

### *Afghanistan*

*Noshaq and peaks above the Wakhan Corridor.* The fourth Polish Hindu Kush Expedition was made up of Dr. Roman Sledziewski, leader, and his wife Ewa, Marian Bala, Maciej Baranowski and his wife Danuta, Andrzej Heinrich, Maciej Kozlowski, Andrzej Mróz, Adam Pachalski, Jacek Poreba, Jerzy Potocki, Lucjan Saduś, Ryszard Zawadzki, Poles; Henri Agresti and his wife Isabelle, French; and Jean Bourgeois, Belgian. The only expedition to be allowed into the Wakhan, they operated in the Qazi-Deh valley at the beginning of the Wakhan Corridor. A Japanese expedition and the first Polish Hindu Kush expedition made the first two ascents of Noshaq (24,580 feet) in 1960 by the south col and south ridge from the Qazi-Deh valley. In 1963 two Austrian expeditions climbed together to make the third ascent by a new route, the west ridge; they also reached the east and west summits. On August 30 Bourgeois, Heinrich, Kozlowski, Mróz, Poreba and Potocki made Noshaq's fourth ascent, via the west ridge, and also reached the east and west peaks, while the next day Bala and Saduś repeated the climb. On September 1 the Agrestis climbed only the c. 24,280-foot west summit. Previously they had reconnoitered a side valley of the Qazi-Deh, the Wakhan Gol, to the Sadh Ishtragh Pass (16,950 feet), which connects the Wakhan in Afghanistan with the Arkari valley in Chitral, Pakistan. Above the pass rises Sadh Ishtragh (19,223 feet), climbed on August 17 by Bourgeois, Potocki and Kozlowski. On August 16 and 17 the Agrestis climbed two 5000-meter peaks (over 16,400 feet) near the pass. On August 13 Bala, Heinrich, and Saduś climbed P 5417 (17,772 feet) at the mouth of the Qazi-Deh valley. On the 15th Mróz, Poreba and Zawadzki climbed M-10 (c. 18,700 feet) from the Mandaras valley to the north, while on the 17th Mmes Baranowska and Sledziewska with Baranowski and Pachalski climbed P 5243 (17,202 feet), which rises above a side glacier of the Qazi-Deh. A most noteworthy climb was completed on August 23 when Heinrich and Saduś finished a three-day second ascent of Gunbaz-e-Safed (22,310 feet) by a new and difficult route, the 6500-foot west ice face. On August 30 Sledziewski and his wife made the third ascent of Khorpusht-e-Yakhi (c. 18,700 feet), while Baranowski and his wife were climbing Q-23 (c. 17,060 feet). The expedition hoped to make the ascent of P 7291 (Shingeik Zom, 23,920 feet), not knowing it had just been climbed from the Darban Glacier on the Chitral side. (See account in Pakistani section.) This rises in the ridge which runs east from Noshaq. Bourgeois, Heinrich and Potocki traversed from their Camp III on Noshaq at 22,650 feet to the col between Gunbaz-e-Safed and the Noshaq west

ridge and then onto the Darban Glacier past the north face of Noshaq to the col between P 7291 and its northerly neighbor, Darban Zom. A two-day snowstorm prevented advance and so they decided to return. On September 4, as they traversed under Noshaq's north flank, they were overwhelmed by an avalanche. Potocki was killed and Heinrich injured. From the col Bourgeois made an extremely difficult descent directly to the Qazi-Deh valley while Heinrich climbed to Camp III, whence he was rescued.

ADOLF DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

*Darrah-e-Abi, Central Hindu Kush.* Three members of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club, John Ashburner, Paul Newby and I, visited the Afghan Hindu Kush for two months. We drove across the Middle East in a Land-Rover, arriving in Kabul on June 27. A week later we drove up to Dasht-e-Rewat in the Panjshir valley. Here we hired six horses to carry our equipment. We travelled up the Panjshir to Parian and over the Anjuman Pass to Anjuman. Eight days' march brought us to Iskasr, a village set almost at the junction of the Anjuman and Munjan rivers. Here we changed our transport to donkeys and entered the Darrah-e-Abi, which lay directly south-southeast of Iskasr. The entire valley and its surrounding mountains had never been visited before. After three days more we established Base Camp at 13,000 feet. We spent one week reconnoitering and dumping food at potential campsites, having no porters above Base. During the following week of perfect weather, on July 26 we climbed P5260 (17,257 feet; "Pyramid") with one camp. The route lay up a steep glacier to a col, followed by a straightforward ridge with one relatively difficult section. On the 27th from the same camp we climbed P5651 (18,640 feet; "Scramblers Peak"), which was relatively easy. From the top were visible Bandaka, Koh-i-Chrebek, Mundi, Jumi, Tirich Mir and Noshaq. On July 30 from a camp at 15,600 feet we made a steep snow ascent which led to a beautiful traverse of all three peaks of P5319 (17,451 feet; "Wave Peaks 1, 2, and 3"). On August 1 from Camp II at 17,225 feet we climbed Rast Darrah (5959 meters or 19,551 feet).<sup>\*</sup> There were twenty-one continuous pitches of 30° to 45° snow and ice above Camp II. We bivouacked at 19,000 feet on the descent. We all climbed all the peaks. We made a crude survey, taking all heights mentioned from the advance copy of the Aerial Survey recently made. An alternative route back from Iskasr to Anjuman, made with

<sup>\*</sup>Dr. A. Diemberger points out that Rast Darrah is not to be confused with P Y on the list of 6000-meter peaks of Wolfgang Frey in the *Österreichische Alpenzeitung* of September/October, 1966. Rast Darrah lies northeast of P Y.—*Editor.*

three donkeys and a horse, took us via Rubakon, Yakr, Yamak and Ustuga passes. Hoping to exit through Nuristan, we turned up the Kyrawagu valley just before the Anjuman pass. When it became obvious that the animals could not make it, accompanied by two of the donkeymen we crossed the Kascha pass (15,750 feet) at the head of the Kyrawagu with some difficulty on August 15 and made the first crossing of this route into the Chamar-Pushal area of Nuristan. We stayed a day and a half before returning the same way. Thence we retraced our steps to Dasht-e-Rewat.

HENRY EDMUNDSON, *Cambridge University Mountaineering Club*

*Bandaka Group.* Setting out on June 10, the Manchester Hindu Kush Expedition travelled overland to Afghanistan, using an ex-army truck. It took us over a month from Manchester to Ghonju. In twelve days we completed the 95-mile walk, with men and horses hired at Ghonju and Keran, up the Panjshir, along the Anjuman and the Munjan and up to the top of the Munjan Pass, where we established Base Camp at 12,700 feet. Although a party of German climbers had previously crossed the pass after climbing Bandaka from the Sakhi valley, the Munjan Pass area was otherwise unexplored. In the 32 days Base Camp was established, our party thoroughly explored the region around the pass, setting up eight mountain camps, ascending thirteen summits and surveying. On August 2 Peter Booth and Brian Cosby climbed the 18,600-foot summit on the ridge which runs east from Bandaka. We ascended the three peaks northeast of the latter: from west to east, P 17,500 feet, Booth, Cosby, Meredith, July 29; P 17,100, Cosby, Booth, Meredith, July 28, and Steven Crowther, Ian Bell, William Rowntree, August 3; P 17,100 Cosby, Meredith, July 28. We did not climb the first summit northeast of Bandaka Sakhi but did the next five summits on the ridge which runs east: from west to east, P 17,850, Bell, Rowntree, August 8; P 18,100, Cosby, Booth, August 13, and Crowther, Meredith, August 14; P 18,100, Rowntree, Bell, Meredith, Crowther, August 14; P 18,200, Rowntree, Bell, Meredith, Rowntree, August 14; and P 18,100, Rowntree, Bell, Meredith, Crowther. We also climbed four mountains east of Munjan Pass: P 16,800 (east of pass), Booth, Meredith, Crowther, Cosby and Shiro Shirahata and Ken Aoyagi of the Japanese R.C.C. II Expedition, August 6; from southwest to northeast southeast of the pass; P 16,800 (called locally Halolgek), Cosby, Crowther, August 8, (later climbed by Japanese); P 16,500, Cosby, Meredith, Rowntree, August 21; and P 16,600, Cosby, Booth, Rowntree, Meredith. The peaks climbed were small compared with

Bandaka. Climbs were not of any great technical difficulty, but so far as we know, they were first ascents.

CLIFFORD MEREDITH, *Rucksack Club*

*Bandaka Group.* The members of the Japanese R.C.C. II\* Expedition were Shigeo Yasukawa, leader, Shiro Shirahata, Takeshi Ishii, Hiroshi Hotta, Gaiki Ohashi, Kunio Nagasawa and myself as deputy leader. Our advance party, Ishii and I, arrived at Kabul on July 3 and applied for permission to enter the Wakhan, but when refused by the Afghan government, we changed plans to climb around 22,450-foot Bandaka from the Munjan Pass, attempting the northeast ridge. The whole party left Kabul on July 16, traveled by car and truck through Kunduz, Taluquan, Faizabad and Jarm to Fazaratesaid. Starting on July 23, we walked first along the Anjuman River through Aulegeself, Rovert, Madan, Roisewalshue and Palwara villages, over the Nawashawer Pass, through Iskazele, Razele, Keron and Willy villages, over the Willy Pass, through Magnol village to the Munjan Pass. We pitched Base Camp on the pass at 12,650 feet near the English Manchester party on July 30. On August 1 we established Camp I at 14,500 feet below the northeast ridge of Bandaka, but on August 4 we gave this up, having climbed only 500 of the 4000 feet of the steep ice face. On August 6 Shirahata and I made the ascent of Koh-i-Sefe (16,800 feet) with the Manchester party, camping that night on top. This was east of Base Camp. Meanwhile the others took loads to Camp I at 13,500 feet near the right Munjan Glacier, southeast of Base Camp. On August 9 Yasukawa and Shirahata climbed Koh-i-August (16,470 feet) northeast of Base, while the others went to Camp I. On the 10th Hotta, Ishii, Nagasawa and Ohashi climbed Koh-i-Munjan North (17,717 feet). On August 11 Yasukawa and Shirahata climbed Koh-i-Quatre and Koh-i-Kiba, two peaks on the ridge that runs parallel to the Munjan River east of it. From Camp II at 16,075 feet on the Munjan Glacier, all except Yasukawa on August 13 climbed Koh-i-Munjan (18,143 feet), highest peak in the Munjan range. On August 15 Shirahata and Ishii made the second ascent of Koh-i-Hololgek (16,800 feet), due east of Camp I. The English had climbed it on August 8. We left Base Camp on August 17 and walked along the Sanglich River through Sanglich, Iskator to Zebak. We traveled by truck from Zebak through Balack, Faizabad, Taluquan to Kabul, where we arrived on August 22.

KEN AOYAGI, *Japanese Alpine Club*

\*This stands for "Rock Climbing Club No. 2." The first club was dissolved before the second war and after the war we organized R. C. C. II.—K. A.

*Northern Khwaja Muhammed Range.* The Carinthian Hindu Kush expedition consisted of Karl Gritzner, Winfried Pretterebner, Werner Unterlass and Erhard Winkler. After an overland trip to Kabul, they continued over the Salang Pass to Qunduz and Kesem. On August 3 they marched up the Kesem valley (Mashad valley) at the very head of which they made first ascents, all of which can be identified on the advance copy of map 223 D III (1:50,000). They climbed P 4850 (15,912 feet), P 5100 (16,733 feet), P 5140 (16,864 feet), P 5350 (17,553 feet; climbed twice), P 5250 (17,225 feet), P 5250 (17,225 feet), P 5435 (17,831 feet) and P 5578 (18,300 feet). Herr Pretterebner stated that the peaks in a western side valley would have been more worth while and that the now mostly climbed mountains in the southern part of the range are more attractive. This was the first climbing group in the northern part of the Khwaja Muhammad Range and they did a valuable reconnaissance to the very end of an unexplored valley.

ADOLF DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

*Mir Samir.* Hubert Schmid, leader, Philipp Albrecht, and Hans and Heinrich Pritschet of the Allgäu Hindu Kush Expedition were handicapped by illnesses. Even so Albrecht and Hans Pritschet made on June 19 the third ascent of Mir Samir (19,060 feet) from a 13,125-foot camp. They had approached by way of Parian.

ADOLF DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

*Mir Samir.* Mir Samir (19,059 feet) was climbed on July 8 by Shuichi Tani, Junichi Chiba and Nobuki Togashi. This Chiba University expedition was led by Toshitaka Chuhma. Shinichi Konuki also took part.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Bandaka.* The Tohoku Gakuin University expedition, led by Genichi Hashimoto, was successful when on July 28 Kazuyoshi Matsukura and Takeshi Sato reached the summit of Bandaka (22,450 feet), having approached from the Anjuman Pass. Other members were Dr. Yoshiaki Kato, Ikuo Sasaki, Yasushi Yamota, Kimiya Terashima, Setsuro Sasaki, Shigeru Iruga, Kimio Kurose and Hiroshi Sato.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Parshui Valley.* The Bavarian Naturfreunde (Nature Friends) expedition of Hans Altheimer, leader, Eugen Bardroff, Ekkehard Otto, Ludwig Rehm and Herbert Ziegenhardt was refused permission to climb in the Wakhan. Therefore they completed the exploration of the Parshui valley in the Munjan region, which a Naturfreunde expedition had begun in

1965. Most of the ascents were in the southeastern part of the valley. They were P 5260 (17,257 feet), P 5270 (17,290 feet), P 5243 (17,202 feet), P 5360 (17,586 feet), P 5491 (18,015 feet), P 5760 (18,900 feet; Elephant Hump, already thrice climbed in 1965), P 5520 (18,111 feet), P 5550 (18,209 feet), P 5606 (18,393 feet), P 5070 (16,634 feet), P 4970 (16,306 feet), P 5320 (17,454 feet), P 5090 (16,700 feet), P 5010 (16,437 feet), P 5644 (18,517 feet), P 5180 (16,995 feet), P 5550 (18,209 feet), and P 5180 (16,995 feet; already climbed in 1965). Views of the steep valleys and towering peaks on the far (western) side of the Munjan region were most interesting. Their photographs will show future climbers fine objectives.

ADOLF DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

*Peaks above Dorah and Ramgul Passes, 1965.* An expedition composed of Heinrich Dauer, Dieter Fischer and Andreas Geis climbed first in the region north of the Dorah Pass in the upper Chapdarra valley. There they climbed Bini Zard (16,601 feet), Bam-e-Barf (18,964 feet), Koh-e-Khaima (18,373 feet), Tes Zanu (17,290 feet), Beland Hessar (18,078 feet), Takt-e-Sanglich (19,095 feet), Nok-e-Sozan (18,504 feet), Sia Sang (17,323 feet), Sar-e-Minar (17,618 feet), and Posht-e-Khashgau (17,586 feet). They then climbed the following peaks near the Ramgul Pass: Qolla-e-Narboz (c. 17,126 feet), Koh-e-Davom (18,570 feet), Shakh-e-Ahu (16,929 feet), Nok-e-Chamboz (16,995 feet), Koh-e-Mansara (17,782 feet), Koh-e-Ranj (18,393 feet), Zin-e-Mohiger (16,733 feet), and Koh-e-Awu (16,851 feet).

ADOLF DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

*Corrections, Hindu Kush.* On page 201 of *A.A.J.*, 1966, it stated that both the American and the Italian expeditions climbed P 6110 meters or Bandaka Uris. It now appears that both groups climbed P 6192 meters (20,315 feet) or Koh-e-Ka-Safed. In more recently published reports, the Czechs who climbed in the Wakhan in 1965 (see *A.A.J.*, 1966, 15:1 pp. 206-7) have given somewhat different altitudes and in some cases differently spelled names. The greatest difference is with Mina, North Peak of an altitude of 20,932 feet; this peak, which lies northeast of the highest summit, was called Meena, East Peak in previous reports and given as 20,309 feet. The ascent of Gordoghan Zom was actually made on August 4 and not August 8 as noted on page 198. Doubtless the most authoritative sources of Hindu Kush climbing are found in the articles by Dr. A. Diemberger and Wolfgang Frey in the *Österreichische Alpenzeitung*.