

storm approach, which lasted for three weeks, dumping much snow. On June 23, the weather cleared for four days and efforts resumed. The Canadians attempted the Yugoslav Nameless Tower route but descended after nine pitches when their stove failed. Kerns and Cauthorn tried the Rowell-Schmitz-Hennek and the Woolum-Selters routes but, like Collum and McNerthney on the latter route, found the snow too deep and dangerous. Wilford and I returned to our route, dug our gear out of the ice, pulled up our ropes behind us and committed ourselves to a new independent big-wall route right of the Swiss-Polish route on the impressive northeast face. We had difficulties of 5.10 and A4. Expanding flakes seemingly glued together by ice and much hooking characterized the route. We climbed seven pitches in five days before being trapped for seven more days in a two-man porta-ledge when a major storm moved in to coat both us and the peak with ice. Ropes, Jümars and the pulley froze and became useless necessitating desperate maneuvers to get us both united at a belay. The frozen porta-ledge collapsed twice at night in the midst of a spindrift cascade. After twelve days on the wall, we had reached 19,200 feet, but the weather remained bad. We rappelled and waded exhausted through dangerous, deep snow to Base Camp on July 4.

GREG CHILD

*Nameless Trango Tower, Eternal Flame Route.* Our expedition was composed of Milan Sykora, Christoph Stiegler, Wolfgang Güllich and me. Our goal was to establish a new route on the south face of the Nameless Tower in free-climbing or Rotpunkt (red point) style. Güllich and I had already done the first free ascent of the Nameless Tower in 1988 via the Yugoslavian route. At that time, we discovered a great line, a crack system to the left of the Yugoslavian route. We arrived at Base Camp on August 16. Because of bad weather, it took us more than three weeks to set up a camp on the shoulder of the Nameless Tower at 5400 meters, with equipment and ten days of food. In the following two weeks, we were able to complete the new route. It has 35 pitches of difficult climbing: 11 pitches of 5.11 and two of 5.12. The excellent cracks reminded me of Yosemite and the rock quality of Joshua Tree. We fixed several pitches before a couple of days of rest in Base Camp. After our return to the shoulder, the next day we climbed several more of the finest pitches of my life before Güllich fell and severely sprained his ankle. He was helped back to the shoulder camp, where ice packs and aspirin kept the pain somewhat in control. The following day, Stiegler and I climbed past our high point until we had ascended some 500 very difficult meters when the weather turned threatening. We rappelled back to the shoulder. The day after, September 18, Stiegler and I jümarked back up but traversed some 40 meters to the right to join the Yugoslavian route, which we followed some 300 vertical meters to the summit. With the help of aspirin and plastic boots, Güllich accompanied me the next day. We pushed the route further past the crux of the whole route before being driven down by an icy wind. September 20 was for me the sixth day without a rest. We climbed back up and

past our previous high point, despite a slip which took the skin off my right hand. Finally we completed this direct finish to the summit (6251 meters, 20,510 feet). We named our route "Eternal Flame." The inspiration for this was the flame-shaped rock tower and a song of a four-girl English rock group, the Bangles. The song accompanied us on the whole trip and the lyrics of the song gave us the names of every pitch. This is the hardest rock route (5.12c) yet done in the Himalaya or the Karakoram.

KURT ALBERT, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Trango Towers Correction.* On page 250 of *AAJ, 1989*, it incorrectly gives the belief that the main summit of the Trango Château or the First Tower was still unclimbed. This summit had already been reached by Japanese in 1987, as reported in *AAJ, 1988* on page 251.

*P 5866 (Thunmo), Baltoro Cathedral, solo.* In June, with a trekking permit and seven porters, I set up "Base Camp" on the Dunge Glacier. I made solo a VII, 5.10d, A4+ climb of 54 pitches on the Baltoro Cathedral in 13 days. I spent two days fixing three pitches, nine days climbing alpine-style to the summit and two days descending. The peak is shown on the Italian map as Thunmo and is 5866 meters (19,246 feet). I nailed a 2000-foot big wall off the Dunge Glacier, which was easy except for one "psycho" aid pitch, and climbed 3500 feet of alpine climbing (rock steps and ridges, snow gullies and two 80° ice pitches) up to the base of the 1000-foot summit pyramid of golden granite. I climbed the northwest arête of this three-sided pyramid. It went 98% free at 5.10 except for one pitch of 80° thin ice. The summit pitch was a 5.10d run-out face climb to a desperate lunge. I summited at seven P.M. and immediately started the ten rappels down the north face to reach my bivouac tent at eleven P.M. I reached my portaledge the following day at dusk and was but eight rappels off the glacier the next day when the monsoon storm broke that I had watched engulf Nanga Parbat the previous day. I ran low on food the day before my summit day. I placed three bolts, all for bivouacs. Knowing I needed good weather up high, I fixed and climbed the first four days in "bad weather" (light snow and overcast), and then got lucky. Five days up the route, I got eight days of perfect weather—the longest stretch of good weather between mid May and early August.

JAMES BEYER

*Uli Biaho Tower, East Face Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Carlo Grossrubatscher, Adam Holzknicht, Dieter Demetz, Walter Pancheri and me as leader. We hoped to climb the still unascended east face of the Uli Biaho Tower (6083 meters, 19,958 feet), but bad weather prevented it. We arrived at Base Camp on the Trango Glacier at 4200 meters on May 29. The first problem was