

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.

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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

pulley was finished on July 18. Depot Rock is an outcropping on a steep and narrow corridor of ice hemmed in by high rock walls. It provides a ledge for a tent, a place to anchor loads, and some protection from the rockfall that pelted us each afternoon. On July 31 the last load required to stock the higher camps had been hauled to the Depot. The route had by that time been pushed to Camp II on a ridge at 21,600 feet. While we had fallen behind our timetable, there were reasons for optimism. We had four men at Camp II, two at the Depot, and eight at Camp I. Ten of fourteen were reasonably healthy and, according to our information, the toughest part of the route was behind us. That evening a slab of rock broke from a wall slightly above the Depot. It was 100 feet high. Fragments, some big as trucks, slid over the site where George Bogel and Bob Broughton were camped for the night. Both men were killed. We found George's body the following morning. Bob's body was never found. The falling rock had blasted our gear over acres of mountain side. In view of our losses, most were ambivalent about going on. The climb was abandoned. We searched for Bob's body, dismantled the camps, and cleaned up the face. We walked out and reached Rawalpindi on August 8.

JAY M. HELLMAN

Nanga Parbat, Rupal Face Attempt. After organizational and political difficulties, we started from Poland on July 31. The team consisted of Dr. Jan Koisar, Zygmund Krzechki, Wojciech Dzik, Jerzy Kukuczka, Józef Kubik, Jan Łosoń, Janusz Majer, Marian Piekutowski, Marek Pronobis, Danuta Wach, Zbigniew Wach and me as leader, from Poland, Albert Precht and Werner Sucher from Austria and liaison officer Shoaib Hammed. Base Camp was placed on September 1 in the Rupal valley at 11,725 feet. We placed four high camps at 16,500, 19,500, 22,600 and 24,600 feet. The steep rocky section between Camps I and II entailed fixing 3000 feet of rope. Camp V was established at 25,200 feet during the final push by the leading team: Kukuczka, Piekutowski and Pronobis. They reached the col above the south face via the Willi Merkl Couloir (c. 26,000 feet) at noon on October 14 but could not traverse further or climb the very steep cliff of the summit (26,660 feet) above. That night two of them suffered heavy frostbite at Camp V with -40° temperatures. No further attempt was possible. The descent and evacuation of camps was done in heavy storm. We did not use oxygen. No porters carried above Base Camp. The only day on which a summit attempt could have been made was October 14 because of weather and snow conditions. I think that Hanns Schell's 1976 route, which we chose, is the safest, especially on the lower part.

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