

Changtse and East Rongbuk Glaciers on April 30. After ascending the Changtse Glacier they climbed the east ridge. After placing a temporary camp at 6200 meters, they established Camp I at 6930 meters on May 8. On May 10 sixteen climbers reached the east ridge at 7100 meters and continued on to the summit (7553 meters, 24,780 feet). The eight Japanese included S. Matsubara, Y. Miyamoto, T. Furuhashi, K. Shimakata, Masamitsu Yamada and Makoto Yamada and the eight Chinese included the Tibetan woman Gungtang. A second summit party on May 11 was composed of eight Chinese. The Japanese who were to have been with them had to withdraw to evacuate a climber suffering from high-altitude sickness.

*Cho Aui.* Cho Aui lies on the Tibetan-Nepalese frontier west of Cho Oyu. The leader of this ten-man Himalayan Association of Japan expedition was Hiroshi Yajima. After approaching via Xigara, they got to Base Camp near the Gyabrag Glacier at 5800 meters on September 21. Camp I was established on the glacier at 6100 meters on September 25. From there they carried out reconnaissance and prepared the route. Beyond the icefall there was a difficult ice face, which took them onto the northwest ridge. They fixed rope to the ridge crest and placed Camp II on the ridge at 6700 meters on the 29th. After a rest at Base Camp, they were back in Camp I. Yukitoshi Endo, Yoshihiro Shikoda, Katsushi Emura and Katso Matsuki left for the summit on October 11, but they had to bivouac at 7200 meters. On October 12 at noon they got to the summit (7350 meters, 24,115 feet). Leader Yajima, Mitsuyoshi Onodera, Osamu Sato, Keiji Ishikawa, Toshio Yamada and Omohara Okoku reached the top at two P.M. on October 14.

*Shisha Pangma.* Two groups of Trekking International were on Shisha Pangma, the first composed of Italians and Spaniards led by Alberto Re, the other made up of French, Japanese and Austrians guided by Claude Jaccoux. The weather was terrible and there was much snow. It was not possible to get the yaks to 5400 meters and it was hard work to carry the loads. The first group could not climb above 7000 meters though they pitched three camps. The second group had better weather at the end of August and the beginning of September. On September 10, French climbers Eric Escoffier and Xavier Murillo and Japanese Takashi Ozaki got to the top separately. After more bad weather, Frenchman Michel Vincent on September 19 and Austrians Michael Leuprecht and Josef Oberauer on September 20 reached the summit.

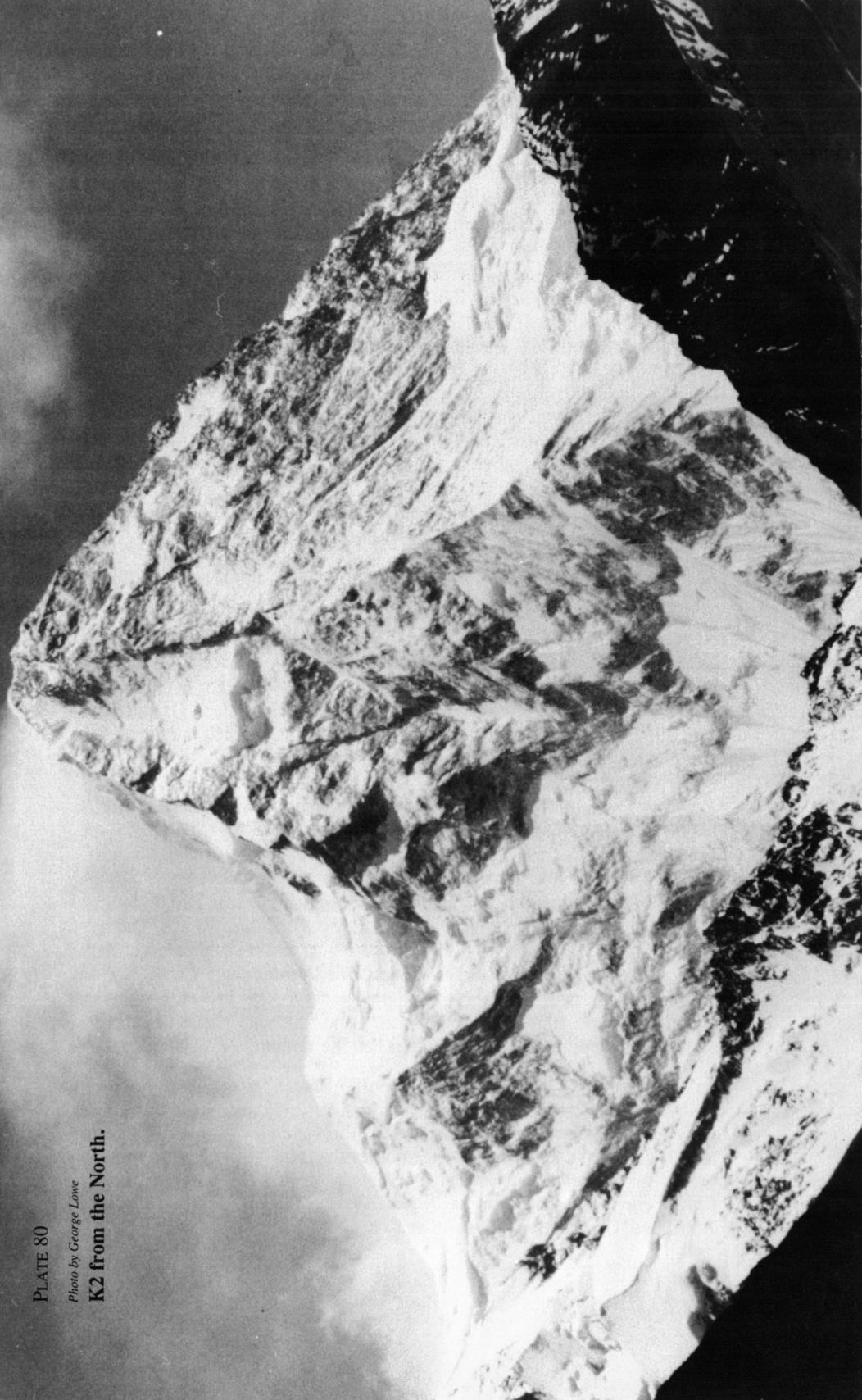
RENATO MORO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*K2, North Ridge Attempt.* Our expedition, sponsored by the American Alpine Club, undertook an ascent of the north ridge of K2. The expedition consisted of two parties, a support team of eighteen "porters" and a climbing team of eight climbers: Lance Owens, leader, George Lowe, Alex Lowe, David Cheesmond, Gregg Cronn, Steven Swenson, Catherine Freer, and Choc Quinn.

PLATE 80

*Photo by George Lowe*

**K2 from the North.**



The support team, accompanied by two climbers, Quinn and A. Lowe, departed the United States on April 18. They established Base Camp at Shipton's "Sughet Jungal" on May 15. From May 16 until June 3 loads were carried the 29 kilometers from Base Camp to Advance Base at 4975 meters, two kilometers from the foot of the north ridge. Considerable effort was spent cleaning up debris left by the Italian expedition at Base Camp and on the glacier. A lovely camp on the glacier seemed to have been almost intentionally trashed, much to our disgust. On June 3 the remaining six members of the climbing team arrived at Base Camp, and immediately began carrying remaining loads to Advanced Base. The support team departed from the mountain on June 10. On June 13 Camp I was established at 5700 meters beneath a prominent overhanging sérac in the center of the slope to the right of the north ridge. The slope avalanched with every storm, and an occasional larger slide would shower over the overhanging lip of the sérac above the camp, partially burying the two tents below with spindrift. On June 19 Camp II was established on the site of the prior Japanese and Italian camp, at 6600 meters. On June 20 the route was pushed to 7200 meters. This day, we saw members of the British expedition around the corner at about 6800 meters on the west ridge, our only brief contact with anyone else on the mountain. Throughout early June weather had been good, but after the third week of June, a series of storms continually interrupted our progress. The slopes below Camps I and II were avalanche-prone and were avoided for two days after every storm. On July 6, Swenson, G. Lowe and A. Lowe established Camp III at 7600 meters on the site of the Italian camp. Due to storms and high avalanche danger, no further progress was made until July 30, when G. Lowe and A. Lowe broke trail through unconsolidated, waist-deep snow from Camps III to IV at 7950 meters on the north ridge. Exhausted by the effort, they were forced to return to Camp II for a rest day. All members of the expedition carried to Camp III on August 2, and on August 3, A. Lowe, G. Lowe, and Swenson occupied Camp IV for a summit attempt the next morning. At two A.M. on August 4, the summit team awoke to find G. Lowe had developed pulmonary edema, probably a result of his extreme efforts breaking trail in deep snows to Camp IV. Refusing aid, he immediately descended alone to Camp III where oxygen was obtained and his further descent assisted by Freer. A. Lowe and Swenson continued with a summit attempt, but turned back at 8100 meters due to slow progress in poor snow conditions. By that afternoon, another storm had moved in and the entire climbing team had safely descended to Advance Base. On August 12, Freer, Swenson, and Cheesmond departed from Advance Base for another summit bid, again reaching Camp IV when weather deteriorated and forced a final retreat. The entire expedition had departed from Base Camp by August 24. Having chosen not to take a shortwave radio, our expedition had no communication with the outside world between May and late-August. Not until we returned to Kashgar did we learn of the difficulties on the Baltoro, and realize our luck in avoiding any roughly comparable difficulties during our summer on the mountain.

LANCE S. OWENS