

ASIA

Nepal

Jannu. A strong French expedition, led by Lionel Terray, climbed Jannu (25,294 feet). They followed the extraordinarily difficult route which they had reconnoitered in 1959 to within about 1000 feet of the summit. (See *AAJ* 1960, 12:1, pp. 156-7 for details of the route.) The party of ten climbers, two scientists, doctor and photographer arrived at Base Camp exactly on schedule. Certain minor improvements over 1959 were made on the difficult route to Camp VI, which was established at 23,950 feet on April 18. From there on, three teams of climbers prepared the route, each working higher for a day before being relieved by the next. The first problem was to turn a large black gendarme; then they had to surmount four snowy teeth before entering a narrow steep couloir that led to the final ice ridge. Each day the new team climbed fixed ropes, advanced as far as it could above them, and descended fixing more ropes. Finally on April 27 René Desmaison, Paul Keller, Robert Paragot and the Sherpa Gyalzen Mikchung climbed the final knife-edged snow and ice ridge to the sharp summit. The next day Jean Bouvier, Pierre Leroux, Yves Pollet-Villard, André Bertrand, Lionel Terray, Jean Ravier and the Sherpa Wangdhi climbed the peak. Only Maurice Lenoir, sick in Base Camp, failed to get to the top.

Pumori. After the first attempt to climb Pumori (23,442 feet) failed in 1922, this difficult neighbor of Mount Everest repulsed the next five expeditions. The Swiss Werner Stäuble and the Sherpa Lobsang plunged to their death on its slopes in December, 1961. It was finally climbed on May 17. The Germans Gerhard Lenser, leader, and Hans Rützel and the Swiss Ernst Forrer and Ueli Hürlimann arrived at Base Camp (17,400 feet) on the north bank of the Khumbu Glacier on April 4 after a 21-day trip. They delayed their reconnaissance another eleven days and did not until April 21 establish Camp I (18,000 feet) at the foot of a 2300-foot rock wall, which the climbers likened to the north face of the Eiger. Camp II at 19,850 feet was perched on a strip of ice on this wall on April 28. It took six more days of difficult climbing to reach the col above the wall and at the foot of the northeast ridge, where at 20,400 feet they placed Camp III on May 3. Bad weather and need for rest at Base Camp prevented their return to the assault until May 13, when Lenser, Forrer and Hürlimann reoccupied Camp III. Though stormbound the next day, they enjoyed perfect weather on the ensuing ones. By noon of May 15 they had climbed the first difficulties and covered half the distance up the northeast ridge to set up their bivouac tent at 21,075 feet on what they later discovered was a cornice! On May 16 they spent the morning work-

ing their way up a 150-foot ice wall and by evening had climbed to the end of the ridge and to the foot of a 1650-foot ice slope that led to the top. The bivouac tent there at 21,800 feet constituted Camp V. They climbed the ice slope to the summit in five hours, arriving at 11 o'clock on May 17.

Mount Everest. An Indian expedition under the leadership of Major John D. Dias nearly climbed Mount Everest at the end of May. They were driven back only 400 feet from the summit by frightful weather. In a letter to the editor, Hari Dang thus described the days they were highest on the peak: "Gurdial Singh fell ill en route to Camp VII (27,650 feet) from the South Col, and I had to take his place half way up to become a member of the summit party of three with Sonam Gyatso and Lieutenant M. S. Kohli. I had no spare socks, my boots already used for 26 days above 23,000 feet in making the route up the Lhotse Face were permeated with perspiration, and my boot-covers were tattered. Above this, I had fairly lowered my resistance by working hard on the route while the declared 'summiters' were resting at Base Camp. As a consequence of this and the fact that the weather forced us of the summit party to stay on at Camp VII for three days after our nigh fatal, benighted descent from 28,600 feet on the day of the attempt, I was severely frostbitten." This modest statement tells us of an unusually gallant effort against great odds. Other members of the party were Captain Narinder Kumar, O. P. Sharma, K. P. Sharma, C. P. Vohra, Captain A. B. Jungalwala, Lieutenant A. K. Chowdhury, Suman Dubey, Dr. A. N. D. Nanavati and Major M. A. Soares.

Chamlang. The Hokkaido University Mount Chamlang Expedition was composed of Dr. Seiki Nakano, leader; Takeo Okamoto, Susumu Koyayashi, Toshi-kazu Nagamitsu, Hisashi Kukimura, Soh Anma and Yoshihiro Suzuki. We left Birathnagar on April 15, passed Dharan on April 17, Dankuta on April 19 and arrived at Gudel on April 26. Our caravan route from Gudel to Base Camp was a very difficult one and took until May 12, having five passes on the way which range from 13,000 to 14,000 feet, for we had deep snow. Since almost all of our coolies were not willing to continue with the caravan, the building of Base Camp was greatly delayed and consumed a lot of high ration food. Base Camp was at Mera Kharta at 14,500 feet. We took a route to the top of the glacier flowing west from the southern ridge and then followed this rugged ice ridge. Camp I (May 14) was on the moraine of the glacier at 15,800 feet, Camp II was pitched on May 16 on the icefall at 19,500 feet and Camp III was established on May 20 on the hard ice of the knife-edged southern ridge at the altitude of 20,500 feet. This ridge was very thin

and covered with hard ice except for some places with bare rock. Camp IV (May 27) was on the ridge at 21,000 feet. Two members, Soh Anma and Pasang Putar III, the sirdar, were successful in attacking the top (24,012 feet) from a snow cave at 21,400 feet on May 31. The upper part was covered with hard ice. The total weight of the equipment was 2.8 tons. We consumed about 1000 meters of rope and 50 meters of rope ladder. Of course we did not use oxygen. We returned after a trip north across the Ambu Lapcha, east to Namche Bazar, south to Pankhomagaon and Gudel and thence to Birathnagar.

SEIKI NAKANO, *Academic Alpine Club of Hokkaido*

Nupchu. Nupchu (23,059 feet) is located 18 miles northwest of Kangchenjunga on the border of Nepal and Tibet. The first but unsuccessful attempt to climb the peak was made by a Swiss expedition in 1949 from the Tibetan side. (See *Berge der Welt* 1950, pp. 33-9.) The University of Osaka Prefecture Himalayan Expedition scaled the mountain though its original purpose was to carry out a scientific research in northeast Nepal. The expedition, led by S. Nakao, included eight other members: K. Nishioka, Mrs. S. Nishioka, T. Yasuda, T. Tsubaki, M. Nakuda, F. Nishida, M. Hirano and T. Kano. The Nepalese liaison officer was Bahrat Prasad Prajuli. We engaged Sherpa Chotale as sirdar, Ira Tenzing as cook and two other Sherpas in Kathmandu. We left Darjeeling on April 17 and entered Nepal through Sukiapokhari and Pashpati. The route to the base camp at Kambachen ran through Ilam, Tharpu, Yambodin, Hellok and Ghunsa. At Ghunsa we met the French Jannu expedition and obtained five more skilled Sherpas. We found that there was no alternative access to Nupchu other than the Nupchu Glacier. The real glacier began at 16,240 feet at the end of the valley. From this point one moraine ridge led to the broad expanse of white glacier. At the junction of the moraine and glacier Camp I was built. Camp II was at the height of 21,175 feet and Camp III at 22,145 feet. From this point it was not hard to climb to the top of Nupchu. On May 20 T. Tsubaki and Sherpa Chotale reached the top. The following day five other members and two Sherpas reached the summit too. Later the expedition broke into three groups to do scientific research in various fields, including botany, entomology and soil science. The groups made their home-bound trip through Biratnagar.

SASUKE NAKAO, *University of Osaka Prefecture*

Jugal Himal, Big White Peak. The objective of our expedition, which was under the sponsorship of the Federation of All Japan Mountaineering Unions, was the Big White Peak (23,240 feet). The reason why we prefer this name to Lönqpo Gang, suggested by Toni Hagen, is that Lönqpo is simply the name of a small hamlet and that the mountain has many different names, even at the foot of the mountain. We reached Base Camp at 13,370 feet on March 24 after an eleven-day march from Kathmandu. Camps with altitudes and dates when established follow: Camp O, 14,275 feet, March 28; I, 14,500 feet, March 31; II, 16,470 feet, April 11; III, 17,650 feet, April 14; IV, 18,500 feet, April 16; V (Advance Base Camp), 19,950 feet, April 17; VI, 21,160 feet, April 28; VII, 22,475 feet, April 30. On May 3 Kuzunari Yasuhisa and Tadashi Morita started from Camp VII at six A.M. It was fine weather but strong wind was blowing from the west at 60-70 km.p.h. The climbing consisted of an almost perpendicular ice wall and a knife-edged ridge. After many technical difficulties they stood on the summit at 2:03 P.M., showing to the world the national flag of Nepal as well as that of Japan, and came back to camp in safety at 6:30. On May 5 Yukihiko Kato and Makato Takashima stood on the summit at 9:30 A.M. and in succession Masahito Akiyama, Dr. Yoshikazu Ishida and Deputy Leader Mitsuri Nakano enjoyed the summit at 11:30. This means all members except Leader Takahashi succeeded in reaching the summit. Takahashi was staying at Camp VI then. From the summit we could command a view to Gosainthan to north, Everest to east and Langtang Lirung to west.

AKIRA TAKAHASHI, *Federation of All Japan Mountaineering Unions*

Mukut Himal and Churen Himal. The Nihon University Expedition started from Pokhara on April 11 for the northwest of Dhaulagiri. We planned for about 100 days, using successively porters, mules and yaks for transport. The party consisted of four members, S. Ishizaka, Z. Hirayama, Y. Kumagai and T. Miyahara, five Sherpas under the sirdar Ang Temba, and a Nepali liaison officer, B. Roka. We arrived in Tukuche after one week. Until April 19 we acclimatized at Dambush Pass and Hidden Valley and climbed Dambush Peak (19,935 feet); then we made three more camps near the Mukut Himal. Hirayama, Miyahara and I and two Sherpas, Ang Temba and Ang Dawa, reached the highest point of the Mukut Himal, Hangde (6600 meters or 21,654 feet by our calculations) on May 8. As we returned, we climbed three other peaks of 6000 meters (one of them a second ascent for it had been climbed by the American expedition in 1959). (See *AAJ* 1961, 12:2, pp. 249-262. This

last peak is "Tongu Peak" ca. 20,500 feet.—*Editor.*) The two first ascents were of P6265 (20,554 feet), three miles east of Tongu on May 10 by Miyahara and me and of P6025 (19,767 feet), one mile northeast of Dambush Peak, on May 14 by Hirayama, Kumagai and Ang Dawa. On May 15 we came back to Tukuche and prepared to follow the course of the Kali Gandaki and Kehalungpa rivers. We reached the high pass (Mu La, 18,537 feet) but found the snow so deep that even the yaks could not cross. That day, May 26, we left all our baggage there and crossed to Mukutgaon to make arrangements for new yaks. After five days we reached Kakkotgaon in the Barbung Khola to climb in the Churen Himal. After three days we set up an advance camp at 15,000 feet. We made two more camps but came down after reconnaissance because of monsoon storms and shortage of time. There Hirayama and Ang Temba climbed Kantokal (ca. 21,325 feet), just north of Putha Hiunchuli on June 7. The return journey began on June 10. We crossed the Jang-La-Bhanjyang pass (14,272 feet) and reached Pokhara via Dhorpatan on July 1.

SHOJIRO ISHIZAKA, *Nippon University Alpine Club*

Reconnaissance of Dhaula IV (Dhaulagiri IV). Our small expedition, consisting of James Roberts, four Sherpa porters and a liaison officer, left Pokhara with 20 Tamang porters on September 10. Rain fell daily. Marching past Baglung and Beni and thence up the Mayandi Khola, we reached the small village of Lumsum on September 16. The weather remained fairly fine for the next four days. On the 17th we crossed a pass of about 10,700 feet and on the 18th arrived at the large village of Gurjakhani (8500 feet). Reconnaissance on the 19th and 20th north of Gurjakhana were inconclusive and served only to show that the existing survey map sheet was most inaccurate. The monsoon was active again until September 26. We left Gurjakhani on the 27th with 23 local porters and established a first base camp the following day at 13,800 feet. We reconnoitered from there and from other camps until October 5, on which date a proper base camp was finally chosen at about 13,700 feet by the side of a river flowing down from Dhaula IV towards the Ghustung Khola. Meanwhile we had penetrated to a height of 16,000 feet on the glaciers and icefalls descending from the southwest side of Dhaula IV. The outlook was not promising as all lines of ascent appeared to be heavily overhung by ice cliffs, liable to avalanche. To gain a more distant view of the mountains two Sherpas and I climbed a peak of about 19,000 feet immediately south of Putha Hiunchuli on October 9, after camping at 15,600 and 17,500 feet. As a result of views obtained during this ascent it was decided to

continue with a limited attempt on Dhuala IV, which could be expanded into an all-out attempt should favorable progress be made despite the unpromising appearance of the lower part of the mountain. Camps were established as follows on the southwest approaches to Dhuala IV: Camp I, 15,700 feet, October 13; Camp II, 17,700 feet, October 18; Camp III, 19,200 feet. On the 20th an enormous ice avalanche swept the route between Camps I and II, confirming the dangers of this route, the only feasible one on the mountain. Although a dump of equipment was lost, we decided to persevere. On October 22 Nawang Dorje, Ang Pema and I climbed a 21,200-foot peak to the immediate west of Peak 23,539 feet ("Gurja Himal"), for which the name of Ghustung Himal is proposed. On the 23rd these two Sherpas climbed to about 21,000 feet along the route to the summit of Dhuala IV. Watching progress from below, however, I saw that the way lay under ice cliffs and in view of the avalanche of the 20th decided that the route had to be judged unjustifiable under the prevailing conditions. On the 24th I descended with the two Sherpas to Camp I. That day the remainder of the party, Mingma Tsering, Pemba Tenzing and Angchering (L.O.), climbed Ghustung Himal. Base Camp was reached on October 25, Dhorpatan on November 7 and Pokhara on the 16th. Dhuala IV is climbable by a strong party by the route discovered and H.M. Government of Nepal has granted provisional permission for a U.K. expedition to this mountain in the autumn of 1964.

JAMES O. M. ROBERTS, *Alpine Club*

Dhaulagiri II. A South Korean expedition of five climbers reconnoitered Dhaulagiri II but did not get far.

Nilgiri. The Netherlands Himalayan Expedition, led by myself with Dr. T. de Booy as deputy, further consisted of the following Dutchmen: Dr. J. W. A. Bodernhousen, H. J. Nijhuis, Dr. G. Schaar, (all heretofore mentioned are geologists), Dr. A. Tammes, surgeon, and P., P. F. J., and H. C. van Lookeren Campagne. The climbing team was led by our famous French friend Lionel Terray. This team worked with 10 Sherpas and 150 porters. After flying from Kathmandu to Pokhara, Nilgiri ("Blue Mountain") (23,071 feet) was reached via the Kali Gandaki gorge. On October 1 a general Base Camp was established near the village of Jomosom, north of Tukuche. After a brief reconnaissance, it was decided to attack from the north, via the north face and west ridge. On October 6 an alpine base was established at the foot of the mountain at 13,500 feet, on the 7th Camp I at 17,700 feet and on the 10th Camp II at 19,350 feet on a promontory which stands out from the face of the mountain. From here the two summit parties took time preparing the route to the west ridge

for the Sherpas. On October 18 Camp III was established on the ridge at 21,000 feet and on the 19th the summit was reached by Terray, the three van Lookeren Campagne brothers and Sirdar Wongdhi. Our only bad luck was de Booy's bronchitis, which prevented his going to the summit. The geological party made a reconnaissance of the Thakola region, among other things establishing the stratigraphy of the Tibetan series.

C. G. EGELER, *University of Amsterdam*

Langtang Himal. A British expedition visited the Langtang Himal for botanical and mountaineering reasons. Led by Viscount Glentworth, they were joined at least for some of the time by Alfred Gregory and Colonel Charles Wylie. They attempted several peaks and climbed a twenty thousander.

Tashi Lapcha. B. K. Sthapit and I. Bahadur established an all-Nepalese expedition altitude record when they reached the summit of Tashi Lapcha (21,000 feet).

Kanjiroba Himal. A British all-woman expedition under the leadership of Countess Dorothea Gravina climbed the two highest peaks in the Kanjiroba Himal. The higher (22,000 feet) was provisionally named Pinnacle Peak after the club to which all six expedition members belong. Josephine Scarr and Barbara Spark with the Sherpas Norbu and Mingma Tsering made the first ascent on May 14, and Dr. Nancy Smith and Patricia Wood climbed to the summit the next day with two other Sherpas. They also climbed a hitherto unnamed and unclimbed peak, the highest in the Jagdula Himal. Denise Evans was also a member of the party.

India

Indrasan, Punjab. The Kyoto University Punjab Himalaya Expedition consisted of Professor of Biochemistry Konoshin Onodera, leader, Toshiaki Sakai, deputy leader, and the students Yoshitsugi Omori, Kojiro Tomita, Jiro Tanaka, Yasumasa Miyaki and Tokyo Iwase. Sakai, a graduate student of geography, had climbed Noshag (24,574 feet) in the Hindu Kush in 1960. The Sherpas were Dawa Thondup, Lhakpa Tsering and Gyndin. We arrived by train at Pathankot at the beginning of September and traveled to Kulu by bus, and from Bhuntar to Jari by mule caravan. We then ascended the Malana valley with 40 coolies. After a three-day march, on September 17 we established Base Camp at 12,500 feet on the right bank of the Malana river, two miles below the snout of the Malana glacier. This glacier was badly crevassed. Camp I at 14,750 feet was a mile and a half below the icefall, which was 2300 feet in height, and Camp II at 17,400 feet at its upper edge. Camp III was on the Malana névé. Tomita and Miyaki made the first ascent of Indrasan (20,410 feet) on October

13, reaching the summit at 4:30 P.M. after a 12-hour climb on steep rock and ice on the southwest face. They bivouacked in the snow at 20,175 feet and returned to Camp III at 3 P.M. on the 14th. The sixth ascent of Deo Tibba (19,687 feet) was also made on October 13 by Omori, Tanaka and Iwase with the Sherpa Gyndin.

KONOSHIN ONODERA, *Kyoto University Alpine Club*

Climbs in 1961. Omitted from the previous *Journal* were the accounts of several expeditions in 1961, two of them in the Bara Shigri area: J. P. Lynam and three other climbers in August ascended a 21,710-foot peak at the head of the Bara Shigri Glacier by the difficult northwest snow and ice face and the west ridge; the English ladies, Josephine Scarr and Barbara Spark climbed several peaks in this area in October, the highest being Central Peak (20,600 feet). A seven-man Indian party, led by P. Chaudhuri, climbed in Garhwal. On October 20, P. Singh made the first ascent of 21,690-foot Nandakhat.

Leo Pargiyal, Punjab. The leader of an Indian Armed Forces expedition to Leo Pargiyal (22,210 feet), Captain P. S. Bakshi, the veteran sirdar Gyalzen Mikchung, who had recently made the first ascent of Jannu with the French, and the young Sherpa Karma Wanchoo fell to their death on June 20. With Captain J. N. Wadhwa, they had reconnoitered the route from Camp I at 19,000 feet to a proposed site for Camp II at 21,200 feet. Dissatisfied with the route they had taken on the way up, they were trying another on the descent when mists closed in. A slip occurred and all plunged 1000 feet; only Captain Wadhwa survived. The other members of the expedition were Lieutenants Bhargva and H. V. Bahuguna and Captain Sharma.

Mana Peak and Nilgiri Parbat, Garhwal. An Indian expedition, led by Captain Jagjit Singh, failed to climb Mana Peak (23,860 feet) in the post-monsoon period. Another Indian expedition climbed Nilgiri Parbat (21,240 feet) (first ascent in 1937 by Frank Smythe and two Sherpas) but the party suffered severe frostbite. Further details are lacking.

Pakistan

Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face. Another expedition led by Dr. Karl M. Herrligkoffer returned to and climbed the 13,000-foot-high Diamir (northwest) face of Nanga Parbat (26,600 feet), where they had made a brilliant reconnaissance to 23,450 feet in 1961. (See *AAJ* 1962, 13:1, pp. 280-1.) This was a new route and the second ascent of Nanga Parbat, first climbed by Hermann Buhl on June 3, 1953. The climbers followed the route reconnoitered the year before. After establishing Base Camp at 13,800 feet on May 28, they advanced to Camp I at 16,400 feet three

days later. For 3300 feet above, there was no spot where camp was possible on the technically difficult and avalanche-swept ice slope. Camp II was pitched at 19,700 feet on June 8, but stocking this camp prevented until June 17 their ascent up only slightly less difficult ice to Camp III at 21,650 feet. On June 20 they continued another 1000 feet upwards before traversing onto the somewhat gentler slopes of the Bazhin Glacier to set up Camp IV at 23,300 feet, really more of a bivouac without sleeping bags and air mattresses. Some 2300 feet above them at 25,630 feet lay Bazhin Col, where their route joined Buhl's. After a day of storm, at one A.M. on June 22 Toni Kinshofer, Siegfried Löw, Anderl Mannhardt and Manfred Sturm left for the summit, leaving Michl Anderl in support. Sturm soon fell behind and had to return, but the other three kept on, without oxygen. Above the col, which they reached at nine A.M., they had unpleasant, *verglas*-covered rock. At the Great Tower there were two rope-lengths of Class V climbing. A cornice later broke under Löw, but his companions held his fall. Then the climbing became easier and at five P.M. they reached the summit. Löw, whose feet were already numb with frost-bite and who was feeling weak as the effect of his pervitin pills began to wear off, suffered especially in the bivouac 250 feet below the summit. The next morning, after passing the Great Tower, they unroped and started climbing downward more directly than on the ascent. Löw lagged behind and while Kinshofer was climbing back up towards him, fell past and out onto the glacier. Badly hurt, he was cared for by Kinshofer while Mannhardt hurried down past empty Camp IV to Camp III for help. When Löw died at 8:30 P.M., Kinshofer staggered on downward but fell exhausted into the snow for the night and reached Camp III only the next morning. With his companions he continued on to Camp II for the night and descended to Base Camp the day after. Other members of the party were Rudolf Marek and Hubert Schmiedbauer.

Saltoro Kangri. The Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto, Kyoto University, sent an expedition under the leadership of Dr. Tsunahiko Shidei to join the Korakoram Club of Pakistan. Taian Kato, Dr. Kazuhiko Hayashi, Dr. Atsuo Saito, Kazumasa Hirai, Yatuka Tani, Goro Iwatsubo, Yasuo Takamura, Schoichiro Uyeo and Tadashi Maegoya were the Japanese members. Professor H. A. Beg was the leader and H. A. Khan, R. Bashir and P. A. Khan were the members of the Pakistani group. Captain B. A. Bashir was liaison officer. Leaving Skardu at the end of May, we placed Base Camp near Ali Branza at the head of the Bilafond Glacier. It took more than 20 days to cross the Bilafond La (18,000 feet) and to set up Advance Base Camp at the junction of the Siachen and the Peak 36 glaciers, aided by ten high-altitude porters and thirty local men. Camp I in the Peak 36 Glacier and Camp II at the foot of the north wall of Saltoro Kangri were

established by the beginning of July. We started climbing in mid-July, and Camps III, IV and V were set up at 20,000, 21,500 and 23,650 feet respectively. Following the route which was taken by Sir John Hunt in 1935, we used some rope ladders on ice walls just below Camp III. We had much bad weather and snowfall there, and the Japanese snowshoes were very helpful in the steep, deep snow. The assault team, Dr. Saito, Takamura and R. Bashir, left Camp V for the summit early on July 23. They did not have great difficulties, but the continuous slope of deep snow did not allow them to reach the summit that day. At 24,500 feet near the "Gendarme" and about one mile from the top, they had to spend the night in a bivouac sack without sleeping bags and mattresses. It was also fine on the 24th and they started again at 2:30 A.M. After seven hours of struggling with deep snow, they climbed a shallow ice gully which led to the final ridge and at last trod the summit at 10:45. They radioed the news from the summit to all other members and descended to Camp V on the same evening to join their support party.

DR. TSUNAHIKO SHIDEI, *Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto*

Tirich Mir. Two expeditions attempted Tirich Mir (25,267 feet) last summer. First, the German Fritz Stammberger, climbing alone, established a series of camps and had reached possibly 20,000 feet when he was caught in an avalanche from which he emerged with minor head and face injuries. Upon his return to Base Camp, he fortunately met with the incoming American party of Felix Knauth, Peter Newell and Bill Bartlett, M.D., from whom he received treatment. The Americans used three weeks and a half dozen excellent local porters to establish camps to 20,000 feet by a different route. At their highest camp at 21,500 feet, five days of snow pinned them down and the consequent severe avalanche danger forced retreat.

FELIX K. KNAUTH

Khinyang Chhish. The British-Pakistani Karakoram Expedition, under the joint leadership of Major E. James E. Mills and Captain Jawed Akhter, had overcome the greatest obstacles on the route up the southeast side of Kkinyang Chhish (25,762 feet) above the Hispar Glacier. They appeared to have few difficulties left before reaching the summit. On July 18 Major Mills and Captain M. R. F. Jones were preparing the route along a snow ridge at about 20,000 feet when the snow avalanched and dropped them 5000 feet below to the Pumarikish Glacier to their death.

Indus Kohistan. I visited Swat and Indus Kohistan between August 15 and September 10. Although the Swat valley is relatively well frequented,

Indus Kohistan is almost entirely unknown. There, it is possible to find the odd corner where the Westerner is still a stranger and where the people and their way of life seem to belong to a former age; and where unsuspected valleys and mountains lie, waiting to be explored and climbed. Falak Ser (19,415 feet) first climbed by Tyndale-Biscoe and A. Berry in 1957 (see *New Zealand Alpine Journal*, 1958) had always been regarded as the highest mountain in the area. Travelling south of this mountain and crossing the Paloga divide, I entered Kandia (Indus Kohistan) and discovered a quite unsuspected group called locally the Siri Dara. They comprise over a dozen peaks rising from a 15-square-mile plateau at about 15,000 feet. The height of the peaks appeared to be from 18,500 to over 20,000 feet. Unfortunately I did not have the time to overcome the main obstacle barring entry to the plateau, an icefall 4500 feet high and about four miles wide, one of the most impressive I have seen. There is a wealth of surveying and climbing to be done. From a 17,000-foot peak, situated about seven miles northeast of the Siri Dara along the Swat-Kandia divide, I was able to study the group in perspective; and I could see that my route up the icefall had fallen about 500 feet short of the plateau. Indus Kohistan, which contains some of the wildest and most rugged country through which I have travelled, contrasts sharply with the verdant and fertile valleys of Swat. We returned to Swat by a short glacial route over a 15,000-foot pass from Kandia, locally called the Shohu Dara. As the journey was made mostly through Pathan tribal territory, an armed escort was provided. The porters, many of whom were militiamen, were cheerful, honest and tough; by virtue of their severe winters they are not afraid of snow and ice.

TREVOR H. BRAHAM, *Himalayan Club*

Theri Sar. Professor Ardito Desio led a geological expedition to the Hunza valley and Skardu area. Dr. Ercole Martina made the first ascent of Theri Sar (16,568 feet) by the north wall. The mountain was reached from Misgar village and Barah valley. (N. 36°45'30"—E. 74°46'00".)

PIETRO MECIANI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Afghanistan

Mandaras Ku, Hindu Kush. During August and September a Franco-Polish expedition explored a valley of the Hindu Kush previously untouched by climbers. They made the first ascent of three 20,000-foot peaks and one of more than 23,000 feet, Mandaras Ku. The French members of the party were J. Brunaud, M. Ginat, T. Langevin and F. Moreau.

Sikkim

Kangchenjau. The second ascent of this 22,603-foot peak was made in 1961 by the Indian S. Gyatso. It was first climbed in 1912 by Dr. A. M. Kellas but had repelled several other later attempts.

Koktang. An Indian Army expedition of five members made the first ascent of Koktang (20,990 feet), which lies south of Kangchenjunga. Major K. S. Rana, Captain K.P.S. Ahluwalia and two Sherpas reached the summit on April 26.

U.S.S.R.

British Soviet Pamirs Expedition. The British members of our party were Sir John Hunt, leader; Dr. Malcolm Slessor, deputy leader; George Lowe, Wilfrid Noyce, Ralph Jones, Derek Bull, Ian McNaught-Davis, Ted Wrangham, Dr. Graeme Nicol, Joe Brown, Ken Bryan and Robin Smith. The Russian climbers were Anatoli Ovchinnikov, leader; Eugene Gippenreiter, Sevastianov, Shalaev, Malakov and Alkhutov. Our operations were based on the Garmo, Vavivola and Belaev glaciers and our climbs were (1) Pic Garmo (21,830 feet) by Smith, Noyce, Ovchinnikov and Sevastianov on July 24 by the west ridge. Wrangham and Bull reached approximately 20,000 feet on the west ridge before having to turn back. Noyce and Smith were killed on the way down; (2) Pic Patriot (20,600 feet) on which McNaught-Davis, Slessor, Brown and Bryan reached the top camp at approximately 19,000 feet, from which two Russians, Malakhov and Alkhutov, went on to the summit on July 25. This was a new ascent on the west ridge; (3) Pic Concord (18,878 feet), the first ascent of which was made on July 21 by Hunt, Shalaev, Jones, Nicol and Gippenreiter. The climb was made by the west ridge. The name awaits approval by the Mountaineering Federation of the U.S.S.R.; and (4) Pic Communism (24,495 feet) by Ovchinnikov, Slessor, Brown, McNaught-Davis, Nicol, Malakov, Alkhutov and Gippenreiter on the south face and east ridge. (This was previously known as Pic Stalin.—*Editor.*)

JOHN HUNT

Soviet Ascents. Reports from Moscow indicate that Russian climbers continue to be active. One 21,650-foot peak in the Pamirs in Tadzhikistan was climbed for the first time and named for the cosmonaut Titov. Another mountain in the Tien Shan near Chinese Turkestan was climbed by four Siberians, who named it Pik Kosmanavtov (Cosmonaut Peak).