

Afghanistan

Noshaq and peaks above the Wakhan Corridor. The fourth Polish Hindu Kush Expedition was made up of Dr. Roman Śledziewski, leader, and his wife Ewa, Marian Bala, Maciej Baranowski and his wife Danuta, Andrzej Heinrich, Maciej Kozłowski, Andrzej Mróz, Adam Pachalski, Jacek Poreba, Jerzy Potocki, Lucjan Saduś, Ryszard Zawadzki, Poles; Henri Agresti and his wife Isabelle, French; and Jean Bourgeois, Belgian. The only expedition to be allowed into the Wakhan, they operated in the Qazi-Deh valley at the beginning of the Wakhan Corridor. A Japanese expedition and the first Polish Hindu Kush expedition made the first two ascents of Noshaq (24,580 feet) in 1960 by the south col and south ridge from the Qazi-Deh valley. In 1963 two Austrian expeditions climbed together to make the third ascent by a new route, the west ridge; they also reached the east and west summits. On August 30 Bourgeois, Heinrich, Kozłowski, Mróz, Poreba and Potocki made Noshaq's fourth ascent, via the west ridge, and also reached the east and west peaks, while the next day Bala and Saduś repeated the climb. On September 1 the Agrestis climbed only the c. 24,280-foot west summit. Previously they had reconnoitered a side valley of the Qazi-Deh, the Wakhan Gol, to the Sadh Ishtragh Pass (16,950 feet), which connects the Wakhan in Afghanistan with the Arkari valley in Chitral, Pakistan. Above the pass rises Sadh Ishtragh (19,223 feet), climbed on August 17 by Bourgeois, Potocki and Kozłowski. On August 16 and 17 the Agrestis climbed two 5000-meter peaks (over 16,400 feet) near the pass. On August 13 Bala, Heinrich, and Saduś climbed P 5417 (17,772 feet) at the mouth of the Qazi-Deh valley. On the 15th Mróz, Poreba and Zawadzki climbed M-10 (c. 18,700 feet) from the Mandaras valley to the north, while on the 17th Mmes Baranowska and Śledziewska with Baranowski and Pachalski climbed P 5243 (17,202 feet), which rises above a side glacier of the Qazi-Deh. A most noteworthy climb was completed on August 23 when Heinrich and Saduś finished a three-day second ascent of Gunbaz-e-Safed (22,310 feet) by a new and difficult route, the 6500-foot west ice face. On August 30 Śledziewski and his wife made the third ascent of Khorpusht-e-Yakhi (c. 18,700 feet), while Baranowski and his wife were climbing Q-23 (c. 17,060 feet). The expedition hoped to make the ascent of P 7291 (Shingeik Zom, 23,920 feet), not knowing it had just been climbed from the Darban Glacier on the Chitral side. (See account in Pakistani section.) This rises in the ridge which runs east from Noshaq. Bourgeois, Heinrich and Potocki traversed from their Camp III on Noshaq at 22,650 feet to the col between Gunbaz-e-Safed and the Noshaq west

ridge and then onto the Darban Glacier past the north face of Noshaq to the col between P 7291 and its northerly neighbor, Darban Zom. A two-day snowstorm prevented advance and so they decided to return. On September 4, as they traversed under Noshaq's north flank, they were overwhelmed by an avalanche. Potocki was killed and Heinrich injured. From the col Bourgeois made an extremely difficult descent directly to the Qazi-Deh valley while Heinrich climbed to Camp III, whence he was rescued.

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Darrah-e-Abi, Central Hindu Kush. Three members of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club, John Ashburner, Paul Newby and I, visited the Afghan Hindu Kush for two months. We drove across the Middle East in a Land-Rover, arriving in Kabul on June 27. A week later we drove up to Dasht-e-Rewat in the Panjshir valley. Here we hired six horses to carry our equipment. We travelled up the Panjshir to Parian and over the Anjuman Pass to Anjuman. Eight days' march brought us to Iskasr, a village set almost at the junction of the Anjuman and Munjan rivers. Here we changed our transport to donkeys and entered the Darrah-e-Abi, which lay directly south-southeast of Iskasr. The entire valley and its surrounding mountains had never been visited before. After three days more we established Base Camp at 13,000 feet. We spent one week reconnoitering and dumping food at potential campsites, having no porters above Base. During the following week of perfect weather, on July 26 we climbed P5260 (17,257 feet; "Pyramid") with one camp. The route lay up a steep glacier to a col, followed by a straightforward ridge with one relatively difficult section. On the 27th from the same camp we climbed P5651 (18,640 feet; "Scramblers Peak"), which was relatively easy. From the top were visible Bandaka, Koh-i-Chrebek, Mundi, Jumi, Tirich Mir and Noshaq. On July 30 from a camp at 15,600 feet we made a steep snow ascent which led to a beautiful traverse of all three peaks of P5319 (17,451 feet; "Wave Peaks 1, 2, and 3"). On August 1 from Camp II at 17,225 feet we climbed Rast Darrah (5959 meters or 19,551 feet).* There were twenty-one continuous pitches of 30° to 45° snow and ice above Camp II. We bivouacked at 19,000 feet on the descent. We all climbed all the peaks. We made a crude survey, taking all heights mentioned from the advance copy of the Aerial Survey recently made. An alternative route back from Iskasr to Anjuman, made with

*Dr. A. Diemberger points out that Rast Darrah is not to be confused with P Y on the list of 6000-meter peaks of Wolfgang Frey in the *Österreichische Alpenzeitung* of September/October, 1966. Rast Darrah lies northeast of P Y.—*Editor*.