

China

Jiazi Attempt, Sichuan. Applications to attempt Namcha Barwa and Minya Konka (Gongga Shan) having been declined by the Chinese Mountaineering Association, Jiazi in the Daxue Shan was accepted as an alternative. Jiazi is the same as Djaze and as Rudshe Konka reported by A. Heim and E. Imhof from their visit to the Daxue Shan in 1930-1 and calculated by them to be 7100 meters. We were Major P. Neame, Captains M.R. Campbell, V.H. Needham and A.E. Whitley, Lieutenant F.M. Philip, Corporals J. Arthy and A.D.R. Baxter, Lance Corporal A.H. Leggat and I as leader. Our British Army China Expedition was mounted through Hong Kong with freight entering China and advancing by rail to Chengdu. On April 4 the team, with CMA Liaison Officer Song Hai Tao, Interpreter Liu Zi Kang, Manager Chen Ming Ming and Cook Chi Yu Shan, left Chengdu in a minibus with the freight accompanying us by truck. From Yaan we were diverted to Han-Yuan on the Tatu River, which was then followed to Luding. The direct route to Luding was denied although 200 kms shorter. The roadhead was at Lao Yulin, 11 kms south of Kangding. Ponies were used to set up a reconnaissance base 18 kms up the Jiazi Longba on April 6. From there we explored the western approaches to Jiazi. We traversed the entire length of the Riuchi and Tshiburongri Glaciers and the 5400-meter (17,717-foot) pass linking them. We also reached the head of the Tshiburongri Glacier (also 5400 meters) from the west. A long trip was mounted to explore the eastern approach to Jiazi, by crossing the Yachiagan Pass from Lao Yulin to the South Gate of Heaven (Nan Men Guan Gou). The east side was hot, humid and heavily forested in steep-sided river gorges in contrast to the glaciated high grazing valleys on the west. Also during this phase Arthy and Baxter on April 16 made the first ascent of Tshiburongri, which our liaison officer preferred to call "Riuchi Gongga." The altitude on the Chinese survey map was 5938 meters (19,450 feet). The ascent was up a long snow gully, the right hand of the twin gullies on the southeast face. As a result of the reconnaissance, it was decided to attempt the northeast ridge of Jiazi. Two routes were tried but both were foiled at about 6000 to 6200 meters (about 20,000 feet) where a steep rock band girdles the mountain. We switched to the northwest ridge in mid May in worsening weather, the forerunner of the monsoon. On May 10 Arthy and Baxter were stopped on the ridge at about 6100 meters, Baxter taking a fall while trying to force the rock band on the north face. On May 18 they were joined by Neame and having fixed 200 meters of rope over steep mixed ground to gain an ice gully on the west face, they made a final summit bid. The gully had been swept by high winds to reveal steep, brittle ice. Baxter fell off nearly 20 meters and badly bruised his thigh. The attempt was terminated and the expedition abandoned. We

withdrew in good order and after transport difficulties in Peking, we finally reached Hong Kong on May 31. The survey map held by the liaison officer was accurate in all respects that we could check. It showed Jiazi as having a height of 6540 meters (21,457 feet), which should, sadly, be preferred to Imhof's 7100 meters (23,294 feet).

M.W. HENRY DAY, *Major, Royal Engineers and Alpine Club*

Peaks East of Gongga Shan (Minya Konka). On April 15 ten members of the Academic Alpine Club Zürich left Switzerland for China and reached Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, within five days. There, a ton of food and gear awaited us. Thanks to the good organization of the Chinese Mountaineering Association, we got to Moshimien on April 23, following the main road to Lhasa. Two days of reconnaissance and discussions with the local porters provided the necessary information and we were struggling through thick jungle to arrive at Base Camp three days later. Most of the porters refused to carry their loads further up the Hai-loko Glacier and thus we were forced to set up Base Camp at only 9675 feet. The information about the weather given us by Professor Imhof, one of the first Westerners in the region in the early 1930s, proved accurate. During our 50-day stay at Base Camp, we had only four fine days. Some hundred meters higher the weather improved slightly, but high morning winds and late afternoon snowfalls hampered us considerably. Consequently, the danger of avalanches was high and could not be foreseen. On May 1, J. Hochstrasser and I climbed Black Triangle (5050 meters, 16,568 feet) and G. Dürrenberger and G. Furger ascended Deerhorn Mountain (5050 meters, 16,568 feet). These lay south of Base Camp. The first three weeks were spent with setting up advanced Base Camp at the foot of the 6400-foot-high icefall and finding a way around it. A two-week assault on Mount Tai (6410 meters, 21,031 feet) was successful on May 20 after Dürrenberger, F. Häflinger, R. Spoerry and I were snowed in for four days at 18,375 feet. We approached from the north and climbed the northwest ridge. The peak lies southeast of Minya Konka. We also climbed the mountains that lie in a northwest-southeast line to the northeast of Tai: from southeast to northwest, Three Color Mountain (5030 meters, 16,503 feet) on May 8 by Häflinger and me; Sheep Mountain (5200 meters, 17,061 feet) on May 13 by Dürrenberger and me; and Snow Pagoda (5480 meters, 17,979 feet) on May 29 by Dürrenberger, G. Styger and me. Because of the bad snow conditions, we had to give up our plan to climb Minya Konka, an ascent that would have been far too dangerous. Neither the northeast nor southeast ridge could be reached safely. In agreement with the Chinese liaison officer, having found a way around the icefall over a smooth rock face on fixed ropes, we concentrated on the east side of Minya Konka. A steep 2300-foot-high snow-and-ice gully led us onto the Ma-tsöko

Glacier basin, where we were able to climb six unclimbed 6000-meter peaks, among them Sun-Yat-Sen (6886 meters, 22,593 feet), the highest in the region apart from Minya Konka. On June 4 Dürrenberger, Häflinger, Spoerry and I approached the col between the south and main summits and followed the east ridge to the main peak. On June 5 Dürrenberger and I climbed Sun-Yat-Sen South (6600 meters, 21,654 feet) by its south ridge. We also made the following ascents: from west to east, White Pyramid (6020 meters, 19,751 feet) and Pyramid Mountain (6150 meters, 20,177 feet) on June 2 by Dürrenberger, Häflinger, F. Müller, Spoerry, Styger and me; and Long Ridge Mountain (6100 meters, 20,013 feet) on June 4 by G. Benisowitsch, Furger and Müller. The fact that we had climbed too many peaks—only Minya Konka and Tai were stipulated by contract—brought us considerable trouble, but as we could prove that we had acted in full agreement with the liaison officer, we finally found a solution agreeable for both parties. Sun-yat-Sen may now also be called Zhong Shan. Our names were given us by Mr. Fong, chief of the Chengdu branch of the Chinese Mountaineering Association, after I had given him a description of what the mountains looked like. Our conversation was in English. Mr. Fong then translated them into Chinese.

ROMAN BOUTELLIER, *Akademischer Alpen Club, Zürich*

Gongga Shan Tragedy. An extraordinary tale comes from an attempt on Gongga Shan by Japanese from Hokkaido led by Akio Kawagoe. The 24 men and one woman established Base Camp on the Yan-Tsöko Glacier on April 4. Camp V was placed at 22,575 feet on the unclimbed northeast ridge on May 7. On the 10th twelve set out from that camp. Four soon gave up but the other eight continued upward unroped until the lead climber, Yuji Fujiwara, was only about 100 meters below the summit. He slipped and plunged down the north face. The other seven contacted Base Camp and were told to descend. They had only one 40-meter rope, the two ends of which two climbers anchored with ice axes. The remaining five descended, using the rope as a fixed line. On the second pitch, one of the climbers apparently slipped and pulled off all the other six, who fell down the north face. More details are found in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 83, pages 106-7. Editor Tsunemichi Ikeda has been so kind as to send us further details, written by the photographer Mikio Abe, who stopped below with the four. Abe wrote: "After Fujiwara's fall, I went up alone and met with the seven on their descent. I reached them when they had finished descending the first pitch and I merged with the seven. On the second pitch, my carabiner tangled on the rope and I removed it to adjust it. I was the last in line. While I was adjusting the sling and not looking at the others, the seven slipped. I could only then see them all slipping together and disappearing into the thick mist. They made no effort to stop with

their axes; I wonder why they did not. I walked unroped down the slope 200 meters to the other three members, who had stayed below. At one point I fell up to my hips in a crevasse but I descended safely."

Anyemaqen. In May a 13-man Japanese expedition claims to have made the first ascent of Anyemaqen (6282 meters, 20,610 feet) when Yoshio Yamamoto, Giichiro Watanabe and Katsumi Miyake reached the top. Yuzo Tada was the leader. Details are lacking. Another Japanese party led by Yakoto Torokawa made an ascent in August.

Anyemaqen. A German-Austrian group made an ascent of Anyemaqen on June 10 from the south.

Anyemaqen, East Face. During September and October Geof Bartram, Tim Macartney-Snape, Andrew Henderson, Charles Massy and I visited the Anyemaqen range in Qinghai province. The weather was very bad and we were able to complete only one climb, the east face of Anyemaqen, a new route. Bartram, Macartney-Snape, Henderson and I crossed the glacier to the east face, ascended a couple of pitches of rotten rock, traversed onto snow and climbed the face with one bivouac to the east summit (6152 meters, 20,183 feet). We dug a snow cave in the saddle between the east and main summits. The next day, September 25, Macartney-Snape and I continued up to the main summit (6282 meters, 20,610 feet) while Bartram and Henderson started down. Very strong winds and deep snow made the east ridge too dangerous to descend; instead we traversed the northeast ridge, catching up with the other two late in the afternoon. The northeast ridge was six kilometers long. We made the first ascent of three subpeaks, the highest being 5900 meters (19,357 feet). The Chinese Mountaineering Association was very helpful though their costs are extremely high. Already there are rubbished campsites, a deplorable state of affairs. We collected rubbish and dumped it in crevasses. In particular, we should like to register a complaint about a Japanese expedition which had been there earlier in 1981. Apart from leaving a mess of tinfoil, cans and bottles, they also spray-painted in red several rocks, advertising that they had been there. They also made ditches around their tents, which has prevented the vegetation from recovering. We would favour having China fine heavily groups who abuse the environment and refuse clearances to groups who do damage.

LINCOLN HALL, *Australia*

Siguniang. After leaving Japan on July 5, we got to Base Camp on July 12 at 14,750 feet southwest of Siguniang despite bad weather. We established Camp I at 17,050 feet on July 16. On July 25 we climbed a couloir and established Camp II at 18,875 feet on the

southeast ridge. On this part there was avalanche and rockfall danger. From Camp II to the summit we ascended the steep, narrow ridge. The south (main) and north peaks are nearly the same height. The main summit (6250 meters, 20,506 feet) was reached by Yoshiharu Suita and Hiroshi Sumiya on July 28, by Yoshifumi Takahashi and Takashi Iwata on July 29 and by Takafumi Miyazaki, Jun Tagawa and Shinichiro Kono on July 30. Miyazaki and Tagawa climbed two more hours and got to the north summit. Therefore all members, except for me, the leader, left their footprints on the top. We fixed about 6500 feet of rope. The university had sent an earlier group in April and May which got to 5620 meters (18,440 feet). All but two of the first group returned to Japan.

TETSUJI KAWADA, *Doshisha University Alpine Club, Japan*

Siguniang, North Face Attempt. Our expedition spent three weeks in the small, isolated Siguniang Range in western Sichuan province during the post-monsoon season. The members of our trip included Jim Kanzler, Jim Donini, Kim Schmitz and me as climbers and Greg Thomsen. After arriving in Chengdu and making final preparations with the help of the Chinese Mountaineering Association people, we departed on a three-day minibus ride to the village of Zelun. From Zelun it was a pleasant 12-mile, one-day approach to establish Base Camp at 12,000 feet and to reach our objective, Siguniang (6250 meters, 20,506 feet). Three days later, High Camp at 15,000 feet was fully supplied so that we could start climbing. We attempted a new route on the north face in semi-alpine style. The route was up a buttress that blended into the face as we gained altitude. After eleven days above High Camp, six days on the final push, we were turned back by a combination of colder temperatures than were expected and very high winds, which slowed progress. The high point was between 17,500 and 18,000 feet.

JACK EDWARD TACKLE

Everest Attempt. The French Military Expedition to Qomolangma (Mount Everest) was composed of 28 Frenchmen: General of Division Pierre Astorg, leader; two adjutants in charge of logistics, two physicians, cook, interpreter, journalist, radio-operator, photographer, three television reporters and 15 climbers of whom I was the climbing leader. We had 33 Chinese: Ju Yin Yan, liaison officer; two interpreters, three cooks, two vehicle drivers, four radio-operators, administrator, 13 high-altitude porters and seven yak drivers. After leaving Paris on February 15, we got to Base Camp on March 3 at 17,000 feet at the tongue of the Central Rongbuk Glacier. From March 4 to 24 we established Camps I, II and III at 18,375, 19,675 and 21,325 feet; these were supplied by yak. The weather was cold and windy, and many suffered sore throats.

On April 3 we reached the North Col but had to wait until April 21 for diminished winds to place Camp V at 24,950 feet. From April 22 to May 2 our porters stocked this camp. On May 1 we reconnoitered Camp VI at 27,075 feet. We made exhausting carries there ourselves despite bad weather. By contract the porters could not go higher than 24,950 feet (7600 meters). On May 13 the first assault team, Robert Flematti, Hervé Sachetât and I moved to Camp VI. Violent winds the next day forced us to a perilous retreat. On May 15 Denis Ducroz, Bernard Prudhomme, Jean-Claude Mosca and Pierre Roger moved up. The first two had to quit after a bad night but the other two got to the First Step at 28,050 feet (8550 meters) without oxygen. The weather drove them back. Physical deterioration at high altitude counseled descent to Base Camp. On May 25 Alain Estève, Hubert Giot, Mosca, Sachetât, Jean Segulier and I climbed to Camp VI. Estève and I descended, leaving four bottles of oxygen. The next day Segulier was sick but the other three reached the First Step by noon. A sudden storm forced them to bivouac at 27,900 feet. The wind picked up in the night and they realized that to remain or advance was suicide; they made a perilous descent, suffering only minor frostbite. On June 1, we left Base Camp.

JEAN-CLAUDE MARMIER, *Commandant, French Army*

Shisha Pangma. Our expedition was made up of Setsuko Kitamura, Yoko Mihara, Yoshiko Kato, Keiko Tsurube, Yumiko Kurosawa, Yuko Kuramatsu, Etsuko Otsuki, Noriko Watanabe and me as leader. We traveled by car from Lhasa to Base Camp (16,900 feet) from March 23 to 31. We followed the original Chinese route of 1964. Our camps were established as follows: I, II, III, IV, V and VI at 18,050, 19,025, 20,850, 22,650, 24,125 and 25,250 feet on April 4, 6, 13, 25, 28 and 29 respectively. Without oxygen, I climbed to the summit (8012 meters, 26,285 feet) on April 30 along with two Chinese assistants.

MRS. JUNKO Tabei, *Women's Climbing Club, Japan*

Shisha Pangma. Reinhold Messner climbed his eighth 8000er during the pre-monsoon season. He and his fellow South-Tyrolean, Friedl Mutschlechner, reached the summit (8012 meters, 26,286 feet) from the Tibetan side. Also members of the expedition were the Germans Dr. Oswald Ölz and Gerd Baur. Further details are not known at this time.

Shishapangma Attempt. Our Shishapangma (Xixabangma) expedition degenerated into a reconnaissance when a number of the expedition could not go. Although technically easy, the route on the mountain is not free of objective danger. A large slab avalanche ran over 2000 feet of the route from Camp III to Camp IV. A rope of three climbers

just missed being caught by another large slide between Camps II and III. The combination of high September snowfall and high October winds and cold temperatures created a high windslab avalanche risk which persisted during most of October.

GERALD A. ROACH

Molamenqinq. Our expedition consisted of Warwick Anderson, Bruce Clark, Dick Price, Ron McLeod, Paul Chapman, Tony Charlton, Bruce Farmer, Mal Lapwood, Geoff Gabites, Ben Noble and me. We were in the mountains from April 9 to June 2. Our camps were as follows: Base Camp, 17,400 feet; Advanced Base, 18,375 feet; Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 19,000, 21,325, 22,300, 23,950 and 23,300 feet respectively. Our route took us via the Yambukangala Glacier to the east of Xixabangma (Shisha Pangma), across the face of Xixabangma between the north face and the north peak, across snowfields to the west of Xixabangma to Molamenqinq. The summit (7703 meters, 25,273 feet) was reached by Farmer and Price on May 14, by Anderson and McLeod on May 16 and by Gabites, Clark, Chapman and Charlton on May 20. We originally intended to climb the north ridge, but its approaches were threatened by ice cliffs. We opted for the safer route across the north of Xixabangma. The route was of no great technical difficulty but logistics were stretched as we carried all our own material. Distances between camps were long. We had frequent afternoon storms and two or three major blows. Anderson suffered frostbite and has lost the tips of several toes and McLeod had a fractured foot.

AUSTIN BROOKES, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

Kongur, Sinkiang. Our 10-man British Mount Kongur Expedition had two main objectives: to make the first ascent of Kongur and to conduct a programme of medical research into the reaction of the expedition members to altitude. The mountain was successfully climbed and the scientific programme provided copious data for later evaluation. We climbed alpine-style. The leader was Dr. Michael Ward. The four-man climbing team consisted of Peter Boardman, Alan Rouse, Joe Tasker and me, while the scientific team comprised Dr. Charles Clarke, Dr. James Milledge, Professor Edward Williams and Dr. Ward. Jim Curran was cameraman and David Wilson acted as interpreter. Accompanied by a six-person trekking party, we arrived at the Karakol Lakes (11,650 feet), fifteen miles southwest of Kongur, on May 22 and moved up to Base Camp (4750 meters, 15,584 feet) on May 28. Base Camp was on an idyllic, grassy meadow covered with wild flowers, squeezed between two glacial moraines. For acclimatization, with several members of the trekking party, we climbed a 5490-meter (18,012-foot) col on the west side of the Koksel Glacier. The previous year Ward and I had climbed the Koksel Glacier Icefall to reach the upper Koksel

PLATE 79

Photo by Christian Benington

**KONGUR from the South. --- = First
Attempt via South Ridge, ... = Second
Attempt and Ascent via Southwest Rib.**

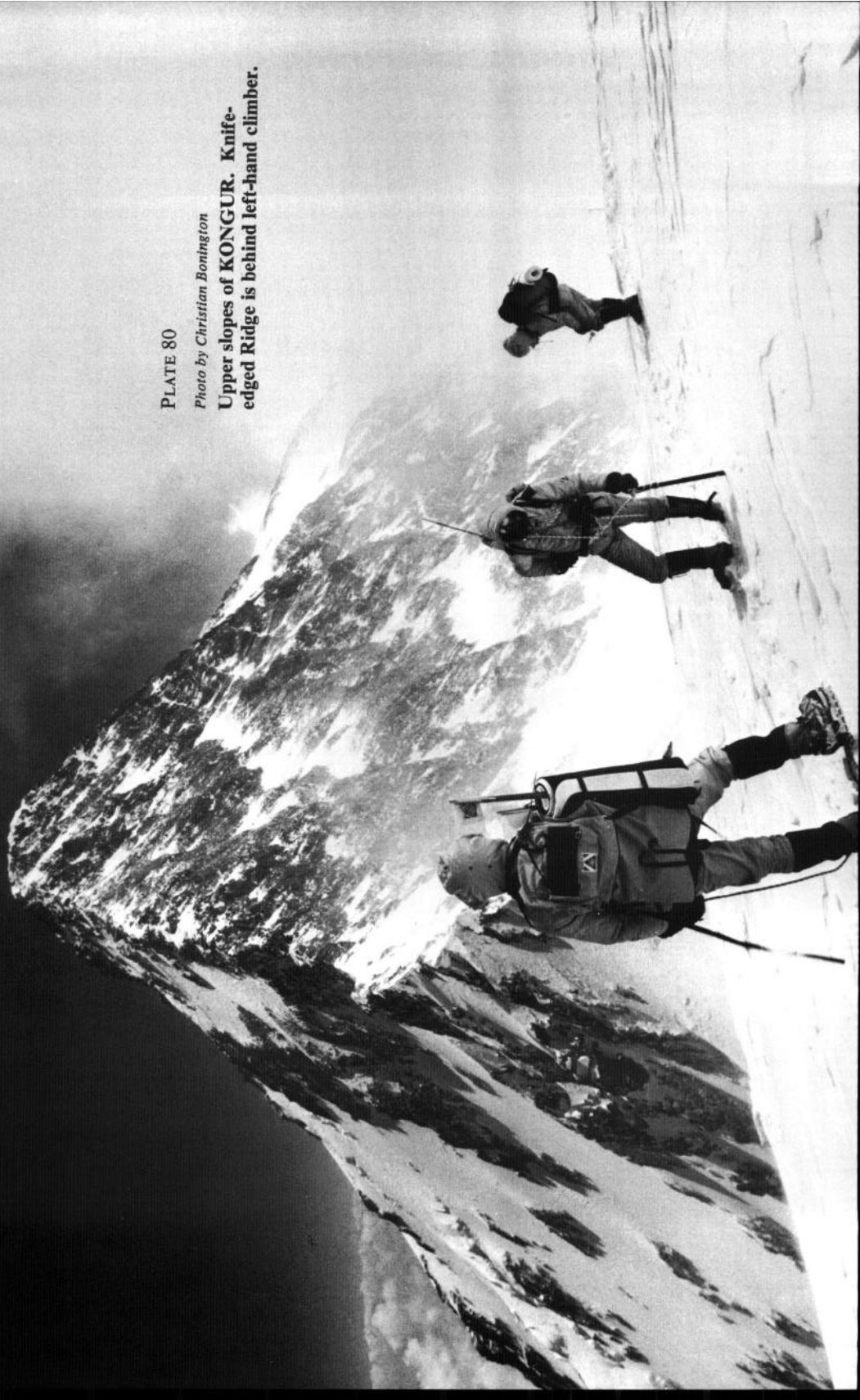


Glacier Basin by a difficult and dangerous route. Farther east, we now found a route up the glacier to the north of a minor peak, which we named Rognon Peak. This route led to a col from which Advanced Base Camp at 17,725 feet in the Koksel Basin could be safely and easily reached. There were two possible routes to the foot of the summit pyramid, one from the Koksel Col up the south ridge of Junction Peak and the other up the long, easy ridge which led to the ridge joining Kongur Tiubie to Kongur. Unsettled weather and heavy snowfalls kept us from our plan of acclimatizing on some of the surrounding peaks, and so the climbing team concentrated on making a thorough reconnaissance to 21,000 feet (6400 meters) on both the south ridge and the southwest rib. In order to reach the main summit of Kongur, we had to climb over a subsidiary summit, "Junction Peak." We thought the south ridge would be a safer and technically more interesting route than the southwest rib. The climbing team set out from Base Camp on June 23 and moved up past the Koksel Col onto the south ridge the following day, reaching 21,000 feet near the end of the shelf that leads to the steep upper part of the ridge. On June 25 we climbed the south ridge in a long, very hard day, stopping on its crest at 7250 meters (23,786 feet). There were two steep ice pitches and the upper part of the ridge was on steep deep snow that presented avalanche risk. On June 26 we traversed below the crest of the subsidiary tops of Junction Peak in worsening weather but were forced to stop at midday because of poor visibility. During the night the wind rose and threatened to blow the tents away. On the following morning we had our first glance, through driving spindrift, of the summit pyramid of Kongur. Only then we realized how big and steep Kongur's final pyramid was. We crossed the summit of Junction Peak, dropped down to the col just short of our objective and dug a roomy snow cave. With fierce wind and unpredictable weather, we set out, travelling light without bivouac gear, on the morning of June 26, hoping to reach the summit that day, but the knife-edged ridge leading to the foot of the final pyramid proved to be extremely difficult and it took six hours to traverse the ridge. We had no choice but to return to the snow cave. The next morning was as windy as ever; food and fuel were nearly exhausted. We decided to return to Base Camp. On the way back, instead of returning down the south ridge of Junction Peak, we descended the long ridge linking Junction Peak with Kongur Tiubie and then down the southwest rib. The slopes which at first had seemed avalanche-prone, proved safer than anticipated. Boardman, Rouse, Tasker and I set out from Advanced Base on July 5 to climb the route we had just descended. Milledge and Wilson helped with loads for the first 3500 feet. That night we snow-holed at 21,150 feet. The following day we traversed to the 22,300-foot Kongur Col, the lowest point on the ridge between Kongur Tiubie and Kongur, and then arduously climbed over the long

PLATE 80

Photo by Christian Bonington

Upper slopes of **KONGUR**. Knife-edged Ridge is behind left-hand climber.



shoulder and over Junction Peak to the snow cave prepared on the previous attempt. We rested on July 7 and on the 8th traversed the difficult knife-edge, hoping to find suitable snow for a cave in a gully observed before. Another storm was sweeping in from the west. Disappointingly, there were only three feet of snow on hard ice. This meant we could only cut narrow slots, rather like coffins, with a thin, fragile wall of soft snow on one side and hard ice on the other. We spent four nights in these "coffins" while the storm raged. One collapsed on Rouse; everyone had to rebuild his snow hole during the storm. Sleeping bags became damp and food was nearly finished. July 12 dawned fine and we set out for the summit. It was bitterly cold and the first 500 feet were technically difficult, over steep, loose rock and icy patches. It was two P.M. before we had climbed around the rock tower barring the bottom of the ridge and reached its crest. Above that point we could move together and progressed more quickly despite the increasing altitude. We reached the summit (7719 meters, 25,325 feet) at eight P.M. It was still windy and cold, but between gusts of spindrift the view was superb. Two hundred miles to the south K2 was visible and to the northwest, Pik Lenin and Pik Kommunizma. We still had to dig a snow hole about 100 feet from the top, finishing it at eleven P.M. The next morning, perhaps because of the different angle of the sun, the northeast summit of Kongur appeared to be similar in height, if not higher than the summit we were on. We decided to reach this summit before going down. It took two hours to reach it and we crossed precariously along the unstable ridge of an intermediate rock peak. Looking back and checking the altimeter, the first summit was undoubtedly the highest. It took until 4:45 to return to the main summit and we immediately started down. Whilst rappelling on the steep rock step at the foot of the ridge, Boardman was hit a glancing blow on the head by a large stone dislodged by the rope. He was momentarily knocked unconscious, but, fortunately, did not fall off the end of the rope and quickly recovered. Luckily the weather remained settled and we reached the Junction Peak snow cave shortly after midnight. We returned to Advanced Base on July 14, and were met 1000 feet up the southwest rib by Ward and Curran. A comprehensive research programme on the effect of high altitude and oxygen deficiency was successfully completed by Drs. Ward, Clarke, Milledge and Williams. Some of Dr. Ward's observations follow: "On the Kongur expedition, at our laboratory at Base Camp, our previous studies were extended by the programme of scientific work carried out there. No cases of retinal haemorrhages were recorded on this expedition by Dr. Clarke in contrast to the study carried out by him on Everest in 1975. Experiments carried out during exercise showed that our high-altitude climbers had a smaller increase in breathing rate compared with sea-level results than had the scientists. They were also less sensitive to

oxygen lack. These factors indicate a more efficient system for transporting oxygen in the body, such as occurs in Sherpas. The best known response to oxygen lack is an increase in the number of red blood cells which carry oxygen to the tissues. In one climber who reached the summit of Kongur, no such increase was noted, an observation previously made in some Sherpas. Many blood samples were obtained for the estimation of erythropoietin, the hormone which controls red cell formation in the bone marrow. Numerous similar samples were also taken for the study of those hormones which control fluid shifts."

CHRISTIAN BONINGTON

Kongur Tragedy. Three prominent Japanese climbers, Yoji Teranishi, Shin'e Matsumi and Mitsunori Shigi, were lost while trying a new route on Kongur. Naoki Takada was the leader. Because the British were on the southern side, the Japanese went to the north, where they planned both a siege and an alpine-style climb. In early June they acclimatized on Mustagh Ata. The three who were later lost made a ski ascent and descent. Base Camp was established early in July at 11,500 feet. The siege party was to climb the east ridge from the Qurghan valley and the alpine climbers were to try the north ridge from the next valley west. Progress on the siege was slow. Teranishi, Shigi and Matsumi set up their Base Camp at 12,150 feet on July 16 and set out. They were last seen at 20,675 feet on July 23 the day before the weather turned bad for a week. No trace of the climbers could be found. Base Camp was evacuated on August 18. More details, photos and a map are published in *Iwa To Yuki* N° 85.

Kongur Tiubie. The Japanese National Defense Academy Expedition was composed of Majors Kiyonori Kimura, climbing leader, and Chitosi Andoh, deputy climbing leader, Captains Yohichiro Yamaguchi and Kunio Horoshima, Lieutenants Shigeyuki Koga, Hiroshi Yamamoto, Takao Kiyofuji, Osamu Sato and Yuzuru Kato, Sergeants Toshihiro Okuchi and Takashi Sekine, Dr. Kazuko Nagano and me as leader. We did not use Chinese porters or animals above Camp I. The advance party, five members led by Andoh, arrived on June 12 at Kashi via Urumchi. On June 15 the party left Kashi by car and set up Base Camp at 12,000 feet by Little Karakuru Lake that same day. On June 20 Camp I was established at 15,100 feet at the base of the central ridge on the south slope of Kongur Tiubie. The snow limit is 16,000 feet. On June 28 Camp II was set up at 17,725 feet on the central ridge. From July 3 to 5 they prepared the route on the ridge and carried loads above Camp II. I arrived at Base Camp with seven members on July 4. Between July 16 and 21 we carried loads to Camps II and III and prepared the route to Camp IV. Starting on July 22, Andoh and four others were tied down in Camp III by the weather. On July 28

they descended as Kimura and three climbers reached Camp III. On August 3 the Kimura party established Camp IV at 20,350 feet below an ice ridge, the "Elephant Nose." From August 4 to 12 we deployed all members at Camps III and IV, pioneered the route and carried loads through the ice-block zone on the center of the upper slope. On August 13 and 16 Camps V and VI were established at 22,300 and 23,800 feet. On August 17 Yamaguchi and Koga reached Camp VI. We used artificial oxygen for sleeping at Camps V and VI. On August 18 we had the first fine day in many. The attack party left Camp VI at 9:30 and at 1:30 P.M. stood on the very top (7595 meters, 24,918 feet). On August 24 we withdrew from Base Camp. The weather was particularly bad above 21,325 feet, only a quarter of the days being fine.

TAKASHI KAWAKAMI, *Japanese National Defense Academy*

Mustagh Ata. After three members of the Japanese Kongur expedition, Teranishi, Shigi and Matsumi, later lost on Kongur, had made a ski ascent of Mustagh Ata as an acclimatization climb in early June, another Japanese expedition made the third ski ascent. Leader Tadakiyo Sakahara and Kimiharu Matsui reached the summit on August 7.

Mustagh Ata. In September John Amatt, leader, Lloyd Gallagher, Pat Morrow and I journeyed to the western flank of Mustagh Ata. We ascended the broad "writing-desk" slopes, choosing a route one glacier system south of that climbed in 1980 by Ned Gillette's party. (See *A.A.J.*, 1981, pages 71-81.) We took camels to Base Camp at 14,300 feet near the Chal Tumak Glacier on September 5 and the next day three of them carried to 15,000 feet. Initial poor weather and a storm slowed progress. Loud thumps as the snow settled kept us nervous. Gallagher, Morrow and I reached the summit in clear but windy weather on September 16. This may be a new route. We ascended and descended on skis; Morrow used nordic skis and we other two, traditional ski-mountaineering skis. Up high, the snow was wind-blown and crusty with only a few feet covering the ice.

STEPHEN BEZRUCHKA

Bogda Attempt, 1980. In October, 1980 Austrians under the leadership of Markus Schmuck undertook the ascent of Bogda, the base of which they reached in a 24-day approach via Heavenly Lake. Snow lay as low as 7500 feet. They placed Base Camp at 12,000 feet and another camp at 15,425 feet in the col at the foot of the northeast ridge. Schmuck and E. Haase decided not to follow the ridge to the summit because of avalanche danger.

Bogda, Tien Shan. Our expedition with general leader Iwao Nakai climbed Bogda (5445 meters, 17,864 feet), the highest of the eastern

Tien Shan, on June 9 and 10. All nine climbing members, K. Miyagawa, M. Nakazima, T. Fujibayashi, E. Ohno, S. Yamada, A. Mishima, H. Nose, S. Kaneko and I as climbing leader, and two cameramen, T. Kazihara and A. Shinya, reached the top. We scaled the northeast ridge of the main peak, which was very difficult, especially from the col to the top. Icy, snowy, rocky walls rose up at 45° to 50°, and so we fixed 4000 feet of rope on that continuously steep slope; thus many men and women could reach the top. Base Camp was established on May 27 on the north side of the North Bogda Glacier after two approach days from Lake Tien-chi, northeast of Urumchi. Camp I (13,000 feet) was set up on the 30th under the icefall and Camp II (15,425 feet) on the col of the northeast ridge. On June 10 Mitsuko Shirouzu, a very slim lady and one of our non-climbing members, walking down to Base Camp from Camp I, suddenly fell 65 feet into a narrow crevasse. Our rescue members went down in a hurry from Camp I and the summit and after two hours we began to try to save her. Our thinnest member could descend only some 25 feet. After four hours we could not hear her voice at all. Thus we lost her.

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Bogda West. A number of Japanese expeditions visited Bogda in 1981. All twelve members of a group led by Ryohei Uchida made the first ascent of Bogda West (5213 meters, 17,103 feet) by its north ridge. They established Base Camp, Camps I and II at 11,650, 14,600 and 15,900 feet on July 26, August 1 and 5 respectively. The summit was reached on August 7, 8 and 10.

USSR

Soviet Climbing in the Pamir Mountains and the Tien Shan, 1980. Despite generally bad weather in 1980 in the mountains of the USSR, a number of new big-wall climbs were made on the high peaks by Soviet climbers. The 9000-foot-high south face of Pik Kommunizma was climbed from July 29 to August 11, 1980 by nine Red Army climbers led by K. Valiev. They placed over 300 rock and ice pitons and often had only sitting bivouacs. The new routes were done on 7105-meter (23,310-foot) Pik Korzhenevskoi. A. Putintzev led six Tashkent climbers up the west buttress, 1500 feet of which were of UIAA VI difficulty; A. Bashmakov and his Leningrad team took seven days to make the route up the neighboring west face. A new route was done by climbers led by E. Kondakov on the northwest face of Pik Revolyutsiya (6974 meters, 22,881 feet); two-thirds was of UIAA V and VI. Five instructors from the Pamir climbing camp led by W. Hatukov took five days in July to climb the 5500-foot west face of Pik Akhmada Donisha.

The 5500-foot east face of 5959-meter (19,551-foot) Holodnaya Stena had been unsuccessfully attempted numerous times. It yielded three routes in 1980, each of which had 2000 feet of UIAA VI climbing. W. Solonnikov's Leningrad group climbed the center of the wall; W. Kovtun's Ukrainians climbed the more difficult left side; the right side fell to climbers led by O. Shumilov, who had to wait out a five-day storm on the wall. Leningrad climbers led by J. Fedotov climbed the 5500-foot-high southeast face of P 5224 (17,139 feet), making the first ascent of the peak. In July S. Efimov led six climbers from Sverdlovsk on the north face of P 5200 (17,061 feet). (Efimov was one of the hosts of the American Alpine Club group in the Pamir in 1978.) A five-man team from Kharkov led by S. Bershov climbed the 6500-foot north face of P 5730 (18,799 feet) from July 21 to August 1 in bad weather. They claim to have climbed 5500 feet of UIAA VI. In the Tien Shan four Kirghiz climbers led by E. Stelzov climbed the 6500-foot west face of Pik Pogrebezhkogo (6487 meters, 21,283 feet) in bad weather from August 1 to 10. All these climbs had climbing of UIAA V and VI difficulty. A fuller report appears in *Alpinismus* of June, 1981.

SOUTH PACIFIC

Carstensz Mountains Correction. Unfortunately there were errors in the article, *Snow Mountains of Irian Jaya*, by Geoffrey Tabin in *A.A.J.*, 1981, pages 83-6. The Carstensz Mountains are in Melanesia and not East Asia. The 1961 New Zealand expedition, of which I was deputy leader, made the first penetration of the range, from the north from Ilaga. In 1962 (not 1963) I led Harrer back there and together we made many first ascents, including Pyramide, in company with Australian rock-climber Russell Kippax and Dutch patrol officer Albert Huizenga. Later Harrer and I climbed Idenburg Top. I returned to the Carstensz a third time, late in 1962, and led a US recovery team, collecting remains from the USAF plane wreck on the north face of Ngga Pulu. West New Guinea became part of Indonesia in 1964 and not 1974. In 1972 Jack Baines, Leo Murray and Dick Isherwood made the first ascent of the north face of Pyramide. Whether it was as direct as Tabin's I don't know. They also made the first ascent of Sunday Peak.

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