

July 30 at 13,900 feet on the 15-mile-long glacier. On August 2 Camp I was established at 15,525 feet on the upper part of the glacier, a mile west of Z3. On August 5 Graziano Ferrari, Stefano Mazzoli and Alberto Fogli placed Camp II at 17,700 feet and on the 8th climbed P 6110* (20,046 feet; 2 miles south of Camp I on the valley's east ridge). On August 9 Ferrari and Mazzoli climbed P 5930 (19,456 feet; 2 miles west of Camp I on the west ridge). That same day Ricardo Lorenzi, the 18-year-old girl Flavia Masini, Marco Rosa, Angelo Zatti, liaison officer Zagad and I set out from Camp I to establish Camp III at 5330 meters (17,487 feet; 3 miles southwest of Camp I near the head of the glacier). On August 10 we climbed P 5810 (19,062 feet; at the western side of the head of the glacier). On August 12 Ferrari and Ettore Nanni ascended P 5710 (18,734 feet; one mile south of P 5930). On August 13 Lorenzi, Nanni, Zatti and Rosa from Camp II again climbed P 6110. On August 15 Mazzoli and Fogli made the difficult ascent of P 5680 (18,635 feet; 3 miles southwest of Base Camp on the east ridge). We moved back to Base Camp. On August 16 Ferrari, Fabio Bertocelli, Marco Mairani and Rainer Stechel climbed P 5330 (17,487 feet; $\frac{5}{8}$ mile northwest of Z8). They found a cairn on top.

ARTURO BERGAMASCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

* Altitudes determined by aneroid barometer.

La Schal. Our expedition was made up of Pierre Cier, Dr. Marc Koch, his wife Elisabeth, my wife Francine and me. Our objective was La Schal, near the Hagshu La, a pass which links the Chenab and Doda Rivers. The mountain lies just north of the Barnaj peaks. We established Base Camp on August 11 near the La Schal Glacier on the northern approaches of the pass. We fixed 1000 feet of rope between Base and Camp I at 17,400 feet. Camp II was at 18,500 feet above a second glacial plateau. The weather was bad as we advanced the camps. My wife and I set out from Base Camp finally in fine weather on August 20 to join the other three in Camp I. Dr. Koch fell sick and he and his wife descended to Base. My wife, Cier and I continued to Camp II. On August 22 we three attacked the northeast face and climbed to the summit of La Schal (6135 meters, 20,128 feet) after a seven-hour ascent.

JEAN-PAUL CHASSAGNE, *Club Alpin Français*

Pakistan

K2, West Ridge and Abruzzi Spur Attempts. Our team consisted of Doug Scott, Joe Tasker, Dick Renshaw and me. We left Skardu on May 10. Deep snow on the Baltoro Glacier hindered our progress.

At the foot of K2 on May 24, the porters refused to carry loads onto the Savoia Glacier. As a result, the four of us and our two Hunzas, who helped us to Camp I, spent a week ferrying loads to Advanced Base Camp at the foot of the west ridge. We had decided to make a "capsule" ascent; we would fix our 17 ropes between camps, pulling them up as we moved upwards and stringing them out again. On May 29 we reached 20,000 feet, the site of the 1978 Camp I. On June 5 we got to the site of new Camp I, sheltered beneath a large rock buttress at 21,000 feet. The following day Scott and Tasker occupied this camp to push on to the crest of the ridge at 21,500 feet, thus diverging from the fatal 1978 route, which cut across a slope to the first rock step. With Camp I stocked with three weeks' food, we pulled up the ropes below Camp I. On June 15, after a four-day storm, Renshaw and I followed the crest of the ridge on mixed climbing and reached 22,500 feet. The next day Scott and Tasker took over the lead, whilst we other two carried loads. At 23,000 feet Tasker led a difficult and very steep rope-length diagonally across the first rock step to reach the foot of a large snowfield beside the ridge, just short of the site for Camp II. The way was now clear of major technical difficulties to 26,000 feet. Scott had strong misgivings about the route and about our "capsule" style. Load carrying was exacerbating a back injury incurred in the 1978 accident. He decided to descend. We saw that a team of three would not be strong enough to continue up the west ridge and that it was better to change the route than to split the team. On June 24 the four of us moved up a broken, rocky ridge to a small site at 19,000 feet on the Abruzzi Spur, where we put up two tents. We spent three nights there, held up by high winds and snowfall. We returned to Base Camp to restock. Scott decided to return home. On July 2 Renshaw, Tasker and I returned to the Abruzzi Spur, making our first camp at 20,000 feet. A long day of difficult and complex climbing on July 3 brought us to the site of Camp II, which we occupied on July 4. After two days of storm, the weather was less fierce on July 7 and we spent a long day on increasingly difficult ground. The more we climbed, the more respect we had for the early explorers of the route. House's Chimney in particular, below Camp II, must have been the most difficult pitch in the Himalaya when it was first climbed. The next day we moved up and stopped off at a small campsite. On July 9 late in the afternoon we reached a perfect campsite on the crest of the southeast ridge at 24,700 feet. The fresh snow had made this already difficult ground even more so. The best weather was on July 10 when we established camp at 25,400 feet. Deep, worrying snow slopes with hidden bergschrunds and two ice walls brought us to the upper shoulder. All day on July 11 was spent in the tent in bad weather. On the 12th we left to make camp somewhere on the summit pyramid to be in position to reach the summit the day after. Ploughing up thigh-deep snow, we reached a rock at four P.M. from the top of which we dug away the

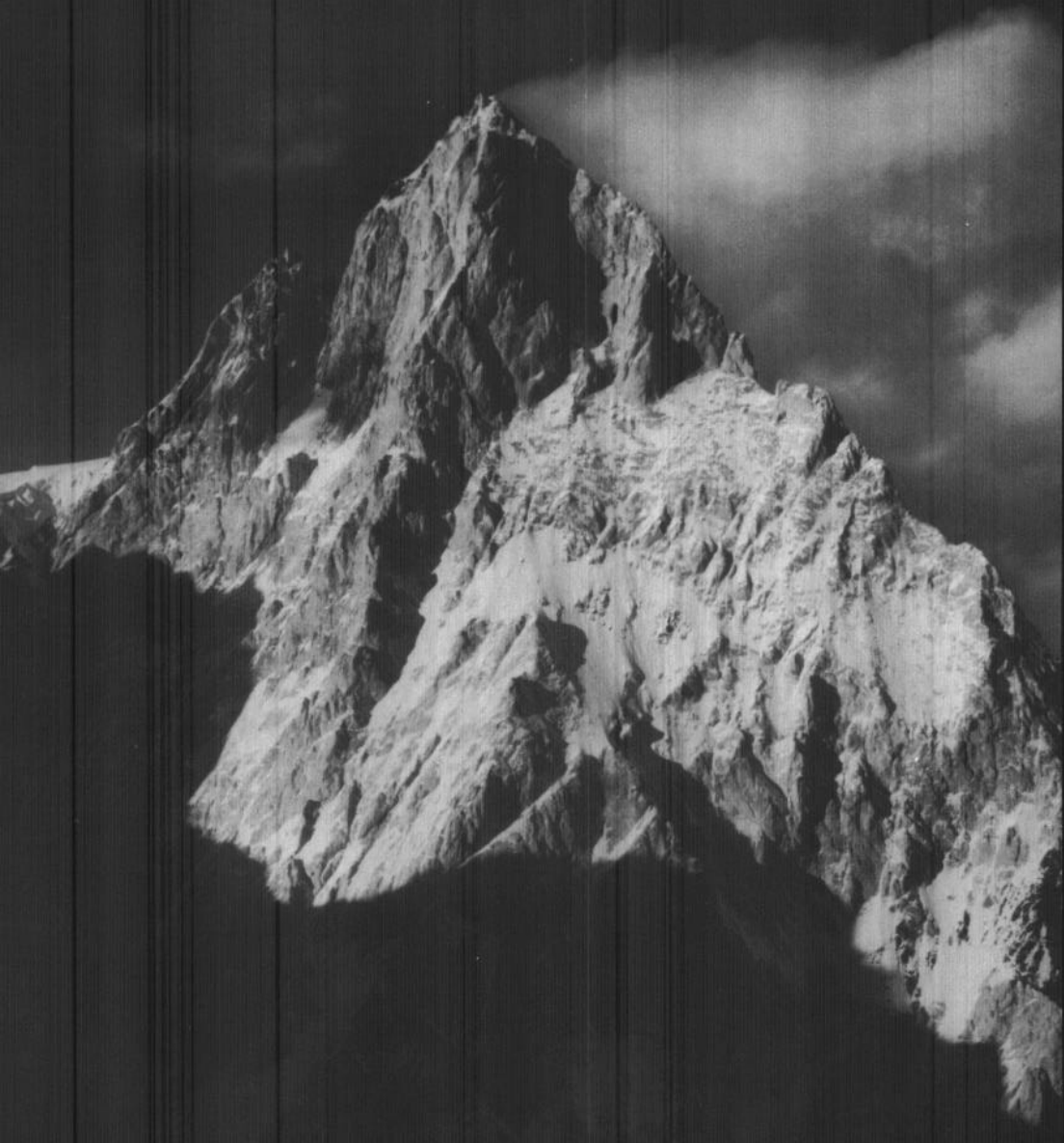


PLATE 79

Photo by James Wickwire

**The West Face of SKYANG
KANGRI.**

snow to make a tiny campsite, just big enough for the tent, at 26,500 feet. In the middle of the night an avalanche poured down from above, crushing the tent and burying all three. I dragged myself out, pulled out Renshaw, who had been pushed off the ledge by the snow and was held, poised above a 10,000-foot drop, only by the tent fabric. Tasker, deeply buried, was for a time unconscious. Still in stocking feet, we dug him free. Before there was time to put on boots and gloves, a second avalanche swept over us. Tied to a rope, I held onto Renshaw, preventing his being knocked off. Tasker, buried again, had to be dug free. When dawn came, we started down to the previous campsite. On July 14, with no abatement in the weather, we descended an alternate route on snow-covered rock. It took six hours to descend the 700 feet to our earlier Camp IV. On July 15 one last terrifying snow slope led to the top of an ice wall, down which we rappelled. After the rappel, I clipped into an old Japanese rope. An avalanche knocked me down and broke two of the three strands. From there it was a gruelling 7000 feet to the bottom of the mountain. We decided to go back for one more try, taking six days of food. So far we had had two good days in July. We reached Camp I on July 22. By the time we were at Camp II, it was snowing. On July 24 we got to the shoulder at 24,700 feet and spent the next three days waiting for the winds to subside and the snow to stop. July 28 dawned not perfectly clear but better and we decided to go up. We found a much safer campsite on a prow of rock, 500 feet lower than our previous high point. The next day winds kept us in this camp at 26,000 feet. On July 30 we were up at one A.M. ready for a summit attempt. The winds were as powerful as the day before and the visibility poor; we had been on a diet of less than 1000 calories for the last few days. We had to go down. The snow conditions were bad, perhaps worse than previously, but knowing the route, we were able to reach the foot of the mountain, exhausted, late that night.

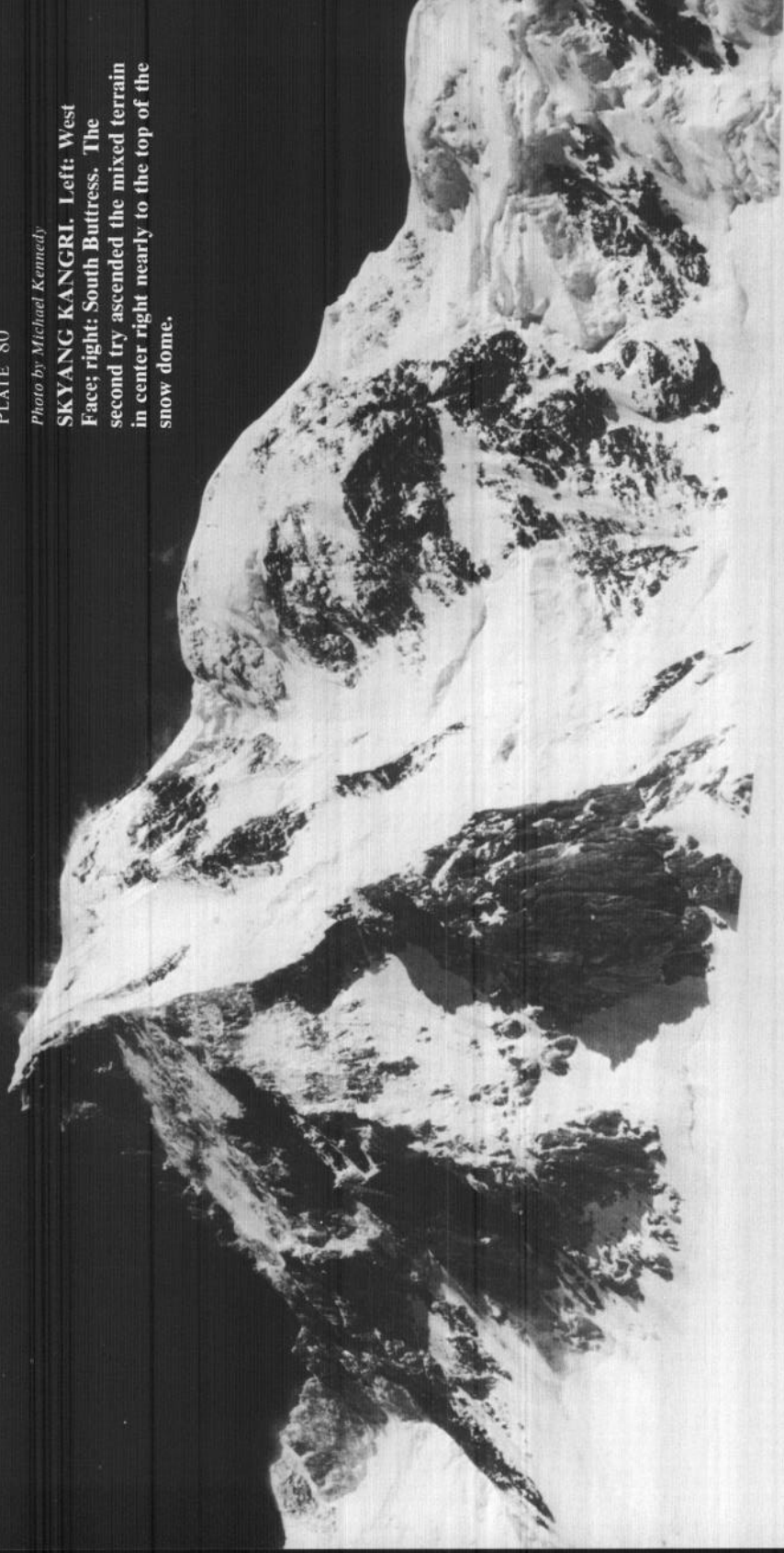
PETER BOARDMAN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Skyang Kangri Attempt. Our lightweight expedition, consisting of Jeff Lowe and me, attempted Skyang Kangri (7544 meters, 24,750 feet) alpine-style. May 27 saw us in Dasso, May 30 in Askole and June 6 at the site of the French Base Camp at the foot of K2. The porters on the approach performed very well. The French Base Camp was a shock. An area the size of a football field was littered with cans, broken crates, gas cylinders and all manner of debris. On June 8 our liaison officer Captain Tariq Ihtisham and I carried loads to 18,500 feet on the upper Godwin-Austen Glacier and established our Advanced Base Camp opposite the northeast ridge of K2. Two days later Jeff and I carried another load there and on June 12 we both moved up to camp. For acclimatization, on June 14 we started up the Japanese route, the east ridge, reach-

PLATE 80

Photo by Michael Kennedy

SKYANG KANGRI. Left: West Face; right: South Buttress. The second try ascended the mixed terrain in center right nearly to the top of the snow dome.



ing 21,000 feet before turning back on the 15th in bad weather with much new snow. Then, on June 20, we went back to our original objective, the west face. The face rises 6000 feet above the glacier, with 1000 feet of easy glacier walking, another 2000 feet of moderate snow-and-ice and mixed climbing and a rock headwall the rest of the way. We were to attempt the prominent buttress in the center of the face. We spent five hours on June 21 reaching a good bivouac in a bergschrund at 20,000 feet. On the 22nd we continued up moderate snow-and-ice slopes with several mixed pitches at the end. We bivouacked at the start of the upper buttress at 21,700 feet. My gut feeling of dread continued and I felt compelled to retreat, which we did after a single pitch on June 23. In retrospect, we still disagree about the feasibility of the climb. The limestone rock, contrary to our expectations, was very soft, crumbly and crackless. We returned to the mountain on July 2 and attempted the south buttress, starting at 19,000 feet. We bivouacked on the night of July 3 in hammocks at 20,000 feet, having climbed a number of easy snow-and-ice pitches interspersed with harder mixed ones on the lower third of the buttress. On July 4 we continued through the major difficulties of the route, a 1000-foot rock band between 20,500 and 21,500 feet, bivouacking again in hammocks. The hard pitches had been F8 and F9. Late that night it began to storm. Having completed the greatest difficulties, we decided to continue to the crest of the east ridge, climbing through knee- and sometimes waist-deep snow. We reached the final rocky outcrops and again bivouacked in hammocks at about 23,200 feet. Jeff felt nausea and we rested for the day in our hammocks, hoping for an improvement in Jeff's condition and in the weather. He, however, developed altitude sickness, with signs of pulmonary edema and so we had to retreat again. Jeff was so weak that he felt unable to climb the few hundred feet to the east ridge. We had to rappel diagonally into a large gully that bounds the right side of the south face and then along easier, but very avalanche-prone slopes toward the "Cat's Ears." We spent the night of the 7th in a crevasse, the 8th at the Cat's Ears and returned to Advanced Base on the 9th. I had been without food for two days, but Jeff had been unable to eat for close to five. We returned to Base Camp on July 10, where Jeff made a rapid recovery.

MICHAEL KENNEDY

Broad Peak Attempt. We were at Base Camp on July 9 but were held up by five days of bad weather. Shortly after that Georges Bettembourg, Patrick Vallencant, Jean Louis Estienne and Denis Conte placed Camps I and II at 17,725 and 20,675 feet and headed up toward Camp III but were driven by the weather down to Base Camp for five more days of storm. They reascended and placed Camp III at 23,000 feet. More tries were made in doubtful weather. Bettembourg and Vallencant got to

25,000 feet in deep snow, skied and filmed the descent. Later the same pair and I ascended to 23,000 feet and again were driven down by storms. We were also accompanied by the American movie-photographer Howard Ingle.

FREDERIC LABAEYE, *Club Alpin Français*

Mitre Peak. My wife Marie Jeanne Ghirardini, liaison officer Noveed Rahman and I started on our approach march on April 28 and got to Base Camp on May 26 after two weeks of acclimatization at Hotto and Rdokas. I left Base Camp on May 30 to bivouac alone on the Baltoro Glacier at the foot of the west face of Mitre Peak. On May 31 I climbed the couloir which leads to the crescent ridge and on June 1 ascended the ridge to bivouac 200 feet from the top. I went to the top on June 2 and started the descent, returning on June 4 to Base Camp. I made this solo ascent in bad weather and snow fell on June 1, 2 and 3. The rock was very bad and there was great danger from avalanches and cornices. The ice and snow were 65°. (UIAA V+).

IVAN GHIRARDINI, *Club Alpin Français*

Chogolisa Attempt. Our Chogolisa crew met with an accident on July 18. We were descending the ice face of the 1975 Austrian route on the south face of the southwest summit in bad weather after reaching 6850 meters (22,474 feet). The night before we had a nasty bivouac at 22,000 feet, hanging off ice screws on a 55° slope and unable to light our MSR stoves. On July 18 we reached the top of the ice face on the left (wrong) side only to find a knife-edged ridge and an approaching storm. We had chosen the left side because of windslab-avalanche danger on the right. The three of us had descended to 21,800 feet by 4:30 P.M. The snow was softer here and we hoped to build a terrace for the night and light our stoves. Without warning, Canadian John Wittmayer was avalanched off, dragging our leader, Howard Weaver, with him. I was unroped at the moment, standing next to Howard when he went. They fell the length of the ice face and over a large schrund at the bottom, rolling to a stop at 19,000 feet. I climbed down alone, reaching them at six P.M. John was the worst off with a dislocated knee, cracked ribs and sprained fingers. Howard had wrenched both knees and had a severe concussion. Both were badly bruised; their faces blackened from frostbite sustained by lying on the ice. But both had, miraculously, survived their 2700-foot fall. The avalanche which carried them down also buried most of our gear, including our stoves for which I searched much of the night. Fortunately I had the tent and medical kit with me and could give them shelter and first aid. The next morning I climbed down to a Japanese tent for help. A large Japanese party was fixing its way up the southwest

PLATE 81

Photo by H. Adams Carter

MITRE's West Face. The route ascended the snow couloir in the center left to the col and up the skyline.



ridge. There were no climbers there, but I managed to contact them by walkie-talkie. They descended from their upper camps that day and the next. Avalanches and bad weather prevented us from reaching the injured climbers until July 21. They were still alive but in desperate shape after four waterless days. During the time I had been away, they had been hit by two further avalanches, the first wiping out their tent. Our other tent was at Camp III, some 200 yards distant. They crawled to this tent on July 20, only to be mauled by the air blast of the largest avalanche that night. We found them on the 21st in the remains of this second tent. On July 23 the rescue party of seven Japanese, three Japanese high-altitude porters and me began evacuating Wittmayer by stretcher. Weaver could walk with assistance. Helped by the low-altitude porters, we reached the jeep road and the Indus River on July 29. Wittmayer is now (September) in a Vancouver, B.C. hospital in good spirits but worried about having trouble walking for the rest of his life. Weaver has completely recovered.

DOUGLAS CANNALTE

Chogolisa Attempt, South Ridge of Southwest Peak and Rescue. The members of our expedition were Kiyō Saito, Soichi Funai, Shoichi Yamada, Toshihito Kobayashi, Sizuya Tanaka, Tetsuro Hatano, Yoshio Ota and I as leader. We hired 82 porters at Skardu and Khapalu. We left Sulmo on May 28. On June 5 we placed Base Camp on the Kaberi Glacier. Camp III was located at 16,000 feet at the foot of the unclimbed south ridge of the southwest peak of Chogolisa. From this time on the weather became worse. It snowed every other day, making the ridge difficult. Camp IV was at 18,200 feet. It was difficult to get to Camp V because of the new snow and avalanches. Finally we established Camp V at 21,325 feet on July 15. After making Camp V, we retired to Camp IV to acclimatize. On July 19 five of us were heading back up to Camp V on the summit attack. When we got to 20,675 feet, we had an emergency radio call from Camp IV, informing us that the American party had met with an avalanche accident on the Austrian route. We decided immediately to go down to help save the Americans, though two would keep on going up to Camp V to bring down food. The next day we reached Camp III where two of our members and Cannalte were waiting. He had climbed to Camp III to ask for the rescue. Because it was snowing we could not advance further but got to the accident spot at two P.M. the next day. Fortunately the two injured climbers were alive, though they had almost had nothing to eat or drink for five days. Our doctor tended them. After one day's rest we carried the injured down through the icefall and to our Camp III. By that time our food did not let us make a second attempt.

SHUNSUKE TAMURA, *Osaka Gaikokugo University, Japan*

Masherbrum Attempt. Christine de Colombel and I took as our objective the beautiful west ridge of Masherbrum (7821 meters, 25,660 feet), hoping to climb it without high-altitude porters, oxygen or fixed camps. It was the first time that a woman has undertaken an expedition of this kind. After good weather in May and much of June, it deteriorated progressively. During July and the first two weeks of August there were only three spells of good weather, the longest lasting six days. It was said to be the worst weather in 25 years. We arrived on June 16 at Base Camp at 14,100 feet after a five-day approach. From June 17 to 25 we reconnoitered the west branch of the Masherbrum Glacier but decided that the approaches to the west ridge were objectively too dangerous. We turned to the American route. From July 1 to 5 we reconnoitered to 20,350 feet. After a period of bad weather when we carried loads and descended to Hushe for provisions, we made the first summit try on July 20 to 23 but were stopped by bad weather at 21,650 feet. The second attempt took place from August 1 to 11. On August 6 we placed a tent at 23,000 feet and broke trail to 23,625 feet. On the 8th much snow fell. That night our tent was carried down some meters in an avalanche. Christine de Colombel got badly bruised ribs. We descended to Base on August 9 to 11 with difficulty because of her condition in dangerous deep snow.

DAVID BELDEN, *Club Alpin Français*

Mango Gusor. A Japanese expedition led by Tateshi Sudo is said to have climbed Mango Gusor (6288 meters, 20,630 feet). Details are lacking.

Hidden Peak South, Southwest Ridge, and Hidden Peak, Southwest Face. Ours was an ultra-lightweight expedition of only two members, Georges Narbaud and me, without logistic support at Base Camp, high-altitude porters or artificial oxygen. We made a 12-day approach, which ended on June 11. After a common start our route followed a line slightly to the right of the French attempt in 1936. The ascent of Hidden Peak South presented serious mixed difficulties, notably a 50-foot ice wall at 20,350 feet which barred the exit from an S-shaped, 1500-foot-high couloir. Above, some very steep slopes of mixed terrain ended at cornices which led to the summit of Hidden Peak South. The final cornice was problematical; unstable ice and snow. We carried our own supplies and fixed ropes on delicate and dangerous places. We had no fixed camps but moved up and down, bivouacking. The final push for Hidden Peak South began on June 29 with eight days of food and cross-country skis and boots. We reached the summit (7069 meters, 23,193 feet) on July 2. From that summit to get to Hidden Peak it was necessary to descend the northwest slope of Hidden Peak South, a moderate slope which led

to a basin 500 feet lower. After crossing the basin on skis, we got to the first slopes of the south-southwest face. These are rather broken by a row of séracs and crevasses. The steep east-southeast ridge leads to the summit. After climbing the south peak, we kept on but the weather prevented the ascent. Narbaud became snow-blind. We descended to Base Camp on July 8. The final assault started on July 10. A summit attempt on July 14 failed, but we reached the top (8068 meters, 26,460 feet) at 1:30 P.M. on July 15. We used skis between the foot of the north face of the south peak and 25,100 feet and cross-country ski boots to the summit. The weather this year was particularly bad. Only eight of the first ten days were clear. After that we made use of short clearings.

MAURICE BARRARD, *Club Alpin Français*

Gasherbrum II. A seven-man-and-a-woman Japanese expedition led by Hideo Sato climbed Gasherbrum II (8035 meters, 26,360 feet). They established Base Camp at 16,650 feet on June 17 and Camp I at 17,900 feet on the 21st. R. Watanabe fell ill with pulmonary edema on June 27, was carried to Concordia and evacuated by helicopter. Climbing resumed on July 7. Camps II, III and IV were established on the southwest ridge at 19,000, 20,850 and 24,500 feet on July 11, 23 and 28. On August 1 Sato, Masaaki Fukushima and Kenji Imada headed for the summit, which they reached after a bivouac at 24,215 feet at three P.M. on the 2nd. They were at the summit together with members of the Spanish expedition. An account is in *Iwa To Yuki* 87 on page 106.

Gasherbrum II. After leaving Bongla on July 1 with 60 Balti porters, we finally set up Base Camp at 16,900 feet on the South Gasherbrum Glacier on July 11. Camps I and II were on the same glacier at 18,500 and 19,675 feet, the latter at the foot of the southwest ridge of Gasherbrum II. We fixed rope on the 45° to 50° slopes of the ridge to reach Camp III at 21,325 feet. The route to Camp IV followed the ridge to a small 23,000-foot basin at the foot of the spur that leads to the summit pyramid. On August 2 at 2:30 P.M. Pere Aymerich and Enric Font, along with the Japanese Hideo Sato, Kenji Imada and Masaaki Fukushima, reached the summit (8035 meters, 26,360 feet) after a precarious bivouac at 24,450 feet. On August 3 Luis Gómez, Antonio Torá and I made a second attempt but a quick change of weather drove us back. Dr. Antoni Ricart also accompanied us.

CONRAD BLANCH, *Centre Excursionista de Catalunya, Spain*

Gasherbrum IV Attempt. Todd Bibler, Don Frederickson, Matt Kerns, Craig McKibben, Jim Nelson, Dr. Charles Scherz and I as leader began

the trek to Base Camp from Bongla on June 12 and arrived there some days later. We spent 2½ weeks ferrying loads to Advanced Base Camp at 20,000 feet on the upper Gasherbrum Glacier. After a period of stormy weather, we attempted the south face, hoping to intersect the south ridge higher up. At 22,500 feet we encountered thin, loose snow over very loose rock. We abandoned the route and decided to attempt the east face or the original Italian route on the northeast ridge. After more bad weather, McKibben, Kerns, Nelson and I climbed the Italian icefall to the base of the east ridge. Bibler and Frederickson continued to the base of the northeast ridge, but gave it up because of deep snow and lack of supplies. Meanwhile Nelson and Kerns descended in deteriorating weather, leaving their food for McKibben and me. We remained at our 22,500-foot camp during a spell of bad weather. We made several attempts on the east face but had to retreat because of avalanches and bad weather. We returned to Base Camp after 34 days above to find that Jim had been evacuated due to a bowel obstruction. Porters had carried him to Base Camp. He was then evacuated to Skardu by helicopter and from there by plane to Islamabad, where he was operated on ten days after the onset of his illness. He has since made a complete recovery.

STEVEN J. SWENSON

Baltoro Kangri on Skis. Baltoro Kangri, formerly called the Golden Throne, has five distinct summits, the highest of which is 23,880 feet. It was climbed by Japanese in 1963 and 1976 from the Duke of Abruzzi Glacier via the prominent col to the east, Conway Col (20,669 feet). Our aim was to climb the mountain by the Japanese route and ski from the summit back to Advanced Base Camp. We were Dr. Peter Alston, Keith Geddes, Ian Gray, Phil Ham, Harry Rankin, Jess Stock and I as leader. We took 72 porters to Base Camp at 17,000 feet on the edge of the South Gasherbrum Glacier but used none above on our alpine-style ascent. Advanced Base was below Hidden Peak at the foot of slopes leading to Conway Saddle. We used snow caves higher. We were holed up for three days on the saddle in a blizzard. We found a route through the icefall above the saddle and made two more bivouac caves, the highest being at 22,500 feet. At two A.M. on June 6 we set off for the summit of Baltoro Kangri V (7260 meters, 23,819 feet), which we reached at two P.M. all except for Geddes, who had fallen ill on the ascent. Baltoro Kangri III, the highest summit, was avalanche prone and so was not climbed. Alston, Rankin and Stock skied from the summit to Advanced Base, which they reached at 9:30, the last two hours skiing in the dark. The others of us descended on foot, making another bivouac.

BRIAN HALL, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Mount Ghent, Second Ascent. From May 15 to July 5 Dr. Peter Brill, Georg Mezger, Dr. Rolf Schöpl-Sedlacek, Bernd Schreckenbach and I as leader were on 24,280-foot (7400-meter) Mount Ghent, which was first climbed by Wolfgang Axt in 1961. We followed the steps of the first-ascent party up the Shyok, Saltoro and Kondus valleys, across the Kondus Glacier, over the Sia La and up the west ridge of Mount Ghent. On June 18, Brill, Mezger and Schöpl reached the summit. The ascent was made on skis up to the highest camp, Camp IV at 21,100 feet.

BERNHARD SCHERZER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Apsarasas. The highest point of Apsarasas (7131 meters, 23,396 feet)* was gained on September 18 by two groups of an Indian Army team led by Brigadier K.N. Thadani. Seven members reached the summit at eleven A.M. and eight at 6:15 P.M. despite bad weather. From Leh in Ladakh they had traversed the Siachen Glacier. Advanced Base was set up at the junction of the Teram Shehr, Lolofond and Siachen Glaciers.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

Latok IV. The Sangaku Doshikai Expedition was composed of Koji Okano, Hisashi Handa, Tsutomu Tagusari, Dr. Masaki Noda and me as leader. Latok IV lies south of Latok III. A Japanese attempt in 1976 ended when a member was killed. We made Base Camp at 15,100 feet on the Baintha Lukpar Glacier on July 4, Camp I at 16,750 feet on the 7th and Camp II at 17,725 feet under the southwest face on the 8th. All but the doctor set out to attempt the face alpine-style on the 9th. We climbed three pitches on avalanche debris and twelve in a 45° ice couloir. Then we followed the ice face running up to the col between the main and south summits. Okano and Tagusari were exhausted at 19,700 feet. We all bivouacked there. On the 10th Handa and I reached the col. We climbed along the summit ridge but could not tell which of the four summits was the highest. Short of time, we retreated 150 feet below the first summit to the bivouac. With the other two we returned to Base Camp three days later. On July 15 Okano, Handa and I set out, but Handa had to give up. Okano and I bivouacked at 18,700 and 20,500 feet. We reached the summit (6456 meters, 21,182 feet) at 8:45 A.M. on July 18. On our return to the col, I soloed to the south peak. The weather turned bad on the descent. It was snowing heavily when we reached 19,200 feet. After we began to dig snow for the bivouac, we

* The altitude is usually given as 7245 meters or 23,770 feet. It is surprising that an Indian Army force should have crossed the Cease-Fire Line and entered into what is generally held to be Pakistan, although the Indians would dispute this.—*Editor.*

suddenly fell 150 feet into a crevasse. Okano broke a rib and I my right ankle. Luckily our sacks and ice hammers were near us. After waiting in vain for rescue for four days in the bottom of the crevasse, I decided to escape alone. Okano could not move. I remembered that the crevasse was near a ridge-like projection in the face and began to dig horizontally in the snow wall. After five hours I had a 12-foot tunnel to the face. That night's bivouac without protection was terrible. I encouraged myself, thinking of Doug Scott's crawl off the Ogre. The next afternoon I crawled to a plateau where I could see Camp II and my friends searching for us. They heard my cries, but I had to spend one more night exposed on the face. The three other members could not extract Okano from the crevasse, but luckily a three-man British party, led by Cairns Dickson, happened to pass on their way to Uzun Brakk Peak and they helped with the rescue. Okano was out eight days after the fall. We two injured climbers were evacuated to Gilgit by helicopter.

MOTOMU OHMIYA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Uzun Brakk. A Scottish expedition led by Alexander Dickson made the very difficult ascent of Uzun Brakk (6422 meters, 21,069 feet) by the northeast face. The peak, which lies north of the Biafo Glacier, is also known as Conway's Ogre. The summit was reached by Tony Saunders and Will Tapsfield in seven days of climbing.

Disteghil Sar East and Yazghil Dome South. A Polish expedition climbed in the Hispar Muztagh. They were Ryszard Kowalewski, leader, Andrzej Bieluń, Dr. Jacek Gronczewski, Tadeusz Piotrowski and Jerzy Tillak. Their baggage was lost for two weeks by the airline. The porters demanded three times the 1979 pay and asked for \$12 per day; they had drastically to reduce their equipment and took only six porters to help them up the Hispar and Kunyang (Khang) Glaciers. The porters went only as far as Bularung Alp and so the climbers had to pack alone the last four days to Base Camp. This was established on July 14 on the upper Kunyang Glacier at 14,275 feet. They made a depot at 16,750 feet. On July 21 they set off, bivouacking at 19,000, 20,350, 21,325 and 22,650 feet. On July 25 they ascended unclimbed Yazghil Dome South (7400 meters, 24,279 feet) by its southwest face. Deep snow and miserable weather plagued them, but it cleared as they were on the summit. From the same bivouac, on July 26 they made the first ascent of Disteghil Sar East (7700 meters, 25,263 feet), climbing its 2000-foot high east summit face, the bottom part of which they likened to the north face of the Matterhorn. They got to the summit only at 6:30 P.M. and descended by moonlight. They left Base Camp on July 29.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

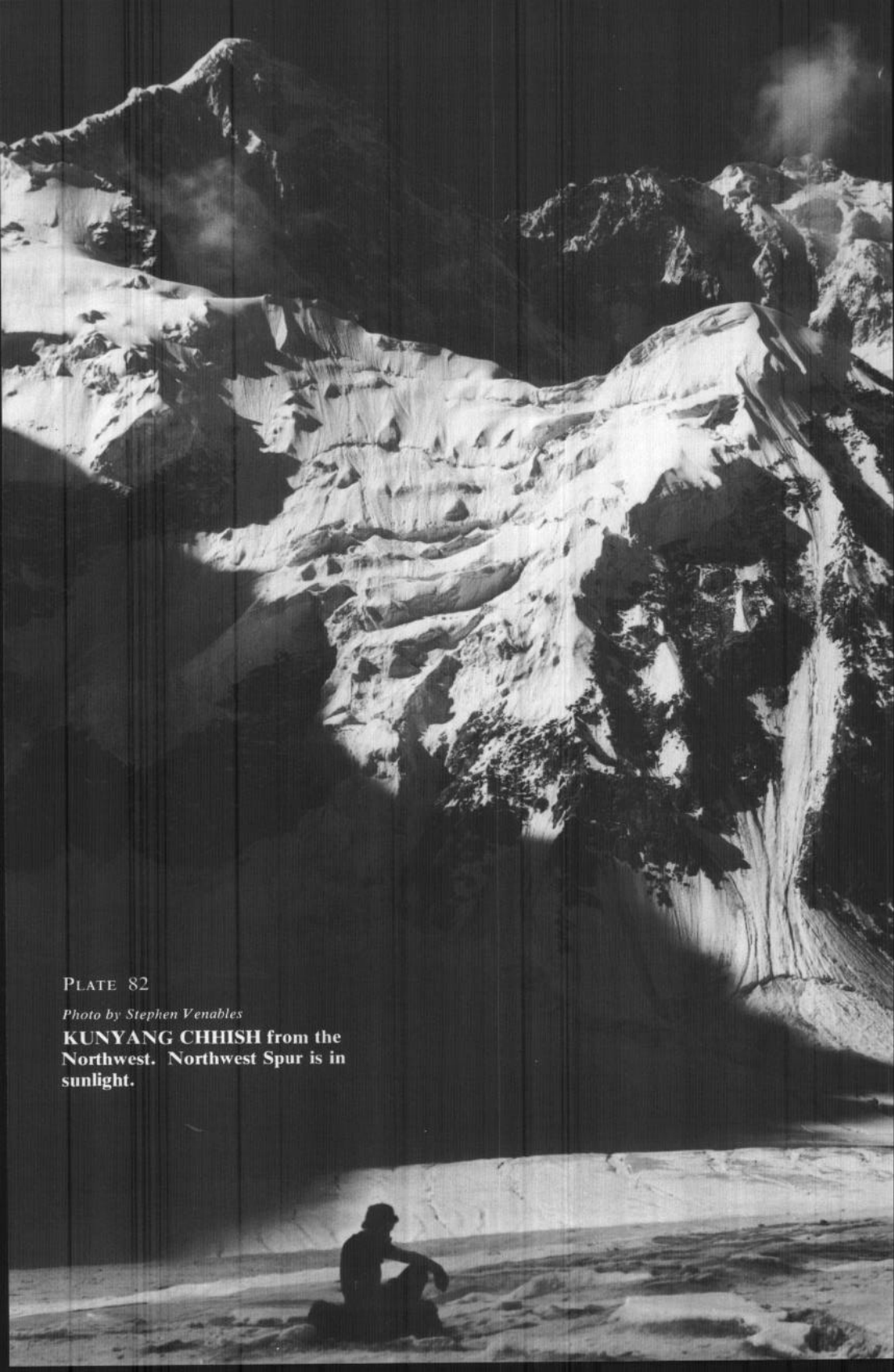


PLATE 82

Photo by Stephen Venables

KUNYANG CHHISH from the
Northwest. Northwest Spur is in
sunlight.

Kunyang Chhish Attempt. During July and August Phil Bartlett, Dave Wilkinson and I made the first attempt on the north side of Kunyang Chhish (7852 meters, 25,760 feet) in the Hispar Mustagh. (It is also spelled Kunyang Kish.) In spite of indifferent weather, we succeeded in climbing the northwest spur, a 6500-foot climb on snow and ice, and reached the north ridge, where a third snow-hole camp was dug at 22,500 feet. Heavy snow marooned us there for six days before we retreated to Base Camp for more supplies. A week later we climbed back to Camp III for a second attempt on the summit ridge. Again the weather went bad and again we were stuck for five days. Vast quantities of snow and dwindling supplies ruled out a summit bid and we descended empty-handed. The mountain has been climbed only once, from the south, by Poles Heinrich, Stryczyński, Szafirski and Zawada in 1971.

STEPHEN VENABLES, *Alpine Club*

Yutmaru Sar. This peak lies west of Kanjut Sar north of the Hispar Glacier. Our party consisted of Yu Watanabe, Shoji Ebara, Masahiro Motegi, Dr. Ryoko Kato and me as leader. Having approached from Nagar, we established Base Camp on the Yutmaru Glacier at 15,250 feet on June 19. We all climbed up the North Yutmaru Glacier to the site of Camp I at 16,900 feet at the foot of the mountain on the 21st. On the way back, Ebara fell into a crevasse and broke a rib. This and bad weather delayed activity. On July 3 we established Camp I. Camp II was at 18,875 feet. On July 5, despite bad weather, we got to the col on the west ridge and placed Camp III at 20,175 feet. On July 17 we crossed the great snowfield and placed Camp IV at 21,325 feet below the north ridge. The first summit attempt on the 18th failed in a snowstorm. It cleared on the 21st and we set out from Camp III for the summit, in spite of having little food. We bivouacked at 22,300 feet. On July 22, I was buried by a snow slide but was uninjured. In the afternoon Watanabe, Motegi and I got to the summit (7330 meters, 23,951 feet).

TADAO SUGIMOTO, *Tokyo Shigaku Club, Japan*

Momhil Sar Attempt. The members of our expedition were José Espona, Raúl Ferrara, Guillermo Fernández and I. We hoped to ascend the unclimbed west buttress of Momhil Sar (7343 meters, 24,092 feet). We traveled up the Gharesa Glacier and turned north up the first tributary, which leads past the west side of Momhil Sar. Base Camp was at 15,100 feet on the glacier, Camp I at 15,750 feet at the foot of the buttress and Camp II at 17,300 feet on the west buttress. We reached a foresummit of 17,725 feet on June 20 after some very difficult, partially

vertical ice climbing. We could not continue when Espona fell sick with pneumonia and Fernández froze his feet.

ANTONIO LUNA, *Grupo Universitario de Montaña, Córdoba, Spain*

Lupghar Sar. A Japanese expedition led by Kazuo Ito made the third ascent of this 23,610-foot (7196-meter) peak, climbing the southwest ridge. After approaching from Nagar to the Gharesa Glacier, most of the porters refused to go further and the climbers and four porters carried loads and pitched Base Camp on June 10. They followed the route of the previous German and Japanese ascents. Advance Base was at 17,400 feet. Camps I, II and III were placed at 18,050, 19,850 and 21,000 feet on June 5, 20 and 28 respectively. The first summit try failed 150 feet from the top after a bivouac. Ito and Takehiro Okazaki bivouacked at 22,950 feet and reached the summit of the west peak on August 4. They did not attempt to traverse to the east summit. (See *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 80, page 106.)

Batura Attempt. Noburu Takenaka and Hirooh Komamiya tried to climb the south ridge of Batura (7785 meters, 25,540 feet) from the Muchichur Glacier. After establishing Camp III at 23,300 feet on August 16, Takenaka lost a crampon and they descended to Base Camp. Komamiya had to return to Japan, but Takenaka returned to try it solo. He had to give up on August 27 about 1000 feet from the summit because of fatigue caused by deep snow. Takenaka was killed five months later during the Japanese winter attempt on Mount Everest. (More details in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 80, page 106.)

Bindu Gul Zom or Kunotak, Correction. On page 312 of *A.A.J.*, 1979 there is an incorrect account of the first ascent of Bindu Gul Zom, just east of Tirich Mir. There is a photo on page 311. Actually I made the first ascent of that peak in 1964. See *A.A.J.*, 1965, p. 472 and *Mountain World*, 1964-5, p. 193. The most complete account appears in the *Himalayan Journal*, 1965, p. 52, accompanied by a photo facing page 54 which is almost identical to the photo in *A.A.J.*, 1979. In my accounts we refer to the peak as Kunotak, the name used on the maps we consulted at the time.

GENE F. WHITE

Tirich Mir, East Peak, Southeast Ridge Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Murray Foubister, leader, Doug Herchmer, Hamish Mutch, Ian Taylor, and me, and was partially supported by the Alpine Club of Canada. We set up Base Camp (11,750 feet) near the junction of the North and South Barum Glaciers on August 23. Camp One (14,150 feet) was above the lower icefall on the South Barum Glacier and Camp II

(15,650 feet) at the base of the upper icefall. En route, at 15,000 feet on the northern side of the glacier, the body referred to in Butson's account (*A.A.J.*, 1979, p. 313) was found. It seems unidentifiable. Camp III (17,000 feet) was established above the upper icefall on September 1, the route avoiding all but the upper part of the ice by the easy rock buttress to the north. Snowfalls and avalanche hazard accompanied us on the face towards the southeast ridge, which was reached on September 7 (18,675 feet). More threatening weather and route difficulty halted further progress. On our return we climbed a peak which may be Owir VII (c. 17,600 feet) after a snowstorm.

STEPHEN BEZRUCHKA

P 5900, "Tekone Peak," Tirich Mir Massif. Our expedition consisted of Mike Browning, Dana Coffield, Bruce and John Gordon, Ed Ramey and me as leader. On July 1 our expedition flew from Rawalpindi to Chitral and the next day took the three-hour jeep ride to the small village of Parpish where we were met by our porters. A delightful 2½-day trek brought us to the site of the traditional Base Camp for the southern approach to Tirich Mir, located at 12,000 feet at the snout of the South Barum Glacier. By paying an additional day's wage, we were able to coax most of the porters up some formidable scree slopes parallel to the South Barum Glacier to 13,500 feet. Over the next few days we shuttled our gear from this makeshift camp to our official Base Camp at 15,000 feet, the site of the Norwegian's Camp II during their first ascent of Tirich Mir in 1950. Located just below the crest of a hill directly across from the point where the South Barum Glacier doglegs to the north and heads for Tirich Mir, this camp had running water, ample tent platforms and beautiful alpine flowers. After establishing Base Camp on July 7, the next three days were spent in transporting equipment up the long and heavily crevassed South Barum Glacier to a spot at 16,500 feet just below the upper icefall. From our glacier camp we had a spectacular view of our objective, P 5900 meters, the pyramidal shaped mountain just to the south of Lower Tirich Mir. On July 11 Dana Coffield, Mike Browning and I made what we believe to be the first ascent of this peak in one long day from our camp at 16,500 feet. Our route ascended the northeast face of the peak and involved climbing mixed snow and ice. The last 1000 feet, in particular, consisted of multiple pitches of "perfect" glacier and water ice ranging in steepness up to 55° or 60°. The summit was a classic corniced snow dome which was so precarious that we took turns crawling to the highest point while the other two climbers belayed from a safe distance below. As the area maps do not indicate a name for this mountain, we christened it "Tekone Peak," which is the Urdu word for "pyramid" or "triangle."

GLENN PORZAK

Nanga Parbat, Rupal Face, Alpine-Style Attempt. Our European expedition was composed of Patrick Bérault, Michel Lassagne, Laurent Chevalier, André Muller and me, *French*; Laurent Cosson and Heinz Steinkötter, *Italians*; and Bernd Neubaur, Michael Hoffmann, Ernst Schillinger and Joachim Köninger, *Germans*. We hoped to climb the Rupal Face alpine-style. We were at Base Camp from July 28 to August 28, but all five attempts, the highest of which reached 23,300 feet, were foiled by bad weather.

YANNICK SEIGNEUR, *Club Alpin Français*

Nanga Parbat, Rupal Face Attempt. On May 30 Alan and Adrian Burgess, Graham Drinkwater, Jon Jones, Randy Morse and I established Base Camp at 17,000 feet in the meadows of Tap Alpe. After reconnaissance, we established Advance Base at 14,000 feet at the foot of the south-southwest glacier. The immediate difficulty of the ensuing icefall meant that porters could not be used higher. On June 5 Camp I was placed at 15,500 feet. The first crisis struck on June 6 when Drinkwater fell ill with high-altitude pulmonary oedema. We all descended to Base Camp with him. Jones returned with him to Gilgit and put him on a plane for Rawalpindi. We other four went back up to Camp I on June 9. The next section to 20,000 feet was the crux of the climb and involved steep icy gullies and a final rock buttress. We fixed rope and on June 22 Alan Burgess and I occupied Camp II. The next day Adrian Burgess and Jones arrived with the news that Morse had dysentery and had left for Europe. A typical Nanga Parbat storm blew up and after two days of holding the tents down, we descended to Base Camp. On June 29 we started to reascend but in very unsettled weather. On July 3 we carried to 22,000 feet but on the 4th Jones announced that he did not feel strong enough to continue. The Burgesses and I moved to Camp III, where it stormed for several days. On July 7 we moved up 1000 feet to sleep in a snow cave. The following day a steep snow slope was crossed and steepening rocky ground led to Camp IV at 25,000 feet. July 9 was a rest day. At first light on July 10 we left Camp IV. After descending a short rock wall to a snow basin, some 400 yards across, we traversed to reach a slabby rock buttress descending from the ridge. After attempting three possibilities, we concluded that we had to follow just below the ridge. The snow was by then so soft that we descended to Camp IV. That night a ferocious storm broke. The retreat began. The monsoon had come. We left Base Camp on July 14.

PAUL MOORES, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Nanga Parbat, Rupal Face Attempt. Because of sickness and frost-bite suffered on the south face of Aconcagua, five of the planned Spanish expedition could not go to Nanga Parbat and only Luis Fraga could join

me. After only two days' march from Rampur, we got to Base Camp at 11,800 feet in the first week of August. We had only twelve 55-pound loads, of which five were of food for six weeks. We attempted the Austrian route of 1976 of Hanns Schell on the Rupal Face. Camp I was at 16,400 feet, where we spent some time to acclimatize. From there we climbed with much rockfall a couloir to Camp II at 19,700 feet. The weather deteriorated and we descended to Base Camp, where we found Yannick Seigneur's 14-man French expedition. Fraga and I ascended to Camp II to await good weather and were later joined there by Seigneur and Patrick Bérault. Together we climbed the next day to 23,000 feet and set up Camp III. We had hoped for another camp at 25,600 feet but during the night Bérault fell victim to high-altitude disease. In the morning he could not even sit up. We dragged him in his sleeping bag to 19,700 feet, more dead than alive. Other French assisted in his evacuation the next day. Bad weather and lack of time prevented Fraga and me from trying again. The French persisted for four weeks more but got only to 23,000 feet.

REINHARD KARL, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

China

Mount Everest (Qomolungma), Northeast Ridge and North Face. The Japanese Alpine Club's Qomolungma Expedition was composed of 39 members, including 13 press and television people. It was led by Hyoriko Watanabe. They established Base Camp on May 5 at the tongue of the Rongbuk Glacier at 16,900 feet. They then divided into two teams. *Northeast Ridge Team:* This 12-man team was led by Yoshio Hamono. They established Camps I and II at 18,050 and 19,700 feet on the East Rongbuk Glacier on March 16 and 17. Advanced Base was placed on March 22 at the head of the East Rongbuk at 21,325 feet and Camp IV on March 25 on the North Col at 23,000 feet. Soft snow and high winds slowed progress above the North Col. Camp V was established at 24,950 feet on April 6. Winds collapsed the tents there on the 15th. Camp VI was placed at 26,275 feet on May 1 and Camp VII at only 27,075 feet the next day. It had been hoped to establish the highest camp at 28,200 feet. Yasuo Kato and Susumu Nakamura set out from Advanced Base on April 29 on the summit climb. They left Camp VII on May 3, supported to the Second Step at 28,225 feet by Shoji Nakamura and Toichiro Mitani. Susumu Nakamura carried a 50-pound load including a television camera but gave up at 28,700 feet from extreme exhaustion. Kato climbed the remaining 325 feet alone, arriving at the summit at 4:55 P.M. He thus became the first person to climb Mount Everest from both Nepal and Tibet, having made the climb from the South Col in October of 1973. Both Kato and Nakamura were forced to bivouac without oxygen in separate places near the Second Step. Luckily, they got together the next