

took ten days to Mastuj. Base Camp was established at 10,450 feet in Pechus village on July 4. Sato had to remain there because he was unfit for further climbing. After ascending the right lateral moraine of the Pechus Glacier, they placed Camp I at 12,625 feet on July 6. Camp II was higher up the glacier at 15,175 feet. From the head of the glacier, crevasses turned them into a left branch valley which has a lower and upper cirque. Above these was a broad snowfield that rose to the divide. Camp III (17,950 feet) was established on the snowfield on July 13. On the 17th they went west across the snowfield and established Camp IV at 18,150 feet at the base of the 4000-foot-high southeast snow and rock ridge. On July 19 they left for the summit and climbed on the difficult ice and rock for three days with two bivouacs. On July 21 the rock ridge still soared above them for three pitches with an overhang. Then followed three pitches on an ice ridge, which connected to the summit snow cap. Deep snow on the 70° ridge had to be overcome before reaching flatter going. The real summit was 500 feet farther ahead. There they found a paper written by the first-ascent party. They bivouacked once more on the way down. They descended finally the south face, which if they had taken on the ascent would have shortened the climb by one day at least.

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Istor-o-Nal, First Ascent of Highest Point, and Other Neighboring Peaks. Juan Cerda, Emilio Civio, Jorge Pons, Gines Roca and I as leader were joined in Rawalpindi by Liaison Officer Captain Amir Hashmat. From that city we drove by lorry a day and a half via Peshawar to Dir and by jeep for another day over the Lowari Pass to Chitral. We continued for four days with 37 mules via Berenis and Kuragh to Drasan. With 82 coolies we went over the 12,730-foot Zani Pass to Shagrom (one day) and via Cerniagh and Nalagut to Babu Kapoun. Base Camp was established on July 19 in Babu Kapoun at 15,500 feet, a flat place on the moraine where the Tirich Mir and Noshaq glaciers meet, a wonderful place with sun, grass and even flowers! We gave full equipment to our high-altitude porters from Shagrom, Hayat-Ud-Din, Durda-Nah-Khan, Aziz-Ul-Ullah-Shah and Muhammad-Parvez. On July 23 we placed a high camp at 17,350 feet in the Ano Gol cirque. From there Civis, Roca, Pons and I on July 26 climbed "Apollo XI Zom" (6010 meters or 19,718 feet; at the eastern end of the Ghul Lasht Zom ridge) and on July 28 Ghul-Lasht-Zom III (6361 meters or 20,869 feet; next peak to the west). From a higher camp at 19,200 feet all five of us on July 31 climbed "Cataluña Zom" (6060

meters or 19,882 feet; next peak west of Asped-e-Safed South (6450 meters or 21,162 feet). Our main objective was Istor-o-Nal (24,271 feet). Its south and southeast summits were still virgin, but its main summit was said to have been climbed by Tim Mutch and Joe Murphy (*A.A.J.*, 1956, 10:1, pp. 66-74). It now seems apparent that instead, in cloudy weather, they mistakenly climbed to the highest summit on the ridge between the Rock Pinnacle and Istor-o-Nal North. (See note below by Tim Mutch – *Editor.*) From August 4 to 10 we placed camps at 17,900, 20,600, 21,700 and 23,125 feet on the southwest ridge leading to the Rock Pinnacle. On August 11 Cerda, Pons, Civis and I climbed over the Rock Pinnacle (23,625 feet). To climb the main peak we had to leave the ridge, turn right, and descend to a col at 23,300 feet, which separates the ridge from the highest Istor-o-Nal summits. We made camp in the col. On August 12 we four traversed south of the main peak to the South Peak (23,960 feet) and climbed over the Southeast Peak (24,163 feet) to the Main Peak (24,271 feet).

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Note on "First Ascent" of Istor-o-Nal, 1955. Sr. Anglada states that, in order to reach the main summit, it was necessary to descend from the southwest ridge and strike southeast, descending some 100 meters to an intervening col en route. I suspect he noted that our account of the climb has no record of such a descent. Indeed, I do not recall following such a route. The sequence of events suggests that Anglada's interpretation is correct. The southwest ridge emerged on a plateau sloping off to the northwest. We worked our way up the plateau, the crest of which was to our right. When we finally arrived at the "summit" it would have been our first opportunity to look across the ridge in the direction of a detached true summit massif, separated from the southwest ridge by a wide, broad col. I must assume this detached massif was concealed by clouds; otherwise our position relative to the main summit would have been obvious. Of course, at the time we had no inkling of the complicated summit topography referred to by Anglada. The existing maps were not detailed enough to indicate more than a single summit pyramid. A previous expedition, whose route we followed, were under the same impression as we that the summit lay at the far end of the sloping plateau. They had reached an intermediate point along the plateau route. In view of the new information provided by Anglada, I am willing publicly to credit him with the first ascent of the main summit of Istor-o-Nal.

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