

in particular, Dobzebo, which possesses an impressive north face and rises in splendid isolation to over 6,400m south of the lake of Zuru Tso, attracted our attention and became our main focus.

Leaving London on September 25, our party flew to Lhasa via Beijing, before traveling by Land Cruiser to the village of Tsha-tse near the foot of Dobzebo. From here we established a base camp at 5,120m to the southwest of the mountain. Subsequently we established two further camps, at

5,690m and 6,100m. We climbed the 30-40° glaciated south face above our high camp on October 8 and reached the 6,412m (GPS reading) north summit (Alpine PD). The view reinforced earlier conjectures that the southwest summit was indeed somewhat higher, but the double-corniced ridge leading to it was an unattractive option. We descended, in order to relocate our base camp farther to the north. From this second base camp, at 5,005m, we placed a third high camp at 5,503m, beside a large lake lying beneath the foot of the long southwest ridge.

After an early start on the 14th we climbed over steep broken ground to the crest of the initially broad southwest ridge. This narrowed considerably before reaching the summit ice field at ca. 6,100m. Straightforward climbing (Alpine F+) up the corniced ridge brought us to the 6,429m (GPS reading) southwest summit. A broad panorama stretched from the Himalaya in the south to the Lungmari group and beyond in the north. Loinbo Kangri (7,095m) was visible a little south of west.

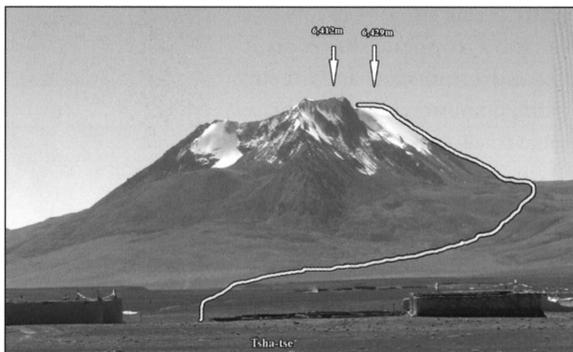
We made a brief reconnaissance of the Lungmari massif before returning home. We are grateful to the Mount Everest Foundation and the British Mountaineering Council for their financial support for this expedition.

DEREK BUCKLE, *Alpine Club, United Kingdom*

NYANCHEN TANGLHA

Qungmo Kangri, first solo and first alpine style ascent, via south ridge. After a month of mountaineering in the central part of the Nyanchen Tanglha, Gerhard Gindl and I went to the far southwestern end of the range to make a reconnaissance of Qungmo Kangri (a.k.a. Jomo Kangri; Tibetan name Neiji Kangsang; 7,069m; N 29° 54.162', E 90° 01.521') and surrounding mountains. The only information we had was that the mountain had been climbed only once before, in 1996 by a Chinese-Korean expedition via the east ridge. However, I later found the mountain had received three previous ascents: on October 7, 1996, by the Chinese-Korean expedition via the south ridge; on May 17, 1997, by a Japanese expedition via the south ridge; and on August 15, 1999, by another Japanese expedition again via the south ridge.

We established base camp on October 6 at 5,450m after spending a day looking for the



Dobzebo (6,429m) from the village of Tsha-tse, showing the line of the first ascent to the south (and highest) summit. The north summit (6,412m) was also climbed by a different route during the same expedition. *Derek Buckle*

best site. This proved to be on the shores of a moraine lake, on the far side of which huge columns of ice stood in fragile equilibrium on the underlying bedrock. As we spent the following days exploring a possible route on Qungmo Kangri, it became obvious that the logical way was from the south, over a subsidiary south summit and on up the south ridge.

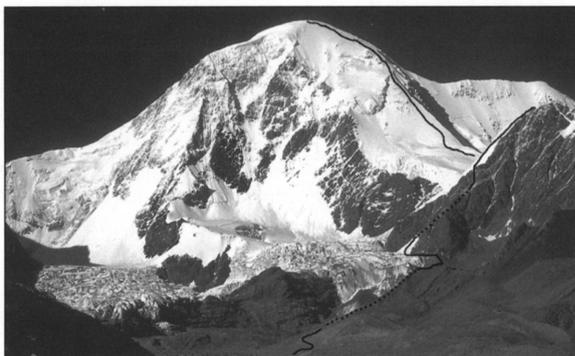
We went into the next valley west of base camp for a couple of days and climbed to the west-southwest summit of Qungmo Kangri (6,116m; N 29° 53.506', E 89° 58.694'). We had fantastic views of the surrounding mountains, among others Qungmo Kangri West Peak. Apart from two days of snow, the weather was sunny with few clouds, but temperatures were starting to get very low.

On the last day before we had to leave, everything seemed to be right for a serious attempt on the main summit: the night was cold, the sky was clear, and the following night the moon would be full. However, Gerhard thought the route would be too difficult for him, so I let him sleep as I left the tent at 6.30 a.m. carrying minimal equipment.

As dawn was breaking on October 16, I had left the moraine and was heading east up a narrow ca. 45° couloir. At the top I found a snow anchor driven into the rock. At the time I thought it came from a previous attempt but later realized it must have been left by one of the successful expeditions. A slope of 45-50° led to the foresummit, from which I had to descend 50m on the far side to reach a ca. 6,000m saddle at the base of the south ridge. I took a short break to warm my toes and fingers in the sun. As the temperature was around -15°C, I wore my down jacket the whole day.

The saddle had a crevassed area, but this was well covered by debris from a huge snow and ice avalanche. The remaining 1,000m up the south ridge were exhausting and steeper than expected (average angle of 40-45°, with the steepest section at 50-55°). The lower 600m culminated in a hard shield of 55° snow, while in the upper part I had to bypass a rocky ridge on the left and then slant up left crossing large snow-filled crevasses. Close to the top the ridge became a moderately angled slope, before it reached a junction with the east ridge. After crossing a flat plateau I reached the highest point at 6 p.m.

The view was terrific, as this mountain overlooks all the surrounding peaks, which have a maximum height of about 6,600m. On the east-northeast horizon, perhaps 75km distant, I could see the great ice face that rises to all three 7,000m summits of Nyanchen Tanglha. To the northeast the deep blue of Nam Tso (lake) dominated the view. After hoisting prayer flags and taking pictures, I started my descent. I regained the saddle around 8 p.m., by which time the sun had gone down, and the moon was rising in the east. I used my head torch in the couloir, and when I reached the first cairn I'd constructed as a marker on the moraine, I knew I was going to make it back to base camp safely.

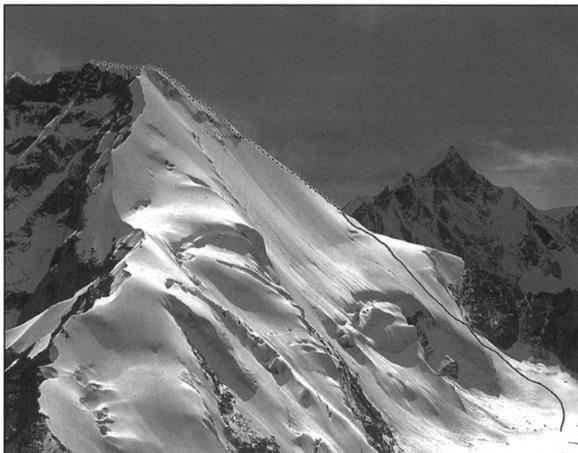


Qungmo Kangri (7,069m) from the Jumu Valley to the southwest. The line of the route up the south ridge climbed by Christian Haas is marked. This was the fourth known ascent of the mountain but the first one-day, alpine-style, and solo. The first ascensionists reached the crest of the ridge from the opposite (east) side. *Christian Haas*

After 16 hours with hardly a break, I reached base camp at 10:30 p.m. Gerhard had prepared delicious noodle soup, which I ate and went straight to bed. No time to admire the bright starry sky and smooth moonlight outside the tent.

CHRISTIAN HAAS, Austria

Editor's note: The original ascensionists (and, despite the abandoned snow anchor found by Haas, maybe all three successful expeditions) approached the crest of the ridge from the east. Haas approached from the valley to the west.



Pajan Zhari (GPS 6,232m) from the east. Marked is the route followed on the northeast face and north ridge to make the first known ascent of this mountain southwest of Nyanchen Tanglha. *Christian Haas*

Pajan Zhari and "Gompa Garpo Ri," first known ascents. In September and October I returned to the Nyanchen Tanglha Range, situated about 80km north of Lhasa. In 2000 I had been in the same area with two friends, and we succeeded on three 6,000m peaks that had never been climbed before (AAJ 2004, pp. 427-428). In 2005 I was accompanied by Erich Gatt, who was also a member of the 2000 expedition, and Gerhard Gindl. This time we went to the valley immediately southwest of the main Nyanchen Tanglha massif, a huge ice-armored wall with three summits above 7,000m.

We first acclimatized around Lhasa, before visiting the Nyanchen Tanglha for one week only. In that period we went to the 5,816m pass at the head of the valley, enjoyed a terrific view over Nam Tso, the second largest salt water lake in Tibet, and climbed Gompa Garpo Ri (6,232m; GPS N 30° 20.440', E 90° 31.896'), a previously unnamed and unclimbed mountain directly northwest of Pajan Zhari. Gompa Garpo Ri means "White Monastery Mountain," and so named because of its broad white appearance when seen from the Nyanchen Tanglha Valley. I climbed directly up the northeast face, while the others followed the north ridge. We then returned to Lhasa and after two days of recuperation went back to our 5,332m base camp, which we regained on September 25.

Over the next five days we tried a new route on one of the 7,000m Nyanchen Tanglha summits. However, we were unsuccessful. On the last attempt Erich bivouacked without adequate equipment in a crevasse at 6,700m and was really cold when he returned to base camp the following evening.

Next day, October 1 and the last day of our stay, we left camp at 8.30 a.m. for an attempt on Pajan Zhari (6,221m on the Chinese Map). We had looked at the summit from adjacent mountains and decided to try the north ridge first. However, we had not been able to get a full view of the approach and on setting off were unsure how to reach the start of the ridge.

After an exhausting walk across pathless blocky terrain, we reached the glacier that pro-