

Gibson, with a boy whom Gibson calls Don, climbed the 18,000-foot peak north of the pass to Harsil on the Sugnalín ridge above the Banderpunch.

Ronti. Mr. Peter Aufschnaiter and I reached the summit of Ronti (19,895 feet) on June 15, 1955. [This was the first ascent. Editor.] Setting out from Nanda Prayag, we ascended the Nanda Kini valley, crossed the Humkum Gala (17,000 feet) and next ascended a pass separating Ronti from Nanda Ghunti. Just short of the summit of this pass we set up camp on the exposed rock of a moraine opposite a prominent snow couloir which showed avalanche tracks in the rocky south face of the ridge connecting Ronti with Point 19,345 feet to the east. The following day we ascended this couloir to a point about a third of the way to the top, where we turned to the left in a snow gully hidden from the pass below by a rocky buttress. We followed this gully and subsequent ledges up to a snow slope leading to the crest of the above-mentioned ridge, on which we remained for a brief distance. The climb up the snowy west slopes of the summit peak of Ronti was somewhat complicated by a number of small hidden crevasses. We followed a slight hump of wind-blown snow dividing the eastern from the southeastern snow slopes on this part of the route. The climb started at 6:00 A.M. The summit was reached at 1:03 P.M. and the return to camp was made at 5:15.

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Central Lahul. Under the leadership of Hamish McArthur, a small expedition consisting of Mrs. McArthur, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Solari, and Captain and Mrs. K. Goswami, entered Spiti on July 23, 1955. From a camp near Shitakar they made a plane table survey of the Lahul peaks and climbed an 18,000-foot peak on the Lahul-Spiti watershed southeast of the Kanzam La. They returned by the Balamo La to the Chandra valley. Up a tributary valley of the Chandra they established an advance base camp. They climbed a 19,000-foot peak north of the glacier in this valley. Their final ascent was Peak 20,430 shown on Map 52 H.

Kulti Glacier Basin. The R.A.F. Mountaineering Expedition to Kulu and Spiti led by Group Captain A. J. M. Smyth attempted in late May to reach the Bara Shigri Glacier, but heavy snows on the Rohtang Pass kept them from their objective. They crossed the Hamta Pass to the unexplored Kulti Glacier basin where they climbed all eight of the main peaks of the region, which range up to 21,000 feet, including 20,340-foot Shikar Beh.

Spiti. The Cambridge University Expedition to Spiti comprised Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Lamb, Dr. R. W. Hey, geologist,

and me. We left Manali on August 10, 1955, and crossed the Rohtang Pass (13,050 feet) to the Chandra valley and then the Kanzam pass (14,932 feet) and entered Spiti. On August 22 from a 14,000-foot camp below the Kanzam pass, we climbed a peak of about 18,500 feet which provided an excellent view of the mountains of the main Kulu-Spiti divide. A base camp was established on August 27 near Kangring village in the main Spiti valley by the Ratang gorge. Holmes and I with three Ladakhi porters managed in four days of difficult going to reach the headwaters of the Ratang gorge, about 16 miles from Base. From a camp up a subsidiary glacier at 17,800 feet we climbed, on September 5, a peak of 20,050 feet, which provided superb views of the unknown country north of the main watershed. We hope shortly to produce a sketch map showing the main peaks and glaciers of this area, which is now left a blank on the existing map, and also a possible pass leading to the country to the South. Thereafter, we entered Shilla Nalla and on September 10 climbed Peak 20,680 overlooking Shilla. Our observations revealed that Shilla Peak, situated at the head of the Shilla Nalla, attains a height of no more than 20,000 feet.¹ We returned to Manali by the 14,027-foot Hampta pass. Leaving Manali on September 23, three members of the party traveled up the Jagatsukh valley to attempt Indrasan (20,410 feet) near Deo Tibba. A severe three-day storm ruled out these plans before a base could be established. The geologist did some interesting work in the area of the Spiti shales, around Kibar, Rangring and Kaze, returning with a collection of valuable specimens.

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PAKISTAN

Chogo-Lungma Region. A strong German expedition from Frankfurt explored and climbed in the Chogo-Lungma region in the western Karakoram. They also did considerable scientific work in glaciology, physics, geography, and geology under Dr. Walter Brendel, Dr. Norbert Untersteiner, and Dr. Harold Uhlig. On July 6 Reinhard Diepen, Edward Reinhard, and Joachim Tietze, climbed 23,156-foot Pyramid Peak from Camp 4 at 21,800 feet. In late July the expedition leader, Reinhard Sander, had to return because of a knee injury sustained in a fall into a crevasse. The party established an 18,700-foot high camp on Malubiting, the highest

¹The altitude of this peak has long been given as 23,050 feet. As such it held the altitude record for about 20 years after its ascent in 1860 by a nameless khalasi of the Survey of India, who carried a survey marker to the summit. The accuracy of its altitude was also questioned by Dr. J. de V. Graaff and Kenneth E. Snelson on their 1952 Deo Tibba-Rubal Kang expedition.—H. A. C.