

had taken me over an hour to reach the summit from where he was and that he might not reach the top till dusk. Yet he was determined. We gave each other a big hug. That was the last time I saw Dan Culver. I continued the descent at a good pace. Facing out through the Bottleneck, I noticed again that the snow was variable there: some windslab, some depth hoar, some rock under shallow snow. The last few hundred meters to camp were boilerplate snow and ice. I got to Camp IV at five P.M. At a little after six o'clock, I looked up to see Jim and Dan crossing the traverse above the Bottleneck. They had become the first Canadians to climb K2 and were making good time on the descent. (Jim had waited on the summit for Dan and so there is no doubt of his having climbed to the top.) A few minutes later, we heard Jim yell for help. We could see him below the Bottleneck, still 40 minutes from camp. Dan was not in sight. Stacy Allison, Petroske and Haigh left to go to Jim's aid. I stayed in Camp. The only sign of Dan that they could find was his hat and giant dents in the snow that he had made as he cartwheeled off the south face. Jim said that he was about 100 meters below Dan and he had looked up minutes before the accident to see Dan at the top of the Bottleneck. Jim then heard a noise and looked up again. It was Dan falling toward him. He went by Jim at a distance, flying many feet in the air between contacts with the snow and ice. Since no one saw him fall, we can only speculate on what caused it. He may have slipped or tripped. It is unlikely that he was hit by falling ice. It might have been from fatigue or mountain sickness. His ice axe was found in the Bottleneck by a summit party later in the month. The next morning, we began our descent at six A.M. in a brutal storm. Had we not placed wands every 60 feet between Camps IV and III, we should not have been able to find our way. Petroske and Haberl stayed in Camp II that night, too tired to continue. The rest of us descended all the way to Base Camp. We called Dan's wife Patti by satellite phone from the Dutch Base Camp and told her the sad news. While we waited for the porters, we cleaned up about one ton of garbage from Base Camp. We burned three quarters of that and paid ten porters to carry the metals out to Skardu, where they were recycled.

PHILIP POWERS

*K2, Ascents by Germans, a Kirghiz, an Australian and Swedes and Deaths on the Descent.* The Northlight Expedition was led by German Reinmar Joswig and further composed of Germans Peter Mezger and Ernst Eberhardt, Kirghiz Anatoli Bukreev and Australian Andrew Lock. They arrived a week late on July 6 at Base Camp. On July 20, they got for the first time to Camp III but had to descend to Base Camp because of bad weather. They climbed on July 24 to Camp I and on the 25th to Camp II. Mezger found that a tent had been destroyed by the wind and most of his clothing and equipment had blown away. He began to descend, but on meeting with Eberhardt was encouraged to climb back up; he could be equipped by the others. That night all five slept at Camp II. The 26th was stormy. Eberhardt descended toward Base Camp and the other four

remained in camp. When the weather improved on the 27th, they worked upwards. By July 29, all four were established at Camp IV at 8000 meters, along with Rafael Jensen and Daniel Bidner, members of the Swedish expedition led by Magnus Nilsson. All six set out for the summit at four A.M. on July 30 in brilliant but cold weather. At ten A.M., Mezger reported by radio that he and Joswig were at the Bottleneck, fixing the 80-meter-long traverse with rope. A noon report told of bare ice and sugar snow on the traverse. They finally radioed at two P.M. that they had completed the traverse and had 250 or 300 meters left to climb. At 5:15, Mezger reported that he was on the summit. Bukreev had arrived at 4:30, Lock and Jensen got there at 5:30, Bidner and Joswig at eight P.M. They descended in the clear, moonlit night. Bukreev was back at Camp IV at eight P.M. and Lock shortly after him. Jensen left Bidner, who then had some problems in the dusk finding the route to the Bottleneck. At ten P.M., Jensen could see two headlamps below the summit, presumably Mezger's and Joswig's. After a while only one was visible. From somewhat below, Jensen shouted advice to Bidner on the best way down. When the two were finally together, Jensen found Bidner suffering from cerebral edema and helped him through the Bottleneck. Their progress was very slow since Bidner's condition was deteriorating. At four A.M., Jensen left Bidner below the Bottleneck to get help from Camp IV. Bidner was not moving and barely conscious. A short time later, Jensen observed Bidner falling off the mountain. At six A.M. on July 31, Jensen arrived at Camp IV alone. The three survivors, Jensen, Lock and Bukreev, waited until eleven o'clock, hoping for the appearance of the two Germans, Mezger and Joswig, who doubtless had fallen off the mountain on the descent, Mezger probably at the Bottleneck and Joswig higher. They then resumed the descent. Englishmen Alan Hinkes and Victor Saunders at Camp III were notified of the serious conditions of the three. They ascended toward Camp IV and then assisted the survivors back to Base Camp. Lock and Bukreev got there on August 1 and Jensen, escorted by Roger Payne and Julie Ann Clyma, on the 2nd. One of the fixed ropes broke under Payne's weight and he narrowly escaped. Jensen was evacuated by helicopter because of severe frostbite. The others walked back to Askole. (This report was put together from the diaries of my good friends Peter Mezger and Ernst Eberhardt and, supplemented by information supplied by the latter.) [Further details have also been added thanks to reports from Andrew Lock and the Swedes.]

PETER BARTEL, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*K2 Attempt.* Our international team was led by Netherlander Wim Van Harskamp and further comprised Tim Styles, Matt Comesky, Michael Whitehead, Bob Schelfont and me. We established Base Camp at 5100 meters after a two-week delay caused by the customs over some previously shipped equipment. Having missed the "longer" good weather spells, we had only eleven days suitable for climbing during the 64 spent at the mountain. We set up Advance Base, Camps I, II and III at 5600, 6000, 6800 and 7400 meters.