



PLATE 61

Photo by Ryozo Yamamoto

The Crown (Huang Guan Shan).

Western China

Bodga Shan. Located in the eastern Tien Shan Mountains, Bogda Shan (5445 meters, 17,864 feet) was first climbed in 1981 by Japanese climbers. Canadian Evan Price and I, a Scot, reached the summit on August 13 at six P.M. before descending to our tent at 4600 meters at one A.M. on the 14th. We think that ours was the first ascent of the peak by Western mountaineers. It is a fantastic region to climb in. We found the people in the area and the Chinese Mountaineering Association staff in Urumchi most friendly and helpful.

SANDY ALLAN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

The Crown (Huang Guan Shan) Attempt. Our 14-man expedition was composed of Y. Hirose, N. Kondo, R. Tateyama, H. Shimizu, N. Shimizu, M. Ochiai, M. Hoshino, R. Okamoto, K. Uchiyama, T. Sakurai, T. Yamamoto, T. Mizuno, J. Tayama and me as leader. We had permission to try the Crown (7292 meters, 23,924 feet), 15 miles northwest of K2, and Chiring (7090 meters, 23,262 feet). On July 18, we arrived with camels at Base Camp at 3900 meters near the end of the Skamri Glacier via the Aghil Pass and Skaksgam River from Mazan-Dara. Advance Base was established on July 21 at 4410 meters near the junction of the Skamri and Crown Glaciers and Camp I on July 29 at 5100 meters below the southeast ridge of the Crown. We climbed a steep rock band and a snow face to Camp II on the ridge at 5800 meters and to Camp III at 6500 meters. Camp III was made on August 17. We then traversed for 200 meters on the steep snow east face and climbed 500 meters directly upward to 7000 meters. An A-shaped rock wall rises for 100 meters from there. We tried a chimney but could not complete it because of dangerous conditions. Our highest point of 7050 meters was reached on August 23. After that, Captain Henry Morgan and a British team of six came to our Base Camp on September 1. Morgan's subsequent letter to me says that they also could not get to the summit for lack of time. They got to within 75 meters of the top. We could not try Chiring because we had no time.

RYOZO YAMAMOTO, *Academic Alpine Club of Shizuoka, Japan*

Koshi Toshi Attempt, Kunlun Mountains. An eight-member expedition under the leadership of Hisahiro Moro'oka attempted Koshi Toshi Mustagh (6699 meters, 21,979 feet). They had a difficult approach and got to Base Camp west of the peak at 3800 meters on August 1. Hoping to reach the north ridge, they placed Camps I and II at 4100 and 5090 meters on August 5 and 11. The next day Matsunaga, Antoku and Takazu climbed P 5740, followed on August 13 by Miss Katsuko Takahashi and Ikuto Ota. They decided against continuing this approach. Miss Takahashi and Matsunaga then set out with five days' food on a more southerly approach from the west to reach the north

ridge. After bivouacs at 4200 and 5200 meters, they got to 5970 meters on the north ridge but were stopped by a gap in the ridge.

Mustagh Ata Ascent and Mustagh Ata North Attempt. The NOK Mustagh Ata International Friendship Expedition successfully climbed Mustagh Ata (7546 meters, 24,757 feet). On August 8, British Anthony and Victoria Willoughby and Frenchman Didier Gaillard reached the summit. On August 11, British Dick Renshaw, Japanese Keichi Ozaki and Hiro Sasao and Americans Marti Martin Kuntz and I got to the top. Previously we had made an unsuccessful attempt on Mustagh Ata North (7427 meters, 24,367 feet). This is in fact not a sub-peak but a completely separate mountain cut off from Mustagh Ata by the Yambulak Glacier which gouges a 3000-foot cliff-lined chasm between the two from summit to base. Its windy north ridge was climbed by four Japanese in 1981, the only ascent of the peak. (On August 7, 1981, leader Tadakio Sakahara and Koji Matsui reached the summit, followed on August 14 by Takao Hayashida and Junichi Takahashi.) Our plan was to see how high we could reach on the same ridge on skis in preparation for our quick, nonstop ski ascent and descent of Mustagh Ata. We approached the ridge from the southwest flank as opposed to the Japanese, who had reached it via a northeast spur. The ridge itself essentially begins at 20,000 feet. We set up Base Camp at 15,700 feet on the south side of the Chodomak Glacier. The glacier led into a giant amphitheater flanked by the north and northwest ridges. We climbed a headwall and, after a third carry, camped at 18,570 feet on a protected shoulder just below the main north ridge. Renshaw and I both were struck by the first symptoms of altitude sickness and descended the next morning, along with Gaillard, who was snow-blind. The others continued their ascent of North Mustagh, reaching 20,500 feet on the north ridge before storm conditions and persistent high winds drove them back down.

MICHAEL JARDINE

Mustagh Ata North. Horst Schindelbacher, Hans Sauseng, Thomas Hois, Manfred Wydra and I as leader climbed Mustagh Ata North in September. We went up the Chodomak Glacier on skis but where the Yambulak and Chodomak Glaciers meet at about 7000 meters, we saw two summits. Instead of repeating the ascent of the main summit of Mustagh Ata, we climbed to the lower summit, which is divided from the main peak by a glacial valley.

BRUNO BAUMANN, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Mustagh Ata. Our Franco-Italian ski expedition climbed the normal route on the Mustagh Ata. We arrived at Base Camp on August 6 from Pakistan via the Kunjerab Pass. On August 16, Marc Chauvet, Paolo Henry, Pierre Gaillot, Françoise Walter, André Lequêque and I reached the summit. On August 22,

Chauvet and I accompanied Guy Luce to the top. We had excellent snow conditions and good, clear weather during the second half of August.

ERIK DECAMP, *Club Alpin Français*

USSR

Khan Tengri, North Face, 1986. One of the most notable Soviet climbs of 1986 was the new route on the 2800-meter-high, very difficult north face of Khan Tengri (6995 meters, 22,950 feet) in the central Tien Shan. Eight climbers from Moscow, led by V. Koroteev, began on August 8. They bivouacked at 5350, 5725, 6100, 6350, 6550 and 6850 meters. The last bivouac was close to the summit. At 4900, 5000 and 5400 meters nearly vertical rock barriers were climbed. At 6500 meters, a 70°, 180-meter-high chimney led to the summit cone. The summit was reached on August 21, 1986. The rock was somewhat rotten. In 1974, Soviet teams led by Boris Studentin and Eduard Myslovski each climbed routes in the central part of the north face.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

USSR Pamir Camp. The 1987 season was wet and snowy, worse than the 1986 season. Pik Lenina saw the brunt of the activity, especially in early August. Lenina's Lipkin Cliffs route was skied by a French group from Lyon. However, they lost skis and axes in an avalanche. I got to the summit of Pik Lenina on August 15 with four Soviet climbers. One of them had climbed Denali in 1986 and had been above 6000 meters forty times. Pik Korzhenevskoy was climbed by several groups, but many were turned back by heavy snow above Camps II and III. Pik Kommunizma had few ascents, mostly by Soviets, because of weather and few clear breaks. Only one Soviet team made a crossing of the Firn-Plateau via the Fortambek approach. The Borodkin route via Pik Dushanbe was never open due to wind-slab avalanche hazard. On July 31, Czech Jon Ladislav made the first ski descent of Kommunizma on short skis. His side-slip track down the summit pyramid was wild, being 60° and knife-edged above a rock overhanging abyss! He finished via the slabby Dushanbe face. On August 1, Germans Christof Schork and Herman Rieschl and I accompanied 18 Eastern European climbers to the summit of Pik Kommunizma. There were 14 fatal accidents in the range in 1987. Five Soviet climbers were killed in an avalanche on Pik Kommunizma and some others on Pik Klara Zetkin. There were four other American groups, all on Pik Lenina. The Soviets are studying construction of an annual international camp in the Tien Shan to complement their excellent Pamir and Caucasus operations.

JOHN REHMER

P 5684, Pamir Mountains. A seven-man Bulgarian party led by Todor Batkov ascended a previously unclimbed, unnamed peak northeast of Pik