

*Ogre III, first ascent.* Thomas Huber, Urs Stöcker, and Iwan Wolf made the first ascent of Ogre III, the ca 6800m West Summit of Ogre II (6960m), now considered a distinct top. The Swiss-German team first inspected the approach on June 13, finding the glacier difficult (some short ice steps of 80 degrees) with dangerous seracs. Fresh snowfall kept them away for a few days but on the 20th they were ready for an all-out attempt. Carrying 28 kg sacs they reached the top of the 1000-meter-high snow/ice couloir (60 degrees maximum), which leads to the base of the very steep southeast pillar at ca 6000m. Unfortunately, they were more or less immediately forced to retreat in a storm. The next attempt saw five pitches fixed up the initial diedre in the steep rock pillar. The first three of these gave sustained climbing at VI and A2 with a section of A3, while the fourth, at V and AI, involved a pendulum. Not having enough food or gas for a summit attempt, the three descended to base camp.

Leaving at 2:00 a.m. on the 30th, the three reached the top of the couloir and their already established 6000m camp at 8:30 a.m., then jumared to their high point and fixed four more pitches (all free with difficulties up to VII). This put them at around 6400m and they returned to camp. The following morning, July 1, they had reached the top of their ropes by 5:00 a.m. The upper section of the pillar included an 80-meter chimney and some very difficult mixed climbing, which led to the final, small, snow-domed top of the West Summit or Ogre III. The climbers reached the highest point at 2 p.m. and spent a further five hours descending to their 6000m camp in a snowstorm.

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*Ogre's Thumb, new route.* Italians, Matteo Castelnovo, Guiseppe Lafranconi, Alberto Marazzi, Simone Pedferri, and Marco Vago, put up a new route on the South Face of the Ogre's Thumb (ca 5500m). Ragni sul Filo (700 meters) has 18 pitches with difficulties up to F7c and A2. The new line lies towards the left side of the face and joins the Original American Route at a terrace, some pitches below the top. The summit was not reached. Stances were bolted and a few protection bolts were placed but mostly the climb requires natural gear. It is reported to have one pitch of 7c, one of 7b, two of A2, a few pendulums and the rest 6b and above.

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*Latok III, west face, attempt and tragedy.* A strong Russian team met with tragedy during their attempt on the unclimbed 2,000-meter-high West Face of Latok III (6949m). Igor Barikhin, Mikhail Davy, Sergey Khadzhinov, Alexander Klenov, Alexander Ruchkin, and Alexander Odintsov established base camp on June 22. This was the same site used by Ruchkin and Odintsov for their 2000 attempt (see 2001 *AAJ*). Subsequently, while waiting for some delayed baggage, all climbers made an acclimatization ascent of a small subsidiary summit of the Latok group, which they refer to as Latok VI. The party slept the night on the top.

The capsule attempt on Latok III began on July 7, the team spending two days climbing and hauling equipment to the top of the ice slope below the start of the big corner system. Realising that stonefall in the corner was no less dangerous than the previous year, the team decided to pursue a more sheltered line up the flank of the pillar to the left. By the night of the 10th they had established a portaledge camp half-way up this wall. Unfortunately, the rock was far from good, making solid protection difficult to arrange, and there was still a problem from