

the ridge, but were prevented from getting to the very crest by an overhang. On August 2 Akio Funabashi and Masanori Ishida left Camp II at 5:30 A.M. and at seven o'clock reached the foot of a couloir that descends from the upper ridge which divides the two glaciers. They reached the head of the couloir at two P.M., having had trouble with rotten snow covering hard ice underneath. They climbed on for one more hour, breathing hard, but were forced to bivouac at 19,000 feet without tent or sleeping bags. On the 3rd the weather was fine. They left their small rock shelf at 5:45 and reached the ridge at seven. Turning to the right and traversing the knife-edge, they finally found themselves on the top of Koh-i-Yajun (19,764 feet; also previously called PY) at 9:15. After an hour on top, they descended by the same couloir, rappelling continuously. They left the couloir at six P.M. and were back in Camp II an hour later. On August 5 Yajun 3 (18,700 feet) was climbed by Masunaga and Hirai. This peak is a kilometer southwest of the main peak.

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Information Center about the Hindu Kush. The German tourist club, Die Naturfreunde, has set up an information center to help expeditions hoping to climb in the central Afghan Hindu Kush. Those planning to climb in this region will do well to write to Herrn Wolfgang Frey, Archiv für die Erschliessung der Zentralen Afghanischen Hindukusch, D 7400 Tübingen, Uhlandstrasse 10a, Germany.

U.S.S.R.

Pik Lenin, Pamir Mountains. After fifteen years of attempting to get permission, an Austrian expedition was finally allowed to leave for the Pamirs on July 21 under the joint leadership of Erich Vanis and Franz Huber. The other members were Karl Kosa, Peter Lavicka, Erwin Weilguny, Fritz Grimmlinger, Adolf Huber, Richard Hoyer, Dr. Klaus Kubiena, Franz Michlmayr, Hans Schönberger, Helmut Wagner, Rolf Walter and Adolf Weissensteiner. After arriving on July 25 at Osh in the Kirgiz SSR, they traveled 150 miles south by truck on the Transpamir Highway to a point some 45 miles from the Chinese frontier, where they established Base Camp at 12,000 feet under the northern slopes of Pik Lenin. This 23,406-foot peak was eventually climbed by all but one of the Austrians. For acclimatization they broke into four groups, three of which each climbed a different mountain of about 15,500 feet; the fourth reconnoitered the northern slopes of the Krylenko Pass, to which Lenin's