

Ngamah valley and the south approach, but the latter was such a long way from Hushe that we did not try it. We started off therefore on the Ngamah, but after about four days we decided that we were not a strong enough party and not being prepared to spend all our time here, went elsewhere. There is a possible route, though menaced by hanging glaciers, but it lands you up on the western peak with a long traverse on top before you reach the eastern and highest summit. We left a survey party on the Chogolisa Glacier to map its north and south branches, the Chundogero (also written as Gondokhoro) and Masherbrum Glaciers. They were to join the rest of us later on the Aling Glacier. The Aling has an impressive icefall, which had been ascended only by the U. S. Consul from Rawalpindi (?) who went two days up. We put our Base Camp at the foot and spent nearly a month there. We got Base Camp established on July 13 and unfortunately the weather broke on the 16th settling down into periods of three days of bad weather and four or five of good. This considerably cramped our style and forced us to abandon two of the more ambitious projects involving difficult icefalls. However, we did manage to climb two peaks of about 20,000 feet, Sceptre and Mitre (This is not the famous Mitre peak which lies beside the Baltoro just south of Concordia.—*Editor.*), and two between 21,500 and 22,000 feet, which we called Hunchback and Atwa Peak. The survey results should be excellent. We set up about 35 stations, from each of which a round of theodolite bearings was taken, together with 360° panoramas, both drawn and photographed. The survey photos are almost 100 per cent successful. I am not altogether sure that I should advise the Hushe as a location for future expeditions. The mountains, as a whole, are incredibly difficult, resembling the aiguilles of Chamonix on a much bigger scale. The Aling is almost climbed out as far as the easier peaks are concerned, as we presume is the Chogolisa by the Harvard party of 1955. K6 still has its uncertainties. Probably the Apo Brok, a valley leading west from Kande, offers the best ground for a small expedition.

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Nanga Parbat, Diamir Face. A German expedition, led by Dr. Karl M. Herrlichkoffer and sponsored by the German Institute for Foreign Exploration, made a splendid reconnaissance of the 13,000-foot high Diamir (northwest) face of Nanga Parbat (26,660 feet). Toni Kinshofer, Jörg Lehner and Siegfried Loew established Camp IV at 23,450 feet above the greatest climbing difficulties before the advent of the monsoon turned them back.

This face was first attempted by A. F. Mummery in 1895 just before

his tragic death. He tried to reach the Bazhin Glacier, which descends diagonally across the upper third of the face from Bazhin Col (25,630 feet), by means of a rib on the right side of the face. With the Gurkha Ragobir he nearly reached the glacier but had to descend after getting to about 20,000 feet because the Gurkha fell sick. This same route was reconnoitered by Peter Aufschnaiter's German expedition in 1939 but abandoned because of rockfall and ice avalanche danger. They then climbed to nearly 20,000 feet on a rib farther left, which has the disadvantages of being difficult, of rockfall and of leading to the north peak (25,540 feet).

The present expedition decided against both of these ribs and favored one which lies between the other two attempted routes. Base Camp was established at 13,800 feet on the northern moraine of the Diamir Glacier in May. Camp I (15,750 feet) lay at the foot of the technical climbing difficulties. Class V and VI climbing, which included a 3000-foot, 50° ice couloir and difficult rock, forced them to place Camp II over 4000 feet higher! More than 3000 feet of rope were fixed between these camps. Difficult ice led to Camp III (21,650 feet). The route became somewhat easier and on June 20 the three climbers bivouacked at 23,450 feet. The comparatively gentle slopes of the Bazhin Glacier now led upwards to Bazhin Col, some 2300 feet above them, where they would have joined the route by which Hermann Buhl made the first ascent of Nanga Parbat on June 3, 1953, but the time and the weather was not theirs to continue upwards. The monsoon broke in full fury on June 21, and the climbers had to beat a retreat down the difficult slopes. The other members of the party were Anderl Michl, Harry Rost, Toni Messner, Rudolf Marek, Dr. Ludwig Delp and the geologist Gerhard Wagner.

Afghanistan

Italian Hindu Kush Expedition. A scientific expedition led by Prof. Ardito Desio visited the Hindu Kush from the Afghan side. Two members climbed an unnamed peak of 16,437 feet in the Koh-i-Baba range and another of more than 13,000 feet in the Korku valley.

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Bremen Hindu Kush Expedition. Five Germans from Bremen made a modest expedition into the Hindu Kush. They drove from Germany to 50 miles beyond Kabul, where they organized a pack train to take them 100 miles farther. They made the first ascent of a peak which they measured by aneroid as 20,506 feet and which they called Koh-i-Chrebek (Snow-bird Peak). It is not clear exactly where they were climbing.