

July 26 all returned to Base Camp. Throughout these two weeks the weather had been good in this area and to the north. The snow was firm even late in the day, but suncups slowed progress. The rock was reasonably sound providing good holds, with low class 4 or 5 climbing at the most technical parts. Most of the ridges involve alternating pitches of steep snow and rock. Overall, the impression was much like climbing in the southern Sierra Nevada in May. One of the two soldiers who had remained in Base Camp got us 30 porters from Shtevi and we made it to the end of the now repaired road in six days.

GEORGE G. BARNES, *Sierra Club*

Parshui Valley. The German Naturfreunde (Nature Friends) Expedition was in the Parshui valley off the upper Munjan valley. The leader was Manfred Kaierleber; other members were Wolfgang Frey, Heinz Gall, Karl Gross, Karl Hiller and Gottfried Holch. On July 20 Frey and Gall climbed P 6010 (19,718 feet), an ascent repeated on August 10 by Holch. Kaierleber, Hiller and Gross climbed P 6121 (20,821 feet) on July 26. They also climbed P 5218 (17,120 feet), P 5180 (16,995 feet), P 5585 (18,323 feet), P 5640 (18,504 feet), P 5850 (19,193 feet), P 5339 (17,517 feet), P 5229 (17,156 feet), P 5100 (16,733 feet), P 5321 (17,457 feet), P 5415 (17,766 feet), P 5881 (19,295 feet), P 5622 (18,445 feet) and P 5210 (17,093 feet). They made on July 28 the second ascent of P 5760 or Elephant Hump (18,900), which had just previously been climbed by the Americans from California.

A. DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

Scottish Hindu Kush Expedition. After refusing us permission to climb in several regions, the Afghan government allowed us to climb in the central Hindu Kush on the watershed ridge between Nuristan and Badakhshan. Several German expeditions have climbed in the area, but their approach has always been from the north. Little was known about the southern valleys, especially the Bashgal up which we intended to travel. We marched 70 miles up this valley with donkeys to Paniger at its head, where we set up Base Camp on August 4 after a six-day trip. The next week was spent reconnoitering and sorting out the complex system of valleys that surround the head of the Bashgal. We particularly explored the two valleys that descend to the east out of the semi-circular wall of peaks that form the divide between the Munjan and the Bashgal, namely the Shoshgal and the more southerly Suigal. Both the Shosh and the Sui split into three great glaciers at their heads, of which both the central

and southernmost of the Shosh and the northern of the Sui drain the flanks of Koh-i-Khrebek (20,500 feet), the highest peak in the region. The Sui glaciers also drain the two other great 20,000-foot peaks south of Koh-i-Khrebek on the main chain of the Hindu Kush (not Koh-i-Marchech, which is west of the divide). These are P 20,300 feet, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Koh-i-Khrebek, and P 20,400, another $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south. This latter peak throws off a huge ridge to the southeast, the southern boundary of the Sui basin, which links it to a very fine group of mountains dominated by a great square peak, P 19,800. We first climbed two peaks in the upper part of the ridge which divides the Shosh from the Sui; P 16,700 on August 16 by Philip Tranter, Gavin Johnstone and me and P 18,550 on August 21 by me alone. We made the second ascent of Koh-i-Khrebek by a new route. (First ascent on August 17, 1961 by the Germans from Bremen, J. Ruf, Fräulein G. Heyser, O. Landi, B. Lengte.) John Wedderburn and I climbed to the summit on August 23 and Johnstone and Tranter the next day, from camp at the top of the south gully of the peak. On August 25 Wedderburn and I climbed P 19,200, three miles northeast of Koh-i-Khrebek while the other two ascended difficult P 18,400, which rises between the central and southern glaciers that feed the Shoshgal. On August 30 Johnstone and Wedderburn climbed P 20,300 from Camp at the top of the east gully of the peak. The summit ridge north of the top proved very difficult. Meanwhile Tranter and I had some extremely steep (70°) ice climbing to place camp on the col between P 20,400 and the peaks east of it. The climb on August 31 was on frighteningly steep snow (at times over 70°) with a soft surface and ice base and then a traverse under a large and fragile cornice. The north summit (20,200 feet) was reached in good order, but the lateness of the hour and the filthy weather (not to mention the horrific appearance of the higher south summit) demanded that the idea of climbing to it should be abandoned. P 18,400 on the ridge east of our last climb was a snow plod to a fine view point by Tranter and me on September 3. On September 5 we all climbed P 19,800, a straightforward snow climb but steep and sometimes crevassed. This was a most dramatic peak and gave a superb view of the whole Hindu Kush range.

WILLIAM FRASER, *Corriemulzie Mountaineering Club*

Kub-e-Hevad, Qala Panja, Wakhan. A Czech expedition, led by Vladimir Sedivy and consisting of Rudolf Antonicek, Rudolf Cervinka, Milan Daniel, Ivan Gálffy, Vilém Heckel, Miroslav Jaskovsky, Radovan Kuchar, Miles Matras, Josef Psotka, Bedrich Roger, Ivan Urbanovic and Jaromir