

on the South Barum Glacier. On July 26 Camp I was placed at 17,550 feet. We planned to climb the original 1950 Norwegian route, but the snow conditions were dangerous and we decided to make a variation via the "S" Col (21,325 feet), where Camp II was established on August 2. On August 11 Cholda and Hajzer left Camp II and climbed by the Japanese route to the "Jankowski Terrace" (23,000 feet), where they bivouacked. Next day at five P.M. the summit (7706 meters, 25,283 feet) was reached—after 19 days activity on the mountain. The second summit attempt was stopped below the "S" Col because of a not serious avalanche accident. The new variation is not difficult, but its upper section, a 1000-foot-high ice gully below the "S" Col, is seriously exposed to avalanches.

RYSZARD WARECKI, *Harcerski Klub Tatarnicki, Poland*

### China

*E-Gongga Attempt, 1982.* Our team comprised Ivan Day, Roy May, Peter Thompson, Dr. Duncan Gray, Stephen Martin and me as leader. We arrived at our roadhead village, Xin Xin, on July 23, 1982. E-Gongga, our main objective after we discovered that Swiss had illegally climbed Zhong Shan, was a very complex mountain to which there was no obvious access on the south. During the approach, we had dismissed attempting it from the southeast because of prolonged technical difficulties on such a huge face and difficulty of access. We would have to machete our way through five or six kilometres of dense forest and pick our way across three kilometres of glacier just to reach the base of a 3500-metre-high cliff. A route from the north was denied us by flooding in the approach valley, Nan Men Guan Gou, just prior to our arrival. Our first attempt by the south face used as an approach the valley immediately north of Base Camp. The second, from Advance Base two days' march around the base of the mountain, was via a subsidiary peak west of E-Gongga. These routes might have gained access to an intervening southwest ridge to the summit. On the first attempt, from July 28 to August 2, Gray and Martin reached a high point of 5200 metres. The route abutted a 600-metre vertical rock tower of questionable stability which had to be scaled to reach the steep snow slope leading to the summit. Our attention now turned to the side Day and I had been looking at. Racing against time, we took two days to set up Advance Base. By August 5 we had crossed the heavily crevassed Yantsoko Glacier to gain access to E-Gongga's defining valley to the west and to Camp I. A frigid river crossing above Camp I established us on the route, which would have involved the ascent of P 6130 simply to gain access to our peak. Two bivouacs, the first alarmingly exposed to rockfall, found Gray and me at 4900 metres on the west slope of P 6130. On August 8 we reached a high point of 5350 metres by climbing a complex icefall to a sérac ridge which in turn crested on the west ridge of P 6130. The weather took a dramatic turn for the worse. We called off our attempt on August 11.

STUART HEPBURN, *Carlisle Mountaineering Club, England*

*Ascent of Bok'ra III and Attempt at Circuit of Siguniang.* On October 2, fifteen of us left Zelun in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of Sichuan Province and headed north into the beautiful Zhang Ping valley of the Siguniang Mountains. We were accompanied by two efficient and pleasant liaison officers, an interpreter and a cook of the Chinese Mountaineering Association. Under the auspices of the American Alpine Club, we were to climb and explore in this recently "opened" area of southwest China. After a few days of acclimatization and reconnaissance we occupied a camp at 15,000 feet from which we hoped to climb the three summits of Bok'ra, which lie north of Siguniang. Rick Reese makes the following report: "On October 7 David Wright, Fred Lang and I in 5½ hours climbed to the 17,600-foot (5364-meter) summit of Bok'ra III (the west peak) at the head of the Zhang Ping valley. The next day the route was repeated by Lorraine Bonney, Frank Castle, David Chick, Chadwick Creamer and Dana and Bill Isherwood. The route was mostly on snow with a section of fairly steep ice just below the summit. Climbing was straightforward and of moderate difficulty. From the summit we could see dozens of unclimbed granite peaks to the north, west and south which would rank with the finest rock climbs on earth." Attempts on the two other summits failed because of health problems at high altitude. Another major interest was to attempt the first circuit of the Siguniang massif. A pass leading east just north of Siguniang was too difficult for our party. Another reconnaissance on October 11 revealed that another pass two miles farther north was not a possible access route to the east. A third pass another two miles or so farther north seemed to give access to a six-to-eight-mile-long east-west valley. Dense evergreen forests of pine and rhododendron presented formidable barriers to leaving the Zhang Ping valley floor. We were told that Tibetans climbed into this valley to dig for medicinal roots. David Wood and I found their trail on October 12. On the 14th we two with Fran Allen, Lorraine Bonney, Cleo Dymott and Jim Henriot found the pass at 16,050 feet and descended into the valley via a very steep scree slope. We decided to explore the valley. On the 15th it was a slow descent to 11,000 feet. The next morning we descended in cloud to the confluence of our valley with the northeast-southwest valley. With poor visibility, we could not determine whether there was a likely way out of that valley to the south or southeast. As we were running low on food, we had to give up the circuit and return.

PETER WOOD

*Everest Attempt.* We established Base Camp at the terminal moraine of the Rongbuk Glacier at 16,900 feet on March 24 after a three-day truck trip from Lhasa. We were 12 climbers, including a doctor and two television reporters. Our plan was to climb without porters and supplementary oxygen. We carried five bottles of oxygen for sleeping at high camps. During April we placed Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 18,375, 19,700, 21,325, 22,975 and 24,950 feet. We fixed rope on the ascent to the North Col and on the ice ridge between Camps IV and V, a total of 1000 meters. In extremely unstable, cold weather we made

our final assault in mid-May, supported by Juan Pardo and Luis Garcia, placing Camps VI and VII at 26,400 and 27,325 feet. The summit team, Claudio Lucero, Iván Vigoroux, Dagoberto Peña and I, trapped by high winds, stayed three days and nights at Camp VII without artificial oxygen, which caused all four to become exhausted and one to suffer from cerebral edema. On May 21 we left Camp VII to bring the sick man down to Camp III. We had an unfortunate event. Gino Casassa, without permission and without our knowledge, climbed Changtse. This caused a series of problems with the Chinese authorities. He has been expelled from our Federation. The other members were Claudio Gálvez, Nelson Rivera, Nelson Muñoz, Eduardo Parvex, Jorge Bassa, Santiago Pavlovic and Danilo Aravena.

GASTÓN OYARZÚN, *Federación de Andinismo de Chile*

*Changtse, Illegal Ascent to Northeast Summit.* Early in the Everest expedition I suffered an attack of high-altitude sickness and returned to Base Camp. Despite a rapid recovery, our doctor recommended that I not go high again. Having disregarded this, I was ordered by the expedition leader to remain in Base Camp. However, feeling recuperated, on May 12 and 13 I reascended to Camp II at 20,000 feet. I set off alone at 3:30 A.M. on May 14 and at eight reached the base of the 3-mile-long northeast ridge at 22,300 feet. In spite of the cornices, shortly after noon I got to the base of the summit pyramid. At 3:30 I was 35 feet below the top. Waste-deep powder snow on a 70° slope separated me from the summit. As I stepped onto the snow, it slumped some 15 feet and threatened to avalanche. I found a better route 150 feet to the right on the north face and at five P.M. I reached the summit (7550 meters, 24,771 feet). [This was the route followed by the Germans who made the first ascent in 1982. See *A.A.J.*, 1983, page 294.—*Editor.*] At eleven P.M. I was back in Camp II exhausted. Because the ascent was illegal, I have been expelled from the Federación de Andinismo de Chile.

GINO CASASSA, *Chilean Section of the Club Andino Italiano*

*Everest, Attempt to Traverse the Peak by the West and Northeast Ridges.* On September 7, Frenchmen Jean Afanassieff, Bernard Prud'homme, Louis-Paul Chantelat, Eric Escoffier, Dr. Jean-Louis Etienne, Xavier Fargeas, Bruno Gallet, Serge König, American Tom Hargis and I, Swiss, left Paris. We joined co-leaders Yannick Seigneur and Patrick Barthe in Beijing. On September 15 we were at Base Camp on the Rongbuk Glacier at 17,050 feet. Camp I was placed on the Rongbuk at 18,375 feet and Camp II at the foot of the west ridge of Changtse at 19,200 feet. On cross-country skis we crossed the glacier to the base of the north spur of the shoulder of the west ridge. On the spur we placed 6500 feet of rope to avoid the risk of windslabs. We made our summit attempts from Camp II without higher camps or supplementary oxygen. Seigneur, König, Gallet and Fargeas made the first summit try from October 8 to 13 but

were forced back from 26,900 feet in the Hornbein Couloir by snowfall and cold; they had some frostbite. On October 14 Escoffier and I set out. We bivouacked at 23,300, 24,950 and two nights at 26,900 feet in the couloir. Our tent was destroyed by wind and we gave up after a day of waiting. At 23,000 feet we met Seigneur, König and Gallet who climbed to 25,600 feet before being repulsed by the cold. On October 22 we gave up the expedition.

STÉPHANE SCHAFFTER, *Club Alpin Suisse*

*Mount Everest Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Joan Massons, Antoni Ricart, Nil Bohigas, Jordi Canals, Jordi Camprubí, Oscar Cadiach, Josep María Durán, Lluís Gómez, Enric Lucas, Miquel Sánchez, Antoni Sors and me as leader. Our route was via the North Col, north and northeast ridges. We arrived at Base Camp on August 12. We set up Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 18,050, 19,700, 21,325, 22,950 and 24,950 feet between August 15 and September 5 in good weather. We returned to Base Camp to rest from September 6 to 13. The first summit attempt by Camprubí, Lucas, Gomez and Cadiach was driven back after two nights in Camp VI at 26,250 feet. They returned to Camp III on September 26. A second try from September 30 to October 5 was prevented by the weather from getting above Camp IV. The third attempt by Cadiach, Camprubí, Lucas and Bohigas reached a camp at 27,225 feet just below the northeast ridge but strong winds prevented movement on October 10. On the 11th and 12th, they battled the storm to descend to Camp III. With the camps battered by storms and the group exhausted, we gave up the expedition.

CONRAD BLANCH, *Caixa de Barcelona, Spain*

*Mount Everest.* An expedition of ten Swiss and two Italians was led by Romolo Nottaris. They had hoped to climb the 1980 Japanese route on the direct north face of Mount Everest in the post-monsoon period. After three months of effort, Nottaris broke his ankle near Camp III at 23,950 feet and the expedition was given up.

*Mount Everest, Winter Attempt from Tibet.* At the same time as Kazuyuki Takahashi was leading a successful winter ascent of Mount Everest from Nepal, his wife Michiko Imai Takahashi was leading an 18-member team from Tibet. Husband and wife had hoped for a meeting on the highest point on earth. The climbers on the north face followed the 1980 Japanese route and reached 26,575 feet in the Hornbein Couloir on November 30. They had established Base Camp, Camps I, II and III at 18,450, 20,250, 22,650 and 25,250 feet on October 21, 26, November 5 and 17 respectively. Up till then, all had gone well, but various things then went wrong. Inexperienced Chinese helpers fell victim to severe frostbite. A tent burned down in Camp I. When they got to Camp II on December 30 they found it destroyed by the winds. A final attempt failed just below Camp II on January 10, 1984.

PLATE 83

*Photo by Josef Rakoncaj*

**The North Face of K2.**





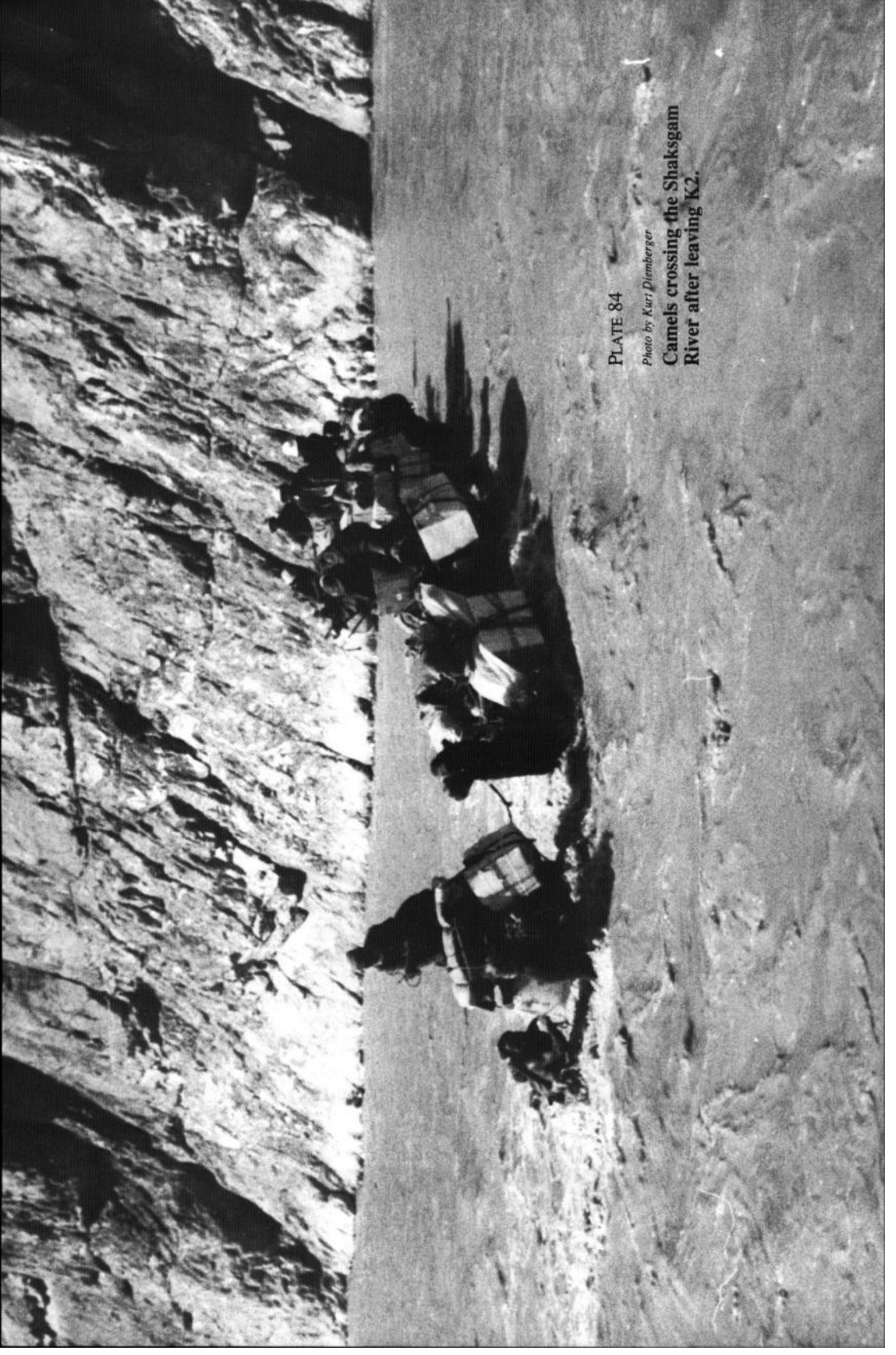


PLATE 84

*Photo by Kurt Diemberger*

**Camels crossing the Shaksgam  
River after leaving K2.**

*Shisha Pangma Tragedy and Ascent.* Our 13-person expedition reached Base Camp at 16,400 feet on March 29. Supplies could be jeeped some eight miles further. The rest of the transport to Camp I at 18,700 feet was by yak. We were delayed until April 18 by high winds. Camps II, III and IV were set up with the help of porters at 21,000, 22,300 and 24,125 feet. On April 27 Josef and Marianne Walter, Gerhard Schmatz, Dr. Ulrich Schum, Fritz Luchsinger, Heini Koch and I arrived at Camp IV. The 62-year-old Swiss Luchsinger, who made the first ascent of Lhotse in 1956 and who climbed Dhaulagiri in 1980, was exhausted and given oxygen during the night. He developed pulmonary edema. Koch and I attempted to evacuate him but he died about 500 feet above Camp III. On April 29 the four in Camp IV set out for the summit at about ten A.M., all but Schum without supplementary oxygen. Schmatz reached the summit (8046 meters, 26,400 feet) at four P.M. (There seems to be evidence that Schmatz reached a slightly lower western foresummit, thinking he was on the highest point.—*Editor.*) Herr and Frau Walter got to the top at seven P.M. As they descended, they met Schum. Sepp Walter returned to the summit with him at 8:15. They were benighted on the descent and reached Camp IV with some frostbite. The descent was also in bad weather.

SIGI HUPFAUER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*K2 from the North.* Our expedition of 22 repeated the 1982 route of the Japanese on the north side of K2 under the leadership of Francesco Santon. The Home Camp was at 12,600 feet at Sunghet Jangal in the Sarpolago valley. We then put a depot at 13,450 feet in front of the K2 Glacier, Intermediate Camps I and II at 14,450 and 15,425 feet, Base Camp at 16,075 feet and another depot at 17,050 feet, just below the start of the climb. We had no porters and had to do all the carrying ourselves from the lower depot on. Camp I was at 18,550 feet and Camp II at 21,650 feet. Between these camps it was dangerous because of traversing steep 45° to 50° slopes with a continuous threat of avalanches. We had to replace fixed ropes and pitons many times. Camps III and IV were at 24,600 and 25,925 feet. From Camp IV to the top the slopes were from 45° to 50° with various kinds of ice and snow. The weather was very bad with snow from the end of June to July 20. On July 31 Agostino Da Polenza and the Czechoslovak Josef Rakoncaj reached the summit at nine P.M. They had to bivouac at 28,050 feet on the descent. On August 4 Sergio Martini and Fausto De Stefani reached the top at two P.M. No one used supplementary oxygen. Ten members climbed to above 8000 meters (26,247 feet), including the film crew of 51-year-old Austrian Kurt Diemberger and Englishwoman Julie Tullis. We had problems with high water in the rivers while returning with camels from Home Camp, which we left on August 25. Three camels and three climbers fell into very cold, swift water but luckily all were rescued. We were away from Italy from April 27 to September 11.

GIORGIO PERETTI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

PLATE 85

*Photo by Matt Wells*

**KONGUR from the North.**





*Kongur, Attempt from the North.* Ian Wade, Matt Wells, Dick Morse and I made an attempt on the north side of Kongur (7719 meters, 25,325 feet) during June. We spent some days probing various routes on the lower sections of the buttress attempted by the Japanese in 1981. Then we descended to try a smaller ridge farther west that promised a more rapid and less problematic access to the upper parts of the mountain. We left our 12,000-foot Base Camp on June 10 with 16 days of supplies and initially made an extra trip apiece between camps. We made our first camp at 15,000 feet, passed a steep 1200-foot ice face to camp at 17,000 feet and then dug a snow cave at 18,850 feet just below the ice cliffs that mark the terminus of an enormous snow basin. The basin led directly up to the col at the base of the summit ridge that was followed by Bonington's group in 1981. It was also threatened by major avalanches from various directions. We gained the vertical ice cliff to gain the basin, placed two camps in the basin at 19,800 and 21,500 feet. We then angled up to intersect the summit ridge running west to the col. At a bergschrund at 22,500 feet at the head of the basin, I turned back with Wells, who was suffering from minor frostbite and exhaustion, to wait for a summit attempt by Wade and Morse. They intersected the summit ridge late the next day, June 25, at just over 24,000 feet, and could see as far south as K2. Wade wisely coaxed reluctant Morse to give up the attempt. Both were weak from the extended effort and were moving too slowly to reach the summit that day. We were plagued throughout by nearly daily snowstorms and the attendant buildup of deep snow. Post-holing was the rule above 15,000 feet even on what we had hoped would be the final wind-blown summit ridge.

ED NEWVILLE

#### U.S.S.R.

*Pik Moscow, Pamir Mountains, 1982.* Czechs Stanislav Glejdura and Ladislav Kyrk made a new route on the 6500-foot north face of Pik Moscow (6785 meters, 22,260 feet) from August 1 to 4, 1982. Near the top of the face, rockfall drove them from the direct line to the summit to the right, where they joined the 1977 Ukrainian route. A photo appears in *Bergsteiger* of February 1983 on page 66.