

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

northeast ridge descends. Camp I was placed at 14,500 feet below the pass and Camp II much higher at 19,095 feet at the summit of the pass. Several members of the expedition climbed Pik Spartak (20,026 feet); Vanis, Lavicka, and Grimmlinger continued from there along the long northwest ridge to the top of Pik Edunstwa (21,894 feet) in the Sulumart chain. August 12 through 14 Hoyer, Kosa and Weilguny made the first ascent of Pik Lenin's east face by climbing a 6000-foot ice rib. Adolf Huber, Michlmayr and Weissensteiner traversed Pik Lenin from the Krylenko Pass, ascending the northeast ridge—Camp III was at 22,300 feet—and descending the northwest ridge and continuing on over Pik Rasdelnaja (20,170 feet) and two other lesser peaks. On August 15 Vanis and Lavicka made the second ascent of the 6500-foot north face, first climbed by Russians in 1958. Rolf Walter climbed Pik Lenin from Krylenko Pass in one day, repeating the 1928 feat of the first ascent party of Schneider, Allwein and Wien. Bad weather then cut operations short.

*Pik Lenin, Pamirs.* Emilio Frisia, Nino Oppio and Giorgio Gualco, Italians, climbed in the Pamirs during July and August. They made an ascent of Pik Lenin (23,406 feet).

### ANTARCTICA

*Cerro Francés, Amberer Island, Palmer Peninsula.* The expedition was composed of Martin Donovan, Jorge Ruiz Luque, Ismael Palma, Alfredo Frageiro and me as leader. We left Ushuaia aboard the Argentine Navy transport *Babía Aguirre* and after a fifteen-day voyage, touching at various Argentine Army and Navy bases, we were landed on Amberer Island, scene of our climbs, at 64° South Latitude on Gerlache Strait. The island measures some 12 by 25 miles. There after a few days of organizing camp, we decided to climb peaks in order to locate our main objective, Cerro Francés (c. 9200 feet). Therefore we ascended Cerro Verde (c. 4000 feet) in a two-day climb and another more modest peak, called Barry, of 3000 feet. After this reconnaissance, on February 2 I left with Donovan for Cerro Francés. After nine hours on skis, a bivouac at the peak's base, another bivouac 3000 feet below the summit, on the third day, February 5, we reached the top of Francés. The route led up the enormous central snow spur, which rises up the whole height of the mountain, nearly from sea level. There were no serious difficulties, except for the temperature, which was —25° F. at nine A.M. on the summit. The climate is excellent, there is no wind and the snow conditions are generally good.

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