

meters, 23,146 feet) is the south peak, but this lies 800 meters beyond the 7037-meter north peak, which we had to climb over. The drop beyond was 70 meters and this traverse was very long and tiring.

SHINICHI NAITO, *Doshisha University, Japan*

Gurla Mandhata (Naimona'nyi), 1987. The Sino-Japanese Joint Friendship Expedition had as its chief leader (A.A.C. honorary member) Shi Zhan Chun, as deputy leaders Chinese Liu Dayi and Japanese Atsuo Saito and as climbing leader Japanese Katsutoshi Hirabayashi. After leaving Kashi on April 13 and 14, 1987, we gathered at Base Camp at 4700 meters at Sekang on the northwest side of Gurla Mandhata (Naimona'nyi) on April 25. Advance Base was established on May 2 at the tongue of the Zalongmalongba Glacier. We ascended the lateral moraine and established Camp I on May 7. Camps II and III were placed on the glacier at 6720 and 7260 meters on May 11 and 16. We decided to put Camp IV on the large plateau at the top of the glacier and reconnoitered the route to the summit on May 19. After that, snow fell for three days. On May 25, the weather improved and we established Camp IV at 7420 meters. On May 26, 1987, Chinese Jing Junxi, Jiabu, Song Zhiyi and Ciren Dorje and Japanese Yoshiharu Suita, Kozo Matsubayashi, Toyoji Wada, and Keiichiro Suita climbed to the ridge up the largest gully closest to the summit and reached the top (7694 meters, 25,243 feet) at 11:45 A.M. The next day, Chinese Yang Jinhui, Qimi, Chen Jianjun, Liu Chusheng and Bao Doqing stood on the summit, too. One Japanese member had collapsed from pulmonary edema at Camp IV and so the other members worked hard to rescue him, giving up the opportunity to get to the summit. On June 1, all members were back in Base Camp and well.

TSUNAHIDE SHIDEI, *Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto, Japan*

Western China

K2 North Ridge Attempt. We started from Rawalpindi in Pakistan on May 11, crossed the Khunjerab Pass and reached Kashgar on May 16. We were six climbers: Gérard Bretin, François Marsigny, Pierre Royer, Frédéric Valet, my wife Annie and I. Jacques Vallet was the doctor. We left Mazar, the last military post in the Kunlun mountains, on May 20. It took six days to arrive at "Base Camp" at Sughet Jungal at 3800 meters with our 60 camels, 20 camel drivers, donkeys and sheep! As we were far from the real Base Camp at the foot of K2 at 4900 meters, we were helped by four Sherpas, who had joined us in Rawalpindi and had come from Kathmandu, to carry between the two camps. This took six to eight hours of harsh walking. Despite poor weather and very hard ice on the first slopes, we made good progress. Camps I and II had been established at 5600 and 6600 meters by June 20. Ropes were fixed up to 6000 meters. The first part of the ridge was quite dangerous because of rockfall and avalanches. By the end of June we dismantled Camp I, although the trip from Base Camp to Camp II was long: 1700 meters and 7 to 10 hours. Early in July we made the first summit

attempt. Between 6600 and 7600 meters on mixed ground with deep snow in the couloirs, it took me only four hours. Two tents were put at Camp III at 7600 meters, but the next day we were pushed back down by a storm. After that, we never had more than two or three days of continuous stable weather. Six attempts during July went for nothing. Annie climbed to 6600 meters but had to abandon because of an old knee twist. On August 8, Royer, Marsigny and I reached Camp IV at 7950 meters above a 300-meter climb on very loose rock slabs. Bretin and Valet, exhausted by ten weeks at altitude, had given up at Camp III. Unfortunately a snowstorm coming from the southwest prevented our climbing the last 600 meters. Since the others didn't want to try again, I decided to go alone. It was an intimidating experience to be on a great mountain without the support of companions. On August 14, I reached the beginning of the snow traverse at 8000 meters just above Camp IV and then descended to camp. In the morning I had to escape from a blizzard. I waited one complete day at Camp II as the lower slopes seemed dangerous. In a white-out I reached Base Camp on August 17. With 15 camels (two were lost coming to Sughet Jungal) we left and had some difficulties crossing the Shaksgam River in flood.

PIERRE BEGHIN, *Club Alpin Français*

P 6903, Kunlun. Our expedition had as general leader Dr. Chotaro Nakajima, as climbing members Hironori Ito, Naoki Mohri, Hidetomo Shirai and Masaharu Mutsuyoshi and me as climbing leader. The original plan was to start from Kashi, go east via Yecheng, Mazar, Dahongliutan, Tianshuihai through the Aksayquin heights and climb the virgin peak Qun Mustagh, but the water in the river northeast of Goza Lake was unusually high. We then turned to P 6903 (22,648 feet), which lies upstream on the Cong Ce Glacier, 100 kilometers west of Qun Mustagh. We placed Base Camp at the tongue of the glacier and three more camps higher. On August 22, Ito and Mohri attacked the peak. Mohri had just reached the summit when a big snowslide occurred. Mohri was carried down 100 meters but Ito stopped him with the rope. We left Base Camp on August 26.

SUSUMU NOHDA, *Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto University, Japan*

Syn Qing Feng Attempt. Karl Gerdes, Paul Tamm, Phil Peralta-Ramos, John Owen, Jim Bennett and I headed for China's Qinghai Province in April. We rode trains for two days from Beijing to Xining, then trucks and jeeps for two days to Golmud, and jeeps for three days over the Kunlun Pass, off-road past the long mountains and great ice lakes of the Kunlun Range, finally arriving at the compact mountain cluster of Syn Qing Feng. The name is Buka Daban in Mongolian. This range had never seen a climbing team prior to this season. The Chinese Mountaineering Association of Qinghai was by far the least competent and most avaricious of the provincial Chinese mountaineering organizations. They shortchanged the expedition on food and continually changed the written

protocol to enrich themselves. At their insistence, renegotiations occurred daily and consumed hours. We arrived at Base Camp to find a disgruntled Himalayan Association of Japan team, led by Hideyuki Uematsu, which had a permit for Syn Qing Feng I (6860 meters, 22,507 feet). They had given up many days short of their prime objective, but in three days did climb Syn Qing Feng XVIII (6237 meters, 20,463 feet), a walk-up near camp. Our liaison officer/cook, Mr. Li, climbed this solo on a windless morning to retrieve Japanese fixed rope for himself. Though the Japanese were eager to get home, the Chinese forced them to stay for several extra days, extracting from them exorbitant day-rates for trucks and food. In the next ten days, we established Camp II at 18,000 feet on the glacier and Camp III at 19,800 feet at the foot of the summit peak of Syn Qing Feng II, for which we had the permit. The Chinese made little effort to protect the camp from external thieves but grilled members every day to make sure we did not intend to climb Syn Qing Feng I without paying the proper fee. From Base Camp to the higher camps, the bitter cold and high winds were relentless. We made two attempts on the summit ridge, both repulsed by high winds; one at 20,200 and the other at 21,000 feet. Eventually we ran out of time and retreated.

ERIC S. PERLMAN

Syn Qing Feng XVIII. A Japanese expedition led by Hideyuki Uematsu attempted unsuccessfully to climb Sin Qing Feng I. They turned to Syn Qing Feng XVIII (6237 meters, 20,463 feet), which they climbed by its south ridge. On August 18, Tadashi Fukuyama, Makoto Miura, Yoshihiro Kodama, Takashi Masuda and Hajime Minejishi reached the top.

Qi Lian, Gansu, Qinghai. Our expedition was composed of Tsukasa Ogai, Kazuo Ishihara, Sakutaro Kono, Yu Sato, Michio Takahashi, Tomohiro Kameoka, Nobuhiko Muto, Koichi Kinoshita, Masao Takahashi, Shinji Yasuda, Nobuo Momai, Masakatsu Horie, Nobuyoshi Honda and me as leader. We had hoped to attempt the south face but could not reach that side because of floods. Base Camp at 4030 meters was made on August 7 and Camp I on the glacier at 4550 meters on August 9. Camp II at 5250 meters on the north ridge was set up on the 12th. On August 13 Masao Takahashi, Momai, Horie and Honda reached the summit (5547 meters, 18,200 feet) at 2:09 P.M.

TAKASHI KATO, *Fukushima High School Old Boys Alpine Club, Japan*

Mustagh Ata. This big peak (7546 meters, 24,758 feet) is so frequently climbed by large private and commercial groups that we cannot report on all such expeditions. In 1988 there were groups from Sweden, Italy and France, possibly more. On July 20, American Keith Brown reached the summit solo.

Kongur Tiubie Attempt. Our twelve-person team followed the southwest route on our attempt on Kongur Tiubie, second highest mountain in the Pamirs.

We set up Base Camp, Advance Base and Camps I, II and III at 4600, 5100, 5460, 5850 and 6320 meters on August 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11. We were unsuccessful in our summit bid because of continuing bad weather and deep snow. On August 12 Cham Yick-Kai, Ng Chi-Wing, Yiu Wai-Loon, Ho Mui-Dan (our only lady), Kam Pei-Tak, Tong Chi-Bun and I got to 6440 meters.

TSANG LOK, *Hong Kong*

Shiwakte II. The Shiwakte mountains, which lie east of Kongur in Xinjiang, were first described by C.P. Skrine in *The Geographical Journal* in 1925. His photographs and the reports of the British Kongur expeditions of 1980-81 indicated that the mountains, though only just over 6000 meters, offered many exciting challenges. No climbers had ever visited the range. The Chinese insisted that we leave the road at Karakul Lake, the starting point for Mustagh Ata and Kongur. This meant crossing the 5000-meter Karatash Pass and going around the Kongur and Shiwakte groups to reach Base Camp on the Aq Tash Glacier. We paid a peak fee for Shiwakte II (c. 6200 meters, 20,342 feet), the highest in the group according to Skrine, and one other peak. From Islamabad we went up the Karakoram Highway. After a day's landslide delay just past Gilgit, we crossed the Chinese frontier at Khunjerab on July 10 and were met by our liaison officer and interpreter. We reached Karakul Lake on the 11th, but were delayed for a week by the inability of our liaison officer to arrange animal transport. Finally we were provided with two horses and two camels and three local Kirghiz. The liaison officer and interpreter decided to stay behind at Karakul. Only with difficulty did we get the camels over the pass and it became increasingly clear that they would not reach Base Camp. On the fourth day, the Kirghiz abandoned us, having arranged with difficult bargaining for another Kirghiz, Hari Beg, to take us on. We descended to Chat, followed the Karatash valley north and then branched up the Chimghan Jilga, which drains the southeast side of Kongur and the Shiwakte peaks. Our "False Base Camp" was beside the glacier under the huge east face of Kongur. We then moved Base Camp to Aghalistan beside the Aq Tash Glacier. Our many delays gave us only 18 days to spend there. Grahame Nicoll and Stan Pearson climbed an easy 5400-meter peak in the Chimghan group close to Base, while Hamish Irvine, Barry Owen, Des Rubens and I attempted the east ridge of a peak called Shiwakte IIIa by Skrine, hoping to traverse to Shiwakte III. It was a very serious rock-and-ice climb for which we had taken too little gear. After 2½ days, we were still a few hundred feet below Shiwakte IIIa and a long way from Shiwakte III. With signs of bad weather, we retreated. After five days of cloud and snow, we had only seven days left. Nicoll and Pearson attempted Shiwakte I while Rubens and Owen tried Shiwakte II from the Aq Tash (eastern) side. The weather on that side remained cloudy, windy and unsettled. Dangerous snow prevented their getting beyond the first bivouacs at 5300 meters. Irvine and I went to the west side of Shiwakte II and climbed a line we had first seen from "False Base Camp." We had better weather and found a route that was not too

PLATE 78

Photo by Grahame Nicoll

**West Face of SHIWAKTE II. Route
lies on the right in cloud.**





COLOR PLATE 9

Photo by Pierre Beghin

K2 from the North.

difficult, though exposed to objective danger from séracs. After 2½ days of climbing we got to the summit of Shiwakte II on August 8. From the top it appeared that Shiwakte III is slightly higher and much more difficult. On the last two days, we climbed two easy 5300-meter peaks in the Chimghan range. On the return, Hari Beg insisted on going from Chat over the Ghijak Sawan to the roadhead at Kizil Tagh, an area forbidden for foreigners, but easier. We had no choice. Rubens and I returned alone over the Katatash to inform the liaison officer what had happened while the other four accompanied Hari Beg and the baggage. We all met up again in Kashgar, but we then had to mollify the police for having entered a forbidden area, albeit not of our own choosing.

GEOFFREY COHEN, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

Chagragil. Chagragil (6725 meters, 22,064 feet) lies 37 kilometers northwest of Kongur. On September 1, Japanese leader Misao Hirano, Minoru Hachisu and Kenji Nakayama reached the top for the first ascent of the peak.

Syurenfen Attempt, Tien Shan. Our expedition, composed of Junichi Sinozaki, Yuji Kato, Masato Kameda, Susumi Takagishi, Toshikazu Yokosawa and me as leader, hoped to climb the southeast ridge of Syurenfen (6627 meters, 21,742 feet), which lies due west of Urumchi. The approach route along the Muzarut River was difficult because of much glacial meltwater, which delayed us for some days. From Base Camp to Camp III, we traveled on the moraines of the Karakume Glacier for 30 kilometers. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 2500, 3100, 3500, 4050, 5250 and 5950 meters on July 20, 23, 27, 29, August 6 and 12. We had to evacuate two members with altitude sickness from Camp IV, which cost us time. The weather became bad as soon as we established Camp V with heavy snowfall and wind. On August 20, from Camp V we climbed 500 meters along a snow-and-rock ridge, traversed and ascended a 300-meter, 60° ice wall to reach the col between the main summit and an eastern foresummit at 6300. This was our high point.

KAZUO TOKUSHIMA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

USSR

Pik Pobedy Massif Traverse, Tien Shan. Continuing the training for the great Kangchenjunga traverse, planned for the spring of 1989, in August a Soviet team completed the whole traverse of the Pik Pobedy massif. The 26-member party was divided into two groups going a day apart. The traverse was made via Pik Vazha Pshavela (6918 meters, 22,798 feet), Pik Pobedy (7439 meters, 24,407 feet), Pik Pobedy East (7049 meters, 23,127 feet) and Military Surveyors Peak (Pik Voennye Topografi; 6873 meters, 22,550 feet). The 20-kilometer-long ridge, with altitudes from 6000 to 7439 meters, was climbed in a record time of seven days. Despite strong winds and heavy snowfalls, all 26 members