

Camp II North, *Laknis* (6235 meters, 20,456 feet) was climbed by the long southeast ridge. After many ups and downs and false summits, Wilkinson, Church, McAdie, Ashar, Contractor, Tambe, porter Pasang Bodh and I completed the ascent on the exposed ridge of rotten rock on August 12. *Chong Ibex Col* (c. 6000 meters, 19,685 feet): At the head of the Central Kumdan Glacier on the north ridge coming from Chong Kumdan II, it links the Kumdan Glacier system with the Terong Glacier, which we had explored in 1985. Ashar, Contractor and Pasang Bodh reached it on August 14 from Camp II North. *Kumdan Terong* (6456 meters, 21,182 feet): Situated on the watershed between the Central and North Kumdan Glaciers, it overlooks the Terong and Siachen Glacier peaks. Approaching from the south, Ashar, Contractor and Pasang Bodh reached the summit on August 15. *Landay* (6170 meters, 20,243 feet): On August 16, the last first ascent was made by McAdie and Church. They crossed the broken main glacier from Base Camp to a narrow valley to the southeast. The next day, they climbed the steep north ridge. *Chong Kumdan III* (6670 meters, 21,884 feet) was attempted unsuccessfully by Contractor, Pasang Bodh and Tikam Ram on August 3. From the col between the peak and Kichik Kumdan, they tried a route from the north first and then the northeast ridge. Loose powdery snow and two crevasses made the ascent too dangerous. Three second ascents were also made on the northern ridge of the Chogam I Glacier. All had been climbed by us in 1989. *Chogam* (6250 meters, 20,506 feet): August 4 by Kothari, Pania and porters Yog Raj Buruwa and Prakash Chand; August 7 by Captain Pandey, Tambe and Ashar; August 15 by Wilkinson, porters Tikam Ram Thakur, Tikam Ram and me; August 16 by Griffin. *Stos* (6005 meters, 19,702 feet): August 7 by Ashar; August 16 by Griffin. *Skyang* (5770 meters, 18,931 feet): August 17 by Wilkinson, Nunn, Griffin, porters Prakash Chand and Tikam Ram and me. By August 24, we were at Sasoma and were back at Leh on August 26. Excellent cooperation and friendship between all team members and porters made this the happiest international expedition in recent years.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

*Saser Kangri II, West Peak.* The second ascent of the west peak of Saser Kangri II (7518 meters, 24,766 feet) was made by an Indian expedition led by Heera Lohia. They climbed the west face, the first ascent having been made in 1985 by the northwest ridge. On October 6, Wangchuk Gyalchen and Pasang Sherpa reached the summit. On an earlier attempt, on October 1, Fateh Chand, an instructor at the Western Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Manali, was taken ill with high-altitude sickness and died.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

## Pakistan

K2. This remarkable climb made by Pierre Beghin and Christophe Profit, which began on the Pakistani side and continued up the northwest ridge and north face in China, is described in a complete article in this *Journal*.

*K2 Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Bernd Arnold, Roland Mattle, Thomas Mügge, Steffen Otto, Dr. Walter Treibel, Thomas Türpe, and me as leader. We attempted the Abruzzi Ridge after arriving at Base Camp on May 23. The weather was bad in the whole Karakoram from May to July. Of the 58 days we had after getting to Base Camp, there were only 15 days of good weather. We reached the shoulder of K2 first on June 15 and left supplies for a later summit attempt. We were back on the shoulder on July 7 but had to leave immediately because the large amount of snow made avalanche danger too great. The mountain never gave us a chance.

SIGI HUPFAUER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*K2 Attempt.* Gary Ball and I received permission to climb the Abruzzi Spur of K2 in May due to the late cancellation of another team. We arrived at Base Camp in early July and established just one fixed camp at 6800 meters above House's Chimney. During the climb we benefited from fixed rope left by Sigi Hupfauer's German expedition, but also climbed on rope in the Black Pyramid which we had fixed three years earlier! The 1990 clean-up expedition, which did a marvelous job of tidying up Base Camp, did little to improve our safety as we encountered many ropes and anchors which had simply been cut and not removed. We climbed alone on the route for five weeks, indeed a rare pleasure despite the usual intermittent K2 weather. After bivouacking at 7300 and 7500 meters, we reached the edge of the shoulder at 7600 meters on August 15 but retreated in deep snow, concerned about the threat of avalanches from the unstable snow pack.

ROBERT HALL, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

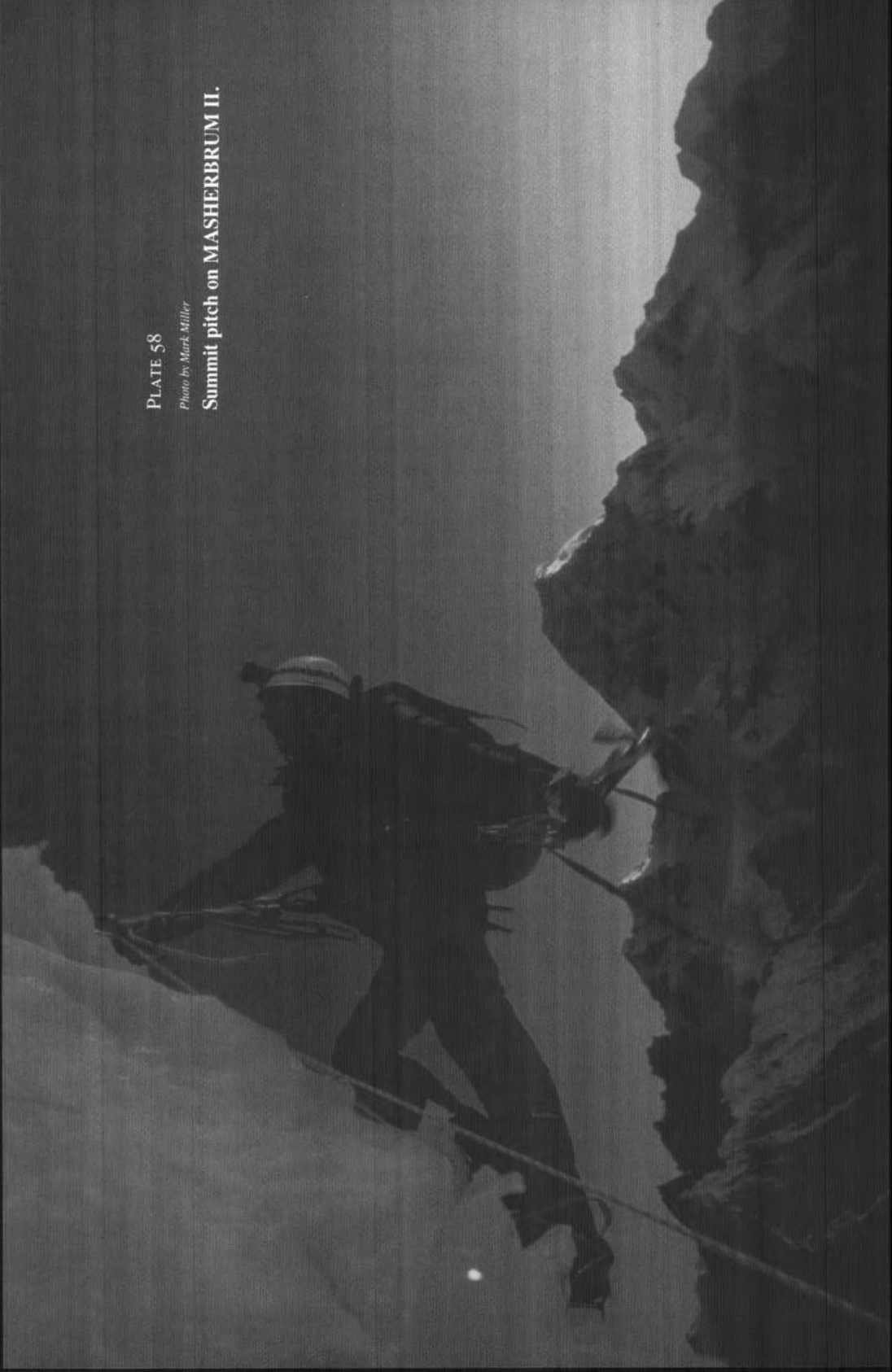
*Masherbrum Attempt.* A British expedition led by David Hamilton attempted to climb Masherbrum but apparently was unsuccessful. Details are still missing.

*Masherbrum II.* Masherbrum II (c. 7200 meters, 23,622 feet) had previously been climbed only once, by Italians in 1988 on the southeast ridge. After approaching from Hushe, we established Base Camp on August 31 at the junction of the Bolux and Masherbrum Glaciers. We headed up the glacier until it bifurcated at a grassy knoll. We climbed the knoll and a rock valley and returned to the glacier where it dog-legged east into a wide couloir. On the top of the couloir in a rocky col, we placed Camp I at 5200 meters. We traversed east for 200 meters to an icy couloir where we were threatened by rockfall. The couloir widened into an icefield, which we climbed to the rim of a basin at 6000 meters. A 400-meter traverse due south brought us to a heavily corniced ridge which led to the foot of the summit pyramid, where we placed Camp II at 6400 meters. A shallow rib took us past two séracs on our right. We then climbed

PLATE 58

*Photo by Mark Miller*

Summit pitch on MASHERBRUM II.



directly to the summit, arriving on the east ridge, 50 meters from the top. A huge, overhanging mushroom surrounded the summit. This we surmounted with the use of aid. On September 11, Victor Radvills, Ewen Todd, Rob Spencer, Dave Little, Andy Mayers, Norman Croucher and I reached the summit, followed the next day by Argentine Miguel Helf, Graham Lipp and Ian Swarbrick. On the 12th, Dr. Christine Patterson took a 200-foot fall in the couloir above Camp I and suffered severe bruising. Nonetheless, on the 13th she accompanied Duncan Talbot, Mark Neave and Terressa Booth to the summit.

MARK MILLER, *Out There Trekking, England*

*Great Trango Tower, Northeast Buttress.* The northeast buttress of the Great Trango Tower was successfully climbed by Norwegians Hans Christian Doseth and Finn Doeli in 1984 but tragically they both died during the descent. Despite various tries, the climb was not repeated until the Japanese made a variant in 1990. Four Spaniards, Koldo Bayona, Miguel Berasaluce, Adolfo Madinabeitia and Antonio Miranda, approached the region, the first two having the Nameless Tower in mind and the latter two, the Norwegian route on the Great Trango Tower. The road is now complete as far as Askole, but in late July, it was cut and they had to complete the trek to Askole on foot with porters. From there, they continued on to establish Base Camp at 4000 meters on the Dunge Glacier. They carried loads up the threatened corridor to Camp I at the foot of both towers. Bayona decided to leave the expedition and so all three turned to the Great Trango Tower. On August 15, they began their attack on the buttress. After climbing ten pitches and 450 meters, they established Camp II. From there, they followed the 11-pitch Japanese variant. The cracks, dihedrals and vertical rock were as often as not encased in ice. On August 20 at the 18th pitch, the weather turned sour but they sat out a five-day storm in Camp II. By August 28, they had climbed 28 pitches and were 950 meters above the base of the buttress. They climbed another 150 meters and established Camp III, just below the formidable summit tower. A storm on September 1 again coated the tower with ice. They began the climb of the summit tower on the 2nd, finding extraordinarily difficult rock work. Despite leader falls and such, they persisted. Finally, on September 10, they completed the 41st pitch and arrived on the summit after 28 days on the mountain. The descent took them two more days. A full report with photos, map and topo appears on pages 35 to 45 of *Desnivel*, N° 68, December, 1991.

*Broad Peak.* Again this year there were a number of expeditions to Broad Peak (8047 meters, 26,400 feet), only three of which were successful. A Japanese expedition from Tokyo University led by Keiji Hayasaka repeated the standard route. Leader Hayasaka, Toshimasa Yawata, Isao Ogasawara, Masanori Sato and Taro Tanikawa climbed to the summit on July 12. A 20-member international commercial expedition, organized by Himalayan Kingdoms and led by Stephen Bell, was formed of 13 Britons, two Finns, two

Venezuelans, a Spaniard, a Norwegian and an American. Having followed the standard route, guides Alan Hinkes and Robin Beadle and client Ramón Blanco, a Spaniard resident in Venezuela, reached the top on July 16. This was Hinkes' fourth 8000er, thus equalling the British record set by Doug Scott in 1983. At 58 years, Blanco becomes the oldest person to climb Broad Peak. Another Japanese expedition, led by Yasuyuki Kawashima, also managed to place Mrs. Taeko Nagao, Hirofumi Konishi, Tetsuaki Yoshimura, Masami Abe, and Yasushi Yamanoi on the summit on July 30. On the way back, Yamanoi and Atsushi Saito attempted the Trango Cathedral, but they had to give up low on the face because of Saito's mountain sickness. A joint expedition composed of 18 German doctors and six members of the Pakistani army, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Alfred, failed at 7000 meters. A Japanese group of two men and two women led by Haruyuki Endo could not get higher than 7400 meters. A six-member French expedition was led by Jean-Marc Robert. Their attempt ended on August 15 when the leader and another member, with three Spaniards of the party led by Ramón Rodríguez, reached 7450 meters. A Spanish expedition, composed of leader Ramón Rodríguez, Pablo González, Ana and Jorge Sese, Juanjo Garro and Areceli Segarra, failed to repeat the standard route due to excessive snow. Their high point was reached on August 15 by Rodríguez, González, Ana Sese with two of the above-mentioned French. After losing a porter who fell into a crevasse while crossing the Ghandagoro La during the approach from Hushe, a nine-member Mexican expedition was the last group active on the Godwin Austen Glacier this season. They were led by Ricardo Torres, the first Mexican atop Everest. By August 26, they had set all camps to 7400 meters and were ready for the final assault. Unfortunately, the continuous bad weather during the first half of September prevented their getting to the summit.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak) Attempt.* A strong French group led by Jean-Jacques Prieur had originally planned an attempt on the southwest face of Gasherbrum I, a new line to the left of the Polish spur of 1983. Due to scarce snowfall in the spring, the access to the route was very slippery and they switched to the Yugoslav route on the west ridge. Continuous changeable weather with high winds from the west stopped the attempt at the end of July at 7400 meters.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*Gasherbrum I Tragedy Correction.* On page 261 of AAJ 1991, it stated that Grañó and Ibáñez last reported at 7400 meters. Their radio report was actually from 7900 meters.

*Gasherbrum II.* As in previous years, a large number of expeditions had Gasherbrum II (8035 meters, 26,362 feet) as their objective. Only three of them

reached the summit. A six-member Swiss expedition was led by Nicole Niquille, the only woman of the group. Having followed the standard route, on June 28 Philippe Menu, Félix Thurlir, Christian Haymoz and Pakistani porter Ali Mohammad reached the summit. During the descent, Menu and Thurlir had a fall toward the Chinese slope, fortunately without serious consequences. A South Korean expedition succeeded in placing four on the summit by the standard route. On July 19, climbing-leader Kim Chang-Seon, ahead of his companions, got to the summit alone, followed a few hours later by three others. A second South Korean expedition, led by Han Sang-Kook, also made the ascent. On July 20, the summit was reached by five climbers. An eight-member American expedition was led by David Mention, who had to return home in the early stages of the expedition. The rest of the team left Base Camp on June 23 after two of their members had reached the site of Camp IV at 7500 meters. An eight-member international expedition led by Adrian Burgess (a Briton living in the United States) included his American sister-in-law Sarah Rogers, Briton Paul Moores, Swedes Mikael Reuterswärd, Oscar Kihlborg and Johan Lagne, and Catalan women Magda Nos and Mónica Verge. During the early stages of the attempt, Moores fell into a deep crevasse in the icefall and was held precariously at the end of the rope by Burgess; he suffered injuries to his leg. Later, on June 18, Kihlborg and Lagne reached a high point of 7800 meters. On June 28, Moores and an Austrian of Studer's group managed to get to 7700 meters. The expedition was left first by the three Swedes and then by Moores and Mónica Verge. A last attempt by Burgess ended at Camp II. The three remaining climbers left Base Camp on July 15. An Austrian expedition led by Wilfried Studer had to give up its attempt on July 13. As mentioned above, one of its members reached 7700 meters with Moores. Four Americans led by Dave McNally got to Camp III at 7000 meters. Eleven French climbers led by Jean-Pierre Fedèle had to give up their attempt at 7500 meters on August 18 because of bad weather conditions they had encountered since their arrival at Base Camp a month earlier.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*Latok I North Ridge Attempt.* Our objective was to make the first ascent, alpine-style, of the 2500-meter-high north ridge of Latok I (7145 meters, 23,452 feet), so nearly climbed in 1978 by Jim Donini, Mike Kennedy, Jeff Lowe and George Lowe. (See *AAJ*, 1979, pages 24-28.) We were New Zealander Andrew MacFarlane, Britons Carol McDermott, Andrew MacNae and me. We set up Base Camp at the junction of the Panmah and Choktoi Glaciers on June 5. After acclimatization trips and sitting out bad weather, we eventually set foot on Latok on July 10. The crest of the lower buttress was crowned with snow mushrooms and after a day of struggling up rotten slabs, we elected to retreat and tackle the ice gully just east of the buttress in order to expedite our objective of a rapid ascent. Unfortunately, during the retreat, MacFarlane was struck by a freak rockfall and we had to return with him to Base Camp. A storm began the next



morning. We were back on the mountain on the 17th. At 5150 meters, MacNae became ill and so we descended to Advance Base. After a day's rest, McDermott and I returned to the mountain. By midday, we had topped out of the ice gully above the rock buttress but because of snow conditions had to stop for the night on a snow mushroom at 5350 meters. The next day, progress up the snowfield was made possible by cloud cover. We bivouacked in ice buckets at 5880 meters at the start of the main central buttress. By two A.M. a fresh storm had engulfed us. We made the decision to retreat. Fifteen hours and 32 abseils later, we reached safety. On July 25, we vacated Base Camp.

DAVID K. WILLS, *North London Mountaineering Club*

*Snow Lake Peaks and Hispar Sar.* New Zealanders Dave Bamford, Matt Comeskey, John Cocks, John Wild and I with liaison officer Major Arif Khan spent July and August climbing in the Lukpe Lawo (Snow Lake) region during a Biafo-Hispar traverse. We placed Base Camp at 4780 meters at the foot of the rock spur on the northern side of the junction of the Sim Gang Glacier with Lukpe Lawo. The voracious bears did visit us but proved more of an amusement than an inconvenience. This does, however, appear to be their furthest recorded incursion up the Biafo. From a camp at the northwestern head of the Sim Gang, an unnamed peak of about 5950 meters was climbed and another of about 6000 meters turned us back because of deep loose snow. We returned to Base Camp via a col leading to the most easterly feeder of Lukpe Lawo. We crossed the Khurdopin Pass and from a camp in the upper névé of the East Khurdopin Glacier all of us climbed via its southeast spur the highest and most elegant peak. It is about 6500 meters high and the height of 6858 meters on the new SFAR map is incorrect. On the return to Base Camp, a peak of about 5990 meters immediately south of Tahu Rutum was climbed from the Tahu Rutum Glacier. We visited a number of side glaciers and minor peaks and climbed Workman Peak (c. 5885 meters) by the west ridge. Skis were used to access all peaks. We then crossed into the upper Hispar and failed in two attempts to climb virgin Hispar Sar (c. 6400 meters). The first, via the north face from the Khani Basa Glacier, was turned back at 5850 meters by slab avalanche conditions. The second, from the glacier immediately down valley from the Khani Basa, was frustrated by a dangerous icefall. We continued down the Hispar to partake of the pleasures of Hunza.

JOHN NANKERVIS, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Makrong Chhish Attempt and Tragedy.* Steve Hillen, Mike Penlington, Dave Tyson and I traveled on June 16 with three jeeps along the Karakoram Highway from Gilgit to Nagar. At Nagar, 30 porters were hired. The jeeps continued to Huru, the furthest jeepable settlement along the road to Hispar. The walk-in began the following day and went past Hispar and on the north side of the Hispar Glacier to Bitenmal, where Base Camp was established in sight of unclimbed

Makrong Chhish (6608 meters, 21,680 feet). The walk-in took three days. With liaison officer Major Farooq, we established Advance Base in an ablation valley of the East Makrong Glacier, a tributary of the Hispar Glacier. We began the first attempt on July 27. The planned route was on the south face via a large gully leading to the east ridge about 300 meters below the summit. We made two bivouacs, the second just below our high point at 6000 meters. We abandoned the attempt as we were not sufficiently acclimatized. During a period of bad weather, Camp I was established at 4800 meters. The final attempt began on July 8, following the original route. We had some difficulty with crevasses which had opened up since the previous attempt. At eleven A.M. on July 9, we dug ledges at the previous high point in order to rest until evening. Shortly afterwards, a large avalanche swept down the gully over the ledges. No one was injured but we decided to abandon the attempt. At five P.M. on the descent whilst I was abseiling over two crevasses, a snow stake pulled out and I slid some 60 feet before stopping. This left Steve Hillen above the crevasses without a rope. He frontpointed down the slope to the second crevasse, which he jumped across, but he lost his footing and started to slide. Dave Tyson, who was below him, tried to stop him, but they became entangled and both slid down an avalanche runnel and over an ice cliff to their deaths. Penlington and I recovered the bodies and then arranged for an army helicopter to retrieve them and for them to be flown back to the United Kingdom.

DAVID LISTER, *Loughborough University Mountaineering Club, U.K.*

*Hanispur.* Our expedition was composed of Duncan Tunstall, Wiz Pasteur, Angus Atkinson and me. We had hoped to cross the Karakoram from Skardu to Shimshal via Snow Lake, ascending by the little known Nobande Sobande Glacier and descending by the Virjerab Glacier. With the help of nine porters, we established Base Camp on the Nobande Sobande Glacier at 4100 meters on July 16. The porters left. On the 21st, we set up Advance Base at 4600 meters seven miles up the glacier. Atkinson and Wiz Pasteur set off on July 29 and bivouacked at 5400 meters on the west ridge of Hanispur (5900+ meters, 19,357+ feet). The next morning they completed the ascent along a technically not difficult but long ridge with many false summits. On August 3 and 6, they made the ascents of two other smaller peaks. Meanwhile, Tunstall and I skied over the Skam La to Snow Lake. On August 8, we skied up the West Sim Gang Glacier to the Virjirab Pass, which we climbed by an easy 70° snow ramp. This is almost certainly the first ascent of the pass. We got only glimpses of the Virjerab Glacier because of poor visibility. We did not continue on to Shimshal but returned to Askole and Skardu by the Biafo Glacier.

CHRIS PASTEUR, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

*Diran.* Two successful climbs of Diran (7257 meters, 23,810 feet) have been reported in 1991. An Italian expedition was led by Martino Moretti. Moretti, D. Deianna and P. Paglino took six days to ascend the north ridge. The ridge rises 2200



meters and is five kilometers long. Much of the ice is of 60° and some is vertical. Meanwhile, G. and T. Corbellini, M. Melacarne, D. Saettone and A. Zucchetti climbed the normal west ridge. A Spanish team under the leadership of Pere Gelis was also successful, but details are lacking. A French expedition led by Philippe Allibert failed.

*Diran Attempt.* Pole Aleksander Lwow, Americans Randy Rhodes, Ken Nolan, Steve Truitt, Clay McGann and I as leader attempted the standard west-ridge route on Diran. Extreme avalanche danger on the north face which led to the ridge prevented our climbing it. We had only three weeks for the ascent and ran out of time. We established Camp I at 5800 meters on the north face. We then climbed to 5950 meters but snow conditions prevented further progress. The face was a nightmare of avalanche conditions because of its northern exposure, huge size and ice séracs despite an angle of only 40°.

THOR KIESER

*Distaghil Sar Attempt.* Our members were Jean-François Lassalle, Jean-Claude Lefèbvre, Christophe Lefèbvre, Christian Mathieu and I as leader. We had hoped to climb Distaghil Sar (7885 meters, 25,870 feet) by its south face. We approached from Hispar via the Hispar and Distaghil Sar Glaciers. Base Camp and Camp I at 4200 and 4700 meters were set up on June 12 and 15. The latter was an hour from the foot of the face, reached after a very crevassed section. Much snow fell from June 17 to 24. A depot we had placed at 5800 meters was carried away by an avalanche on June 27. That was our high point. There are many dangerous séracs on the face and objective danger.

JEAN-LUC GINHOUX, *Club Alpin Français*

*Momhil Sar Attempt.* Our expedition, which attempted to climb Momhil Sar (7342 meters, 24,088 feet) by the northeast ridge, was composed of Michael Wärthl, leader, Volker Kron, Uli Schneider, Heiner Dehn, Dr. Alexandra Rothkopf, and me. We left Passu with 36 porters on June 29 and got to Base Camp at 4000 meters on July 2. We established Camps I and II at 4800 and 5600 meters on July 4 and 9. The route to Camp I was mostly easy glacier-walking. On the way to Camp II we fixed 150 meters of rope on easy mixed ice-and-rock climbing. On July 17, we reached a highpoint of 6200 meters. The attempt was unsuccessful because of bad weather conditions the whole time and avalanche danger.

TOM DAUER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Trivor Ascent and Momhil Sar Attempt.* Masahiko Miyoshi, Morikatsu Hashimoto, Hidetoshi Nakama, Masahiro Izawa, Atsushi Endo, Hiroshi Kobayashi, Nabuaki Tuchizawa and I as leader reached Base Camp at 4300 meters on the Momhil Glacier on July 27. We continued up the broken glacier to Advance

Base at 4880 meters on a rocky hill. We then climbed the east ridge of Momhil Sar. We were on rotten rock until just below Camp I at 5480 meters, which we pitched on August 3. The route then changes to a 35° corniced snow ridge, which we followed to a snow shoulder, placing Camp II at 6050 meters on August 12. We continued up to the shoulder of Momhil Sar on gradually steepening, icy slopes. We pitched Camp III on August 15 at 6730 meters, where the Trivor and Momhil Sar ridges join. We descended toward Trivor to a col, over P 6880 and to another col, where we placed Camp IV. There were technical difficulties beyond Camp IV. Camp V was established at 6880 meters on August 29. Endo and I left camp at 3:30 A.M. the next morning and reached the summit of Trivor (7728 meters, 25,325 feet) at 1:50 P.M. despite unstable weather, completing the second ascent. [The first ascent had been made by Briton Wilfred Noyce and American Jack Sadler in 1960.] On September 5, Miyoshi, Hashimoto, Izawa, Endo, Tuchizawa and I climbed along the steep ridge toward Momhil Sar (7343 meters, 24,092 feet), but we were stopped by a steep ice gully at 7000 meters.

TOSHIFUMI ONUKI, *Waseda University Alpine Club, Japan*

*Momhil Sar Attempt.* Our expedition had as members Josep Cla, Joan Córdoba, Joaquim Cufí, Lluís Julià, Dr. Carlos de Mendoza, Francesc Xavier Miquel, Luis Olivas, Joan Ribas, Jordi Tosas and me as leader. We had hoped to climb Momhil Sar (7343 meters, 24,092 feet) by its east ridge. We established Base Camp at 4650 meters on the moraine of the Gharesa (Trivor) Glacier on August 5 after an approach of four days. We installed Camps I, II and III at 5150, 5650 and 6350 meters. We hoped to continue alpine-style with three climbers supported by four others. However, two suffered from the altitude and had to be helped down. We placed Camp IV at 6520 meters. On August 18, bad weather, deep snow and avalanche danger forced us to give up at 6700 meters.

SALVADOR BOIX, *Centre de Càlul Girona, Spain*

*Bojohaghur Duanasir Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Austrian Günther Steinmair, American Dr. Michael Henry and Germans Hans Feith and me. Bojohaghur Duanasir (7329 meters, 24,045 feet) had first been climbed by Japanese by its west face and southwest ridge in 1984 and was attempted by British who got to 6800 meters by the south face and southwest ridge also in 1984. We traveled by bus from Gilgit to Karimabad. On June 12 we got to Base Camp on the Ultar Glacier at 4000 meters after a two-day approach with 30 porters. We had trouble in paying the porters as they demanded too much; we finally resolved this. The south face is very dangerous objectively with séracs and ice avalanches. We followed the British route on the left of the face. On June 20, we placed Camp I at 5000 meters after fixing rope on ice up to 90° and UIAA rock of VI- where there was rockfall and falling ice. As I rappelled, a rock the size of a football struck me in the head and left forearm, which put me out of action. My friends continued to the crest of the southwest ridge at 6000 meters, where they placed Camp II. Continuous bad

weather and objective dangers compelled them to give up the attempt in mid July. This mountain has no safe route.

EDI BIRNBACHER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Ultar (Bojohagur Duanasir II) Attempt and Hunza Peak Ascent.* Our expedition composed of Britons Victor Saunders, Crag Jones, Julian Freeman-Attwood and me and American Steve Sustad attempted to climb Ultar I (7388 meters, 24,240 feet) in July. Saunders and Sustad explored a remote valley difficult of access on the southeast side of Ultar. They decided against the southeast spur, finding that the conditions were not suitable. Instead they made an attempt slanting from left to right across the southeast face, heading for the upper section of the east ridge. After three days of climbing, a broken crampon and a broken ice axe forced a retreat. At the same time Jones and I attempted a line on the south ridge that the Japanese had tried in 1990. We climbed alpine-style and did not fix ropes or set up camps as the Japanese had. After five days, we reached a high point of 6500 meters on July 31 at the base of the summit buttress. Bad weather forced a retreat. Prior to this, Jones and I made the first ascent of Hunza Peak (6200 meters, 20,342 feet). We ascended from the Hasanabad Glacier to the col between Hunza Peak and Bublomotung and climbed the southwest ridge from there. We took three days for the climb. We also climbed Bublomotung from the col. This mountain had been climbed ten days earlier by a Swedish team.

MICK FOWLER, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Ultar (Bojohagur Duanasir II) Attempt and Tragedy.* Our nine-member expedition was led by my husband Tsuneo Hasegawa, whose expedition last year attempted unclimbed Ultar (Bojohagur Duanasir II; 7388 meters, 24,240 feet) but had to give up 300 meters from the summit. We again in 1991 attempted the south ridge. Base Camp was established at 3300 meters on August 26 by Kiyotaka Hoshino, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Mitsuru Shiraishi, Narimitsu Kawasaki, Tsutomu Sugisaka and me. We placed Camp I at 4900 meters on the 26th. My husband Tsuneo Hasegawa, Osamu Tagaya, Kenji Ota and liaison officer Nazir Sabir arrived at Base Camp on September 12. Above Camp I, the route entered a wide gully. Despite frequent rockfall and avalanches, we established Camp II on the ridge on September 15 at 5450 meters. We followed the ridge to 5900 meters and climbed steep ice above to place Camp III at 6000 meters on October 3. On October 6, my husband and Hoshino climbed to the site of Camp IV at 6500 meters and returned to Camp I for a rest. On the 10th, they started back up for Camp II and were overwhelmed by an avalanche and swept from 5350 to 4000 meters to their deaths. The expedition was abandoned.

(MRS.) MASAMI HASEGAWA, *U-Tan Club, Japan*

*Sani Pakhush.* German Hubert Bleicher led five Germans who climbed Sani Pakhush (6885 meters, 22,590 feet). Details are lacking.

*Tirich Mir, Norwegian Attempt.* Forty-one years after their compatriot, Arne Naess, made the first ascent of Tirich Mir, Jon Gangdal, leader, Halfdan Egeberg, Torstein Skacke, Sven Gangdal, Erik Johannessen and Erik Hankø hoped to traverse both peaks: Tirich Mir East (7692 meters, 25,236 feet) and Tirich Mir Main (7706 meters, 25,283 feet). Base Camp and Camps I, II, III, IV and V were placed at 3300, 4300, 4800, 5200, 6000 and 6900 meters. Unfortunately, bad weather frustrated their hopes. On July 12, the Gangdal brothers set out towards the top of Tirich Mir East but fierce winds stopped them on the 7620-meter foresummit. They had no political or security problems and recommend this beautiful area to other climbers.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

*Tirich Mir.* Seven members of the Kyoto section of the Japanese Alpine Club led by Tateshi Sudoh joined with six Pakistanis. They placed Base Camp on the Upper Tirich Glacier and Camps I, II, III and IV at 4800, 5800, 6400, 6800 and 7300 meters on July 12, 16, 29, August 1 and 4. The climbing effort was interrupted on August 5 when they had to evacuate a Pakistani who had fallen. On August 10, Yoshiaki Horie and Osamu Funao were driven back by high winds. On the 14th, leader Sudoh, Kensuke Matsuda and Kiyoaki Miyagawa made an unsuccessful attempt but the next day Sudoh and Miyagawa were able to reach the summit (7706 meters, 25,283 feet).

*Nanga Parbat, Rupal Face, Winter Attempt 1990-91.* Our joint Anglo-Polish expedition flew to Gilgit on November 24, 1990. We were leader Maciej Berbeka, Jacek Berbeka, Andrzej Osika, Andrzej Samolewicz, Wojciech Szczerba, Zbigniew Terlikowski, Dr. Krzysztof Witkowski, *Poles*, and Sean Smith, Jon Tinker, Simon Yates and I, *British*. We hoped to make the first winter ascent of the direct Rupal route, first climbed in 1970 by the Messner brothers, Felix Kuen and Peter Scholz. Despite several attempts, no one has made a second ascent of the route. We arrived at the "Polish Base Camp" in the Rupal valley on November 29. With fine weather and experience from the 1988-9 Polish attempt made good progress. On December 1, we established Camp I at 4700 meters below the Wieland Rocks and fixed rope to a temporary camp at 5400 meters. We set that camp up on December 5. Soon the weather broke and progress to Camp II above the Wieland Icefield was slow. However, the climbing conditions were generally good with hard ice between 5500 and 6100 meters. On December 19, Base Camp was flattened by a pressure wave from an avalanche high on the Rupal Wall. Fortunately no one was hurt. We finally established Camp II in an ice cave at 6100 meters at the site of Camp II of the 1970 climb. The weather was then very unsettled and several feet of snow fell, confining all to Base Camp until January 3, 1991. We renewed our efforts to push the route to Camp III at 6800 meters below the Merkl Icefield. Repeated pairs extended the way up the Welzenbach Spur, struggling with increasingly high winds and deteriorating weather. By January 13, we ground to a halt at 6600 meters and made a general

retreat from the mountain. With 14 days left of our planned 60 days at Base Camp, Maciej Berbeka suggested a radical change of plan. On January 17, we switched to the Schell route on the left side of the Rupal flank, planning to climb to 7000 meters alpine-style before making a summit bid. The Berbekas, Osika and Tinker climbed to 6600 meters, leaving 200 meters of fixed rope on the crux rock buttress, before descending in high winds. A summit attempt was not possible in the continuous bad weather and so Base Camp was quit on January 27. The journey back to Gilgit took six days as roads were blocked by rock slides. Whilst in Gilgit, we experienced an earthquake of 6 on the Richter scale which killed several hundred people in northern Pakistan and Afghanistan.

NIKOLA KEKUS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Nanga Parbat, Ski Attempt.* In 1990, under the sponsorship of the Deutsches Institut für Auslandsforschung, Josef and Marianne Walter reached the Diamir Col on skis but were unable to continue because of snow conditions. (AAJ, 1991, pp. 276-7.) The idea intrigued Peter Wörgötter, and so he and Austrian companions Christian Bogensperger, Fritz Hörhager, Herbert Rainer, Max Schneider and Dr. Joachim Zeitz arrived at Base Camp at 4000 meters below the Diamir Glacier, accompanied by 54 low-altitude porters. On June 24, Wörgötter, Bogensperger and Rainer climbed to 5000 meters on the Diamir Glacier, to where the 1961 and 1962 German expeditions had placed their Camp I. They traversed the glacier below the Sigi Löw Ice Couloir and on to 5600 meters where they placed their Camp I. After a long rest, the three climbed a steep gully after sundown and continued up a steep slope on the glacier where they set up a tent for Camp II at 5950 meters. Finally, the next day they found a way through the 150-meter-high step. After ascending a 30-meter-high ice cliff, they made a supply dump at 6170 meters. They skied back to Base Camp in only two hours. On July 4, after some bad weather, the same three climbed to Camp II and the next day to the supply depot. Clouds forced them back to Camp II, where they found Hörhager and Schneider. They all descended. On July 9, they returned to Camp II and the day after established Camp III at 6350 meters. On July 11, they ascended an 800-meter-high avalanche track since the snow beside it was knee-deep. They set up Camp IV at 7000 meters below a rock rib. Rainer climbed another 400 meters solo and left supplies to the north of the north summit. Bogensperger spent an uneasy night. Because of his condition, on the 12th they decided to descend. The snow in the avalanche track was full of humps and ridges; the snow beside it was heavy and covered with breakable crust. Eventually they reached Camp II. On June 13, they evacuated Camp II and descended to Base Camp. Despite bad weather, they had managed to open a new route which led nearly to the Bazhin Basin and the summit pyramid.

KARL MARIA HERRLIGKOFFER, *Deutsches Institut für Auslandsforschung\**

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\*Dr. Herrligkoffer died on September 11, 1991. In his long career, he had led more than 20 mountain expeditions, particularly to Nanga Parbat. Well remembered are the first ascent by Hermann Buhl and the climb by Reinhold and Günther Messner, which ended with such dissension. He was also the author of many excellent mountain books.

*Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face, Kinshofer Route, First British Ascent.* Ours was a small expedition consisting of Ghazala Ahmad, my wife and expedition doctor, David Walsh and me. Also with us were Kevin Higgins and Ian Hilton during our acclimatization. We arrived at Base Camp on June 27 and almost immediately were deserted by our liaison officer, Najeeb Ahmad Khan. Najeeb had similarly abandoned a German expedition in 1989. Fortunately Ghazala's command of Urdu meant we were not hindered by his disappearance. We made several training climbs on the surrounding peaks. After three weeks at the foot of Nanga Parbat, on July 15 Walsh, Ghazala and I moved up to Advance Base at 5100 meters. On the 16th, Walsh and I set out alpine-style with six days of food and fuel and a bare minimum of equipment. We bivouacked at 5900 meters. We passed Koreans on the second morning at a camp littered with trash. On Day 3, we climbed through a snowstorm on ice as steep as the roof of a church. On Day 4, we made a long curving, sickle-shaped traverse which brought us onto easier ground in the Bazhin Basin. On the evening of Day 5, we had reached the base of the summit trapezoid at 7200 meters. Our previous bivouacs had been at 6150, 6400 and 6800 meters. On July 21, we set out at four A.M. enveloped in cloud. We plodded on endlessly. At noon the clouds parted to reveal the mouth of a narrow snow-filled gully cutting the final rocks and we could continue slow upward progress. Finally, at 4:30 P.M. we were on the summit, six days after crossing the bergschrund. In a little over two hours in the grey twilight we collapsed into our tent at the last bivouac site. We descended during the next days to 6900 meters, then to 6000 meters and arrived at Base Camp on July 24.

ROGER MEAR, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Nanga Parbat Attempts.* There were several unsuccessful attempts on Nanga Parbat in 1991. Koreans led by Lee Dong-Won were unable to complete the climb via the 1962 German Diamir route. Italians under the leadership of Stefano Righetti reached a highpoint of 7500 meters on the Rupal Face, while Japanese led by Seishi Wada had to give up at 7900 meters on the southeast buttress after spending 75 days in the attempt. Another Korean expedition led by Kim Hyoung-Joo also failed; we do not know which route they tried.

*Naltar Valley, 1990.* In August and September of 1990, Irish climbers Orla and Maurice Prendergast and Tomas Aylward visited the Naltar valley and climbed Snow Dome (5030 meters, 16,503 feet) by the north ridge, Sentinel (5260 meters, 17,257 feet) by the west ridge and a 5100-meter (16,733-foot) subsidiary of Shani by a gully on the north face, a new route.

JOSS LYNAM, *Federation of Mountaineering Clubs of Ireland*

### **Southeastern China**

*Gongga Shan Attempt.* Our members were Masayoshi Matsudate, Kiyuharu Ito, Masaharu Moriya, Yasuhiko Matsuta, Yutaka Nakagawa, Kosuke Igawa,