

Nanga Parbat Attempt and Tragedy. A seven-man Japanese expedition led by Motumu Omiya arrived in the Diamir valley in early October. After climbing Ganalo Peak West (6290 meters, 20,637 feet), they turned to Nanga Parbat on October 20. They established seven high camps. They gave up the attempt when Hiromi Kameda fell to his death in early December.

Nanga Parbat Correction. On page 304 of *A.A.J.*, 1984 we incorrectly stated that the 1976 ascent led by Hanns Schell was the sixth ascent of Nanga Parbat when it really was the fifth.

Pakistan—Hindu Kush

Gul Lasht Zom Ascent and Tirich Mir Attempt. An English expedition led by Jonathan Lee climbed Gul Lasht Zom (6611 meters, 21,690 feet) but failed on Tirich Mir. Details are not yet available.

Bindu Gul Zom II. We traveled by jeep through Chitral and reached Zumgramgran in the Tirich valley on July 21. We pitched Base Camp on July 24 on the Lower Tirich Glacier below the Bindu Gul Zom peaks. A long ridge descends eastward from Tirich Mir, separating the Lower Tirich Glacier from the Barum Glacier. On this ridge lie Bindu Gul Zom I and II, Lono Zom and Kono Zom. From Bindu Gul Zom II a long ridge with four sub-summits stretches north as far as the junction of the Lower Tirich and Upper Tirich Glaciers, where the ridge ends in a vertical wall. Our goal was to have been the west-northwest face of Bindu Gul Zom II but it was soon revealed too dangerous because of rockfall. We then turned to a new route along the whole north ridge, much more difficult and complex but safer objectively. By July 29 we had climbed and fixed rope on the wall to reach the ridge crest, overcoming the hardest technical difficulties of the whole ascent. On July 31 Lino Castiglia, Ugo Manera, Claudio Sant'Unione and I set out from Base Camp and that night bivouacked on the lower peak of the second sub-summit. On August 1 we climbed on the eastern side to avoid various rock needles on the ridge connecting the second and third sub-summits. We bivouacked on a snow col and made a third bivouac in the col between the fourth sub-summit and the main peak. On August 3 we reached the summit of Bindu Gul Zom II (6212 meters, 20,380 feet). We descended the unknown east face, bivouacking about 300 meters below the top. By the end of August 4 we were back at Base Camp, having made 40 rappels in the descent of 2000 meters down the wild east wall.

FRANCO RIBETTI, *Club Alpino Accademico Italiano*

China

Namcha Barwa and Nai Peng. Namcha Barwa (7782 meters, 25,531 feet) lies at the eastern tip of the Himalaya entirely in the People's Republic of China

PLATE 78

Photo by National Research Institute of Sports Science, China

**NAMCHA BARWA on left and
Nai Peng.**



at 29° 37' 51" N, 95°03'31" E. The meaning of the name is "Stones which fell from the Heavens." There are many legends about it. The local people believe it is the abode of the Gods. On the summit there is the legend that there are seven golden temples. A great variety of animals and flora abound around it. For that reason Chinese climbers and scientists have been interested in studying the region in cooperation with the local people. Reconnaissance and study have been carried out in August 1982, March and April 1983 and April 1984 to investigate not only the fauna and flora and the climate but also to see about climbing possibilities. During April 1983 and 1984 mountain climbers reconnoitered routes on Namcha Barwa. To do this they climbed Nai Peng (7043 meters, 23,107 feet), which lies beside Namcha Barwa. In 1984 they established Base Camp at 3520 meters and Camp I at 4300 meters. On April 18 they climbed Nai Peng's southwest flank, which was steep and avalanche-prone. They climbed to place Camp II at 5600 meters. On April 21 at 6:25 P.M., seven climbers arrived at the summit. They could see that there were six possible routes on Namcha Barwa, all of them complicated and of mixed snow, ice and rock. The weather in the region is unstable with much fog and clouds.

ZHOU ZHENG, *National Research Institute of Sports Science, China*

Anyemaqen II. In 1960 a party of eight Chinese surveyors made the ascent of a peak in the Anyemaqen group the altitude of which they at first grossly overstated. It has later been determined that the highest summit (6282 meters) lies several miles away. Anyemaqen II (6268 meters, 20,565 feet), the peak climbed in 1960, was climbed in 1984 by a joint party of 12 Japanese and 17 Chinese, led by Kiyoshi Shimizu. Because of heavy snowfalls, there was much avalanche danger and six of the party were buried in a slide but all escaped. All but one of the members reached the summit between September 12 and 14.

Gongga Shan. Hans Engl, Heinz Zembusch and I as leader made up the expedition, which left Germany on September 12 and returned on October 27. On October 6 all three members reached the summit of Gongga Shan (Minya Konka) via the northwest ridge. We made the fifth ascent. We had no high-altitude porters.

GERHARD SCHMATZ, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Everest Attempt. Our team included ten climbers: leader Thomas Fitzsimmons, Bob Berg, Jim Frush, Dave Hambly, Kurt Hanson, Ray Nichols, Greg Thompson, Warren Thompson, John Yaeger and me; two climbing doctors: Mike Colpitts and Anton Kakusa; four medical research doctors: Ben Blackett, Rick Foutch, Michael Wiedman and Rich Wohns, biomedical engineer Tom Clement, Base-Camp manager Phil Hawkins and photographer Art Wolfe. Three days' travel by truck from Lhasa placed us at Base Camp in the

Rongbuk valley at 5100 meters on March 8. This was the same site as that used by the British in the 1920s, a mile from the snout of the Rongbuk Glacier. We spent several days organizing. The next two-and-a-half weeks passed quickly as we reconnoitered and established the route to Camp III for 21 yaks and seven drivers to transport 4800 pounds of equipment. On March 28 the first yak caravan reached Camp III, a five-day round-trip along the rocky medial moraine of the East Rongbuk Glacier. Four different climbing teams rotated leads, placing 3000 feet of fixed line and 20 feet of rigid aluminum ladders over the steeper sections to reach the North Col. The task was completed on April 12 so that our six Tibetan porters could assist in carrying some 1400 pounds to Camp IV on the col. As the porters were restricted by the Chinese Mountaineering Association to carrying only to Camp IV, the difficult task of transporting loads to Camp V was left up to the climbing team. While climbing activity was moving at a brisk pace above Base Camp, the medical research team was equally busy setting up and fine-tuning our high-tech data gathering and computing systems. Later the same equipment performed well at heights exceeding 21,000 feet. Camp V was established at 7680 meters on April 25. Five members transported 850 pounds of oxygen and climbing equipment over a ten-day period in early May, which took a toll on their strength. While Camp V was being stocked, two climbing teams were working the route from Camp V to Camp VI at 8230 meters. This was more difficult than anticipated and required 1200 feet of fixed rope. Camp VI was established on May 15 and occupied by Tom Fitzsimmons and Greg Thompson on May 16. While others carried supplies, these two worked the route from Camp VI to Camp VII, hindered by high winds and steep down-sloping rock slabs. Camp VII was occupied on May 19 at 8540 meters. On May 20 Fitzsimmons and Thompson made a last-gasp summit attempt. Upon reaching the first rock step at 8600 meters, they realized it was futile and made a cautious retreat, reaching the North Col late that evening. On the 21st all camps above III were evacuated by support personnel. As per schedule, yaks arrived on May 23 to evacuate Camp III. All personnel and equipment were back at Base Camp on May 25.

DONALD J. GOODMAN

Everest, Two British Attempts. In the spring there were two British expeditions attempting Everest from the north. The nine-man Cumbrian expedition led by Pat Gunson had planned to try the west ridge while the fourteen-man Special Air Service Regiment expedition led by Bronco Lane was trying the north face by the Hornbein Couloir. The latter established Base Camp on March 18 and Advance Base on the 29th near the site of three previous expeditions. They then started pushing the route up the north face towards the Hornbein Couloir, making excellent progress and reaching 22,500 feet on April 2. On April 3 there were five occupants at Advance Base when a huge powder-snow avalanche, triggered by collapsing séracs from the North Col two miles away, swept the entire upper glacial basin and destroyed the camp. Tony Seirzy was killed and

the other four injured. The expedition was abandoned. The Cumbrian expedition had established their Base Camp alongside the other on March 19, but fortunately had delayed making their Advance Base because of doubt about their route. The large Bulgarian expedition on the Nepalese side was already on the west ridge. The Cumbrians were deciding what to do when the avalanche fell. After helping to evacuate the injured climbers, they changed their objective, on April 10, to the route attempted by Lou Whittaker's 1982 expedition to the left of the Great Couloir of the north face. They established Camp IV at 25,500 feet on April 20 but were forced to retire because of the weather. They returned on May 1, but Gunson suffered a heart attack at 23,000 feet. They succeeded in evacuating him but decided to abandon the expedition.

CHRISTIAN BONINGTON

Everest via the Great Couloir. Our climbing team of Lincoln Hall, Andrew Henderson, Greg Mortimer, Tim Macartney-Snape and me as leader was joined by a four-man film crew and two Nepali assistants. We felt totally intimidated by the huge 3000-metre face when we arrived at Base Camp at 5200 metres on August 2. Late monsoon snows had plastered the face and fresh snow fell regularly as we established and stocked Advance Base at 5500 metres and then Camp I at 5800 metres on August 21. The avalanche danger was extreme and we decided on a direct route on the face, believing it to be the safest and fastest—both obviously advantageous to our small team. It was also a new route. An early attempt to place Camp II at 6600 metres was lost in an avalanche. This was a setback as a lot of gear was never found. However, we waited for a spell of good weather and pushed the fixed ropes higher. On September 14 we found an ideal location for Camp II at 6900 metres and dug a snow cave there. Ropes were fixed above Camp II across vast open slabs covered by unstable snow to 7400 metres. That was the end of the fixed rope. Then a period of bad weather followed. We waited this out at Camp I and then decided on a summit attempt. We travelled light realizing we could make only one summit try. At 7400 metres I retreated with symptoms of cerebral oedema. The other four continued on and placed Camp III at 7500 metres, just on entering the Great Couloir. On October 2 they continued up the couloir to Camp IV at 8150 metres, where they spent an uncomfortable night in a single dome tent. The next day, October 3, all four set out for the summit. Hall turned back early due to the extreme cold. The remaining three left the Great Couloir to the right over difficult mixed ground. Progress without oxygen was very slow but finally Tim Macartney-Snape and Greg Mortimer stood on the summit. They remained for 20 minutes, filming and making a tape recording and then descended into the approaching night. They met Henderson only 50 vertical metres from the summit and he descended with them. At three A.M. they reached Camp IV. The next two days of descent were slow and dangerous. Mortimer had acute exhaustion and Henderson's hands were badly frostbitten. On October 6 everyone was safely at Base Camp.

GEOFFREY BARTRAM, *Australia*

Rubbish on the Rongbuk Glacier. I should like to register a complaint about the huge piles of rubbish left by Japanese, French and to an extent British expeditions at a camp at about 5600 metres on the Rongbuk Glacier just past our Advance Base. It is a place you can get yaks to and that makes it even more inexcusable.

GEOFFREY BARTRAM, *Australia*

Shisha Pangma. Six of a nine-man American party ascended Shisha Pangma in the first week of May by the northeast face, the original 1964 Chinese route. It was the second ascent by Americans and the ninth ascent. The party consisted of Jerry Clayton, Dr. Steven Creer, David Howe, Mark Jenkins, Douglas Kelley, Carl Lehner, Michael Lehner, Michael Wingert and me as leader. We established Base Camp at 5150 meters on April 15, Camp I at 5490 meters on the 19th and Camp II (Advanced Base) at 5850 meters on April 21, using yaks to within a quarter mile of camp. The next 12 days were spent establishing a route and ferrying loads up the crevassed, snow-covered glacier to establish Camp III at 6400 meters on the 26th and Camp IV on May 1. Camp V at 7225 meters was occupied on the 4th and Camp VI at 7680 meters the next day. On May 6 the summit was reached by Howe, Jenkins, Kelley and Wingert. Two days later Creer and Michael Lehner got to the top.

JOSEPH E. MURPHY

Gurla Mandhata Reconnaissance. In the pre-monsoon season five Japanese and eight Chinese reconnoitered Gurla Mandhata (7728 meters, 25,355 feet), which the Chinese call Namunani. An attempt on this peak is planned for 1985.

Maps from China. Three excellent maps may be bought from the Lanzhou Institute of Glaciology and Cryopedology, Academia Sinica, Lanzhou, People's Republic of China: Qomolungma (Mount Everest), 1:50000, \$5.00; Batura Glacier (Pakistan), 1:60000, \$5.00; Glaciers at the Source of Urumqi River, Tianshan, 1:10000, \$3.00. Postage is extra.

Mustagh Ata. A commercial Franco-Italian expedition led by Alberto Re and Claude Jaccoux put 17 of its 20 members on the summit and had them ski down. L. Boggi Marzet, M.T. Gaiotto and M. Solari Pastine set a new altitude record for Italian women.

RENATO MORO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

USSR

Pik Kommunizma and Pik der Vier, Pamir. As members of an Austrian group, my Tirolean friend Franz Schösser and I climbed alpine-style Pik der

Vier (6380 meters, 20,932 feet) and Pik Kommunizma (7483 meters, 24,550 feet) via the Borodin Buttress. We were helicoptered to Base Camp at the junction of the Valter and Moskvín Glaciers. On the former we had bivouacs at 5200 and 6000 meters. On Pik Kommunizma we had lots of storms and reached Dushambe (the last camp at 7000 meters) three times before we finally reached the summit on July 27. Our second try was stopped by a rescue. Together with Russian trainers, we rescued a German from 7000 meters where he had sat for two nights without shelter. Although there were many parties from different nations, only a few had reached the summit of Kommunizma by the end of July. There were two accidents near the first campsite at 5400 meters. A Frenchman died during a fall of several hundred meters. A Japanese lady was injured after a fall of 200 meters.

WOLFGANG STEFAN, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

Pik Kommunizma. I led a 10-member Polish team to the International Soviet Pamir Camp in 1984. All, including the three women, managed to climb Pik Kommunizma (7483 meters, 24,550 feet). Starting on July 27, Ewa Panejko-Pankiewicz and Amalia Kapłoniak reached the summit on August 2 via the Burevestnik Buttress as a ladies only team. From July 27 to August 4 Pawel Mularz completed an alpine-style traverse via the Borodkin and Burevestnik routes. The best ascent was made by Marek Danielak, Mirosław Dasal and Lech Kiedrowski. They made the third ascent of the Tadzhik Buttress from the Fortambek Glacier, continued to the top via the Pamir Plateau and descended the Borodkin route.

EUGENIUSZ CHROBAK, *Polski Związek Alpinizmu*

Pik Lenin, North Face on Skis. Italians R. Cason, B. Dall'Oro and O. Forno climbed Pik Lenin (7134 meters, 23,406 feet) by its north face on skis, reaching the summit on July 29. They then descended on skis. They made five camps above their 12,000-foot Base Camp. The weather complicated the ascent and strong winds bothered them particularly in the last part.

RENATO MORO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Pamir Mountains. The 1984 American Pamir expedition was in the Soviet Union from July 12 to August 11. After a brief visit to Moscow, we flew, drove and trekked 2700 miles into the Pamir range. Rick Nolting and Barry Nash made a five-day ascent of the north ridge of the Peak of the 19th Congress (5913 meters, 19,400 feet), reaching the summit on July 25. This was the first ascent of this peak in this climbing season. The Russians considered the peak to be in bad condition and therefore dangerous. Ed Cummings and Nash reached the summit of Pik Lenin (7134 meters, 23,400 feet) on July 31 via the normal route.

Clara Witt and Tom Russell provided support for the Pik Lenin effort while John Chulick and Don Obendorf trekked up and across major glaciers and visited a number of Kirghiz villages.

DONALD D. MCINTYRE