

attempt when bad weather struck again. After two days of snow and temperatures of -30°C , a break allowed another tiring descent to a completely deserted Base Camp. We made the four-day walk out to Shagrom, which we reached, rather hungry, on September 26. Two expeditions were given permission for Tirich Mir prior to us. The jeep road from Chitral is particularly hair-raising and the Italian Gervasutti Memorial Expedition, led by Franco Ribetti, failed to reach the roadhead when their jeep went off the road, killing the liaison officer and Dr. Alessandro Nacamuli. The West German team, led by Siegfried Ludwig, abandoned their efforts a little below our Camp I due to the conditions.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

China

Gyala Peri. In 1985 the Himalayan Association of Japan sent two men to reconnoiter Gyala Peri, which lies just north of the great bend of the Yalu-Tsangpo (Brahmaputra). In 1986 an expedition of six returned with Kazuo Tobita as their leader. The approach was difficult with constant rain and dangerous river crossings. They set up Base Camp at 3200 meters on September 16. Their route was the west face and then the south ridge. Climbing began on September 22. Advance Base was placed at 4200 meters at the foot of the west face on September 25. Camps I and II were established on October 3 and 11 at 5000 and 5650 meters. They gained the south ridge at 6000 meters and placed Camps III and IV on it at 6300 and 6750 meters on October 19 and 21. Two unsuccessful summit tries were made on October 29 and 30. On October 31 Yoshio Ogata, Yasuhiro Hashimoto and Hirotaka Imamura got to the summit (7151 meters, 23,461 feet). Further details and photographs appear in *Iwa To Yuki* Annual 1986 and N° 120 of February, 1987.

Kula Kangri (Künla Kangri)*. The Kobe University Scientific and Mountaineering Expedition to Tibet consisted of 25 Japanese, i.e. 12 climbers, eight scientists, three TV cameramen, a newspaper reporter and myself as leader, and 17 Chinese, i.e. five climbers who helped with high-altitude transport, four scientists from the Academia Sinica and others (liaison officer, interpreters, drivers). In all we were 42 members. We arrived at Base Camp at 4400 meters north of the mountain on March 17. Advance Base was at 5300 meters and Camp I at 5700 meters just below the west ridge. We climbed a steep ice wall up to Camp II at 6200 meters on the ridge and Camp III was at 6800 meters. A 70-meter-high rock wall rises in the upper part of the ridge. Fortunately we could traverse south to a small snow couloir. Camp IV at 7100 meters was dug out of the snow slope. On April 21 C. Itani, J. Sakamoto, H. Ozaki and

* According to the Swiss authority, Professor Augusto Gansser, the name of the peak is Künla Kangri. However, local people near Base Camp pronounced it Kula Kangri. The col where we had Camp I was used as the shortest route to Bhutan. We found there a prayer flag and the skeleton of a yak.—K.H.



PLATE 78

Photo by Kazumasa Hirai

KULA KANGRI.

E. Ohtani reached the summit (7554 meters, 24,784 feet) at 4:15 P.M. The next day T. Morinaga and H. Hasegawa also climbed to the top. The scientists left Base Camp on April 15 to work towards Chengdu. They were the first foreigners to work first around Base Camp and then on their 2800-kilometer trip back to Chengdu. They did research in entomology, botany, geology, geomorphology, political sociology, cultural anthropology, etc.

KAZUMASA HIRAI, *Kobe University, Japan*

Karjiang, Kula Kangri Group. This peak lies just northeast of Kula Kangri. Under the leadership of Nobuhiro Shingo, six climbers of the Himalayan Association of Japan traveled from Lhasa to Monda. They headed up the glacier on September 9. At first they tried to reach the higher south summit (7221 meters) but it was too difficult and so they turned to the central summit, which was slightly lower (7216 meters, 23,675 feet). On October 13 they set up Camp III at 7000 meters. On October 14 leader Shingo, Kenji Tomoda and Hiroshi Iwasaki climbed to the summit. There was some overhanging rock near the top and the wind was very strong. On October 16 Tsutomu Miyazaki and Akinori Hosaka also reached the top. More details appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 120 of February 1987.

Anye Maqen Attempt. Late August found our group of eight American climbers, Karl Gerdes, Jerry Tinning, Tony Watkin, John Byrne, Bruce McCubbery, Jay McCubbery, Rich Henke, and me winding our way toward Anye Maqen through the high pasture lands of the Tibetan plateau. We spent much of our time exchanging pleasantries with the nomadic Tibetan families we passed, drinking a hard white liquor in their huge Yak hair tents where the customs included checking all guns at the door as you entered. Base Camp was established at 4175 meters, on the wrong side of a river that in the late afternoon became almost unfordable due to glacial melt. This led to some adventurous crossings and bareback yak riding, with Bruce taking the only real dunking. With time short, we quickly established a high camp below the ridge first climbed by Galen Rowell and party several years ago. (*A.A.J.*, 1982, pages 88-92.) Six of us then reached a wind-swept ridge at 5500 meters and spent a long night holding down the tents against a storm that lasted well into the next day. Late in the afternoon Karl Gerdes, Rich Henke, and I crossed a short corniced arête to establish a bivouac in a crevasse just below the face leading to the summit plateau. Morning dawned clear, but by noon Rich and Karl were pinned down by a lightning storm at 5800 meters, and retreated. This was to be our high point, as storms continued for the next two days. One last rodeo-ride river crossing, and we began the long trip home.

BROCK A. WAGSTAFF

Yulong Shan Attempt. Imposing as it may appear from the Yunnan town of Lijiang, Yulong Shan (Jade Dragon Peak) presents no special technical chal-

lenge to explain its 50-year virginity and rebuff of four attempts. Only the weather guards it. So far, that has been enough. In April Mick Deiro, Dan Batwinas, Andy Fried, Russ Faure-Brac, Andrew Palmer, Kenny Moser and I as leader threaded the pony carts, roto-tiller-mobiles, bicycles and "honey wagons" for three days from Kunming to Lijiang. A two-hour truck ride from Lijiang brought us to the Base Camp established by the American team in October 1985. Racing on an absurdly tight climbing schedule, we set up Base Camp, carried packs up a forested cow trail to the snowline and established Advance Base, all on the first day. Though crippling bronchial diseases struck one member after another, the supply carrying continued. Good weather allowed rapid progress. University of Chicago anthropologist Chas McKann, studying the Naxi culture near Lijiang, joined our effort. With Glacier Camp established, Deiro and Batwinas made a powerful push to the long summit ridge and established Ridge Camp. Several days later they made a make-or-break try, attempting to cover the entire distance from Glacier Camp in a day. Fighting ill health and deteriorating weather, they got to within 500 vertical feet of the summit before pitching a small tent on the ridge. Though the next day was clear and the summit less than two hours away, they were so spent that they felt their only choice was to return. Fried and Faure-Brac tried next, hauling heavy loads to Ridge Camp. A major weather change came in. Snowstorms scoured the ridge and visibility dropped to 100 feet. With our tight climbing schedule coming to an end, Palmer, McKann and I left Glacier Camp the next day for Ridge Camp. Spindrift avalanches raked the route, drenching us in icy showers. Visibility dropped to 50 feet. We found Fried and Faure-Brac wisely bivouacked at Ridge Camp. While they rappelled and hiked back to Glacier Camp, we took up residence at Ridge Camp. We awoke to the same howling snowstorm and minimal visibility. On this, our last climbing day, we turned back.

ERIC S. PERLMAN

Ningchin Kangsha. Ningchin Kangsha, which used to be given by G.O. Dyhrenfurth as Nodzin Kangsan with an altitude of 7252 meters, lies southwest of Lhasa on the highway from Lhasa to Kathmandu, two kilometers from the Lalo La. It was climbed by a Tibetan Mountaineering Association team. They had Base Camp and Camps I and II at 5000, 6100 and 6900 meters. Twelve members, including three experienced Tibetan climbers, Sang Zhu, Pemba and Jia Bu, reached the summit (7191 meters, 23,593 feet) on April 28. It took them only 20 days to climb the mountain from the time they unloaded supplies alongside the highway. This peak was attempted in 1985 by a Japanese party from Oita Prefecture, but they were stopped at 6600 meters on the southwest ridge.

SADAO TAMBE, A.A.C. and *Himalayan Association of Japan*

Nianqintanggula. A 12-person expedition from Tohoku University in Japan was led by Mario Kuzunushi. They left Lhasa on March 25 and traveled about 100 kilometers on the highway and another four off of it to place Base Camp at

4800 meters at Panyuto. Advance Base was established on April 5 at 5300 meters near the frozen lake, Panitsuo. Nianqintanggula has a row of subsidiary peaks to its southeast of 7111, 7117 and 7046 meters. From Advance Base, P 6053 on the south side of the first was climbed for acclimatization. The party ascended the south glacier after crossing the frozen lake and on April 8 established Camp I at 5700 meters on a branch glacier. On the 17th Camp II was first placed at 6230 meters where the route reaches the west ridge and then on the 20th moved up to the west-ridge col at 6270 meters. The weather deteriorated in the second half of April. On May 3 a temporary Camp III was set up on the west ridge at 6600 meters and that was moved up three days later to 6800 meters. Rope was fixed to the base of the summit rock wall to 7000 meters. On May 8 Hiroshi Naganuma, Yusake Maruyama and Michiharo Wada overcame the UIAA IV + rock to reach the summit (7162 meters, 23,495 feet according to the Japanese although an altitude of 7088 meters, 23,584 feet has been given us by the Chinese). [It is not clear to the Editor where this peak is located.]

Everest North Face Attempt. Our expedition consisted of Todd Bibler, Carlos Buhler, Dana Coffield, Mark Jennings, Douglas Kelley, Andrew Lapkass, Michael Lehner, Sandy Stewart, Ann Whitehouse, Brinton Young and me as leader. We reached 7775 meters in our attempt to make the second ascent of the great couloir on the north face of Everest. Bad weather, avalanche danger and exhaustion delayed and then ended our attempt to place Camp VI and to try for the summit. We got to Base Camp at 5200 meters at the foot of the Rongbuk Glacier by jeep and truck on March 19. Camp I at 5675 meters was established a week later and Camps II and III at 6000 and 6150 meters on the main Rongbuk north of the north face by late March. The route from the foot of the face to Camp IV at 7150 meters was obstructed by a bergschrund at the start and made more difficult by 2000 feet of blue ice. Spring conditions differed considerably from the styrofoam-like snow in the fall of 1984 when the Australians made the first direct ascent of the couloir. We spent much time fixing 18 ropes before occupying Camp IV on April 19 and another three weeks putting up Camp V at 7775 meters. After five attempts to establish Camp VI, our permitted time expired and the team turned back, reaching Base Camp on May 24 and Lhasa two days later.

JOSEPH E. MURPHY

Everest Attempt. Our expedition hoped to climb Everest by the North Col route without high-altitude porters or artificial oxygen. We were six climbers: Luis Bernardo, Pedro Nicolás, Salvador Rivas, Angel Sánchez, Carlos Soria and I as leader; Dr. Mariano Arrazola, scientist Eduardo M. de Pisón and photographer Tote Trenas. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, and IV at 5150, 6100, 6500, 7050 (on the North Col) and 7600 meters on March 22, 31, April 1, 19 and May 9 respectively. The wind was strong and continuous, making progress difficult near the North Col and nearly impossible above Camp

IV. The wind destroyed tents in various camps and in Camp IV blew away several loads which had been tied down on a platform. Rivas had to quit as he could not acclimatize. We kept on trying to get higher until June 2. Several climbers spent a month and a half above 6500 meters and even 18 days above 7000 meters. We were well acclimatized and hoped to make the summit until the end, but we were prevented by the wind. We made a film and carried out geomorphological and geological studies.

JERÓNIMO LÓPEZ, *Federación Española de Montañismo*

Everest Tragedy, North-Col Route. A Chilean expedition was composed of Claudio Lucero, leader, Rodrigo Jordan, Andrés Marambio, Pedro Bralić, Marcelo Gifferos, Fernando and Cristián García-Huidobro, Pablo Straub and Victor Hugo Trujillo. They were attempting the traditional North-Col route. Tragedy struck on August 16 when the corniced lip of a crevasse on the North Col gave way, triggering an avalanche. Trujillo was buried and died.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Everest Attempt. During the post-monsoon season, a large climbing and filming party attempted the north ridge of Qomolangma (Everest) via the traditional Rongbuk-East Rongbuk-North Col route. Our objectives were to climb and film the route. We were also to search for traces of Mallory and Irvine. The party reached the Rongbuk Base Camp in two groups; half the team travelled across China and Tibet via Chengdu and Lhasa, while the other half, with the bulk of the supplies, reached Rongbuk via Kathmandu and the Friendship Highway. Climbing above Base Camp began in the last week of August. The East Rongbuk approach has traditionally been accomplished in three stages above Base Camp. Recent expeditions, however, have reduced this part of the route to two stages, with a single camp between Base and the established Advance Base site at 21,500 feet below the North Col. Advance Base was established on September 21, and the Col (23,200 feet) was reached a day later. At this point the good weather of late summer began to deteriorate, and the next two months gave us a cycle of increasingly unstable weather. September was marked by intermittent storms with significant snowfall, and in October the storms increased, temperatures dropped, and by the third week the high winds characteristic of winter had set in. Climbing was possible during periods of good weather which became shorter and less frequent as the season wore on. The unstable weather increased the instability of the snow on the slopes below the Col, making much greater the avalanche danger which is always present on that section of the route, and further reducing the number of climbing days available to us. Camp V at 25,500 feet was established on September 28 during a break in the weather, and this remained our high point a month later when, on October 23, I made the decision to abandon the attempt. The team left Base Camp on October 29. On October 17, Dawa Nuru Sherpa, of Thame, was struck by a small slab avalanche at about 22,000 feet while descending from the North Col

to Advance Base. He was swept a short distance and died of injuries sustained in the fall. Rescuers reached the body approximately 40 minutes after the accident occurred, and carried his body down to Rongbuk for cremation, which was done three days later in the ruins of the nunnery under the direction of lamas from the monastery. While we were prevented by the weather from reaching the summit, we substantially accomplished our filming objectives, producing footage for a U.S. film featuring the efforts of the women members of the team (Mutual of Omaha's *Spirit of Adventure*, shown as an ABC sports special on February 15, 1987) and footage for an historical film on the early attempts on Everest (Arcturus Motion Pictures; co-produced by BBC — to be shown in the autumn of 1987). Exploration of the early routes on the mountain was hampered by the heavy snow cover and, ultimately, our inability to reach the upper portion of the north face. The expedition team included: David Breashears (deputy leader), Ken Bailey, George Bell, Mary Kay Brewster, Catherine Cullinane, Donna de Varona, Sue Giller, Eric Green, Tom Holzel, Al Read, Steve Shea, David Swanson, Mike Weis, Jed Williamson, Mike Yager (Americans); Dave Cheesmond, Roger Vernon (Canadians); Alistair MacDonald, Audrey Salkeld (Britons); Sirdar Nawang Yongden and fifteen Sherpas (Nepalese); and me as leader. During our time on the mountain we benefited from close cooperation with the British Northeast Ridge team (Brummie Stokes, leader) with whom we shared the Base, East Rongbuk and Advance Base Camp areas. In Kathmandu, Lhasa, Beijing and on Everest, members of the team represented UNICEF, His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the governments of the Tibetan Autonomous Region and the People's Republic of China, through participation in the "First Earth Run"; a worldwide UNICEF project for children celebrating the International Year of Peace.

ANDREW C. HARVARD

Everest, Northeast-Ridge Attempt. Base Camp at 17,000 feet was reached on August 7 after a seven-hour drive from Xigar along the Friendship Highway and a subsequent dirt track which winds its way past the Rongbuk Monastery. Two weeks were needed before an interim camp at 19,000 feet was established and the yak drivers arrived to start ferrying our three tons of food and equipment up the mountain. Twenty-one yaks were engaged for this movement, which was completed in 21 days. The yak herders were very reliable and unlike other expeditions, we never had a single item stolen or lost. Mo Anthoine, Joe Brown, Paddy Freaney and Bill Barker set up Advance Base at 21,500 feet on the site of two previous northeast-ridge expeditions. We were appalled at the mess we found there and spent two days cleaning it up. Despite poor weather, Camp I at 23,200 feet was established a week ahead of schedule. The long traverse over suspect avalanche-prone ground up to the Ruphu La was avoided by ascending the right edge of a rock buttress some 1525 feet high. This removed two sides of a large triangle and saved many hours of load-carrying. Avalanches and high winds along the ridge forced the team twice to beat a hasty retreat to Base Camp

before a snow hole could be placed for Camp II just below the first buttress at 24,000 feet. Two weeks, interspersed with bad weather, were needed to stock the camp and fix ropes to the top of the second buttress. A bold bid to cross the Pinnacles was made by Harry Taylor and Trevor Pilling. Hoping that the weather would improve on October 16, they pushed on up the ridge with 50-pound loads and set up Camp III at 26,200 feet, close to the first steep slope of the Pinnacles. Violent winds hammered the ridge as the pair dug a snow hole to sleep in. The next day the wind grew to hurricane strength, creating a -70° F wind-chill factor. Progress over the Pinnacles was impossible. They turned back and struggled to safety, forced at times onto all fours by the wind. After a Sherpa with the American expedition was killed whilst descending from the North Col, I decided to abandon the attempt. We were hit by no less than four fierce storms which deposited eight feet of fresh snow, making the climbing too dangerous towards the end. Despite this bad weather, morale and team spirit remained high throughout.

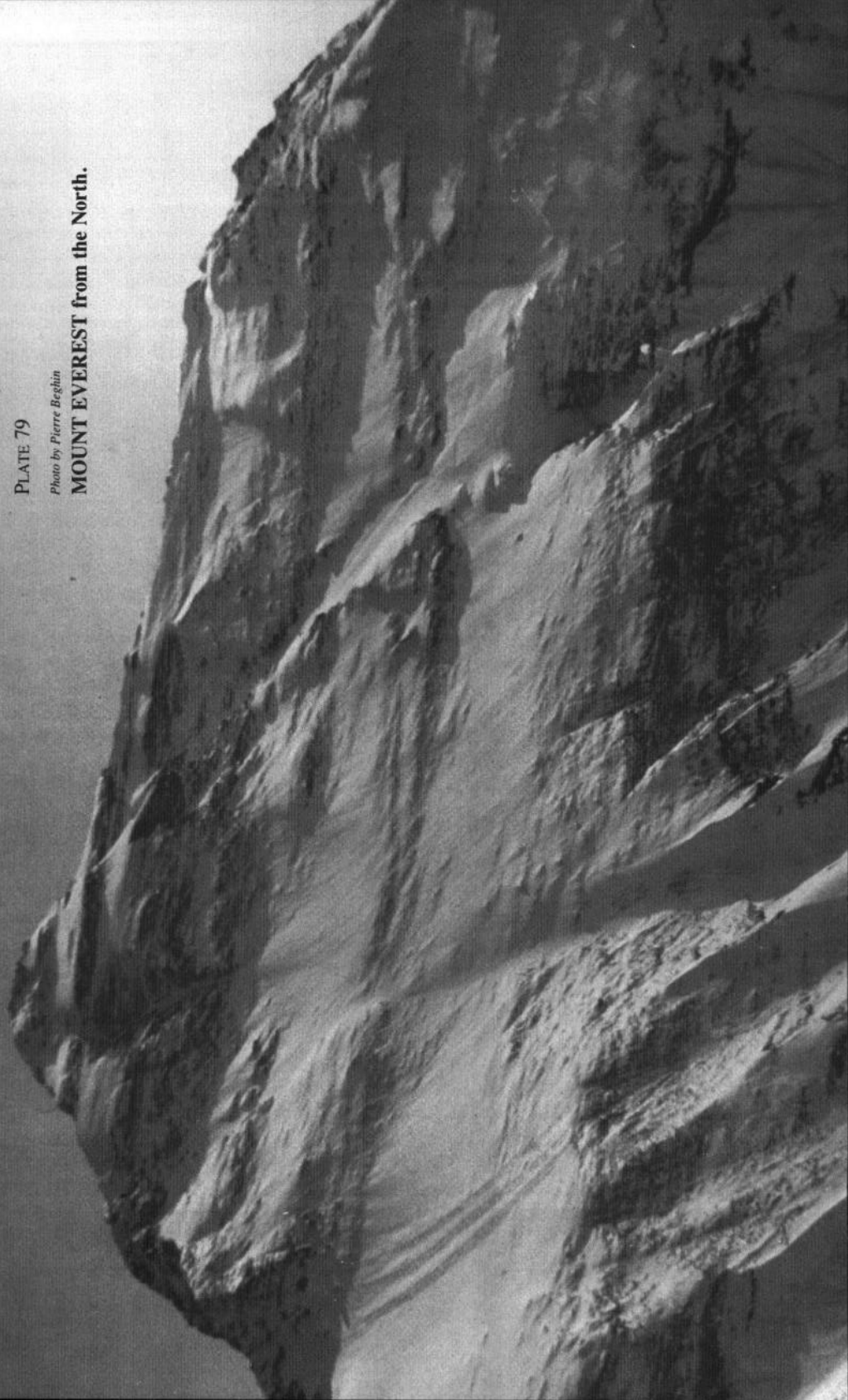
BRUMMIE STOKES, *England*

Everest, The Hornbein Couloir Direct from Tibet. Swiss Erhard Loretan, Nicole Niquille, Jean Troillet, as well as my wife Annie and I from France, arrived on July 17 by jeep and truck from the Nepalese-Tibetan border. Troillet wanted to solo the central pillar between the Hornbein and the Great Couloirs. We put two tents on the Central Rongbuk Glacier at 5800 meters, two hours from the bottom of the north face. After that, we acclimatized on small peaks around Everest, but we did not go onto the north face. At the beginning of August, Loretan injured himself jumping with his parapente (parachute). His ankle was very bad and we were afraid it was broken, but after two weeks he could walk again. Bad weather with snow and clouds went on to the end of August. My wife had to go back to France at the beginning of the month and Niquille left for Switzerland at the end. On August 29 it was clear and cold, perhaps the famous "break" during the monsoon. Troillet decided to join Loretan and me to have a better chance for the summit. We left Advance Base at 5800 meters before midnight to try a route similar to the 1980 Japanese route. Our loads were very light; no tent, no climbing equipment, no rope, one light sleeping bag each, one stove and a half pound of food apiece. During the night and the morning of the 30th, we climbed the broad, 50° couloir, taking turns breaking trail. Happily, the deep snow was stable. After 12 hours we reached 7800 meters. We dug a cave to rest during the afternoon. Just before dark we started for the summit via the Hornbein Couloir. At 8000 meters I was so sleepy that I decided to go back to the snow cave to have another try in the daylight. But I could not find it! I sat in the snow to bivouac without any equipment; we had left the sleeping bags at the cave. There was no wind and so I passed the night without frostbite. Meanwhile Loretan and Troillet climbed the Hornbein Couloir and at 2:30 P.M. on August 31 they reached the summit. I think this may have been the quickest ascent of Everest. Three hours later they reached the cave

PLATE 79

Photo by Pierre Beghin

MOUNT EVEREST from the North.



where I was. And two hours after that they arrived at Advance Base! They glissaded on their backs, with their ice-axes to control their speed. In the night I did make another attempt, but having had little to drink and little sleep, I had to stop at 8300 meters; I began to fall asleep and lose my balance and returned to the cave. The next morning in two hours I reached my skis at the foot of the north face. One half hour later a huge powder-snow avalanche swept the whole couloir. On September 5 we returned to lower Base Camp where the jeep was waiting for us.

PIERRE BEGHIN, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

Everest Solo Attempt. With my support team of Ruth DeCew, Ed Webster and Kristina Kearney, I arrived at Base Camp at 17,000 feet on July 1. Advance Base Camp was established on July 8 at 20,400 feet on the East Rongbuk Glacier. Between July 12 and August 24 it snowed on the mountain on most days. I first climbed to 23,000 feet on the North Col on August 12 and then followed that by two summit attempts, the last on September 7. I then set up a new Advance Base Camp on the Main Rongbuk Glacier at 19,000 feet. I left there at 9:30 P.M. on September 17 and climbed the Japanese Couloir. In the morning I approached the Hornbein Couloir but abandoned the attempt at 25,300 feet because of the snow conditions.

ROGER MARSHALL, *Unaffiliated*

Everest Hang Gliding. We arrived in Base Camp on September 8, but because of confusion with the Chinese and the yak drivers, we didn't establish Advance Base at 5500 meters until September 16. On the 19th, Camp I was placed at 6000 meters. We began fixing ropes on the west ridge on the 21st, generally following the 1983 Bob Craig route except at the start, where we went on the left side of the crest. On September 24 we put Camp II at 6600 meters just below a prominent rock on the crest. On October 3 we began hauling hang gliders. It took over a week to get a glider to Camp III on the crest of the west shoulder at 7170 meters. On October 5 leader Steve McKinney made a trial flight from 6200 meters down to Camp I, using pre-takeoff oxygen and skis. The pilots were in position on October 11, but high winds prevented attempts from the shoulder. On October 16 we dismantled Camp III and pulled the glider down. Other members included climbers Kim Carpenter, Heidi Benson, Pete Athens, Catherine Freer, Craig Colonica and me and pilots Bob Carter and Larry Tudor.

ANDREW POLITZ

Changtse. A large joint Japanese-Chinese expedition was made up of 17 Japanese, 19 Chinese climbers, five Chinese supporters and three Chinese press members. The Japanese leader was T. Horiuchi. They arrived at Base Camp at 5050 meters on April 23 and placed Advance Base at the confluence of the

Changtse and East Rongbuk Glaciers on April 30. After ascending the Changtse Glacier they climbed the east ridge. After placing a temporary camp at 6200 meters, they established Camp I at 6930 meters on May 8. On May 10 sixteen climbers reached the east ridge at 7100 meters and continued on to the summit (7553 meters, 24,780 feet). The eight Japanese included S. Matsubara, Y. Miyamoto, T. Furuhashi, K. Shimakata, Masamitsu Yamada and Makoto Yamada and the eight Chinese included the Tibetan woman Gungtang. A second summit party on May 11 was composed of eight Chinese. The Japanese who were to have been with them had to withdraw to evacuate a climber suffering from high-altitude sickness.

Cho Aui. Cho Aui lies on the Tibetan-Nepalese frontier west of Cho Oyu. The leader of this ten-man Himalayan Association of Japan expedition was Hiroshi Yajima. After approaching via Xigara, they got to Base Camp near the Gyabrag Glacier at 5800 meters on September 21. Camp I was established on the glacier at 6100 meters on September 25. From there they carried out reconnaissance and prepared the route. Beyond the icefall there was a difficult ice face, which took them onto the northwest ridge. They fixed rope to the ridge crest and placed Camp II on the ridge at 6700 meters on the 29th. After a rest at Base Camp, they were back in Camp II. Yukitoshi Endo, Yoshihiro Shikoda, Katsushi Emura and Katso Matsuki left for the summit on October 11, but they had to bivouac at 7200 meters. On October 12 at noon they got to the summit (7350 meters, 24,115 feet). Leader Yajima, Mitsuyoshi Onodera, Osamu Sato, Keiji Ishikawa, Toshio Yamada and Omohaka Okobu reached the top at two P.M. on October 14.

Shisha Pangma. Two groups of Trekking International were on Shisha Pangma, the first composed of Italians and Spaniards led by Alberto Re, the other made up of French, Japanese and Austrians guided by Claude Jaccoux. The weather was terrible and there was much snow. It was not possible to get the yaks to 5400 meters and it was hard work to carry the loads. The first group could not climb above 7000 meters though they pitched three camps. The second group had better weather at the end of August and the beginning of September. On September 10, French climbers Eric Escoffier and Xavier Murillo and Japanese Takashi Ozaki got to the top separately. After more bad weather, Frenchman Michel Vincent on September 19 and Austrians Michael Leuprecht and Josef Oberauer on September 20 reached the summit.

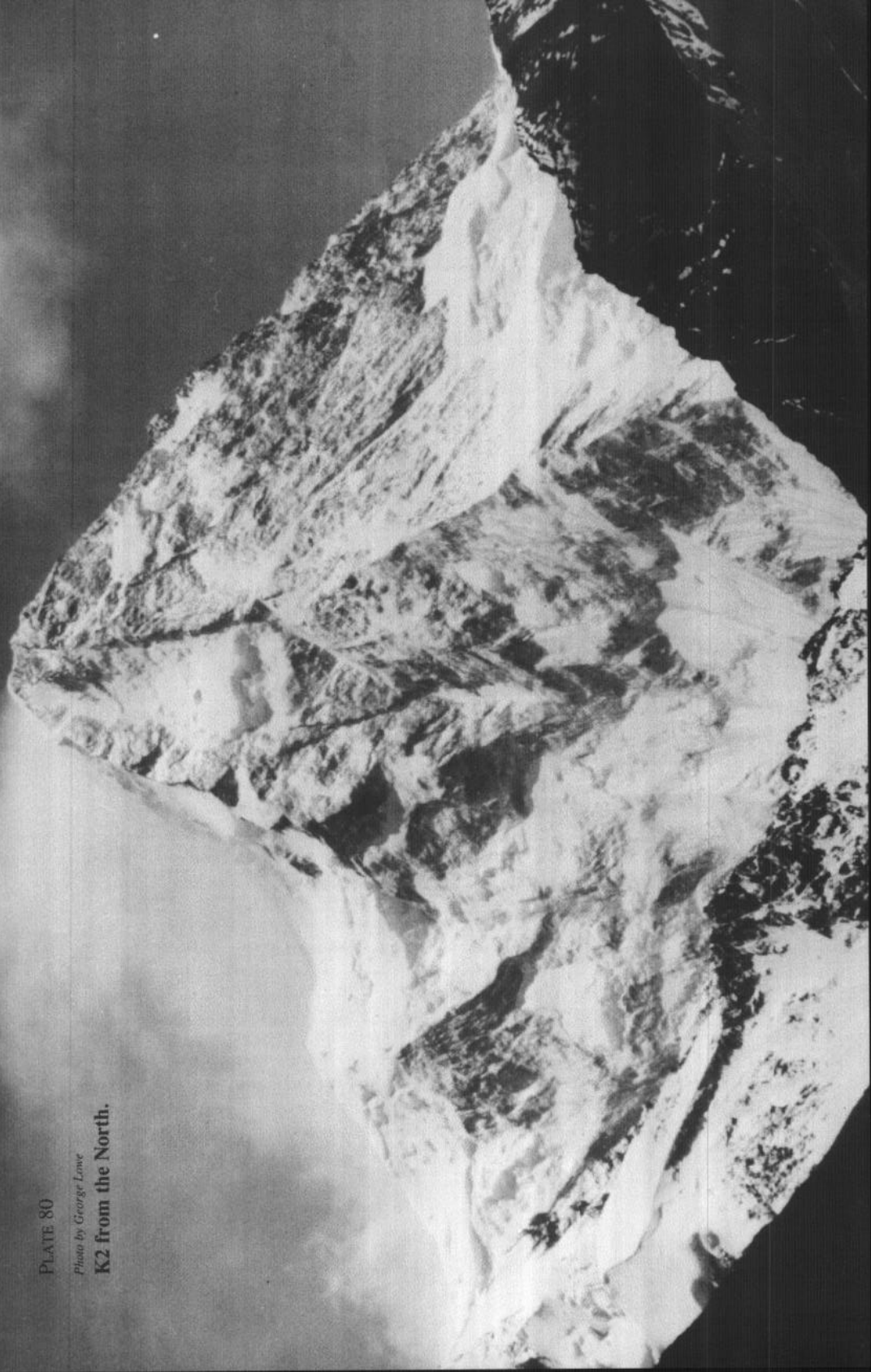
RENATO MORO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

K2, North Ridge Attempt. Our expedition, sponsored by the American Alpine Club, undertook an ascent of the north ridge of K2. The expedition consisted of two parties, a support team of eighteen "porters" and a climbing team of eight climbers: Lance Owens, leader, George Lowe, Alex Lowe, David Cheesmond, Gregg Cronn, Steven Swenson, Catherine Freer, and Choc Quinn.

PLATE 80

Photo by George Lowe

K2 from the North.



The support team, accompanied by two climbers, Quinn and A. Lowe, departed the United States on April 18. They established Base Camp at Shipton's "Sughet Jungal" on May 15. From May 16 until June 3 loads were carried the 29 kilometers from Base Camp to Advance Base at 4975 meters, two kilometers from the foot of the north ridge. Considerable effort was spent cleaning up debris left by the Italian expedition at Base Camp and on the glacier. A lovely camp on the glacier seemed to have been almost intentionally trashed, much to our disgust. On June 3 the remaining six members of the climbing team arrived at Base Camp, and immediately began carrying remaining loads to Advanced Base. The support team departed from the mountain on June 10. On June 13 Camp I was established at 5700 meters beneath a prominent overhanging sérac in the center of the slope to the right of the north ridge. The slope avalanched with every storm, and an occasional larger slide would shower over the overhanging lip of the sérac above the camp, partially burying the two tents below with spindrift. On June 19 Camp II was established on the site of the prior Japanese and Italian camp, at 6600 meters. On June 20 the route was pushed to 7200 meters. This day, we saw members of the British expedition around the corner at about 6800 meters on the west ridge, our only brief contact with anyone else on the mountain. Throughout early June weather had been good, but after the third week of June, a series of storms continually interrupted our progress. The slopes below Camps I and II were avalanche-prone and were avoided for two days after every storm. On July 6, Swenson, G. Lowe and A. Lowe established Camp III at 7600 meters on the site of the Italian camp. Due to storms and high avalanche danger, no further progress was made until July 30, when G. Lowe and A. Lowe broke trail through unconsolidated, waist-deep snow from Camps III to IV at 7950 meters on the north ridge. Exhausted by the effort, they were forced to return to Camp II for a rest day. All members of the expedition carried to Camp III on August 2, and on August 3, A. Lowe, G. Lowe, and Swenson occupied Camp IV for a summit attempt the next morning. At two A.M. on August 4, the summit team awoke to find G. Lowe had developed pulmonary edema, probably a result of his extreme efforts breaking trail in deep snows to Camp IV. Refusing aid, he immediately descended alone to Camp III where oxygen was obtained and his further descent assisted by Freer. A. Lowe and Swenson continued with a summit attempt, but turned back at 8100 meters due to slow progress in poor snow conditions. By that afternoon, another storm had moved in and the entire climbing team had safely descended to Advance Base. On August 12, Freer, Swenson, and Cheesmond departed from Advance Base for another summit bid, again reaching Camp IV when weather deteriorated and forced a final retreat. The entire expedition had departed from Base Camp by August 24. Having chosen not to take a shortwave radio, our expedition had no communication with the outside world between May and late-August. Not until we returned to Kashgar did we learn of the difficulties on the Baltoro, and realize our luck in avoiding any roughly comparable difficulties during our summer on the mountain.

LANCE S. OWENS

P 7167, Kunlun Mountains. Our expedition traveled from Urumqi via Kashgar to the western end of the Kunlun Mountains. Base Camp was some 60 kilometers east of Tansuihai at 5270 meters on the Litang River. This was established on July 20. From there it was still some 25 kilometers to the summit of P 7167. The most difficult part was carrying loads across the Doctor and Zhongfeng Glaciers. Camps I, II and III were placed at 5515, 6160 and 6670 meters on August 3, 10 and 12. Camp III was a snow cave. We climbed up the glacier on the south side to hit the east ridge where we had Camp III. We followed the east ridge to its junction with the south ridge. We fixed rope and prepared the route above Camp III for two days. At nine A.M. on August 16 Shinji Kobayashi, Shuya Nakashima, Tetsuya Baba, Yukimasa Numano and Masanori Sato left for the summit (7167 meters, 23,514 feet). On August 17, the second group, Kunio Obata, Takeshi Murata, Yukiko Kukuzawa, Mitsuhiro Sugawara, Dr. Shigeru Masuyama and I, also successfully reached the summit.

KEIJIRO HAYASAKA, *Tokyo University of Agriculture Alpine Club*

Tuomur or Pik Pobedy Attempt, Tien Shan. We hoped to climb Tuomur, which the Soviets call Pik Pobedy, from the Chinese side. Our Japanese women's expedition was made up of Dr. Shiori Hashimoto, Yuko Kuramatu, Mayuri Yasuhara, Nobuko Yanagisawa, Kiyoko Ishikawa, Yoko Nakamura, Fumie Kimura, Norkio Otuka, Kazuko Bizen and me as leader. There were many glaciers and so finding the right approach was difficult. We placed Base Camp at 3900 meters on July 27. Camps I and II were established at 4800 and 5400 meters on August 1 and 5. On August 13 we had a very big avalanche at 6200 meters. Three of us were carried down 500 meters, but we were unhurt. On the 16th during the night, another avalanche swept three tents away at Camp II at 5400 meters. I was carried into a crevasse and suffered a broken leg. The expedition was given up.

JUNKO TABEL, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Kongur Attempt. Nancey Goforth, Kathy Nilson, Pat Dillingham, Joan Provencher, Nancy FitzSimmons-Bloom, Deb Pranian, Suzanne Hopkins, Carole Petiet and I* traveled to Xinjiang to attempt Kongur (7719 meters, 25,325 feet) during June and July. We were the first American women's expedition granted a permit to climb in China. We hoped to repeat the southwest rib climb, by which the 1981 British expedition made the first and only ascent of Kongur. We arrived at Base Camp at 14,800 feet on June 16. After several days of acclimatization, we began skiing loads up the Corridor Glacier. We used no high-altitude porters. Our liaison officer, Me Me Ti, and interpreter, Su Keren, stayed at Base Camp. Advance Base was established on the Koksel Glacier at 17,000 feet on June 27 and occupied on July 1. By the time Camp I at 19,200

* Recipient of a Vera Watson-Alison Chadwick Onyszkiewicz grant.

feet was made, only four of us were able to proceed; the others had a variety of serious respiratory infections. The weather also began to deteriorate with daily snowfall. Camp II at 21,000 feet was established on July 10. FitzSimmons-Bloom, Dillingham, Petiet and I continued to carry loads to Camp II. While we moved up to Camp II for our summit push on July 14, we reluctantly decided to retreat due to bad weather and avalanche conditions. We could not have completed the route in the time remaining.

KATHLEEN GIEL

Mustagh Ata. Our expedition consisting of Ann Smith, Bob Allison, Bob East, Dr. Kent Davidson, Mary Ann Davidson and me arrived at Base Camp at 15,400 feet on July 24. During the next ten days we established five high camps. On August 4 Ann Smith and I made it to the summit from our 21,200-foot High Camp. We had four fairly good days out of 18 on the mountain. Three other teams arrived at Base Camp after us: 19 Italians, 8 Japanese and 4 from Hong Kong. Another American team led by Phil Ershler was scheduled to arrive after we left.

JACK ALLSUP

Mustagh Ata, Approached from Pakistan. From Islamabad on July 25 we headed by bus for the 4960-meter-high Kunjerab Pass on the Pakistani-Chinese frontier. This road has been open to tourists only since May. We got to the Chinese border town of Parali on the 27th and continued with two trucks to the Subashi plateau at 3800 meters. On July 29 we were transported to Base Camp at 4600 meters by 25 camels. Of the 15 climbers on the west side of Mustagh Ata, ten used skis. Camps I and II were placed at 5450 and 6080 meters on July 30 and August 1. The most difficult part of the route was from 5800 to 6600 meters, where we placed Camp III; this was because of crevasses. Two days of storm were followed by stocking of Camp III from August 4 to 7. It then stormed for five days. On August 13 we set out again. On August 15 Beppe Zandonella, Rolando Menardi, Filippo Sala, Libero Pelotti and Giulio Maggi climbed to the summit from Camp III. Camp IV was placed at 7080 meters. On August 17 Daniele Consolini, Natalina Furini, Alberto Foglio, Ettore Nanni and Roberta Faldella reached the top. Eliana Palazzi, Rossalio Patuelli, Luciano Pasquali and I, who were without skis, failed to reach the summit.

ARTURO BERGAMASCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

USSR

Pamir Mountains. The yearly Soviet International Mountaineering Camps have become more and more popular. Last summer climbers from 18 countries participated, 45 climbers from Switzerland, 42 from the USA and 34 from Bulgaria. High quality routes and a general rise in climbing standards typified