

upper reaches of the Oxus (here called Ab-i-Panja and Ab-i-Wakhan). They trekked to within a day of the Chinese frontier before they paused to climb Koh-i-Bay Qara (c. 17,700 feet), the most northeasterly of the Wakhan Pamir.

Kob-i-Bandakor. The Nagoya University party had as its first objective the climbing of Shakhaur, but when refused permission, they turned their eyes to the second ascent of Koh-i-Bandakor (21,851 feet), which had first been climbed by the Germans Hansemann, Hasse, Heine and Winkler in 1960. First of all the Japanese had difficulty in finding the mountain. Eventually they attacked it from the east and reached a lower summit on which they found a pennant left by the Germans. They abandoned the main peak because of complex and difficult rock conditions. The climbing leader was Hideji Matsui.

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Hindu Kush. An expedition from North Germany climbed in the Hindu Kush, possibly in the Koh-i-Chebrek region, and made the ascents of some 16 peaks, all of them less than 20,000 feet. The leader was Josef Ruf.

U.S.S.R.

Soviet Climbs in Asia, 1963. Russian climbers continue to be active in the high mountains of Asia. Reported in *Alpinismus* were the first ascent of the southeast ridge of Pik Engels (21,359 feet) in the southwest Pamirs by a group of six Moscow climbers led by W. Nekrasow in six days of difficult rock climbing; the first ascent of an 18,520-foot peak which they called Pik Nils Bohr in the western Pamirs by a group of Russian students accompanied by the Czech Frantisek Janouch; the first ascent of the north face of Pik Kirgistan (15,880 feet) on the edge of the Tien-Shan by four climbers led by B. Studenin, a most difficult wall of 3500 feet which took five days; the ascent of Kysyl-Agyn (21,913 feet) in the Transalai range by Kirgiz climbers under W. Freifeld.

Soviet Climbs in Asia, 1964. Also reported in *Alpinismus* are accounts of climbs done in 1964. B. Romanow led a group which first made the first ascent of a nameless 20,571-foot peak in the Tien Shan. They then made a new route on Khan Tengri (22,950 feet) when from August 4 to 12 they climbed the northwest ridge, on which they placed four camps. Nearby a group led by E. Efumo made the first ascent of Pik Schaber (21,775 feet). In the Pamirs eight Uzbek climbers led by W. Eltshibekov made the first ascent of Pik Swestija (22,441 feet), which had been the highest unclimbed peak in the U.S.S.R. They made the ascent over Pik Ordshonikse (20,788 feet).