

feet. We ascended the Karumbar Glacier from west to east to reach the south ridge which we had hoped to climb. Despite snowstorms, we established Camps I and II and Roth and Kreiser reached a 19,000-foot foresummit on 23,436-foot Kampire Dior. Dr. Sindermann fell seriously ill at Base Camp from malaria. I had to summon those in Camp II to evacuate him. In any case, since we had only three days more on the mountain at our disposal, we could not have climbed the mountain.

DIETER CLASS, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*K7 Attempt.* A Japanese expedition led by Hiroshi Ishikawa attempted unsuccessfully the west face of K7 (22,750 feet from the Charakusa Glacier).

*Mount Ghent Northeast and Other Peaks, Kondus Group.* Our expedition celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Climbing Group of the Austrian Mountain Club Section of the Austrian Alpine Club. We were led by Bruno Klausbruckner and composed of Günther Andexlinger, Günter Brenner, Hans-Peter Holat, Dr. Wilhelm Kury, Franz Pucher, Heinz Zimmermann and me. After most of the members and our baggage had been driven by road, we assembled on May 23 in Islamabad and a week later were at Skardu. We drove to Khapalu on the 31st. The approach march lasted ten days and took us through barren but beautiful country, past Balti hamlets, up the Shyok, Saltoro and Kondus river valleys. From Base Camp on the Kondus Glacier we spent from June 11 to 27 establishing four high camps. On June 26 Brenner, Holat, Klausbruckner and I made the second ascent of Depak (23,458 feet) by the north face and west ridge. On June 28 from Camp IV at 21,900 feet Brenner, Holat, Klausbruckner, Pucher and I climbed our principal objective, Mount Ghent Northeast (24,088 feet). This, like the rest of our other climbs, was a first ascent. The peak lies between Depak and Ghent. Just as we reached the summit, Dr. Kury fell victim to an accident. After two sick members had recovered in Base Camp, he climbed with them to Camp III at 20,000 feet. Somewhat exhausted from the ascent, Dr. Kury stretched out on a foam pad to rest. When he got up, the wind blew the pad towards a crevassed area some 35 feet from the tents. Despite warning shouts, he ran after it and fell some 150 feet into a crack, where his body was so tightly wedged that it could not be extricated. After five days at Base Camp, we returned to evacuate the camps. The weather was so fine that we made the following first ascents: "Kury Kangri" (P 6650; 21,818 feet, northeast of Depak, named in Dr. Kury's memory) on July 11 by Andexlinger, Klausbruckner, Pucher, Zimmermann and me via the southeast face, Mount Ghent Northeast again on July 13

by Andexlinger, Klausbruckner, Zimmermann and me, and Chogron Kangri (22,474 feet; 2½ miles southwest of Ghent) on July 14 by Andexlinger, Klausbruckner and me via the east ridge. On July 15 Andexlinger, Klausbruckner, Pucher, Zimmermann and I climbed Sia-La Kangri (20,177 feet; between Silver Throne and the Sia La) via the southwest ridge.

WOLFGANG AXT, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Batura I Attempt.* A Japanese expedition led by Shin'ichi Kono failed to make the second ascent of Batura I (25,540 feet) by the route first climbed by Germans. Base Camp had been established on June 7 and the route had been prepared to Camp IV at 22,300 feet. On July 6 Mitsunori Tenjinzono was hit by an avalanche between Camps III and IV and swept down 2000 feet to his death. The expedition was abandoned.

*Nanga Parbat Tragedy.* Preparations for the first American attempt on Nanga Parbat began in 1975. Expedition leaders, Dan Bunce, George Bogel and I, selected a team, set a timetable, explored sources of funding and submitted an application to the Pakistani government. For training, a core of members climbed Huandoy in Peru in the summer of 1976. The team was assembled in Rawalpindi by June 28, 1977. We were the three leaders, Bob Broughton, Andy Colucci, Peter Erdman, Nelson Max, Bruce McClellan, Ellory Schempp, Rick Sloan, John Unkovic, Eric Wilhelm, Dr. Henry Bahnsen and Dr. Robert Hoffman. On June 30 the expedition left Rawalpindi by bus for Balikot where the paved road ends. The following day we traveled by jeep to Jal, the end of the dirt road. We walked the rest of the way to Base Camp, arriving at the head of the Diamir valley on July 9. We had few problems with porters on the approach march. The government had pre-set the pay scale and load limitations, which removed potential points of friction. What issues remained, the distance to be covered each day and the precise weight of each load, were settled with relatively little dispute. This untroubled relationship was largely due to the administrative skills of the assistant liaison officer who both appreciated our limitations on time and money and understood the needs of our 173 porters too. By July 10 a route had been found through the glacier, and the 13th saw Camp I established. The critical part of the climb, the Diamir face lay ahead. George Bogel devised a solution to the problem of moving loads up the long face: he designed a pulley with the capacity to haul sleds loaded with up to 100 pounds of food and equipment. A haul could sometimes be made in less than an hour. A man carrying a third of the weight needed three hours to cover the same ground. Built at 19,300 feet at a site we called Depot Rock, the