

Pakistan

K2 Attempt. Our expedition comprised 10 Basques, Balti "Little" Karim and me. The Basque members were Iñaki Carranza, Juanjo San Sebastián, Txema Camara, Ramón Portilla, Alberto Posada, Koldo Tapia, Matilde Otaduy, Antonio Trabado, Angel Selas and Martín Zabaleta. Our approach march up the Baltoro went smoothly from June 12 to the 21st. The path is taking an acute environmental beating from soldiers, trekkers and climbers. We placed Base Camp at 5000 meters in the usual place. As we were the only team on the Abruzzi Ridge this summer, logistics were simplified. Actually, we functioned as several smaller groups on the ridge, first to acclimatize and then in attempts on the mountain. We used one good spell of weather between July 7 and 12 to acclimate and to replace old fixed lines. Several members got to 7300 meters during this period. From then on, we never had more than three or four good days in a row. On July 31, all but Zabaleta, San Sebastián and I left for home. We made two more attempts. The other two spent two nights at 7350 meters in hopes the weather would clear. On August 13 we too left for home.

CARLOS BUHLER

K2 Attempt and Tragedy. An Austrian expedition was composed of leader Edi Koblmüller, Hans Bärnthal, Robert Strouhal, Gustav Ammerer, Herbert Hutar, Dr. Herbert Habersack and Maila Pemba Sherpa. They had hoped to climb K2 by its east face but terrible weather prevented them from getting very high. Bärnthal climbed on a subsidiary peak to take photographs on July 28. Tragically, he was carried away by a windslab avalanche and killed.

K2 Attempt. Swiss Jean Troillet and I made what hardly can be called an attempt on K2 from the west since the weather was so bad. During 42 days at Base Camp, it actually snowed for 30 with 10 to 15 centimeters of new snow each morning.

WOJCIECH KURTYKA, *Klub Wysokogórski Kraków, Poland*

Broad Peak Attempts. This was not a good year for expeditions to Broad Peak. Bernard Muller and his wife Laurence de la Ferrière led an international group of some 22 climbers but they were unsuccessful. They included well known climbers such as Swiss guide Stéphane Schaffter, Yves Lambert (son of the famous Raymond Lambert) and Eric Haefelin. Italians Fabrizio Defrancesco, leader, Almo Giambisi, Mario Manica and Stefano Ventura got to Base Camp on June 22. They placed camps at 5900, 6400 and 7000 meters. After a rest at Base Camp, they left on a summit attempt but gave up on July 8 at 7500 because of steep deep snow. Japanese led by Tadakiyo Sakahara established four high camps but could get no higher than Camp IV at 7720 meters.

Other expeditions that could not reach the summit included Swiss with Romolo Nottaris and Mexicans under the leadership of Antonio Cortés.

Gasherbrum I Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition, composed of four Japanese, Russian Igor Kurkov, Nepali Tsindi Dorje Sherpa and Austrians Gerhard Frossmann and me, was led by Dr. Makoto Hara. When we got to Base Camp in July, we discovered that the route we had hoped to climb on Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak) was off-bounds for us because of the idiotic war between India and Pakistan. Frossmann and I started up a new route on the right side of the south face, despite its being both difficult and objectively dangerous. We ascended some 1000 meters and were at 6500 meters with about 150 meters of difficult terrain badly threatened by falling ice before it appeared that easier ground led to the summit. We would have had to traverse 70° ice that was covered with very deep powder snow. It was too risky to keep on. We bivouacked in a crevasse and descended. A 14-day period of continual snowfall followed. The whole expedition then turned to the normal route. We spent three days on a very broken glacier to get to the foot of the route. I gave up counting how many times someone fell into a crevasse. We climbed to a 6400-meter col above which 50° to 65° slopes led to a rock band at 7000 meters, where we fixed rope. At that point, we had a falling out with the Japanese when they ordered us to go back for more rope. We descended and quit the expedition. Haruyuki Endo, his wife Yuka and Tsindi Dorje Sherpa continued on and climbed to the summit. On the descent, the young Nepali got separated from the Japanese couple. He must have fallen, but they were too tired to be able to search for him.

MICHAEL LEUPRECHT, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Gasherbrum I. Austrian Willi Bauer was back in the Karakoram in 1989 from which he barely escaped in the disastrous 1986 tragedy on K2. He led a commercial group of 20 Austrians and Germans, including some climbers very experienced in the high mountains. Unfortunately, the extremely bad weather this season robbed the group of success.

Netherlands Gasherbrum II Ascent, 1988. On June 25, 1988, Arjan van Waardenburg, Rene de Bos, Hans van der Meulen and I reached the summit of Gasherbrum II. From Camp I at 6000 meters on the glacier plateau at the foot of the south face, we climbed alpine-style, making a partially new route on the southeast ridge. During the final climb, we had very good weather. Up to 6600 meters, where we had the first pinnacles and our first bivouac, we climbed the southeast ridge. From there we made a new variant on the glaciated southeast side east of the southeast ridge with a second bivouac. We then continued to the foot of the final pyramid and a third bivouac. After reaching the summit, we descended the normal route, where Austrian, French, Czechoslovakian and Swiss expeditions were active. We lost our leader, Ronald Naar, two weeks after

leaving the Netherlands. He broke his foot and injured his back very badly in a paraglider accident and had to be evacuated by helicopter from Payu.

JEROEN JACOBSE, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

Gasherbrum II. Toni Fullin, Tito Planzer, Peter Stadler and I left Dassu on May 8, the first expedition of the year. For days we plowed through knee-deep snow and got to Base Camp on May 19. The glacier from Base Camp to Camp I was very dangerous, with only a little old snow covering the crevasses. We spent the night at Camp I on May 28 and bivouacked on the 29th at 6800 meters. On May 30, all four of us reached the summit at four P.M. One climber showed signs of an edema after returning to the bivouac and another was frostbitten.

CHRIS FORSTER, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

Gasherbrum II, All-Women's Ascent. The first all-women's team from Britain to an 8000er was composed of Rhona Lampard, leader, Brede Arkless, Geraldine Westrupp, Kathy Bainbridge, Becky Thorp, Dr. Sally Churcher and as a guest from Poland, Wanda Rutkiewicz. They climbed the normal route without bottled oxygen and without male support, although they cooperated with other parties. Base Camp was established on May 30. Camps were set up at 6050 and 6550 meters. A shocking experience was the sight of the dead body of Gary Silver lying in his sleeping bag at the top of the fixed lines at 7000 meters, where he collapsed on June 9, 1988. They started the summit push on July 7 and established Camp II from which on July 12 Lampard and Rutkiewicz reached the summit. Bainbridge accompanied them to 7700 meters, where she turned back. The next day a second team had to withdraw because of high-altitude problems. The weather conditions were bad; during six weeks they enjoyed only ten days without storm and snowfall. Wanda Rutkiewicz filmed the entire climbing, including summit scenes. This was her fifth 8000er, the most any woman has yet achieved.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Gasherbrum II Ascent and Tragedy. We were Javier Bermejo, Xabier Erro, Pili Ganuza de Goñi, Javier Garayoa, José Miguel Goñi, Anxton Ibarguren, Agustín Pagola and I. Having left Dassu on June 26, we got to Base Camp on July 5. Contrary to predictions, the weather cleared on the 7th. We carried up loads the next two days and four of us occupied Camp I on the 9th and Camp II the next day. The lead group continued up to Camps III and IV on July 11 and 12. Only a week after getting to Base Camp, on July 13, Erro, Ibarguren and Goñi reached the summit at eight A.M. During the descent, Ibarguren slipped and fell down the abrupt Chinese slope. His companions tried in vain to locate him and returned late to Camp IV with the sad news. All decided to withdraw from the mountain.

GREGORIO ARIZ, *Club Anaitasuna, Spain*

Gasherbrum II Attempts. Aside from the American attempt described below, there were two other unsuccessful tries to climb Gasherbrum II. A Spanish expedition led by Pedro Fernández and Koreans led by Kim Hong-Ki did not reach the summit.

Gasherbrum II Attempt. Ours was the first American commercial expedition to an 8000-meter peak. We were Galen Rowell, deputy leader, Bob Sloezen, guide, Dr. Peter Cummings, Lester Thurow, Scott Moore, my wife Aleja, Base Camp manager, and I, leader. We reached Base Camp on the Abruzzi Glacier at 6000 meters on June 2. Poor weather characterized the entire trip. Despite almost continuous snowfall, the whole team worked hard and established Camp I at 6000 meters on June 8. We moved to Camp I on June 13 and after a couple of severe storm days began pushing higher and occupied Camp II at 6615 meters on the 25th during a brief spell of good weather. Camp III was occupied on June 26 by Rowell and Moore. Sloezen, Cummings and Thurow joined them on the 27th. Because of the conditions, it was not feasible to bivouac at 7300 meters, as is typically done en route to the summit on the standard route. Two summit attempts were made between June 28 and July 3; Sloezen, Cummings and Moore reached our high point of 7650 meters (25,100 feet). An estimated 18 feet of snow fell during the expedition. We left Base Camp on July 6. Even on the trek out, we were in waist-deep snow and still on snow at Goro camp at 15,000 feet.

MICHAEL COVINGTON

Chogolisa Attempt, 1988. On page 245 of *AAJ, 1989*, it incorrectly stated that a French expedition led by Christian Bourgeon changed its objective from Gasherbrum I to II. It did change its objective, but it was from Sia Kangri to Chogolisa. That peak was unsuccessfully attempted in late July of 1988 but the climbers were turned back from a high point of 6400 meters by bad weather.

Masherbrum Attempt. Our team members were Mark Miller, Nigel Hillman, Bruce Hubbard, Stuart Bygrave, Adrian Bake, Mike Cross, Graham Hulme, Ewen Todd, Colin Jamieson, Keven Murphy, Alec Erskine and I as leader. We had hoped to climb Masherbrum (7821 meters, 25,660 feet) by its unclimbed east ridge. We established Base Camp on July 18 on the west side of the Masherbrum Glacier, two-days' walk from Hushe. The route surmounted three icefalls, each about 1000 feet high, before crossing a plateau at 18,000 feet and ascending windslab slopes to a snow dome at 20,000 feet, a 1-1/2-mile-wide snowfield where the separate peaks of Masherbrum East and the main peak rise. We placed Camp I at 16,800 feet on July 21 at the base of the third icefall. Camp II, reached on July 26, was just above the plateau on a ridge below the slopes leading to the snow dome. Camp III was established on July 28 on the edge of the snow dome. On August 4, we finally set Camp IV at 21,600 feet just below the southeast face of Masherbrum proper. Hillman, Miller, Jamieson, Murphy and

I attempted to climb the steep south face of Masherbrum East on August 12 but were forced down by a thunderstorm after reaching 22,000 feet. After a period of bad weather at Base Camp, there were two more attempts, but continuous snowfall prevented our getting further than Camp IV, which, on the final attempt, was completely buried and could not be found.

GINETTE HARRISON, M.D., *British Mountaineering Council*

Nameless Tower, Trango Group. A Spanish expedition made another new and very difficult route on the Nameless Tower. It rises between the 1987 Franco-Swiss route (Delale, Fauquet, Piola, Schaffter) and the 1976 British route (Anthoine, Brown, Boysen, Howells). The climbers were Miguel Angel Gallego, José Luis Clavel, Chiri Ros and José Seiquer. They got to Base Camp on June 16. The route to the base of the climb, where 1000 feet higher they established a camp and a supply dump, was very dangerous and several times they were nearly wiped out by avalanches as they were in the narrow corridor. From the high camp, they fixed a considerable amount of rope on the lower part of the tower. The weather was atrocious. In the whole month of July, they had only four good days. Other expeditions in the region quit. They spent 19 nights on the face and climbed 36 pitches in all. Although much was on extremely difficult rock, there were mixed pitches and six rope-lengths on a steep icefield. The final pitches presented an unusual problem. The summit snowcap kept releasing both powder-snow avalanches and cascades of water. In the last four pitches, they joined Piola's route. All four climbers got to the summit on August 9. (A full report with photographs appears in *Desnivel*, N° 50, November 1989.)

Trango Towers Attempts. Canadians Jim Brennan and Greg Foweraker and Americans Dan Cauthorn, Greg Collum, Matt Kerns, Pat McNerthney and Mark Wilford and I established Base Camp on the Trango Glacier in late May. Like other expeditions, we had difficulties persuading porters to carry to actual proposed campsites; they declare each year that base camps are further and further down the glaciers. An additional headache is the decision by the porters to make the crossing of the Dumordo River an additional stage, whether expeditions use the bridge or wade the river. More than a week of perfect weather in late May and early June gave opportunities for the teams to explore. Wilford and I established a camp on the Dunge Glacier, hoping to make two-man alpine ascents on the Great Trango and Nameless Towers. We humped loads to the base of the Nameless Tower and fixed 200 meters of rope up the 1988 Swiss-Polish route. On the Trango Glacier Brennan and Foweraker climbed high on the Woolums-Selters route, but being unacclimatized descended. McNerthy and Collum climbed several pitches on the huge southwest buttress of the Great Trango Tower but decided against this route because of its enormous size. Cauthorn and Kerns climbed a small peak of less than 6000 meters in the Uli Biaho chain to reconnoiter a route on the Great Trango Tower and watched a

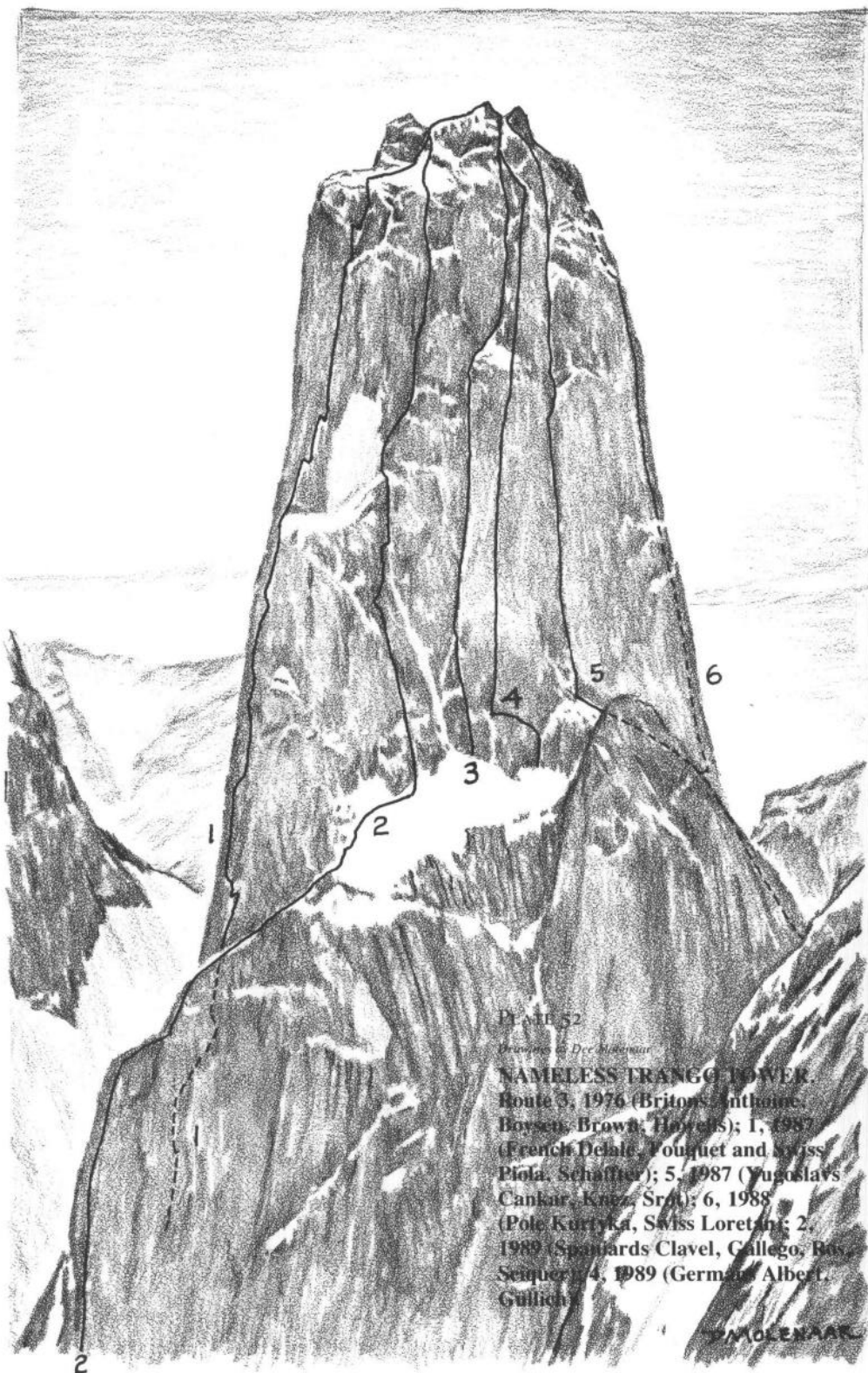


PLATE 52

Drawings by J. De Molenaar

NAMELESS TRANGO TOWER.

Route 3, 1976 (Britons: Anthony, Borsari, Brown, Howells); 1, 1987 (French: Delale, Fouquet and Swiss: Piola, Schaffner); 5, 1987 (Yugoslavs: Cankar, Knez, Srblj); 6, 1988 (Pole: Kurtjka, Swiss: Loretani); 2, 1989 (Spaniards: Clavel, Gallego, Bos, Sequera); 4, 1989 (German: Albert, Gullich).

J. MOLENAAR

storm approach, which lasted for three weeks, dumping much snow. On June 23, the weather cleared for four days and efforts resumed. The Canadians attempted the Yugoslav Nameless Tower route but descended after nine pitches when their stove failed. Kerns and Cauthorn tried the Rowell-Schmitz-Hennek and the Woolum-Selters routes but, like Collum and McNerthney on the latter route, found the snow too deep and dangerous. Wilford and I returned to our route, dug our gear out of the ice, pulled up our ropes behind us and committed ourselves to a new independent big-wall route right of the Swiss-Polish route on the impressive northeast face. We had difficulties of 5.10 and A4. Expanding flakes seemingly glued together by ice and much hooking characterized the route. We climbed seven pitches in five days before being trapped for seven more days in a two-man porta-ledge when a major storm moved in to coat both us and the peak with ice. Ropes, Jümars and the pulley froze and became useless necessitating desperate maneuvers to get us both united at a belay. The frozen porta-ledge collapsed twice at night in the midst of a spindrift cascade. After twelve days on the wall, we had reached 19,200 feet, but the weather remained bad. We rappelled and waded exhausted through dangerous, deep snow to Base Camp on July 4.

GREG CHILD

Nameless Trango Tower, Eternal Flame Route. Our expedition was composed of Milan Sykora, Christoph Stiegler, Wolfgang Güllich and me. Our goal was to establish a new route on the south face of the Nameless Tower in free-climbing or Rotpunkt (red point) style. Güllich and I had already done the first free ascent of the Nameless Tower in 1988 via the Yugoslavian route. At that time, we discovered a great line, a crack system to the left of the Yugoslavian route. We arrived at Base Camp on August 16. Because of bad weather, it took us more than three weeks to set up a camp on the shoulder of the Nameless Tower at 5400 meters, with equipment and ten days of food. In the following two weeks, we were able to complete the new route. It has 35 pitches of difficult climbing: 11 pitches of 5.11 and two of 5.12. The excellent cracks reminded me of Yosemite and the rock quality of Joshua Tree. We fixed several pitches before a couple of days of rest in Base Camp. After our return to the shoulder, the next day we climbed several more of the finest pitches of my life before Güllich fell and severely sprained his ankle. He was helped back to the shoulder camp, where ice packs and aspirin kept the pain somewhat in control. The following day, Stiegler and I climbed past our high point until we had ascended some 500 very difficult meters when the weather turned threatening. We rappelled back to the shoulder. The day after, September 18, Stiegler and I jümaired back up but traversed some 40 meters to the right to join the Yugoslavian route, which we followed some 300 vertical meters to the summit. With the help of aspirin and plastic boots, Güllich accompanied me the next day. We pushed the route further past the crux of the whole route before being driven down by an icy wind. September 20 was for me the sixth day without a rest. We climbed back up and

past our previous high point, despite a slip which took the skin off my right hand. Finally we completed this direct finish to the summit (6251 meters, 20,510 feet). We named our route "Eternal Flame." The inspiration for this was the flame-shaped rock tower and a song of a four-girl English rock group, the Bangles. The song accompanied us on the whole trip and the lyrics of the song gave us the names of every pitch. This is the hardest rock route (5.12c) yet done in the Himalaya or the Karakoram.

KURT ALBERT, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Trango Towers Correction. On page 250 of AAJ, 1989, it incorrectly gives the belief that the main summit of the Trango Château or the First Tower was still unclimbed. This summit had already been reached by Japanese in 1987, as reported in AAJ, 1988 on page 251.

P 5866 (Thunmo), Baltoro Cathedral, solo. In June, with a trekking permit and seven porters, I set up "Base Camp" on the Dunge Glacier. I made solo a VII, 5.10d, A4+ climb of 54 pitches on the Baltoro Cathedral in 13 days. I spent two days fixing three pitches, nine days climbing alpine-style to the summit and two days descending. The peak is shown on the Italian map as Thunmo and is 5866 meters (19,246 feet). I nailed a 2000-foot big wall off the Dunge Glacier, which was easy except for one "psycho" aid pitch, and climbed 3500 feet of alpine climbing (rock steps and ridges, snow gullies and two 80° ice pitches) up to the base of the 1000-foot summit pyramid of golden granite. I climbed the northwest arête of this three-sided pyramid. It went 98% free at 5.10 except for one pitch of 80° thin ice. The summit pitch was a 5.10d run-out face climb to a desperate lunge. I summited at seven P.M. and immediately started the ten rappels down the north face to reach my bivouac tent at eleven P.M. I reached my portaledge the following day at dusk and was but eight rappels off the glacier the next day when the monsoon storm broke that I had watched engulf Nanga Parbat the previous day. I ran low on food the day before my summit day. I placed three bolts, all for bivouacs. Knowing I needed good weather up high, I fixed and climbed the first four days in "bad weather" (light snow and overcast), and then got lucky. Five days up the route, I got eight days of perfect weather—the longest stretch of good weather between mid May and early August.

JAMES BEYER

Uli Biaho Tower, East Face Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Carlo Grossrubatscher, Adam Holz knecht, Dieter Demetz, Walter Pancheri and me as leader. We hoped to climb the still unascended east face of the Uli Biaho Tower (6083 meters, 19,958 feet), but bad weather prevented it. We arrived at Base Camp on the Trango Glacier at 4200 meters on May 29. The first problem was

getting to the base of the wall up a rockfall-threatened couloir. The couloir is 800 meters high and has sections of 80° ice. Bad weather moved in shortly after our arrival at Base Camp and hindered us as we fixed rope in the couloir and moved up supplies. The face itself was mostly covered with new snow and the cracks were full of ice. On a second attempt on the wall from June 13 to 15, we climbed to 5200 meters, where we dug a snow cave. We were blocked there for two days by the weather. On the 17th, I had to head for home with a bad knee. More bad weather followed. From June 23 to 26, the group reoccupied the camps at the foot of the wall and on the wall and, with miserable conditions, got to 5500 meters before more bad weather moved in again. All rope and equipment was removed from the face. They started the trek out on June 29.

STEFAN STUFLESSER, *St. Ulrich, South Tirol, Italy*

Uli Biaho Spire. A New Zealand expedition was made up of leader Nicholas Craddock, Guy Cotter, Paul Rogers and Murray Judge. In July, they climbed the Uli Biaho Spire, although we do not know by which route. Details have not yet reached us.

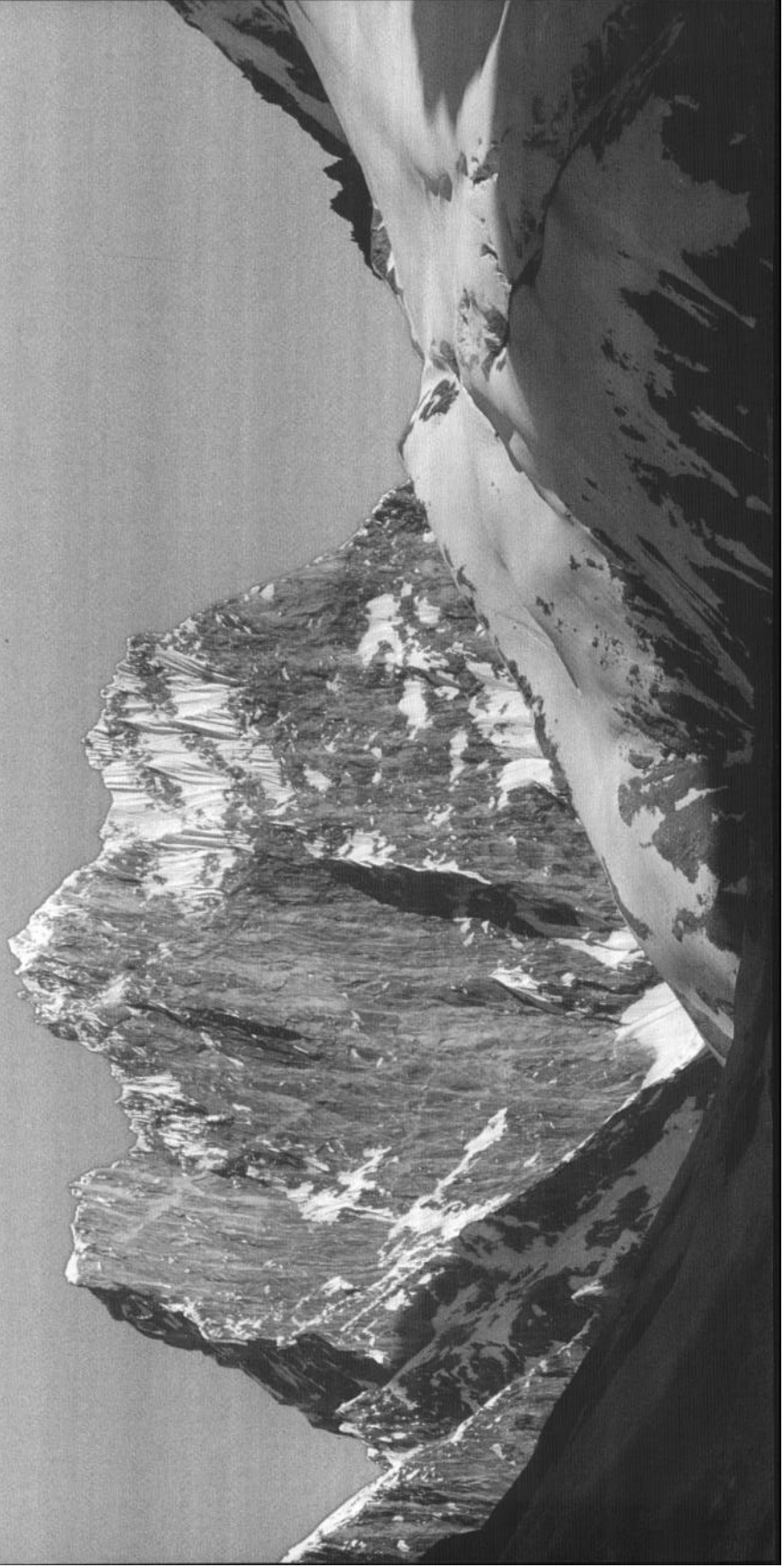
P 6100, Choktoi Glacier. Spaniards Jon Lazcano and Javier Mugarra made the first ascent of a very difficult 6100-meters (29,013-foot) spire which rises above the Choktoi Glacier to the right of Baintha Brakk. They got to Base Camp on June 24. They then fixed rope up much of the first 600 meters of the 800-meter-high face. On July 29, they jumared up the 600 meters and climbed to the summit in a twenty-two hour day. An article on this climb with photographs appears in *Desnivel* of December, 1989, pages 33-39.

Sosbun Tower Attempt. Tilman described the peaks of the Hoh Valley as "an uncompromising rock wall crowned with jagged towers," but the attraction of these towers is deceptive; the rock everywhere is dangerous: enormous, rotten loose rocks and cracks with sandy edges. The climbing is very hard because of it. It seems useless to continue further exploration there. However, innocently J-Ph. Dolby Monet, Y. Duverney and I attempted the very beautiful east face of Sosbun Tower (c. 6000 meters, 19,685 feet). The face is 1100-meters high, very steep and in part overhanging, but its rock is nonetheless treacherous. We prepared the route on July 10 and 11 and climbed the first 700 meters from July 27 to 30. We felt we were within a rope-length of easier ground and at the end of the difficulties, but we quit there. The objective danger from rockfall was enormous even though the route we chose was relatively sheltered. The weather was also mediocre. From July 4 to August 6, we had only 11 fine days. Italians Daniele Bosisio, Adriano Carnati, Tita Gianola and Paolo Vitali climbed one of the Sosbun Needles (5400 meters, 17,717 feet), which lies southwest of Sosbun Tower. On August 19 and 20 they fixed 350 meters of rope on the southeast ridge. They then bivouacked halfway up the wall

PLATE 53

Photo by Bernard Domenech

SOSBUN TOWER, Karakoram.



and climbed to the summit on August 22. They climbed some 800 meters up compact, wet rock with rotten cracks.

BERNARD DOMENECH, *Club Alpin Français*

Baintha Brakk, North Ridge Attempt. Our expedition had as its members Andy Perkins, Chris Flewitt, Steve Hartland, Phil Butler, Dave Green, Dr. Timothy Jordan, Paul Nunn and me. After porter problems, we eventually established Base Camp on July 17 on moraine at 15,200 feet. During a week of poor weather, on skis we moved loads to Advance Base at 5060 meters on the Sim Gang (glacier). It was about a seven-hour trip with a 25-kg load. During the six weeks we had only two spells of good weather, one of four and the other of five days. We made two light-weight attempts on the left-hand spur. On the first, on August 8, Perkins, Flewitt and I were hit by severe rock-and-ice fall at 5600 meters. I was luckily unhurt, but Flewitt was severely struck on the shoulder. Perkins was a little behind and so out of the fire. Butler and Perkins on the second attempt on August 10 reached the col on the ridge at 5800 meters. They set up a tent and scanned the route above. It seemed a tottering pile of séracs and so they judged it unjustifiable and retreated. That ended our try.

ANDREW CAVE, *England*

Lawa Brakk. A British Metropolitan Police expedition was led by Gordon A. Briggs. On July 29, after a seven-day climb, Arthur Collins, Lew Hardy, Steven Sands, Philip Solt, Peter Stapely and Paul Vardon reached the summit of Lawa Brakk or Snow Lake Peak (6590 meters, 21,621 feet). They climbed the west ridge. A 6000-meter peak at the head of the glacier south of Cornice Peak was climbed on July 29 by Mark Deith, John Wakefield and Tony Walkenden.

Peaks Above the Hispar Glacier. During August and September, Mike Searle, Sean Smith, Simon Yates, Mark Crawford and I visited the Hispar Glacier to climb small peaks and study the geology of the area. Our approach was delayed by bad weather, which persisted until mid September. We established Base Camp at Bitenmal on the east side of the junction of the Kunyang and Hispar Glaciers on August 19. From August 23 to 27, Smith, Yates and I climbed a relatively simple route up the snowy north ridge of P 5700 (18,701 feet), which lies at the western end of the Bal Chhish range, reaching the summit at ten A.M. on August 26. Smith and Yates then attempted the fine ice couloir on the west face of a 6000-meter peak near the Jutmau Glacier; after a two-day approach followed by two days and 800 meters of climbing in the couloir, they were forced to retreat 400 meters from the summit in a storm. From September 14 to 17, Yates and Searle climbed P 5700 (18,701 feet) at the head of the Makrong Glacier. They reached the summit at dawn on September 16 after a steep snow-and-ice climb from a bivouac on the glacier. The peak straddles the Hispar-Chogolungma divide. We left Base Camp on September 19.

SIMON RICHARDSON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

P 6666 Attempt. A Japanese expedition led by Akira Takita was unable to get higher than 5200 meters on the northwest ridge of P 6666 (21,871 feet) because of bad weather. The unclimbed peak lies northeast of the Haramosh La.

Spantik. Our expedition was composed of Helga Kircher, Rolf-Christian Reich, Emilie-Ursula Reich, Dr. Wolfgang Bunzl, Ludwig Rohrmeier, Franz Kuhnhauser, Johann Geiss, Reinhard Schönfeld, Eberhart Zindel, Netherlander Gerhard Meerten and me as leader. We approached via Doko, Arandu and the Chogolungma Glacier to reach Base Camp at 4300 meters below the southeast ridge on August 10. We occupied Camps I and II at 5150 and 6100 meters on August 14 and 17. Steep snow below and above Camp II was secured by fixed rope, where the climbers had to have good crampon technique on steep ice. There were flat stretches on the glacier between Camps I and II and on the summit climb, where the snow was deep in places. The summit (7027 meters, 23,055 feet) was reached on August 18 by all except Rohrmeier.

ARNOLD HASENKOPF, *Summit Club, Deutscher Alpenverein*

Spantik Attempt. Another group of Germans led by Herbert Streibel failed to reach the summit of Spantik.

Diran Attempts and Tragedy. Of the expeditions which went to Diran (7257 meters, 23,810 feet) in 1989, only the Japanese group led by Ken Takahashi was successful. Seven Koreans were led by Chang Su-Jeong. On June 20, Ha Sang-Woen and Lee Su-Hee died in an avalanche and the expedition was given up. Also unsuccessful were Japanese led by Katsumasa Nakamura, Germans under Norbert Nanzel and French under the leadership of Luc Berthaud.

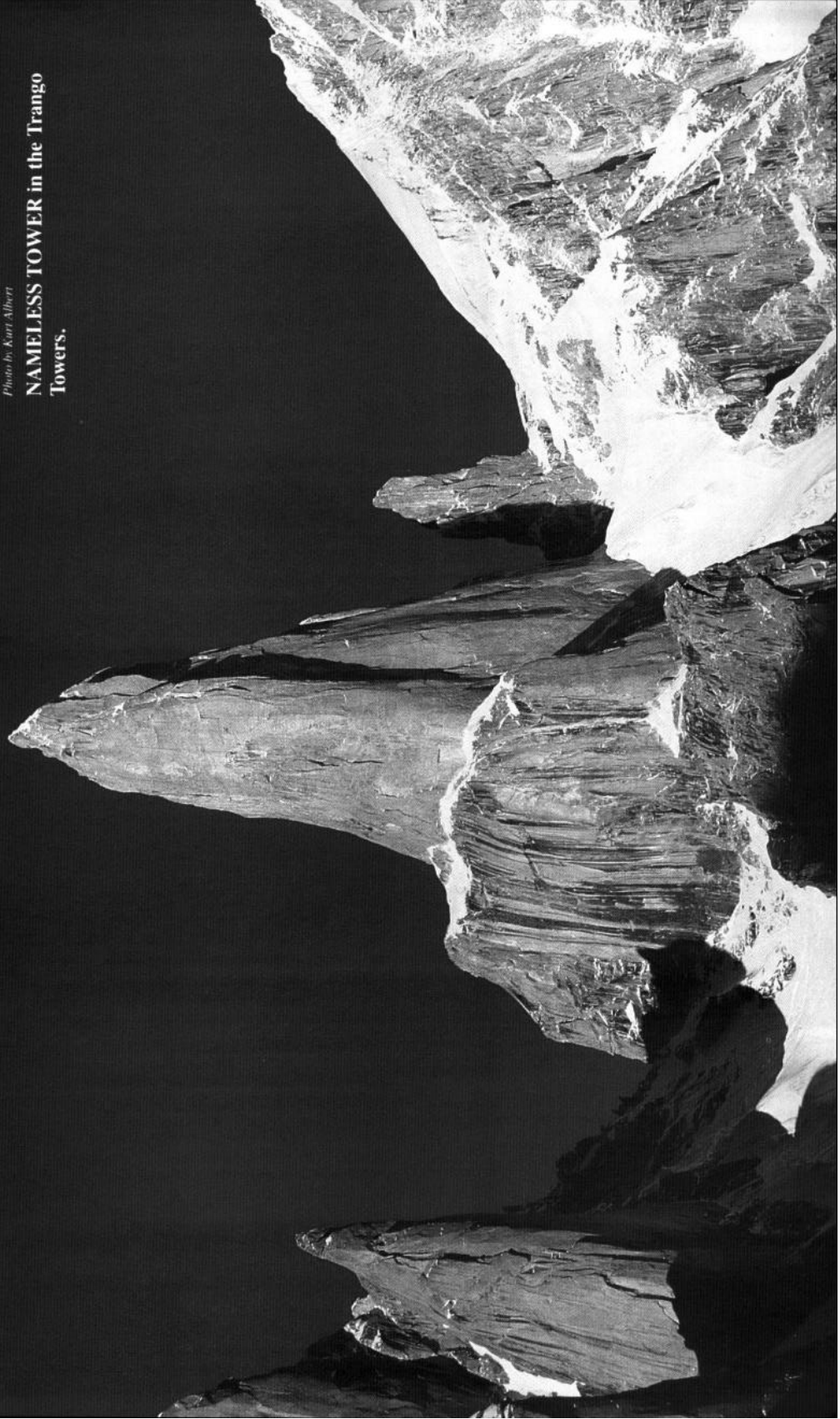
Diran, North Ridge. The six-man expedition of the Hirosaki University Alpine Club was led by Ken Takahashi. They climbed the north ridge, which had not been climbed before, although Austrians had descended it in 1985. On July 11, Takahashi, Suzuki, Nobuo Tsutsumi, Masayuki Ando, Hiroshi Hori and Tetsuro Yoshimura reached the summit. There were three parties on the same route and some of the route fixing took place in cooperation with another Japanese party from Toyo University.

Rakaposhi Attempt. After arriving at Jaglot on July 24, José Angel Cobo, Perfecto Rodríguez, Francisco José Ruiz, Iñaki Ruiz, Pedro Sánchez and I as leader set out with 18 porters through Barit and Dobar to arrive at Base Camp at 3750 meters on July 27. We attempted the northwest ridge. This was first climbed by a Polish-Pakistani expedition in 1979 and by Netherlanders in 1986. The two routes were different in how they got onto the ridge. Our route was a slight variant of the Netherland route. We placed Camp I at 4700 meters on July

COLOR PLATE 8

Photo by Kurt Albert

NAMELESS TOWER in the Trango
Towers.



29 before being stopped by bad weather. From August 3 to 8, we fixed 1100 meters of rope with UIAA difficulties of IV+ and 50° ice and established Camp II on the ridge crest at 6000 meters. From August 9 to 17, there was bad weather. On the 18th and 19th, we fixed another 100 meters of rope and set up Camp III at 6800 meters. On August 20 a team got to 7000 meters but was driven back by bad weather. We withdrew to Base Camp and gave up the attempt.

JAIME ALONSO, *Alpino Tabira Mendizale Taldea, Spain*

Shifkitin Sar, Shimshal Valley. In 1986, an Irish expedition reconnoitered the Malanguti Glacier area in the Shimshal valley and unsuccessfully attempted virgin Shifkitin Sar (c. 5800 meters, 19,029 feet). On September 9, 1989, Netherlanders established Base Camp at 3300 meters. They set up camps at 4200 and 4400 meters along the long glacier. After a snow-hole bivouac at 5200 meters, on September 16 Robert Eckhardt, Rob Lith and Tanja Merkelbach reached the summit of Shifkitin Sar, climbing snow and ice on the northwest side to get to the west ridge. It was not difficult, with a 45° snow couloir in the lower part and a 50° slope in the final section. The fourth member was Noes Lautier. Climbs up to 6000 meters require no permission in Pakistan and so are often overlooked in official records.

JÓSEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Shispare Attempt, Batura Mustagh. Our members included Kenichi Masui, Yasuyuki Uehara, Tatsuya Ohmura, Takayuki Tachibana, Yetetsu Adachi and me as leader. Our Base Camp at 4050 meters on the left moraine of the Pasu Glacier was established on June 13. On June 18, we crossed the glacier and set up Camp I on the far side at the upper end of a steep gully that led to the east ridge of Shispare (7619 meters, 24,997 feet). It took twelve days to extend the route along the long, narrow ridge to Camp II at 5600 meters. We found some decayed rope and rusted pitons from the Polish-German party 15 years earlier. At the 5800-meter junction of the east and main ridges with its massive pile of ice blocks covered by deep snow, we wondered if this was where the Polish-German expedition had met with the avalanche; the area above threatened to avalanche at any moment. The weather turned bad as we reached Camp III at 6100 meters on July 12. An ice wall on a 6300-meter peak took a week to overcome. Then came a long, snow-covered knife-edge. We continued on to a col at 6450 meters, the site of Camp IV. Three members then had to return to Japan on July 26, leaving Ohmura, Adachi and me. We established Camp IV on July 29. A further camp between Ghenta Peak and the shoulder of Shispare was not set up because of a shortage of time. We made the first summit attempt from Camp IV on August 8, taking many hours to climb the last hanging glacier. We then trudged through two feet of snow to a cirque at 7200 meters but could go no higher. The next day, despite signs of unfavorable weather, we made a second attempt into a strong head wind in waist-deep snow. We turned back 100 meters lower than the day before.

MASATO OKAMOTO, *Ryukoku University Alpine Club, Japan*

Batura Mustagh Map. Another of the excellent maps by Jerzy Wala is available, a map of the Batura group in the western Karakoram. It may be purchased for \$3.00 from Jan Babicz, ul. Bajana 5B/1, 80-463 Gdańsk, Poland.

Peaks Above Barpu Glacier, West Karakoram. In mid August Ralph Atkinson, Ged Campion, Mick Curtin, John Keska, Stewart Muir and I visited the Barpu Glacier. We approached by jeep from Hunza to Hoppar, where we hired cooperative local porters for the three-day walk to Base Camp at Girgindil. The variable weather was good enough for the three small peaks we climbed. Girgindil Peak (5296 meters, 17,475 feet), an easy snow plod above Base Camp, had been climbed frequently before. We climbed the northeast, northwest ridges and two routes on the north face. Girgindil Pyramid is the symmetrical mountain to the left of Girgindil Peak, as seen from Girgindil, really the summit of a ridge running southwest from the Chukutans group. We estimate its height as 5800 meters (19,029 feet). There was no record of a previous ascent. Campion, Keska and I climbed it by the west ridge. There was awkward access to the small glacier to its north, then easy snow to the ridge. The ridge was easy at first, then awkward on loose schist and finally precarious snow crests. Yengutz I is the highest of the Yengutz group, which we estimate at 5999 meters (19,682 feet). We believe it was a first ascent. Muir and I climbed via the Yengutz Col, west ridge and southwest face, all snow and ice with a detour right to turn the rock band on the face.

DAVID WILKINSON, *Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club, England*

Hunza. Following a visit to the area by Pete Thompson and me in 1988, I returned for a second visit in 1989 with Andy Trull, Chris Lloyd-Rogers, Hilary Fouweather and Mick Wilcock. Our original intention of climbing in the Snow Lake area of the Hispar Glacier was thwarted by bad weather and so we based ourselves at Shigambarish, directly across the Hispar Glacier from the Uyum Haghuch Pass to Arandu. After climbing there, we returned to Hunza and attempted other peaks. No permits were needed as we always stayed below 6000 meters. On August 4, Trull, Wilcock and I backed off the first peak east of the Uyum Haguch Pass due to deep snow on the final north ridge. On August 9, Trull and I climbed the southern peak of the horseshoe north of the Hispar La. We climbed a wide couloir which led to the col and then traversed northward along a snow-and-rock ridge to the summit. On August 12, Lloyd-Rogers, Fouweather and Wilcock ascended the most northerly peak to the west of the Hargtum Glacier. Trull and I reached the summit block of Ibex Peak, the highest pinnacle northeast of Shigambarish on August 17. Beyond Hunza, Mick Nunwick joined Wilcock and me to attempt the highest peak south of Bubli-ma-Tim. On September 11, after reaching the col immediately north of the summit, we followed the ridge on steep, unconsolidated snow, but quit 150 meters short of the summit. The Hunza area provides a wealth of unclimbed peaks that are easily accessible for a lightweight, low-budget, liaison-officer-free expedition.

WALTER PHIPPS, *British Mountaineering Council*

Shani, Naltar Valley. Our expedition had as climbers Duncan Francis, Martin Oakes and me, as well as support members. Having arrived at Naltar by jeep, on July 29 and 30 we walked to Base Camp in the upper Shani valley by the Shani Glacier at 3700 meters. On August 4, I soloed Snow Dome (5030 meters, 16,503 feet; probably a second ascent), followed on August 7 by the other two. Our original intention was to make a northeast-west traverse of Shani. Due to unsettled weather and much snow on the northeast ridge, from August 11 to 13 we climbed the 2000-meter high, previously unclimbed southeast face. We ascended the icefall on left side and a rock spur. We then went up an icefield to a ridge on the left side of the face, climbed four pitches around a rock tower and abseiled to a second snowfield. Above this, a steep couloir led to a steeper icefield and the summit ridge. We three reached the summit of Shani (5885 meters, 19,308 feet) on August 13, a second ascent. Out of 21 days at Base Camp, we had nine days of bad weather. The longest period of continuous good weather was three days.

PETER LEEMING, *England*

Nanga Parbat Winter Attempt, 1988-9. Our expedition consisted of Maciej Berbeka, Piotr Konopka, Dr. Roman Mazik, Andrzej Osika, Andrzej Samolewicz, Włodzimierz Stoiński, Stanisław Szczerba, Zbigniew Terlikowski and me from Poland, Krzysztof Szafranski from Colombia and Kurt Walde from Italy. We arrived at Base Camp at 3600 meters on December 18, 1988. Temperatures there were between -18° and -25° C and higher, between -25° and -35° . Our objective was the southeast buttress, but dangerous conditions forced a change in plans to the 1970 German route. On December 25, Camp I was established at 4750 meters. Unstable, windy weather slowed progress and we could not make Camp II at 6000 meters, the site of German Camp III, until January 17. Lack of snow cover and very hard ice required our fixing more than 2000 meters of rope. Despite attempts, we could not establish Camp III. On February 9, Berbeka, Konopka and Osika reached a high point of 6800 meters. The weather deteriorated once again and we decided to abandon the climb.

PAWEŁ MULARZ, *Klub Wysokogórski, Zakopane*

Nanga Parbat Attempts. Few of the expeditions to Nanga Parbat this year were successful. Among those which did not get to the summit were parties made up of British and Swedes led by Michael Scott, Germans under the leadership of Fritz Schreinmoser and Koreans under Park Il-Hwan.

Nanga Parbat Attempt. We were Davorin and Luka Karničar, Sandi Marinčič and I. On June 13, we left Chilas for Base Camp, accompanied by 23 porters. We reached it four days later. In Base Camp there was a Korean expedition, which had been there for three weeks, and a German one. We had originally wanted to try the

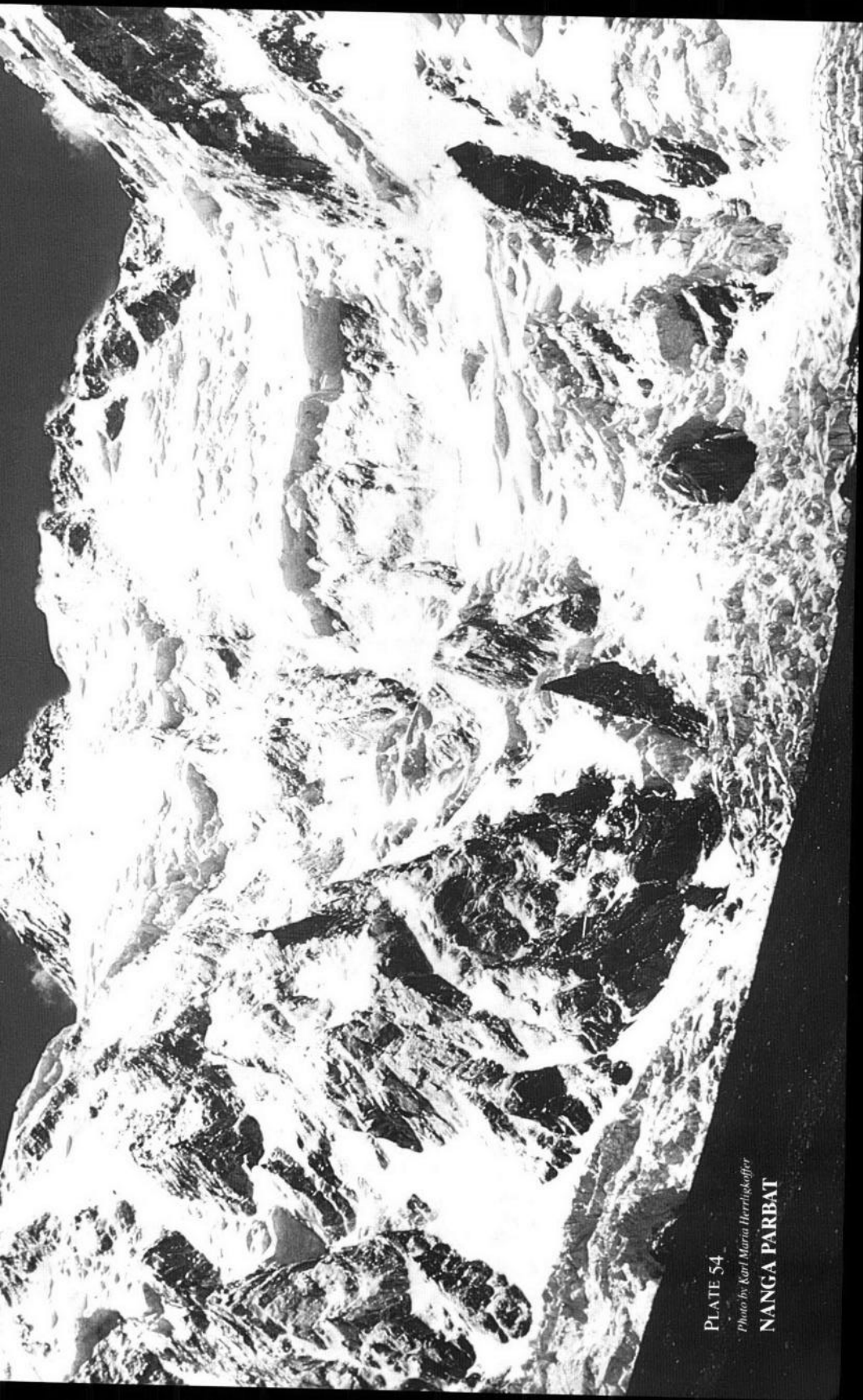


PLATE 54

Photo by Karl Maria Herrligsoffer

NANGA PARBAT

1978 Messner route on the Diamir Face, but after we had had a look at it, we were much less enthusiastic. Séracs kept falling without any time schedule and large avalanches swept the route. We decided to join the Korean and Germans on the usual Diamir Face route. On June 18, we carried to Camp I at 5100 meters and continued on up the fixed ropes nearly to Camp II at 5600 meters before returning to Base Camp. After two days of rest, we made an acclimatization climb to 5800 meters on Ganalo Peak. Two days later, one of the Koreans, Kim Kwang-Ho, fell to his death on the face of Nanga Parbat. We climbed to Camp I, found him and brought him to the valley. The accident made us decide to return. The conditions on the face were too risky; the weather continued bad.

VLASTA KUNAVAR, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

Nanga Parbat Tragedy. A Korean expedition led by Ryoo Gil-Man attempted the Diamir face of Nanga Parbat. On June 23, Kim Kwang-Ho slipped and fell to his death. The other members of the expedition were Chae Su-San, Jung Eun-Sang, Ha Jeong-Lea and Chon Sung-II.

Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face, German and Pakistani Success. I organized this small expedition but gave the leadership over to German Dr. Ekkert Gundelach. The other members were Swiss Diego Wellig, Philipp Zehnder and Peter Schwitter. They reached Base Camp at 4200 meters in the Diamir valley on June 18. On the first night, Schwitter fell ill with pulmonary edema and had to descend. The Mummery Rib was in wintry condition and offered no chance for an ascent. On June 21, an expedition of Pakistani army officers arrived at Base Camp; with them that made five expeditions there since another German one, plus Koreans and Yugoslavs, got there ahead of our group. On June 23, our three healthy members climbed Ganalo Peak for acclimatization and then set up a tent at 5300 meters. At that same time, a Korean fell 1000 meters down the Sigi Löw Ice Couloir to his death. Both the Koreans and the Yugoslavs abandoned the climb. On June 29, Zehnder and Wellig established Camp II and the next day advanced to Camp III before returning to Base Camp. After six days of snowfall, that pair decided to return to Switzerland. That left only Dr. Gundelach. He asked if he might join the Pakistanis. On July 9, Gundelach and six Pakistanis climbed to Camp II and the next day to Camp III at 6000 meters. On July 11, they all carried loads to 7100 meters at the top of the Kinshofer Icefield. The day after, Gundelach broke trail to the Bazhin Basin and returned to Camp IV at 7300 meters. On July 13, Gundelach, Shah Khan (son of the uncle of the Mir of Hunza) and Lieutenant Atta climbed to the summit, which they reached at five P.M. in falling snow. Gundelach and Shah Khan made it back to Camp IV which they reached at ten P.M., greeted by two Pakistanis, who had come up from Camp III in support. Atta survived a cold bivouac and got to Camp IV in the morning. All five descended to Base Camp, where they were received by the colonel with flowers. On July 18, two Pakistani generals arrived by helicopter to celebrate the first Pakistani success on Nanga Parbat.

KARL MARIA HERRLIGKOFFER, *Deutsches Institut für Auslandsforschung*

Nanga Parbat, Rupal Face Attempt and Tragedy. The members of our expedition were Hitoshi Sakurai, Nobuyoshi Sakurai, Iwao Ogasawara, Shinji Kobayashi, Tetusa Baba, Shinya Nakashima, Katsuyuki Kitamura, Masaki Akiba, Ms. Yukiko Fukuzawa, Ms. Masae Yoshino, Masanori Sato, Taro Tanigawa, Daisuke Shimizu and I as leader. On June 18, we got to Base Camp at 3650 meters on the Bazhin Glacier above Rupal. We established Camps I, II and III at 4500, 4500 and 5600 meters on June 23, July 1 and 12. On July 16, Tetsuya Baba was struck by lightning and badly injured. We called for a helicopter, but this was available only at the altitude of Base Camp. We carried him down, still alive for the next 48 hours, but he died when we reached 5250 meters. Mr. Baba's parents and sister came to attend the funeral, which lasted until July 27. On the 28th, we began a second attempt. Sato, Akiba and I placed Camp IV at 6070 meters. On August 6, we reached 6250 meters on Rakhiot Peak. At that time, we received information that one of our female members had broken her leg between Camps I and II. There was also avalanche danger. I decided not to expose the group to further dangers.

KEIJIRO HAYASAKA, *Tokyo University of Agriculture Alpine Club*

China—Southeastern China

Kang Karpo Attempt. Tom Hornbein, Robert Hornbein, Robin Houston, Brian Okonek, Robert Brown Schoene and I attempted Kang Karpo (Meili) in September. We followed the route we had previously explored in 1988 and established two camps above Base Camp. The other five members reached an altitude of 18,500 feet before being turned back by bad weather and deep snow.

NICHOLAS B. CLINCH

Kang Karpo (Meili) Attempt. Our expedition again attempted Kang Karpo, as it is known in the region, or Meili, as the Chinese call it. It was jointly organized by the Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto, the Chinese Mountaineering Associations of Beijing and Yunnan. The co-leaders were Dr. Kenji Soda and Yang Bi-Yu and I was deputy leader. There were 14 Japanese and 13 Chinese. We reached the village of Sinong on the west bank of the Langtsang Jiang (Mekong) at the beginning of October. Base Camp at 3850 meters was near the snout of the Shenchenbao Glacier. Abnormally bad weather, with heavy snowfalls, continued during most of October. It was only after 23 days that Camp I was established at 4660 meters. The following two weeks were spent in a struggle to find the way to the upper basin of the glacier. The terrible weather and a shortage of time forced us to give up and return on November 24.

TOSHIKI SAKAI, *Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto*

Anyemaqen Attempt. When our expedition to Shisha Pangma was canceled by the authorities, Swiss Beatrice Arn, Austrians Dr. Günther Fasching and I