

and Tashi reached the summit. The first ascent was made by the Swiss André Roch and René Dittert with the Sherpa Ang Tensing in 1938.

*Bhyundar Valley, Garhwal.* The Bombay Mountaineering Committee sent out a party of fifteen, including three Sherpa instructors from the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute to train climbers in the Bhyundar valley, made famous by Frank Smythe as the "Valley of Flowers." They finally set up a camp at 18,300 feet and climbed two or three peaks. They failed because of snow conditions and avalanche danger to climb Nilgiri Parbat, ascended by Smythe in 1937.

*Italian Expedition to Kulu.* An Italian expedition from the Roman section of the Club Alpino Italiano climbed in the mountains north of the Parbati Rivèr in Kulu. After a week's approach march, on May 11 they established Base Camp at 12,800 feet in the Dibibokri Nala. Three glaciers descend into the valley from the north. They are identified from east to west as the Main Glacier, Glacier 2 and the West Glacier. They placed Camp I at 14,750 feet near the tongues of the three. Camp II was established at 16,500 feet on Glacier 2 on May 19. On May 23 they set Camp III at 19,250 feet in a col on the divide between their valley and the Bara Shigri Glacier on the southeast ridge of their objective, a 20,830-foot peak drained by both Glacier 2 and the West Glacier. When the weather turned clear on May 27, they decided against continuing on this route and crossed a high col to the West Glacier, where at 17,880 feet they established a new Camp III. At one A.M. on May 30 they left camp and by dawn they had ascended the snow slopes to 19,500 feet, but it took them ten hours to climb the next 800 feet of mixed rock and snow to a little saddle on the rocky southwest ridge. They abandoned that attempt and were not back in camp until eleven P.M. Franco Alletto and Domenico DeRiso left camp at ten P.M. on June 1 on their third attempt to reach the summit. They reached the saddle in a few hours, but the last 500 feet of class 5 climbing took them 12 hours and 20 pitons. They arrived on top at six P.M. The descent took all of the night and most of the next day. The other members of the party were Paolo Consiglio, Dr. Vincenzo Monti and Signora DeRiso.

*The Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition.* Basil Poff and I reconnoitered the Pir Pinjal range in Kulu during June and July, 1958. We selected Indrasan (20,410 feet), an unclimbed peak at the head of the Malana glacier as a likely objective for a stronger party. The mountain became one of the objectives of the Derbyshire Himalayan Expedition 1961, composed of me as leader, Ray Handley, Derrick Burgess, Dennis Gray, Jack Ashcroft, Steven Read, Trevor Panther, and Nick Smythe. We were under the patronage of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, M. C., and had the

backing of the Mount Everest Foundation. Other objectives were the reconnaissance of Ali Ratni Tibba, a giant 18,000-foot aiguille which dominates the upper reaches of the Malana valley, the ascent of an unclimbed 18,000-foot ice pass on the Kulu-Bara Shigri divide, and the plane-table survey of a complex group of peaks in the same area. At Pathankot, the railhead, Captain Balgit Singh of the Indian Army joined, appointed official liaison officer at the eleventh hour. Wangyl, the sirdar, and five other Ladakhi high-altitude porters were picked up at Nagar bridge, 12 miles south of Manali, the road terminus. We had considerable difficulty getting our pack train across the 12,000-foot spur which forms the Beas-Parbati watershed and separates the Beas and Malana valleys because of the snow still lingering in late May from the heaviest winter fall in living memory. Eventually we reached Base Camp in the Malana valley at 12,000 feet.

Indrasan and its near neighbour, Deo Tibba (19,687 feet) sit on top of a gigantic three-tier cake of ice. Our plan was simply to put an intermediate camp on each shelf until we were in striking distance of the final 2000-foot summit cone of Indrasan. In round figures 3000 feet and three miles separated each shelf. From Base Camp the route lay along the gently inclined Malana Glacier, the first shelf, and veered off to the west, taking a tributary glacier which emerges from a névé at 16,000 feet, the second shelf. Above, a steep, transverse ridge forms the southern supporting wall of the third and final shelf, which is the upper névé of the Malana glacier. From the second shelf there are three feasible routes to the final plateau. The least hazardous appeared to follow a great couloir which was used by Mr. Jan de V. Graaff's party when making the first ascent of Deo Tibba in 1952. Seeking the best approach to the couloir, the first pair of pathfinders took nine hours to climb it. The angle ranged from  $45^{\circ}$  in the lower half to  $65^{\circ}$  at the top. However, a second pair, using a tongue from the highest point of the second shelf and the ridge bordering on the western side of the couloir, cut into the great gully at a point halfway up and reduced the climbing time to six hours. Thereafter it became an established trade route, though liable to bombardment in the afternoon. Camp III was established on the third shelf near the top of the couloir. Later the bulk of the camp was shifted across the two-mile wide plateau to the north edge and placed in the col between Deo Tibba and Indrasan at 18,300 feet to become Camp IV. After a brief reconnaissance towards the west ridge of Indrasan and the fifth ascent of Deo Tibba by Derrick Burgess and Dennis Gray with Wangyal, all activity was suspended for a week by continuous and heavy snowfall. Conditions required a total withdrawal for two days' recuperation at Base Camp. When the route

was reopened to Camp IV, Deo Tibba was climbed again by Read, Handley and me with Jigmet and Zangbo. Simultaneously Burgess and Gray made the first attempt on the final west ridge of Indrasan. They encountered a cock's comb, a ridge serrated by numerous gendarmes topping the nearly vertical north and south faces. Switchbacking was out of the question, but to bypass the obelisks they were forced alternately onto both faces. Progress was slow on the great walls, and they were halted less than halfway along the ridge, on the north face. The pair returned to camp and planned to make their second and final attempt the next day by the same route. About 800 feet below and a quarter mile away from the top they were stopped by the sheer difficulty of the climbing and the lack of time. A mile to the east, Read, Handley and I explored a line of weakness which seemed to offer an avenue to the foot of the steep east ridge. The rock route commenced in an overhanging chimney where artificial tactics had to be employed and a mere 200 feet of ascent cost six hours. We rappelled down from our seemingly hopeless position and in conference at Camp IV with the west ridge scouts decided to give the mountain best. Indrasan had successfully repulsed the first expedition to get a footing on her formidable flanks. All camps were evacuated down to Camp I, which was used as an intermediate camp for the Tos valley and the Ali Ratni Tibba groups.

Early in July the expedition divided, one party to strike east from the foot of the Malana glacier across a 16,000-foot watershed to the Tos valley, which runs parallel to the Malana, the other party to reconnoitre an approach to Ali Ratni Tibba and seek other likely peaks in the area immediately east of Base Camp. The Tos valley party, climbing and surveying in superb weather conditions, realized its objectives. The 18,000-foot ice pass was climbed on July 13 and from the col Burgess and I observed the incredible contrast between the ice-draped crags of Kulu and the virtually snowless summits of the Bara Shigri system behind the monsoon barrier. Returning over the eastern branch of the Tos glacier, which had been surveyed by Jack Ashcroft, we made the second ascent of White Sail (21,148 feet), a mountain of great beauty and still the highest peak to be climbed in Kulu. From camp at the junction of the subsidiary glacier with the Tos glacier, the route took the crest of a lateral moraine to avoid the icefall and to land eventually on the upper névé, where a second camp was placed. We gained the east ridge via the only col and found the lower section of the rock ridge to be alpine in nature. This section terminated in a distinctive snow dome. Beyond this step a line of beetling ice cliffs, defending the summit snows, stood athwart the ridge. Anxiously we scanned them for a weakness which would permit

access to the summit slopes. By skirting the foot of the cliffs along an icicle-threatened catwalk, we reached a short, vertical ice wall which relaxed into a  $75^{\circ}$  ice slope and in 300 feet yielded a route through the cliffs to the final ridge above. The summit, a fragile blade of snow, was trodden at 1 P.M. on July 16. Fifty feet below the summit, a slab of rock bore a disintegrating cairn, evidence of Colonel J. O. M. Roberts' ascent almost to a day 20 years before. The climbers, Burgess, Ashcroft and I, rebuilt it and attached a phosphor-bronze plaque bearing the initials of the members and the date of the expedition. Meanwhile the eastern party, Gray and Handley with Wangyal and Zangbo, had made two first ascents by reaching the summits of the aiguilles known as the Manikaren Spires (17,692 and 17,000 feet). Shortly after prospecting a feasible route to the summit of Ali Ratni Tibba, they were forced to abandon it by the onset of the monsoon. Reunited, the expedition began the withdrawal from the mountains in monsoon conditions on July 20.

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### *Pakistan*

*Mount Ghent, Karakoram.* An Austrian expedition under the leadership of Erich Waschak reached Base Camp on the Kondus Glacier at 13,750 feet in early May. Camp I (14,750 feet) was on the left lateral moraine of the glacier. On May 10 they established Camp II at 17,000 feet on the slopes below the Sia La. All of the climbers crossed this pass on May 19 to establish Raimund Heinzl and Wolfgang Axt at Camp III. From there these two made the second ascent of c. 22,640-foot Silver Throne. (First ascent in 1960 by Senn and Anderl. *A.A.J.*, 1961, 12:1, p. 416.) Camp IV was at 22,300 feet, and it was from there that on the fourth attempt, the successful climb of Mount Ghent (24,280 feet) was made. Wolfgang Axt started at 2:30 A.M. on June 4 and climbed on breakable crust to a rock ridge, which after an hour and a half's climbing turned into a snow ridge. This in turn merged into a steep slope, covered partly by ice and partly by breakable crust. He circumvented crevasses and séracs on even steeper snow slopes before he climbed a gradually steepening ridge, which he finally had to turn to the right to reach the summit at 12:30 in rapidly deteriorating weather. He was back in Camp IV at five with his comrades Karl Ambichl and Ignaz Obermüller, who had come up to support him. They had to quit after this since their permission did not allow them to attempt peaks which could not be reached from the Kondus Glacier.

*Paiju Peak.* In the late fall of 1960 Rick Litterick, my wife Courtney and I gathered in Abbottabad, West Pakistan, to organize our visit to Paiju Peak in the central Karakoram. Some months later the government