

sians, Poles, Kazakhs, Hungarians, Koreans, Japanese. A severe snowstorm began. At 4:45 A.M. on July 25, an avalanche covered the camp. Poles cut through their tent to get to the outside and began to free others from the snow. In three tents, four people were dead: two Ukrainian guides and two other Poles. Those in snow caves all survived although in at least one the entrance was closed and when it was opened, the sleeping climbers were in bad condition because of the lack of air. Bad weather continued and the descent was dangerous.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

*A Second Khan Tengri Tragedy.* A British commercial expedition had three clients led by aspirant guide Peter Potter. At the 4200-meter Base Camp they were joined by Russians Iliia Iodis and Valeri Khrishchaty, who were to act as guides. The party had climbed to 6300 meters for acclimatization before retiring again to Base Camp. One of the Englishmen then withdraw since he had not been able to stand the altitude. The other five returned to Camp I at 4300 meters on August 2. The next morning they set out early up the narrow trough of the Semenovski Glacier which leads to the western col between Pik Chapayeva and Khan Tengri, the normal route up this now frequently climbed mountain. At eleven A.M., they stopped for a rest below 5000 meters in a spot which they felt was safe from avalanches. Iliia decided to return and Khrishchaty descended a little to talk to him. Just then, a colossal avalanche fell from Pik Chapayeva, engulfing the two Russians and Britons Robert Guy and Patrick West. Potter, who was slightly higher, was caught only by the edge of the avalanche and he extricated himself. After finding no trace of the others, he managed to descend to Camp I, finding the whole area covered to within a 500 meters of the camp. A six-day search resulted in finding the body of only one of the Englishmen.

*Fanskiye Gory, Tadzhikistan, 1992.* On June 16, 1992, Rick and Alison Allen, Sharu Prabhu and our Russian hosts, Sergei Yefimov and Valeri Pershin, drove all day by truck and jeep, along good roads, and finally a rough track, into the Fanski Mountains and to Base Camp at the roadhead, just north of Alaudin Lake. After several days for acclimatization, we climbed to camp at 4020 meters on the glacial moraine below the peak, Zamok (5070 meters, 16,634 feet). On June 22, we walked up the Zamok Glacier, which steepened into a couloir which we climbed. After a long traverse to the north, we reached the southeast ridge which we followed to reach the summit of Zamok in five hours of scrambling. On the 24th, we left Base Camp to attempt the highest peak, Chimtarga (5482 meters, 17,985 feet). We camped at 4000 meters above Mutne Lakes. Yefimov, Sharu Prabhu and I teamed up together, while Rick Allen set off ahead with Pershin in the lead. The latter is one of Russia's finest rock climbers. The deep covering of snow made difficult rock climbing even harder. Eventually, we arrived at a good bivouac ledge on the east ridge at 5000 meters.

On June 26, we continued up the east ridge and after many hard pitches were stopped 50 meters below the summit. On the 27th, we roamed over several summits, including the highest, and made a long descent down the north ridge to a pass and then abseiled down in waist-deep snow over avalanche-threatened cliffs into a gorge. We then glissaded and walked to Mutne Lakes and Base Camp. Rick then reascended Zamok with Alison. We packed up and left Base Camp on June 30 for Samarkand.

DOUGLAS SCOTT, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Peaks Above Vanch Valley, Pamir, Tadzhikistan, 1992.* Richard Leech, Oliver Shergold, Martin Shelley, Polly Truscott, Punit Khare, Louise Rickard, Rob Haddock, Roy Bannerman and I as leader made up the Imperial College Pamir Expedition. We joined 11 Russians from Kazan for six weeks of climbing in the Vanch valley, previously unexplored by Westerners. We drove 200 kilometers from Dushanbe to Vanch. From there, we traveled by dirt road and stretches of no road by truck another 90 kilometers to the head of the Vanch valley, where we placed Base Camp at 3025 meters. We carried loads up the Abdukagor Glacier, establishing four camps at 3100, 3200, 4800 and 5100 meters, the highest on the col between the Abdukagor and the Fedchenko Glaciers. Camp V was at the head of the Fedchenko below Pik Revolyutsii. From these camps we made the first British ascents of Pik Malysh (5430 meters, 17,815 feet) on July 20, 1992 via the southeast ridge, Pik Kovshovykh (5850 meters, 19,193 feet) on July 21 via the northwest face, Pik Tanyas (5998 meters, 19,679 feet) on July 27 via the west ridge and Pik St. Exupéry (6063 meters, 19,892 feet) on July 27 via the southwest face. This gave us a range of difficulties, ranging from Malysh, a simple snow-and-ice climb to Kovshovykh, a hard, steep rock-and-ice ascent which involved some aid climbing. An attempt on the Pik 26 Komissorov (6834 meters, 22,421 feet) had to be abandoned due to bad weather. In the remaining time, we put up a possibly new route on the northeast ridge of Pik of the Paris Commune (6354 meters, 20,846 feet). The descent back down the Abdukagor Glacier proved tricky due to the collapse of snow bridges, taking seven hours rather than one! During the return drive to Dushanbe, we attempted to cross the Vanch River, whose course had changed, but ended by sinking the truck. It took three days to ferry all the gear over to some cliffs by Tirolean traverse and to retrieve the truck with bulldozers.

PHILIP WICKENS, *Imperial College, England*

*French Youth Expedition to Ak-Su, Pamir Alai, Tadzhikistan, and the Piolet d'Or.* A group of young French climbers was selected by the Groupe de Haute Montagne. Under the leadership of Luc Jourjon, François Pallandre and Rémy Karle, they were Raphaël Deschamps, Didier Dumont, Emmanuel Guy, Romain Luksenberg, Bruno Montanarini, Lionel Pouzadoux, Charles Sevin, 15-year-old Jean-Baptiste Jourjon, Eric Neves, Lionel Daudet and David Jonglez. The French spent a month in the region, put up new routes and repeated some of the