

and last room of the ruins on the saddle. Animal excrement found in it indicates it was used as a corral for llamas (sacrificial animals! pack animals?). We climbed for the third time to the summit and investigated more thoroughly the ruins there and in the vicinity. More masonry (sentry boxes?) and wood were found but in the wind and bitter cold there was danger of freezing our hands. Yet the excavations at 21,650 and 22,000 feet were completed. Between the ruins on the saddle and the summit ruins at 22,000 there were the remains of a path and stairway. We also found small round huts (sentry house right below the saddle and at 19,000 feet another next to a fresh-water pool). Scientific evidence points out that the purpose of the previously puzzling ruins on Llullaillaco can be explained. It seems evident these arrangements at the unbelievable altitude of 22,000 feet served the ancient Indians as sacrificial sites, perhaps for animals, and probably also as signal stations. They originated in the days of the Incas (late 15th and early 16th centuries A.D.). The now ruined huts at 21,650 and 22,000 feet were definitely inhabited at least periodically by humans, who had to guard the fire for the signal station and observe signals from other neighboring summits.

MATHIAS REBITSCH, *Oesterreichischer Alpenklub*

ASIA

Nepal

Annapurna III. An Indian expedition made the first ascent of Annapurna III (24,858 feet) on May 6. The climbers were flown to Pokhara, whence they set out on May 25. Their original Base Camp was established on April 4 above Manangbhot, a mile from the great north icefall that descends from the peak. A reconnaissance began immediately; a likely route appeared to lead over a 20,000-foot ice dome between Annapurna III and Annapurna IV and an 18,500-foot col on the eastern slopes of the mountain. Investigation of the eastern icefall and east col route made them decide on April 14 in favor of this route. Because of better access to this route and also because of the marked hostility of the Manangbhot villagers, Base Camp was shifted to near Braga village. Camp I was established at 15,400 feet on April 15, Camp II the next day at 17,400 and Camp III (Advanced Base) at 18,800 feet on April 19. Above Camp III they had to surmount a 300-foot ice wall to emerge on the north shelf, a vast snowfield, where Camp IV was set up at 20,800 feet on April 22. Camp V was established at 22,000 feet on April 23. From there, on April 26, the leader, Instructor-Lieutenant M. S. Kohli of the Indian Navy, Sonam Gyatso, Army Captain A. B. Jungalwala, and Flight-Lieutenant P. C. Chaturvedi made a try for the summit, but after a ten-

hour climb they were beaten back by the weather still some 500 feet from the top. After a rest at Base Camp, where they found a platoon of Nepalese troops sent to protect them from the persistent threats of the Manangbhot villagers, they headed back upward on May 2. Camp V was moved higher to 22,300 feet on May 5. On the next day Kohli, Gyatso and the Sherpa sirdar Sonam Girmi headed for the east saddle (24,000 feet), which they reached after seven hours of ascent. Above the saddle the snow gave way to ice and the angle of the slope increased until it was extremely steep. After finally reaching a false summit, they hurried some 300 feet along the ridge to the south to the highest point in rapidly deteriorating weather. As they got to the top, snow began to fall heavily. They descended to Camp V in thunderstorms. Bad weather precluded any further summit tries. The other members of the group were Naval Lieutenant V. S. Shekhawat, K. P. Sharma and Dr. A. N. D. Nanavati.

Kanjiroba Himal, Sisne Himal, etc. Our party, consisting of John Earle, James Burnet and me, with four Sherpas under Sirdar Ang Dawa, left Nepalganj at the beginning of April to explore and map the little known groups named on the Survey of India sheets Sisne Himal, Patrasi Himal, Kanjiroba Himal and Jagdula Lekh. This country lies to the west of the regions visited by Professor Jiro Kawakita in 1958 and by John Humphreys in 1959. (See *A.A.J.*, 1960, 12:1, pp. 66-7 and 1961, 12:2, pp. 249-262.) Our approach was from the south, first by way of Sallyana and Jajarkot, and then up the Bheri and Ilagarh Rivers to Lunh, Ila and Kaigaon. For the survey, a base-line from a peak south of Kaigaon to a peak near the Balangra Pass was computed from star observations, with altitudes measured from Chaukri Snow Peak (the nearest accurate point of the Survey of India triangulation of 1925-7). From this base we carried the photo-theodolite triangulation northwards into the Jagdula Khola, fixing the positions and heights of most of the main peaks surrounding this valley. From Base Camp in the Jagdula Khola we climbed Matathumba, a peak in the Jagdula Lekh to the east of Dr. H. Tichy's "Passang Peak". Failing to force a route up the gorge leading into the upper part of the Jagdula Khola, we switched to the western side of the massif and moved Base Camp to Maharigaon. From a valley north of Maharigaon we climbed a peak in the centre of the Sisne Himal. Insects and plants were collected for the British Museum, including a hitherto undescribed yellow primula found in the Sisne Himal. A 16mm film of the map making was shot for B.B.C. Television. We returned by way of Jumla, the Mabu Pass, Dailkh and Surkhet, crossing the flooded Bheri River by dugout and reaching Nepalganj early in July.

JOHN TYSON, *Alpine Club*

Gangchhen Ledrub, Langtang Himal. A Japanese expedition was active in the Langtang Himal, being the third Japanese group in the region. (See *A.A.J.*, 1959, 11:2, pp. 245-6 and *A.A.J.*, 1960, 12:1, p. 69.) They were above 20,000 feet on Gangchhen Ledrub (or Lantang Lirung) (23,771 feet) when on May 11 an avalanche swept to their deaths the leader Kaichi Morimoto and Kenichi Oshima and the Sherpa Gyaltsen Norbu. The latter had made the ascent of two 8000ers, Makalu with the French, and Manaslu with the Japanese. While a rescue of the climbers was being attempted, a second avalanche swept down on the party, but although there were injuries, no more fatalities occurred. The expedition gave up its efforts to climb the mountain after the accident and returned to civilization.

Langpo Gang, Jugal Himal. Another Japanese expedition was also in Nepal at the same time. Under the leadership of Tokujiro Kajimoto, they climbed to within a few hundred feet of the summit of Langpo Gang (Big White Peak) (23,240 feet) but they had to retreat because of bad weather and lack of supplies. A Japanese expedition had reconnoitered the peak in 1958. (See *A.A.J.*, 1959, 11:2, p. 245.)

Manaslu II. A third Japanese expedition attempted to climb Manaslu II (Peak 29) (25,705 feet) but failed to reach the summit.

Observations on the Chinese Everest Expedition 1960. The most important account of the Chinese Everest undertaking is Shih Chan-Chun's article, which the news service of *New China* has circulated and was published in many languages in 1961. In it we are presented with a number of puzzling points, which become all the more confusing since in the "route description" there are almost no topographical details and since the photographs do not seem to have been taken higher than 25,000 feet (7620 meters). The only exception is Chu Yin-hua's photograph, which for example is published on page 9 of *La Montagne* of February 1961.

In this picture the following may be definitely identified: Kharta Phu (23,640 feet = 7221 meters), Kharta Changri (23,070 feet = 7032 meters), "Dent Blanche" (22,150 feet = 6751 meters) and P. 22,670 feet = 6910 meters. A careful comparison on the one hand with Plate 34 in Ruttledge's *Everest 1933*, taken at c. 7835 meters and on the other with the Swiss summit panorama, northeast sector, 1956, taken at 8848 meters, clearly shows that the Chinese photograph was made between these at an altitude of about 8700 meters. It is difficult to decide whether the photograph was taken on the northeast ridge or whether it is an aerial photograph taken near the northeast ridge, for the Chinese photograph has no foreground at all; it is either a portion of a larger picture (movie-film?) or a telephoto with an angle of c. 21°.

The Chinese photograph is certainly *not* (as they state) one taken at dawn, but rather in the morning when the sun already stood at 31° above the horizon as can be measured by the angle of the shadows. On May 25, 1960 at $28^{\circ} 0'$ N. latitude and $86^{\circ} 56'$ E. longitude (the position of Mount Everest) the sun reached 31° only 2 hours 26 minutes 31 seconds after sunrise, i.e., at 7 o'clock 39 minutes 39 seconds true local time.

The Chinese did not however use true local time, but rather Peking time, which is about 2 hours and forty minutes different. The Chinese climbers must have taken their disputed photograph therefore at 10:20 according to their time. Since according to their own accounts they could not photograph on the summit of Everest in the dark of night, it becomes obvious that the remarkable photograph from c. 8700 meters was not taken at the time stated and that there is no picture from the "first step" or from the very photogenic "second step."

Moreover one should remember further that the summit team of the Indian Everest Expedition 1960 (Gombu, Gyatso, Kumar) was on the morning of May 25 at about 28,300 feet (8626 meters), barely 140 meters (459 feet) below the south summit driven to retreat by a strong snowstorm. At the same time the Chinese claim to have taken their fine-weather photograph.

To settle the disputed Chinese ascent of Mount Everest in 1960 there would apparently be only one real piece of evidence: to find the bust of Mao Tse-tung on the summit. But even then doubts might arise. In the monthly bulletin *Die Alpen* of 1961 on page 143 M. Oechslin indicates that anything could happen: ". . . one might think even of throwing a 'piece of evidence' out of an airplane so that the Americans—or whoever it might be—would find 'signs of the Chinese.'" One must never forget that nowadays, unfortunately, the summit of Mount Everest lies on the front of the Cold War.

G. O. DYHRENFURTH, *Swiss Alpine Club*

(The great Himalayan authority, Dr. Dyhrenfurth, has very kindly sent the *A.A.J.* this note. The reader of this *Journal* may also have seen a series of articles in *Die Alpen* which discuss in detail the picture mentioned above. At first it was felt that photogrammetry proved that the questioned photograph had been taken at 9000 meters some 7 kms, west of Everest, but more careful identification of the peaks in the picture show that it was taken on or near the northeast ridge. The interested reader may also refer to the *Alpine Journal* of May, 1961, pages 28 to 41, where Shih Chan-Chun's article and other photographs are reproduced along with cogent editorial comments.—*Editor.*)

India

Nilkantha, Garhwal. An Indian expedition finally succeeded in climbing beautiful 21,640-foot Nilkantha, which had repulsed seven previous attempts, including Willi Unsoeld's try in 1949. (*A.A.J.*, 1956, 10:1, pp. 75-80.) The expedition was under the leadership of Captain Narinder Kumar and consisted of Flight-Lieutenants A. K. Chowdhury and A. J. S. Grewal, Captain Mulk Raj, O. P. Sharma and Lieutenant R. C. Ray. They left Joshimath on May 30 and passed through Badrinath on the way to set up Base Camp at 15,000 feet on the Santopanth Glacier on June 3. Immediately they set about reconnoitering routes. Although they established camp at 18,000 feet on the west col, they could find no route on the west ridge and decided in favor of the north face. They placed Camp I at 16,500 feet on June 6 and Camp II at 18,000 feet the next day. Above Camp III, which was at 20,000 feet, they had a 150-foot vertical ice wall, which cost them considerable effort before they established Camp IV 600 feet higher on June 11. In bad weather they placed Camp V the next day at 21,200 feet. Early on June 13 Chowdhury and two Sherpas worked in a heavy snowstorm to help prepare the route. After their return at 10:30 A.M., O. P. Sharma and the Sherpas Phurba Lobsang and Lhakpa Gyalbu Lama set off towards the summit, which they reached at 5:15 after seven hours of difficult climbing in bad weather. They were benighted during the descent and had to spend the night out. The next day they returned to their companions, Kumar, Chowdhury and two other Sherpas, at Camp V and together the whole party retreated to Camp IV, still in miserable weather; all suffered frost-bite. After finding a new route down to Camp III, they descended further, finally reaching Base Camp on June 17 despite the serious frost-bite, which affected Captain Kumar most severely.

Attempt on Nanda Devi, ascent of Devistan I, Maiktoli, and Trisul, Garhwal. Our trip this year was the sequel to a reconnaissance we had made to the Nanda Devi area last summer; it was financed by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, the Mount Everest Foundation and the *Statesman* newspaper. The six members were Gurdial Singh and I of the Doon School, Major John D. Dias, Captain K. N. Thadani and Lieutenant (Dr.) N. Sharma of the Indian Army, and Suman Dubey, an undergraduate at Delhi. We hired three Sherpas, Kalden, Nima and Lhakpa, from the Sherpa Climbers' Association, Darjeeling. On arrival at the roadhead at Joshimath on May 1, we discovered that most of our arranged porters had been hired by other parties and on road-construction projects, but we managed to obtain some twenty porters, against an estimated requirement of seventy. With these, we marched upstream to reach the last village

on our route, Lata, after two days. A stiff 5000-foot climb takes one to the grazing alp of Lata Kharak, where we were surprised to find that the early season and late spring snow had covered the route from the Lata Kharak Camp to Dharansi Pass (14,000 feet) under deep snow. After three attempts, we eventually managed the crossing, the porters ferrying the loads over to Dharansi Camp (13,600 feet) across the pass in a week's time. This delayed our already stretched-out approach march, as even normal stages took two days because our restricted number of porters had to relay the loads. From Dharansi to Dibrugheta (11,400 feet), to Deodi (13,000 feet) and to the foot of the gorge at Ramani (11,640 feet) took us another week, and the remaining portion of the march, up the difficult gorge and to the Base Camp of Nanda Devi on an ablation shelf (c. 16,000 feet), another ten days. From Base Camp on this terrace above the right bank of the Southern Nanda Devi Glacier, we set out on June 3 to establish Camp I. The route is up steep scree, crumbly shale and schist, and one has to surmount a cruelly weathered and serrated ridge known as the "Coxcomb" to reach a steep rock ridge which merges into the south ridge of Nanda Devi at about 20,000 feet. We ferried all needed loads to Camp I, a frightfully insecure site where we sacrificed a kettle, a mug and sundry articles of food and equipment to the laws of gravity. The conditions on the southeast ridge were bad, late spring snow now turned to ice, making the route treacherous and arduous. Despite three attempts, we could find no trace of the solitary site for two tents which this ridge afforded to our predecessors, the Anglo-American party of 1936, the French in 1951 and Major N. D. Jayal in 1957. On the fourth attempt, though we examined every inch of the steep ice and ice-glazed rock, not even the most imaginative could descry a potential tent platform on that inhospitable ridge. While we debated the next step, the first monsoon storm of the season boiled over the Sundardhunga Col to the south. A member and a Sherpa in quick succession suffered falls on the *verglas*, both being saved through great good luck by rocky outcrops. We turned back. That night, the next and the next it snowed.

Back at Base Camp, we decided to attempt Devistan I (21,910 feet) on the western rim of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary. We moved Base Camp to a flat terrace in the grasslands of the Sanctuary at 15,000 feet and established two camps higher at 17,500 and 20,000 feet. From this last we started at eight A.M. on June 16 and climbing steadily up snow and later, up steeper ice slopes, we reached and surmounted the summit cornice to look down the other side into the Trisul Nala at about two P.M. No great technical difficulty was encountered, but the ascent, accomplished by all the members and the Sherpas except for Captain Thadani and Lhakpa

along with the Garhwali Kalyan Singh, was interesting. On returning to the new Base Camp, it was decided to climb the once-ascended (Shipton in 1934) Maiktoli (22,320 feet) on the southwestern corner of the Sanctuary. We again established two camps, one on a rock moraine at 16,000 feet above the left bank of the Maiktoli component of the Southern Rishi Glacier and another up the Maiktoli icefall at about 18,800 feet. The attempt was made by all nine of us on June 21 on a clear morning, but by midday monsoon clouds swelled up from the south and we reached the summit in raging sleet. Finding our way back proved most difficult even after a long halt in the futile hope that visibility, reduced to a few yards on that misleading glacier-face, would improve. After a day spent at Camp II to allow cases of snow-blindness, caused by the removal of glasses in the mist, to subside, we trudged back to the Sanctuary Camp.

There being sufficient supplies for another week, we decided to climb Trisul (23,360 feet) by the light of the full moon around the end of June. We came down the Rishi gorge and followed the Trisul Nala up to an ablation valley on the left bank of the Trisul Glacier at 16,000 feet on July 27. From here Dias and I with Bahadur Singh and Nima set up a camp on rock at 18,000 feet, while Captain Thadani with the Sherpa Lhakpa and a Garhwali porter, Kalyan Singh, set up camp at about 19,500 feet for a conventional daytime attempt. Storms arose in the evening, and the lower-camp inmates abandoned the idea of a moonlit night climb, while the higher-camp party reached the summit in the daytime of June 30. That same night, at Base Camp, the climbers keen on a night attempt saw the sky become clear and the moon rise at 8:30 and impulsively set out in an attempt from Base Camp itself. Climbing rapidly, they were past 21,000 feet by four A.M., only to be turned back half-an-hour later by a sudden monsoon storm which rose over from the Kumaon hills to the south. The expedition reached Dehra Doon on July 12 after many delays due to the breaches on the motor road below Joshimath. Future expeditions to this area are bound to find the organization very tricky because of the acute shortage of porters resulting from the rising employment opportunities provided by the government to the local hillmen.

HARI DANG, *Himalayan Club*

Nanda Ghunti, Garhwal. Nanda Ghunti (20,700 feet) was climbed for the second time by an Indian expedition which attacked it from the Rishi gorge north of the peak. On October 22, 1960 the leader, Sukumar Roy, Dilip Banerjee, and the Sherpas Ang Tsering, Pembu Norbu, Ajeeba

and Tashi reached the summit. The first ascent was made by the Swiss André Roch and René Dittert with the Sherpa Ang Tensing in 1938.

Bhyundar Valley, Garbwal. The Bombay Mountaineering Committee sent out a party of fifteen, including three Sherpa instructors from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute to train climbers in the Bhyundar valley, made famous by Frank Smythe as the "Valley of Flowers." They finally set up a camp at 18,300 feet and climbed two or three peaks. They failed because of snow conditions and avalanche danger to climb Nilgiri Parbat, ascended by Smythe in 1937.

Italian Expedition to Kulu. An Italian expedition from the Roman section of the Club Alpino Italiano climbed in the mountains north of the Parbati River in Kulu. After a week's approach march, on May 11 they established Base Camp at 12,800 feet in the Dibibokri Nala. Three glaciers descend into the valley from the north. They are identified from east to west as the Main Glacier, Glacier 2 and the West Glacier. They placed Camp I at 14,750 feet near the tongues of the three. Camp II was established at 16,500 feet on Glacier 2 on May 19. On May 23 they set Camp III at 19,250 feet in a col on the divide between their valley and the Bara Shigri Glacier on the southeast ridge of their objective, a 20,830-foot peak drained by both Glacier 2 and the West Glacier. When the weather turned clear on May 27, they decided against continuing on this route and crossed a high col to the West Glacier, where at 17,880 feet they established a new Camp III. At one A.M. on May 30 they left camp and by dawn they had ascended the snow slopes to 19,500 feet, but it took them ten hours to climb the next 800 feet of mixed rock and snow to a little saddle on the rocky southwest ridge. They abandoned that attempt and were not back in camp until eleven P.M. Franco Alletto and Domenico DeRiso left camp at ten P.M. on June 1 on their third attempt to reach the summit. They reached the saddle in a few hours, but the last 500 feet of class 5 climbing took them 12 hours and 20 pitons. They arrived on top at six P.M. The descent took all of the night and most of the next day. The other members of the party were Paolo Consiglio, Dr. Vincenzo Monti and Signora DeRiso.

The Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition. Basil Poff and I reconnoitered the Pir Pinjal range in Kulu during June and July, 1958. We selected Indrasan (20,410 feet), an unclimbed peak at the head of the Malana glacier as a likely objective for a stronger party. The mountain became one of the objectives of the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition 1961, composed of me as leader, Ray Handley, Derrick Burgess, Dennis Gray, Jack Ashcroft, Steven Read, Trevor Panther, and Nick Smythe. We were under the patronage of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, M. C., and had the

backing of the Mount Everest Foundation. Other objectives were the reconnaissance of Ali Ratni Tibba, a giant 18,000-foot aiguille which dominates the upper reaches of the Malana valley, the ascent of an unclimbed 18,000-foot ice pass on the Kulu-Bara Shigri divide, and the plane-table survey of a complex group of peaks in the same area. At Pathankot, the railhead, Captain Balgit Singh of the Indian Army joined, appointed official liaison officer at the eleventh hour. Wangyl, the sirdar, and five other Ladakhi high-altitude porters were picked up at Nagar bridge, 12 miles south of Manali, the road terminus. We had considerable difficulty getting our pack train across the 12,000-foot spur which forms the Beas-Parbati watershed and separates the Beas and Malana valleys because of the snow still lingering in late May from the heaviest winter fall in living memory. Eventually we reached Base Camp in the Malana valley at 12,000 feet.

Indrasan and its near neighbour, Deo Tibba (19,687 feet) sit on top of a gigantic three-tier cake of ice. Our plan was simply to put an intermediate camp on each shelf until we were in striking distance of the final 2000-foot summit cone of Indrasan. In round figures 3000 feet and three miles separated each shelf. From Base Camp the route lay along the gently inclined Malana Glacier, the first shelf, and veered off to the west, taking a tributary glacier which emerges from a névé at 16,000 feet, the second shelf. Above, a steep, transverse ridge forms the southern supporting wall of the third and final shelf, which is the upper névé of the Malana glacier. From the second shelf there are three feasible routes to the final plateau. The least hazardous appeared to follow a great couloir which was used by Mr. Jan de V. Graaff's party when making the first ascent of Deo Tibba in 1952. Seeking the best approach to the couloir, the first pair of pathfinders took nine hours to climb it. The angle ranged from 45° in the lower half to 65° at the top. However, a second pair, using a tongue from the highest point of the second shelf and the ridge bordering on the western side of the couloir, cut into the great gully at a point halfway up and reduced the climbing time to six hours. Thereafter it became an established trade route, though liable to bombardment in the afternoon. Camp III was established on the third shelf near the top of the couloir. Later the bulk of the camp was shifted across the two-mile wide plateau to the north edge and placed in the col between Deo Tibba and Indrasan at 18,300 feet to become Camp IV. After a brief reconnaissance towards the west ridge of Indrasan and the fifth ascent of Deo Tibba by Derrick Burgess and Dennis Gray with Wangyal, all activity was suspended for a week by continuous and heavy snowfall. Conditions required a total withdrawal for two days' recuperation at Base Camp. When the route

was reopened to Camp IV, Deo Tibba was climbed again by Read, Handley and me with Jigmet and Zangbo. Simultaneously Burgess and Gray made the first attempt on the final west ridge of Indrasan. They encountered a cock's comb, a ridge serrated by numerous gendarmes topping the nearly vertical north and south faces. Switchbacking was out of the question, but to bypass the obelisks they were forced alternately onto both faces. Progress was slow on the great walls, and they were halted less than halfway along the ridge, on the north face. The pair returned to camp and planned to make their second and final attempt the next day by the same route. About 800 feet below and a quarter mile away from the top they were stopped by the sheer difficulty of the climbing and the lack of time. A mile to the east, Read, Handley and I explored a line of weakness which seemed to offer an avenue to the foot of the steep east ridge. The rock route commenced in an overhanging chimney where artificial tactics had to be employed and a mere 200 feet of ascent cost six hours. We rappelled down from our seemingly hopeless position and in conference at Camp IV with the west ridge scouts decided to give the mountain best. Indrasan had successfully repulsed the first expedition to get a footing on her formidable flanks. All camps were evacuated down to Camp I, which was used as an intermediate camp for the Tos valley and the Ali Ratni Tibba groups.

Early in July the expedition divided, one party to strike east from the foot of the Malana glacier across a 16,000-foot watershed to the Tos valley, which runs parallel to the Malana, the other party to reconnoitre an approach to Ali Ratni Tibba and seek other likely peaks in the area immediately east of Base Camp. The Tos valley party, climbing and surveying in superb weather conditions, realized its objectives. The 18,000-foot ice pass was climbed on July 13 and from the col Burgess and I observed the incredible contrast between the ice-draped crags of Kulu and the virtually snowless summits of the Bara Shigri system behind the monsoon barrier. Returning over the eastern branch of the Tos glacier, which had been surveyed by Jack Ashcroft, we made the second ascent of White Sail (21,148 feet), a mountain of great beauty and still the highest peak to be climbed in Kulu. From camp at the junction of the subsidiary glacier with the Tos glacier, the route took the crest of a lateral moraine to avoid the icefall and to land eventually on the upper névé, where a second camp was placed. We gained the east ridge via the only col and found the lower section of the rock ridge to be alpine in nature. This section terminated in a distinctive snow dome. Beyond this step a line of beetling ice cliffs, defending the summit snows, stood athwart the ridge. Anxiously we scanned them for a weakness which would permit

access to the summit slopes. By skirting the foot of the cliffs along an icicle-threatened catwalk, we reached a short, vertical ice wall which relaxed into a 75° ice slope and in 300 feet yielded a route through the cliffs to the final ridge above. The summit, a fragile blade of snow, was trodden at 1 P.M. on July 16. Fifty feet below the summit, a slab of rock bore a disintegrating cairn, evidence of Colonel J. O. M. Roberts' ascent almost to a day 20 years before. The climbers, Burgess, Ashcroft and I, rebuilt it and attached a phosphor-bronze plaque bearing the initials of the members and the date of the expedition. Meanwhile the eastern party, Gray and Handley with Wangyal and Zangbo, had made two first ascents by reaching the summits of the aiguilles known as the Manikaren Spires (17,692 and 17,000 feet). Shortly after prospecting a feasible route to the summit of Ali Ratni Tibba, they were forced to abandon it by the onset of the monsoon. Reunited, the expedition began the withdrawal from the mountains in monsoon conditions on July 20.

ROBERT PETTIGREW, *Alpine Club*

Pakistan

Mount Ghent, Karakoram. An Austrian expedition under the leadership of Erich Waschak reached Base Camp on the Kondus Glacier at 13,750 feet in early May. Camp I (14,750 feet) was on the left lateral moraine of the glacier. On May 10 they established Camp II at 17,000 feet on the slopes below the Sia La. All of the climbers crossed this pass on May 19 to establish Raimund Heinzl and Wolfgang Axt at Camp III. From there these two made the second ascent of c. 22,640-foot Silver Throne. (First ascent in 1960 by Senn and Anderl. *A.A.J.*, 1961, 12:1, p. 416.) Camp IV was at 22,300 feet, and it was from there that on the fourth attempt, the successful climb of Mount Ghent (24,280 feet) was made. Wolfgang Axt started at 2:30 A.M. on June 4 and climbed on breakable crust to a rock ridge, which after an hour and a half's climbing turned into a snow ridge. This in turn merged into a steep slope, covered partly by ice and partly by breakable crust. He circumvented crevasses and séracs on even steeper snow slopes before he climbed a gradually steepening ridge, which he finally had to turn to the right to reach the summit at 12:30 in rapidly deteriorating weather. He was back in Camp IV at five with his comrades Karl Ambichl and Ignaz Obermüller, who had come up to support him. They had to quit after this since their permission did not allow them to attempt peaks which could not be reached from the Kondus Glacier.

Paiju Peak. In the late fall of 1960 Rick Litterick, my wife Courtney and I gathered in Abbottabad, West Pakistan, to organize our visit to Paiju Peak in the central Karakoram. Some months later the government

of Pakistan approved our plans, but from then on almost everything went wrong. First, Rick became so worn down with dysentery that he had to leave us for a friendlier climate. Morgan Sibbett, an American economist living in Peshawar, was invited to replace him. Next our late-May start was postponed because the liaison officer, Captain M. H. U. K. Sumbal, wrenched his knee. Yet on June 7 we left Skardu with 15 porters carrying food and gear for a six weeks' trip. A week later, as we were resting in Askole, misfortune struck again. A policeman appeared with a note from the Political Agent: the Government for some reason was excluding Morgan from our group. With Courtney the mother of two very dependent infants, Sumbal still nursing his knee, and any local man, however skilled and willing, prohibited from high climbing by the porter insurance requirement, the team was in effect reduced to one. Morgan returned to Skardu with most of the climbing equipment. We three pushed on to the Baltoro, and a few days later we were established at Paiju campground. From there I visited the north face of Paiju, which rises above the Biaho Glacier, the east face, just behind our camp and the southeast face, which is reached from a gully and a small glacier obvious from the trail leading to camp. No matter how closely I looked, I could see no easy or obvious route anywhere. Later from some distance it appeared that a feasible route might lie up the west face, but all choices seemed problematical. After a week the clouds and monotonous drizzle of the monsoon settled upon us. A few days on the trail and two more on a goatskin raft brought us back to Skardu. Because of Morgan's recall, we could not make use of our permission to attempt Dobani Peak, in the vicinity of Gilgit.

FELIX K. KNAUTH

Hushe Valley, Karakoram. The Royal Air Force Karakoram Expedition consisted of twelve British members, Squadron Leader John Sims, deputy leader, Robin Wilkinson, Derek Bottomer, Peter Nichols, Christopher Jonson, Norman Ridley, John Jones, doctor, Courtney Shaw Close, Mervyn Hughes, Peter Addis, James Aitken and myself as leader, together with three Pakistanis, Squadron Leader Shah Khan, Flight Lieutenant Beg and Saib Shah of the Pakistani Survey. We prepared to map the Hushe valley and climb what was already not climbed in the area. Of course the main peak excluding Masherbrum was K6. The Austrian party under Erich Waschak had already looked at the Kondus approach and declared it impossible. Clinch had seen it from the north and said the same thing, though we did check up on this, and we fully agreed. That left the

Ngamah valley and the south approach, but the latter was such a long way from Hushe that we did not try it. We started off therefore on the Ngamah, but after about four days we decided that we were not a strong enough party and not being prepared to spend all our time here, went elsewhere. There is a possible route, though menaced by hanging glaciers, but it lands you up on the western peak with a long traverse on top before you reach the eastern and highest summit. We left a survey party on the Chogolisa Glacier to map its north and south branches, the Chundogero (also written as Gondokhoro) and Masherbrum Glaciers. They were to join the rest of us later on the Aling Glacier. The Aling has an impressive icefall, which had been ascended only by the U. S. Consul from Rawalpindi (?) who went two days up. We put our Base Camp at the foot and spent nearly a month there. We got Base Camp established on July 13 and unfortunately the weather broke on the 16th settling down into periods of three days of bad weather and four or five of good. This considerably cramped our style and forced us to abandon two of the more ambitious projects involving difficult icefalls. However, we did manage to climb two peaks of about 20,000 feet, Sceptre and Mitre (This is not the famous Mitre peak which lies beside the Baltoro just south of Concordia.—*Editor.*), and two between 21,500 and 22,000 feet, which we called Hunchback and Atwa Peak. The survey results should be excellent. We set up about 35 stations, from each of which a round of theodolite bearings was taken, together with 360° panoramas, both drawn and photographed. The survey photos are almost 100 per cent successful. I am not altogether sure that I should advise the Hushe as a location for future expeditions. The mountains, as a whole, are incredibly difficult, resembling the aiguilles of Chamonix on a much bigger scale. The Aling is almost climbed out as far as the easier peaks are concerned, as we presume is the Chogolisa by the Harvard party of 1955. K6 still has its uncertainties. Probably the Apo Brok, a valley leading west from Kande, offers the best ground for a small expedition.

A. J. M. SMYTH, *Alpine Club*

Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face. A German expedition, led by Dr. Karl M. Herrlichkoffer and sponsored by the German Institute for Foreign Exploration, made a splendid reconnaissance of the 13,000-foot high Diamir (northwest) face of Nanga Parbat (26,660 feet). Toni Kinshofer, Jörg Lehner and Siegfried Loew established Camp IV at 23,450 feet above the greatest climbing difficulties before the advent of the monsoon turned them back.

This face was first attempted by A. F. Mummery in 1895 just before

his tragic death. He tried to reach the Bazhin Glacier, which descends diagonally across the upper third of the face from Bazhin Col (25,630 feet), by means of a rib on the right side of the face. With the Gurkha Ragobir he nearly reached the glacier but had to descend after getting to about 20,000 feet because the Gurkha fell sick. This same route was reconnoitered by Peter Aufschnaiter's German expedition in 1939 but abandoned because of rockfall and ice avalanche danger. They then climbed to nearly 20,000 feet on a rib farther left, which has the disadvantages of being difficult, of rockfall and of leading to the north peak (25,540 feet).

The present expedition decided against both of these ribs and favored one which lies between the other two attempted routes. Base Camp was established at 13,800 feet on the northern moraine of the Diamir Glacier in May. Camp I (15,750 feet) lay at the foot of the technical climbing difficulties. Class V and VI climbing, which included a 3000-foot, 50° ice couloir and difficult rock, forced them to place Camp II over 4000 feet higher! More than 3000 feet of rope were fixed between these camps. Difficult ice led to Camp III (21,650 feet). The route became somewhat easier and on June 20 the three climbers bivouacked at 23,450 feet. The comparatively gentle slopes of the Bazhin Glacier now led upwards to Bazhin Col, some 2300 feet above them, where they would have joined the route by which Hermann Buhl made the first ascent of Nanga Parbat on June 3, 1953, but the time and the weather was not theirs to continue upwards. The monsoon broke in full fury on June 21, and the climbers had to beat a retreat down the difficult slopes. The other members of the party were Anderl Michl, Harry Rost, Toni Messner, Rudolf Marek, Dr. Ludwig Delp and the geologist Gerhard Wagner.

Afghanistan

Italian Hindu Kush Expedition. A scientific expedition led by Prof. Ardito Desio visited the Hindu Kush from the Afghan side. Two members climbed an unnamed peak of 16,437 feet in the Koh-i-Baba range and another of more than 13,000 feet in the Korku valley.

PIERO MECIANI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Bremen Hindu Kush Expedition. Five Germans from Bremen made a modest expedition into the Hindu Kush. They drove from Germany to 50 miles beyond Kabul, where they organized a pack train to take them 100 miles farther. They made the first ascent of a peak which they measured by aneroid as 20,506 feet and which they called Koh-i-Chrebek (Snow-bird Peak). It is not clear exactly where they were climbing.

Traunstein Hindu Kush Expedition. A group of Germans from Traunstein, Karl Brenner, Dietrich von Dobeneck, Otto Huber, Fritz Wagnerberger and Karl Winkler, traveled in late August with a pack train for five days from Jurm in Badakhshan through the upper Kokcha valley to Shahrān and Deh Ambi in the Munjan valley. Their first high camp was above Darrah-i-Deh Ambi on one of the glaciers of the Ahmad Baba-i-Dewana range. After surmounting a 2000-foot ice cliff they reached the highest summit of the group, Kollae Ahmad Baba (19,029 feet). They also climbed Bordj Deh Ambi (18,865 feet), Deh Ambi Tower (18,537 feet), Kollae Pierjach (18,439 feet), Djuk Deh Ambi (18,373 feet) and the summits on the left (18,209 feet) and right (17,881 feet) of the ice cliff. They moved from there to the Darrah-i-Shahram, some 20 miles up a tributary of the Munjan. A new Base at 13,000 and a new high camp at 14,650 feet were established. On September 1 they climbed the highest summit, Sarguna (19,882 feet), of the Koh-i-Marchech. Three rock peaks (16,897, 17,225 and 17,061 feet) were also climbed. On September 5 they climbed two subsidiary summits (18,537 and 19,193 feet) of Shakh-i-Kabud and after a bivouac reached the main summit (20,013 feet). This difficult climb kept them from camp for 57 hours. The expedition returned to Kabul via the Anjuman Pass.

China

Kongur-tebe-tagh, Pamirs. The second ascent of this 24,920-foot peak, which lies in the eastern Pamirs in Sinkiang, was made by a group of Chinese and Tibetan women. On June 13 the Tibetans Sheirab and Phundob reached the summit, which had first been climbed in 1956 by Russians under the leadership of K. Kuznin. Miss Sheirab died in a storm during the descent.

Pundit Nehru. According to a Russian source quoted by *Lo Scarpone*, Georgian climbers made the first ascent of a 23,000-foot peak in the Tien Shan on September 9. In view of the boundary disputes between the Chinese Communists and India, it seems rather ironic that they have named the peak "Pundit Nehru."

Amne Machin. The *Alpine Journal* of November, 1961, carries an interesting article written by Pai Chin-Hsiao, leader of a Chinese expedition which claims the first ascent of Amne Machin. It will be recalled that this peak was reported to be very high indeed and that at times it was stated to be higher than Mount Everest. The Chinese expedition gives it an altitude of 7160 meters (23,491 feet). From a high camp at about 21,000 feet the party climbed to the summit on June 2, 1960. In the summit group were the leader, Liu Chao-chang, Wang Hung-pao, Wang Wen-chang, Ho Hui-chih, Ai Shun-feng, Chou Pin-wei and Ting Yuan-tsung.