

*Koh-e-Kamisktar, Wakhan.* Walter Mejak, Fabio Benedetti, Floriano Tarlao, Nicolò Zuffi and I left Trieste on June 16 and traveled overland to Kabul and Faizabad, where we had to transfer to a hired truck to proceed to Qala Panja nearly at the spot where Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia and China come together. There we hired porters to head south up the Qala Panja valley. In three days we were at Base Camp up the branch of the valley which enters to the west just north of the branch that leads to Koh-e-Qala Panja. From a high camp at 17,050 feet Zuffi climbed solo P 5430 (17,815 feet; Wala Peak 394) on July 31. We all climbed Koh-e-Umieh (18,895 feet; Wala Peak 391) on July 19. I soloed Koh-e-Shmar (19,229 feet; Wala Peak 392) on August 30. None was technically difficult aside from crevasses and penitentes. On August 30 Zuffi climbed P 5896 (19,344 feet; Wala Peak 389) solo by a long, airy ridge of rotten rock (UIAA IV); this lies directly north of Koh-e-Qala Panja. Our chief objective, just east of this previous peak, Koh-e-Kamisktar (20,223 feet) was climbed by Mejak and me from July 25 to 27. We first climbed the ice face to the 18,535-foot col between P 5896 and our peak to gain the rock southwest spur of Koh-e-Kamisktar. We put our bivouac tent near the col. The second day we climbed to the summit across delicate traverses, vertical walls and dihedrals of solid granite, struggling against the altitude. On August 2 we descended to Qala Panja after 20 days in the mountains.

BIANCA DI BEACO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Nicola II Chain, Wakhan.* An expedition of the Rome section of the Club Alpino Italiano made three first ascents in the Nicola II chain in the Wakhan. The leader was Carlo Alberto Pinelli, accompanied by Dr. Franco Cravino, Maurizio Speziale, Bruno Marsili, Luigi Pierucini, Signorina Paola Segre and the Afghan Zaher Amam. They ascended to the head of the Dara-Issik to place Base Camp on August 4 at 15,750 feet on the left bank of the glacial moraine. Within a couple of days they had camp below a semi-circle of peaks which they named: on the east "Koh-i-Pamir" (20,670 feet), on the north "Koh-i-Marco Polo" (20,256 feet) and on the west "Koh-i-Hilal" (20,607 feet; "Half-Moon Peak"). On August 7 Cravino, Speziale and Pinelli climbed "Koh-i-Pamir" by way of the northeast ridge, finding the last 1000 feet very difficult with cornices and steep slopes. On August 10 Pinelli, Speziale and Amam climbed "Koh-i-Marco Polo", which took 17 hours. On August 14 Cravino and Pinelli ascended "Koh-i-Hilal", which they described as very long, difficult and complex.

*Kohe Shan, Urgund Group, Wakhan.* Our expedition, consisting of Professor Alberti, Sinigoi, Predonzan, Stefanini, L. Corsi, W. Romano, Ricatti and me as leader, left Trieste on July 9 overland for Afghanistan. About a month later we were in the Urgund-e-Bala valley,

closed in at the head by a semicircle of five peaks: from east to west Kohe Tez, Shoghordok Zom, Shayok Zom, Kohe Shah and Kohe Urgund (Wala peaks 268, 267, 266, 265 and 258 respectively). The local people called Wala peak 265 Kohe Shan; this was the only unclimbed peak. We placed Base Camp at 13,125 feet, a day and a half above Kaskandyo. Camp I was at 15,100 feet right under the ice wall on the last moraine. We climbed a huge icefall on the eastern side of the north wall amid innumerable crevasses and séracs, using fixed ropes. Camp II was established at 18,375 feet on August 12. On August 15 Corsi, Romano, Sinigoi and I set out from Camp I and spent the night at Camp II. On the 16th we climbed the wall to the col west of Kohe Tez, went west toward the col behind Shoghordok Zom and Shayoz Zom and placed Camp III at 21,000 feet. It snowed in the night. In the morning we climbed to 21,650 feet but had to turn back in bad weather. That night Sinigoi had difficulty breathing. I took him back to Camp I on August 18 while Romano and Corsi climbed first Shayok Zom (22,654 feet, first climbed by Austrians) finding slopes over 50°, descended over the back side and climbed the long ridge to make the first ascent of Kohe Shan (22,704 feet), reaching the top at two P.M. They had to climb Shayok Zom again on the descent and got back to Camp III after dark.

BRUNO TOSCAN, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Urgent East Attempt, Wakhan.* We had bad luck on our second attempt on Urgent East when on July 26 Jorge Matas fell into a crevasse near Camp II and was killed. We abandoned the climb to return to Spain as quickly as possible. Our first attempt on the unclimbed 22,704-foot peak took us to within 550 feet of the top. On the northern slopes of Urgent East, we made four camps, at 14,750, 16,900, 19,000 and 21,325 feet. From Camp IV we traversed west below and to the north of the summit of Shayoz Zom to a point at 22,150 feet between Shayoz Zom and Urgent East, but we had to return to Base Camp because of bad weather and to regain strength. The other members of our party were Manuel Martín, César Comas, Miguel Lusilla and I.

JOSÉ PAYTUBI, *Club Excursionista de Gracia, Barcelona*

*Three Expeditions to the Hindu Kush.* Poles led by J. Wala made various ascents: in the Qadzi Deh: Aspe Safed (21,325 feet) and P 6250 (20,506 feet) between Aspe Safed and Noshaq; on the frontier chain towards the Zebak district: six 5000-meter (16,404 to 19,685 feet) peaks; in the Sust valley: an attempt on Qala East to 6000 meters (19,685 feet), ascent of one 6000er and several 5000ers; in the Pamir: P 6092 (19,987 feet) and several 5000ers. Bulgarians had an accident