

Brakk (ca. 5450m) on the Hispar watershed ridge of the Solu Glacier. Base Camp was established on July 22 at ca. 3850 meters “a little way above” the encampment of Sugulu. Plagued by unsettled weather, the team explored an unnamed side glacier north of the BC, where they made their ascent.

South of the Solu Glacier on the adjacent Sokha Glacier, Britons Ian Arnold and Dave Millman climbed a small, unnamed peak during the same time period. (*High Mountain Sports 221*)

NANGA PARBAT RANGE

Nanga Parbat, Northeast Face, New Route. In July, Reinhold Messner, his brother Hubert Messner, Hanspeter Eisendle, and climber/cameraman Wolfgang Tomaseth traveled to Nanga Parbat. Hubert doubled as the expedition doctor. After 14 years of abstinence, as Reinhold put it, he wanted to stand on an 8000-meter peak one more time. And once more it should be the summit of Nanga Parbat, his personal mountain of destiny: here his brother Guenther died in 1970 in an avalanche, and Reinhold himself lost six toes to frostbite. Eight years later, he managed to solo from valley to summit without supplemental oxygen.

In addition, this expedition was important to Reinhold because he wanted to search for the missing English climber, Alfred Mummery, who Reinhold considers one of his role models. Mummery attempted to be the first person to scale an 8000-meter peak in 1895. Reinhold wanted to climb to the summit in Mummery’s tracks.

Reinhold’s goal was the northeast side of the mountain, between the Diamir and Rakiot flanks. Until now only Mummery had succeeded in reaching it, but no trace of him or his Gurkha porters was ever found. The area has extreme avalanche and rockfall danger, and is only reachable through the broken and crevasse-laden Diama Glacier.

An ice trough that rises to the east was Reinhold’s destination. Abdul Raman, the cook’s helper, had entered the valley five years ago on a barely decipherable trail that turned out to be much safer than the originally planned route.

The team discovered why no one has ever attempted an ascent from the Diama Glacier: the terrain is murderous, a narrow valley full of boulders and ice, with dangerous crevasses and seracs. With Base Camp at 4200 meters, they established a depot at 5200 meters. Advanced Base Camp (ABC) was established at 5800 meters.

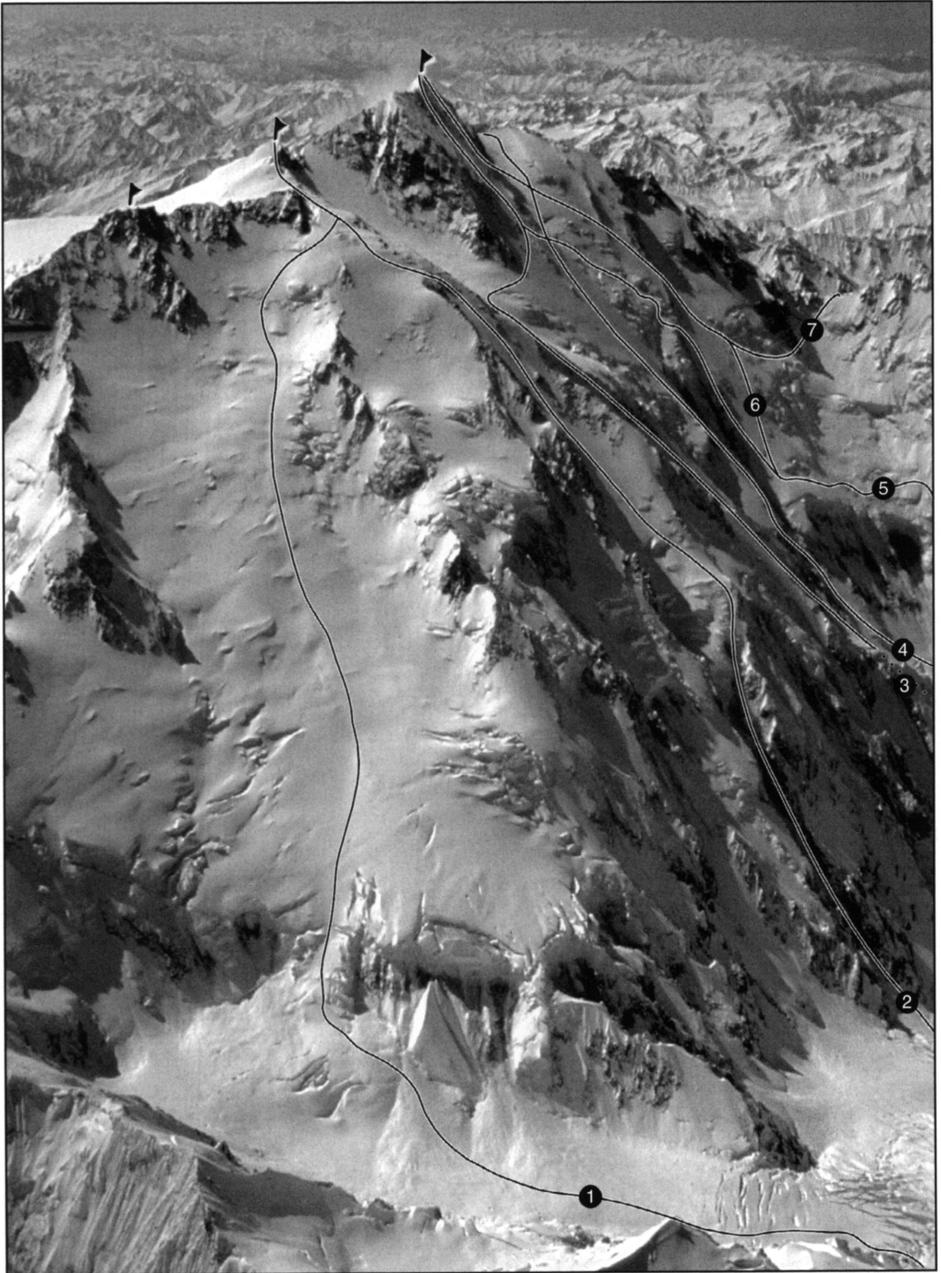
Reinhold believes that Mummery was a victim of the extreme variability of the weather on Nanga Parbat. During an influx of bad weather on the mountain, Mummery would have had little chance of leaving the Diama Glacier Valley in a timely manner.

After a week’s stay in base camp, the expedition began the second acclimatization phase. Reinhold and his team went to ABC at 5800 meters for a week, moving food from the cache 600 meters higher. In the meantime, a wanded route was established between the cache and the upper camp.

In the hopes of stumbling upon a trace of Mummery, the Messner brothers worked their way up to the Diama Notch at 6300 meters. This is where Mummery wanted to descend into the Rakhiot Valley, but not even the smallest sign of the missing men was found.

Eisendle and Tomaseth finally discovered the possible passage to the summit after a long search in the unwelcome walls of the hanging glacier. The passage also appeared to be feasible for the descent.

On the morning of July 19, the climbers returned to base camp. The monsoon then start-



The northeast face of Nanga Parbat, showing 1. The Northeast Face (Eisendle-Messner-Messner-Tomaseth, 2000). 2. The Slovak route (Belica-Just-Zatko-Zatko, 1978). 3. The Kinshofer route (Kinshofer-Low-Manhardt, 1962). 4. Mummery Rib (Mummery-Ragobir reached 6100m in 1895; R. Messner descended the line in 1970). 5. Messner descent route (1978). 6. The Messner route (1978). 7. Mazeno Ridge and upper part of the 1976 Schell route. The three summit flags indicate, from left to right, Nanga Parbat North II (7745m), Nanga Parbat Forepeak (7910m), and Nanga Parbat Main (8126m). REINHOLD MESSNER

ed, and for a week the rain splashed down. In the village of Kurgali, some two hours away, Reinhold had issued invitations for a “gathering of veterans.” Those who participated in the 1970 expedition, who saw the seriously injured Reinhold drag himself off the Diamir Glacier, enjoyed the reunion. The rain stopped, and the weather turned. On the night of July 27, the four climbers and two porters got moving, reaching the upper camp with no problems. The next morning, the Messners, Eisendle and Tomaseth climbed through the icefall and up onto the north face and through to 7200 meters—an accomplishment of 3000 vertical meters in only two days. An avalanche path that reached 1000 meters down the side of the mountain offered them solid footing. The weather continued to hold and the walkable avalanche path continued above the bivvy site. The next day, after a sleepless night and in spite of wind and cold, the team quickly moved up 100 vertical meters. However, where the avalanche path ended, snowdrifts began. The six days of bad weather that kept Reinhold and his crew in base camp had filled hollows and slopes with hip-deep snow. After two hours, in which they gained only 300 vertical meters, they knew that they had hit the limit and that the summit was unreachable.

“The new route stands,” said Reinhold, “but because of poor snow conditions we could only get to 7500 meters.” At that point, the new route connected with the 1978 Czech Route. Reinhold had reached his personal goal: the Mummery route was complete. According to him, the summit was merely a byproduct; what counted was that they had tried a clean ascent “by fair means.”

From an August 10, 2000, article in the German newspaper Die Zeit, by RALPH-PETER MAERTEN

Panmah Muztagh

Peak 5750m, Ascent, Peak 5990m, Possible First Ascent, and Baintha Brakk, Attempt. Doug Chabot and Jack Tackle flew to Islamabad on June 15 and arrived at Base Camp below the Ogre Thumb on June 21. After establishing Advanced Base Camp on the Uzun Brakk Glacier, they fixed five pitches of beautiful climbing on the south buttress of the Ogre (Baintha Brakk, 7285m). Acclimatizing on the previously climbed Peak 5750m located near Latok II and then Peak 5990m near the east face of Uzun Brakk (which they believe was a first ascent), they then patiently waited for clear weather to climb the south buttress. Unfortunately, 27 days of bad weather during the month of July prevented them from climbing any higher up the buttress. They were able to remove all their fixed line before leaving BC on July 29.

DOUGLAS CHABOT

Ogre II, Southeast Ridge, Attempt. The team was supposed to be composed of Luca Maspes (leader), Maurizio Giordani, Mauro Girardi, Emanuele Pellizzari, Natale Villa and Maurizio Venzo. One week before leaving, our “leader” decided, for lack of motivation or out of self-doubt, to stay home. The remaining five of us left for Pakistan. Maurizio Giordani, Mauro and I left Italy on June 4, arrived in Islamabad the following day and left on the 7th for Skardu with the permit issued by the Ministry of Tourism. In Skardu we found that our leader had sold our ropes for fixing last year to pay for his ticket home; he had forgotten to mention this minor action to us. We went crazy in Skardu trying to find some ropes that were suitable as fixed lines. The only thing we found were 6mm nylon lines that are usually used by farmers to make stacks of wood.

We arrived in Base Camp on July 12. The following day we did an acclimatization trip to