

80-pound packs and followed the Durung Drum Glacier for ten miles. We climbed a fine peak of 18,500 feet on the divide between the Durung Drum and Prul glaciers. A few days later we crossed a col to an upper cirque glacier of the Prul basin. After two false starts, due to monsoon weather, we made a fine route on a peak marked P 6560 on the Japanese map. Unfortunately our altimeter read just 6000 meters (19,685 feet) on the summit. From the Pensi La we walked out through Zanskar, one of the remotest parts of Ladakh. This trek of 130 miles was the most interesting part of the whole trip. We reached Padam, the chief village of Zanskar, in three days from the pass. There we split up, Geoff returning to Kishtwar by the Umasi La and Rob and I making for Lahoul and Kulu by the Shingo La. Each journey took five days.

DESMOND RUBENS, *University of Edinburgh, Scotland*

Z8 and Z2, Zanskar Group, Ladakh. Our expedition consisted of my wife Silvia Metzeltin-Buscaini, Maurizio Gaetani, Lia Risari-Gaetani, Alda Nicora and me. We placed Base Camp at 13,775 feet on the Pensi La, southeast of Nun and Kun. On July 26 my wife, Gaetani and I made the first ascent of Z8 (19,850 feet) by its west-northwest ridge. The peak lies south of the Pensi La. On a five-day trip, my wife and I went west across a 17,225-foot pass from the Pensi Glacier to the Rumdum Glacier, up the latter to make on July 31 the first ascent of Z2 (20,260 feet) by its south ridge, and then back to Base Camp.

GINO BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Pakistan

K2, Second Ascent. Thanks to previous expeditions, such as the Americans' and Italians', we were able to make the second ascent of K2 and we climbed on the strong shoulders of those predecessors. Also Dr. Charles Houston, Robert Bates, Fritz Wiessner and Adams Carter gave me much useful information. We sent two reconnaissance parties; in 1975 to find the most suitable route and in 1976 to reconnoiter the repeatedly tried southeast ridge. Our 1977 expedition, under the auspices of the Japanese Mountaineering Association, consisted of 52 members, including me (73 years) as General Leader and Isao Shinkai as Leader. Ten were TV and movie cameramen. We invited three of the Alpine Club of Pakistan. Major Kamal Afzal Khan was our liaison officer and he prevented all porter problems. On May 26 we left Skardu with 15 tractors and 20 jeeps for Bahar. Our loads weighed 25 tons. Here we divided into three parties. These left on May 29, 31 and June 2 and reached Base Camp on June 11, 15 and 16 respectively. The oxygen came in later and arrived at Base Camp on June 21. We had 260 Japanese and eight French bottles. Camps were established as follows:



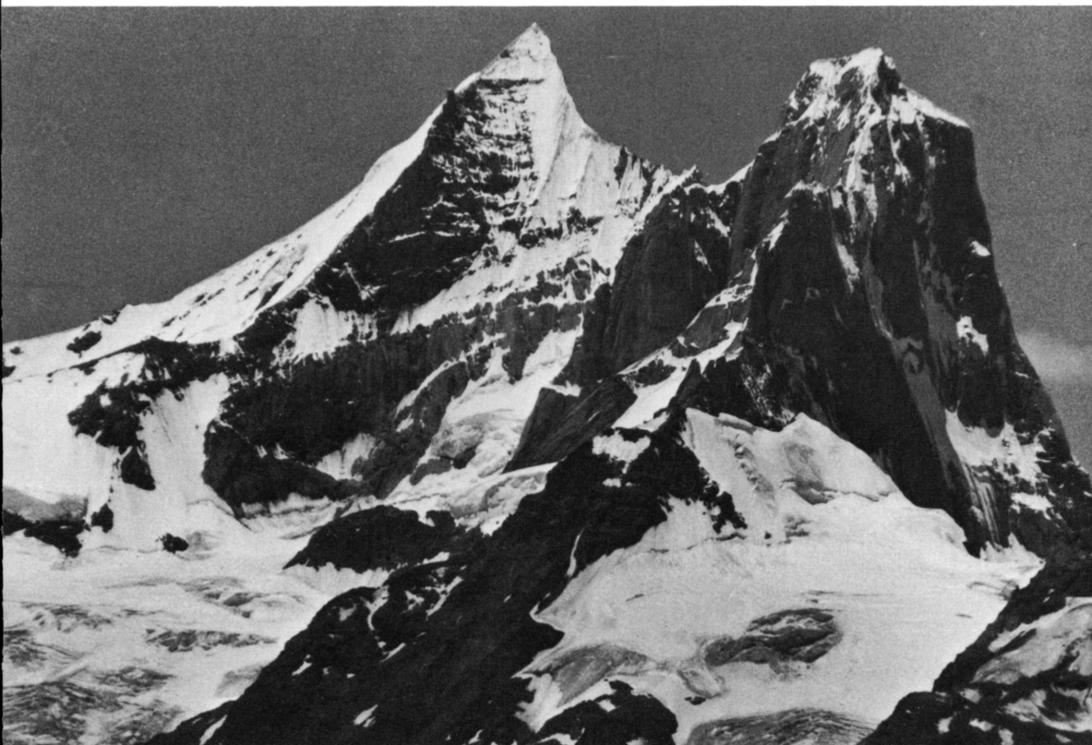
PLATE 78

Photos by Gino Buscaini

Z8, Zaskar, climbed by the ridge on the right.

PLATE 79

Z2. The higher left peak was climbed by the snow ridge on the left.



I at 18,150 feet on June 19, II at 20,200 feet on June 22, III at 22,475 feet on July 1, IV at 24,475 feet on July 12, V at 26,000 feet on July 25 and VI at 26,675 feet on August 3. The first summit attempt on August 4 from Camp VI was driven back at 27,225 feet by a violent storm. On August 8 Shoji Nakamura and Takeyoshi Takatsuka left Camp VI at five A.M., followed 30 minutes later by Tsuneo Shigehiro. The snow slope from Camp VI to the couloir above at 27,000 feet was about 50°. They traversed left in deep snow under a huge threatening hanging glacier. There were fixed ropes to this point. They had a little easier going and then fixed the last 130-foot rope up to 28,000 feet. At 28,050 feet Nakamura broke a snow bridge and fell 20 feet into a crevasse but the other two managed to get him out in an hour. They continued on and reached the summit at 6:50 P.M. Groping in the black night, they got back to Camp VI at 11:30 P.M. and Camp V at 12:15 A.M. Oxygen lasted until they were back at Camp VI because they used it only at two liters a minute. On August 9 Mitsuo Hiroshima, Masahide Onodera, Hideo Yamamoto and Pakistani Ashraf Aman left Camp VI at 5:15 A.M. and following the fixed ropes, got to the top at 2:15 P.M. A third party was in Camp VI but on August 10 the weather changed and they were instructed by radio from Base Camp to abandon the attempt. Base Camp was evacuated on August 22.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *A.A.C. and Japanese Alpine Club*

Broad Peak. A 13-man Japanese expedition led by Michio Yasua made the second ascent of Broad Peak (26,400 feet) by the route first ascended by the Austrians in 1957. Base Camp was established at 16,000 feet on July 7. Camps I, II, III, and IV were set up at 17,900, 20,350, 22,650 and 24,600 feet on July 11, 20 and 28 and August 2 respectively. Yoshiyuki Tsuji, Kazuhisa Noro and Takashi Ozaki reached the summit on August 8.

Hidden Peak (Gasherbrum I), Southwest Ridge. In March we got permission for Gasherbrum I, Hidden Peak. It was only two months before the expedition left and it took great effort to put together money, food and gear. We were Janez Lončar, leader, Filip Bence, Borut Bergant, Franc Čanžek, Drago Bregar, Andej Stremfelj, Dr. Martin Košak, truck driver Matinko Pintar and I. On the thirteenth day of the approach, we saw a rocky pyramid shining in the setting sun, high in the cold blue sky. The next day we paid off porters and built Base Camp. We decided on the yet unclimbed southwest ridge, between the American and the Habeler-Messner routes. The next morning at four A.M. we left Base Camp and looked for the way through the icefall to Camp I under the ridge. The sun softened the snow and the way through the icefall was very complicated. At noon we were at the first rocks in a little cirque under the south face and established Camp I. From there rises a steep couloir,