

decided not to return down the ascent route, as it was too dangerous. We preferred the Pakistani side, even though it was loaded with deep snow and unclimbed this season.

After phone and radio calls with home and with Juan Carlos Tamayo at base camp, where the Spaniards had returned after failing on the northeast ridge, we called Michele. He had reached 7,850m, but it was late, and we decided to meet him on the col between GII and GIII. So we didn't take the normal route, but descended from the west ridge to about 7,500m. In the dark we met Michele and together started down under the light of a few stars. We traversed the south face in deep snow searching for the normal route. We got it but suddenly lost it again, entering a couloir that led to the edge of a huge serac. At about midnight we bivied without tents at about 7,000m. In the morning, with a series of rappels and traverses, we reached the normal route and then Camp 3, strangely deserted. Later we learned that the mountain had been abandoned because of an avalanche that a few days earlier had claimed victims near Camp 2.

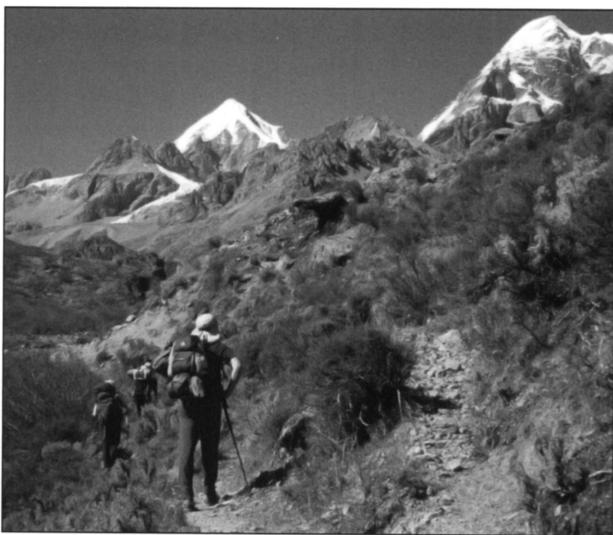
People were waiting for us at Camp 1. After a refreshing break, we left for base camp. Just above there we met Italian friends who welcomed us with "luxury goods." Special thanks to the Ev-K2 Cnr Committee, Autogrill, Mico Sport, and Montagna.org.

DANIELE BERNASCONI, *Italy*

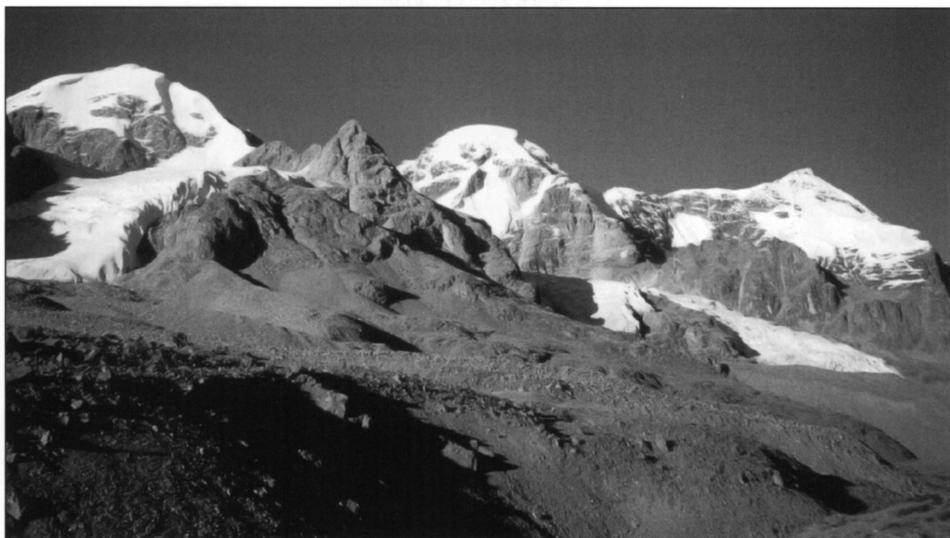
SICHUAN PROVINCE

SHALULI SHAN

Peak 5,600m, first ascent; Dangchezhengla (Bongonzhong, 5,830m), north side. Steve Hunt, Dick Isherwood, Peter Rowat, and I spent October in Western Sichuan, exploring the northern approaches to Yangmolong (6,066m) and attempting to climb it. In good, though never totally clear, weather we entered the Sanchu River valley and stayed with villagers, before establishing base camp at 4,400m in a tributary valley. From there we stocked an advance base camp at 4,900m at the foot of the westernmost glacier descending from the northern side of Yangmolong. Dick found himself suffering from breathing problems, which meant that he was unable to climb above 5,000m. To acclimatize, the rest of us made the first ascent of a fine 5,600m snow peak to the



Walking around the range on the southeastern approach to Dangchezhengla (left, 5,830m) & the central summit of Yangmolong (6,066m). *Dave Wynne-Jones*



From the southwest, Danchezhengla (5,830m) is on the left, and Yangmolong (6,066m) on the far right. Dave Wynne-Jones

southwest of ABC and south of Peak 5,850m, at about PD in difficulty. After a day's rest, we climbed a new route on the north side of Dangchezhengla, first climbed by a Japanese team in 2002. Our ascent climbed through a rocky buttress to the south of the main glacier to gain a



High on Dangchezhengla (5,830m). Dave Wynne-Jones

snow ridge leading to a steep foresummit, where we joined the Japanese route up the difficult summit ridge. After a steep 70m pitch of deep unconsolidated snow to a shoulder, climbed largely via my burrowing efforts, we flanked the corniced ridge on unconsolidated snow, sometimes crusted over but hollow to a depth of a foot. At one point we tiptoed along the cornice breakline with axes planted in the ridge crest for support. Estimated grade: D. [Dangchezhengla is referred to locally as Bongonzhong—Ed.]

The weather then became very cold and windy, with frequent snow showers, which put a stop to climbing for about a week. Peter managed a reconnaissance of the shattered saddle to the northeast of the main summit, and we established a camp at 5,100m on the easternmost glacier descending north on Yangmolong. Steve and I attempted the steep north spur, which falls almost directly from the main summit, but were forced to turn back at 5,400m. It was extremely cold, and snow conditions were difficult, with an

inch or two of crust over unconsolidated snow. A threatening storm finally blew in around 2 p.m. and lasted until after dark.

With just a few days left, we decided to pack up, descend to the valley, and walk around the mountain to reach Dangba, while the base camp team supervised the return of equipment by the original route in from the north. We believe ours was the first Western party to make this trek through beautiful and varied country. So it was a good trip despite not climbing Yangmolong.

DAVE WYNNE-JONES, U.K.

Yangmolong (6,066m), Dangchezhengla (5,830m), historical notes. Yangmolong is the highest of a small group of snow peaks in the middle of the Shaluli Shan, north of the Genyen massif and immediately east of Batang on the Sichuan-Tibet Highway. Three other main peaks make up the group: Dangchezhengla (referred to locally as Bongonzhong); Pt. 6,033m (unnamed on maps, though local people refer to it as Makara), on the ridge connecting Dangchezhengla with Yangmolong; and an unnamed Pt. 5,850m, northwest of Dangchezhengla.

The only previous attempt on Yangmolong also was made from the north, in 1991 by a Japanese expedition that was thwarted by avalanche-prone slopes. Kiyooki Miyagawa and Junta Murayama made the first ascent of Dangchezhengla in June 2002. This pair was part of a four-man Japanese team that approached the south side of the mountain from Batang and fixed ropes through the icefall to the 5,565m col between Dangchezhengla and Pt. 6,033m. Most of the Japanese members were not in the full flush of youth (Miyagawa was 61) and decided that attempting either Pt. 6,033m or Yangmolong over the top of 6,033m, would be too difficult. Instead they concentrated on Dangchezhengla. After climbing a 500m face of steep ice on the right (north) side of the east ridge above the col, they rejoined the corniced summit ridge and followed it to the highest point.

The second ascent was made in March 2007 by a Chinese team. Although it is believed they approached from the south, it is not certain which route they followed. However, what is known is that during the descent from a successful summit bid, lead climber Liu Xinan fell 300 meters and died of his injuries. Although largely unknown outside his own country, Liu Xinan was one of China's top climbers and winner of China's national sport climbing competition in 2000. Among other climbs, in 2005 he had made the third ascent of the difficult Celestial Peak in Siguniang National Park, by a new route.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *MountainINFO* Editor, adapted from www.alpinist.com

Garrapunsum (Jarjinjabo, 5,812m), Man Chu Gangri (5,434m), first ascents. Originally we had planned to attempt a first ascent of Kawaluori (Kawarani) near Ganze. However, it proved impossible to secure permission due to religious celebrations and the need to avoid disturbing the delicate political balance in the region. We believe the monks, who refused permission to climb the mountain to a 2005 expedition, were never approached on this occasion. On consultation with Lenny (Chen Zhenglin), our liaison officer and base camp manager, we switched our objective to Garrapunsum, an unclimbed peak in the Jarjinjabo range farther south, that was formerly called Jarjinjabo, probably based on the Chinese PLA map (see naming note, below). Our main goal was for all six team members to make a joint first ascent, and route