

*Tirich Mir, Norwegian Attempt.* Forty-one years after their compatriot, Arne Naess, made the first ascent of Tirich Mir, Jon Gangdal, leader, Halfdan Egeberg, Torstein Skacke, Sven Gangdal, Erik Johannessen and Erik Hankø hoped to traverse both peaks: Tirich Mir East (7692 meters, 25,236 feet) and Tirich Mir Main (7706 meters, 25,283 feet). Base Camp and Camps I, II, III, IV and V were placed at 3300, 4300, 4800, 5200, 6000 and 6900 meters. Unfortunately, bad weather frustrated their hopes. On July 12, the Gangdal brothers set out towards the top of Tirich Mir East but fierce winds stopped them on the 7620-meter foresummit. They had no political or security problems and recommend this beautiful area to other climbers.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Tirich Mir.* Seven members of the Kyoto section of the Japanese Alpine Club led by Tateshi Sudoh joined with six Pakistanis. They placed Base Camp on the Upper Tirich Glacier and Camps I, II, III and IV at 4800, 5800, 6400, 6800 and 7300 meters on July 12, 16, 29, August 1 and 4. The climbing effort was interrupted on August 5 when they had to evacuate a Pakistani who had fallen. On August 10, Yoshiaki Horie and Osamu Funao were driven back by high winds. On the 14th, leader Sudoh, Kensuke Matsuda and Kiyooki Miyagawa made an unsuccessful attempt but the next day Sudoh and Miyagawa were able to reach the summit (7706 meters, 25,283 feet).

*Nanga Parbat, Rupal Face, Winter Attempt 1990-91.* Our joint Anglo-Polish expedition flew to Gilgit on November 24, 1990. We were leader Maciej Berbeka, Jacek Berbeka, Andrzej Osika, Andrzej Samolewicz, Wojciech Szczerba, Zbigniew Terlikowski, Dr. Krzysztof Witkowski, *Poles*, and Sean Smith, Jon Tinker, Simon Yates and I, *British*. We hoped to make the first winter ascent of the direct Rupal route, first climbed in 1970 by the Messner brothers, Felix Kuen and Peter Scholz. Despite several attempts, no one has made a second ascent of the route. We arrived at the "Polish Base Camp" in the Rupal valley on November 29. With fine weather and experience from the 1988-9 Polish attempt made good progress. On December 1, we established Camp I at 4700 meters below the Wieland Rocks and fixed rope to a temporary camp at 5400 meters. We set that camp up on December 5. Soon the weather broke and progress to Camp II above the Wieland Icefield was slow. However, the climbing conditions were generally good with hard ice between 5500 and 6100 meters. On December 19, Base Camp was flattened by a pressure wave from an avalanche high on the Rupal Wall. Fortunately no one was hurt. We finally established Camp II in an ice cave at 6100 meters at the site of Camp II of the 1970 climb. The weather was then very unsettled and several feet of snow fell, confining all to Base Camp until January 3, 1991. We renewed our efforts to push the route to Camp III at 6800 meters below the Merkl Icefield. Repeated pairs extended the way up the Welzenbach Spur, struggling with increasingly high winds and deteriorating weather. By January 13, we ground to a halt at 6600 meters and made a general

retreat from the mountain. With 14 days left of our planned 60 days at Base Camp, Maciej Berbeka suggested a radical change of plan. On January 17, we switched to the Schell route on the left side of the Rupal flank, planning to climb to 7000 meters alpine-style before making a summit bid. The Berbekas, Osika and Tinker climbed to 6600 meters, leaving 200 meters of fixed rope on the crux rock buttress, before descending in high winds. A summit attempt was not possible in the continuous bad weather and so Base Camp was quit on January 27. The journey back to Gilgit took six days as roads were blocked by rock slides. Whilst in Gilgit, we experienced an earthquake of 6 on the Richter scale which killed several hundred people in northern Pakistan and Afghanistan.

NIKOLA KEKUS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Nanga Parbat, Ski Attempt.* In 1990, under the sponsorship of the Deutsches Institut für Auslandsforschung, Josef and Marianne Walter reached the Diamir Col on skis but were unable to continue because of snow conditions. (*AAJ, 1991*, pp. 276-7.) The idea intrigued Peter Wörgötter, and so he and Austrian companions Christian Bogensperger, Fritz Hörhager, Herbert Rainer, Max Schneider and Dr. Joachim Zeitz arrived at Base Camp at 4000 meters below the Diamir Glacier, accompanied by 54 low-altitude porters. On June 24, Wörgötter, Bogensperger and Rainer climbed to 5000 meters on the Diamir Glacier, to where the 1961 and 1962 German expeditions had placed their Camp I. They traversed the glacier below the Sigi Löw Ice Couloir and on to 5600 meters where they placed their Camp I. After a long rest, the three climbed a steep gully after sundown and continued up a steep slope on the glacier where they set up a tent for Camp II at 5950 meters. Finally, the next day they found a way through the 150-meter-high step. After ascending a 30-meter-high ice cliff, they made a supply dump at 6170 meters. They skied back to Base Camp in only two hours. On July 4, after some bad weather, the same three climbed to Camp II and the next day to the supply depot. Clouds forced them back to Camp II, where they found Hörhager and Schneider. They all descended. On July 9, they returned to Camp II and the day after established Camp III at 6350 meters. On July 11, they ascended an 800-meter-high avalanche track since the snow beside it was knee-deep. They set up Camp IV at 7000 meters below a rock rib. Rainer climbed another 400 meters solo and left supplies to the north of the north summit. Bogensperger spent an uneasy night. Because of his condition, on the 12th they decided to descend. The snow in the avalanche track was full of humps and ridges; the snow beside it was heavy and covered with breakable crust. Eventually they reached Camp II. On June 13, they evacuated Camp II and descended to Base Camp. Despite bad weather, they had managed to open a new route which led nearly to the Bazhin Basin and the summit pyramid.

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\*Dr. Herrligkoffer died on September 11, 1991. In his long career, he had led more than 20 mountain expeditions, particularly to Nanga Parbat. Well remembered are the first ascent by Hermann Buhl and the climb by Reinhold and Günther Messner, which ended with such dissension. He was also the author of many excellent mountain books.