

Hazarat-Sayed on the Kokcha in five days, completing a crossing of the Hindu Kush.

JEFF DOZIER

Mir Samir, Southwest Buttress. After a two-week Volkswagen-bus trip from Imst, Austria, we arrived in Kabul and continued on through the Panjshir valley to Dasht-Rewat. We traveled with 12 horses on to Dehe Parian and branched off into the Wuryaj valley. Almost at the head of this valley we climbed up the Canak valley to 13,500 feet. From there to Base Camp at 15,100 feet we had to carry our own loads. We set up a high camp at 16,900 feet. On June 14 Peter Schillfahrt, Arthur Haid and I started up the southwest buttress, climbed to the top of the first bump of the buttress, traversed right to the couloir and descended the couloir to camp. The next morning we climbed the couloir to the top of the bump and continued up the southwest buttress on rock. At 5:30 P.M. we got to the summit (19,059 feet) exhausted and descended the snow and ice couloir west of our buttress during the night. Walter Venier and Dr. Theodor Ljubanovic had acted as support. On June 18 we all five climbed the couloir to the top. The southwest buttress was impressive. The rock was excellent and very exposed. The climb was 2000 feet high. The 19 rope-lengths, mostly UIAA V to VI-, went free except for some direct aid in the upper part. French climbers were said by the natives to have climbed the ridge to the right of our couloir.* Haid and Venier made another new route, the west ridge of 16,995-foot Salkafar, southwest of Mir Samir.

HANS PENZ, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Mir Samir, Direct South Buttress. While on a Mountain Travel excursion to the Chamar valley, on August 3 and 4, 1972 Jim Wilson and I climbed a new route on Mir Samir (19,059 feet), the direct south buttress. The buttress we climbed is to the right of the main south ridge that leads down into the crest going over to Chamar Pass. We found leads of F6 and a 20-foot A2 pitch. The climb was all on nuts except for the aid. We bivouacked 300 feet from the summit. The weather was perfect and the rock superb. While on the climb we saw another party ascending the couloir between the two south buttresses. On August 8 I climbed Bhande-Ghar (c. 17,400 feet) with Vera Watson, technically an easy peak with a fine view of the north side of Mir Samir.

ALLEN P. STECK

Mir Samir. Polish climbers climbed Mir Samir (19,059 feet) by the

* The American climb on the direct south buttress lies on the next buttress to the east of the Austrian route. Steck reports seeing otherwise unidentified climbers in the couloir when they were making their climb in 1972.

northeast ridge. The climbers were M. Rusinowski, S. Bocheński and J. Szupiński; the date: August 17.

HALINA CIEPLIŃSKA-BOJORSKA, *Klub Wysokogórski, Poland*

USSR

Pik Kommunizma, Pamirs. Four Polish climbers, M. Grochowski, A. Heinrich, R. Kowalewski and J. Rusiecki, made the first ascent of the 2300-foot high west face of Pik Kommunizma (24,548 feet) from August 6 to 9. This is the first route on this face.

HALINA CIEPLIŃSKA-BOJARSKA, *Klubu Wysokogórskiego, Poland*

NEW GUINEA

Carstenz Range. On October 15 the American-Indonesian Puncak Jaya Expedition landed in the Illaga valley in Irian Jaya, the Indonesian half of New Guinea. Our party was composed of Dan Emmett, Phil Trimble and me from the United States and Frank Morgan, Henry Walandouw and Edhie Wurjantoro from Jakarta, Indonesia. Though we spent four weeks where it rains 300 inches a year, we felt sure we were there during a *wet* spell. In addition to bird watching, sightseeing and mud slogging in sloshing boots, we did some climbing in this area of natural beauty: Ngga Poloe, an easy glacier walk, and Second Summit (both 15,945 feet), both from Lakes valley via Meren Glacier, and Midden-spitze (c. 15,500 feet) up Carstenz Glacier and then a rock scramble up the east ridge, all three by Carson, Emmett, Morgan, Trimble, Walandouw; Carstenz Pyramid (16,024 feet) from Lakes valley to Yellow valley and then up north face to west ridge, fifth ascent by Carson, Morgan, Trimble, Walandouw (Comparable to Mount Whitney's East Buttress but in much worse weather. This was the first time a native Indonesian made it to the top, though the army had attempted it with helicopters and swarms of men.); Carstenz Pyramid by north face and west ridge, sixth ascent by Carson, Emmett; East Carstenz Top (c. 15,800 feet) up Carstenz Glacier with nearly vertical snow near the top by entire party; Carstenz Pyramid, direct north face, seventh ascent, new route, solo by Carson, roped, 12 pitches up to F8; Tweedledee and Tweedledum (c. 14,500 feet; two highest points on Harrer's "Alice Ridge") first ascents by Carson, Trimble, climbed by accident when wandering in the mist looking for Idenburg Top; Idenburg Top (c. 15,500 feet, the only glaciated peak west of the twin Carstenz-Meran glacier cirques), second ascent by Carson, Emmett, Morgan, Trimble, Walandouw, third-class but significant route-finding problems in bad weather with Harrer's poor map.

BRUCE CARSON