

we put our boots on, grabbed axes, and staggered up the bump in the ridge to where we could see. No sign of them. Instead the slope was covered in a mass of car-sized blocks of ice, with a line of footprints above and below. Their fate was clear. The light faded as we stood in dumb witness to this icy grave of our friends. If mountaineers must die in action, this wild spot would be a fitting place for burial. The three survivors were then trapped at the camp by two further days of snowfall before they were able to return to Base Camp.

DAVE WILKINSON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*P 6400 and P 5900 Ascents, and Bublomotin Attempt.* Americans Lois Remington, Tim Dolan, Doug Lubes, and Scott Burch, after receiving permission from Pakistani authorities in Gilgit, established Base Camp at 3950 meters under P 6400 in the Chapchinal group south of Kunjerab Pass. After two high camps, all four climbed on unconsolidated snow and 60° ice to reach the summit on October 31, 1994, via the southwest ridge. They descended via the south face. The next day, Burch climbed Peak 5900 via its southeast ridge. Remington and Burch returned to Hunza in mid-November to climb Bubilimotin from the Hasanabad Glacier. They were unsuccessful due to much new snow and dangerous avalanche conditions.

SCOTT BURCH, *unaffiliated*

*Istoronal, Southwest Ridge.* Reinhold Stauber led a nine-member Austrian expedition on the second ascent of Istoronal (7403 meters) via the southwest ridge, reaching the summit on July 19 at 10:15 a.m. The team experienced mixed climbing with the crux between Camp 1 (5400 meters) and Camp 2 (6400 meters) where fixed ropes were used due to loose rocks. The rest was mixed (55°). The expedition made Base Camp at 4500 meters, Camp 1 at 5400 meters, Camp 2 at 6200 meters, and Camp 3 at 7000 meters. Other members were Dr. Haymo Uhl, Hans Matweber, Guenther Pischelsberger, Karl Tortschanoff, Alois Stueckler and Mrs. Gudrun Stauber.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

*Tirich Mir, Ascents and Tragedy.* On June 14 the three Japanese members of the "Barbarian Club Tirich Mir Expedition" led by Ayumi Nozawai arrived at Base Camp (4800 meters). Despite an initial period of unsettled weather they climbed in a lightweight semi-alpine style, establishing caches of food and equipment at 5500 meters, 6200 meters and 6600 meters before

returning to BC on June 28. After five days resting they made a five day push from BC starting on July 3 and summited at 3 p.m. on July 7. A semi-commercial expedition organized by High Adventure (UK) comprising seven climbers (four from UK, two from Australia, one from Canada) led by David Hamilton arrived in BC on June 24. Extensive snow cover on the glacier in late June meant that skis could be used with ease to supply the first three camps. By July 8 Camps 1, 2, and 3 were stocked but snow conditions had deteriorated and skis could no longer be used. David Hamilton and Grant Dixon reached the summit at 2:23 p.m. on July 17 (nine hours from C4). Stephan Fuller reached 7350 meters on the same day. The second summit team of Gerry Goldsmith and Phil Wickens turned back at 7350 meters due to the effects of altitude early on the morning of July 20. All ropes, tents and equipment were removed from the mountain and the expedition members were all back in BC by July 22. The eight members of the "South Korean Kyung G Expedition" to Tirich Mir led by Lee Hae Bong arrived in BC on the same day that the Japanese team summited (July 7). Using three high altitude porters they quickly established C1 at 5600 meters and C2 at 6400 meters and C3 at 6650 meters. Beyond this, momentum slowed. It was several weeks later, at the third attempt, that they succeeded in getting two people up the gully between C3 and C4. On July 23, with two members resting in C4, the expedition leadership in BC made the decision to bring forward the expedition's planned pull-out date from BC. Expedition members in C2 were told to start removing equipment from the mountain and porters were asked to arrive at BC in three days' time. The weather on July 24th was unsettled with high winds and turbulent cloud formations. This caused the Koreans in C4 to delay the start of the intended summit bid until 10 a.m. Throughout the day they progressed upward, maintaining radio contact with BC. By mid-afternoon they made repeated requests in broken English for route information from the British team in BC. At 7:15 p.m. they reported they were on the summit. No further communication was heard from them. The South Korean team abandoned BC two days later. No attempt was made to send a rescue team or search party to ascertain the fate of the missing men. They may have perished in a fall somewhere between the summit and C4, or they may have died somewhere below C4 while descending. (Missing, presumed dead: Cho Jun Young and Kim Jae Poo.) Members of other expeditions in the area expressed astonishment at the apparent inability of the Koreans to mount any rescue effort for their missing colleagues. A helicopter search eight days later found no trace of the missing men.

DAVID HAMILTON, *Alpine Club*