

*Yukshin Gardan Sar, Second Ascent.* Our joint Japanese-Pakistani expedition was composed of Japanese Kenshiro Otaki, leader, Akio Hayakawa, Fumihide Saito, Tetsuei Hanzawa, Dr. Ichiro Shirouzu and me and Pakistanis Major Sher Khan, deputy leader, Rahat Ali, Qaiser Khan, Iftikhar Hussain and Dr. Atif Aohail. With 70 porters, we approached from May 24 to 30 from Pasu up the Shimshal valley to Base Camp at 12,400 feet on the Yazghil Glacier. At first we attempted the north ridge of Yukshin Gardan Sar, but after a month's effort we gave it up because of vertical and brittle rock above 21,325 feet. We changed from the north to the south side and made two alpine-style attempts. On our first, three members left Advance Base Camp at 13,450 feet on July 6 carrying gear and food for eight days but failed because of bad weather and a shortage of food. On the second attempt, Hayakawa, Saito, Hanzawa, Major Sher Khan and I went up the right of the Yazghil Glacier to the Upper Yazghil Glacier to the col between Yukshin Gardan Sar and Yutmar Sar with food for twelve days. We got to the col on July 21 and reached the summit (7530 meters, 24,705 feet) on July 23. Our success was the second ascent because we found the flags of the Austrian-Pakistani expedition on the summit; they had climbed to the summit on June 26.

AKIRA SUZUKI, *Toyo University Alpine Club, Japan*

*Yakshin Gardan Sar, Third Ascent.* A Japanese expedition led by Hiroshi Tateoka originally had permission for Rimo, but because of a border dispute, the authorities changed their objective. They approached from the Hispar Glacier over a col north of Khunyang Chhish North to the upper Yazghil Glacier. They then took more or less the same route as the other parties. The top was reached on July 25 by Masayuko Ando, Hiroshi Fujii and Hiroyuki Okamura and on July 26 by Toru Matsubara and Mamoru Asada.

*Malangutti Sar Attempt.* This 7000er north of Distagil Sar was unsuccessfully attempted by Japanese led by Yoshiro Kasai. Details are missing.

*Rakaposhi Attempt.* A Slovene expedition led by Janez Skok headed in June for the Garhwal Himalaya through Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran and Pakistan up to the Indian frontier, where they were halted because the Panjab was closed. They waited for ten days in Islamabad for visas but in vain. They then asked the Pakistanis for permission for Rakaposhi. They received it in another twenty days and headed for Rakaposhi's north face to try a new route. From a 10,000-foot Base Camp, they worked out a route up 2500 feet on a difficult and dangerous glacier. They fixed rope up a 2000-foot-high rock band. On a second attempt, Igor Herzog slipped on steep ice, was severely hurt and had to be helicoptered out. They called the expedition off. The other members were Ines Božič, Zvone Drobnič, Erika Gregorka, and Rck Kovač.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planinska zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*



PLATE 75

*Photo by Yoshino Kasai*

**Yukshin Gardan Sar from Upper Yazghil Glacier. North ridge on left was climbed as far as the steep step. The ascent was up the steep snow on right, behind the ridge and on the ridge from the col on the right.**

*Minapin Attempt.* French climbers led by Pierre Feuillet failed to climb Minapin. They tried the north ridge and then the north face and west ridge but found both routes very dangerous because of séracs and avalanches.

*Spantik.* Frans Visser, Maarten Frissel, Pieter Slooten, Antoinette Briët, Sabine Deneer, Dr. Margreet Hogeweg and I as leader made the fourth ascent of Spantik, following a variation of the original southeast-ridge route, first climbed by a German expedition in 1955. In 1978 two Japanese expeditions also climbed this peak, one by the original route and the other by the south ridge. We placed Base Camp at 4300 meters on July 8 on the middle moraine of the Chogolungma Glacier. Choosing a route left of the original line, we climbed 200 meters of grassy slope and set up Camp I on July 12 at 4900 meters, below a conspicuous promontory on the southeast ridge. Camp II at 5700 meters was established at the foot of the Chogo face on July 15. After reaching the col between Mounts "Chogo" and "Lungma," we pitched Camp III at 6400 meters near the top of the latter on July 20. During all that time the weather remained brilliant with very intense solar radiation that temporarily affected some of the members. On July 22 Visser, Frissel, Slooten and two of the ladies, Briët and Deneer, left Camp III. After crossing on snowshoes the intermediate plateau, they climbed the upper southwest ridge to the summit (7027 meters, 23,055 feet). On July 25 Margreet Hogeweg, who had cured me from previous ailments, and I also went to the top, accompanied by Visser, who thus repeated the summit. During the descent the weather deteriorated for the first time with snowfall that created avalanche danger. We were all back in Base Camp on July 29. This is the highest summit ever climbed by Dutch women, although higher altitudes have been reached on other mountains, in particular the recent record of 8600 meters set on Everest by Mariska Mourik only a few months later.

JAN BONGENAAR, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

*Karun Koh Attempt.* Towering over the mountains around it at 7350 metres (24,115 feet), Karun Koh lies north of the main Karakoram chain. It is only open to joint expeditions. It had been attempted only once, by an Austrian expedition led by Robert Schauer in 1983. (See *A.A.J.*, 1984, page 304.) In 1984 our four-man team of Al Rouse, Pakistanis Major Ikram Ahmed Khan and Maqusood Ahmen and me followed the Austrian route. We set out from Islamabad on May 25 by mini-bus, reaching Gilgit in the day, and the following day we drove to Markhun by jeep and Suzuki van. We left Karkhun on May 29 with 30 porters. The route starts up a narrow gorge which then opens out into a wide cultivated valley dotted with small stone houses. Beyond the cultivated area, the path winds through sparse juniper woods to the upper pastures. We camped by some derelict herders' huts at 12,250 feet. Karun Kuh was still concealed from view by a bend in the valley. The next day we reached the snow line at 13,125 feet, just short of the snout of the Karun Koh Glacier. Karun Koh first appears

as you come around the corner of the glacier. The two skyline ridges looked deceptively easy, for their very steep approaches are hidden by intervening ground. We spent a fortnight acclimatizing on the surrounding peaks. On June 14 we reconnoitred the southwest ridge of Karun Koh, finding a safe route up the snow slopes to the side of the glacier and then along a glaciated shelf below the crest of the ridge. We camped in a snow basin just short of the southwest ridge and then reconnoitred a route to the foot of the ridge. This was barred by three steep rock pinnacles and the only way around them seemed to be a long traverse on snow and ice below them. Above the pinnacles a knife-edged ridge led to a barrier of séracs at about 23,000 feet. Beyond that the difficulties seemed to ease. We were back at our high camp on June 22 after a few days of unsettled weather. We shifted this camp closer to the foot of the pinnacles to 18,700 feet. On July 23 Al and I set out for our first attempt on the mountain with four days' food, a selection of ice and rock gear and 100 metres of rope. Almost immediately we encountered hard, bare ice. We had set out at three A.M. and by ten o'clock the sun had softened what little snow was covering the ice on the traverse and we had climbed only nine rope-lengths. There seemed to be at least another six pitches before we reached its end and the probability that we should have to contend with bare ice for most of the way to the top. We therefore decided to retreat and to try to find an easier route around the unexplored east side of the mountain. On June 24 the four of us crossed the shoulder below the southwest ridge to drop down onto the glacier to the south of Karun Koh. We followed this down to where it was joined by a steep icefall which descended the eastern side and then climbed this to a col to the east of the mountain. We could now see the southeast, the east and the north ridges of Karun Koh. They were dramatically steep and narrow with the faces in between threatened by séracs. They looked even more difficult than the pinnacled southwest ridge. We returned to the southwest side to try this once more. Unfortunately the weather now broke and after ten days of continuous bad weather and one more attempt curtailed by it, we judged that it had set in for a long time. We therefore evacuated the mountain.

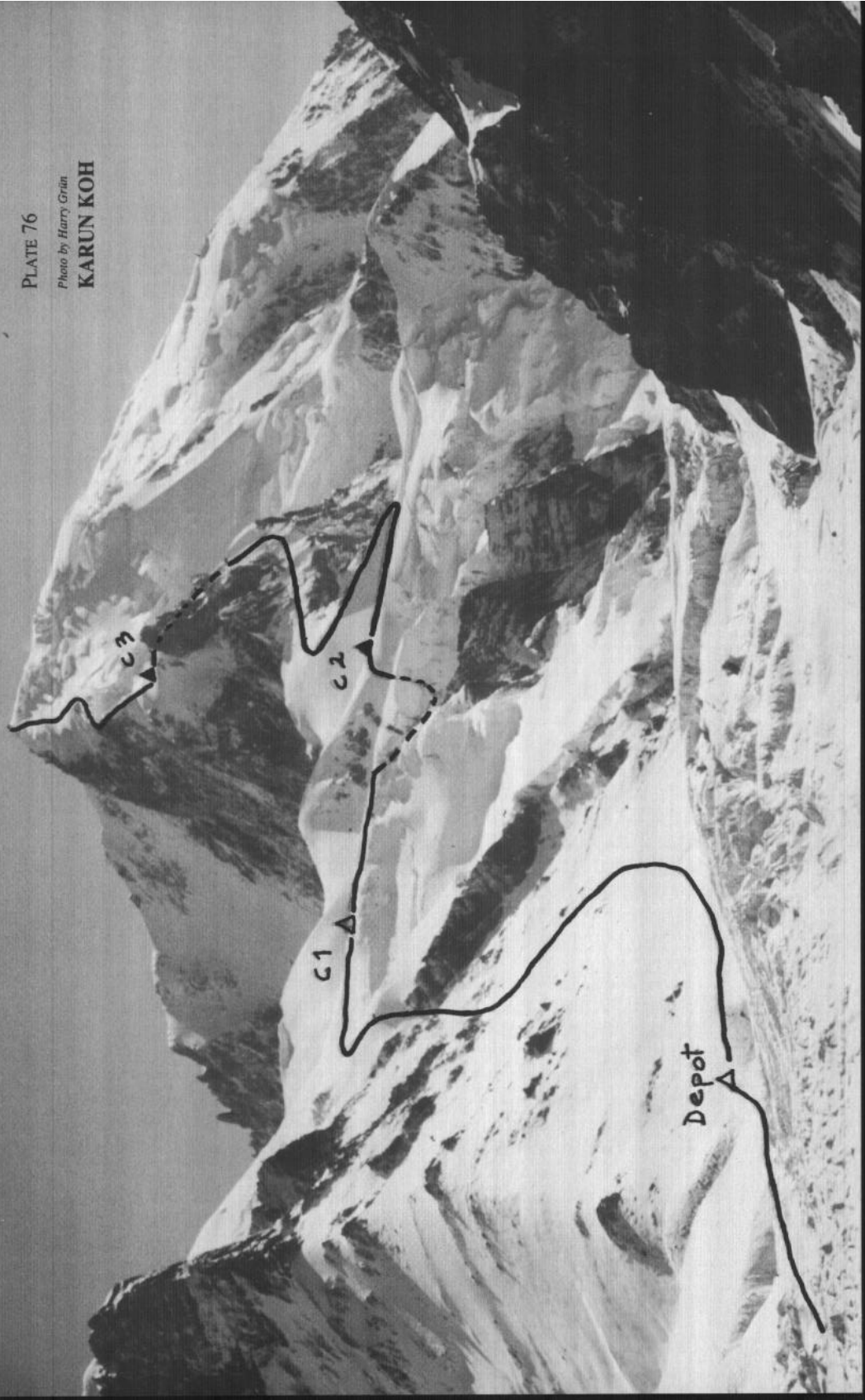
CHRISTIAN BONINGTON

*Karun Koh, First Ascent.* Our expedition consisted of Oskar Bubbnik, Walter Krampf, Heinz Zimmermann and me as leader. Although we had obtained permission for the K12 group, that area was closed for political reasons. We picked Karun Koh as an alternative. We left the Karakoram Highway at Pasu on June 9 with 38 porters. We were not allowed the easy approach through Marchum and had to follow the Shimshal valley upriver for one-and-a-half days. Then we constructed a rope bridge to cross the Shimshal River and continued over the Karumpir Pass (4850 meters). After leaving the river, we had no water available for two days. We reached Base Camp on June 13 at 4900 meters on the Karun Koh Glacier. The British-Pakistani team was already there, hoping to climb Korun Koh via the west shoulder and southwest ridge. The main

PLATE 76

*Photo by Harry Grinn*

**KARUN KOH**





difficulty was getting around the three pinnacles. It started with a steep 45° to 50° traverse to the right of the ridge and continued on the east side over mixed terrain, in places 55° to 60°, to a small saddle above them. From there a corniced ridge broken once by rock led to an ice ramp and the summit face. We set up Advance Base at 5200 meters, then Camps I and II at 5800 and 6000 meters on June 24 and 28. We joined Bonington's group to place fixed ropes on the traverse. Neither group had enough rope to accomplish this alone. Then we struck a long stretch of bad weather and time ran out for the Bonington party, which had to leave on July 7. On July 12 a break in the weather allowed us the first ascent of a 6200-meter (20,342-foot) peak west of Karun Koh. We spent the 13th and 14th carrying loads from Camp I to Camp II. From July 15 to 17 we fixed ropes on the pinnacles traverse. The next day we set up Camp III on the saddle above the pinnacles at 6700 meters. We were all set to make the summit push, but storm conditions pinned us down for three days. Our food ran out and so we descended to Base Camp to wait for better weather. Bubbnik had to leave for lack of time. Finally on July 29 we started for Camp II. Camp III was reoccupied on the 30th. The next day the weather was still unsettled but we set out. We overcame the poor ice on the ridge and reached the ramp above the rock section. From there we climbed the summit face. It was 45° to 60° sheer ice in places. At 4:30 on July 31 we reached the summit (7350 meters, 24,115 feet).

HARRY GRÜN, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Bojohagur Duanasir.* Tsuneo Omae led a Japanese expedition which made the first ascent of Bojohagur Duanasir by its southwest ridge. They approached via the Hasanabad Glacier west of the peak. They placed Base Camp at 4300 meters on June 19 and Camps I and II on June 24 and July 4 at 4600 and 5500 meters on a spur of the southwest ridge. Camps III and IV on the ridge at 6200 and 6900 meters were established on July 14 and 24. On July 28 three climbed over a 7250-meter foresummit to the summit (7329 meters, 24,045 feet), followed by five others on July 30. Photographs appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 107. A British expedition led by Anthony Saunders was attempting the mountain at the same time from the Ultar Glacier in the south. They failed at about 7000 meters.

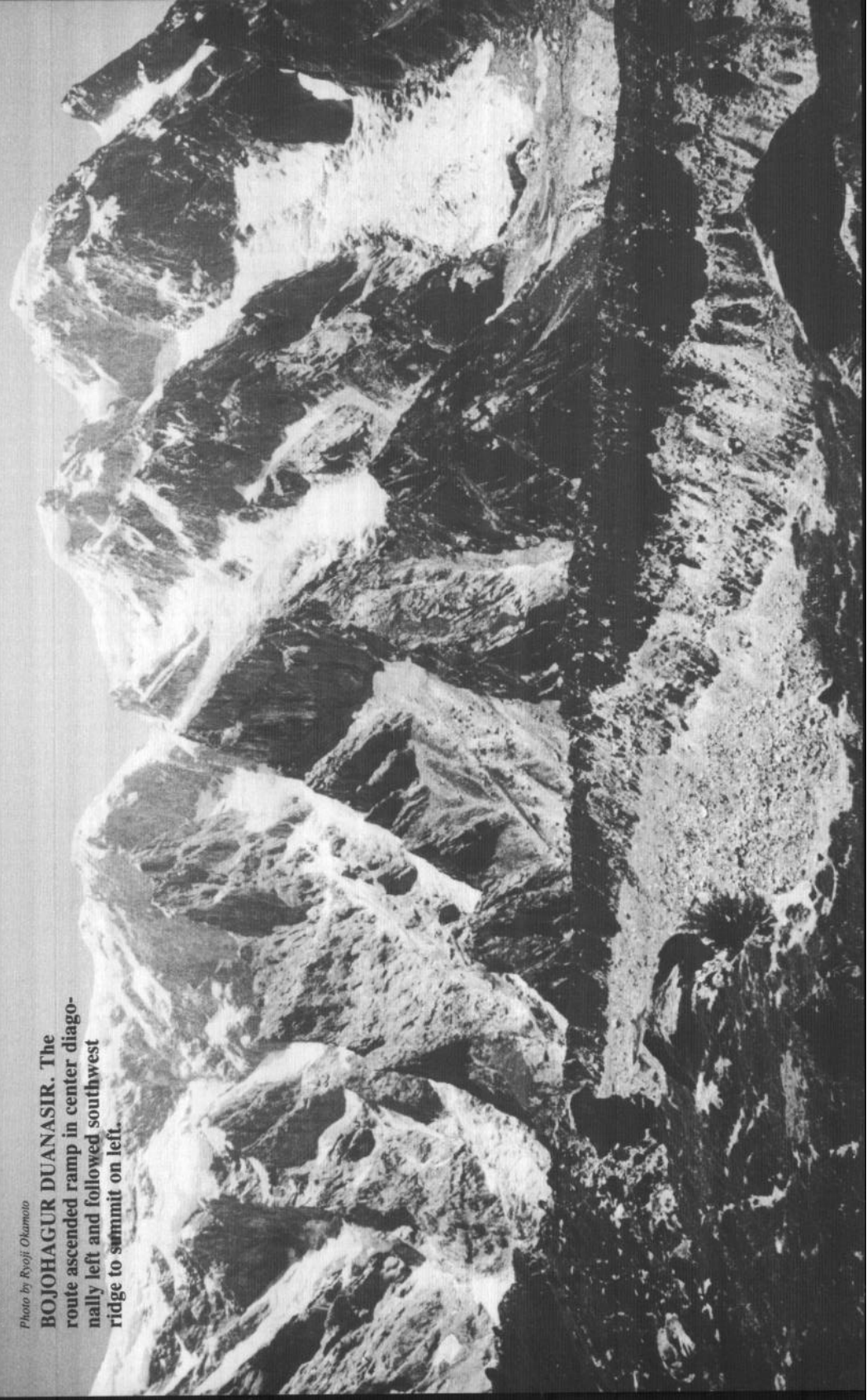
*P 6872 (Serei Porkush).* English climbers Steve Roberts and Steve Pymm made the first ascent of P 6872 (22,546 feet), possibly called Serei Porkush, in the Batura region, apparently at the western end of the Batura chain. The other members were Martin Bunegar, Phil Duffy and Geoff Robinson. Further details are not available.

*Batura Attempt.* A three-man German expedition led by Volker Stallbohm failed to climb Batura. Details are not yet known.

*Sangemar Mar.* Our expedition succeeded in making the first ascent of Sangemar Mar by the southwest ridge. The members were Takashi Matsuo,

*Photo by Ryoji Okamoto*

**BOJOHAGUR DUANASIR.** The route ascended ramp in center diagonally left and followed southwest ridge to summit on left.



leader, Dr. Hiromi Okuyama, Takehiko Hirota, Tokio Kozuki, Masaya Oishi, Toru Sakakibara, Kenya Sato, Shinichi Miyata, Tomoyoshi Mizukawa, Hiroyuki Onishi and me. Base Camp was in a pasture named Ilkish below the Muchichul Glacier at 4100 meters. Advance Base was at 4500 meters after a traverse to the foot of the southwest ridge. To reach Camp I at 5100 meters we climbed 40° to 50° ice. There are two foresummits on the southwest ridge. Camp II at 5800 meters was at the foot of the first. We got to the top of this above an ice "slide" to place Camp III there at 6400 meters. On July 11 six members left Camp III, traversed around the second foresummit on the Batura side with fixed rope and reached the top (6949 meters, 22,800 feet) at two P.M. Two days later the remaining four members climbed to the summit. We fixed 3000 meters of rope in all.

AKIRA NOGUCHI, *Osaka University, Japan*

*Batura Glacier Exploration.* The "Old Codgers' Expedition" visited the Hunza Valley and the Batura Glacier during June and July. During 18 days on the glacier, we explored two of its seldom-visited side canyons, the Warton and the Yoksugoz, using a map prepared by Chinese cartographers in the late 1970s during their intensive study of the Batura Glacier to determine flow patterns affecting the then under-construction Karakoram Highway between Hunza and Sinkiang. The excellent Chinese map may be purchased from the Institute of Glaciology and Cryopedology, Academia Sinica, Lanzhou, China. The Batura, one of Asia's longest glaciers, was earlier explored by a Dutch party led by Ch. Visser in 1925. After several days on the Batura, we set up Base Camp at Warton Nala at 13,800 feet in its upper western section. From there we made three non-technical climbs, all presumed first ascents. On June 29 Paul Kustra and Jim Caruthers climbed P 5332 (17,493 feet) by way of a snow rib. Two days later, Nadia Billia and I made the second ascent by a direct south gully. On July 1, Paul and Eva Kustra, Johan Hultin, Caruthers, Dr. Reinhold Ulrich and Jim Williams climbed P 5844 (19,173 feet) to the east of Base Camp after a 14-hour struggle in poor snow. Our Hunza guide Rahmet Ullah Baig and liaison officer Captain Bokhari ascended P 5426 (17,802 feet), an easy snow dome from which they could look north into the unexplored Lupghar Valley. After returning to the Batura, we continued along its true left bank to the Yoksugoz Icefall, which we ascended to about 14,000 feet, where we set up camp on the same spot used by the Visser party 59 years before. We reached a pass leading to the seldom-visited Karambar Valley but did not descend. Our plans to descend into the Lupghar Valley and rejoin the Karakoram Highway were thwarted by the authorities, who would let us visit the Lupghar only if we returned the way we had come in. At present, no parties are allowed to proceed beyond the Batura Bridge and no climbing permits for peaks north of this point are available. High porter rates may discourage people from going to the Batura. Current rates charged by local (Pasu-area) porters are 100 rupees per day. The government of Pakistan is trying to reduce these rates so that they will conform with rates in Skardu (40 rupees) and Rakhiot (50 rupees).

LEO LE BON



*Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face.* A Swiss expedition climbed the Diamir Face of Nanga Parbat. They established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, and IV at 13,125, 16,400, 20,000, 22,950 and 24,600 feet on May 2, 5, 13, June 1 and 2 respectively. On June 3 leader Fredy Graf, Peter Bärtsch and Marcel Rüedi headed for the summit. The first two had to quit just below 26,250 feet, but Rüedi continued on alone to the summit. This was Rüedi's fifth 8000er. They said that the route was extremely steep and that between Camps I and III it was bare ice. The other expedition members were Kurt Bricker, Alois Kempf, Raymond Monnerat and Albert Schopfer.

*Nanga Parbat, Husband-and-Wife Ascent.* We two made the ascent alone. In Base Camp at 13,450 feet were our friend Dr. Claire-Lise Bouvier and Liliane's brother Alain Bontemps. We had no high-altitude porters, no artificial oxygen, no fixed camp above Camp I at 16,250 feet, established on June 12. The only fixed ropes we used were those we had placed in 1983 in the ice gully. We carried a minimum of equipment. We followed the 1962 route on the Diamir Face, but to avoid the over-equipped Löw Couloir, we traversed left at 18,050 feet to a little col and climbed the 1300-foot-high 60° to 65° ice gully, as we had done in 1983. We regained the normal Diamir route at 20,350 feet. After ascending and carrying loads to 20,000 feet, we descended to Base Camp. The final push started on June 21. We bivouacked at 20,000 feet on June 22 and 23, at 22,300 feet on June 24, at 23,800 feet on June 25 and at 26,250 feet on June 26. The last bivouac was above the Bazhin Gap on the summit ridge, which was of mixed climbing with two delicate rock pitches. The weather was good until we reached the summit (8125 meters, 26,660 feet) at 11:44 on June 27 and bad immediately afterward. We had to descend the summit cone in deep snow although it had been bare rock on the ascent. In the new snow we could not find the gear we had left at 24,450 feet on the ascent and so we could not melt water to drink until we got to a lower cache on June 29. We got back to Base Camp on July 1. This was the first French ascent, the first by a woman and the first by a married couple.

MAURICE and LILIANE BARRARD, *Club Alpin Français*

*Nanga Parbat Attempts and Tragedy.* Three Japanese expeditions unsuccessfully attempted to climb Nanga Parbat. Tsuneo Hasegawa and three others climbed to 24,600 feet on the 1976 Schell route on the southwest ridge before giving up. Hasegawa returned in October to make a solo attempt on the 1970 Rupal route on the south. He set out on October 20, bivouacked at 5900 and 6900 meters. Frequent snowfalls slowed his progress. On October 30 he dug a snow cave at 7650 meters but the summit try the next day was unsuccessful because of dangerous snow conditions. Ten climbers led by Tateshi Sudo failed at 25,925 feet in an alpine-style attempt on the Diamir Face. An expedition consisting of Fuji Tsunoda, Shigeo Hida, Nobuyuki Imakyurei and Takashi Kogure attempted the 1970 German route on the Rupal Face. They had set up

Base Camp on May 28 and had placed four high camps by June 26, Camp IV being at 24,125 feet. After a rest in Base Camp, they climbed back up to Camp III at 22,000 feet on July 6. The radio message to their liaison officer that night was the last heard from them. It is presumed that they perished in an avalanche.

*Nanga Parbat, Variant of the Schell Route.* Our expedition was made up of Oscar Cadiach, Pere Benaiges, Narcís Serrat, Jordi Homs and me as leader. After delays caused by a blocked road, we finally arrived on July 4 at Base Camp at 3550 meters below the Rupal Face. On July 5 with 13 shepherds we climbed with loads to 5100 meters, the site of Camp I. There were no difficulties there. By the next day, with the help of six more shepherds, all our material was at Camp I. After three stormy days, we established Camp I on July 10. On the 12th and 13th we climbed first a gully constantly threatened by rockfall, fixing rope, and continued up gullies and snow slopes to 6150 meters, where the face ends and a ridge begins. This section between Camps I and II was the most difficult technically. A storm interrupted climbing until July 26. We set out again from Base Camp and climbed in moderately bad weather during the next few days. On July 29 Cadiach, Homs and I left Camp II, hoping to place Camp III at 7050 meters. The first 250 meters were of ice of 60° and then it became easier but with many crevasses hidden by the new snow. We got only to 6750 meters when a storm forced us to bivouac and then to descend. Homs fell sick and Serrat and Benaiges were not in good shape. Cadiach and I decided on August 3 to make an alpine-style attempt and set out from Camp I. The next day we climbed from Camp II to Camp III at 7050 meters in twelve hours. On August 5 we did not follow the Austrian Schell route above Camp III but used the Netherlander route of Naar, which we thought faster and surer. We traversed east, diagonaled up through great blocks to reach a couloir that took us to the col. We placed Camp IV at 7500 meters. The col gave access to the Diamir Face. On August 6 we made two rappels to reach a descending traverse to avoid rocky spurs that come down from the summit. We crossed, traversing upwards, the upper part of the Diamir Face to gain a couloir that ended below the summit pyramid. We camped in an afternoon storm at 7500 meters. On August 7 we set off early up the modestly inclined couloir that leads toward the summit, hampered by new snow and the altitude. A steep step at 7850 meters was followed by mixed terrain as the couloir spreads out and by a col at 8050 meters below the summit. We reached the summit (8125 meters, 26,660 feet) at 3:20 P.M. and were back at Camp V at nine P.M. On the descent we hoped to follow the Schell route. On the 8th we made two rappels and traversed. Thinking we had descended below the Austrian route, we ascended 70 meters to find ourselves cut off by huge blocks. We had to bivouac there in a storm at 7250 meters. In the morning we soon reached the ridge crest and saw our Camp III site 150 meters below us. The place the Austrians had crossed was also 100 meters below us. We rappelled and soon got to Camp III. We reached Camp II at 11:30 and after a long rest kept on, arriving at Base Camp at seven P.M.

JORDI MAGRIÑÀ, AAEEMI, *Secció de Muntanya Valls, Spain*

*Nanga Parbat Attempt and Tragedy.* A seven-man Japanese expedition led by Motumu Omiya arrived in the Diamir valley in early October. After climbing Ganalo Peak West (6290 meters, 20,637 feet), they turned to Nanga Parbat on October 20. They established seven high camps. They gave up the attempt when Hiromi Kameda fell to his death in early December.

*Nanga Parbat Correction.* On page 304 of *A.A.J.*, 1984 we incorrectly stated that the 1976 ascent led by Hanns Schell was the sixth ascent of Nanga Parbat when it really was the fifth.

### **Pakistan—Hindu Kush**

*Gul Lasht Zom Ascent and Tirich Mir Attempt.* An English expedition led by Jonathan Lee climbed Gul Lasht Zom (6611 meters, 21,690 feet) but failed on Tirich Mir. Details are not yet available.

*Bindu Gul Zom II.* We traveled by jeep through Chitral and reached Zumburgh in the Tirich valley on July 21. We pitched Base Camp on July 24 on the Lower Tirich Glacier below the Bindu Gul Zom peaks. A long ridge descends eastward from Tirich Mir, separating the Lower Tirich Glacier from the Barum Glacier. On this ridge lie Bindu Gul Zom I and II, Lono Zom and Kono Zom. From Bindu Gul Zom II a long ridge with four sub-summits stretches north as far as the junction of the Lower Tirich and Upper Tirich Glaciers, where the ridge ends in a vertical wall. Our goal was to have been the west-northwest face of Bindu Gul Zom II but it was soon revealed too dangerous because of rockfall. We then turned to a new route along the whole north ridge, much more difficult and complex but safer objectively. By July 29 we had climbed and fixed rope on the wall to reach the ridge crest, overcoming the hardest technical difficulties of the whole ascent. On July 31 Lino Castiglia, Ugo Manera, Claudio Sant'Unione and I set out from Base Camp and that night bivouacked on the lower peak of the second sub-summit. On August 1 we climbed on the eastern side to avoid various rock needles on the ridge connecting the second and third sub-summits. We bivouacked on a snow col and made a third bivouac in the col between the fourth sub-summit and the main peak. On August 3 we reached the summit of Bindu Gul Zom II (6212 meters, 20,380 feet). We descended the unknown east face, bivouacking about 300 meters below the top. By the end of August 4 we were back at Base Camp, having made 40 rappels in the descent of 2000 meters down the wild east wall.

FRANCO RIBETTI, *Club Alpino Accademico Italiano*

### **China**

*Namcha Barwa and Nai Peng.* Namcha Barwa (7782 meters, 25,531 feet) lies at the eastern tip of the Himalaya entirely in the People's Republic of China