblow). All went well and we saw a great deal of new territory. In all we climbed six new peaks of between 17,000 and 23,000 feet and visited several new passes. The original plan had been to go to Chitral, but this fell through and so we went up into the area of the Chogo Lungma and Kero Lungma Glaciers to the north of Skardu. Much of the ground we covered on the approach was old K2 ground, and I was particularly glad to be able to employ again many of the porters who had been with us on K2—particularly some of those who had helped to carry us out after the accident. We established our depot camp near Arandu at the foot of the Chogo Lungma Glacier in Baltistan. From June 28 to July 3 we divided into three groups to reconnoitre possible objectives above the Kero Lungma, Alchori and Chogo Lungma Glaciers. A 17,300-foot peak above the Alchori was climbed. The reconnaissance showed that the third glacier was least attractive and so the party split in two on July 8 for climbing on the Hispar Wall above the first two. After the Kero Lungma group had climbed a 17,100-foot mountain, from an advanced base they ascended "Sugar Loaf" (18,500 feet) on July 15, "Wedge Peak" (18,300 feet) two days later and "Engineers Peak" (19,010 feet) the day after. Meanwhile the Alchori party twice climbed "Gloster Peak" (19,300 feet). (These names are unofficial.) In the final phase of the expedition the party again split into two groups, one of which unsuccessfully attempted Ganchen (21,000 feet) but was held up first by a large icefall on the western approach and then by difficulties on the Dongus Glacier. We were more fortunate on Malubiting

and, considering the limited time available to us, met with a certain amount of success. During the first five days we moved up the Chogo Lungma Glacier to establish an Advanced Base near the mouth of the Malubiting Glacier and then Camp I at the foot of Spantik below the southeast ridge of Malubiting. From Camp II, at 20,000 feet, Horniblow and I were able to establish Imrie and Jawed Akhter in Camp II at about 21,000 feet by mid-day of August 1 and leave them there to climb the next day by 12:30 P.M. to the summit of Malubiting East (23,000 feet). They had a fine climb. They were able to move together up to the unstable rock ridge, except where the new snow and *verglas* forced them to move with more caution. They were stopped by a snow wall 200 feet below the summit but managed to bypass this on a very steep snow slope to the left and a small rock tower leading to the summit snow slope.

H. R. A. STREATHER, *Alpine Club*

*Disteghil Sar.* An Austrian expedition under the leadership of Wolfgang Stefan climbed Disteghil Sar (25,868 feet) in the Hispar Muztagh of the Karakoram. Having left Nagar on May 12, they had ascended the Hispar and Khiang Glaciers and were ready to start reconnaissance on May 24 from Base Camp at something over 14,000 feet. The route attempted up the southwest ridge by the Swiss in 1959 looked too long to them and they preferred the British route of 1957, which winds up the south face. Camp I lay at 18,700 feet. Between there and Camp II at 21,235 feet the route was very nearly cut by a crevasse with a vertical upper wall. Camp III was just off the face on the western ridge at 23,000 feet. Until then, the weather had been nearly perfect, but on the morning of June 9 it appeared to be breaking. Consequently at 10:30 Günther Stärker and Diether Marchart left for the summit. Late in the afternoon they arrived at a little col between two peaks. They chose one but after arriving, noticed that the other was higher and so climbed that one too. They were back in camp, frostbitten, at 9:30 P.M. The storm broke and the climbers with Stefan, who had awaited them in the high camp, had several days of struggle under frightful conditions to reach Base Camp. Other members of the party were Herbert Raditschnig and Gottfried Mayr.

*K12.* The Saloro Expedition spent three months in the region at the head of the Saloro valley, in the eastern Karakoram, during late May, June, July and August. The members were P. J. Stephenson, Australian,

leader, K. J. Miller and D. Haffner, British, J. P. Hurley, American, and R. Sebastian Khan, Pakistani, liaison officer. We left Skardu on May 21 and took eight days to the uppermost village in the Saltoro valley, Goma. From there we followed up the Bilafond valley and glacier to the second major glacial tributary on the east side, opposite Naram, known locally as the Grachmo Lungba. Base Camp was established on June 1, three miles up this glacier at 15,000 feet. This glacier takes a sharp turn beyond this camp, rising close to the west face of K12 (24,503 feet), the exploration of which was our central objective. To try to reach a 19,500-foot pass west of the peak, we climbed the several icefalls on the upper part of the glacier and established two camps at 16,500 and 18,000 feet respectively, but failed initially to find a route through the final icefall, immediately below the pass. After bad weather, we reascended to Camp I to proceed with the plane-table survey. From Camp II a route was finally found through the upper icefall. On June 24, Camp III was set up in the pass. The weather again deteriorated for four days. At the earliest opportunity, a descent was made north from the pass into the extensive snow basin, first seen by Shipton's party in 1957. Two fine days, the only ones experienced, allowed us to survey it both by plane tabling and partially by photo-theodolite. While descending to Base from the pass, Miller was struck on the head by ice and had to return to Skardu. Hurley and I remained on the pass, hoping to reconnoitre the K12 ridge, but bad weather prevented this. We two joined the others at Base on July 4 but the next day reascended and on the 6th reoccupied the camp on the pass. On the 7th we cut a route up the first 1500 feet of the west ridge's steps. Hurley, without previous mountaineering experience, reached 20,500 feet, and after seeing the camp pitched, descended, leaving me the strongest porter, Choo, to continue the reconnaissance next day. We cut up the steep ice and snow buttresses on the ridge to reach the snow apron which covers the upper southwest face. I eventually reached a point on the apron close to 23,000 feet, but though the difficulties of the route had all been overcome, at three P.M. it was necessary to descend to rejoin Choo, who had rested at 22,500 feet with a severe headache. While Hurley left the group on July 12 to return to Skardu, making ethnological studies en route, we other three explored the Chumik Glacier. The glacier proved shorter than suggested by the original survey map, and from the gap reached at its head, we perceived that the country beyond, lying south and east of K12, is completely misrepresented on previous maps. After a return to Goma, Haffner had to leave. Captain Khan and I then spent ten days

exploring and mapping the Gyong Glacier system. Here considerable modifications to the known topography were made and in fact a large blank area existing on the 1/4-inch survey maps has been filled in.

P. J. STEPHENSON

*Trivor.* An Anglo-American expedition under the leadership of Wilfred Noyce made the first ascent of Trivor (25,325 feet) in the Hispar Muztagh. From the Trivor Glacier they reached the col between Trivor and Momhil Sar, where they established Camp III. Three more camps were pushed up the northwest ridge, the highest at about 23,000 feet. From there Noyce and the American Jack Sadler climbed to the summit in 8½ hours on August 17.

*Mount Ghent Massif, Kondus Group.* The German Institute for Foreign Research in Munich sent on June 29 its third expedition to the Himalayas. I was named leader of the "German-English-Pakistani Himalaya Expedition" (DEPAK). To the team also belonged the Austrian, Ernst Senn, my rope companion on Broad Peak in 1954, and the Rosenthal couple of Selb, Bavaria. Lavinia Rosenthal was to manage Base Camp, while her husband Philip hoped to join us two in climbing a 23,000-foot peak in the Kondus Region of the southern Karakoram. Two weeks after leaving Skardu, on a clear August morning, we left camp on skis at three o'clock and climbed upwards for some three hours on bone-hard snow. At six A.M. we reached the steep north flank of what we thought was Mount Ghent, where we exchanged the skis for crampons. The conditions were in part bad, and after I became tired, Senn had to make all the tracks. I had to rest every 30 paces. About noon we reached a ridge and shortly thereafter a 23,450-foot summit. From there we could see that the highest point of the Mount Ghent massif was separated from us by a deep col and lay farther south. Since I was tired and since we should have to have an intermediate camp on the col, we called it a day with the ascent of our peak, which we called "DEPAK Peak." After a planned and then an unplanned rest day, we started on an attempt on Silver Throne. We climbed for two hours to the southern spur and left all superfluous gear at the foot of the summit slope. The ascent went well at first and we alternated leads. The weather was not yet settled and we were off and on in a "steam laundry." We continued slowly upwards in such thick clouds that we had to keep to the spur. As we advanced, our speed decreased, but finally at about noon we stood on the tiny summit of Silver Throne (ca. 22,640 feet).

MICHAEL ANDERL, *Deutsches Institut für Auslandsforschung*

*Afghanistan*

*Abinger Afghanistan Expedition 1960.* Early in 1959 permission was sought from the Afghan Government for an all-women expedition to travel in Wakhan and climb some peaks of the Pamirs from the south. This was refused but an alternative suggestion of climbing in the Hindu Kush was accepted. A plan was therefore made to travel up the Panjshir Valley from Kabul, to attempt the ascent of Mir Samir (19,880 feet) and other peaks of the Hindu Kush, and to return via Nuristan. Because of financial difficulties, the party was reduced to two members, Joyce Dunsheath and Eleanor Baillie, both members of the Ladies Alpine Club. We left England on July 10, and traveled via Leningrad, Moscow, Tbilisi, Teheran, Meshed and Herat to Kabul. On August 2, we made from Teheran an ascent of Demavend (18,600 feet) without guides or porters. Kabul was reached on August 14, where we waited ten days for equipment sent by sea. In the interval, permission was confirmed to climb in the Hindu Kush but refused for travel in Nuristan. The road ended 60 miles from Kabul at the village of Zeneh and donkeys carried the half-ton of baggage on the three-day trek to Kaujan. Here it was possible to substitute horses for donkeys and the following day, August 26, the party of two women, four horsemen, two porters and a soldier, who had been officially attached at Zeneh, set off up the stream which flows down from Mir Samir to join the Panjshir at this point.

A Base Camp was set up after two days march at about 12,700 feet and the horsemen went home, leaving the two unreliable porters to carry higher. From this camp, however, a week was spent as intended in practice climbs including "Twintop" (ca. 15,000 feet); here, as in most cases, summit pinnacles were impossible because of the rotten and crumbling nature of the rock. On September 5, a second camp at about 13,500 feet was set up, and after two nights of good weather, a tent and provisions for five days were carried to a height of 15,000 feet to a camp from which it was hoped to reach the summit of Mir Samir. The next day we made a reconnaissance of a route to the summit by the southwest ridge which appeared to be feasible with one bivouac en route. That night, however, the weather broke. The fall of snow on the unstable rock slope made conditions extremely dangerous and we had to make an immediate descent to the camp below. After a few days the weather cleared but the porters would not go up to 15,000 feet again for they hated the cold, so the attempt on the summit was abandoned. We decided to return to Kaujan and from there to follow the Panjshir to its source and beyond to the Anjuman Pass where

we hoped to get a glimpse of the Pamirs. Fresh horsemen were recruited with considerable difficulty and on September 13, we set off with four horses and men. All the way up the valley there was considerable opposition from the natives because of the danger from Nuristani raiders but by sheer persistence the party eventually reached the Anjuman Pass. A climb of "Schönheit" (approx. 13,500 feet) was made and a height of 15,000 feet gained on another unclimbed, unnamed peak. On September 23, the expedition began the return journey to Kabul, reaching it on September 28.

JOYCE DUNSHEATH, *Ladies Alpine Club*

*Berlin Hindu Kush Expedition.* On July 17 a heavily loaded Kombi-bus left West Berlin on a four-week trip through southern Europe and Asia for Afghanistan. Wolfgang von Hansemann, Dietrich Hasse, Johannes Winkler and I were off after a year and a half's preparation. From Kabul, the Afghan capital, our caravan, with horses, drovers and a native interpreter, made a ten-day march up the Panjshir-Anjuman valley, deep into the heart of the unexplored Hindu Kush. With unreliable maps which had no altitudes or accurate valley patterns and with information from Harald Biller only about the southern part of the range, which he visited in 1959, our advance was adventuresome and uncertain. In the Dare-Sachi valley, some 20 miles from the Pakistani frontier, we erected our Base Camp at 13,500 feet at the foot of Koh-i-Bandakor (21,850 feet). After establishing three high camps and failing twice to reach the summit, on September 20 we made the first ascent of this peak, the highest which lies entirely within Afghanistan. We also succeeded in penetrating into the main chain of the southern Hindu Kush up the unexplored "Pagar" valley, south from Anjuman, where we made the first ascent of seven peaks between 16,500 and 19,500 feet. We also made meteorological and geological observations and sketch maps.

SIEGBERT HEINE, *Deutsche Alpenverein, Sektion Berlin*

*Polish Hindu Kush Expedition.* This group, under the leadership of Boleslaw Chwaściński, was in the field from July 12 to October 19. They made the second ascent of Noshag (24,574 feet) on August 27, just ten days after the first ascent made by the Japanese, an account of which appears earlier in this *Journal*. They also made three first ascents in the main chain of the Hindu Kush: Asp-e-Safed (21,326 feet), Roh-e-Daros (19,521 feet) and Horpusz-e-Jach (19,521 feet). Other members of the

expedition were Krzysztof Berbeka, Stanislaw Biel, Jerzy Krajski, Stanislaw Kuliński, Jan Mostowski, Zbigniew Rubinowski, and Stanislaw Zierhoffer.

**U.S.S.R.**

*Pik Lenin, Pamirs.* The Russians announce that 200 climbers from Georgia, Latvia, Estonia and Uzbekistan climbed in early August to the summit of Pik Lenin (23,406 feet).

