

Cantalamessa, Franco Giansanti, Andrea and Stefano Di Lello climbed to the summit.

LUCIANO GHIGO, *Centro Italiano Studio Documentazione
Alpinismo Italiano*

India—Eastern Karakoram

Mamostong Kangri. This high peak continues to attract climbing teams. An Indian ladies' team, led by Bachendri Pal, climbed the normal route from the Mamostong Glacier, crossing the 5885-meter Mamostong col and up the east ridge. The summit (7516 meters, 24,650 feet) was reached from Camp IV at 6700 meters by 15 climbers, all on August 15, in three groups. The first summit party consisting of Deepu Sharma, Kunga Bhutia, Anita Devi and Harsha Panwar was accompanied by instructor Rajeev Sharma and Sherpas Kushang and Nadre. They reached the top at one P.M. Sarla Negi, Radha Devi, Dickey Dolma, Bimla Negi and instructor Baldev Kanwar got to the summit at two P.M. Suman Kutiyal and Savita Martolia summited at 2:30 P.M. with porter Vijay Singh. A fourth attempt was thwarted by bad weather. The All-Women Pre-Everest Expedition had 17 members and a doctor. This is the second expedition in preparation for the 1993 Indo-Nepalese Women's Expedition to Everest.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

Teram Kangri. Teram Kangri (7433 meters, 24,485 feet) rises near the junction of the Teram Shehr and the Siachen Glaciers. It was climbed in 1992 by an Indian army team led by Colonel M.S. Gill. More details are awaited.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

Pakistan

Gasherbrum I Attempt and Tragedy. Our international expedition had as members Americans Barbara Shelonzek, Errol Altay, German Gerhard Schnass, Italians Marco Bianchi, Paolo Bernascone, Giorgio Passino, Kurt Walde, Poles Mariusz Sprutta, Dr. Lech Korniszewski, Ryszard Warecki and me as leader. We set up Base Camp at the foot of the Gasherbrum peaks at 5100 meters on May 26. There was much winter snow and the weather was unstable with snowfall every day. Camps I and II were placed at 6000 and 6550 meters (Gasherbrum La) on May 29 and June 3. Following more or less the Messner route, we fixed rope and made a dump at 7000 meters. A summit attempt on June 26 reached 7200 meters. Due to dangerous conditions, further attempts were given up. On May 30, tragically just below Camp I a snowslab struck two descending Italians. The fixed rope broke and they were swept away. Kurt Walde survived while Paolo Bernascone was killed instantly. The region has terrible environmental problems. In the Base Camp lie hundreds of tins, bottles and

containers, but a cleaning operation would be easy. The worst situation is on the Baltoro Glacier, where the litter increases year by year. About 90% of the rubbish is produced by the Pakistani military, who camp up to 6000 meters. Heaps of rusty tins and other garbage lie all around their campsites.

KRZYSZTOF WIELICKI, *Klub Wysokogórski Katowice, Poland*

Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak) Attempts and Ascent. The international team led by Pole Krzysztof Wielicki, the first expedition to Gasherbrum I in 1992, is described above. A four-man Spanish Basque group led by Mikel Egibar attempted the Messner route but got only to the Gasherbrum La at 6550 meters, which they reached on July 17. Bad weather and inexperience were to blame. It is reported that during the approach one of their porters was drowned in a stream. A Japanese pair, Masatoshi Todaka and Hirofumi Konishi, had hoped to climb the Messner route alpine-style but they abandoned their attempt at the Gasherbrum La on July 25 because of bad snow conditions. Later, they joined the route of a large Japanese expedition on the west ridge and got to 7100 meters. A ten-member Japanese expedition led by Eiho Ohtani had Nazir Sabir as liaison officer. These two had reached the summit of K2 together in 1981. The expedition was attempting the Slovene route on the west ridge. They established Base Camp on July 8, Camp III and IV at 7100 and 7500 meters by the end of July and by mid-August. The weather was generally bad. Their last try failed at 7900 meters after which the Japanese called off the attempt on August 23. While the Japanese were preparing their return, Nazir Sabir and Hunza porters Rajab Shah and Mehrban Shah started to climb from Base Camp in good weather. Nine hours later, they were at Camp III. The following day, August 25, they reached the summit in exceptionally clear weather and returned by nightfall to Camp III and the next day to Base Camp. Nazir Sabir becomes the first Pakistani to have climbed four 8000ers, all in the Baltoro region. It was the second ascent of Hidden Peak for Rajab Shah, who has also climbed Nanga Parbat.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Gasherbrum II Ascents and Attempts. As has been the case in past years, many climbers have been attracted to Gasherbrum II (8035 meters, 26,360 feet). Those noted here were on the standard route. From a six-man German expedition led by Rollo Steffens, Günther Schmieder, Jan Pracker and Heinz Wittmann summited on July 18, followed on July 20 by leader Steffens and Sepp Has-holzner, who at 60 years of age is the oldest person to have climbed Gasherbrum II. A six-member Mexican expedition was led by Antonio Cortés. Isabel García suffered from high-altitude edema and had to be helped down to Base Camp. On July 18, the summit was reached by Rogerio González, Lucio Cárdenas, Alejandro Velázquez and Germán Figueroa. A Spanish Catalan expedition was composed of leader Joan Oliva, Agustí Boada, Roger Cortés, Carles González, Carles Sánchez, Emili Durán, Manuel Benavent, Manuel Miranda and José-

Carlos Recio. They were joined for permit reasons by Italians Giulio Beggio and Valentina Lauthiers, but this pair acted independently. On July 18, the two Italians reached the summit; Signora Lauthiers was the 21st woman to have climbed Gasherbrum II. On July 23, Benavent, Miranda and Recio also climbed to the top. An eight-member Bulgarian expedition led by Minko Zankovski included one woman. The summit was reached on July 23 by Gospodin Dinev and Radko Rachev. A Japanese expedition led by Tadakiyo Sakahara had so many difficulties during the approach that they decided to turn elsewhere on arrival at Concordia. [See below.] A Spanish expedition from Valencia composed of Joan Agulló, Vicente García, José-Antonio Alejo and Dr. Carlos Sanchis suffered bad weather and failed at the end of September.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Gasherbrum II, 1991, Correction. On page 249 of *AAJ, 1992*, the successful ascent by two South Korean expeditions of Gasherbrum II was reported, but the facts given there were inaccurate. One expedition led by Han Sang-Kuk placed four members on top on July 19, 1991 by the standard route: leader Han, Kim Chang-Sun, Kim Su-Hong and You Soek-Jae. The leader of the second expedition which placed five climbers on the summit on July 20, 1991 was Song Jung-Doo and the summiters were Han Young-Jun, Lee Yong-Soon, Park Eul-Gyu, Jang Sang-Gi and Cho Jae-Chul.

KIM KYUNGMI-PAE, *Korean Alpine Federation*

Gasherbrum IV, Northwest Ridge Attempt. Tom Dickey, Charlie Fowler, Alex Lowe and I arrived at the Gasherbrum Base Camp on May 19, hoping to climb a new route, the northwest ridge of Gasherbrum IV. We had established a route through both icefalls on the South Gasherbrum Glacier by May 29. On May 30, we watched members of the international Gasherbrum I expedition descend an icefall that bypassed that icefall. The slope avalanched, carrying two climbers with it. Our team was close and we were at the accident site within minutes. One was not buried and not seriously hurt. The other was completely buried, but a small bit of his pack was visible. We quickly dug him out, but he did not survive. We established a camp at 20,000 feet in the glacial cirque below Gasherbrum IV on June 1. From June 3 to 5, we placed fixed rope on the snow face that led to the ridge crest. We returned on June 10 and placed more rope until bad weather turned us back near the crest of the ridge. On June 17, after a period of bad weather, we went back to our high point for a summit attempt. We were turned around again at 23,000 feet by a severe storm and thin powder snow over rotten rock. Because of more bad weather, another thwarted summit attempt and dangerous snow conditions, we abandoned our climb. On July 1, we left Base Camp and arrived in Hushe three days later after crossing the Ghon-dokhor La.

STEVEN J. SWENSON

Broad Peak Ascent and Attempts. As in previous years, a number of expeditions attempted to climb Broad Peak, mostly by the normal route. An international group of eight climbers from seven different countries was organized commercially and guided by Welchman Martin Barnicott and New Zealander Russell Brice. Although their Romanian member joined an American party and made the ascent, they were not successful. Their attempt is described below. A South Korean expedition led by Yoon Hyun-Jong worked hard on the standard route, fixing great lengths of rope and demanding payment from other groups for the use of them. Eventually they had to give up at 7500 meters. A six-member British team led by Roger Payne was the only party that planned a route different from the standard one on the Pakistani flank. They reconnoitered both the southwest face and the south ridge from the Broad Glacier, near Concordia. Having reached 5400 meters, they found both routes feasible but avalanche-prone at that time. In order to acclimatize for a later attempt, they climbed to 7650 meters on the standard route, but persistent bad weather forced them to cancel their originally planned attempt. Another British team led by Tim Williams reached a high point of 6900 meters in mid June. A German expedition led by Helmut Förster also failed. The only ascent of the main summit was made by a mixed group from various expeditions that collaborated in the final attack. On August 6, six climbers started from Camp III at 7350 meters. From an American expedition were leader David Hambly and Scott McKee. Antonio Tapiador and Pedro Rodríguez were members of a Spanish commercial group led by Carlos Soria. Eudald Martínez was a member of a Spanish Catalan party led by Miquel Casas. The sixth was Romanian Constatin Lacatusu, mentioned above. Despite frostbitten toes, he was determined to reach the summit. The main summit (8047 meters, 26,400 feet) was reached at 5:30 P.M. and shortly thereafter. For Hambly, this was his second 8000er. Lacatusu became the first Romanian to climb an 8000er, but he paid a high price for it; with severely frozen feet, he had to be evacuated from Base Camp by helicopter. Two members of a Mexican K2 expedition, Mexican Héctor Ponce de León and Swede Johan Lagne, made an attempt on Broad Peak, reaching the foresummit (8030 meters, 26,346 feet) on August 5 in unsettled weather. A Chilean expedition led by Claudio Gálvez was delayed for three weeks in Islamabad and arrived at Base Camp on August 8. Towards the end of the month, they had to give up their attempt at 7300 meters because of bad weather. The middle summit of Broad Peak was climbed from China as described elsewhere in this *Journal*.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

Broad Peak. Our team consisted of David and Diana Dailey, Scott McKee, Nels Niemi, Paul Stevenson and me as leader. We arrived at Base Camp on July 1. We had three camps at 18,600, 21,600 and 23,900 feet. The weather was good enough to climb to the lower camps most of the time, but there were only a few days for a summit bid. Snow conditions above 21,000 feet were always bad. We had contact with six other expeditions. On August 1, six climbers from

four expeditions [see above], including Scott McKee and me, arrived at High Camp. The Mountain Gods favored us with a clear, windless day on August 2. We all summited at about five P.M. The combined effort of all to overcome the bad snow conditions was largely responsible for our success. After a long 18-hour day we stumbled into High Camp in the dark.

DAVID HAMBLBY

Broad Peak Attempt and Ghondokhor La. An Himalayan Kingdom expedition was led by Welshman Martin Barnicott with climbing leader Russell Brice from New Zealand. The clients were Italian Fulvio Fresia, Canadian Dr. Stuart Hutchinson, Finn Mikko Valanne, Englishman David Craven, Romanian Constantin Lacatusu and I as the lone American. After crossing a broken bridge in Dassu and later, after rebuilding a washed out road, we left the roadhead, Askole, on June 18 and arrived at Base Camp beneath the standard west-spur route of Broad Peak on June 23. We established Camps I, II and III at 5800, 6700 and 7300 meters on June 28, July 2 and 8. After a few days of rest at Base Camp during inclement weather, we returned on July 15 to the site of Camp III, which had disappeared, presumably in an avalanche. We abandoned the climb due to the deep and unstable snow. Lacatusu remained behind, joined an American expedition and reached the summit of Broad Peak in early August. Leaving Base Camp on July 22, we hiked out over the Ghondokhor La (35°39'0"N, 76°29'30"E) and arrived in Hushe on July 25. In 1911, the Workmans visited the Ghondokhor Glacier and determined that no pass led to the Baltoro Glacier. The 1955 Harvard expedition came to the same conclusion. However, Sirdar Mohammad Fakhar-ul-Haq led trekkers across it in 1989. Since then a number of expeditions and trekking groups have crossed the pass, which I found to be a simple route. We ascended the western branch of the Vigne Glacier to where my altimeter read 5730 meters. The southern side had some steep loose rock and scree, leading to the northern lateral moraine of the Ghondokhor Glacier. The porters from Hushe crossed the pass without undue difficulty.

ROBERT J. SECOR

K2. A full article on the Russian-American expedition to K2 with additional details about the Mexican-New Zealander-Swedish expedition and Chantal Mauduit of the Swiss expedition appears earlier in this *Journal*.

K2, *Mexican-New Zealander-Swedish Attempt and Tragedy.* A ten-member international expedition was composed of Mexicans Ricardo Torres, leader, Héctor Ponce de León, Adrián Benítez and Berta Ramírez, New Zealanders Rob Hall, Gary Ball and Marty Schmidt and Swedes Johan Lagne, Oscar Kihlberg and Mickael Reuterswärd. Base Camp was occupied on June 28 and a long siege of the Abruzzi Ridge took place in cooperation with the Russian-American

expedition. As a diversion from the main attack, Ponce de León and Lagne made a foray onto Broad Peak, reaching the foresummit on August 5. On August 13, Torres, Ponce de León, Benítez, Hall, Ball, Lagne and Kihlberg reached Camp IV at 8000 meters. On August 14, Torres and Benítez decided to descend because of deteriorating weather. Just below the shoulder, at 7775 meters, Benítez fell to his death when a ski pole they were using as a rappel anchor pulled out. On August 15, on hearing the news of the accident, Ponce de León, Lagne and Kihlberg gave up the attempt, leaving only Hall and Ball with the three Americans of the Russian-American expedition at Camp IV to make a summit attempt on August 16. While the Americans reached the summit, the two New Zealanders had to quit at the top of the Bottleneck at 8300 meters. Despite their using supplementary oxygen, Gary Ball had fallen ill as a result of pulmonary emboli. They withdrew to Camp IV where his condition became much worse. Rob Hall and the descending Americans managed in three days to bring him back to Base Camp, from where he was evacuated by Helicopter to Skardu. [More details are found in the full article above in this *Journal*.] During the course of the expedition, a human foot was found inside its sock and boot. The old type of crampon and the nailed boot suggest that the foot must have been that of Dudley Wolfe lost in 1939.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

K2, Swiss Attempt. A Swiss expedition consisting of Peter Schwitter, leader, Beat Ruppen, Norbert Huser, Rupert Ruckstuhl and Frenchwoman Chantal Mauduit made an attempt on the Abruzzi Ridge of K2 that ended at 7400 meters in late July due to bad weather. When the expedition left Base Camp, Mauduit joined the Russian-American expedition and reached the summit of K2 on August 3. [See the full article above in this *Journal* for more details.] Mauduit had just previously made an unsuccessful attempt on Everest.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

K2 Attempt. Wojciech Kurtyka and I had hoped to climb a new route on the west side of K2. We got to the normal Base Camp at 5100 meters on May 26. The route to Advance Base at 6200 meters is very long and we had engaged two porters to help carry to it. They quit after two hours, leaving the job to us two. On June 4, we reconnoitered toward the foot of the face to 6400 meters but gave up because of avalanche danger and windslab. The weather was also unfavorable. On June 9, we abandoned the attempt.

ERHARD LORETAN, *Club Alpin Suisse*

P 6940 Attempt and Ascent of Peak Near Skilbrum. A seven-man Japanese team led by Tadakiyo Sakahara had originally been planning to climb Gasherbrum II, but they suffered such delays in Islamabad that when they arrived at the



PLATE 69

Photo by John Middendorf

The GREAT TRANGO TOWER
from the east.

Boerx

Baltoro Glacier, they realized they did not have sufficient time. They established Base Camp at Gore on August 8 and Advance Base at the head of the Biange Glacier at 4740 meters on August 11. The next day, Sakahara, Kouji Matsui, Shinji Chiba and Toshiyuki Kitamura climbed to the 6010-meter col on the ridge west of Skilbrum and continued to the left up another peak, the summit of which they reached at 6:30 that night. They returned to bivouac in the col. The following day, they attempted to climb P 6940 but were too exhausted to complete the climb.

K7 Attempt. Italians F. Arneodo, M. Bozzolan, D. Longata, S. Rossi and D. Sacchetti attempted to climb K7 (6935 meters, 22,753 feet) via a new route, the southwest spur, from the Charakusa Glacier. Bad weather kept them from getting higher than 4700 meters, after climbing 400 meters on excellent granite.

Trango Nameless Tower. There is a full article earlier in this *Journal* on the remarkable ascent of this spire, which came close to being a tragedy when a huge section of the mountain fell to its base.

Trango Nameless Tower. On August 13, Cho Dukkyu, Cho Chonghwan, So Hoyoung and I completed the ascent of the Slovene route on the Nameless Tower. The other two members of our expedition were leader Sunwoo Choongok and Kim Cheol. After driving to Askole thanks to the new bridge, we walked to Base Camp at 4000 meters in three days. The porters made a sit-down strike rather than marching up the Trango Glacier. After several days of heavy rain, we carried to Advance Base at 5200 meters. The steep snow-filled gully made the carrying dicey. On July 29, climbing started in earnest. Because of the wet weather, there was much water and ice. In the next five days, we established Shoulder Camp at 5500 meters, having climbed 19 pitches despite occasional falling ice. On August 4, we moved rapidly on a summit attempt. In the upper section, we experienced icier conditions. On the 22nd pitch, only 200 meters from the summit, a nasty storm forced retreat to the shoulder. Four days later, low on food, we descended to Base Camp. Since the porters were coming back on the 13th, on August 11 we decided on a final summit blitz and climbed to the shoulder. The next day we got back to our high point. On the 24th pitch, icy conditions produced A2 to A4 difficulty. We feared we were without adequate gear, but five bolts were found in a side pocket; we used three on this pitch. On the 25th pitch, I was hit on the shoulder by a falling rock, ruining my down jacket. We retreated to bivouac without sleeping bags on the 24th pitch. On August 13, climbing went smoothly in the Grey Area. After climbing the ice-choked chimney on the 30th pitch, we reached the summit at 1:30 P.M.

CHU YOUNG, *Southern California Korean Alpine Club*

Trango Nameless Tower Spanish Attempts. Spaniards very nearly made ascents of the Nameless Tower but could not quite reach the summit. They fixed



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750 meters of rope on the lower part of the Kurtyka-Loretan route for seven days. On July 7, José Chaverri, Lorenzo Ortiz and Santiago Palacios made their final attempt, which ended ten meters below the summit because of perpendicular unconsolidated snow. Chaverri then joined Basques Kike de Pablos and Jon Lazkano on the Slovene Route, where they had already fixed half the route. On July 19, Chaverri and de Pablos were overtaken by nightfall when they were not far from the summit, but they gave up and rappelled off in the dark.

Great Trango Tower, East Face, Swiss-American Expedition, Second Ascent to the East Summit. Our expedition, consisting of Swiss Xaver Bongard, Ueli Bühler and François Studiman and American photographer Ace Kvale and me, arrived in Pakistan on June 10. On June 24, after a three-day trek from Askole, we made our Base Camp near the mouth of the Dunge Glacier where it runs into the Baltoro on June 24. Bongard and I immediately began preparations for a new route on the east face of the Great Trango Tower. We scoped the line, established Camps I and II on the very dangerous approach, much of which was possible only at night, and fixed the first pitches. On July 13, after some periods of unsettled weather, we spent the first night on the wall in our hanging 2-man A5 portaledge. We climbed capsule-style, with only six ropes total, and established five camps on the wall, four hanging and one at the snow ledge halfway up, fixing our ropes above each camp until we decided it was safe and timely to move the camp up. Many of the belays were in suicidal positions, due to ice-, snow- and rockfall from above, but camps were generally in safe havens. On July 28, we summited, after being trapped 400 feet below the rim for three days in a fierce Karakoram storm. The climbing involved many pitches of technical aid climbing, some pitches of free, difficult ice and mixed climbing. The last five pitches below the snow ledge involved vertical ice climbing and rotten aid and free climbing up a dangerous steep corner system which we named "Gollum's Gully"; this turned out to be a major drainage for the snow ledge. It was possible to climb these pitches only at night, due to incessant ice and snow pummeling down during the day. The rest of the route also had severe objective hazards because of ice, rock and snow avalanching from the snow ledge system and the summit séracs. Occasionally, huge sections would exfoliate off the wall and pound down around us. The upper headwall above the snow ledge was superb, though chimneys in the final section required multiple "Harding Slot" maneuvers in inclement weather at 20,000 feet. The final six pitches from the rim to the summit involved technical ice and tenuous mixed climbing, as well as a tough final slug through deep unconsolidated snow to the summit ridge and onto the east summit. It took us three days to rappel the route. From the base of the actual climb, we had to rappel a buttress to the east of the approach gully because of dangerous all-day and all-night avalanches caused by the warming summer conditions. We made 44 rappels in all. In general, the weather was fine, though we spent many days and nights in freezing storms in our hanging bivouacs. We named the route "The Grand Voyage." It was Grade VII, 5.10, A4+, WI3. We climbed 4400 feet from the actual base to the summit in 33 pitches with a

COLOR PLATE 9

Photo by John Muddendorf

**GREAT TRANGO TOWER's
East Face.**



PLATE 70

Photo by John Middelndorf

Xavier Bongard on the GREAT
TRANGO TOWER.



200-foot lead rope. Our route began well to the left of the Norwegian route. It joined it at the top of the snow ledge, continued along it for three rope-lengths and then branched to the right of it to reach the summit. We sighted fixed pitons and slings on rock outcroppings left by the Norwegians on the final pitches to the summit, verifying the likelihood of their complete ascent. (They doubtless met their accident on the descent.) Our ascent, then, was the second to the east summit (6231 meters, 20,443 feet), as both the Japanese and Spanish teams who repeated the Norwegian route did not venture past the rim. It should be noted that Great Trango Tower has three principal summits: the main (central) summit (6286 meters, 20,624 feet); the west summit (6237 meters, 20,463 feet); and the east summit, to which we climbed. Bühler and Studiman had hoped to climb the Nameless Tower, but Bühler broke his ankle halfway up the Kurtyka-Loretan route when he fell some ten meters. Studiman did a splendid job with the evacuation and they were back in Base Camp in a day and a half.

JOHN MIDDENDORF

Great Trango Tower, Basejump. Our multinational team consisted of Australians Nic Feteris and me, Britons Leo and Mandy Dickinson, New Zealanders Wade Fairley and Geoff Gabites and Russians Vladislav Moroz and Irina Singleman. We arrived in Pakistan on July 17. The road from Skardu now reaches Askole. The journey was an eventful one. A four-wheel drive vehicle carrying 20 porters crashed 150 feet down a rock slide, seriously injuring three people. As the only doctor for miles, I had to treat and transfer the injured to the nearest hospital at Skardu. Despite the delay, we arrived at Base Camp at 4200 meters on the Trango Glacier on August 3. On the Great Trango Tower, we followed the 1984 American route up the gully between the Nameless and Great Trango Towers and then onto the west ridge. We established Camp I at 5000 meters on August 5 in the shelter of a gigantic boulder. Camp II was placed on August 12 at 5500 meters in the lee of a rock finger standing 200 feet above a gully running east from the main gully. A single 20-meter ice wall rose just below camp. From Camp II, the climbing was over steep ice up to 6000 meters. A two-pitch traverse followed to access the narrow tongue between ice cliffs spilling off either side of the mountain. Three more moderate pitches led to a plateau beneath the north summit. We fixed the route to here. Feteris, Vlad Moroz, Gabites and I visited the summit multiple times between August 18 and 24 while investigating many sites on the edge of the northwest face for a rock ledge from which to launch our basejump. We needed a site above a vertical or overhanging section of wall with no protruding ledges for 300 meters. Access to the edge of the rock wall was made difficult by the 70-meter-high séracs lining the face. The site we picked was at 5955 meters. A two-pitch abseil over a sérac gave access to a small rock ledge in the center of the face. We spent a day carving ice off the ledge to widen it. On August 26, Feteris and I strapped on six kilograms of camera gear to our helmets and mounted cameras to chest and leg. Vlad Moroz filmed and Gabites had a motor-drive Nikon next to us. Leo

PLATE 71

Photo by John Middendorf

**Bongard melting snow at the
Snowledge Bivouac on the Great
Trango Tower.**



Dickinson had a long lens just above Camp II and Mandy Dickinson and Irina Singleman had long lenses in the landing area on the northern side of the Dunge Glacier. I was to jump slightly ahead and to the side of Feteris. His helmet cameras faced forward to film me and mine faced backward to film him. We had purpose-built canopies, basejumping rigs and "flight suits." At midday, we unclipped from the ropes, commenced our countdown and launched into space. Almost immediately, Feteris began somersaulting out of control. After three seconds, I also began to somersault. Both of us tumbled until the 6th second and then regained control. At the 8th second, I gave Feteris the open signal and he dumped his pilot chute a half second before me. The canopies took another two seconds to open, by which time we had fallen 500 meters. The film shows that we were 80 meters off the floor of a steep gully. Later, we blamed the rarefied atmosphere and the weight of the helmet cameras which changed our center of gravity and sent us head down into somersaults. The landing at 4200 meters was a hard one due to the rarefied atmosphere. A video copy of the film may be purchased from the author for US \$50 c/o 1/1A Greycliffe Street, Queenscliff, NSW 2096 Australia.

GLENN SINGLEMAN, *Australia*

Summary of Trango Ascents. Eight routes have been climbed on the *Trango Nameless Tower* (6239 meters, 20,470 feet). There have been 13 ascents to the summit. 1. June 8, 1976, Britons Anthoine, Boysen, Brown, Howells, southwest face (new). 2. June 15, 1987, Slovenes Cankar, Knez, Šrot, south-southeast face (new). 3. June 23, 1987, Swiss Piola, Schaffter, Frenchmen Fouquet, Delale, west buttress (new). Fouquet descended by paraglider. 4. July 13, 1988, Pole Kurtyka, Swiss Loretan, east face (new). 5. September 3, 1988, Germans Kraus, Lipinski, Schneider and Wilz, Kurtyka-Loretan route to snow band and then Slovene route. 6. September 5, 1988, Germans Albert, Arnold, Güllich, Leinauer, Münchenbach, Schwierisch, same route as 5; Albert, Güllich and Münchenbach climbed free. 7. August 9, 1989 Spaniards Gallego, Ros, Clavel, Seiquer, between west buttress and southwest face (new). 8. September 20, 1989, Germans Albert, Güllich, Kurtyka-Loretan start and then between the British and Slovene routes, "Eternal Flame Route" (new). (On September 18, Albert and Stiegler had climbed to within 300 meters of the summit on the new route and then climbed to the summit on the Slovene route.) 9. September 5, 1990, Frenchwoman Destivelle, Americans Breashears, Lowe, Slovene route. 10. September 9, 1990, Japanese Minamiura, Solo to right of Kurtyka-Loretan route (new). 11. September 15, 1990, Japanese Hoshino, Kimoto, British route to rescue Minamiura. 12. August 13, 1992, Korean-Americans Cho Kukkyu, Cho Chonghwan, So Hoyoung, Chu Young, Slovene route. 13. August 23, 1992, American Wilford, Australian-American Child, east side of south face (new). *A drawing of the Trango Nameless Tower with most of the routes appears on page 286 of AAJ, 1990.*

There have been four ascents of the *Main (central) Summit of the Great Trango Tower* (6286 meters, 20,624 feet). 1. July 21, 1977, Americans Rowell, Schmitz, Hennek, Roskelley, Morrissey, from the Trango Glacier over the Pulpit (new). 2. August 19, 1984, Americans Selters, Woolums, from Trango Glacier to northwest ridge (new). 3. July 25, 1988, Italian Giordani, probably by northwest ridge 4. Several ascents between August 18 and 24, 1992, Australians Singleman, Feteris, Russian Moroz, New Zealander Gabites, northwest ridge.

There have been two complete ascents of the *East Summit of the Great Trango Tower* (6231 meters, 20,443 feet). The Norwegian Buttress was climbed with a big variant to the rim but not to the summit by Japanese in 1990 and by Spaniards in 1991. 1. August 5, 1984, Norwegians Doseth, Daehli, east face (new). 2. July 28, 1992, American Middendorf, Swiss Bongard, east face starting left of the Norwegian route and to its right above the snow ledge (new).

"Shipton Spire" Attempt. On July 24, Andy Selters, Chuck Boyd, Mark Bebie and I set up Base Camp at 14,400 feet on the upper Trango Glacier. Our objective was the first ascent of an impressive rock peak, photographed by Eric Shipton. It is about 19,200 feet (5852 meters) high. It lies north of Uli Biaho and west of the Trango Nameless Tower. On July 30, we placed Advance Base at 14,800 feet at the west base of the spire. Over the next four weeks, we fixed ropes on the "wall" section of our route. The climbing was steep and difficult (5.10, A4), protected by hooks, rivets, copperheads and lots of tied-off pins. On several days, progress was 50 meters or less. On August 27, Mark and Andy fixed the last of our 2400 feet of static rope. Three days later, we jumared our ropes, climbed more pitches and bivouacked on the ramp, the first suitable ledge in almost 2000 feet. Three pitches up the ramp brought us to 18,000 feet and a good bivouac. Andy and Mark spent September 1 resting, while Chuck and I fixed several of our lead ropes on the two final rock pitches. The next day, in deteriorating weather, we made our summit attempt. After jumaring the ropes, we traversed on 50° to 60° snow and ice for three pitches. Two long, steep ice pitches and a final snow pitch, our 35th, brought us to 18,600 feet on the summit ridge. At five P.M., we had a difficult decision, whether to spend the night out without stove or sleeping bags in a storm. Disappointed, we began the descent. Rappelling and down-climbing until midnight, we regained our bivouac and spent a wet, unpleasant night. We passed most of the next day in storm descending and cleaning the route. We left Base Camp on September 5. Herds of ibex summer in the Base Camp area. Unfortunately, word filtered down to the army camp at Payu. Soon, with automatic weapons, several soldiers showed up and killed three animals. Although ibex are officially protected, the army is a law unto itself. We informed the Ministry of Tourism at our debriefing. The Minister urged us to publish an account of the killing, presumably to help restrain the army.

GREGORY COLLUM, *R.L.M.C.*

Ascent of P 5495 and Attempt on P 5956, Sokha Glacier, Baltistan. Our expedition was made up by Chris Howarth, Mick Wringley and me. We traveled



PLATE 72

Photo by Gregory Collum

**Chuck Boyd on Pitch 17 of "Shipton
Spire."**