

Nanga Parbat and Rakaposhi Attempts. A Japanese expedition led by Seishi Wada failed to climb the Rupal Face of Nanga Parbat. They had previously failed on Rakaposhi. Details are missing.

Nanga Parbat Attempt. A seven-member Polish party, led by Kazimierz Malczyk, set up Base Camp on August 4 below the 1962 Diamir Face route. A week later Camp III had been established at 6900 meters. Unfortunately, on August 13 the weather changed for the worse. They tried five times to reach Camp III again but could not. During 49 days on the mountain, only nine could be used for climbing.

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Mazeno Peak Attempt on Northwest Face. José Luis Zuloaga, Kike de Pablo and I attempted a new route on Mazeno Peak (7120 meters, 23,360 feet) on the Diamir side of Nanga Parbat. We climbed alpine-style from July 29 to August 6. We failed to climb the final 200 meters because of very bad weather. The difficult rock-and-ice route rose from 4300 meters. The descent was made with thirty-six 60-meter rappels.

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Tirich Mir Attempts. This season's unusually poor weather and associated dangerous conditions in northwest Pakistan also affected Tirich Mir (7708 meters, 25,290 feet), where our expedition of Steve Callen, leader, Mike Aughey, Dave Harries, Steve Hart, our only New Zealander, Dave Wilson, Mike Woolridge, Hilary Young and I were attempting the west ridge. Porter rates were high. The three-day approach from Shagrom now has a standard rate of 530 rupees per porter. However, their generous nature and hospitality more than compensated and we were impressed by their honesty and reliability under adverse conditions. Base Camp was reached on August 11 in heavy snow and from the 14th to the 24th, during the only period of settled weather, everybody established food and equipment dumps at 6600 meters, having camped at 5400, 5950 and 6300 meters. Some then climbed Dirgol Zom (6778 meters, 22,238 feet) by both the north face and the east ridge. The west ridge of Tirich Mir was inspected to 6800 meters. On August 30, after a short spell of poor weather, Woolridge and I left Base Camp, followed a day later by Harries and Hart. We reached our Camp IV site near the dumps after three days. A sudden, prolonged and heavy snowfall buried our tents overnight and we moved them to the safest place, protected by a small overhanging sérac barrier. In the subsequent days, we were unable to reach our food and gear. We were avalanched three times and were finally able to make an arduous three-day descent to Base, which we reached on September 8. On September 14, while some members began the walk out, Harries and I started reascending in improving weather. It took five days to reach Camp IV. Unable to find equipment or food under five or six meters of compact avalanche debris, we were beginning to move up for a quick

attempt when bad weather struck again. After two days of snow and temperatures of -30° C, a break allowed another tiring descent to a completely deserted Base Camp. We made the four-day walk out to Shagrom, which we reached, rather hungry, on September 26. Two expeditions were given permission for Tirich Mir prior to us. The jeep road from Chitral is particularly hair-raising and the Italian Gervasutti Memorial Expedition, led by Franco Ribetti, failed to reach the roadhead when their jeep went off the road, killing the liaison officer and Dr. Alessandro Nacamuli. The West German team, led by Siegfried Ludwig, abandoned their efforts a little below our Camp I due to the conditions.

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China

Gyala Peri. In 1985 the Himalayan Association of Japan sent two men to reconnoiter Gyala Peri, which lies just north of the great bend of the Yalu-Tsangpo (Brahmaputra). In 1986 an expedition of six returned with Kazuo Tobita as their leader. The approach was difficult with constant rain and dangerous river crossings. They set up Base Camp at 3200 meters on September 16. Their route was the west face and then the south ridge. Climbing began on September 22. Advance Base was placed at 4200 meters at the foot of the west face on September 25. Camps I and II were established on October 3 and 11 at 5000 and 5650 meters. They gained the south ridge at 6000 meters and placed Camps III and IV on it at 6300 and 6750 meters on October 19 and 21. Two unsuccessful summit tries were made on October 29 and 30. On October 31 Yoshio Ogata, Yasuhiro Hashimoto and Hirotaka Imamura got to the summit (7151 meters, 23,461 feet). Further details and photographs appear in *Iwa To Yuki* Annual 1986 and N° 120 of February, 1987.

Kula Kangri (Künla Kangri)*. The Kobe University Scientific and Mountaineering Expedition to Tibet consisted of 25 Japanese, i.e. 12 climbers, eight scientists, three TV cameramen, a newspaper reporter and myself as leader, and 17 Chinese, i.e. five climbers who helped with high-altitude transport, four scientists from the Academia Sinica and others (liaison officer, interpreters, drivers). In all we were 42 members. We arrived at Base Camp at 4400 meters north of the mountain on March 17. Advance Base was at 5300 meters and Camp I at 5700 meters just below the west ridge. We climbed a steep ice wall up to Camp II at 6200 meters on the ridge and Camp III was at 6800 meters. A 70-meter-high rock wall rises in the upper part of the ridge. Fortunately we could traverse south to a small snow couloir. Camp IV at 7100 meters was dug out of the snow slope. On April 21 C. Itani, J. Sakamoto, H. Ozaki and

* According to the Swiss authority, Professor Augusto Gansser, the name of the peak is Künla Kangri. However, local people near Base Camp pronounced it Kula Kangri. The col where we had Camp I was used as the shortest route to Bhutan. We found there a prayer flag and the skeleton of a yak.—K.H.