

attempt. Between 6600 and 7600 meters on mixed ground with deep snow in the couloirs, it took me only four hours. Two tents were put at Camp III at 7600 meters, but the next day we were pushed back down by a storm. After that, we never had more than two or three days of continuous stable weather. Six attempts during July went for nothing. Annie climbed to 6600 meters but had to abandon because of an old knee twist. On August 8, Royer, Marsigny and I reached Camp IV at 7950 meters above a 300-meter climb on very loose rock slabs. Bretin and Valet, exhausted by ten weeks at altitude, had given up at Camp III. Unfortunately a snowstorm coming from the southwest prevented our climbing the last 600 meters. Since the others didn't want to try again, I decided to go alone. It was an intimidating experience to be on a great mountain without the support of companions. On August 14, I reached the beginning of the snow traverse at 8000 meters just above Camp IV and then descended to camp. In the morning I had to escape from a blizzard. I waited one complete day at Camp II as the lower slopes seemed dangerous. In a white-out I reached Base Camp on August 17. With 15 camels (two were lost coming to Sughet Jungal) we left and had some difficulties crossing the Shaksgam River in flood.

PIERRE BEGHIN, *Club Alpin Français*

*P 6903, Kunlun.* Our expedition had as general leader Dr. Chotaro Nakajima, as climbing members Hironori Ito, Naoki Mohri, Hidetomo Shirai and Masaharu Mutsuyoshi and me as climbing leader. The original plan was to start from Kashi, go east via Yecheng, Mazar, Dahongliutan, Tianshuihai through the Aksayquin heights and climb the virgin peak Qun Mustagh, but the water in the river northeast of Goza Lake was unusually high. We then turned to P 6903 (22,648 feet), which lies upstream on the Cong Ce Glacier, 100 kilometers west of Qun Mustagh. We placed Base Camp at the tongue of the glacier and three more camps higher. On August 22, Ito and Mohri attacked the peak. Mohri had just reached the summit when a big snowslide occurred. Mohri was carried down 100 meters but Ito stopped him with the rope. We left Base Camp on August 26.

SUSUMU NOHDA, *Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto University, Japan*

*Syn Qing Feng Attempt.* Karl Gerdes, Paul Tamm, Phil Peralta-Ramos, John Owen, Jim Bennett and I headed for China's Qinghai Province in April. We rode trains for two days from Beijing to Xining, then trucks and jeeps for two days to Golmud, and jeeps for three days over the Kunlun Pass, off-road past the long mountains and great ice lakes of the Kunlun Range, finally arriving at the compact mountain cluster of Syn Qing Feng. The name is Buka Daban in Mongolian. This range had never seen a climbing team prior to this season. The Chinese Mountaineering Association of Qinghai was by far the least competent and most avaricious of the provincial Chinese mountaineering organizations. They shortchanged the expedition on food and continually changed the written

protocol to enrich themselves. At their insistence, renegotiations occurred daily and consumed hours. We arrived at Base Camp to find a disgruntled Himalayan Association of Japan team, led by Hideyuki Uematsu, which had a permit for Syn Qing Feng I (6860 meters, 22,507 feet). They had given up many days short of their prime objective, but in three days did climb Syn Qing Feng XVIII (6237 meters, 20,463 feet), a walk-up near camp. Our liaison officer/cook, Mr. Li, climbed this solo on a windless morning to retrieve Japanese fixed rope for himself. Though the Japanese were eager to get home, the Chinese forced them to stay for several extra days, extracting from them exorbitant day-rates for trucks and food. In the next ten days, we established Camp II at 18,000 feet on the glacier and Camp III at 19,800 feet at the foot of the summit peak of Syn Qing Feng II, for which we had the permit. The Chinese made little effort to protect the camp from external thieves but grilled members every day to make sure we did not intend to climb Syn Qing Feng I without paying the proper fee. From Base Camp to the higher camps, the bitter cold and high winds were relentless. We made two attempts on the summit ridge, both repulsed by high winds; one at 20,200 and the other at 21,000 feet. Eventually we ran out of time and retreated.

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*Syn Qing Feng XVIII.* A Japanese expedition led by Hideyuki Uematsu attempted unsuccessfully to climb Sin Qing Feng I. They turned to Syn Qing Feng XVIII (6237 meters, 20,463 feet), which they climbed by its south ridge. On August 18, Tadashi Fukuyama, Makoto Miura, Yoshihiro Kodama, Takashi Masuda and Hajime Minejishi reached the top.

*Qi Lian, Gansu, Qinghai.* Our expedition was composed of Tsukasa Ogai, Kazuo Ishihara, Sakutaro Kono, Yu Sato, Michio Takahashi, Tomohiro Kameoka, Nobuhiko Muto, Koichi Kinoshita, Masao Takahashi, Shinji Yasuda, Nobuo Momai, Masakatsu Horie, Nobuyoshi Honda and me as leader. We had hoped to attempt the south face but could not reach that side because of floods. Base Camp at 4030 meters was made on August 7 and Camp I on the glacier at 4550 meters on August 9. Camp II at 5250 meters on the north ridge was set up on the 12th. On August 13 Masao Takahashi, Momai, Horie and Honda reached the summit (5547 meters, 18,200 feet) at 2:09 P.M.

TAKASHI KATO, *Fukushima High School Old Boys Alpine Club, Japan*

*Mustagh Ata.* This big peak (7546 meters, 24,758 feet) is so frequently climbed by large private and commercial groups that we cannot report on all such expeditions. In 1988 there were groups from Sweden, Italy and France, possibly more. On July 20, American Keith Brown reached the summit solo.

*Kongur Tiubie Attempt.* Our twelve-person team followed the southwest route on our attempt on Kongur Tiubie, second highest mountain in the Pamirs.