

6650 meters. The summit (7516 meters, 24,660 feet) was reached on May 13 by Subedar Chhering Norbu, Naik Chhering Angchuk, Naik Mohammad Shafi, Stanzin Chhultim, Mohammad Ibrahim and Rigzin Phunchuk and on May 15 by Major A.K. Gogoi, Tashi Wangdu, Tundup Dorje, Sonam Targias, Chhering Angdu, Thukje Loldan, Sonam Stobgias, Nawang Sonam and Sonam Stobdan. The peak had been previously climbed by an Indo-Japanese expedition in 1984.

A.M. SETHI, *Major, Ladakh Scouts, Indian Army*

Apsarasas, Mamostong and Saser Kangri I and IV. Three Indian expeditions to the Eastern Karakoram have been successful, but we have been unable to get details. An Indian Army expedition placed six of its members on the summit of Apsarasas on July 20 and 22. An expedition led by Major M.P. Yadav may have climbed Mamostong by a new route from the Kichik Kumdam Glacier on the east. Heera Lohia led an expedition which climbed Saser Kangri I and IV.

Pakistan

K2 Attempt. On May 10, Pete Athans, Steve Matous, Andrew Lapkass, my brother Alan and I arrived in Islamabad. Athans and I began travelling north on the Karakoram Highway with 70 prepacked loads in a privately hired local bus on May 17. Meanwhile the rest of the group flew directly to Skardu. On the 18th, the bus, gear and we two were taken over by 70 gun-bearing Suni Muslims, who wanted a fast ride to Gilgit. The situation deteriorated sufficiently to seal off all access roads to Gilgit for eight days. Luckily we and the gear were released, but we had to wait until the siege of Gilgit was taken care of by the military. Thus delayed, we left Skardu only on May 27. Base Camp was reached on June 7 and all local porters were paid off. On June 10, the weather cleared. The next eleven days provided us with reasonable but cold weather and we were able to push our acclimatization to reach the site of Camp III at 24,600 feet on the Abruzzi Ridge. We returned to Base Camp. On June 25, we began climbing. Not yet fully acclimatized, we still hoped to leave our high point for the summit, climb overnight and not sleep, thus reducing the risk of pulmonary and cerebral edema. We never got the chance to test our theory as the weather closed in on June 27. For the next six weeks, we launched five more serious attempts, but the weather only allowed us to get to 25,000 feet before forcing us down again. An exceptionally heavy mantle of snow lay on the upper reaches of the peak. After each successive attempt, we noticed that the layer of fresh snow was becoming deeper and more unconsolidated. We could not believe that five consecutive days of good weather was too much to expect. It never materialized and so on August 10 we had to abandon our climb. Our experience led us to believe that a small group of friends—and we are closer friends now than before—can safely tackle a high and difficult peak and still hold the same hope of success as a much larger group. In fact, we did as well and perhaps better than larger expeditions who were around us at the same time.

ADRIAN BURGESS, *A.A.C. and Alpine Climbing Group*

K2, South-Southwest Buttress Attempt. Our objective was the south-southwest buttress of K2, first climbed by Poles in 1986. We were Stane Belak, Dr. Damjan Meško, Milan Romih, Slavko Svetičič, Andrej Štremfelj, Filip Bence, Rado Fabjan, Pavle Kozjek, Danilo Tič and I as leader. The approach march was exciting due to a porter strike on the Baltoro Glacier. We established Base Camp on the Godwin Austen Glacier at 5200 meters on June 20. Advance Base, Camps I, II and III were set up at 5370, 6335, 6750 and 7400 meters on June 22, 24, 28 and July 11. On July 13, Štremfelj and Bence reached the highest point of 8100 meters, where they found an old French tent. They intended to establish Camp IV 100 meters higher at the top of a big gully and make the first summit attempt in the next days. Bad weather turned them back. All later summit attempts finished below this point due to bad weather. The last attempt was made on August 6. On August 9, the expedition departed from Base Camp. We left about 3300 meters of fixed rope on the mountain and complete Camps II and III. We could not remove them because of the weather. From July 13 till August 9, there were only six days of good weather.

TOMAŽ JAMNIK, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

K2 Attempt. New Zealanders Gary Ball, Lydia Bradey, Bill Atkinson and Robert Hall attempted to climb K2 up the Abruzzi Ridge at the same time as the American team. They established Base Camp on June 8 and three high camps in the next ten days. Then, in the next five weeks, bad weather prevented their getting above 7400 meters. The climbers then moved on directly to attempt Everest from the south.

COLIN MONTEATH, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

K2 Attempt and Broad Peak Ascent. On July 16, Oscar Cadiach, Gabriel Gutiérrez, Xavier Pérez, Anton Ricard, Jaume Torm, Enric Hernández, Jordi Canals, Carles Valles, Lluís Gómez, Toni Arbonés, Joan Gelabert and I were all in Base Camp along with Jugoslavs, Britons and Americans. From July 21 to 24, we carried supplies to the foot of the Abruzzi Ridge, but then began the normal pattern: bad weather. We carried to Camp I at 6100 meters and slept there on July 28. Not until August 7 could we establish Camp II at 6800 meters. On August 14, we carried to Camp III at 7750 meters. Despite sorties, it was not until September 1 that three climbers got to the site of Camp III. They found nothing and dug a snow hole. The next day they climbed to 8150 meters below the Bottleneck and dug another snow hole while four others carried up replacement food to Camp III. September 3 was to have been the summit day, but gale winds drove everyone back. All descended to Base Camp. We decided to give up on the 11th. However, on September 9 and 10 Ricard, Canals, Cadiach, Gómez and I ascended to the summit of Broad Peak.

JORDI MAGRINYÀ, *AAEEMI, Secció de Muntanya, Valls, Spain*

PLATE 67

Photo by Tomaz Jamnik

**K2. 1988 Yugoslav Route on
South-Southwest Buttress is marked.**



Broad Peak Corrections, 1986-1987. When climbers reach the foresummit of a peak and not the main summit, it cannot be claimed as a successful ascent. In the case of Broad Peak, a number of climbers who have reached the foresummit have stated that they have climbed the mountain. However, the foresummit is about an hour short of the true summit. We have received word from Manuel Cabanillas, Barcelona, Spain, that two Spanish expeditions reported a successful ascent of Broad Peak when, in fact, they merely had reached the foresummit. On page 291 of *AAJ, 1987*, it states that Juanjo San Sebastián and Ramón Portilla "reached the summit of Broad Peak in a two-day alpine style ascent," when they had only gotten to the foresummit. Señor San Sebastián has written the Editor, saying that he definitely felt that he had reached the summit, getting to the highest rocks, and in no way tried to misrepresent the facts. On page 250 of *AAJ, 1988*, it does state that Josep Estuch and Lluís Vandellós reached the foresummit, but earlier in the account on page 248, it states that the expedition led by Estuch was successful, which may well give the wrong impression. On page 246 of *AAJ, 1988*, it states that "Maciej Berbeka made the first winter ascent of Broad Peak on March 6, 1988." When Berbeka reached the foresummit, a very strong wind blowing from the direction of the main summit drifted snow and prevented his seeing clearly where he was. When he saw photographs of the foresummit, he very quickly pointed out that that was the place he had reached and disclaimed having reached the true summit.

Broad Peak ascents, attempts and tragedy. A Japanese team led by Kunitsumu Sakai reached the summit of Broad Peak by the normal route on June 27. Along with Sakai on the top were Kenji Shimakata, Masato Sasaki and Sachi Masumoto. A second Japanese expedition led by Naoyuki Saeki climbed Broad Peak on August 12. Mamoru Taniguchi and Junji Saitoh got to the main summit while three others turned back on the foresummit one hour before reaching the highest point. A four-man party of the South Korean AK-Woo Alpine Club claims to have climbed Broad Peak. On August 20, Jang Yong-II, Han Yoon-Keun, and Shin Han-Cheol left Camp V at 7500 meters and said that they climbed to the top. On the descent at about 8000 meters, Jang disappeared, apparently swept away by an avalanche. The second Japanese party has expressed doubts about whether the Koreans got to the highest point. One of the Koreans talked of finding a small Buddha on the "highest point," one of rock, which could only be the foresummit. They took nine hours from their camp at 7500 meters to the col and three hours and 20 minutes from there to the summit. It would appear that this would be enough time to get to the foresummit but not enough for the true summit, which lies an hour beyond. Six Spanish Catalans under the leadership of Jordi Bosch arrived at Base Camp on August 29. After establishing high camps, they made several summit attempts, the last on September 23, when two of them got to 7650 meters but had to give up because of heavy snow. Six members of an Italian expedition led by Claudio Schranz failed to climb to the summit of Broad Peak on July 25. All except Schranz descended; he hoped to wait out at Camp IV at 7300 meters the bad weather

PLATE 68

Photo by Gary Speer

**GASHERBRUM I or HIDDEN
PEAK.**



that had turned them back. Finally, at ten P.M. on July 31, he set out under a full moon for the summit, which he reached at dawn on August 1.

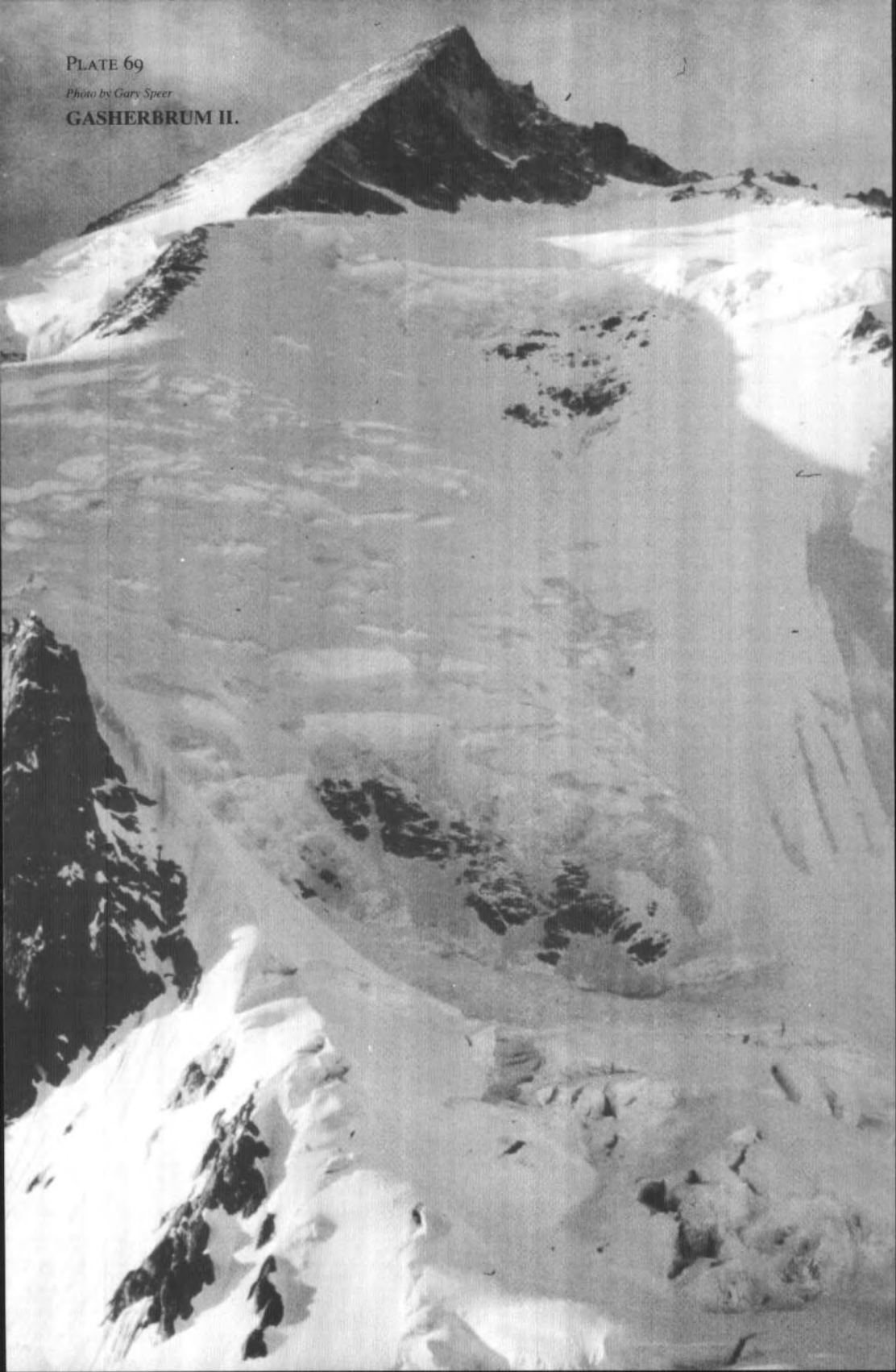
Gasherbrum I and II. A Czechoslovakian expedition led by Robert Gálffy succeeded in climbing both of these peaks. Gálffy, František Šoltés and Ivan Urbanovič, Jr. climbed to the summit of Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak). Two women of the same expedition, Livia Klembárová and Margita Šterbová climbed Gasherbrum II. A Japanese women's expedition put leader Shiori Hashimoto, Nobuko Yanagizawa, Mayuri Yasuhara, Fumiye Kimura, Miharu Kitagawa and a high-altitude porter onto the summit of Gasherbrum II from Camp III at 7450 meters on August 8. This was the first time that five women had climbed an 8000er together. A Swiss commercial expedition was led by Max Eiselin. Swiss Norbert Joos, Diego Wellig, Philipp Zehnder and Diego Schär on June 23, Germans Horst Wasmann and Heinz Hollweg on June 25 and Swiss Rafael Wellig and Rinaldo Borra on July 5 reached the summit of Gasherbrum II. On June 25, Netherlanders Grjan van Waardenburg, Rene de Bos, Hans van der Meulen and Jeroen Jacobse completed the ascent of Gasherbrum II. An 11-person French expedition, led by Christian Bourgeon, changed its objective because of bad weather from Gasherbrum I to Gasherbrum II. On August 13, Gilles Gadani and Serge Ravel reached the summit. Frenchman Hervé Sacht organized a commercial trip to Gasherbrum II, but he was the only one to reach the summit, which he did on August 7. A 13-member expedition from the Netherlands led by Ronald Naar to Gasherbrum II is said to have been successful, but we have not been able to find out who reached the top. There were a number of unsuccessful expeditions as well. Mexicans led by Jorge Hermosillo failed on Gasherbrum I; Jorge Luis Brito died from pulmonary edema at 7200 meters on June 25. French under the leadership of Jean Pierre Fedèle failed on Gasherbrum II; Michel Basson died of pulmonary edema on July 16. Austrians led by Marcus Schmuck, French led by Jean-Pierre Boyer and Japanese led by Kazuo Tobita failed on Gasherbrum II.

Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak) Attempt. We began with the normal hassles with airlines, Pakistani bureaucrats and Balti porters. We were Ethan Van Matre, leader, Dave Bong, climbing leader, Susan Havens, Dave Schermer, Ed Holt, Don Beavon, Butch Suits, Bill Stevenson and I. Base Camp was set up at the confluence of the Abruzzi and the South Gasherbrum Glaciers in mid June. We spent several weeks moving loads through the lower icefall and establishing Camp I at 19,500 feet. At Camp I we realized that we had been hauling excess food up the mountain. No one had checked out the food before leaving the USA. We spent less than a week carrying supplies to establish Camp II just below the Gasherbrum La. The weather had been mostly favorable. Once at Camp II, we decided to try the German route on the north face, using the Japanese Couloir to gain access to the high camp. The conditions in the couloir were fair; a thin layer of snow covered shattered rock. We put in 1200 feet of fixed line with only a handful of anchors. I found it troubling that here we had a 40% excess of food but only a small assortment of climbing hardware. We hoped to establish Camp

PLATE 69

Photo by Gary Speer

GASHERBRUM II.



III and then go for the summit. Several of us carried loads to the top of the fixed lines. On that day, the weather took a turn for the worse. The next day, we all headed down to Base Camp to wait out the storm. Time was running out. Without consulting the team members, our leader had made arrangements for porters to arrive a month after we had arrived in Base Camp. Most expeditions plan to spend five or six weeks to climb Gasherbrum I. If the weather had held, this would not have been a problem. But the storm dumped much snow and made the route dangerous. We returned to Camp II on the Gasherbrum La and checked the couloir, but it was loaded with snow. We had no choice but to give up the climb.

GARY BOCARDE

Gasherbrum II Ascent and Tragedy. The expedition in which I took part was a commercial one of 14 members organized by Frenchman Bernard Muller and his wife, Laurence de la Ferrière. We left Skardu on May 19 and got to Base Camp on May 31 at 5150 meters on the upper Baltoro Glacier where it is joined by the glacier that lies at the base of Hidden Peak. Despite 18 days of unstable weather, we placed Camp I on June 4 at 6050 meters where the real ascent of Gasherbrum II begins. Following the first-ascent route of Austrian Moravec, we placed Camps II and III at 6650 and 7400 meters on June 19 and 21. On June 22, after a three-hour climb, Muller, Bernard Vallet, Jean Pierre Renaud, Georges Lozat and I reached the summit in fine but very cold and windy conditions. This was my fourth 8000er. On June 23, Jackie Peche reached the summit from Camp II solo. On June 24, Henry Albet, Marc Buscail and Pascal Hittinger, with two Balti porters, reached the summit. The mission of the porters was to carry up monoskis, with which Albet proposed to ski from the very summit. On the 25th, after having spent a second night at Camp III, Albet got ready to continue on the second part of his descent, despite the hardness of the snow. During his first turn, Albet slipped on the ice and fell 1200 meters to his death at the base of the glacier not far from Camp I. Hittinger gave up his idea of making the descent on a monoski. The other members of the expedition were Christian and Patrice Davi, Californian Mike Price and Swiss Monsieur and Madame Russenberger.

JORDI PONS, *Centre Excursionista de Catalunya, Spain*

Gasherbrum II Attempt and Tragedy. Our expedition was not the only one to experience tragedy in the Gasherbrum group. A Mexican climber succumbed to pulmonary edema on Hidden Peak and a French monoskier fell 1200 meters to his death on Gasherbrum II. After I departed, another Frenchman died of pulmonary edema at the Gasherbrum Base Camp. But the loss of Gary Silver was a crushing blow for me. Our expedition consisted of Gary Silver, Dr. Chip Woodland, Phil Boyer and me as leader. Our plan was to climb Hidden Peak (Gasherbrum I) by the original American route. We had unexpected delays of 16 days (!) with the Ministry of Tourism. About halfway up the Baltoro, we experienced a porter strike, settled by paying them 30% more than we had planned. Shortly after reaching Base Camp, Boyer developed pulmonary edema. Though his condition was never terribly serious, Dr. Woodland thought

it was best to evacuate him and so the two returned to Rawalpindi and the United States. In addition, the liaison officers in the area told us that the American route was off limits because of a 100-man army base at the start of the ridge. We tried to negotiate with the army, but apparently their orders were firm from higher-ranking officers: no climbing! After three days of fruitless negotiation, we gave up Hidden Peak and opted for Gasherbrum II. It was just Gary Silver and me trying for an 8000-meter peak, but the French had fixed ropes, so our task was infinitely easier. Gary and I established Camp I on June 24. We made a few carries over the next days and were well provisioned by the 26th. Then the weather turned poor and we remained at our 19,500-foot Camp I until July 2. Since Gary wasn't feeling well, I decided to take advantage of the weather to climb Gasherbrum II solo. We already had made a carry to Camp II and had food and a tent there. I reached the area of Camp III on July 3 and used a half-destroyed French tent for shelter. I set off for the summit on July 4. I climbed to about 26,000 feet but was forced back from the actual top by exhaustion and concern about the weather. The next day, my concern proved well founded. As I began my descent in strong winds, two young Swiss started for the summit. At 23,000 feet, I met Gary Silver and a Canadian member of the Swiss expedition, Roland Willenbrock. They had agreed to team up and looked fit and strong. By the time I reached Camp II, the weather had deteriorated into a full-fledged storm. The Swiss joined me at Camp II after making a surprisingly fast summit climb. The following day, we returned to Base Camp. Roland and Gary were trapped at Camp III. Over a meter of snow fell. Gary was having problems, probably the initial symptoms of pulmonary edema. When the storm temporarily abated on July 9, the pair began their descent. Gary collapsed at the level shoulder at 23,000 feet. Despite my attempts at persuasion over the radio and Roland's heroic attempt to get him lower, there is little that can be done when your partner lapses into a coma at a high altitude in a storm. At six P.M., Roland opted to save his own life and started his descent to Camp II, which he reached at two A.M. During the ordeal, he suffered third-degree frostbite in all his fingers. I teamed up with Dr. Dave Bong and Ethan Van Matre of the Portland Mazama group and the two Swiss and climbed back to Camp I. We met Roland that evening, July 10, and he was given emergency treatment for frostbite. Both Roland, a heart surgeon, and Bong agreed that Gary could not have survived the night. Given the avalanche conditions and the fact that Gary was unequivocally dead, I made the most difficult decision of my life: not to climb to the shoulder and bury his body. Instead, I asked an all-women's expedition which was attempting the route please to put his body in a crevasse. The Japanese women agreed, although I have not heard if they found his body or if they got high on the route.

GARY SPEER

Gasherbrum II, a Third 8000er by a Woman. On July 13, after 11 days of trekking from Dassu, Lut Vivij, Ingrid Baeyens, Raf Snoeck and I arrived at

Base Camp at 5150 meters. A fortnight of bad weather then confined activities. The two ladies and I broke trail to Camp I at 5800 meters on August 4. The day after, a steep slope led to a second bivouac at 6500 meters. Previous heavy snowfall made breaking trail very tiring. On the shoulder at 7000 meters between Bivouacs II and III, we came on the body of Gary Silver, a lugubrious sight. On hands, arms, knees and bellies, we plowed our way through loose snow on another even steeper slope. Due to fatigue, we had to interrupt our climb at 7600 meters. On August 8, we made the final efforts. On slopes up to 50°, we swam rather than climbed to reach the summit at noon. As a climbing couple, Lut Vivijns and I have now conquered our third 8000er. She is tied for second on the women's 8000er list.

JAN VANHEES, *Belgische Alpenclub*

Gasherbrum IV, South Ridge Attempt. We were Geoff Hibbert, Phil Thornhill, Martin Hind, Pakistani liaison officer Rozi Ali and I. We suffered a porter strike at Dassu; the porters demanded an extra 400 rupees each but settled for 200 rupees. This took all our reserve money. The journey to Base Camp was uneventful. At Concordia Hibbert fell ill and deteriorated seriously as we reached Base Camp on May 26. I called in a Czechoslovakian doctor and an army doctor. As neither knew what he was suffering from, we called for a helicopter. Hours before it arrived, he got up from what had seemed to be his death bed. The doctors decided he could stay. The other three of us began carrying up the icefall on the 28th with Rozi Ali helping. Hibbert started working on June 3. The approach to the ridge is about eight miles along the East Gasherbrum Glacier with dangerous crevasses at the top of the icefall. We set up three camps. The ridge proper and Camp III were reached in three days of climbing and most of the hardware and ropes were carried and dumped there at 23,000 feet. Climbing onto the ridge involved mixed terrain and hard ice with poor belays and rockfall. Because of the rockfall, we moved this camp to a lower site on a subsidiary ridge. Relationships within the team were not good and as we moved back up on June 27 after a rest at Base Camp, we decided to abandon the trip.

DAI LAMPART, *British Mountaineering Council*

Biale Attempt. Our expedition comprised Mark Miller, Sean Smith, Simon Yates, Nick Groves, Maryrose Fowlie, liaison officer Naveed Gaznavi and me. We hoped to climb Biale (6730 meters, 22,080 feet) from the south, approaching from the Baltoro Glacier. Biale lies on the Baltoro-Sarpo Laggo divide, west of the Mustagh Tower and northeast of the Trango Towers. After a nine-day walk-in from Dassu, we reached Base Camp at the junction of the Baltoro and Biale Glaciers on June 22. To acclimatize, we climbed the lower Lobsang Spire to 100 meters below the summit, which was still a long traverse away. On our first attempt on Biale from July 1 to 6, we reached 6250 meters just below the

headwall. We wound through a series of steep ice gullies with granite bands to the main Cathedral-Biale ridge. Our third camp was level with the summit of Cathedral but 200 meters north of it. A two-day storm forced us down during which I suffered from altitude sickness, which kept me out of the next attempt. The second and third attempts from July 10 to 14 and July 20 to 22 both ended at 6000 meters when storms hit. We left Base Camp on July 25.

MICHAEL SEARLE, *Leicester University, England*

Masherbrum Far West. A ten-man Italian expedition led by Augusto Zanotti climbed the most westerly peak of 7200 meters (23,622 feet) of the Masherbrum group by its west face. The summit was reached on September 8 by the leader Zanotti, E. Corbellini, S. Andreola, S. Savadelli, F. Bottani, M. Bottani, B. Scanabesi, A. Carminati and P. Campostrini.

LUCIANO GHIGO, *Centro Italiano Studio Documentazione
Alpinismo Extraeuropeo*

Trango Towers. Our expedition was composed of Abdel Amar, Mauro Mabboni, Pierre Montiglio, Olivier Soulié and me. On May 19 and 20, Montiglio, Soulié and I made the first of two routes on the south face of the Trango Château or the First Tower, the main summit of which is 5844 meters high. The weather was bad. On May 27 and 28, Montiglio, Abdel Amar and I made a second route on the face to the right of the first. This time we got to the 5300-meter (17,389-foot) presummit. Again we climbed in a snowstorm. We believe the main summit is still unclimbed.

YVES ASTIER, *Club Alpin Français*

Nameless Tower of Trango Attempt. Hisao Onami, Izuru Okada, Yasushi Sato, Masahiro Ishiguro and I reached Base Camp at 4150 meters on the Dunge Glacier on July 15. After ferrying loads to the base of the wall, on July 27 we began to attempt what probably was the Yugoslav route climbed in 1987. We found fixed rope, but it was almost useless. On July 28 to 30 we climbed seven pitches and fixed ropes to the lower pedestal. On the 31st we set up Advance Base at 5600 meters on the pedestal. Bad weather stopped us for three days. From August 5 to 8 we climbed 14 pitches. On the 8th Okada, Ishiguro and I bivouacked at 6050 meters, 200 meters below the summit, but on the morning of August 9, the weather was bad and so we had to retreat to Base Camp.

MASAHARU GANDO, *Japan*

Nameless Tower, Trango Towers. Our expedition was composed of East German Berndt Arnold and West Germans Kurt Albert, Wolfgang Güllich, Wolfgang Kraus, Thomas Lipinski, Martin Leinauer, Dr. Jörg Schneider, Martin Schwiersch, Jörg Wilz and me as leader. Late summer and fall are ideal for the south and west sides of the Trango Towers. We had nearly perfect weather

PLATE 70

Photo by H. Adams Carter

**TRANGO CATHEDRAL, French
routes in 1988 are marked.**



with a few snow showers and only two days of bad weather. These snowfalls made for bad conditions on the northeast buttress of the Great Trango Tower, since the sun no longer struck it at this season. Our climb there failed because of heavy icing. On southern faces the conditions were ideal with warm, dry rock because snowfields had melted. We divided into two groups. Kraus, Lipinski, Schneider and Wilz headed for the Nameless Tower. They chose a combined route. They followed the 1986 Kurtyka route to the snow band and then the 1987 Yugoslav route. They got to the summit on September 3. Albert, Arnold, Güllich, Leinauer and I attempted the Norwegian route on the northeast buttress of the Great Trango Tower. We failed at the beginning of the headwall, 500 meters from the summit because of bad conditions. This must be one of the most difficult Karakoram routes. In 14 days of climbing, we completed 25 pitches, partly free and partly with aid (VII, A3 to A4). After giving up there, we turned to the Nameless Tower. On September 3, we camped on the snow band. After a bivouac on the face, on September 5, Arnold, Leinauer and Schwiensch stepped onto the top, followed an hour later by Albert, Güllich and me. We latter three made the first free ascent of the Nameless Tower (26 pitches, 5.11 to 5.12).

HARTMUT MÜNCHENBACH, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Great Trango Tower Attempt. On May 27, Doug Dean and I left Base Camp directly across the Baltoro Glacier from the Trango group and hiked to the base of the gully below the west side of the Nameless Tower, hoping to repeat the Selters-Woolums north-face route on the Great Trango Tower. The next morning we ascended to camp in the shelter of a rock close below the base of the Nameless Tower. On the 29th, we followed a snow ramp out to the right side of the gully. We camped and rested a day at about 17,500 feet. On the 31st, Dean waited out a series of snow squalls and left alone at dawn for the summit. He climbed steep, rotten snow onto the upper glacier, saw another storm coming and cached his pack. By the time he had ascended the headwall and cut through the cornice, he was in the thick of the storm. He was on a double-corniced ridge about 200 feet west of the summit. He traversed to a point 25 feet directly below the summit. Rather than risk the corniced summit alone, he returned to camp, where we weathered the storm until the following dawn. We descended to the junction of the Trango and Baltoro Glaciers in a few hours, but poor visibility kept us from crossing that day. We rejoined our friends at Payu on the evening of June 2. Other members were Michael Woodworth, Ed Gunkel, Bill Noble and Tim Rashko.

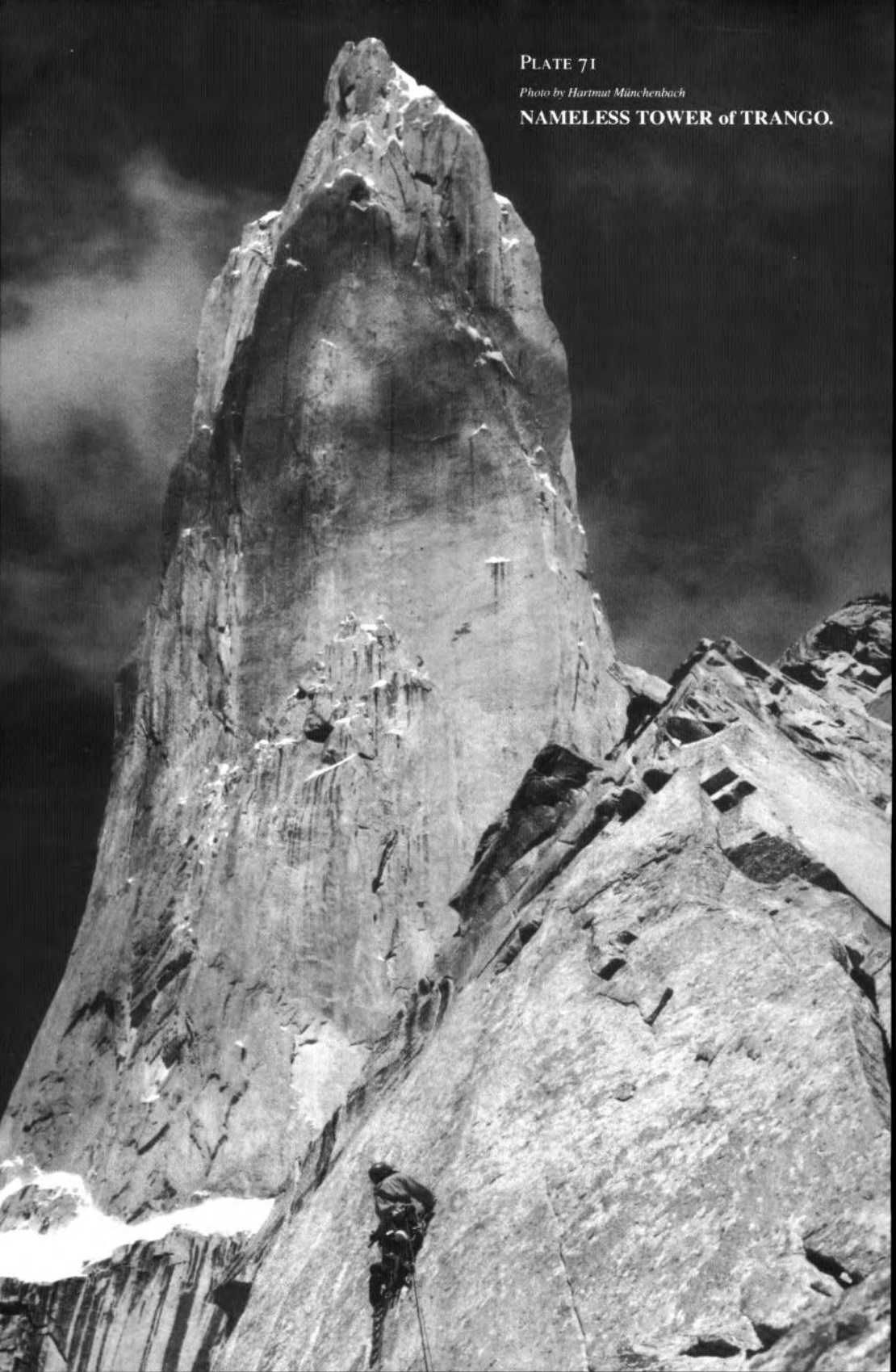
ERIC B. SANDBO, *Alpine Club of Canada*

Uli Biaho Tower, South Face, and Solo on the Great Trango Tower. Our group consisted of Rosanna Manfrini, Maurizio Venzo, Kurt Walde and me as leader. On June 4, we placed Base Camp at 4300 meters on the side of the Trango Glacier. For two weeks it stormed with abundant snowfall. On June 17, all four of us moved supplies to a small camp at 5800 meters at the base of the immense south wall of the Uli Biaho Tower. On the 18th, we attacked the face and climbed

PLATE 71

Photo by Hartmut Münchenbach

NAMELESS TOWER of TRANGO.



a very difficult 100 meters before descending for the night. On June 19, we returned, spending three days ascending the red granite, which was vertical, very compact and encrusted with ice. We limited aid climbing as much as possible. All four of us reached the summit (6290 meters, 20,637 feet) late on June 21. All night and on the next day, we descended rappelling and got to Base Camp in the evening. Rosanna Manfrini is the first woman to have made such a difficult climb of a 6000-meter peak. The vertical rise is 800 meters and the difficulty from 5.10 to 5.11 and A3. On June 25, I left Base Camp alone, crossed the Trango Glacier and approached the Great Trango Tower. Without any protection gear, I attacked the north face by a route I had studied from the Uli Biaho Tower. In a little less than nine hours, I climbed the 2000 meters to the summit (6280 meters, 20,604 feet). This was the first solo ascent and the fourth following Norwegian, English and American ascents.

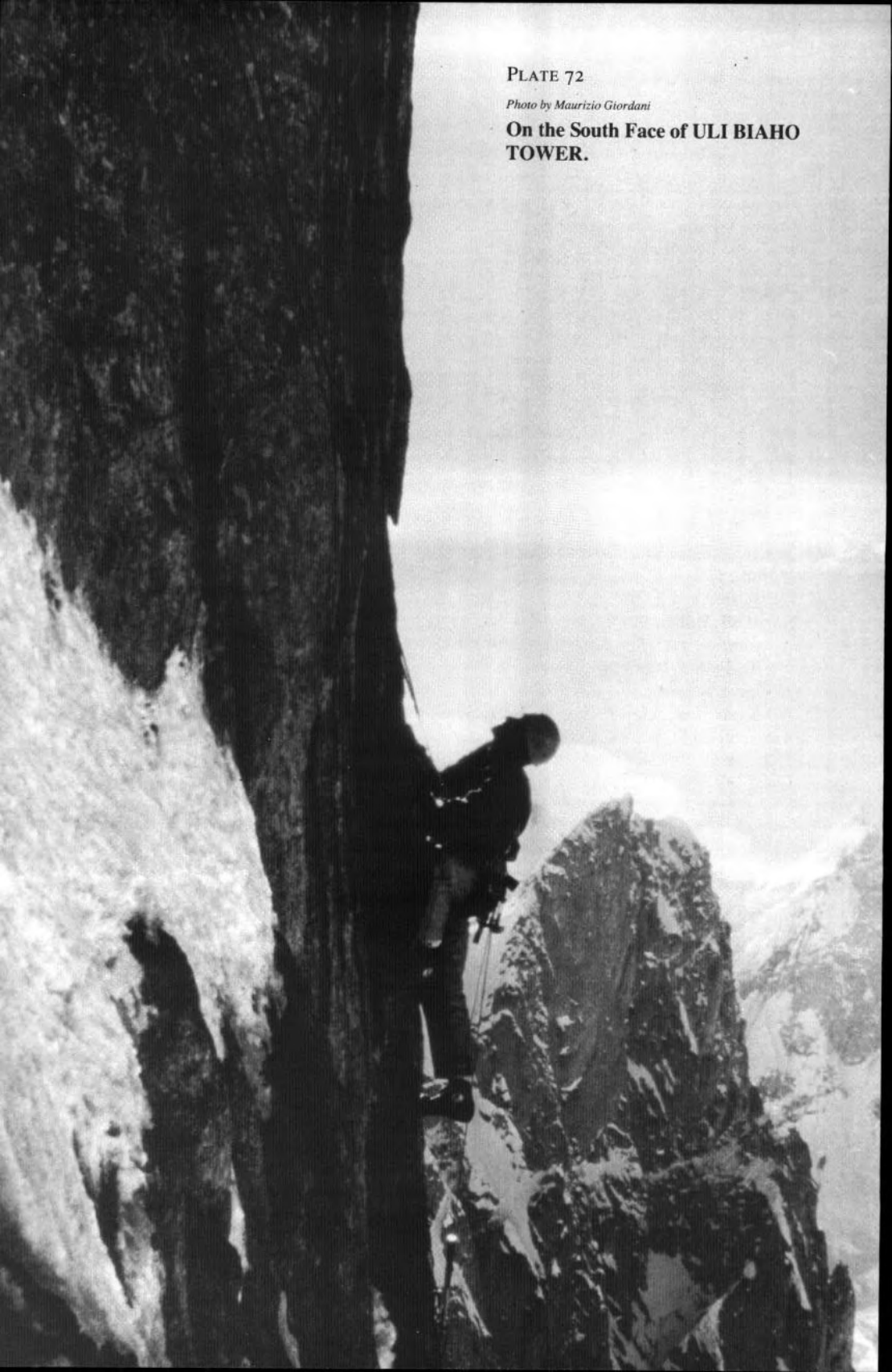
MAURIZIO GIORDANI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Charakusa Spires, 1987 and 1988. The five glacier systems leading up from the head of the Hushe Valley offer remarkably easy access to spectacularly steep walls of rock and ice characteristic of the Karakoram. From July to September 1987, Ruben Mookerjee, Mick Seavers, Dave Pritchard and I chose to concentrate on the Charakusa (or Saraqsa) Glacier to the east. We first attempted unclimbed Nanika (6325 meters, 20,750 feet) by its northwest ridge. After two days, we were forced to retreat from a bivouac at 18,800 feet by an exploding stove and deteriorating weather. The ice-and-mixed climbing would have required four or five days to complete. (Nanika was climbed three weeks later by another British group via a rock spur on the southwest.) We then attempted to repeat alpine-style the 1978 Japanese route on the north ridge of Dryphica (6568 meters, 21,500 feet). Weather again forced a retreat from a bivouac at 20,800 feet. The one successful ascent in 1987 was made by Mookerjee and me on September 4 of the south couloir of Sulo (6005 meters, 19,700 feet), a second ascent. The route, while not difficult, is exposed to serious rockfall. With perfect weather, great friendship and help from the Hushe villagers, it was very enjoyable. A 16-page report and maps are available. From July to September 1988, John Stiles, Andy Bunnage, Bob Pettit, Steve Jones, Bob Marks, Jill Onyett, Chris Holder, Dave Pickels and I returned. We chose to work in smaller teams. In eight weeks of climbing, we reached four unclimbed summits. Stiles and Marks made a two-day ascent of a crack-and-chimney system on the southwest face of Kar Spire (5791 meters, 19,000 feet). Bunnage and I climbed Naysar Peak (5700 meters, 18,700 feet) in a single day. This spectacular pyramid's north ridge was gained from a scree slope which led to a col at 17,600 feet. A very long, continuous ice gully, 3500 feet high, led to the summit of Hussain Peak (5852 meters, 19,200 feet). It was climbed on a very long day by Bunnage and Marks. Stiles, Pickles and I climbed Poro Peak (6187 meters, 20,300 feet) from an advance camp at 18,200 feet. An easy snow slope led to the summit ridge at 19,800 feet. It was there that the pinnacles and difficulties

PLATE 72

Photo by Maurizio Giordani

**On the South Face of ULI BIAHO
TOWER.**



started. There remains a great deal of potential in this area for small teams to attempt unclimbed peaks. I am preparing a history of climbing on the Hushe region, listing all known ascents and all unclimbed summits, as well as a detailed map based on data gained on the 1987 and 1988 expeditions. It is available from me, 91 Telford Avenue, London SW2 4XN, England.

DAVID HAMILTON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Spantik. Our expedition of the German Alpine Club's Summit Club climbed the southeast ridge of Spantik (7027 meters, 23,055 feet), which is without much in the way of difficulties. The weather on the mountain was excellent. We used no high-altitude porters. We traveled from Skardu, through Arandu and up the Chogolungma Glacier to Base Camp at 4300 meters, which we reached on June 28. We ascended steep grass and then scree to the ridge. We placed Camps I and II on the ridge at 5250 and 6200 meters on July 2 and 7. On July 8, Swiss Heinz Bosshard and Irene Oehringer, and Germans Ursula Heynert, Winfried Hansen, Eva Höllinger, Gerhild Kurze, Albert Öffner, Dieter Porsche, Karl-Heinrich Thiele, Monika and Gisbert Weber and I climbed to the summit without problems.

HERBERT STREIBEL, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Haramosh Southwest Face. Our expedition was composed of Janusz Baranek, leader, Mieczysław Jarosz, Mirosław Konewka, Kazimierz Malczyk, Andrzej Mostek, Jan Nogaś, Dr. Jadwiga Skowrońska, Jacek Wiltosiński and Karimierz Wszółek. Base Camp was at 3200 meters in the Ishkapal valley. The Ishkapal valley was first visited in 1984 by a Polish reconnaissance team, which "discovered" the 4000-meter-high southwest face of Haramosh. Members of that team climbed two lower summits: Redam (5300 meters, 17,389 feet) by Krzysztof Baraniok, Malczk and me and Godeli (5325 meters, 17,470 feet) by Mostek and Wiltosiński. Camps I, II and III were established at 4900, 5900 and 6600 meters on June 29, July 4 and 10. The lower part of the face to Camp I was of 50° ice and a very dangerous couloir with crevasses. From Camp I to II, it was rock, partly UIAA V, and 45° to 50° ice. Between Camps II and III, there was very difficult climbing on vertical rock and very steep ice (V and 70° ice). From Camp III Jarosz, Malczyk and I crossed a dangerous hanging glacier and bivouacked at the foot of an icefall. The next day, July 28, after 16 hours of continuous climbing, we reached the summit (7397 meters, 24,072 feet). Climbing the partly overhanging icefall and steep ice wall with vertical séracs was very difficult. Baranek, Mostek and Wszółek reached the summit on July 30. That same day Konowka and Wiltosiński crossed the virgin top of Sari Sumari (c. 7200 meters) but strong wind and lack of time prevented the ascent to the main summit.

MAREK PRONOBIS, *Klub Wysokogórski Gliwice, Poland*

Sosbun Spires Attempt and P 5890 Ascent. Heinz Zak, Toni Ponholzer, Dietmar Sinnhuber, Rudi Sailer, Michael Larcher, Hans Ganzberger and I as leader were in the Sosbun valley from May 15 to the end of June. We had hoped to climb some of the 1200-meter-high granite walls of the Sosbun Spires. Unfortunately, bad weather kept us from most of our objectives. During the five weeks there, nearly twenty feet (5.9 meters) of snow fell at Base Camp. All of us except for Ganzberger did make the ascent up the eastern side of a beautiful mountain, which is given on the maps as being 5890 meters high. (We feel that in reality it is some 300 meters higher, but in that case, it would have been illegal for us to climb, since peaks over 6000 meters require special permission.) The ascent took place on June 14 in a 17-hour day from our 4300-meter Base Camp. We were able to take advantage of a track from the day before when a sudden lightning storm drove us back when we were only 80 meters from the top. The climb was not difficult technically, but we had hard work breaking trail. There are many unclimbed peaks in the Sosbun valley, but the rock tends to be rotten.

ROBERT RENZLER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Sosbun Spire. In 1986, Poles led by Janusz Skorek reconnoitered the little known Sosbun valley, west of the Biafo Glacier. This inspired a five-person Italian expedition to visit the region. Led by Paolo Vitali, they established Base Camp at 3800 meters on August 15. Advance Base was on the moraine of the Sosbun Glacier at 4350 meters. They attacked a buttress to the left of the one unsuccessfully attempted by the Poles in 1986. In unstable weather on August 19 and 20, they climbed 350 meters and fixed rope. When the weather cleared, on August 21 and 22, they made the ascent. They bivouacked on a snowfield halfway up the buttress. They climbed 35 pitches of UIAA Grade IV to VI with sections of VI+ and A0 and A1. The last pitches were ascended in a blizzard. The summit (5500 meters, 18,045 feet) was reached by Vitali, Adriano Carnati, Gian Battista Gianola and Daniele Bosisio. Signorina Sonja Brambati waited for them in Advance Base. They left after only 12 days in the area. (It is not clear to the editor whether they were on the same or a different spire from the one climbed by the Austrians in June.)

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Uzun Brakk Peaks. Our expedition was to train young German climbers in the high mountains. Base Camp was placed on the Biafo Glacier at 4000 meters and Camp I on the Uzun Brakk Glacier at 4800 meters. We climbed two new routes above the Uzun Brakk Glacier. (In 1980, Scots climbed the 6000-meter peak at the head of the glacier, which they called Uzun Brakk. This was reported in *AAJ, 1982*, on pages 275-6. *Editor.*) The first (c. 5500 meters, 18,045 feet) had been climbed by its southwest side by Americans in 1987 and was called "Ogre Stump" by them (*AAJ, 1988*, page 19). This lies on the eastern side of the glacier. Stefan Köhler, Eduard Koch, Christian Fütterer, Bernd Eberle, Michael Saumweber and leader Ulrich Eberhardt climbed this peak by the southwest face

(UIAA VI to VII, A4). This line was clearly to the right of the American route, although the last few pitches may have been the same. Adrak Brakk (c. 5800 meters, 19,029 feet) lies on the west side of the glacier. Michael Lendroth, Jürgen Wittmann, Andreas Dick, Christoph Zuleger and I climbed the northeast face (VI to VII, A4), reached the top of the buttress but did not go to the summit. We fixed about 400 meters of rope on both climbs and removed it later. The Uzun Brakk area is very good for rock climbing with excellent rock although the cracks are usually not very deep.

MICHAEL KINNE, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Baintha Brakk (Ogre) Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Herbert Jans, Reiner Pickl, Christoph Kruis, Christoph Krah, Kalus-Peter Popall and me. We hoped to make the first ascent of Baintha Brakk from the Choktoi Glacier. Base Camp was at 4650 meters on the Choktoi. Our first goal was to reach the 5750-meter col between Baintha Brakk and P 6950 (Ogre II). It took us 16 days before we could reach the col because heavy snowfalls caused avalanche conditions. We made a snow cave at 5450 meters and fixed rope from there to the col. This last slope was badly raked by rockfall. We got to 6200 meters above the col on the ridge but were driven back a final time by a snowstorm.

DIETER ELSNER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Latok III. Latok III, which rises above the Baintha Lupka Glacier has, according to Pakistani officials we talked to, had twenty official attempts. However, our ascent was only the second, following the Japanese first ascent in 1977 when they climbed the route we climbed, the west buttress, but in Himalayan style. The route rises 1700 meters and is of UIAA VI and A2 difficulty for many pitches. Marco Marciano, Enrico Rosso and I reached the summit (6950 meters, 22,802 feet) on June 20 at seven P.M., which forced us to a rapid and risky descent to our bivouac at 6500 meters. In the previous days, we had made seven bivouacs, which were raised to ten in all for the ascent and descent. The route was climbed in winter conditions because of the heavy snowfall from the day of our arrival through the next twelve days.

MARCO FORCATURA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

P 19,950, Balcchish Range, Hispar Wall. Jamie Thin and I climbed P 19,550 (5959 meters) at the eastern end of the Balcchish Range on the southern side of the Hispar Glacier. We crossed an easy icefall to bivouac below the 2500-foot ice headwall of the peak. Climbing this at night to avoid avalanche risk, we reached good mixed climbing on the summit ridge on snow, ice and rock with numerous difficult granite towers. A snow-hole bivouac was made halfway along the ridge. We climbed the final section of the summit ridge and reached the summit on August 8. The descent took two days.

ROGER LAWSON, *Durham University Mountaineering Club, England*



COLOR PLATE 8

Photo by Andrew Wingfield

**North Ridge of KUNYANG CHHISH.
Northwest Spur in Foreground.**

Kunyang Chhish, Hispar. In June and July Julian Fisher, Mark Lowe, Keith Milne, Mike Sheldrake and I made the second ascent of Kunyang Chhish (7852 meters, 25,761 feet). The mountain was climbed in 1971 by Poles via its south ridge. There had also been seven unsuccessful attempts. Our objective was the north ridge, which starts at 6900 meters and is reached by climbing the 2100-meter-high northwest spur. Two previous British expeditions led by Dave Wilkinson failed to get beyond 6900 meters due to bad weather and snow; a Japanese expedition in 1987 ended when a member died in an avalanche below Camp III. We were blessed with excellent weather from the first day of the walk-in on June 10 until the establishment of Camp III at 6700 meters. Following a short period of bad weather, with the exception of Sheldrake, we returned to our high point. Unfortunately, Fisher developed a serious infection and I accompanied him off the mountain, leaving Milne and Lowe to continue up the ridge. They established three further camps on the north ridge at 6980, 7150 and 7350 meters. They made a lightweight dash to the summit on July 13. Lack of time prevented anyone else from attempting a second ascent. Technical difficulty was generally moderate, with sections of ice up to 70° and a tricky bergschrund near the summit, which had to be soloed.

ANDREW WINGFIELD, *The Lemmings, England*

Pumari Chhish South and Yazghil Dome South Attempts. Our expedition had two objectives: to make the first ascent of Pumari Chhish South and to gather granite samples to determine the rate of rise of the Disteghil Sar region. After financial difficulties with porters from Hispar village during the approach, we got to Base Camp at 4400 meters on July 20. On July 21, we placed Camp I at 5100 meters and on the 25th, Camp II at 6000 meters on the col between Yazghil Dome and Kunyang Chhish North. The access route rapidly became too dangerous because of falling séracs, stripped-away fixed ropes and crumbling snow bridges. We decided to shift our objective to Yazghil Dome South (7400 meters, 24,279 feet) via a rock-and-snow ridge. We set up a new Camp II at 6000 meters on August 1 and Camp III at 6700 meters on the 8th. A week of bad weather ensued. We were stopped at 7250 meters by the fresh snow after several tries. Since our porters were to return on August 16, we had to give up the attempt. Fifty kilograms of granite samples are being studied in the laboratory. The members were Dr. M. Masi, J. Biju-Duval, N. Bargasse, M. Kelle, H. Loupy, geologist A. Pêcheur, P. Renault, J.M. Suarnet, E. Tant, A. Tourres and I as leader.

JACQUES KELLE, *Club Alpin Français*

Disteghil Sar and Momhil Sar Attempts. Our expedition hoped to make the first ascent of Disteghil Sar (7885 meters, 25,869 feet) from the north. We were Ulla and Helmut Freiling, Bernhard Tschochner, Werner Zacharias, Hartwig Dorn, Kurt Gross, Helmut Härtinger, Konrad Wierer, Robert Tanner, Roland

Dutschko and I as leader. After a four-day approach up the Shimshal gorge, we set up Base Camp at 4300 meters in July. Unfortunately, the way to the foot of the north face of Disteghil Sar was terribly threatened by ice avalanches. One or two huge powder avalanches swept our intended approach route each day. This two-kilometer-long passage led below the north faces of Trivor and Bularung. In view of the danger, our liaison officer granted us permission to try instead the northeast ridge of Momhil Sar (7345 meters, 24,098 feet). We had to give up this attempt at 6700 meters because of bad weather after we had established camps at 5800 and 6600 meters. The ridge was objectively safe, exposed and beautiful. There were stretches of 60° ice. Despite the permission which the liaison officer had given us in writing, the Pakistani authorities collected extra money from us and have forbidden me to return to climb in Pakistan for two years.

HERBERT TSCHOCHNER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Disteghil Sar Attempt and Ascent of One of the Madhil Sar Peaks. Kotaru Nakajima, Shinischi Kohara and I had permission to climb Disteghil Sar from the Malangutti Glacier. We placed Base Camp at 3600 meters on the Malangutti Glacier on June 6. After failing to get past ice pinnacles and crevasses on the west side of the glacier, we got up the middle of it but were unable to pass crevasses on Disteghil Sar at 4200 meters. We moved to the Madhil Glacier which flows southeast into the Malangutti. (This region was visited by Irish climbers in 1986. See *AAJ*, 1987 page 289.) Kohara was injured. Nakajima and I climbed P 5670 (18,603 feet), the most northeasterly of the Madhil Sar peaks, on June 19. Our attempt on P 5200, the most westerly, failed 100 meters from the top. We did not succeed on the highest of the four peaks either.

JUN GOTO, *Tokyo Metropolitan Government Alpine Club, Japan*

Batura. Our expedition led by Piotr Młotecki set out from Aliabad on June 6. The approach took five days. Base Camp was established on a beautiful meadow below the moraine of the Batoqshi Glacier at 4000 meters. On June 12, Camp I was placed at 4650 meters. Camp II was 1000 meters higher on the Batoqshi Pass. This part of the route required fixed rope. We made Camp III at 6200 meters below a couloir that leads to the crest. On June 8, Zygmunt Heinrich, German Volker Stallbohm and I left Camp III for the summit. After six days of difficult climbing, we reached the summit (7785 meters, 25,541 feet) at 7:20 A.M. of July 13. While descending, we did not manage to find our bivouac tent. The weather broke and we had to bivouac three nights in snow caves before we got back to the tents of Camp III. The return from there was also very hard. On July 17, still in Camp III, Stallbohm had a vein inflammation. The next day, at Camp II, Heinrich had an internal hemorrhage. All the rest of the expedition had to help them down to Base Camp. We warn others that the porters do not comply with the regulations and demand unwarranted higher wages.

PAWEŁ KUBALSKI, *Klub Wysokogórski, Warszawa, Poland*

PLATE 73

Photo by Dieter Elmer

P 6950 and BAIN'THA BRAKK.



Shani Attempt and Ascents of Other Peaks, Naltar Valley, Western Karakoram. Attempts were made by Andrew Macnae and Paul Bale from June 19 to 21 and by Richard Spillett and me from July 5 to 7 on the 2000-meter-high unclimbed southeast face of Shani (5885 meters, 19,308 feet). Both attempts failed at around 4600 meters. Extreme objective danger, caused by rapidly thawing upper snowfields and the technical nature of the climbing combined to produce unexpected difficulties. From a high camp on the upper Shani Glacier, Macnae and Martin Price made the first ascent of South Twin (5640 meters, 18,504 feet) via the north face. Several technical sérac pitches were climbed and deep unconsolidated snow was experienced for most of the route. The peak lies 6 kilometers northwest of Shani. On July 4 and 5, Macnae and Bale made a rapid ascent of a new route, the northwest face, of Mehrbani's north summit (5450 meters, 17,881 feet) from a bivouac at 4600 meters. On July 10 to 12 Macnae and Spillett climbed Sentinel South (5260 meters, 17,257 feet) by the previously unclimbed southeast spur. This lies 7 kilometers north of Shani.

STEPHEN THOMPSON, *North London Mountaineering Club, England*

Chiring West Attempt. A Japanese expedition, led by Tadashi Kamei, attempted Chiring West (7025 meters, 23,048 feet) by its southwest ridge. They established two high camps, but Camp III was not set up because provisions were swept away from an intermediate depot on July 20. For that reason they made an attempt on the summit on July 28 from Camp II, but they ran out of time and had to quit 100 meters from the summit.

Tapadan Sar. In June, Phil Bartlett and I visited the Morkhun valley in the northwest Karakoram and made several spirited attempts on the north face of Jur Jur Khona Sar, a tricky 6000er of easy access from the Karakoram Highway. In excessive heat we retreated due to related objective dangers on the route. In late November, Peter Cox, Mike Woolridge and I made the first ascent of Tapadan Sar (6100 meters, 20,013 feet), climbing in five days the 2000-meter south face under winter conditions. This is an adjacent summit to Karun Koh. The weather was crisp, clear and relatively calm throughout, barring one night when strong winds destroyed the flysheet.

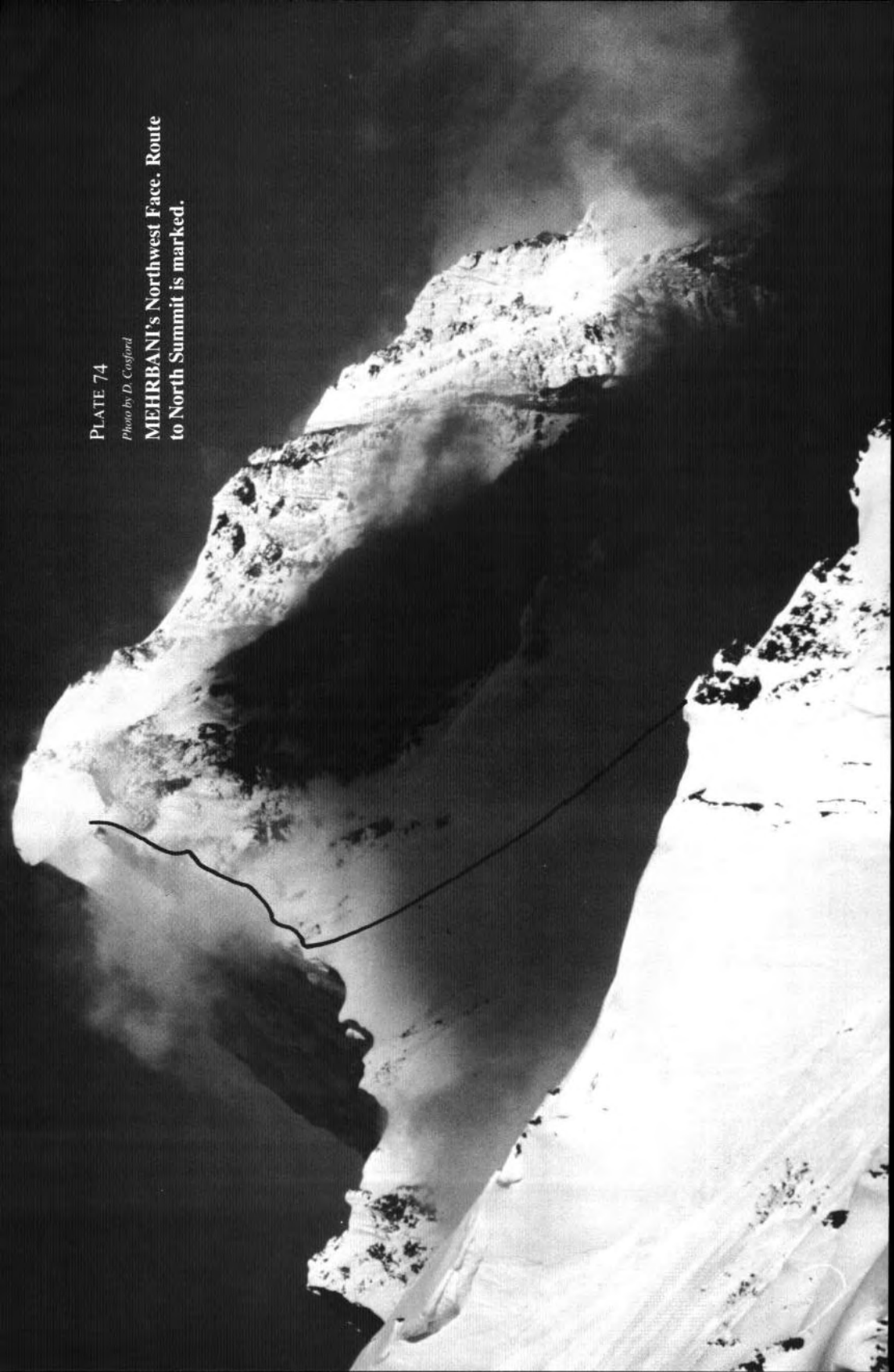
LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Nanga Parbat via Rakiot Face Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Angelo Giovanetti, Claudio Toldo, Costante Carpella, Francesco Mich, Roberto Dall'O and me as leader. On June 6, after two days of travel, we arrived at Base Camp at 4000 meters at the foot of the north face of Nanga Parbat. From the first day, we encountered great objective dangers in the form of avalanches which swept the face at all hours day and night. On June 9, we placed Advance Base at 4500 meters. In ten days we fixed 1600 meters of rope on the least dangerous part

PLATE 74

Photo by D. Cosford

**MEHRBANI's Northwest Face, Route
to North Summit is marked.**



of the lower face and established a camp at 5400 meters. From the Diama Col we reached a buttress at 6500 meters on June 20. At that point, we had overcome the hardest part of the climb technically, but we needed acclimatization to be able to continue along the new route. However, because of a strong rise in temperature, the route became so dangerous that we gave up the attempt to reach the summit.

ALMO GIAMBISI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face. For the past three years, my husband Haruyuki Endo and I have been engaged in special training to climb high mountains which combines normal advanced sportsman's training and low-pressure, low-oxygen training in a depressurized chamber. This chamber was installed at a sports club in Nagoya under the direction of Dr. Hara, chairman of the High Mountain Research Center. Thanks to this special training our bodies are quick to react and it is easy for us to acclimatize to a low-oxygen atmosphere. We proved this in a two-day ascent of Aconcagua last year. After fixing 600 meters of rope in the Kinshofer Couloir between Camps I and II at 5500 and 6200 meters in only two days, we descended to rest at Base Camp at 4200 meters and on June 23 departed for an all-out attack on the peak. After three bivouacs, we reached Camp IV at 7300 meters and headed for the summit the next day. This attempt failed in a storm at 7500 meters. Our second attempt seven days later failed at Camp II in bad weather. Two days later came our third attempt. Climbing up to Camp IV in two days, we headed for the Bazhin Gap to climb the normal route. Unfortunately none of the couloirs on the left side of the peak was in good condition, with rocks exposed due to the unusually small snowfall this year. We returned to Camp IV, where we were joined by Swiss Vincent Banderet. The next day, July 13, we all set out together, but Banderet climbed ahead of us. We later found out that he had quit 80 meters from the summit. We clung to the steep snow face to traverse to the front face of the summit trapezoid. By noon thick clouds covered us. However, my husband and I stood on the summit at three P.M. Although it took us three attempts to reach the summit, we feel that it would have been possible for us, with our training, to have made the top on the first try.

YUKA ENDO, *High Mountain Research Center, Nagoya, Japan*

Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face Attempt. The members of our expedition were Dr. Paul Robadey, Pierre Morand, Alexis Bally, Christian Haymoz, Vincent Banderet and I as leader. We arrived at Base Camp on June 5. We placed Camps I, II, III and IV (in the Bazhin Gap) at 4800, 6000, 6700 and 7300 meters on June 7, 12, 16 and July 12. Most of us had fallen sick, but Banderet kept on to establish the final camp along with the Japanese pair, Haruyuki and Yuka Endo. The next day, July 13, he made a summit attempt, climbing faster than the Japanese. He reached the summit ridge and went to within 80 meters of the top. He had to give up there because the last 80 meters were rock and he was alone and without a rope.

CHRISTIAN DUPRÉ, *Club Alpin Suisse*

Nanga Parbat, Rupal Face, Attempt on the 1970 Messner Route. Our climbers were Canadians Kevin Doyle, Ward Robinson and Barry Blanchard and I from the USA. My first impression of the face from Base Camp was of its similarity to the Eigerwand. Throughout the day the wall changes from malevolence to innocence and back. Even so, we were confident although every attempt since the first ascent of the route in 1970 has been repelled. Technically hard, it seemed a perfect face for alpine-style. We trained by climbing new routes: Shigeri (6500 meters) via its north face with two unplanned bivouacs by the other three and Laila (6000 meters) via the south face and east ridge by me solo. Three of us climbed to 7000 meters on the Schell route, planning to descend that way because it is much easier than the Messner route. We started up the face on July 9 with five days' food, eight days' fuel, two ropes, 8 ice screws, 12 pitons, six wired nuts, 26 carabiners and 30 sewn runners. After 1000 meters of easy terrain and our first bivouac beneath the Wieland Rocks, the climbing became surprisingly hard, definitely the place for two ice tools. We climbed unroped up to the base of the Welzenbach Couloir at 6400 meters. Because of serious rockfall in the gully, we passed it on the right over steep mixed ground. We roped into two teams. In 2½ days we had gained 3170 meters and were forced to rest a half day on July 12. To avoid a windslab on the Merkl Icefield, we climbed the sérac barrier directly. Without a pack Blanchard led a full 40-meter pitch of 90° to 95° ice. I followed with both packs. We climbed only 300 meters that day because of knee-deep, heavy snow. Despite threatening weather, we climbed the Merkl Gully, where previous attempts had been stopped either by rockfall or avalanches. The most difficult climbing starts at 7300 meters. We climbed hard, brittle 60° to 90° ice. By two P.M., we had reached 7700 meters with only easy slopes between us and the 8125-meter summit. As we relaxed, the sky erupted with lightning. A 100-mph wind shot down the gully, driving us to our knees. As soon as it began to snow, avalanches funneled from the bowls above. There was not enough snow to dig a cave and no sheltered stances. Robinson was altitude sick and hypothermic, passing in and out of consciousness. We had to go down. During the second rappel, I was almost flipped upside down by an avalanche. The avalanches got worse. We four were held onto the 70° ice only by a single ice screw. It was almost impossible to get back onto our feet. Between waves of snow, we managed four more rappels. Robinson was in extremely bad shape. After five hours, we reached the comparative safety of the Merkl Icefield, where we chopped a ledge and put Robinson into his sleeping bag. Doyle gave him hot drinks while Blanchard and I climbed down to our previous night's bivouac at 7000 meters, reaching it at eleven P.M. I dropped one of our tents and began to dig a snow cave. By the time it was finished, Robinson and Doyle arrived. The following morning, it was still storming. We prepared the gear to retreat only to discover that our two ropes were gone, dropped the night before. We climbed down to 6700 meters, hoping to cut enough fixed line from the last expedition in 1984 in order to rappel. At the top of the Welzenbach Couloir, we discovered a Japanese pack clipped to the fixed ropes. It had not only chocolate bars but 12 ice screws, 60 pitons and two brand new 50-meter ropes! It took another day and a

half to get off the face. The storm lasted for another ten days. On July 25 we set out again with even more minimal packs. I soloed every pitch. The others roped up for one and the ropes were promptly chopped by rockfall. We climbed from 3500 meters to 7300 meters in 2½ days. Robinson retreated from 7000 meters, after becoming altitude sick again. The rest of us turned back as clouds obscured the summit and we did not have the courage to go up the Merkl Gully with a storm brewing. We descended to Base Camp in 13 hours.

MARC FRANCIS TWIGHT

Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face. Our expedition was made up of leader Dr. Eckart Gundelach, Karl Rössle, Thomas Mügge, Helmut Seitzl, Hubert Weinzierle, Gerhard Baur and me. We made our approach to Base Camp at 4200 meters from June 23 to 26. A reconnaissance of the Diamir face via the Ganolo ridge indicated that our projected route was too dangerous. We decided on the route by which the second ascent was made in 1962. Camp I was placed at 5100 meters on June 30. We ascended the Löw Ice Couloir on July 2. Seitzl fell 300 meters and was badly hurt. Weinzierle, Mügge and I managed to carry him to Base Camp, but he was not picked up by helicopter until the 5th. On July 8, the Löw Couloir was fixed with rope and Camp II was placed at 6200 meters. Rope was fixed and Camp III occupied at 6700 meters on July 10. After preparing the route to Camp IV at 7200 meters, we retired to Base Camp on July 12, having run out of food and fuel. A Swiss and a Japanese married couple were at Camp IV. That day the Swiss got to within 80 meters of the summit and the Japanese reached it. The latter took two days to reach Base Camp, completely exhausted. A solo attempt by me from July 20 to 23 failed in bad weather. Mügge and I climbed from Base Camp to Camp II on July 26 and to Camp IV on the 27th. An attempt on the 28th failed at 7400 meters in wind and cold. On July 29, we set out again in deep snow and doubtful weather. Because of avalanche danger in the Bazhin Basin, we climbed a new route on the west side directly to the summit. At 2:11 P.M., we were on the summit and at 6:30 back at Camp IV. The next day, we two descended to Base Camp while Baur, Rössle and Gundelach climbed from Camp III to IV in worsening weather. On July 31 they gave up and were back in Base Camp after a dramatic descent on August 1. This was my third attempt on Nanga Parbat and my seventh 8000er. We had difficult relations with the Pakistani authorities. We also found the Chilas people deceitful.

SIGI HUPFAUER, *Mountain Guide, Deutscher Alpenverein*

Nanga Parbat Attempt, Diamir Face. Dr. Kurt Schoisswohl, Dr. Michael Grüner, Robert Troier, Imgard Renzler and I as leader hoped to climb Nanga Parbat by the normal route on the Diamir Face. We reached Camp III. We then started a summit attempt on August 6, which was interrupted between Camps I and II because of landslides caused by an earthquake. All recent expeditions to the Diamir valley have had serious porter problems. As an example, our cook had a threat made on his life if he did not immediately leave our camp.

ROBERT RENZLER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face. The Bavarian-Austrian Nanga Parbat Expedition was composed of Austrians Peter Wörgötter, deputy leader, Oswald Gassler and Hans Hirschbichler and Germans Joachim Labisch and me as leader. Our objective had been to make the first ascent of the Mummery Rib on the Diamir Face. The weather was so bad this year that we decided to reconnoiter the new route to the rib but not to attempt it. We turned instead to the 1962 German route on the Diamir Face, where we set up Camps I and II, along with another German expedition, at the spots used by the climbers on the first ascent. Camp III was placed at 6400 meters on the Kinshofer Icefield. Wörgötter fell into the rope in the upper part of the Sigi Löw Ice Couloir and because of his heavy pack seriously dislocated his shoulder. Since there was no doctor to reduce the dislocation, he had to fly home immediately. He was accompanied by Labisch. On August 5, Hirschbichler and Gasser climbed to Camp I and the next day to Camp II, where they experienced a severe earthquake, which brought giant avalanches off all slopes. They continued on the day after to Camp III and on the 8th to the Bazhin Basin where at 7300 meters they spent the night in the tent of the other German expedition. In the basin they used short skis, a real advantage in the highly crevassed area. On August 9, they skied to the foot of the summit trapazoid. They climbed a couloir to the left-hand ridge and a foresummit. Hirschbichler had to quit, but Gassler reached the summit at two P.M. After a night in Camp IV, they descended to Base Camp the next day.

HEINRICH KOCH, *Deutsches Institut für Auslandsforschung*

Nanga Parbat, Schell Route Attempt. Our members included Jim Bock, Bruno Hasler, Andy Lapkass, Tom Mereness and me. We left Gilgit on August 29 and set up Base Camp at 3700 meters in the upper Rupal valley on the 30th. We kept five porters to help carry loads halfway to Camp I, which we established at 5100 meters on August 31. We then concentrated on stocking Camp I, fixing rope above it and carrying to Camp II. On September 4, our first move to Camp II was halted when Hasler lost his pack at 6000 meters and watched it roll out of sight down 2000 meters. The only gear recovered was his poleless tent, a wool hat and a foam pad. This also marked the end of our clear weather and the start of a lot of snowfall. This resulted in dangerous avalanche conditions. We reached our previous high point on September 20, but made only 150 meters of progress the next day through deep snow. A slough slide rolled over Lapkass, leaving him hanging by only one ice tool. That was the last straw and after cleaning the route, we left Base Camp on September 25. Overall, we found the route dangerous, with rockfall down low and avalanches higher.

CHARLEY MACE

Rakhiot Peak. Our expedition consisted of Hwang Nam-Kyu, Lee Kwang-Jae, Kim Jong-Chul, Jung Dong-Kun and me as leader. Rakhiot Peak (7070 meters, 23,196 feet) is on the route by which Hermann Buhl made the first ascent

of Nanga Parbat. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III and Bivouac Camp at 3965, 4500, 5250, 6100 and 6850 meters on May 16, 20, 25, June 12 and 14. At Camp II we changed from the original route to avoid avalanche danger from between Rakhiot Peak and the Silver Saddle and headed toward the left glacier. We had difficulty crossing the icefall and had deep snow. Jung and I made the first summit attempt starting on June 13. We bivouacked at 6680 meters after climbing four pitches of the 400-meter-high Rakhiot ice wall, part of which was 70°, and got back to Camp III on June 15 in bad weather. On June 18, Hwang and Kim left the bivouac at 1:40 A.M., finished climbing the ice wall, using the fixed ropes on the first four pitches, and got to the summit at 1:50 P.M.

WON DAE-SHIK, *Ko-Ryong Alpine Club, South Korea*

Chongra Attempt. A four-man British team led by Thomas Middleton unsuccessfully attempted Chongra (6830 meters, 22,376 feet).

Sani Pokukush Tragedy. A nine-man Japanese expedition was led by Mineo Kawai. They had hoped to climb Sani Pokukush (6885 meters, 22,600 feet) but the expedition was called off when on July 15 Jin Tokuda died of Acute Mountain Sickness.

Shahan Dok, Central Hindu Raj. Last year we made an unsuccessful attempt on this mountain of which we made the first ascent this year. We set up Base Camp on July 2 at 3800 meters. We again followed the same route along the east ridge from Shahan Dok II to the main peak. We established Camps I and II at 4800 and 5300 meters. Camp III was placed on July 21 on the shoulder of the main peak at 5600 meters. Although in 1987 we had climbed the ice ridge to the midpoint, in 1988 there was much less snow. On July 22 at 5:30 A.M. Junichi Tanaka, Yoshiki Yoneyama and I left Camp III and reached the summit, (6320 meters, 20,735 feet) at 2:20 P.M. mainly on steep ice and snow. Shahan Dok III (5893 meters, 19,333 feet) was climbed by Japanese in 1986.

MAKOTO NEBUKA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

Southeast China

Kang Karpo, Yünnan. Kang Karpo (6840 meters, 22,441 feet) is the highest mountain in Yünnan. It rises in the ridge above the deep gorges of the Mekong and the Salween as an eastern extension of the Himalaya. Although the region is completely of Tibetan culture, the Chinese have given the mountain the name of Mei-Li, but the only name used for the peak in the region is Tibetan, Kang Karpo, which means "Snow White Mountain." It is a holy mountain and Tibetans make the complete circuit around the peak as pilgrimages. Until 1987, the region was off limits for foreign climbers. In the fall of both 1987 and 1988, Japanese climbers under the leadership of Goro Iwatsubo of Kyoto University