

Pakistan

K7 Attempt. Japanese led by Masayuki Hoshina made an attempt on K7 (6934 meters, 22,750 feet) by way of the 17,000-foot west col. They approached from Hushe via the Charakusa Glacier, where they established Base Camp on May 27. They fixed some 5000 feet of rope. The expedition reached a little higher than 20,000 feet.

Hidden Peak (Gasherbrum I), North Face Attempt. Granger Banks, Richard Soaper, Lyle Dean and I arrived at Gasherbrum I Base Camp on May 19 after eleven days on the Baltoro approach with 23 porters. After placing a food cache at 21,325 feet in the Gasherbrum La Icefall, we descended to recuperate. On June 3 we returned up the West Gasherbrum Glacier icefall to the cache in two days. The next day we climbed the right side of the north face in twelve hours unroped. The face consisted of wind-blown ice on the bottom, mixed climbing on a rotten rock arête in the middle and a final third of "funky" névé up to 80°. We carried four days' food. We were on the north face itself, well left of Messner's route. On the top of the north face, on the northwest shoulder of Hidden Peak, we placed our high camp at 23,300 feet next to Messner's and Habeler's destroyed tent. On June 6 we rested, hoping to join Messner's route the next day and climb to the summit. We were wrong. The next three days were spent battling gale winds. Supplies dwindled. Granger Banks and I descended the north face. Dean and Soaper waited in hope of a calming of the winds. That evening they thought there was a chance and started off that night. Soaper reconsidered and returned to the high camp. At 24,600 feet Dean found the conditions worse and decided to come back down too. We felt that the ice and snow conditions might be better later in the season.

GORDON BANKS, *Unaffiliated*

Hidden Peak, Ski Descent. After arriving at Base Camp at 17,050 feet on May 15, four French and Swiss climbers, Sylvain Saudain, Jean Pierre Ollagnier, Daniel Semblanet and Marie José Valençot, and high-altitude porter Mohammad Ali climbed Hidden Peak after 32 days. On the summit day, the Swiss skier and leader of the group, Saudan, skied down for two hours and bivouacked. Laurent Chevalier and a Swedish photographer stayed at 25,600 feet to film the run. The next day he descended to Base Camp in nine hours, completing the descent of over 9000 feet with 3000 turns. Between 21,325 and 19,700 feet the corniced ridge was difficult. We presume they followed the first-ascent route.

Hidden Peak (Gasherbrum I), North Face. We made the seventh ascent of Hidden Peak by a partially new route, the north face, when Michel Dacher, Sigi Hupfauer and I got to the summit (8068 meters, 26,470 feet) on July 22. Base Camp was established on June 18 and Camp I on June 21. We had placed

Camp II at 21,000 feet on the Gasherbrum La on June 26 before nearly a month of bad weather set in. We could not start on the summit push until July 18. The most difficult part of the route was rotten rock (UIAA IV and V) between Camps II and III, which we established at 23,300 feet. At Camp III we joined the Habeler-Messner route of 1975, which had been well to the right of ours. On the summit day we went too far to the left, to a rib in the north face, had to retrace our steps a considerable distance and so got to the summit very late, at 6:20 P.M. We could not find Camp III in the dark and had to bivouac 350 feet above it. Dr. Gerhard Schmatz, Dr. Wolfgang Shaffert and Peter Vogler had to give up their attempt at 23,000 feet because of frightful weather. (This was Dacher's fifth 8000er and Sturm's and Hupfauer's fourth.—Editor.)

GÜNTER STURM, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Gasherbrum II. It took 13 days to get from Dassu to our temporary Base Camp at 16,000 feet on the Abruzzi Glacier, including two rest days, one caused by heavy snowfall at Concordia. We arrived on May 14. We had started with 60 porters but arrived with 40 since many who had carried food could be discharged. Because of cold, fog and snow, the porters could not carry the last two or three hours to Base Camp. Expedition members made the carry in five days. We followed the first-ascent route and used no fixed ropes. We set up Camp I at 19,700 feet on May 21 and Camp II on the southwest spur at 21,650 feet on May 25. Bad weather and stomach troubles defeated the first summit try. On June 8 Georg Kaser and Gerhard Markl set up Camp III at 24,275 feet and climbed to the summit on June 9. Michel Grüner and Robert Renzler ascended from Base Camp to Camp II on June 7 and in the next two days to 23,000 and 24,275 feet to reach the summit on June 10. On June 9 Christine Miller, Josef Trattner and I reached Camp III and headed for the summit on June 11. Christine Miller fell ill and I descended with her while Trattner made the summit. On the descent on the 12th she suffered third-degree frostbite on three toes and Grüner had minor frostbite. We had picked up stomach and intestinal infections in Rawalpindi, which bothered us throughout the expedition.

HELMUT ROTT, *Akademischer Alpiner Verein, Innsbruck, Austria*

Gasherbrum II Tragedy. After arriving at Dassu by jeep, Glenn Brindeiro, Steven Casebolt, Donald Goodman, David Hamblly, Dr. Brack Hattler, David McClung, Dr. Thomas Vaughan and I as leader on May 15 started our trek to Base Camp (16,500 feet), which we reached on May 27. Thanks to the trail blazing by the Austrian expedition, we found the fierce-looking South Gasherbrum icefall relatively easy. Camp I was at 18,000 feet just above the first icefall. One night we were nearly blown away by an ice avalanche from Hidden Peak. From Camp I to Camp II (19,700 feet), the South Gasherbrum Glacier

was horribly crevassed and both we and members of other expeditions took falls into hidden crevasses. Our route, the Austrian southwest ridge route of 1956, was straightforward but steep. Up to Camp III (21,150 feet) Casebolt and Goodman fixed rope most of the way. During the second part of June the weather was often bad. Despite heavy snowfalls, Casebolt and Goodman forced the way up to Camp IV (23,000 feet). Finally, on June 28, Brindeiro, Casebolt, Goodman and Hambly moved up to Camp III and the following day they continued on to Camp IV. Goodman, not feeling well, returned to Camp III. Camp IV was very exposed and buffeted by strong winds until July 1. On that evening an enormous avalanche swept the south face of Gasherbrum II. July 2 dawned fine, clear, cold and calm. Brindeiro, Casebolt and Hambly tried to establish Camp V at 24,500 feet. They climbed unroped as had other expeditions. On the ridge the snow was knee-deep and the slope increased to 45° by the time they reached the rock section at 23,500 feet. While they discussed the snow conditions, the snow slope to their right avalanched. Hambly, the highest, was knocked over, Casebolt, some 30 feet below, was carried down about 50 feet, but of Brindeiro, who was 30 feet below Casebolt, there was no sign. The ridge fell off to the right as a 30° slope for 50 to 100 yards before dropping off in a series of ice cliffs. An immediate search from the top and side of the ice cliffs revealed nothing. Because of avalanche danger, no attempt was made to enter the ice cliffs for a further search. They descended to Camp III in very poor snow conditions and increasingly bad visibility. Further examination of the ice cliffs during the descent from Camp III to Camp II was also unsuccessful.

MICHAEL D. CLARKE

Gasherbrum II Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Dr. Jean Pierre Becquemin, Thierry Cazenave, Thierry Gallouët, Marc Souchal and me. We left Skardu on June 9 and reached Base Camp on June 19. After carrying two loads to Camp I at 20,000 feet, an alpine-style attempt for the summit via the normal south ridge was made by Cazenave and Gallouët who reached 25,425 feet after a bivouac at 22,000 feet. They had to turn back on June 30. After June 28 the weather had become worse and worse.

JEAN MICHEL GOSSELIN, Club Alpin Français

Gasherbrum II, Husband-and-Wife Ascent. My wife Liliane, her brother Alain Bontemps and I reached the summit of Gasherbrum II on June 12. We were accompanied to Base Camp by Louis Thiberge, thus complying with the Pakistani regulation of having four members. We reached Base Camp at 16,250 feet in nine days on June 1. We followed the Austrian route on the mountain. From Base Camp, to reach the beginning of the southeast ridge at 19,500 feet, one must climb a contorted icefall to 17,725 feet and then ascend

the upper part of the less crevassed and gentler glacier. We used cross-country skis on this part. At 19,700 feet one starts up a 55° to 60° snow slope and then follows a more moderate snow ridge to 21,650 feet. At 22,300 feet there are three *sérac* barriers. We had hoped to make a new variant by following straight up the whole southeast ridge from 23,950 feet, rather than by traversing right, but there was too much snow on mediocre rocks. We placed a camp at 19,500 feet on June 3 and 4 and by June 7 had reconnoitered to 21,650 feet. On June 9 we left Base Camp, bivouacking at 19,500, 21,650 and 23,950 feet. We got to the summit on the fourth day after leaving Base Camp. Liliane and I made two more attempts on the direct route. When we got to 21,650 feet on June 21, we found that ravens had destroyed the food we had left there. It also snowed a foot. From June 24 to 29 we two climbed to 24,600 feet but were stopped by deep snow and bad weather.

MAURICE BARRARD, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

Gasherbrum II and Broad Peak. Reinhold Messner turned to Pakistan after his successful climb of Kanchenjunga. On July 24 he climbed Gasherbrum II and on August 2 reached the summit of Broad Peak. He was accompanied by Pakistanis Nazir Sabir and Major Sher Khan. Broad Peak was Messner's eleventh ascent of an 8000er. He has now ascended nine of the fourteen 8000ers and has climbed Everest and Nanga Parbat twice. Nazir Sabir climbed K2 from the west in 1981.

Deaths on Broad Peak and Gasherbrum II. The leaders of two expeditions died in the unusually bad weather in the Karakoram this year. Both expeditions were then called off. Austrian-born Canadian Hans G. Frick died in an avalanche on Broad Peak on May 16. On July 10 West German Dr. Gerd Brunner and Austrian Dr. Norbert Wolf were last seen from far below as they were climbing at 25,200 feet on Gasherbrum II. Dr. Wolf was later found at 25,600 feet by Reinhold Messner and his companions frozen to death in his bivouac sack. The expedition leader, Dr. Brunner, was not found although some of his clothing and equipment was further down the slope. He is presumed to have fallen.

Gasherbrum IV Attempt. An eight-man Japanese expedition led by Yukio Katsumi failed to climb Gasherbrum IV by its west face. Base Camp was established on June 9. They placed four camps on the mountain, Camp IV at 20,350 feet. On July 29 a high point of 21,325 feet was reached. Attempts by British in 1979 and Japanese in 1981 also failed. Further information and a photo of the route appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 92.

Broad Peak, West Ridge Attempt. Our expedition was made up of Paul Briggs, Steve Strain, Bob McIntosh and me as leader, but McIntosh injured his knee near the tongue of the Baltoro Glacier and had to leave the expedition. We arrived in Skardu on June 19. We walked to Base Camp at 15,750 feet from June 22 to July 2. We acclimatized until July 8 around Base Camp and on July 9 we climbed to 18,500 feet up the same couloir used by previous expeditions and spent the night, during which there was an earthquake. We descended to Base Camp on the 10th. From July 11 to 17 it snowed every night; the new snow melted off by mid-afternoon but much snow accumulated high on the mountain. We had hoped for a four-day period of settled weather to make a summit bid. On July 17 Briggs and Strain climbed to Camp I at 20,600 feet, but bad weather set in and they descended. We walked out to Skardu from July 20 to 27.

HOWARD A. WEAVER

Broad Peak. We started from Dassu with 52 porters on June 24 and got to Base Camp at 16,400 feet, west of Broad Peak, eight days later with 42 porters, having been able to send ten back who had been carrying food. We had no high-altitude porters and used no artificial oxygen. We established camps at 21,000 and 23,300 feet. For the first three weeks the weather was never good enough to go above 21,325 feet. Then it turned fine until our departure. The route started up a steep gully with mostly bare ice in the upper part, where we fixed 500 feet of rope. The rest of the way to the upper camp was steep ribs and slopes, generally free from avalanches and almost no crevasses. Up to 23,000 feet there was hardly a flat spot for a tent. The last part below the col between the middle and main peaks is a basin, usually filled with much snow. From the col to the foresummit the ridge is exposed and corniced. From there to the summit it is nearly flat. By previous arrangement, we were joined on the summit climb by three Austrians: Georg Bachler, Werner Sucher and Walter Löscher. With them, Hans Kirchberger, Konrad Lewanskowski, Ralph Bärtle and I climbed to the summit (8047 meters, 26,400 feet) on July 23. The other members of our expedition were Sepp Ölker, Walter Janner and Otto Parzhuber.

PETER GLOGGNER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Broad Peak North, Solo Attempt. Solo I attempted the north buttress of Broad Peak North (7600 meters, 24,935 feet) during June and July but I had to give up because of bad weather. I was on the wall for 24 days, but had to stop at 23,000 feet because with the bad weather the avalanche danger became too great.

RENATO CASAROTTO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

K2 Attempt and Broad Peak. Our expedition arrived at Base Camp on June 2. From June 13 until July 20 we spent most of the five weeks in uninterrupted bad weather. We could not climb higher than Camp II at 22,650 feet on the Abruzzi spur. Continuous wind even chewed through our fixed rope. When Wanda Rutkiewicz-Scharfetter and her Polish women's expedition arrived, they finally brought some good weather with them. Walter Lösch, Georg Bachler and Werner Sucher for a time joined the German expedition led by Peter Gloggnner and on July 23 with them reached the summit of Broad Peak. At that same time our Pakistani liaison officer Major Fayyaz Hussain and I prepared the route from Camp II to the site of Camp III on K2, at the top of the Black Pyramid at 25,000 feet. On July 27 all five of us were ready for our final attempt. I climbed for the fifth time to Camp II. On the 29th we were again held up by storm at Camps I and II, but we were all at Camp II on July 30. That afternoon the Poles Halina Krüger-Syrokomyska and Anna Okopińska arrived at Camp II. We helped them prepare their tent site. At five P.M. Anna summoned us. Halina had suddenly fallen deathly ill. Oxygen, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, nothing availed. In a few minutes she died, apparently from a cerebral hemorrhage. We evacuated her body on July 31 with great difficulty. After a memorial service for her, we had neither the physical nor moral strength for a further attempt.

ALOIS FURTNER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

K2 Women's Expedition Tragedy. The expedition organized by Wanda Rutkiewicz-Scharfetter was further composed of Alicja Bednarz, French-woman Christine de Colombel, Anna Czerwińska, Halina Krüger-Syrokomyska, Aniela Łukaszewska, Dr. Jolanta Maciuch, Anna Okopińska, Ewa Pankiewicz, Marianna Stolarek, Krystyna Palmowska and Danuta Wach. After an 11-day approach, they arrived at Base Camp at 16,400 feet on July 19. Advance Base was placed at 17,725 feet at the foot of the Abruzzi Ridge on July 21. On the same day Camp I was pitched at 20,000 feet by Czerwińska and Palmowska. Camp II at 22,000 feet was established on July 27. On July 30 Halina Krüger-Syrokomyska reached Camp II with Anna Okopińska. After supper she called Base Camp by radio. The talk was good-humored and did not signal anything wrong. resting in the tent with Anna, she suddenly died either from a heart attack or a stroke. Efforts to revive her by Anna and the Austrians failed. An art historian, at 44 years she was also one of the outstanding women climbers. She had made remarkable ascents in Europe and Asia. Perhaps the most notable was the ascent of Gasherbrum in 1975 with Anna Okopińska, the first ladies-only ascent of an 8000-meter peak. After some days action resumed. Czerwińska, Palmowska and de Colombel reached 23,300 feet on August 7, the expedition's high point. More tries were made in doubtful weather. During August there were only two good days. Between September

15 and 26 the camps were brought back to Base Camp. The women's party was accompanied by Wojciech Kurtyka and Jerzy Kukuczka.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

K2, Northwest Ridge Attempt. Our joint Polish-Mexican expedition was composed of Lucio Cárdenas, Manuel Casanueva, Antonio Cortés, Hugo Delgado, Enrique Miranda and Eduardo Mosqueda, *Mexicans*, and Roman Bebak, Dr. Grzegorz Benke, Eugeniusz Chrobak, Leszek Cichy, Zbigniew Dudrak, Marek Grochowski, Jan Holnicki-Szulc, Tadeusz Karolczak, Aleksander Lwow, Krzysztof Pankiewicz, Bogumił Śląma, Ryszard Urbanik, Krzysztof Wielicki, Wojciech Wróz and me as leader, *Poles*. We left Skardu on June 26. Base Camp was established on July 8 at 17,400 feet on the Savoia Glacier. We placed Camp I at 19,500 feet a short distance from the wall descending from our goal, the northwest ridge, on July 10. Two days later we attacked the 2300-foot-high face. The slope was very steep and more dangerous than we had expected. After eight hard days in bad weather, we climbed the wall and on July 19 established Camp II at 22,000 feet on the northwest ridge. In this way we hit the ridge beyond the pinnacled section which stopped the Americans in 1975. Cárdenas had a lucky escape when he was hurled by an avalanche and fell 700 feet. He suffered only a fracture of the forearm. The ridge above Camp II was rocky and presented considerable difficulties. We traversed obliquely to the left. It was very difficult to find a place for Camp III. On July 26 we set up the tents at 23,300 feet in two separate small platforms 150 feet apart. From there the rock face was steeper and presented continuous difficulties. Camp IV was established on August 5 at 24,900 feet on the big spur where we found the fixed ropes of the Japanese expedition that was at the same time attacking K2 from the north. The Japanese turned up to the left of the spur. We attacked the depression on the right side. On August 7 Chrobak, Cichy, Pankiewicz and Wielicki established the depot of equipment at 26,100 feet near the top of the pinnacle uniting the northwest ridge and the north buttress. After August 9 the weather deteriorated. On only two days, August 14 and 15, was there an opportunity for the summit. (It was then that the Japanese climbed to the summit.) But we were not yet ready. The first summit party was moving from the lower camps and was stopped by bad weather (strong winds and snowfall) in camp IV on August 16. After this date, we made several attempts to climb to the summit, but all parties were stopped for the same reason, very strong winds. The last group, Chrobak, Cichy, Wielicki and Wróz, established Camp V at 26,500 feet on September 5. The next day Cichy and Wróz set out for the summit without oxygen, but they were forced back by strong winds and frostbite. They had reached 27,000 feet.

JANUSZ KURCZAB, *Polski Związek Alpinizmu*

PLATE 79

Photo by Janusz Karczak

K2 from the West. The ridge
attempted is on the left.



Savoia Kangri Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Jan Tichý, Jiří Ulrych, my brother Zdeněk Lukeš and me. All but my brother are Czechs in exile. We set up Base Camp on June 6 at the junction of the Godwin Austen and Savoia Glaciers at 16,400 feet. We had only 23 days left for the climb. From then until June 19 bad weather prevented our occupying Advance Base at 17,725 feet on the Savoia Glacier at the foot of Savoia Kangri I (7263 meters, 23,830 feet). The 6000-foot-high east face seemed best, as the rest of the mountain was avalanche-threatened. Without Ulrych, on June 20 we started up the prominent ridge. We were stopped on June 22 by strong winds and snowfall 2000-feet-up. On June 24 we came to where the ridge abutted the true face. The link was a very delicate, thin ice ridge. We just did not have enough time or equipment to cross this. We had reached 21,500 feet. After our descent, the weather deteriorated again, confirming we had made the right decision.

ČESTMÍR LUKEŠ, *Czech living in Switzerland*

Various Unsuccessful Expeditions to the Karakoram. Bad weather drove back a number of expeditions. Frenchmen under the leadership of Hubert Odier got to 23,950 feet on Gasherbrum II before being turned back. Germans led by Dr. Volker Stallbohm failed on Masherbrum. Japanese under Kenichiro Tsujiyama could not climb Saraghrar. There were two unsuccessful expeditions to Kunyang Chhish: Japanese led by Isao Nakamura on the east ridge and French under Pierre Pujot on the north ridge. Guillermo Lateo's Spanish group failed on Latok II (the official Latok II, not the Italian designated one).

Latok I Attempt. (The officially designated Latok I, called Latok II by the Italians.) The mountain was everything we expected: superb rock, good line, good sustained climbing. Unfortunately Martin Boysen, Choe Brooks, John Yates and I could not finish the job. We attempted the north ridge tried by the Americans in 1978. (See *A.A.J.*, 1979, pages 24 to 28 for text and photos.) In July we placed Base Camp at the junction of the Panmah and Choktoi Glaciers and Advance Base up the Choktoi. There was more snow than usual around. Our first 2½-day sortie was to leave equipment and a tent a third of the way up the ridge. The second attempt took place several days later. We reached our high point in a day and continued up for two more. On the fourth day one of the team decided it was too dangerous. A single person could not retreat safely or stay in the tent alone and so we had to retreat. Afterwards we had no food, equipment or inclination to return.

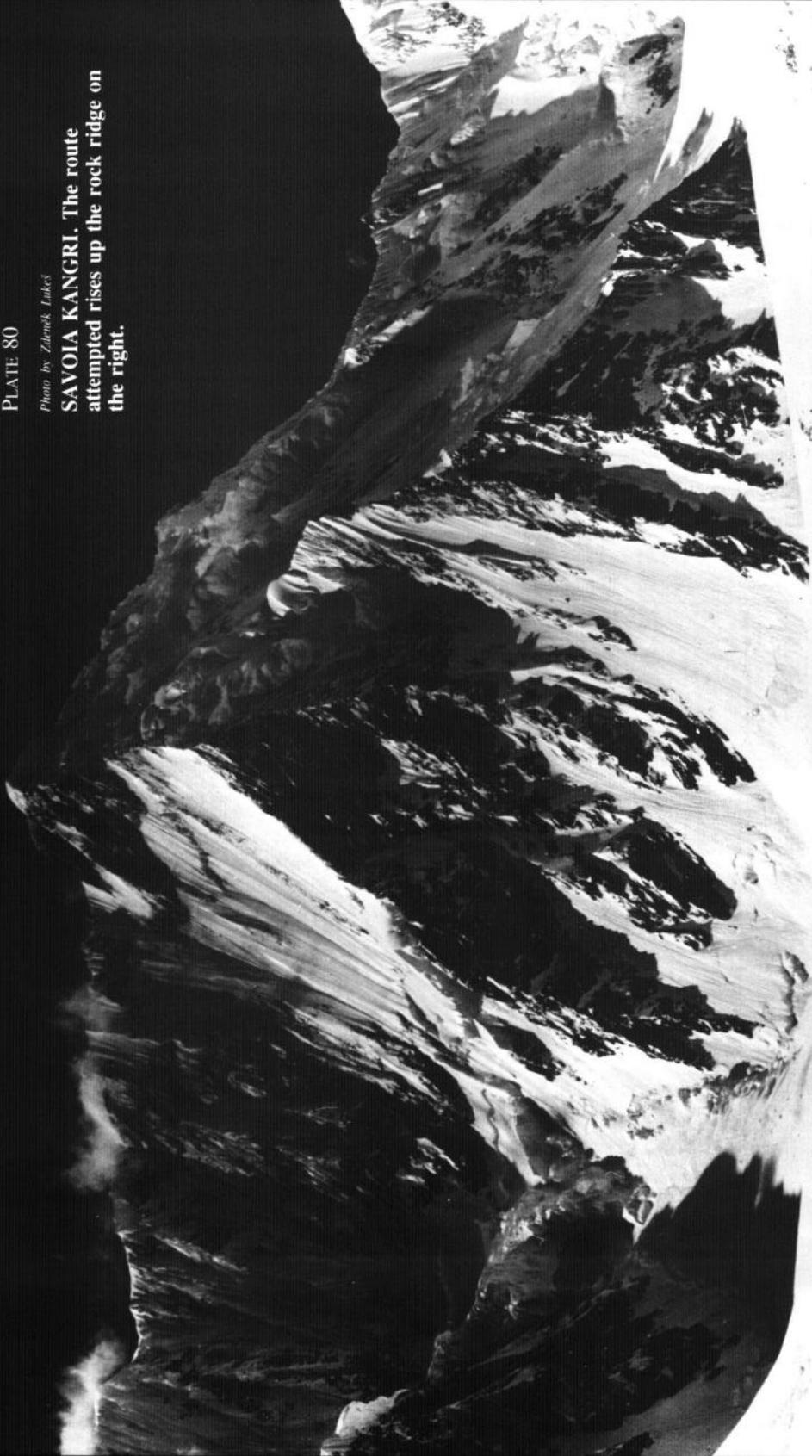
RAB CARRINGTON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Baintha Brakk II (Ogre II) Attempt. Brian Hall, Alan Rouse, Andrew Parkin and I attempted unclimbed Baintha Brakk II or Ogre II (6960 meters, 22,835 feet). It promised to be at least as difficult as Baintha Brakk (Ogre). A British party tried it in 1979 and large Japanese and Korean expeditions

PLATE 80

Photo by Zdenek Lukeš

SAVOIA KANGRI. The route attempted rises up the rock ridge on the right.



subsequently. None scored much success, and one Korean died when ice swept him away in "Death Valley," the dangerous corridor between the Ogre peaks. Baintha Brakk II is a difficult and complex peak. The west summit is a gigantic Matterhorn-like spire. The east peak is an icy ridge, and between is the central and highest summit, approachable only by devious routes through the lower walls and an extremely long and difficult summit ridge protected by steep towers. The lower reaches were obviously dangerous, making alpine style seem best. Thirty-three porters took our equipment to Base Camp in six days from Dassu. By July 16 we were installed at 15,500 feet. For acclimatization, we attempted Uzun Brakk Spire, a challenging rock spire of about 19,500 feet on the west side of the Uzun Brakk Glacier. A new route was pioneered on July 23 and 24 and we bivouacked within a day of the top. A storm ended the attempt and enforced a dangerous descent by a different unknown route. On July 28 we climbed the ice slopes towards the northwest ridge of the west peak of Baintha Brakk II. After a bivouac, we reached 20,000 feet early in the day after crossing an extremely hazardous hanging glacier, to bivouac in an ice cave we excavated. The next day we proceeded up difficult rock to 20,850 feet, but no bivouac position could be established. This enforced a retreat to the ice cave. The labour on this buttress caused damage to half our supply of rope either through stonewall or razor-edged flakes of rock. Our supplies were too limited to continue, and so on July 31 we retreated, traversing the northwest face and abseiling into the top of Death Valley down steep rock and ice. In this fast descent we were mightily impressed by the immense amount of debris and danger on this route; all wished if possible to avoid it in the future. On August 2 and 3 we investigated the south face but decided that the only possibility was far too steep and threatened by falling ice. The south ridge of the west peak did have some appeal though it was technically of the highest standard. This attempt was delayed when Hall injured a shoulder in a fall near Base Camp; for him further climbing was impossible. On August 6 and 7 we three remaining climbers tried the south ridge of the west peak. Unfortunately the gully leading to it was extremely long and very dangerous. The Japanese had tried this route in expedition style. It took us twelve hours of extremely threatened climbing to reach the ridge and we bivouacked in an exposed position on the corniced ridge. The next day we set off but turned back when one of my crampons disintegrated. With four or five days of difficult climbing ahead, retreat was inevitable. On August 8 we made a dangerous retreat to Base Camp. The only really feasible fast route now seemed to be the north ridge of the central summit, which involved taking our life into our hands in Death Valley. When the weather cleared on August 16, we bivouacked below it and set off in fine conditions early on the 17th. We climbed the corridor quickly before dawn and by six A.M. were almost clear of the dangerous area. Just then, an ice cliff 1000 feet higher collapsed and swept the gully, crashing past within thirty feet. Much chastened, we climbed fast into the safer area ahead. Yet to reach the ridge, we had to climb under ice cliffs with the risk of falls.

PLATE 81

Photo by Paul Nunn

BAINTHA BRAKK II's Northwest Face.



We decided to retreat. Base Camp was reached that day and vacated on August 21.

PAUL NUNN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Distaghil Sar, Second Ascent. After arriving on June 23 at Nagar, we spent two days haggling with the porter chiefs. We finally contracted for 37 porters and a sirdar. We ascended the Hispar valley and glacier and on July 1 got to Bularung on the Kunyang Glacier. With the help of other porters from Hunza, we moved supplies to Base Camp at 14,600 feet on the true right lateral moraine from July 3 to 8. Our liaison officer and cook stayed at Bularung and then returned to Hunza. We placed Camp I at the foot of the southeast face of Distaghil Sar at 16,400 feet on July 8. Camps II and III were established on the face at 19,350 and 21,650 feet on July 19 and 22. We fixed 2600 feet of rope between Camps I and II and 1000 feet between Camps II and III. We were entirely on snow and ice. We followed the route of the only other ascent, that of Wolfgang Stefan's Austrian expedition of 1960 except between Camps I and II, where we were well to the right. From July 19 on, we finally had good weather. The summit attack began on July 26. Five climbers ascended to Camp III on July 28. Three carried to Camp IV the next day, fixing 500 more feet of rope, and established it on July 30 at 23,800 feet on the west ridge. On July 31 Ramón Biosca, Jaume Matas and Toni Bros set out. Bros was too tired to climb the last 150 feet, but the other two arrived on the summit (7885 meters, 25,868 feet) at 2:50 P.M. They were back at Camp IV at seven P.M. Soft snow made the descent to Base Camp take two days more. Other members were Dr. Josep Aced, Josep Paytubi and I as leader.

JOAQUIM PRUNÉS, *Club Muntanyenc de Terrassa, Spain*

Bojohaghur Duan Asir I. Six Japanese climbers led by Muneo Uyeda failed to climb Bojohaghur Duan Asir I (7329 meters, 24,046 feet). They approached the mountain up the Ultar Glacier from Hunza and attempted the south side. Base Camp at 12,950 feet was established on June 9 and Camps I and II at 14,450 and 16,750 feet. Then the weather went bad. Camp III was placed on the southwest col at 19,525 feet only on July 19. The high point of the expedition was not much higher. The route was threatened by rockfall and three members were hit.

Bubuli-Mo-Tin, Ultar Group. Jacques Maurin and I made the first ascent of a 6000-meter (19,685-foot) tower, a satellite of the Ultar group on May 22. It lies southwest of Bojohaghur Duan Asir between the Ultar and Hasanabad Glaciers. We ascended north from Karimabad, a village just east of Baltit. We reached the summit in three days from Karimabad. The climb was mixed ice and rock and at times was very difficult. The approach was threatened by

avalanches. We climbed to the east col and up the east ridge. The final granite tooth rises some 2500 to 3000 feet.

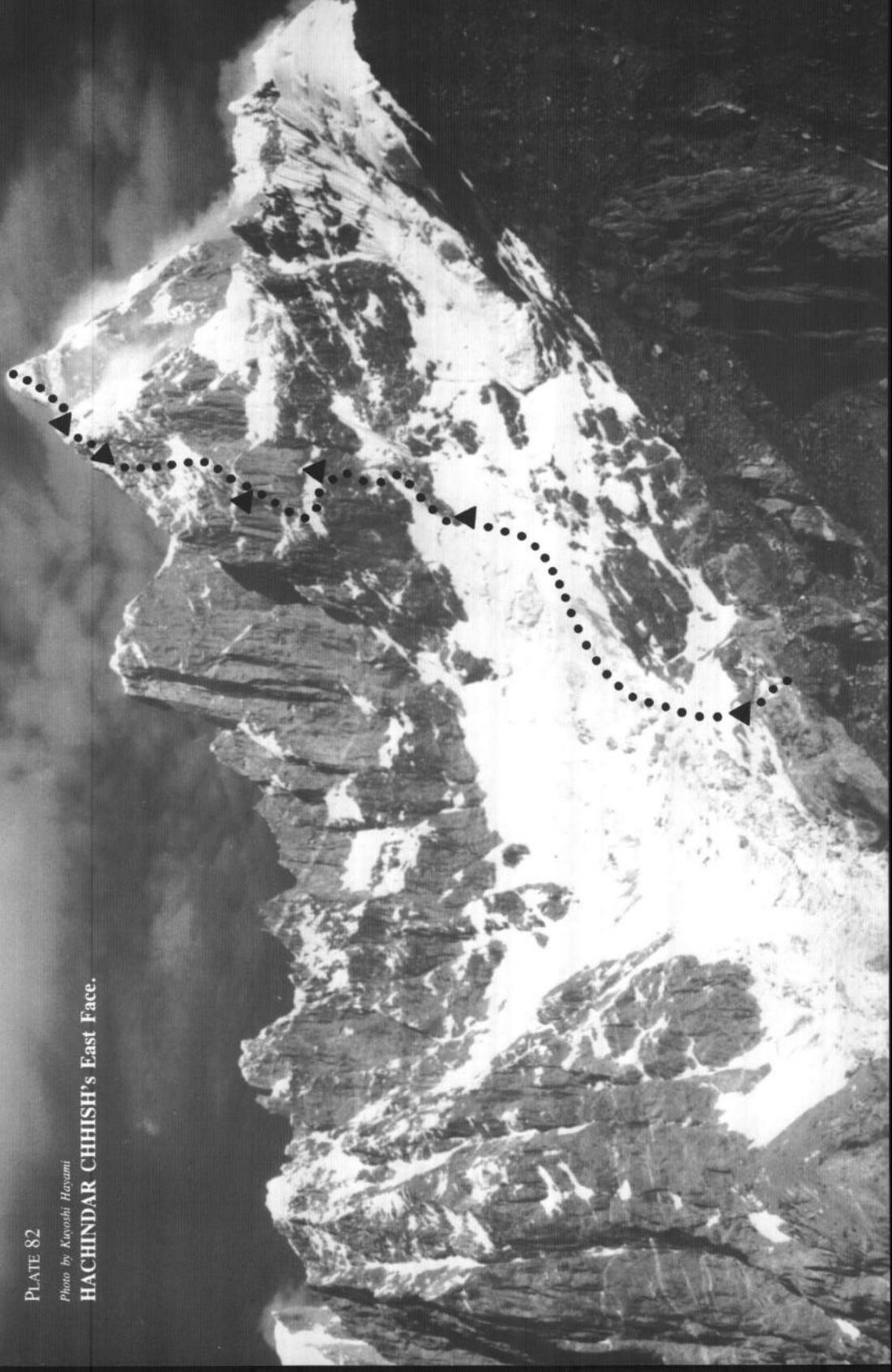
PATRICK CORDIER, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

Hachindar Chhish, East Face. The march-in with 110 porters to the foot of Hachindar Chhish from Aliabad in Hunza took us four days. On May 30 we established Base Camp on the Muchichul Glacier at 12,000 feet. We used no high-altitude porters. Our route was in three parts: the lower face of 4000 feet to Advance Base Camp, the steep upper wall of 3000 feet to the forepeak and the knife-edge ridge to the summit. We climbed a wide couloir above Base Camp to Advance Base Camp, which was occupied on June 19 at 15,950 feet on a broad snow ridge leading to the upper wall. This part was troubled with occasional rockfall and snow avalanches and a vertical aid pitch. Camp I was placed at 17,950 feet on the snow slope immediately below the east face of the forepeak. The route above Camp I started with a steep snow slope, then a smooth snow ridge and higher up, the steep icy rock wall of the forepeak with many aid pitches. On July 4 Camp II was set up on an ice band on the face at 19,150 feet. On July 12 we placed an uncomfortable Camp III at 19,650 feet on a small ledge. Camp IV, right below the forepeak, was established at 21,000 feet on the corniced ridge leading to the summit on July 21. We followed the tricky, heavily corniced ridge leading to the summit over some pinnacles. After ropes were fixed over the forepeak to the foot of the final summit ridge, all descended to Advance Base Camp to rest. On August 3 four members pitched Camp V at 21,325 feet just below the third pinnacle on the summit ridge. On August 4, seven members headed for the summit from Camps IV and V. We found a final icy gully running up to the summit cornice. Breaking through the cornice, leader Yasuyuki Higashi, Kenji Yoshida, Toshikazu Saito, Kensaku Sakai, Tatsuya Takinami, Kenichi Kimura and I stood on the summit of Hachindar Chhish (7163 meters, 23,500 feet) at two P.M.

KIYOSHI HAYAMI, *Kanazawa University Alpine Club, Japan*

Passu Peak Attempt. Our expedition consisted of Mamoru Shimizu, Norihide Taniuchi, Makihiro Wakao, Kazuhisa Ikegami, Hitoshi Mitsuishi, Kanichi Ichikawa and me as leader. We placed Base Camp at 13,300 feet on May 22 after a three-day approach from Passu village. From 13,950 to 16,250 feet there was a dangerous icefall; we prepared the route there from May 28 to June 3. Camps I, II and III were established at 16,250, 18,875 and 21,000 feet on June 4, 7 and 13 respectively. We skied between Camps II and III. Bad weather kept us from establishing Camp IV at 21,650 feet until June 20. Wakao and I started for a summit try on skis but at 22,950 feet we had a radio message

HACHINDAR CHHISH's East Face.



that Ichikawa was suffering from high-altitude sickness in Camp III and we descended. On June 23 we carried him to Camp I but he died of pulmonary edema on the 24th. Our expedition was over.

TOSHIO NARITA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Kuksar, Batura Karakoram. This previously unattempted peak, which lies at the head of the Batura Glacier in the northwestern Karakoram, was climbed in July. Success was marred by a fatal accident which during the descent befell the two members who reached the summit. The expedition members were Tim Hurrel, leader, Steve Brodrick, Martin Gledhill and me. Following extensive reconnaissance, we attempted the peak alpine style from Advance Base at 17,725 feet by a broad couloir in its southwest flank, followed by the short ridge. An attempt by Gledhill and me was aborted at 21,000 feet. On July 19 Brodrick and Hurrell reached the summit (6934 meters, 22,750 feet) after two bivouacs. On July 20, on their descent, they were swept to their deaths by an avalanche in the couloir. We found their bodies on July 22 and buried them in a crevasse. A diary and films were found, which authenticated the ascent. Poor snow conditions and unsettled weather prevailed throughout the expedition. The area, despite a tedious glacier approach, offers a number of attractive, unclimbed peaks of 21,325 to 23,625 feet.

MARTIN HORE, *England*

Saraghrar Northwest II. Our expedition was composed of Enrique Lucas, Ricardo Herrero, Nil Bohigas, Néstor Bohigas, Antonio García, Joan Martí and me as leader. We climbed the southwest buttress of Saraghrar Northwest II without oxygen, without high-altitude porters, without high camps nor tents. We established Base Camp on July 13 at 14,100 feet at the junction of the Rosh Gol Glacier and a tributary glacier southwest of the Saraghrar group. After depositing supplies at 15,900 feet on July 14, we started on the face at 16,100 feet on July 15 and had placed Advanced Base at 17,225 feet by July 19. By August 2 we had fixed rope to 19,700 feet. From August 4 to 8 we moved up the buttress, bivouacking at 19,000, 20,850, 21,325, 22,475 and 23,000 feet. The climbing was difficult. On August 9 Enrique Lucas, Nil Bohigas and I climbed to the summit of Sargahrar Northwest II (7200 meters, 23,622 feet), which we reached at ten A.M. The peak we climbed is the fourth one west of the highest summit. The third and fourth are Saraghrar Northwest, which has two tops. The more easterly one, which we did not climb, is about 100 meters higher than our top.

JUAN LÓPEZ DÍAZ, *Cataluña, Spain*

Nanga Parbat, Northwest Ridge Attempt and Tragedy. Our expedition, sponsored by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research, was international. The members were Harald Nevé, leader, and Richard Franzl, *Austrians*, Albrecht Baumgartner, Dr. Peter Forrer, Fredy Graf, Hans Howald and Marcel

Rüedi, Swiss, Oswald Duba, Czech, and Sepp Brantner, Alice Zebrowski and I, deputy leader, Germans. Our objective was to climb the northwest ridge, the 1976 Hanns Schell route. We were in Base Camp in the Rupal valley on May 7. Like other expeditions, we suffered unusually miserable weather and heavy snowfall during the whole month of May. Despite this, we established camps and had Camp III at 22,300 feet by the end of May. While heading for Camp IV on June 4, Dr. Peter Forrer was swept by an avalanche to his death down the Rupal face. After this sad event, we gave up the expedition. Dr. Forrer who was so preeminent in mountain rescues fell victim to Nanga Parbat.

HANS ZEBROWSKI, German living in Switzerland

Nanga Parbat, Rupal Buttress Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Yannick Seigneur, leader, Jean Afanassieff, Bernard Prud'homme, French, Bernd Neubaur, Michael Hoffmann, Rainier Pickl, Siegfried Wirth, Thomas Nuber, Germans and me, Swiss. We took two days from Rampur to Base Camp at the foot of the east face of Nanga Parbat, aided by 120 porters. On May 9 Seigneur and I placed Base Camp at 13,775 feet at the very foot of the Rupal buttress. We placed Camp I at 17,400 feet above a zone of rock and snow slopes, made more difficult because of the enormous amount of snow and avalanches. Camp II at 19,525 feet was above a great sérac barrier, which increased the danger of this difficult route. A big 1650-foot-high ice gully of 50° to 60° led to Camp III at 21,000 feet. On June 12 we lost Sheikh Ali, one of our two high-altitude porters who was killed while carrying a load and apparently slipped off a fixed rope; this caused the other one to withdraw. On June 13 Seigneur and I reached 23,300 feet, having overcome great difficulties. As we descended, a windslab broke and carried away seven lengths of fixed rope. After some bad weather, on June 20 two rope pairs left for a summit attempt. We replaced the fixed rope. Just as we finished this, a snow-and-ice avalanche struck Seigneur. He had several broken ribs, a cracked pelvis and many bruises, but he was still alive! It took three days to get him down. This ended our attempt. A month later the Herrligkoffer expedition was able to use our ropes from 19,000 feet up.

STÉFANE SCHAFFTER, Club Alpin Suisse

Nanga Parbat South Summit, East Buttress. The east buttress, which rises from the upper Bazhin Glacier, had long attracted my attention since I had first reconnoitered the Rupal Face with Toni Kinshofer in 1963. We got to Base Camp on the left moraine of the Bazhin Glacier on July 8. We were Schorsch Ritter, Valentin Demmel, Hartmut Münchenbach, Doris Kunstermann, Dr. Joaquin Zietz and me, Germans; Andrzej Bielun and Tadeusz Piotrowski, Poles; and Ueli Bühler, Swiss. We chose the right side of the buttress, which faces the Bazhin Glacier. We had reconnoitered the left side in 1975 and found

PLATE 33

Photo by Yannick Seigneur

Rupal Buttress, NANGA PARBAT.
Camps are marked. X = Accidents.

it threatened by avalanches. Yannick Seigneur had been shortly before us on the middle of the buttress and had reached 23,000 feet. Our route rose from the Bazhin Glacier at 12,500 feet in a bold line to the south summit. It first climbed a rock spur which protected us from ice avalanches on the way to Camp I at 15,100 feet. The camp was at the foot of a 6500-foot-long couloir, which we climbed on the left side. Camp II was halfway up at 16,750 feet in the only possible spot. The exit from the couloir was 70° and threatened by rockfall, and so our Hunza porters carried only once to Camp III at 19,350 feet on the central icefield above the couloir. This was the first camp not subject to falling rock and ice. It was there that we joined the route attempted by Seigneur. On July 31 Ritter and Bühler first climbed the 65° ice face above. On August 9 Camp IV was set up at 21,325 feet among séracs. On August 14 Ritter, supported by Piotrowski, climbed the "First Icefield" on the right side of which Camp IV was pitched at 23,950 feet. The next day they ascended the "Second Icefield" and crossed a small rock band to the "Third Icefield," which led to the south col. They were forced back by deep powder snow. That same day Münchenbach and Bühler climbed to Camp V. The four spent a crowded night in one tent. On August 16 the four set off. A nearly vertical 150-foot section took over an hour to lead. The warm sun had melted the snow so that they were soaked and did not dare to bivouac. All but Bühler descended to Camp V. Though the others expected him to follow them down, Bühler kept on without adequate bivouac gear to spend the night out below the south col in frigid weather. On August 17, around noon, Bühler reached the south summit (8042 meters, 26,384 feet), the top of the east buttress. He got back at six P.M. with seriously frozen hands and feet to Camp V, where Ritter and Piotrowski were waiting for him.

KARL MARIA HERRLIGKOFFER, *Deutsches Institut für Auslandsforschung*

Nanga Parbat, Southwest Ridge, Tragedy and Ascent. Our expedition, made up of Stefan Wörner, leader, Dr. Alex Berger, Martin Braun, Peter Hiltbrand, Norbert Joss, Hansruedi Staub and me, arrived on May 9 at Base Camp below the Diamir Face. On the second day Peter Hiltbrand was evacuated by the porters to the last village because of cerebral edema. The weather was bad. Finally, on May 14, we headed in the direction of Ganalo Peak and placed Camp I at 17,050 feet. On the 15th we continued toward the Diama Glacier, but the objective danger was so great that we gave up the idea of making a new route and decided on the Kinshofer route on the southwest ridge (first climbed by Austrians Hanns Schell, Hilmar Sturm, Robert Schauer and Siegfried Gimpel on August 11, 1976). On May 18 we set up Camp I at 16,400 feet and on May 22 Camp II at 20,000 feet. On May 23 Joos and I made a supply dump at 21,325 feet but had to descend because of bad weather, which lasted for ten days. Meanwhile Hiltbrand returned to Base Camp. On June 3 Berger, Braun, Joos and I regained Camp I, which was deep in snow. On the 4th we plowed our way to Camp II, digging out our fixed ropes. Dr. Berger

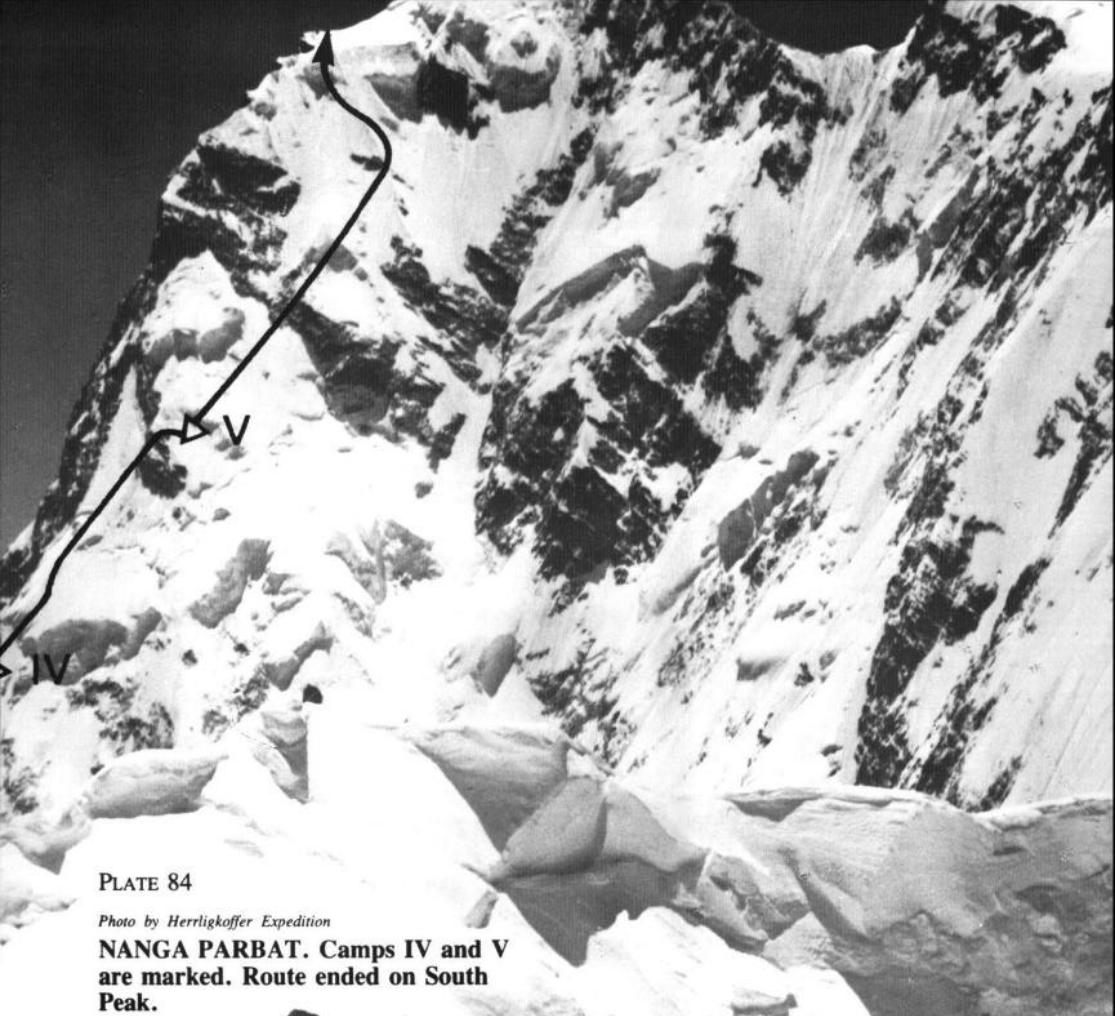


PLATE 84

Photo by Herrligkoffer Expedition

NANGA PARBAT. Camps IV and V
are marked. Route ended on South
Peak.



had to descend, sick, to Base Camp on June 5 but we other three climbed the Kinshofer couloir to our dump and from there traversed towards the Bazhin col on windslab which luckily held to let us reach a rocky island, where we placed Camp III at 22,800 feet. On June 6 we broke trail to 23,625 feet and descended to Camp II as planned. On the way down, we met Wörner, Staub and Hiltbrand, who hoped to establish Camp IV the next day and climb to the summit the day after. We tried to discourage them since none of them had yet been above 20,000 feet and they were not acclimatized. On June 7 Braun, Joos and I climbed back to Camp III while the other three advanced to establish Camp IV at 24,275 feet. Wörner and Staub got there in good time, but Hiltbrand lagged; he was definitely sick. At two A.M. on June 8 Wörner got to our tent at Camp III to say that Peter Hiltbrand was in very bad shape. Joos and I hurried upwards, soon joined by the other two. At eight A.M. we began to drag Hiltbrand down in a cloth sack. After 50 feet or so we were exhausted and realized it would take two days to get him down to Camp III. At 8:15 he went to sleep for ever. We closed his eyes and slipped him into a crevasse. Should we continue or give up? To quit would serve no purpose; we'd climb the mountain for Peter. Braun had to go down because of hemorrhoids, accompanied by Wörner. Joos, Staub and I went back up to Camp IV on June 9. In the afternoon Joos and I broke trail to 24,600 feet. On June 10 we set out at five A.M. A half an hour later I struck my cold feet with my ice axe and to my horror my plastic boots split! Could I continue? I took off boot and socks, rubbed my feet and after replacing my footgear, put on my crampons to hold it all together. Despite the wind, cold and the wind slabs, we continued. My foot stayed warm. After 650 feet, the couloir split. The right branch had normally been taken, but because of avalanche danger we kept left. We skirted two rock steps (UIAA IV + to V) unroped and got to a rather delicate ridge that led to a north summit at 8035 meters (26,362 feet). In a violent wind we continued toward the main summit. I was going well and got to the summit (8125 meters, 26,660 feet) at 1:30 P.M., the tenth party and the first Swiss to reach it. Joos joined me at two P.M. We found that Staub was content to reach the north summit. But was this "victory" worth the price? Nanga Parbat has had 42 victims for its ten "victories."

ERHARD LORETAN, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face. A Franco-German-Austrian expedition was led by Pierre Mazaud and composed of Michel Afanassief, Michel Berruex, Raymond Despiau, Kurt Diemberger, Hans Engl, Walter Cecchinel, Hubert Hillmaier and others. They climbed the Kinshofer route on the Diamir face of Nanga Parbat. On July 12 Berruex, Engl and Hillmaier set out with five Hunza porters to establish Camp IV at 23,950 feet. The next morning Hillmaier felt sick and he and Berruex returned, but Engl kept on, reconnoitering on the 13th and reaching the summit, despite miserable weather, on the 14th. He descended safely, still in very bad weather.

Ganalo Peak Attempt. Ganalo Peak (6606 meters, 21,664 feet) flanks Nanga Parbat on the northwest. We had access to it from the Diamir side, placing Base Camp at 13,775 feet on the moraine of the Diamir Glacier. We were Emilio Hernando, Jesús Gómez, Mikel Martínez and I. The climb was planned as a reconnaissance for our forthcoming Nanga Parbat expedition to the Diamir face rather than as an ascent in itself. Leaving Rawalpindi on August 1, we drove on the Karakoram Highway and to Bunar Sard. Four days later we were with eleven porters at Base Camp, 10,000 feet higher than where we left the road. We spent five days acclimatizing, which included going to Camp I on the Kinshofer route. We then headed for the virgin summit of Ganalo. After climbing scree, we placed a tent at snow line on the south side at 17,000 feet. At dawn the next day we headed along a sharp but not difficult ridge for what we thought was the summit. When we got to the western foresummit (6400 meters, 21,000 feet), we could see the real summit 650 feet higher, separated from us by a 1 1/4-mile difficult ridge. We gave up hopes of climbing Ganalo, having accomplished the reconnaissance.

ANGEL LANDA, Spain

Tirich Mir. Our expedition consisted of Anton Knecht, Eric Marchand, Paul Beyeler, Ernst Hunziker, Heinz Fahrer, Pierre Galland, Daniel Chevallier and me as leader. We climbed the Czech route of 1968. After a four-day approach, we reached Base Camp on the north side of Tirich Mir at 14,750 feet on June 21. We had no high-altitude porters. Because of bad weather and nearly daily snowfall, we had to set up six camps instead of the planned four. We set up camps at 17,050, 18,700, 19,350, 20,675, 21,650 and 23,625 feet on June 22, 25, 28, July 5, 8 and 11 respectively. On July 11 five members were at Camp V and three at Camp VI, but bad weather set in. On July 13 four climbers went to Camp VI but three returned to Camp V. On July 14 Knecht went solo to the summit (7708 meters, 25,284 feet). Further ascents were prevented by bad weather. We left Base Camp on July 19.

MARKUS ITTEN, Schweizer Alpen Club

Tirich Mir. On August 10 Jon Dasler, Dennis Olmstead, John Smolich and Allen Webb reached the summit of Tirich Mir (7708 meters, 25,260 feet) via the Upper Tirich Glacier and west saddle. They were supported by Lath Flanagan, Tom Gordon, Terry Jones, liaison officer Hamid Rao and me as leader. We were the first expedition to an Asian peak to arise within and be sponsored by the Mazama Climbing Club of Portland, Oregon. The jeep road from Chitral up the Mastuj River has been extended to Lunku in the Tirich Gol and will eventually reach Shagram. Until then, expeditions are advised to continue using the route from Drasan over the Zani An despite the 5400-foot

rise, so as to avoid porter troubles arising from fierce and rigid territoriality. We paid Rs. 900 per jeep to Lunku, 73 miles, were forced by strikes and threat of violence to change porters at Zundangram and Shagram and upon reaching the traditional Base Camp at Qulish Zom. In four days we paid Rs. 575 per porter in total. Following the 1967 route of the Czechs, we placed camps at 17,300, 19,300, 21,500 feet and on the west saddle. Previous snowfall made route-finding through crevassed fields interesting but surface conditions were good. Only one day of marginal weather was experienced from July 14 to August 18. The "overhanging chimney" (see A.J., v. 73 (1968) page 250), consisted of 140 feet of easy to moderate 5th-class climbing with an odd off-balance move. The rock was sound but with some overlying ice. Snow slopes of 55° led to the west saddle. We set 1200 feet of line between Camp III and the col. The route to the summit is mixed snow and shattered rock, not difficult. A ski pole with a Pakistani flag was found on the summit, presumably left by the earlier Swiss party. Costs in the Tirich Gol are out of control because a representative of the Ministry of Tourism is not posted to that area and no such system of "porter's book" documentation exists in contrast to the Baltoro. Previous expeditions had paid exorbitant wages, setting new standards of expectation.

ROBERT A. WILSON

Tirich Mir West I. Our expedition was made up of Salvador Boix, Joan Hugas, Pere Planas, Josep Aliu and me as leader. After a four-day approach from Lunku, we placed Base Camp on July 18 at 15,425 feet on the moraine on the right bank of the Upper Tirich Glacier. We placed Camps I, II and III at 18,050, 19,850 and 21,325 feet on July 20, 26 and 30 respectively. On August 4 Boix and I climbed to the col between Tirich Mir and Tirich Mir West I, where we installed Camp IV at 23,625 feet. On August 5 we two ascended the ridge to the summit of Tirich Mir West I (7487 meters, 24,564 feet). We had fixed rope on the difficult spots between Camps III and IV. Aliu had to descend to 10,000 feet with pulmonary edema, but he was later able to rejoin the expedition.

RAMÓN ESTIU, *Unió Excursionista de Catalunya*

China

Another Gongga Shan Tragedy. A horror story comes from another Japanese attempt on Gongga Shan. The five-man, two-woman expedition was led by Hideaki Saito. They reached Base Camp at 11,500 feet on the Hailoko Glacier on March 19, hoping to complete the new route on the northeast ridge, so disastrously attempted by other Japanese in 1981. (See A.A.J., 1982, pages 284-5.) After skirting the icefalls, they established Temporary Camp I, Camps I, II, III (on the northeast ridge col) and IV on March 28, April 4, 9, 21 and