

which we followed for a half hour to get to the summit at 3:30 P.M. The descent took us back to a glacial basin and finally up the 100-meter rise to Camp III, where we arrived at nine P.M. Kloimstein and Vielkind and two of the Indian climbers made a second summit attempt but were driven back by bad weather. Most of the Indian members were not properly prepared for such a climb and had little chance for the summit.

GÜNTHER STEINMAIR, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Pakistan

K2 Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition was composed of Slovenes Dr. Damijan Meško, Viki Grošelj, Davo Karničar, Boštjan Kekec, Rado Nadvešnik, Zvonko Požgaj, Boris Sedej and me as leader, Croat Stipe Božić, Mexican Carlos Carsolio, Swede Göran Kropp and Briton David Sharman. On May 18, we left Skardu aboard nine jeeps and reached Askole the same afternoon where a small army of porters was waiting. The approach march went without a hitch. We got to Base Camp on the Godwin Austen Glacier at 5100 meters on May 25 and paid off the 160 porters. The next day, we set up Advance Base at 5450 meters at the foot of the Abruzzi Ridge. Camp I was established on May 27, at first two tents, one of which was later ruined by the wind. Despite bad weather, we set up Camp II and III at 6700 and 7250 meters on June 3 and 7. On June 10, an avalanche destroyed the tent at Camp III. Kropp and Sharman left the broken tent and retreated in the strong morning wind. That same day, Carsolio and Požgaj brought a new tent to 7300 meters. Because of the deep snow, they waited there for Božić and Grošelj and spent the day digging a snow cave. On June 12, all four plowed through the deep snow to the Shoulder and set up Camp IV at 7860 meters. Early on June 13, they set out for the summit in good weather but with deep snow. Kekec and Sedej left for Camp IV while Karničar and Nadvešnik improved the route below and above Camp III. At 12:50 P.M. the two top ropes reported that they were about 20 minutes from the summit and that they would continue despite rapidly worsening weather. Their orientation and timing were wrong. They reached the summit at four P.M. and immediately began the descent to Camp IV where Kekec and Sedej were waiting. Grošelj found the tent at seven o'clock and Požgaj at eight, while Božić and Carsolio had to bivouac somewhere on the Shoulder. They got to Camp IV at four A.M. The weather was deteriorating even more, but more worrying was the condition of Kekec, who was uncharacteristically fatigued. Grošelj and Carsolio were to descend to Camp III to report on conditions for the evacuation. The former reached Karničar and Nadvešnik at Camp III at noon but Carsolio did not arrive until ten P.M. The group at Camp IV postponed their descent until the following day while Kropp and Sharman left Base Camp with medicines and oxygen. In a lull in the storm on June 15, Božić, Sedej and Požgaj began the evacuation of Kekec, but he died soon after departure. The other three got to Camp III in the evening. The next day, their descent became even more precarious because

of Božić's snow blindness and Požgaj's frostbitten toes and fingers. By June 18, everyone was back in Base Camp. A memorial service for Kekec was held at the Gilkey Memorial. Požgaj's and Sedej's injuries indicated a helicopter evacuation, which took place on the 20th. Only Kropp and Sharman were determined to have another go for the summit. Karničar wanted to try, at least partly, his ambitious plan and to ski, if not from the summit, at least from the Shoulder. He had previously left his skis just below the Shoulder. On June 22, while Kropp and Sharman were climbing to Camp IV, he suffered a deep disappointment. His skis had disappeared, doubtless blown away by the wind. He returned to Base Camp. At two A.M. on June 23, Kropp and Sharman left Camp IV for the summit. With crampon problems, Sharman lagged behind, slipped and took a little fall. He descended. Kropp got to the summit at eleven A.M. Just as before, the weather changed around noon. He too had crampon problems and experienced a dangerous fall before getting to Camp IV, where he spent the night. His descent was also difficult. After a bivouac about 500 meters from Base Camp, he reached Base Camp on the morning of June 25, a day after Sharman, who also had had to bivouac when he could not find Advance Base. The remaining climbers left Base Camp on June 30 with 50 porters. We used no bottled oxygen and had no high-altitude porters. This was the 10th 8000er for Grošelj. We Slovenes have now climbed 13 of the 8000ers.

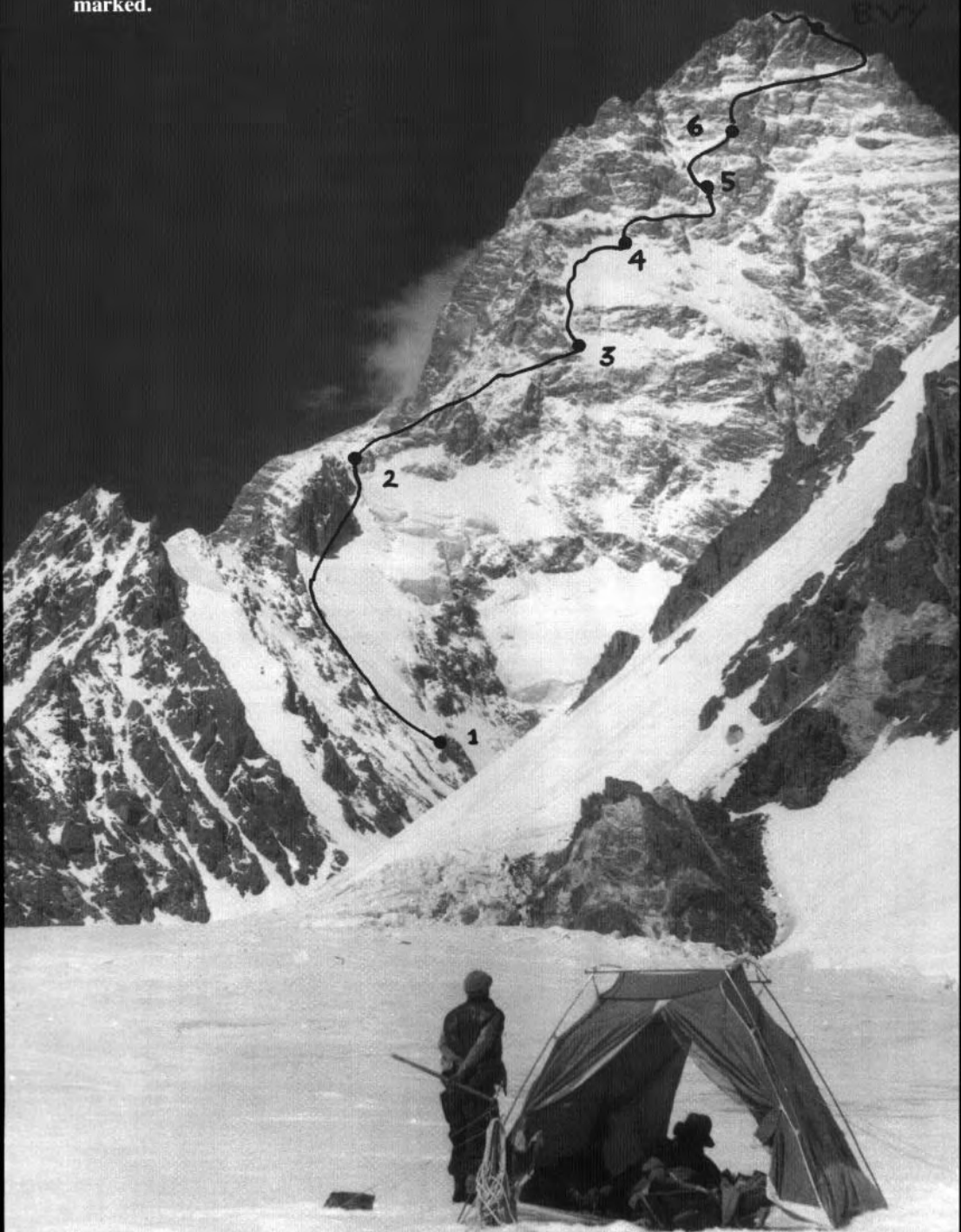
TOMAŽ JAMNIK, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

K2, via West Ridge. Our international expedition was led by Englishman Jonathan Pratt and me from the United States. We made the second ascent of the west ridge, which was first climbed in 1981 by Japanese Eiho Ohtani and Pakistani Nazir Sabir of the Waseda University expedition. Our members were Americans Greg Mortenson, Rob Allen, Scott Darsney, British Andrew Collins, Andrew Mayers, John Wakefield, Frenchman Etienne Fine, Canadian John Arnold, Welshman Dean James and Irishman Mike O'Shea. We established Base Camp, Advance Base, Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 4900, 5200, 5800, 6500, 6900, 7500 and 7800 meters on June 24, July 2, 3, 7, 12, 28 and August 16. We fixed 4000 meters of rope between 5700 and 7600 meters. A storm destroyed Camp II on July 15. On July 20, an avalanche hit Wakefield and Arnold below Camp I. Fine had to be rescued from Camp III on July 21 and again on August 2 from Camp IV with pulmonary edema. He also had frostbite this second time. He was evacuated by helicopter from Base Camp on August 5. On August 23, Wakefield had to be helicoptered out because of frostbite. On September 3, a sérac fall wiped out Base Camp. Late June and early July were very sunny, warm and calm. In late July and up until August 23, the weather was stormy, windy, cloudy with much snowfall. Late August and early September were sunny or partly cloudy with some light snow and wind, but generally good. On September 1, Pratt and I established a bivouac at 8200 meters. "Summit day" lasted for 31½ hours, from 6:30 A.M. on September 2 to two P.M. on September 3. I led first, placing and aiding on pitons to reach

PLATE 58

Photo by H. Adams Carter

K2 from the West. Camps are marked.



the "Magic Line" at 8350 meters. Pratt led from 8350 to 8550 meters on a steep, mixed section which was dangerous on the descent. We both led on the final section to the summit, which we reached at 11:30 P.M. For more than two hours we had traversed a long ridge which was not especially difficult and rather flat over a multitude of false summits. From the summit we could see the various ridges of K2 dropping away in all directions in the dim moonlight. After 20 seconds on top, enduring the biting wind and blowing snow, we hurried down to a bivouac at 8550 meters. During this rest on a ledge, Pratt fell off and narrowly escaped a death slide down the snow slope. Without a canister gas stove for frequent brew-ups, we could not have survived. We would not have succeeded without the powerful efforts of all team members in establishing camps, fixed lines, food caches and giving real partnership. Both Pratt and I have been to the summit of Everest. Pratt is the first Briton to have climbed K2 and survived the descent.

DANIEL MAZUR

K2 Attempt. Peter Arbic, Troy Kirwan and I arrived at Base Camp on June 20. We wanted to climb the south-southwest ridge of K2, the "Magic Line," ascended by the Poles Wróż and Piasecki and Czech Božik in 1986. Starting on June 29, in three days we climbed to the Negrotto Col and returned to Base Camp. July 4 marked the beginning of the start of one of the two perfect four-day highs. We climbed the 1000-meter gully to the col in the dark when it was frozen. On July 6, we reached a point 400 meters above the col on perfect granite, where we had to throw aside caving ladders left by previous parties to get at the rock. The next morning, we were back in Base Camp, ready for an attempt with the next good weather. We heard by radio that Powers, Haberl and Culver had made it to the summit and later learned that Culver had fallen to his death on the descent. Storms continued. On July 13 and 14, climbable days sucked us up to the col and into another storm. Feeling we would need six days of good weather to complete the "Magic Line," we switched to the 1986 Kukuczka-Piotrowski south-face route. After moving a cache up on July 22, on July 27 we climbed to 6000 meters. The next day, we confronted a dangerous sérac barrier and decided to climb to Česen's south spur via the traverse done by Afanassief and Seigneur. A half hour later, we were on the south spur. We continued on to bivouac in a crevasse at 6900 meters. The next day, Arbic and I slogged upward whilst Kirwin descended fixed lines on the Abruzzi Ridge with a headache. Arbic and I pitched our tent at 7900 meters just below the Shoulder. The next day, we staggered to 8000 meters on the Shoulder but decided to retreat down the Abruzzi. We helped rescue Jensen. August weather was disgusting. On August 14, we shot up to Camp II on the Abruzzi. Arbic made it to Camp III, but we all retreated in storm. We pulled the plug on August 26, after 68 days in or above Base Camp.

BARRY BLANCHARD, *Alpine Club of Canada*

K2 Attempt, Rescue, Recovery of Bodies of Long-Lost Climbers and Micro-Hydroelectric Project. Our members were my wife Julie-Ann Clyma, Alan Hinkes, Victor Saunders and I as leader. We arrived at Base Camp on June 30 and made rapid progress on the Abruzzi Spur. On the very first foray, Saunders and Hinkes carried a tent to 6500 meters. My wife and I established Camps I and II at 6180 and 6740 meters on July 6 and 7. Bad weather started on July 8. Because of very strong winds, it was not possible to reach Camp III until the 30th when a snow cave was dug at 7350 meters. We had also carried tents, food and fuel to establish the final camp on the Shoulder at 8000 meters but at that stage, we became entangled with tragedy. Following a summit bid from two other expeditions and the subsequent death of three climbers, Rafael Jensen from the Swedish expedition was exhausted and frostbitten. Hinkes and Saunders helped him down from 7600 meters to the snow cave, where my wife and I looked after him overnight. The next day, in very poor weather, we two helped the injured climber by lowering him down the old fixed ropes on the route. This caused a heart-stopping moment when one of the fixed ropes snapped with the Swede and me attached. Fortunately everyone got down without further incident. At this stage, we made two unusual discoveries. Close to Base Camp, old clothes and bones were positively identified as being those of Art Gilkey, who had been swept away in an avalanche almost exactly 40 years earlier in the 1953 expedition. Also amongst the Base Camp tents a few scraps of bones and clothing were found and thought to be from the 1939 expedition when Dudley Wolfe and three Sherpas disappeared. These were later identified as probably being the remains of Pasang Kitar Sherpa. Strong winds and daily snowfall kept us in Base Camp until August 13. After setting off from Base, the fine weather lasted less than 18 hours and we were trapped by a blizzard at Camp II. On August 19 and in very strong winds we set off for Camp III, where we found extreme avalanche potential and our snow cave buried under six feet of fresh snow. We were lucky to retrieve our equipment and descended in darkness to Camp II. We cleared the mountain on the 20th. As part of a two-year project supported by Eastern Electricity (of England), we oversaw the installation of a second micro-hydroelectricity project at one of the villages passed on the approach to Base Camp. These installations were requested by two villages and carried out by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, a development charity in northern Pakistan. They are seen as having a positive impact on local living standards and on the local environment.

ROGER PAYNE, *Alpine Club*

K2 Attempt via the South Spur. Our expedition which attempted the south spur of K2 was composed of Jordi Anglés, Jordi Badiella, Toni Bros, Jordi Cañameras, Josep Cañellas, Lluís Capdevila, Andrià Font, Jordi Latorre, Jaume Matas, Francesc Zamora, Francesc Zapater and me as leader. We got to Base Camp on July 1 after seven days of march. We set out for the south spur on July 3, fixing rope up to 6200 meters. Not finding an adequate camp site higher, we

placed Camp I at 5500 meters on the 8th. On July 20, we had overcome the most difficult part (UIAA IV and V, 60°–70° ice) and dug an ice shelf for Camp II at 6450 meters. To increase the capacity of the camp, we placed another tent at 6550 meters on July 28. On July 30, along with three Canadians who were attempting the Kukuczka route, we climbed to a crevasse at 7000 meters, where we pitched Camp III. From August 1 to 20, the weather stayed bad. On both August 22 and 23, two groups of four left Base Camp. Four bivouacked at Camp III and climbed toward the Shoulder but had to turn back at 7200 meters. We abandoned the climb on August 26.

JOSEP ACED, *Centre Excursionista de Terrassa, Spain*

K2 Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition consisted of Americans Stacy Allison (f), leader, John Petroske, Steve Steckmyer and me and Canadians Dan Culver, Jim Haberl and Dr. John Haigh. We arrived in Base Camp on June 6. The Slovene team was already on the Abruzzi Ridge working toward Camp III at 7350 meters. We established Advance Base on June 8 and Camp I and II at 6100 and 6700 meters on June 10 and 13. Culver, Haberl and I had become a climbing team and led the way to each new camp. On the 21st, we set up Camp III. All were acclimatizing well except for Steckmyer, who fought a virus most of the trip. It stormed intermittently for the next 11 days. Dan and I made our way to the snow cave at Camp III during that period, but our cave and wands marking it were well buried by snow and we could not locate it by nightfall. We descended in darkness to Base Camp. Jim had turned around en route to Camp III because he was getting too tired. At one A.M. on July 4, in marginal but hopefully clearing weather, Culver, Haberl and I began our summit bid. We reached Camp II that day and Camp III on the next. We spent hours moving huge amounts of snow to find our cave, buried under eight feet of snow. On June 6, we moved to 8000 meters, carrying two tents, sleeping bags and 200 bamboo tomato stakes to mark the route. Dan began brewing at midnight. Dan and Jim left at 2:30 A.M. on July 7 to break trail. I left at 3:15, catching them at four o'clock. Because the Bottleneck was deep in snow and looked easy, we did not take a rope. It was frigid until dawn. We took a break to warm up when the sun came up. I broke trail the rest of the way to the summit in knee-deep snow. The Bottleneck was easy except for a bit of sugar snow around the rocks. There and in some spots on the traverse, the snow was up to my thighs. As we climbed, the distance between the three of us lengthened, but we were always in sight and earshot. I reached the summit at 2:56 P.M. I radioed, "Anyone who's monitoring, this is Phil calling from the summit." All of the six expeditions now on the mountain began shouting into their radios. Later, Stacy Allison came in from Camp IV where she, John Petroske and John Haigh had just arrived. Rather than wait on the summit for Jim and Dan, who were now one and two hours behind me respectively, I began my descent after 25 minutes. As I passed Jim, we agreed he would be down before dark, but we were worried about Dan's slow pace. When I reached Dan, he was on the ridge. I told him that it

had taken me over an hour to reach the summit from where he was and that he might not reach the top till dusk. Yet he was determined. We gave each other a big hug. That was the last time I saw Dan Culver. I continued the descent at a good pace. Facing out through the Bottleneck, I noticed again that the snow was variable there: some windslab, some depth hoar, some rock under shallow snow. The last few hundred meters to camp were boilerplate snow and ice. I got to Camp IV at five P.M. At a little after six o'clock, I looked up to see Jim and Dan crossing the traverse above the Bottleneck. They had become the first Canadians to climb K2 and were making good time on the descent. (Jim had waited on the summit for Dan and so there is no doubt of his having climbed to the top.) A few minutes later, we heard Jim yell for help. We could see him below the Bottleneck, still 40 minutes from camp. Dan was not in sight. Stacy Allison, Petroske and Haigh left to go to Jim's aid. I stayed in Camp. The only sign of Dan that they could find was his hat and giant dents in the snow that he had made as he cartwheeled off the south face. Jim said that he was about 100 meters below Dan and he had looked up minutes before the accident to see Dan at the top of the Bottleneck. Jim then heard a noise and looked up again. It was Dan falling toward him. He went by Jim at a distance, flying many feet in the air between contacts with the snow and ice. Since no one saw him fall, we can only speculate on what caused it. He may have slipped or tripped. It is unlikely that he was hit by falling ice. It might have been from fatigue or mountain sickness. His ice axe was found in the Bottleneck by a summit party later in the month. The next morning, we began our descent at six A.M. in a brutal storm. Had we not placed wands every 60 feet between Camps IV and III, we should not have been able to find our way. Petroske and Haberl stayed in Camp II that night, too tired to continue. The rest of us descended all the way to Base Camp. We called Dan's wife Patti by satellite phone from the Dutch Base Camp and told her the sad news. While we waited for the porters, we cleaned up about one ton of garbage from Base Camp. We burned three quarters of that and paid ten porters to carry the metals out to Skardu, where they were recycled.

PHILIP POWERS

K2, Ascents by Germans, a Kirghiz, an Australian and Swedes and Deaths on the Descent. The Northlight Expedition was led by German Reinmar Joswig and further composed of Germans Peter Mezger and Ernst Eberhardt, Kirghiz Anatoli Bukreev and Australian Andrew Lock. They arrived a week late on July 6 at Base Camp. On July 20, they got for the first time to Camp III but had to descend to Base Camp because of bad weather. They climbed on July 24 to Camp I and on the 25th to Camp II. Mezger found that a tent had been destroyed by the wind and most of his clothing and equipment had blown away. He began to descend, but on meeting with Eberhardt was encouraged to climb back up; he could be equipped by the others. That night all five slept at Camp II. The 26th was stormy. Eberhardt descended toward Base Camp and the other four

remained in camp. When the weather improved on the 27th, they worked upwards. By July 29, all four were established at Camp IV at 8000 meters, along with Rafael Jensen and Daniel Bidner, members of the Swedish expedition led by Magnus Nilsson. All six set out for the summit at four A.M. on July 30 in brilliant but cold weather. At ten A.M., Mezger reported by radio that he and Joswig were at the Bottleneck, fixing the 80-meter-long traverse with rope. A noon report told of bare ice and sugar snow on the traverse. They finally radioed at two P.M. that they had completed the traverse and had 250 or 300 meters left to climb. At 5:15, Mezger reported that he was on the summit. Bukreev had arrived at 4:30, Lock and Jensen got there at 5:30, Bidner and Joswig at eight P.M. They descended in the clear, moonlit night. Bukreev was back at Camp IV at eight P.M. and Lock shortly after him. Jensen left Bidner, who then had some problems in the dusk finding the route to the Bottleneck. At ten P.M., Jensen could see two headlamps below the summit, presumably Mezger's and Joswig's. After a while only one was visible. From somewhat below, Jensen shouted advice to Bidner on the best way down. When the two were finally together, Jensen found Bidner suffering from cerebral edema and helped him through the Bottleneck. Their progress was very slow since Bidner's condition was deteriorating. At four A.M., Jensen left Bidner below the Bottleneck to get help from Camp IV. Bidner was not moving and barely conscious. A short time later, Jensen observed Bidner falling off the mountain. At six A.M. on July 31, Jensen arrived at Camp IV alone. The three survivors, Jensen, Lock and Bukreev, waited until eleven o'clock, hoping for the appearance of the two Germans, Mezger and Joswig, who doubtless had fallen off the mountain on the descent, Mezger probably at the Bottleneck and Joswig higher. They then resumed the descent. Englishmen Alan Hinkes and Victor Saunders at Camp III were notified of the serious conditions of the three. They ascended toward Camp IV and then assisted the survivors back to Base Camp. Lock and Bukreev got there on August 1 and Jensen, escorted by Roger Payne and Julie Ann Clyma, on the 2nd. One of the fixed ropes broke under Payne's weight and he narrowly escaped. Jensen was evacuated by helicopter because of severe frostbite. The others walked back to Askole. (This report was put together from the diaries of my good friends Peter Mezger and Ernst Eberhardt and, supplemented by information supplied by the latter.) [Further details have also been added thanks to reports from Andrew Lock and the Swedes.]

PETER BARTEL, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

K2 Attempt. Our international team was led by Netherlander Wim Van Harskamp and further comprised Tim Styles, Matt Comesky, Michael Whitehead, Bob Schelfont and me. We established Base Camp at 5100 meters after a two-week delay caused by the customs over some previously shipped equipment. Having missed the "longer" good weather spells, we had only eleven days suitable for climbing during the 64 spent at the mountain. We set up Advance Base, Camps I, II and III at 5600, 6000, 6800 and 7400 meters.

Twice storms ripped out Camp II, which had to be reestablished. Following a two-day stay at Camp III, Styles and I were equipped and acclimatized for a summit attempt. Then, 19 days of storm kept everyone at Base Camp. On August 15, I ascended alone to Camp I and again descended in poor weather and high winds. We began our homeward journey on August 18.

JEFF LAKES, *Alpine Club of Canada*

K2 Correction. On page 305 of *AAJ*, 1993, I gave an incorrect simplified account of the famous slip held by Pete Schoening during the 1953 K2 attempt. Bell did not knock anyone over during his fall. He slid past Gilkey on the west and his rope doubled around other ropes extending from Gilkey across the slope to the east. This caused the five climbers to be pulled off and down the slope. One of the survivors, Dee Molenaar, is distressed that this event has been inaccurately described in nearly all published reports. He refers readers to *K2—The Savage Mountain* by Robert Bates and Charles Houston for correct details.

H. ADAMS CARTER

Broad Peak. Two Japanese expeditions successfully climbed Broad Peak by the normal route. Koji Sekine was the leader of one and Nima Temba Sherpa was the climbing leader. On July 21, Masakatsu Tamura, Nobuhiro Tsuji and porters Rajib Shah and Sarwar Khan reached the summit, followed on July 29 by Nima Temba solo. Osamu Tanabe was the leader of the seven-member Tokai Alpine Club team. Hampered by bad weather, they made two unsuccessful tries. Finally, on August 24, Tanabe, Takashi Nakamura, Kazuya Mino, Kenichi Uchida and Shinsuke Ezuka reached the summit, having bivouacked at 7600 meters. An Italian-German and an Italian expedition were successful. Of ten climbers led by Fausto De Stefani, on July 7 six reached the summit: Albert Brugger, Sergio De Leo, Tobias Heymann, Marco Bianchi, Christian Kunter and De Stefani, who with this climb has now completed the ascent of ten 8000ers. Sergio Martini led five Italians. He and Abele Blanc got to the summit. The following expeditions were not successful: 5 Americans led by Peter Cole; 5 Andorrans led by Gerald Olm Palmitjavila; 16 Koreans led by Hong Jung-Pyo; and 6 Mexicans led by Luis Martín Sánchez.

Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak). A Swiss expedition led by Norbert Joos climbed Gasherbrum I, three climbers getting to the summit. A 5-man Japanese expedition led by Osamu Funao attempted the north-face couloir on Gasherbrum I. They established Base Camp and Camps I, II and III at 5000, 5800, 6400 and 7100 meters on June 5, 7, 20 and July 19. On July 20, Funao and Keiji Nakamura made a try for the summit but were turned back by weather at 7450 meters. Unsuccessful were 20 Germans led by Peter Geyer and Spaniards Pedro Angulo, Josu Bereziartua and Paco Iriarte, who got to 7000 meters on the Messner route.

Gasherbrum II. An American-Polish-Scottish party climbed Gasherbrum II as appears below. On July 22, a Japanese expedition led by Yasunari Yamashita placed on the summit Iwao Ogasawara, Kazushige Obayashi, Masamichi Sato, Taro Tanigawa, Hiroshi Nagakubo and Yuichi Yoshida. Another Japanese expedition was led by Hirofumi Konishi. After Yasushi Yamanoi failed to climb the east face of Gasherbrum IV solo (see below), he joined the other three on Gasherbrum II. On July 31, Konishi, Yamanoi, Masafumi Todaka and Taeko Nagao (f) climbed to the summit. Five Koreans of a seven-member expedition led by Yi Seok-Jang reached the top. A large German expedition under the leadership of Hans Eitel placed four members onto the summit. Josep Barrachina, Alex Serra and leader Lluís Bancells of an eight-man Spanish expedition were successful in getting to the top, but a seven-member Spanish party led by José Javier Mutiloa failed to do so, getting to a high point of 7400 meters.

Gasherbrum II. An American expedition was jointly guided by Roger Gocking and Thor Kieser. In unstable weather, the top was reached by 12 of the 20 members. These were Gocking, Kieser and Clay Landon on July 21; Charles Mace, Robert Broshears and Scot Alan McPherson on July 22; Larry Hall and Poles Piotr Snopczyński and I on July 28; George Fuller and Connor Haugh on July 29; and Tony Tonsing on July 31. After a night at Camp I at 6000 meters, my group was trapped for four days in Camp III at 6900 meters and a further two days in Camp IV at 7400 meters. When the skies cleared, we reached the top. Strong military units remain high in the mountains. The military camps are supplied by caravans of horses, mules and donkeys, which, along with the numerous expeditions, are degenerating the natural milieu of the mountains. A striking example is Payu, a few years ago a green oasis with trees, shrubbery and grass slopes. It is now a deplorable desert with stubs of trees devastated by fire. Along the Baltoro valley runs a telephone line and a broad track of litter, excrement, packages, cans, stinking horse cadavers. Added to this picture are groups of soldiers with helicopters hovering over the valley, making a depressing view of what was one of the world's most impressive landscapes. Neither the Pakistani Army nor the expeditions seem to make efforts to remove trash from this unique valley.

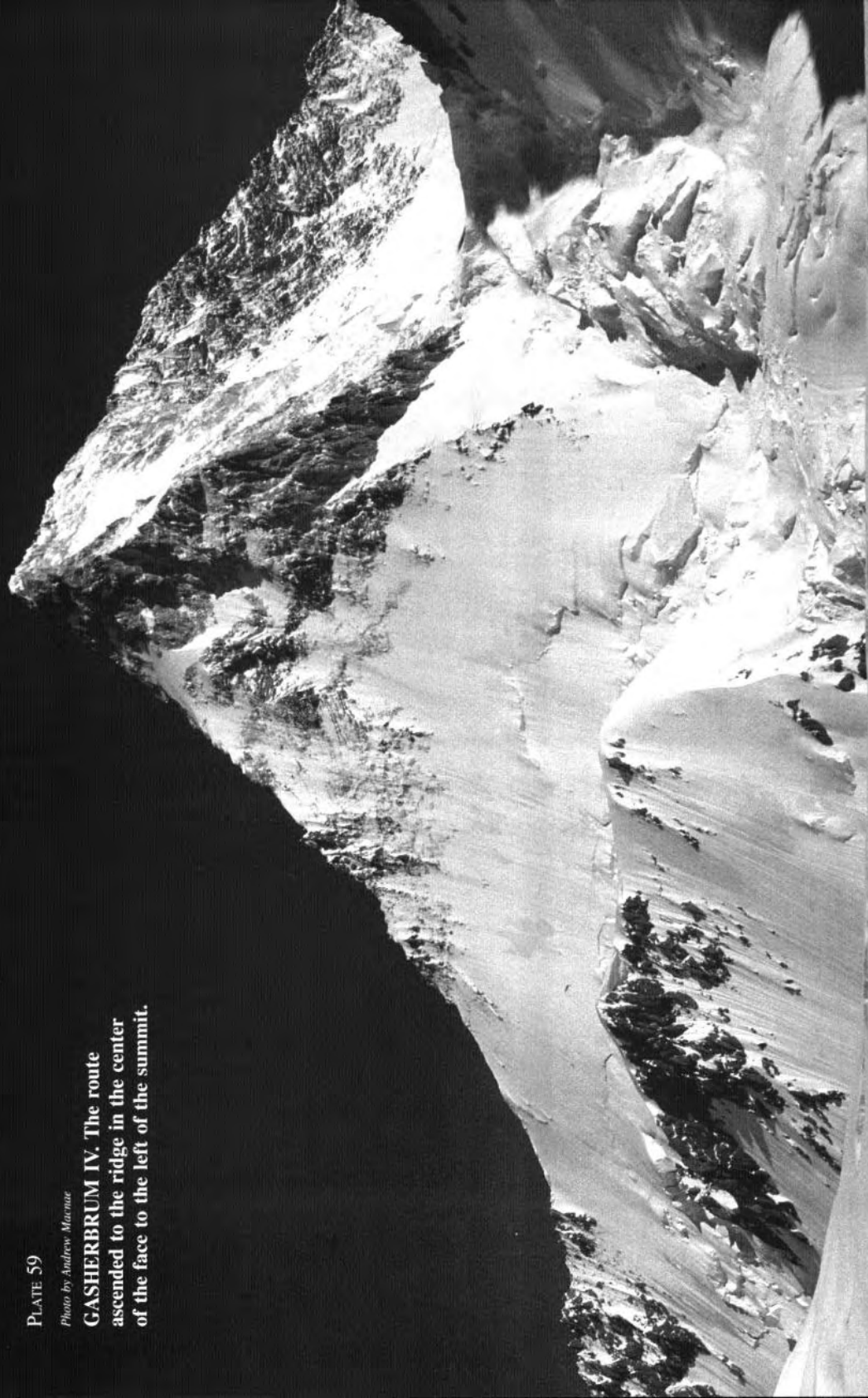
ALEKSANDER LWOW, *Poland*

Gasherbrum IV Attempt. Our team consisted of Andy Perkins, Andy Cave, Kate Phillips, Chris Flewitt, Brendan Murphy and me as leader. We reached Base Camp on the South Gasherbrum Glacier on June 25. Base Camp and Camp I at 6000 meters were shared with multiple Gasherbrum I and II teams. Our original intention had been to attempt the south ridge, tried by British expeditions in 1986 and 1988, but inspection showed that the American south-face, south-ridge line of 1992 was more feasible. We established Camp

PLATE 59

Photo by Andrew Macnair

GASHERBRUM IV. The route
ascended to the ridge in the center
of the face to the left of the summit.



II at 6500 meters on July 3. Unfortunately, from then on the weather was continuously unsettled with some heavy storms. Although only three-and-a-half days of actual climbing were required to reach the ridge at 7300 meters, this effort was spread out over the next 30 days. On their sixth foray, Kate Phillips and Brendan Murphy reached the high point of 7300 meters on August 1 but very high winds prevented their camping at that height. They confirmed that the ridge section above there as far as the headwall at 7600 meters was quite straightforward, but the headwall looked hard with no obvious weakness. On August 2, storms rolled in and so we cleared the camps and left Base Camp on August 5.

ANDREW MACNAE, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Gasherbrum IV, Solo East Face Attempt. Having traveled to Base Camp with the Japanese expedition led by Hirofumi Konishi, Yasushi Yamanoi began solo on July 6 at night to climb the east face of Gasherbrum IV. In the icefall below the Italian col, he was carried down 80 meters by an avalanche but was unhurt. The next day, he set out again and reached the foot of the east face at ten P.M. On July 8, he climbed soft snow and smooth rock to 7000 meters, where it began to snow. He then retired and joined the others to climb Gasherbrum II. More details and a photograph appear in *Iwa To Yuki* of December, 1993.

Gasherbrum IV 1992 Correction. On page 253 of *AAJ, 1993*, it incorrectly states that Gasherbrum IV had been attempted by the northwest ridge. The route actually attempted by the 1992 American expedition was the south face to the south ridge.

Chogolisa Attempt. José Bermúdez, Jerry Lovatt, Grant Dixon, Robert Parker and I hoped to climb Chogolisa (7668 meters, 25,158 feet). Parker had to leave on August 1 because of illness. We wanted to make the second ascent of the 1986 British route. This is approached from the East Vigne Glacier and ascends a north-facing slope to the 6800-meter col between Chogolisa and Prupuo Barakha. From there we would have followed the 1975 Austrian first-ascent route to the top. We walked from Hushe to Base Camp with 45 porters in six days. Previous bad weather made conditions on the Gondokoro La (5650 meters) more dangerous than usual. A porter broke a leg in an avalanche and our cook developed acute mountain sickness; he was treated with drugs and a Gamow bag before being evacuated to Skardu by helicopter. Base Camp was established close to the mountain at 5200 meters. Two weeks of bad weather and avalanche risk kept us from more than moving food, fuel and equipment to 5400 meters at the foot of the face. Three days of better weather on August 12 to 14, let us stock lightly Camps I and II at 5900 and 6350 meters. Bad weather then forced us back to Base for six days. Starting on August 21,

we moved supplies for six more days to Camp III at 6800 meters. We had to plough through deep snow angled at 35° to 45°, first breaking trail unladen and then carrying a load. The route to the top looked straightforward, but we had a nasty surprise 150 meters above camp. A short section of horizontal ridge was dangerously double-corniced. We assessed the risk and reluctantly decided not to press on past this high point of 6950 meters. Base Camp was dismantled on September 5.

DAVID HAMILTON, *Alpine Club*

Trango Nameless Tower: Two members of a 5-man South Korean expedition led by Kim Chang-Ho are said to have climbed the Trango Nameless Tower. Details are lacking.

K7 Attempt. K7 (6934 meters, 22,750 feet) lies at the head of the Charakusa Glacier in the Hushe valley. Japanese climbed it in 1984, but it has resisted nine other attempts. After delays, Britons Bob Brewer, Greg Cotterill, Denis Gleeson, Mark Berisford and I as leader and American Roger Whitehead established Base Camp on July 10. First inspection of the southwest ridge showed considerably more snow and ice than during our 1990 attempt. We began the climb on July 12 at 4300 meters. The approach was straightforward except for the avalanches hurtling down the Japanese couloir that we had to cross to gain the southwest ridge. We established Camp II at 5100 meters within seven days, but two of those up high had problems. Gleeson had damaged his hands and Whitehead had a time constraint. Cotterill took their place with Brewer and me. We pushed on to Camp II at 5500 meters, where a violent storm trapped us for three days before we could descend to Base. Three days later, we were back at Camp II, joined by Berisford. Camp III was reached on July 29 and Tower 3 climbed in two days. Brewer and I got to the "Coffin Bivy" on August 3, only to be trapped for five days. We four reached Camp V at 6000 meters on August 9. The difficult 300-meter "Fortress" section yielded after three days. Stoves failed. Food was low because ravens raided a supply dump. We had hoped that the top of the Fortress would have a camp site on its top, but it was in fact a knife-edged ridge. Another violent storm came in. With still a week of climbing left to reach the summit, we descended over two days in storm. We had spent 32 continuous days on the face and on 26 of those it had snowed.

DAI LAMPARD, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Masherbrum II Attempt and Possible Altitude. In 1988, an Italian expedition led by Augusto Zanotti made the first ascent of the most westerly of the Masherbrum group. They called it "Masherbrum Far West" and gave it an altitude of 7200 meters. (See *AAJ*, 1989, page 250.) In 1991, a British commercial expedition put 14 clients onto the summit of what they called

Masherbrum II, stating that they were following the Italian route on the southeast ridge. (See *AAJ*, 1992, 245-7.) Another British expedition attempting the main peak of Masherbrum at the same time took photographs and disputed the 7200-meter height for Masherbrum II, claiming it might be more than 500 meters lower. Our expedition was aware of the discrepancy and we checked altitudes carefully with three altimeters. It is apparent that the Italians claimed heights for Base Camp and Camp I that were 500 meters too high. If this height error is extrapolated, the summit is likely to be about 6600 meters. This would seem to confirm the photographic evidence of the 1991 party on the main peak of Masherbrum. During July and August, our five-man team, Noel Clarke, Dermot Fleming, Shay Nolan, Kevin Yallup and I, attempted to climb Masherbrum II from the Hushe valley by the Italian route. After setting up Camp I on a narrow col at 4900 meters, we left gear near the site of Camp II on the plateau below the summit pyramid. We waited a frustrating ten days at Camp I for the weather to clear and then had to abandon the attempt.

MICHAEL KEYES, *Irish Alpine Association*

UIAA International Mountaineering Camp, Hushe Valley. On August 31, all 25 members of the Second UIAA International Mountaineering Camp from 13 different countries arrived at Rawalpindi. The staff was Dr. Ruth Howlett, expedition doctor from UK, Swiss guide Evelyne Binsack, German guide Jörg Wilz, and I as leader. We traveled to Skardu and thereafter by jeep to Hushe. On September 7, we got to Base Camp at Gondokoro village at 3820 meters, surrounded by many peaks, some unclimbed, and Masherbrum II. Small teams formed and we climbed from September 9 to 24. Aside from climbing such well-known mountains as Gondokoro Peak and going to Gondokoro La, we did a few first ascents involving rock, ice and mixed climbing.

EDWARD BEKKER, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

Latok I Attempt. Julie Brugger, Andy DeKlerk, Colin Grissom and I attempted the north ridge of Latok I. We were about a third of the way up the route at the beginning of August when the weather turned bad. It stormed for 19 of the next 21 days, leaving the rock plastered with snow and unclimbable.

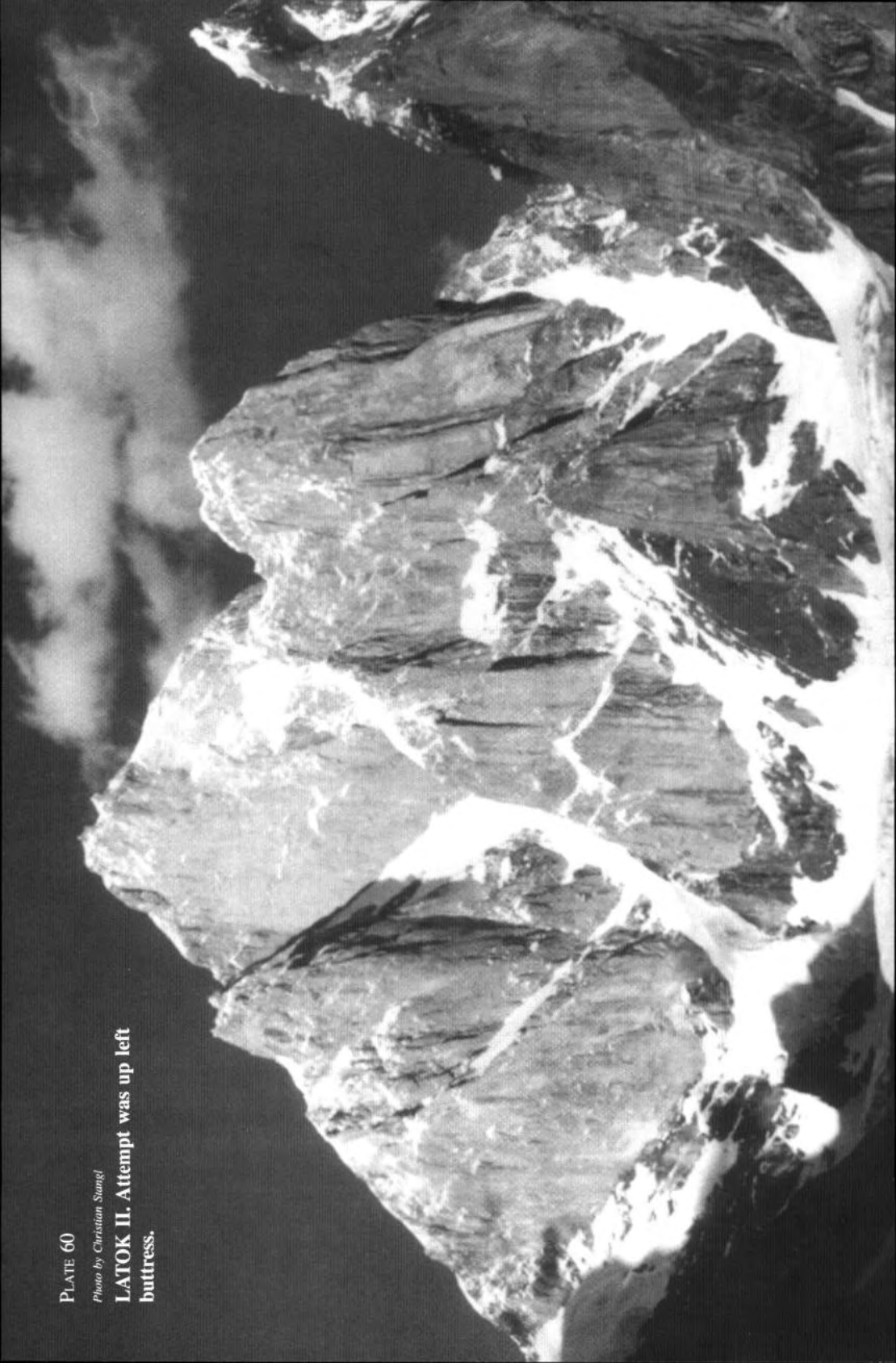
KITTY CALHOUN GRISSOM

Latok II Attempt. Three days after leaving Askole on June 10, Thomas Strausz, Wolfgang Göschl, Andreas Hollinger and I got to 4500-meter Base Camp on the Uzun Brakk Glacier. Our objective was the southwest buttress of Latok II, the westernmost summit of the Latok group. (Since the Italians climbed this peak in 1977, there has been confusion as to whether it is Latok I or II.) It took us a long time to ferry our material to the base of the buttress because of the broken glacier and the daily snowfall. We started in earnest on

PLATE 60

Photo by Christian Sungl

LATOK II. Attempt was up left
buttress.



July 5. At first excellent perpendicular ice let us make good progress. We planned an ideal direct line, but we had to climb an ice couloir to the left for four pitches. A few meters of aid climbing brought us into a hidden crack system. At 6000 meters, we set up a portaledge. On July 31, after 26 days of unfavorable weather, we had climbed only 500 meters up the buttress. Two members had to leave. More bad weather followed. On August 16, we gave up, having reached 6100 meters, about half way up the buttress.

CHRISTIAN STANGL, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Uzun Brakk Attempt. Jim Donini and I had as objective a two-man alpine-style climb of Uzun Brakk (6422 meters, 21,069 feet). My wife Joanne accompanied us to Base Camp. Technically, the peak is still unclimbed by any route, although the British came very close in their 1980 climb from the east, from the Uzun Brakk Glacier. Our objective was a 7000-foot face rising from the Biafo Glacier on the southwest side of the mountain. We established Base Camp at 13,500 feet along the eastern side of the Biafo on June 10. Four days of carrying loads to the base of the route some five miles up the glacier gave us time to scout the route and acclimatize. The weather was unstable most of the season. We encountered four or five days of high pressure and then week-long storms. On June 15, we launched our first attempt, reaching 17,500 feet in a day and a half. We then sat in storm for another day before descending. Bad weather forced us to wait until June 20 for another try. In four days, we reached 20,000 feet. All that remained was 600 feet of hard but beautiful climbing, followed by easier snow and ice to the summit. The one more day of good weather was not to be and we could see a huge storm brewing. By midday it was snowing as we started to descend. The storm lasted for five more days after we reached the glacier. On June 29, we reached Askole on the way home.

JACK TACKLE

Baintha Brakk Attempt. Takeshi Nakazima, Kohtaro Toyoda, Takashi Kasai and I as leader set up Base Camp on June 17 at 4450 meters on the left side of the Choktoi Glacier. We started climbing on the 20th and established Advance Base at 4850 below the icefall on June 22. Four porters helped us to Advance Base. We climbed the center of the icefall but had to keep changing the route. We sited a deposit camp at 5350 meters in the cwm on June 30. After fixing 450 meters (10 individual ropes) of line to the gully, we set up Camp I at 5700 meters on the col between Baintha Brakk and Baintha Brakk II on July 7. Although we carried up to there enough food and equipment and stayed until July 27, we could get no higher than 5850 meters. Not only was the weather bad, but we found the route between Base Camp and Camp I troublesome.

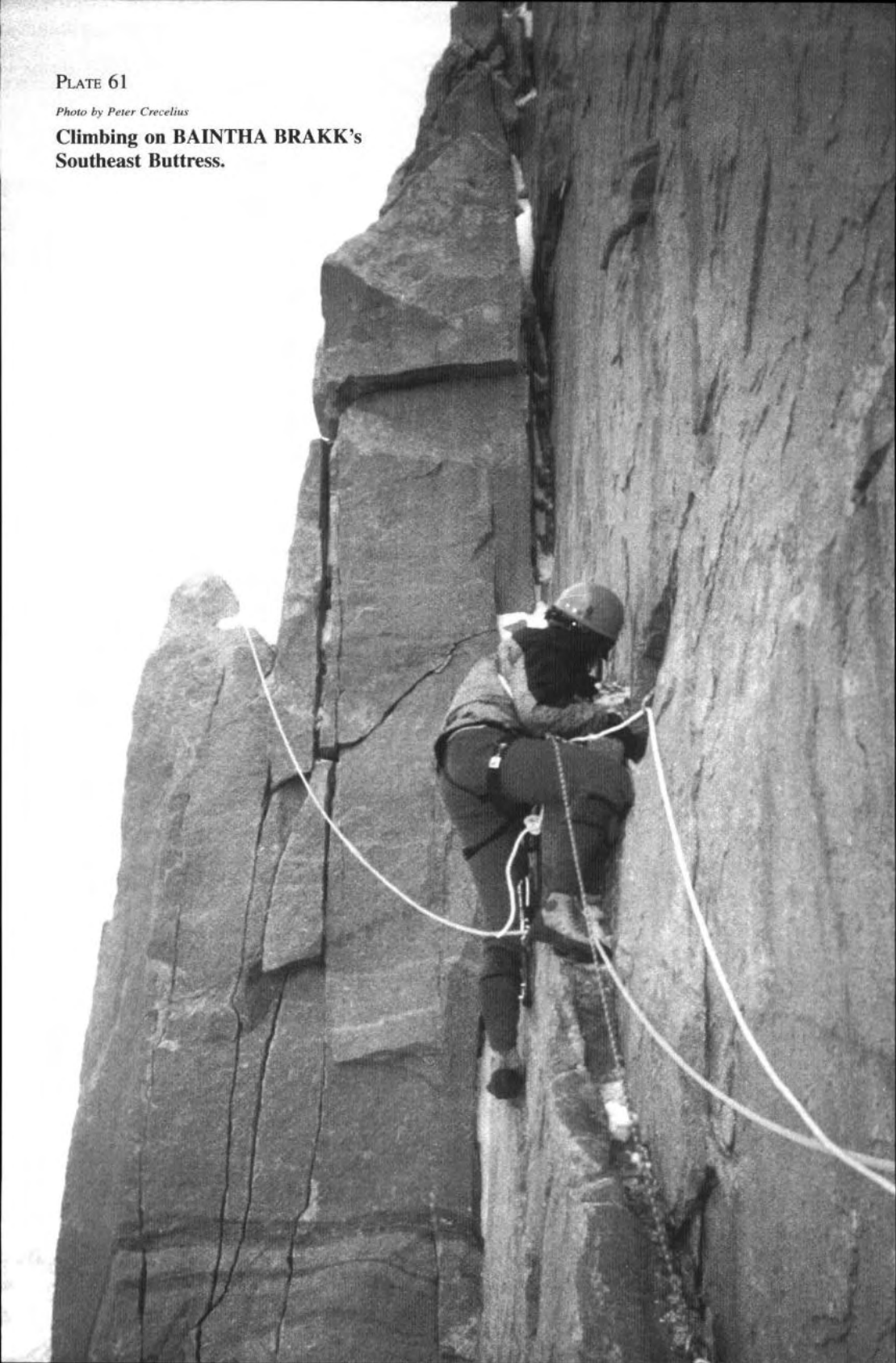
HIDEKI YOSHIDA, *Shinji University Alpine Club, Japan*

Baintha Brakk, Southeast Buttress Attempt. Tom McMillan, Dr. Peter Crecelius and I arrived at Base Camp at 4450 meters on July 12. There was a Japanese team

PLATE 61

Photo by Peter Crecelius

**Climbing on BAINTHA BRAKK's
Southeast Buttress.**



already on Baintha Brakk (the Ogre). Our proposed climbing route led to the head of the Choktoi Glacier where it flowed out of a basin creating a nasty icefall tucked up between Baintha Brakk and P 6960. The Japanese had worked a line through the icefall, but the séracs changed day by day. Not wanting to get into the icefall, we fixed 500 meters of line on some flanking ice slopes and rock walls that formed the right wall of the icefall. Our goal was the col at 5650 meters between P 6950 and Baintha Brakk. Peter and I established camp on the col on a platform cut out of the ice and snow. The climb to the col was steep snow, ice and mixed climbing for about 12 pitches. The Japanese had already fixed this dangerous gully with rope and invited us to share it with them. They were giving up. In the 20 days they had spent on the col, only seven had been good enough for climbing. They had fixed six pitches up moderate ice to the beginning of the 600-meter granite buttress above the col. They had fixed one pitch up the superb granite and left for us the fixed rope we needed to secure the buttress, the major difficulty. From its top we hoped to launch an alpine-style push of three to five days to the unclimbed east summit. We would have to ascend 600 meters of snow and ice, followed by 450 meters of steep but more moderate rock. The last unknown was the mostly horizontal ridge from the east to the main summit, which would take another 24 to 48 hours. Peter and I led four great pitches on the rock and ice of the pillar on July 31, the day after we reached the col. Then bad weather forced us back to Base Camp for a week. Tom had until this time been having terrible luck with his health. On August 8, the sun came out and we let avalanches fall for another day. At midnight, we set out for the col in one long push, but another storm sent us back to Base Camp after we had tried to wait it out. A second time this scenario was repeated. The weather didn't begin to clear until the 20th. This time we gave it *two days* to consolidate. On August 22, we left again for the exhausting 12-hour climb to the col. Tom felt it would be his last attempt. Nevertheless, on August 23 and 24, Tom and Peter climbed six pitches of spectacular rock while I hauled fixed rope. We were back in the col at 6:30 P.M., exhausted, as the snow began to fall heavily. Fearing that we would be trapped, we began to descend in the twilight, barely able to find the way in the snowfall. Tom was now through with the climb. On August 26, the weather cleared. I knew that Peter and I had a very slim chance of climbing the mountain without a third man. It now took five hours just to ascend our ropes from the col to the high point. On the 28th, Peter and I went back up to the col in glorious but cold weather. The next day, I completed the pitch up the corner to a good stance. We hauled 1000 feet of rope to the belay and checked the easier rock above. On the 30th we ascended again for five hours to our high point and began a complicated mixed pitch across the face to reach the crest of the buttress. It took three hours. Though the weather was holding, I could not see how the two of us could make the ascent with a margin of safety. Three or four pitches remained of the pillar. After that and a rest, we would have to begin our alpine-style push. It was too much. Frustrated, we decided to give up. After 50 days, the Ogre was not in our grasp.

CARLOS BUHLER

Baintha Brakk (Ogre) Attempt and Tragedy. Our expedition hoped to climb the south buttress of Baintha Brakk. We were Swiss Phillip Groebke, Germans Michael Wärthl, Jochen Haase, Ansgar Baving, Florian Köfferlein and I. We got to Base Camp at 4500 meters on August 5. Despite two weeks of miserable weather, we fixed rope on the buttress up to 6100 meters on mixed rock and ice. Our plan was to continue up the route alpine-style in two teams of three climbers each. Two attempts on 5.10, A2, which reached 6200 meters, failed because of bad weather. On August 28, when the weather seemed to improve, we started our last attempt. The next day, Groebke fell while jumaring and was killed immediately. He was out of sight when he fell and so nobody witnessed what happened. We gave up any further efforts.

TOM DAUER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Bojohaghur II (Ultar) Attempt, 1992. A Japanese three-man expedition, led by Toshio Narita, attempted to climb Bojohaghur II, which is also known as Ultar, (7388 meters, 24,240 feet) from Ahmad Abad Glacier. After placing Base Camp at 4000 meters on July 30, they attacked the southeast buttress. They worked their way up to 5400 meters, but the weather continued so bad that they felt the route was unclimbable under the conditions that prevailed and gave up in late August, 1992.

Ultar Attempt. After acclimatizing by climbing the neighbor peak Bublomotin from the Hassanabad side, Geir Arne Bore, Jan Ivar Bøe, Kim Tophøj Olsen and I attempted Ultar, hoping to reach the south ridge via the east face. This was similar to the Japanese and British routes. We established Camp I at 4900 meters and on July 8, Camp II at 5400 meters. After five days of bad weather, we climbed in dangerous snow conditions to establish Camp III at 5800 meters on July 13. Another four days of heavy snowfall followed during which one of us suffered from frostbite. After 16 days, we withdrew from the east face. During the descent in another snowstorm, another one of us miraculously survived with only minor injuries when he was swept off unroped and fell 150 meters.

JO WANG, *Norsk Tindeklub*

Sani Pakkush Tragedy. This 6952-meter (22,808-foot) peak, which lies 15 kilometers northwest of Batura, had been previously climbed by Germans in 1991. Five Japanese led by Tetsu Ogasa hoped to make the second ascent. On July 11, Ogasa and Satoshi Takahashi were killed when overwhelmed by an avalanche at Camp III and Masao Uehira was injured.

Malubiting West Attempt. Ten Spaniards led by Jaume Campolier failed in their bid to climb Malubiting West.

JOSEP PAYTUBI, *Servei General d'Informació de Muntanya*

Diran Tragedy. The leader Francesc Xavier Socias and José Marmol of a 9-man expedition from Mallorca, Spain were killed in an accident on Diran. Details are not available at this time.

Diran. A British expedition led by Flight Sergeant William Batson of the Mountain Rescue Team of the Royal Air Force is said to have put three members onto the summit. Details are lacking.

Koz Sar Attempt. Our party consisted of Peter Williams, Declan MacMahan, Steve Richardson, Ivan Wolton and me as leader. We hoped to make the first ascent of Koz Sar (6677 meters, 21,875 feet) at the western end of the Karakoram. Being close to Afghanistan, the area was reopened in 1991 after 40 years as a closed zone. After two weeks of acclimatization, we established Base Camp at 3700 meters at the foot of the south ridge on June 6. We followed easy ground up a moraine to Advance Base at 4450 meters. On June 10, we placed Camp I in a snow hole at 5000 meters after climbing a safe route up a small glacier. From here, the main difficulties began with a 900-meter-high face between us and the crest of the south ridge. Despite bad weather, we fixed rope to 5800 meters and hoped to establish Camp II. However, the freezing level was rising and snow conditions were deteriorating. The team was becoming tired and on July 14, the last day of the permit, an attempt to establish Camp II turned into a gear-stripping session and a final withdrawal to Base Camp.

ANDREW CREIGH, *Anglo-Irish Koz Sar Expedition*

Nanga Parbat Attempt. Ours was the first official expedition from what was East Germany to attempt an 8000-meter peak. We attempted to make the third ascent of the Buhl route on the Rakhiot side of Nanga Parbat. Base Camp was established on May 19 at 3950 meters. We made good use of skis. We employed no high-altitude porters. After placing Camp I at 4480 meters on May 25, bad weather prevented our occupying Camp II at 5300 meters on June 5. Camp III was made at 6150 meters on June 11. A few days later, Jörg Ehrlich fell into a crevasse and broke his right arm. Gunnar Kind injured his knee badly skiing. That left only Jörg Leopold and me to put up Camp IV near Rakhiot Peak on July 3. We two reached a high point of 6750 meters on July 5.

CHRISTIAN WALTER, *Alpinclub Sachsen, Germany*

Nanga Parbat. Five Spaniards climbed Nanga Parbat by the Kinshofer route on the Diamir side. After arriving at Base Camp on June 6, they established four high camps. On July 7, leader Pablo Barrenetxea and José Luis Clavel left Camp IV at 7300 meters at one A.M. and climbed to the summit, which they reached at 12:30 P.M.

PLATE 62

Photo by Jörg Leopold

**Christian Walter in the Glacier
Labyrinth between Camps II and III
on NANGA PARBAT.**



Nanga Parbat. Our Catalan expedition was composed of Jordi Bosch, Pep Permañé, Ramón Estiu, Xavier Robiró, Iñaki Garijo and me as leader. We climbed the Kinshofer route on the Diamir flank. We established Base Camp and Camps I, II, III and IV at 4200, 5000, 6200, 6900 and 7400 meters on July 7, 11, 15, 22 and 29. On July 30, Permañé and Estiu reached the summit after a climb of 12 hours. The principal difficulties were 200 meters of rock in the Kinshofer wall and the summit couloirs, where there was much ice. The weather was poor during most of the expedition..

JOAQUIM BOVER, *Girona, Spain*

Nanga Parbat's Mazeno Ridge and Accident. Pole Wojciech Kurtyka and I hoped to try the Mazeno Ridge to the top of Nanga Parbat. We were joined on acclimatization climbs by Richard Cowper. On July 25, we arrived at Tarshing and for three days acclimatized to the north of Tarshing. On July 28 to 30, we walked to Mazeno High Camp at 4900 meters. On August 1, Cowper and I climbed "Mazeno Spire," the southern-most point on the long ridge to the west of the Mazeno Glacier, which appears as a spire when seen from Base Camp but actually is not so steep. There was no sign of anyone else having been there. Kurtyka, Cowper and I set out to climb the highest peak west of Mazeno Glacier, "Mazeno West Peak." After a 2000-foot climb up an avalanche chute and a final snow basin, we came to the summit (5700 meters), again with no signs of having been climbed before. Kurtyka and I viewed the west end of the Mazeno ridge, which we hoped to climb on the way to the summit of Nanga Parbat. We came down unroped, with Cowper a long way behind. Kurtyka was some 100 feet lower than I when fresh snow from the upper basin avalanched. I scampered toward rocks on the side of the couloir but the moving snow caught me as I ran. I managed to get my axes in and held my position for a time, but the weight of snow built up and suddenly I was away, tumbling 1200 feet, bouncing over rock and ice cliffs. After I came out at the bottom, I was partially buried but able to pull snow away from my face, release my rucksack's belt strap and breathe more easily. I wriggled out, only to find that I had severely wrenched the tendons of my right ankle and one of the pins in it from my accident on the Ogre in 1977. For three days we sat at Base Camp but it was obvious my leg was not going to get better and so we gave up the expedition.

DOUGLAS SCOTT

Nanga Parbat Climbed by Bulgarians. An expedition of five Bulgarians led by Minko Zankovski climbed the normal route on the Diamir Face of Nanga Parbat. Camps were established at 4800, 6000, 6700 and 7400 meters. After setting up Camp IV on August 16, Tsvetan Kotsev, Stanimir Georgiev and Toncho Tonchev were trapped by the weather for a day. Kotsev and Georgiev retreated because of signs of high-altitude sickness. On August 18, Tonchev set

out alone and reached the summit at 6:30 P.M. Ms. Daniela Docheva was the fifth member of the party.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Nanga Parbat. Our expedition was composed of Ichiro Hosoda, Yosuke Kurita, Shinji Chiba, Hideki Omiya, Toshiyuki Kitamura, Yasuhiko Mochizuki, Tsuyoshi Kokubo and me as leader. We took four days from Bunal to reach on July 26 the foot of the Diamir face. We placed Camps I, II and III at 5000, 6000 and 6600 meters on July 27, 31 and August 7. On August 14, Mochizuki and Chiba traversed the snow plateau and established Camp IV at 7200 meters. Because of bad weather, they remained at Camp IV on the 15th, but they left at midnight. Chiba had to quit after two hours and returned to camp. Mochizuki kept on, climbed a gully in the west face of the summit cone and got to the top at four P.M. of the 16th. He started down at once but, overtaken by darkness and fearing crevasses, he bivouacked in a small crevasse without sleeping bag, tent or stove. At six A.M., he was at Camp IV. He and Chiba descended to Camp II and, with others, to Base Camp the next day.

TADAKIYO SAKAHARA, *Japanese Teachers' Expedition*

Nanga Parbat. Our international expedition was a commercial but not a guided one. We ascended a variation of the Kinshofer route, climbing the snow couloir to the right of the normal arête. We were Frenchman Yves Durieux, German Rüdiger Schleggen, Briton Adrian Dubois, Poles Mirosław Konewka, Bogdan Stefko and I as leader. We reached Base Camp on August 8. Stefko and I climbed to the summit on August 24 in cold windy conditions. We had left Camp IV at one A.M., reached the top at 11:30 A.M. and returned to Camp IV at three P.M. Schleggen and Konewka left Camp IV early on August 27, bivouacked at 8000 meters in good weather and continued to the summit on the morning of the 28th. They were back in Camp IV at five P.M. Durieux and Dubois curtailed their attempt on August 31 at 7300 meters. The expedition went well despite the Chilas who tried hard to live up to their atrocious reputation. At 56, Schleggen became the oldest person to climb Nanga Parbat. It is his sixth 8000er.

RYSZARD PAWŁOWSKI, *Himalayan Guides, Pole living in Scotland*

Akher Chioh Attempt and Tragedy, Eastern Hindu Kush. My wife Anita Burkhardt-Fendt, Klaus Cramer, Christine Wieloch, Dr. Klaus Schönwald, Edeltraut Schönwald and I as leader hoped to make the fourth ascent of Akher Chioh (7020 meters, 23,032 feet). The mountain was first climbed by Austrians from Pakistan in 1966. The next two ascents were made from Afghanistan. From Chitral, we jeeped to Uzhnu in the Thurko valley. With 25 porters, we made the three-day approach up the Uzhnu Gol, via Palut Gari and Wakhikan



PLATE 63

Photo by Alfred Fendi

**Kotgaz Zom and Akher Chioh from
the North.**

Gumbat, to Base Camp, which we reached on August 2, at 3600 meters where the Chuttidum Glacier enters the Kotgaz Glacier. We set up Camp I at 4460 meters on the upper Kotgaz Glacier on August 7. The next day, we reconnoitered the route which the first-ascent party had taken, turning to the southeast to the basin at the foot of the Kotgaz Zom-Akher Chioh group. On August 9, my wife Anita and Cramer had just arrived at the site for Camp II at 5250 meters with two others some 70 meters behind when a severe earthquake struck, causing a sérac avalanche from 400 meters higher, which killed Anita and Cramer. We retired to Camp I, finding the glacier much changed by the earthquake. The bodies were brought down to the Kotgaz Glacier on August 10 and helicoptered out on August 15 by the Pakistani Army.

ALFRED FENDT, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Shayaz, Eastern Hindu Kush. Our expedition was composed of Yoshihisa Tagawa, leader, Jiro Tomonaga, Wataru Kawakami and me (f). We made the first ascent of Shayaz (6050 meters, 19,849 feet), which lies west of the Yarkhun River. From the roadhead at Paur, we walked up the Yarkhun to Yashkist, where we turned southwest up the Siru valley. We established Base Camp beside the moraine-covered Siru Glacier at 3850 meters on June 28. We climbed moraine to Camp I at 4390 meters on June 29. From there to Camp III, we had to be careful because of crevasses and avalanche danger. Camps II and III were set up on July 2 and 4 at 4910 and 5430 meters. The latter was in a col on the north ridge. The three men prepared the route to the summit from Camp III on July 5. Just above Camp III were 200 meters of 50° ice. On July 6, they climbed the ridge easily to another 240 meters of steep ice just below the summit, which they reached at 12:27 P.M.

HARUYO HASEGAWA, *Nagasaki Hokuryo Alpine Club, Japan*

Gul Lasht Zom, Hindu Kush. After the Chogolisa expedition, I teamed up with John Kentish for a short visit to the Hindu Kush. We investigated routes on Tirich Mir. On October 2, we reached the summit of Gul Lasht Zom (6611 meters, 21,690 feet), repeating Kurt Diemberger's 1975 route.

DAVID HAMILTON, *Alpine Club*

Darban Zom Attempt, Hindu Kush. The members of our expedition to Darban Zom (7110 meters, 23,327 feet) were Jürgen Diederichs, Heiki Irmisch and I as leader. We approached on the traditional way up the Udren and Darban Glaciers and got to Base Camp at 4600 meters. We placed Camp I at 5250 meters in the upper Darban cirque and Camp II at 6000 meters on an ice ledge on the north side of Noshag. Large crevasses forced us towards the avalanche-threatened slope of Gumbaz-e-Safed. On the snow terrace where we hoped to place Camp II, there was no safe place. As we descended, we saw that our fears

PLATE 64

Photo by Hirono Hasegawa

SHAYAZ.



were justified since our route had been swept by an ice avalanche. Unsettled weather and new snow made us decide that the risk of traversing under the Gumbaz slope was too great and we gave up. We tried to climb 6250-meter-high Q6 from Camp I, but thick clouds turned us back 100 meters from the top. We had problems with porter wages and jeep prices. The expedition lasted from July 7 to August 12.

GÜNTER SCHULZ, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Southeastern China

P 6509 Attempt, Kang Karpo Range, Northwest Yunnan. In September and October, Gary Driggs, Henry Everding, Clifford Leight, Klev Schoening, Pete Schoening and I, supported by Professor Zhou Zheng, Sun Po, Zhou Hong, Lin Conq, Sun Yu and Dr. Shi Quan Sheng, again visited the Kang Karpo Range. Our main objective was the second highest mountain in the range, P 6509 (21,356 feet). The climbing party led by Pete Schoening crossed the Shu La into Tibet and established Base Camp under the west ridge. They crossed over the foot of a spur on the west ridge and traversed to climb, mostly on loose slate and shale, up a second rock buttress to reach the ridge. Camp III was placed at 5300 meters on the ridge. The summit attempt was stopped at 6100 meters by avalanche conditions and a small snow wall with an overhanging cornice that blocked the ridge. As it would have taken another camp there and since time and food were limited, the party retreated. Meanwhile, I circled the range by making the Tibetan pilgrimage over the Doker La to the Salween River and then up over the Shu La from the west. Although the Kang Karpo Range presents a difficult challenge from the Mekong side, the Salween River side is even more challenging and the logistics are much more difficult.

NICHOLAS B. CLINCH

Lamo-she, Daxue Shan, Sichuan. About 25 kilometers northeast of Gongga Shan is a group of peaks called the Lamo-she peaks by Imhof in his 1930 survey. Lamo-she ("Goddess Peak") is the highest in the area at 6070 meters (19,915 feet). In September and October, Eloise Thompson, Chris Seashore, Andy Zimet, Fred Beckey, Lyle Schultze and we two visited the Daxue Shan intending to climb Lamo-she. We arrived at Base Camp at 3800 meters in mid September and spent a week ferrying food and gear to three higher camps as we acclimatized. The highest camp-cache was within a kilometer of the toe of the glacier below the northwest face at the beginning of the actual climbing. The next two weeks saw monsoon-like weather, with much rain and several snowfalls of six inches at Base Camp and more on the peak. Avalanche danger increased continually. After three weeks of worsening weather, our scheduled departure date was drawing near. We withdrew all food and gear from the upper camps and evacuated Base Camp. As we arrived in Kangding, the nearest town,