

We set up Base Camp, Advance Base and Camps I, II and III at 4600, 5100, 5460, 5850 and 6320 meters on August 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11. We were unsuccessful in our summit bid because of continuing bad weather and deep snow. On August 12 Cham Yick-Kai, Ng Chi-Wing, Yiu Wai-Loon, Ho Mui-Dan (our only lady), Kam Pei-Tak, Tong Chi-Bun and I got to 6440 meters.

TSANG LOK, *Hong Kong*

Shiwakte II. The Shiwakte mountains, which lie east of Kongur in Xinjiang, were first described by C.P. Skrine in *The Geographical Journal* in 1925. His photographs and the reports of the British Kongur expeditions of 1980-81 indicated that the mountains, though only just over 6000 meters, offered many exciting challenges. No climbers had ever visited the range. The Chinese insisted that we leave the road at Karakul Lake, the starting point for Mustagh Ata and Kongur. This meant crossing the 5000-meter Karatash Pass and going around the Kongur and Shiwakte groups to reach Base Camp on the Aq Tash Glacier. We paid a peak fee for Shiwakte II (c. 6200 meters, 20,342 feet), the highest in the group according to Skrine, and one other peak. From Islamabad we went up the Karakoram Highway. After a day's landslide delay just past Gilgit, we crossed the Chinese frontier at Khunjerab on July 10 and were met by our liaison officer and interpreter. We reached Karakul Lake on the 11th, but were delayed for a week by the inability of our liaison officer to arrange animal transport. Finally we were provided with two horses and two camels and three local Kirghiz. The liaison officer and interpreter decided to stay behind at Karakul. Only with difficulty did we get the camels over the pass and it became increasingly clear that they would not reach Base Camp. On the fourth day, the Kirghiz abandoned us, having arranged with difficult bargaining for another Kirghiz, Hari Beg, to take us on. We descended to Chat, followed the Karatash valley north and then branched up the Chimghan Jilga, which drains the southeast side of Kongur and the Shiwakte peaks. Our "False Base Camp" was beside the glacier under the huge east face of Kongur. We then moved Base Camp to Aghalistan beside the Aq Tash Glacier. Our many delays gave us only 18 days to spend there. Grahame Nicoll and Stan Pearson climbed an easy 5400-meter peak in the Chimghan group close to Base, while Hamish Irvine, Barry Owen, Des Rubens and I attempted the east ridge of a peak called Shiwakte IIIa by Skrine, hoping to traverse to Shiwakte III. It was a very serious rock-and-ice climb for which we had taken too little gear. After 2½ days, we were still a few hundred feet below Shiwakte IIIa and a long way from Shiwakte III. With signs of bad weather, we retreated. After five days of cloud and snow, we had only seven days left. Nicoll and Pearson attempted Shiwakte I while Rubens and Owen tried Shiwakte II from the Aq Tash (eastern) side. The weather on that side remained cloudy, windy and unsettled. Dangerous snow prevented their getting beyond the first bivouacs at 5300 meters. Irvine and I went to the west side of Shiwakte II and climbed a line we had first seen from "False Base Camp." We had better weather and found a route that was not too

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Photo by Grahame Nicoll

**West Face of SHIWAKTE II. Route
lies on the right in cloud.**



difficult, though exposed to objective danger from séracs. After 2½ days of climbing we got to the summit of Shiwakte II on August 8. From the top it appeared that Shiwakte III is slightly higher and much more difficult. On the last two days, we climbed two easy 5300-meter peaks in the Chimghan range. On the return, Hari Beg insisted on going from Chat over the Ghijak Sawan to the roadhead at Kizil Tagh, an area forbidden for foreigners, but easier. We had no choice. Rubens and I returned alone over the Katatash to inform the liaison officer what had happened while the other four accompanied Hari Beg and the baggage. We all met up again in Kashgar, but we then had to mollify the police for having entered a forbidden area, albeit not of our own choosing.

GEOFFREY COHEN, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

Chagragil. Chagragil (6725 meters, 22,064 feet) lies 37 kilometers northwest of Kongur. On September 1, Japanese leader Misao Hirano, Minoru Hachisu and Kenji Nakayama reached the top for the first ascent of the peak.

Syurenfen Attempt, Tien Shan. Our expedition, composed of Junichi Sinozaki, Yuji Kato, Masato Kameda, Susumi Takagishi, Toshikazu Yokosawa and me as leader, hoped to climb the southeast ridge of Syurenfen (6627 meters, 21,742 feet), which lies due west of Urumchi. The approach route along the Muzarut River was difficult because of much glacial meltwater, which delayed us for some days. From Base Camp to Camp III, we traveled on the moraines of the Karakume Glacier for 30 kilometers. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 2500, 3100, 3500, 4050, 5250 and 5950 meters on July 20, 23, 27, 29, August 6 and 12. We had to evacuate two members with altitude sickness from Camp IV, which cost us time. The weather became bad as soon as we established Camp V with heavy snowfall and wind. On August 20, from Camp V we climbed 500 meters along a snow-and-rock ridge, traversed and ascended a 300-meter, 60° ice wall to reach the col between the main summit and an eastern foresummit at 6300. This was our high point.

KAZUO TOKUSHIMA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

USSR

Pik Pobedy Massif Traverse, Tien Shan. Continuing the training for the great Kangchenjunga traverse, planned for the spring of 1989, in August a Soviet team completed the whole traverse of the Pik Pobedy massif. The 26-member party was divided into two groups going a day apart. The traverse was made via Pik Vazha Pshavela (6918 meters, 22,798 feet), Pik Pobedy (7439 meters, 24,407 feet), Pik Pobedy East (7049 meters, 23,127 feet) and Military Surveyors Peak (Pik Voennye Topografi; 6873 meters, 22,550 feet). The 20-kilometer-long ridge, with altitudes from 6000 to 7439 meters, was climbed in a record time of seven days. Despite strong winds and heavy snowfalls, all 26 members