

four expeditions [see above], including Scott McKee and me, arrived at High Camp. The Mountain Gods favored us with a clear, windless day on August 2. We all summited at about five P.M. The combined effort of all to overcome the bad snow conditions was largely responsible for our success. After a long 18-hour day we stumbled into High Camp in the dark.

DAVID HAMBLY

*Broad Peak Attempt and Ghondokhoro La.* An Himalayan Kingdom expedition was led by Welshman Martin Barnicott with climbing leader Russell Brice from New Zealand. The clients were Italian Fulvio Fresia, Canadian Dr. Stuart Hutchinson, Finn Mikko Valanne, Englishman David Craven, Romanian Constantin Lacatusu and I as the lone American. After crossing a broken bridge in Dassu and later, after rebuilding a washed out road, we left the roadhead, Askole, on June 18 and arrived at Base Camp beneath the standard west-spur route of Broad Peak on June 23. We established Camps I, II and III at 5800, 6700 and 7300 meters on June 28, July 2 and 8. After a few days of rest at Base Camp during inclement weather, we returned on July 15 to the site of Camp III, which had disappeared, presumably in an avalanche. We abandoned the climb due to the deep and unstable snow. Lacatusu remained behind, joined an American expedition and reached the summit of Broad Peak in early August. Leaving Base Camp on July 22, we hiked out over the Ghondokhoro La (35°39'0"N, 76°29'30"E) and arrived in Hushe on July 25. In 1911, the Workmans visited the Ghondokhoro Glacier and determined that no pass led to the Baltoro Glacier. The 1955 Harvard expedition came to the same conclusion. However, Sirdar Mohammad Fakhar-ul-Haq led trekkers across it in 1989. Since then a number of expeditions and trekking groups have crossed the pass, which I found to be a simple route. We ascended the western branch of the Vigne Glacier to where my altimeter read 5730 meters. The southern side had some steep loose rock and scree, leading to the northern lateral moraine of the Ghondokhoro Glacier. The porters from Hushe crossed the pass without undue difficulty.

ROBERT J. SECOR

K2. A full article on the Russian-American expedition to K2 with additional details about the Mexican-New Zealander-Swedish expedition and Chantal Mauduit of the Swiss expedition appears earlier in this *Journal*.

*K2, Mexican-New Zealander-Swedish Attempt and Tragedy.* A ten-member international expedition was composed of Mexicans Ricardo Torres, leader, Héctor Ponce de León, Adrián Benítez and Berta Ramírez, New Zealanders Rob Hall, Gary Ball and Marty Schmidt and Swedes Johan Lagne, Oscar Kihlborg and Mickael Reuterswärd. Base Camp was occupied on June 28 and a long siege of the Abruzzi Ridge took place in cooperation with the Russian-American

expedition. As a diversion from the main attack, Ponce de León and Lagne made a foray onto Broad Peak, reaching the foresummit on August 5. On August 13, Torres, Ponce de León, Benítez, Hall, Ball, Lagne and Kihlberg reached Camp IV at 8000 meters. On August 14, Torres and Benítez decided to descend because of deteriorating weather. Just below the shoulder, at 7775 meters, Benítez fell to his death when a ski pole they were using as a rappel anchor pulled out. On August 15, on hearing the news of the accident, Ponce de León, Lagne and Kihlberg gave up the attempt, leaving only Hall and Ball with the three Americans of the Russian-American expedition at Camp IV to make a summit attempt on August 16. While the Americans reached the summit, the two New Zealanders had to quit at the top of the Bottleneck at 8300 meters. Despite their using supplementary oxygen, Gary Ball had fallen ill as a result of pulmonary emboli. They withdrew to Camp IV where his condition became much worse. Rob Hall and the descending Americans managed in three days to bring him back to Base Camp, from where he was evacuated by Helicopter to Skardu. [More details are found in the full article above in this *Journal*.] During the course of the expedition, a human foot was found inside its sock and boot. The old type of crampon and the nailed boot suggest that the foot must have been that of Dudley Wolfe lost in 1939.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*K2, Swiss Attempt.* A Swiss expedition consisting of Peter Schwitter, leader, Beat Ruppen, Norbert Huser, Rupert Ruckstuhl and Frenchwoman Chantal Mauduit made an attempt on the Abruzzi Ridge of K2 that ended at 7400 meters in late July due to bad weather. When the expedition left Base Camp, Mauduit joined the Russian-American expedition and reached the summit of K2 on August 3. [See the full article above in this *Journal* for more details.] Mauduit had just previously made an unsuccessful attempt on Everest.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*K2 Attempt.* Wojciech Kurtyka and I had hoped to climb a new route on the west side of K2. We got to the normal Base Camp at 5100 meters on May 26. The route to Advance Base at 6200 meters is very long and we had engaged two porters to help carry to it. They quit after two hours, leaving the job to us two. On June 4, we reconnoitered toward the foot of the face to 6400 meters but gave up because of avalanche danger and windslab. The weather was also unfavorable. On June 9, we abandoned the attempt.

ERHARD LORETAN, *Club Alpin Suisse*

*P 6940 Attempt and Ascent of Peak Near Skilbrum.* A seven-man Japanese team led by Tadakiyo Sakahara had originally been planning to climb Gasherbrum II, but they suffered such delays in Islamabad that when they arrived at the