

is unmarked on Survey of India sheets. By traversing the névé at the foot of P 20,300 to the east we reached a good viewpoint on the south ridge of that mountain. Here, at 18,400 feet, we were on a divide between tributary glaciers flowing into the Tos and into the Chota Shigri. We examined the northwest and south ridges and west face of Papsura but could not trace a feasible route from this side. Ali Ratni Tibba (18,013 feet) and its foretop, known respectively by the local hillmen as Paptula and Dramtula, is a formidable mountain resembling the Aiguilles du Dru. To reconnoiter it, Langford, Wangyal and I circumnavigated its base by ascending the Ali Ratni Tibba East Glacier, crossing a 16,000-foot pass southwest of the peak and descending the Ali Ratni Tibba West Glacier, which emerges in the upper Malana *nullab* just below the snout of the Malana Glacier. Once gained, the southwest ridge offers the best chance of an ascent, but it would have to be reached by a route traversing the steep icefields of the south face, which would require considerable resources and prolonged preparation.

ROBERT PETTIGREW, *Alpine Club*

*Brammah, Kashmiri Himalaya.* A group of Cambridge University students, Charles Clarke, leader; Simon Brown, Lieutenant Henry Day, Michael Tugendhat, Dilsher Singh Virk and Henry Edmundson, left Kishtwar in mid-July on a four-day trek to the Brammah Glacier. Their attempt on 21,500-foot Brammah failed only a few hundred feet from the summit.

### *Pakistan*

*Tirich-North and Ghul-Lasht-Zom.* The Austrians Kurt Diemberger, his wife Maria Antonia, Herwig Handler, and Fritz Lindner left Chitral on August 2, ascended the Chitral valley and crossed the Zani Pass to Shagrom. They went up the Tirich Glacier to Base Camp at 16,400 feet, which they pitched on August 9 at the foot of the steep northern spur of Tirich-North, the highest (westernmost) summit of the northern Tirich group, the ridge which runs east and west some three miles north of Tirich Mir. After a quick reconnaissance showed that this mountain would be of considerable difficulty, they turned to the Ghul-Lasht-Zom group until they should be better acclimated. They moved their base some two miles west. On August 14 they camped at 18,000 feet on a tributary glacier that descends to the east from the eastern summit of Ghul-Lasht-Zom. Camp II was placed the 18th on its southwest ridge at 20,700 feet. The next day the three men climbed to the eastern summit

(21,680 feet) but bad weather prevented advance toward the main peak. A pair of crampons had been left behind at Camp I and so Diemberger descended to rejoin his wife there. Together they climbed a 20,000-foot peak just south of Ghul-Lasht-Zom's eastern summit. Handler and Lindner meanwhile returned to this eastern peak and traversed on to the main summit (21,867 feet). Reconnaissance of the west side of the Tirich-North group revealed avalanche danger and no obvious route. They returned to attack its northern spur. This ridge rose from Base Camp some 3500 feet up steep mixed rock and snow and for an equal distance to the summit on snow. Camp I was placed at 18,000 feet on August 27. Several difficult rock steps above necessitated fixed ropes. Camp was carried up with them as they worked their way gradually upwards until they were finally established at 20,350 feet above the rock on September 3. On the 4th, the three men climbed the steep snow to the summit (23,150 feet).

*Darban Zom, Hindu Kush.* An Austrian expedition traveled by Jeep over the Lowari Pass and through Chitral into the Mastuj valley. From there they went by pack train to Shagrom. Base Camp was at 15,000 feet by the Darban Glacier. Camp I was established at 17,300 feet and Camp II at 19,800 feet, but bad weather and avalanche danger drove them back. Several days later they set out again despite the precarious snow on Noshag's northern slopes which they had to traverse to reach Darban Zom. After Markus Schmuck, Uli Kössler and Helmuth Larcher reached Camp II again, they moved a bivouac camp higher to 21,000 feet. On September 12 they climbed ice slopes to a ramp which gave access to the basin between Noshag and Darban Zom, from which Kössler and Schmuck climbed an ice slope up the southern side to the summit of Darban Zom (23,688 feet). Larcher had to give up 800 feet from the top. Meanwhile on the same day Hans Egger, Dieter Drescher, and Schmuck's son Christian climbed the peaks north of Camp I, traversing from Q6 (20,473 feet) to M9 (20,538 feet). Drescher and Larcher climbed Udren Darban Zom (20,899 feet) on September 15. (Originally these were two separate expeditions that joined forces in the field.)

*Buni Zom, North Peak.* An Austrian expedition from Graz consisted of Dr. Gerald Gruber, leader, and his wife Hildegund, Dr. Herfried Gamerith and his wife Gertraud, Hanns Schell and Dr. Norbert Zernig. On August 10 G. Gruber, H. Gamerith and Schell climbed the north peak of Buni Zom (20,795 feet). Zernig climbed Kohraboht Zom (19,029 feet) on August 16. From Panorama Peak (18,701 feet), which they

climbed on the 5th and the 8th, they were able to make photographic panoramas and measurements of the high Hindu Kush. They climbed from the Kohrabohrt Glacier.

A. DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

*Buni II and Gordoghan Zom.* The Munich section of the German Alpine Club (DAV) sent Horst Schürer, leader, Rudi Berger, Alfred Koch, and Ernst Lainer to the Buni Zom group. All four climbed Buni II (20,079 feet) on July 25. Koch and Lainer climbed Gordoghan Zom (20,374 feet) on August 8. They made valuable photographs of the peaks of the Laspur valley.

A. DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

*Diran or Minapin.* This expedition of the Kyoto Mountaineering Federation was led by Ryuichi Kodani and consisted of Mitsugi Koyama, Mikio Nakayama, Shinichi Hotta, Naoki Takada, Yuzuru Tsuchimori, Tadashi Takahashi, and Dr. Sokichi Saito. A two-man reconnaissance party had already done its work from June to August in 1963. Starting from Japan in May, they got to work on the 23,862-foot peak in June. During the last five days of the expedition, Tsuchimori and Koyama pushed to within 250 feet of the summit but because of the strong wind and whirring snow, they turned their backs on the top and began their final descent toward their highest camp (22,000 feet); owing to the sunset they had to bivouac at about 23,500 feet. This was the last try of the expedition.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Attempt on Khinyang Chhish.* Our expedition was comprised of 13 graduates or students from the Tokyo University Ski Alpine Club: Dr. Hirotsugu Shiraki, leader, Dr. Shingi Ishikawa, deputy leader, Kuniyuki Ito, Katsuji Shimoishizaka, Shoji Seki, Kei Abe, Takeo Nakamura, Ryuko Nishitani, Keisuke Murakami, Akitake Makinouchi, Katsuhiko Kano, Kantaro Ogura, Kuniaki Inoue, and the Pakistani Mohammed Asif, whose language and climbing skills helped us a great deal. The reconnaissance party left Nagar on June 18 and spent five days on the Khinyang Glacier trying in vain to find any possible route to the summit on the western side. On the 27th Base Camp was established at 12,750 feet beside the Hispar Glacier, at the foot of the south ridge, which had been tried by the English-Pakistani team in 1962. We placed Camp I on the spur at 15,750 feet, Camp II at 17,400 feet where the spur meets the southeast ridge and Camp III beyond the junction of the southeast and southwest

ridges at the Bull's Head and before the Ogre, a vertical rock tower. By July 17, Camp IV was settled on the Snow Dome at 19,350 feet; a snowstorm from July 28 to August 7 forced us to stay there for nine days. Camp V was at 20,650 feet on the First Tier, Camp VI at 22,650 feet on the Ice Cake, and Camp VII at 23,000 feet just below the Rock Peak. Two more summits, Triangle Peak (24,275 feet) and Tent Peak (25,250 feet), still separated us from the summit of Khinyang Chhish (25,762 feet). Difficult rock, ice walls, sharp knife-edged ridges with complicated cornices and crevasses all the way from Camp II to Temporary Camp VIII had forced us to use up all the rope we had for fixing. On August 19, five climbers set out to Camp VIII just a day's climb from the summit. On their way, at 23,600 feet, a narrow snow ridge suddenly collapsed and Takeo Nakamura fell far below to the Khinyang Glacier. All the rest rushed back to Base Camp and began to search for his body, but nothing could be found. All in deep sorrow, we left Base Camp on August 27.

HIROTSUGI SHIRAKI, *Tokyo University Alpine Ski Club*

*Swat Kohistan.* A German expedition, Stefan Rausch, leader, Franz Grundner, Wolfgang Hasse, and Eugen Näf, climbed first in the Mankial and Siri Dara groups. They all climbed on July 7 the Central Peak (17,500 feet), a second ascent, and Mustagh (?) (c. 16,568 feet). Farther north they all made on July 18 the second ascent of Falak Sar (19,417 feet) and climbed P 4850 (15,912 feet), northeast of Falak Sar.

A. DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

*False or Doubtful Claims of Ascents in 1964.* The accounts of three expeditions reported in the *American Alpine Journal*, 1965, 14:2 need further clarification in these pages. Attention was called to these details by *Alpinismus* of April, 1965. 1. On page 463 of last year's *Journal*, Fritz Stammberger was given credit for having made an ascent of Cho Oyu. It appears, however, that his "summit" pictures were not made on the top of the mountain, and although this does not definitely disprove his claim of ascent, it casts serious doubts on his veracity. 2. On page 476 we published a short account of the ascent of "Turpin Peak (c. 19,000 feet)." It appears that the expedition leader, Philip Rosenthal, was at least guilty of careless research. The region was mapped by Dr. Richard Finsterwalder of the German 1934 Nanga Parbat Expedition; in the course of the mapping, on June 26, 1934 Walter Raechl traversed the peak climbed by Rosenthal and called by him "Turpin Peak." The 1934 German map, presumably correct, gives the mountain an altitude of only

5200 meters (17,061 feet). 3. On page 476 we reported that Germans had attempted unsuccessfully to climb K6. This *Alpinismus* denied, stating that the Berlin party had incorrectly identified the peak and that they had been on K7. When John Noxon and the Editor of the *A.A.J.* saw the photographs of the supposed "K7," they could not agree with *Alpinismus*. It has finally been established and has been published in *Alpinismus* of November, 1965 that the Germans attacked P 23,100 feet, which appears in John Noxon's map (*A.A.J.*, 1964, 14:1, p. 122) northeast of K6.

*Correction on the Ghondokoro and Chogolisa Map.* The map opposite page 122 in the *A.A.J.*, 1964, 14:1 contains a drafting error. Whenever the longitude appears as 70°, it should be read at 76° both on the map and in the text.

### *Afghanistan*

*Bandako\**, *Central Hindu Kush*. During the summer months, Michael and Ruth Wortis, Sandra Merrihue, Steve Jervis, Bob Jahn and I drove across Europe and the Near East and climbed in Iran and Afghanistan. After a leisurely, five-week drive from Paris to Tehran, we spent ten days climbing in the Alam Kuh massif of the Elburz Mountains, northwest of Tehran, staying at the Iranian Mountaineering Federation's stone hut at about 12,000 feet below Alam Kuh. In consistently good weather we climbed Siah Kaman (14,700 feet) on July 8, Takht-i-Suleiman, second highest, by two different routes on July 14. Our main objective was the Hindu Kush, and on July 21, Steve Jervis and I flew to Kabul to begin negotiations, while the others drove from Tehran. We had planned to go to the Wakhan corridor where there are still unclimbed peaks over 22,000 feet, but found it impossible to get permission. The Afghan government, which had allowed climbers in the Wakhan through 1964, had already turned down seven other expeditions before us. We settled for the central Hindu Kush, far from all borders, and chose the neighborhood of Bandako (22,450 feet). We drove in one day from Kabul to Dasht-i-Rewat in the Panjshir valley, where we left the car and engaged seven men and seven horses for our baggage. We then walked 90 miles in six days, crossed Anjuman Pass (13,700 feet), descended the Anjuman valley, and ascended the Sakhi valley to Base Camp at 13,000 feet. On August 7 we established Camp I at 16,400 feet just below a large glacier, and in the succeeding days we looked for a route on Bandako. It appeared that the only feasible route lay on the other side of the mountain, so that we were forced by lack of time to abandon it and direct our energies

\*The Germans' spelling, "Bandakor" is certainly wrong, since the last syllable is from the Persian "kuh" or "koh", which means "mountain".