

do it, and I had to make an attempt. I climbed back up to the col.

At 6:10 a.m. I started up the moderate 400m névé slope above the col. At its top I only climbed 50m up the loose rocky ridge before leaving the crest and traversing equally loose rocky ground on the right. Above 8,100m the slope gradually steepened, and I climbed several sections of UIAA II and III. I moved up to a snow-covered ledge and followed it around the first pinnacle. Further on I reached a chimney. I wasn't keen on this, as I didn't know what the ground above would be like or whether I could reverse it. So I continued in the same line with no height gain. The climbing wasn't difficult, but it was delicate and dangerous. Little slabs fell away toward the Western Cwm, and below these the ground appeared even steeper. It reminded me of the tiled roofs in Europe. Then I began to gain height, climbing up to the ridge below the second pinnacle.

Ahead of me now I could see the couloir that forms the upper section of the Normal Route. But I couldn't cross the slabs and was forced to lower myself five or six meters down a chimney to a good ledge. From there I could make a rising traverse through the slabs, and after a few hundred meters I could "slip" into the couloir. This was just below the narrows at an altitude of 8,300m.

The rest of the route is well known; the difficulties were slopes of névé with no fixed rope, as the gear had either been buried by recent snowfall or ripped out by the wind. At 11:30 a.m. I stepped onto the summit, having completed, in my opinion, a logical and interesting route [Urubko was the first to summit Lhotse that season]. During the ascent the weather has been clear, and the wind no stronger than 50km/hour.

I descended the Normal Route as far as Camp 2 (6,400m), where I spent the night. I had no desire to wander about in the Khumbu Icefall during evening. The next morning I slipped out at 5 a.m., and three hours later had reached base camp.

DENIS URUBKO, *Central Sport Club of Kazakhstan Army, translated by Luca Calvi*

Melanphulan (6,573m), north face, correction. In *AAJ 2010* we reported an ascent of the north face of Melanphulan by Kozub, Michalek, and Starek. The three Polish climbers reported that they stopped just below the cornice on the summit ridge, not far from the highest point of the mountain ([aaj.americanalpineclub.org/melanphulan-6573m-north-face-not-to-summit](http://americanalpineclub.org/melanphulan-6573m-north-face-not-to-summit)).

After an interview between wspinanie.pl, the largest Polish climbing website, and Wojciech Kurtyka, doubts were raised on the high point reached. A team of eminent Polish mountaineers made a careful analysis of the ascent and photos, after which the three climbers were forced to conclude that they had not reached the main ridge; they had stopped on a snow ridge ca 50m below the summit crest. They now realize they were confused by darkness and tiredness, the latter due to having already climbed non-stop for more than 30 hours. Their high point is more or less the same as that achieved by Kurtyka and Erhard Loretan during an attempt in 2000. These two highly experienced alpinists rated their ascent to that point at TD+. Although the two lines are not quite identical, the Polish analysts do not feel there should be any difference in standard. The detailed analysis has been published at wspinanie.pl/serwis/201012/04-Malanphulan-komisja.php.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO, from information provided by Wojciech Słowakiewicz, wspinanie.pl, and Wojtek Kozub, Polish Mountaineering Association.*

Tsuro Ri (ca 6,100m), north face attempt. While walking back from Island Peak I saw what I thought was a series of ice runnels on the northern flank of Tsuro Ri, the shoulder on the northwest ridge

of Ama Dablam, and decided I had to try them. I believe every mountaineer has demons that try to stop him pursuing his or her dreams, and I had to fight against my own before starting up this virgin face of Tsuru Ri. Andrea di Donata and I attempted a line right in the middle of the face. The route was midway between the righthand ridge (climbed in 2001 by Cartwright and Cross as the opening part of their complete ascent of Ama Dablam's northwest ridge), and the Japanese route on the northwest face. We took food for five days, a gaz stove, and three canisters. Earlier on the trip I'd lost a rucksack containing my bivouac sack, so a lodge keeper gave me a blue plastic bag that I could slip inside of.

The alarm woke us at 2 a.m. It took four hours to reach the lower slopes, which were ca 400m high and 45–50°. The snow was often knee-deep, and only when the angle steepened to 60° did we start using front points. On the first few pitches, which I led, axes bounced against the rock beneath, crampons scratched the face.

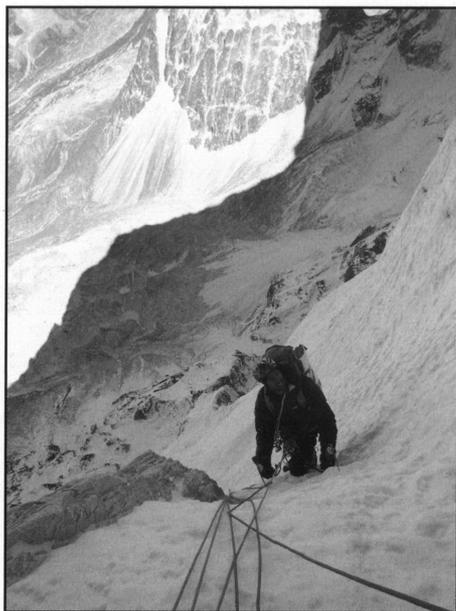
Ice screws went in only a few centimeters. I climbed for more than 50m—more than the length of our rope—without placing any real protection. Andrea understood, unclipping from the belay and moving up. Normally, the second would climb with the heavier sack, but this situation was different, and we had to share the same fate.

The game of balance lasted almost 250m, blunting our axes while we overcame ice sheets up to 85°. We reached the steepest part of the face and dug into the snow slope below it, excavating a snow cave for our first bivouac.

The alarm rang at 6 a.m., but we didn't need it; Vasco Rossi, AC/DC, Dire Straits, Heroes del Silencio, they had all been roaring in our ears to quell the shivering due to cold. We moved up, and from time to time succeeded in placing a piton, which allowed us to feel a little more comfortable. We had hoped for a snow ramp leading through the upper wall to the summit ridge, but reality shattered our hopes. When I watched Andrea fight for an hour on a traverse where ice gave way to powder snow, I understood that things were clearly going wrong. At the foot of the face we expected good ice and found only a thin layer of snow. Why had we expected it to be better higher up? Above lay a vertical rock wall covered with powder. Andrea reversed delicately, took out a couple of Friends and gasped, "Dan, careful, hold me." He slowly returned to the belay, and at 5 p.m. we rappelled to our previous bivouac. The next morning we continued to rappel the route.

If I had completed this line I would have called it Human Rights 1945. The United Nations was created in 1945, and I thought it might be good that every time someone looked at the line they would think of human rights. The first right is "all are free and equal."

Find more information in Italian on danielenardi.wordpress.com.



Daniele Nardi high on the north face of Tsuru Ri.
Daniele Nardi collection