

difficulties began there; some 10,000 feet of rope were fixed above that point. Camp II was placed at 19,000 feet on June 19. The route continued along the ridge. Four gendarmes were bypassed on the right. On June 26 Camp III stood at 20,350 feet on the shoulder of the Nun's Head. The route slabbed under the top of the Nun's Head and descended 200 feet onto the roomy snow terrace below Rakaposhi's summit pyramid. Camp IV was placed at 21,325 feet on the edge of the terrace on June 28. It took six to eight hours to traverse the terrace to a col at the end of the southwest ridge, where Camp V was set up at 23,300 feet on June 30. On July 1 Kowalewski, Sher Khan and Tadeusz Piotrowski climbed to the summit of Rakaposhi in 18 hours. The next day, after a miserable night with six in the tent, Andrzej Bielun, Jacek Gronczewski and Jerzy Tillak climbed to the top in only six hours. On July 5, supported by no one above Camp III—Camps IV, II and I had been evacuated because the porter train was to arrive on July 9—the two women, Anna Czerwinska and Krystyna Palmowska, fought their way up to the summit through wind and drifting snow. They went unroped because it was too cold for one to wait for the other. These two women, who had worked as much and as hard as the men, did the second highest "ladies-only" climb, the highest having been the ascent by Halina Krüger and Anna Okopinska of Gasherbrum II in 1975.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Rakaposhi, North Ridge.* A Japanese Waseda University expedition of seven was led by Eiho Ohtani. They climbed the north ridge, which had been unsuccessfully attempted in 1971 by Dr. Herrligkoffer's German expedition. Base Camp was established at 12,150 feet on June 15 and Camp I at 15,750 feet on a col in the north ridge on June 19. Camps II, III and IV were placed at 17,400, 19,000 and 21,000 feet on June 26, July 8 and 13 respectively. A 500-foot rock band was bypassed by means of a couloir and Camp V was pitched at 23,000 feet on July 25. Camp VI was placed above a 150-foot ice step at 23,950 feet on July 31. On August 1 Ohtani and Matsushi Yamashita bivouacked at 24,925 feet and reached the summit (25,550 feet) on August 2, where they found signs of the Poles. *Iwa To Yuki* N<sup>o</sup> 72 has an account.

*Pasu Peak, 1978.* The then unclimbed 23,897-foot Pasu Peak, above picturesque Hunza valley, was the target of the Pakistani-Japanese Services Expedition, sponsored by the Defence Academy Alpine Club of Japan and the Alpine Club of Pakistan. It had been attempted by Japanese in 1974. Our group included Japanese Captain Chitoshi Ando, leader, Lieutenants Isao Fukura, Susumu Shinmayo, Koichi Wakui, Sau Yamada and Masato Inove and Pakistanis Captains Sher Khan, Ehtesham Anwar and Inayat Wali, Saad Tariq Siddiqui, Dr. Faiz Aman, Flight

Lieutenant Mohammed Ismail and Major Manzoor Hussain as deputy leader. We reached Pasu village on June 1, 1978. After reconnoitering Pasu Glacier for two days, we started the approach march on June 4, establishing Base Camp on June 5 on the western side of Pasu Glacier at 13,200 feet. The main summit of Pasu Peak, not visible except from the highest camps, lay six miles away from Base Camp. Camp I was established on June 10 on the upper Pasu Glacier at 14,000 feet at the foot of icefalls. The route between Camps I and II was the most difficult and dangerous of the entire climb. At several places ladders were utilized. Camp II (Advanced Base Camp) was established on June 18 on a big snowfield above the icefalls at 16,000 feet. The route to Camp III, which was established on June 22 at 19,000 feet, led up a gentle ice slope. Camp IV, set up on June 30, was at 20,500 feet on the top of the ridge which joins Pasu Peak and Shipare. The summit of Pasu Peak, visible from Camp IV, rose steeply as an icy pyramid. Camp V was placed at the foot of the pyramid at 22,000 feet on July 2. The summit party was to have been Ando, Wakui, Inove, Yamada, Sher Khan, Anwar, Wali and Manzoor Hussain. On the morning of the 3rd Manzoor fell victim to bronchitis and dehydration and Anwar stayed behind to attend him. The rest left for the summit, climbing the steep ice as fast as possible. The team stood on the rocky, sharp-edged summit at 1:15 of July 3, 1978.

*Alpine Club of Pakistan*

*Diran, Hunza, Second Ascent and Tragedy.* Our eight-man expedition was a light-weight one. We went up the new Karakoram Highway and on June 24 arrived in Minapin, where we contracted 44 porters. Despite porter problems, we established Base Camp on June 26 at 11,150 feet northeast of the peak. By June 30 we had gone four miles up the glacier to place Advance Base at 12,900 feet. Between July 1 and 3 the route to the north col at 16,550 feet was opened and on July 4 we reconnoitered the north ridge but conditions were so bad that we changed to try a new route on the north face, east of the first-ascent route. Camp I was placed on July 5 at 16,400 feet and Camp II on the face at 18,375 feet the next day. On July 10 Camp III was established near the west col at 20,350 feet. Arturo Romero, Enrique Temprano, Ramón Jaúdenes and Pedro Nicolás reached the summit (23,848 feet) at two P.M. on July 11. They slept that night at Camp III. The next day they descended to Camp II, where all but Nicolás spent the night. At 4:30 A.M. on July 13 a huge avalanche fell from the upper séracs on Diran, completely burying Camp II. Some ice blocks even fell on Camp I, injuring José Luis García. Nicolás and I climbed rapidly to Camp II, but quickly saw the magnitude of the avalanche and the impossibility of recovering the bodies. Base Camp was evacuated on July 15.

ANDRÉS FERNÁNDEZ, *Sociedad Deportivo Excursionista, Madrid*