

16,900 feet, we fixed rope up to 19,350 feet from July 23 to 30. The final assault was alpine style by J.L. Guyonneau, V. Lant and J. Therisod, who reached the summit on August 2 after two bivouacs, and then by M. Legrèves, G. Lemoine and me on August 4. Both groups continued along the ridge to the summit of Asp-e-Safed I (21,349 feet), making the second traverse of the ridge and descending by the north ridge to the 19,350-foot col. The four Asp-e-Safed peaks, whose north faces are from 3300 to 4000 feet high, rise above the Qazi-Deh Glacier. The climb was of sustained serious difficulty, principally on mixed terrain and ice.

ANDRÉ ZAGDOUN, *Club Alpin Français*

M6, North Face. We placed our Base Camp at 13,500 feet in the Mondaras valley off the Darya Qadzi Deh. Our High Camp was established on a rock *rognon* at 16,800 feet. Howard Lancashire and I climbed M6 (20,134 feet) by its impressive north face. In alpine-style, we crossed the bergschrund at 2:30 A.M. and climbed steep, hard ice which gave way to sugar snow overlying the ice. We gained the summit ridge at four P.M. but bivouacked at 5:30 P.M. just below the summit, which we reached the next morning. We descended the northeast ridge in six hours. M6 was first climbed in 1972 by Italians. An attempt of M5 by its west ridge failed in bad weather.

PETER HOLDEN, *Alpine Club*

Shakhaur-Nadir Shah Traverse. The Kraków Academic Alpine Club expedition ascended Shakhaur (23,347 feet) by a new route. Between July 11 and 22 we acclimatized in the Kohe Zebak group. On July 23 we reached the village of Shakhaur in the Wakhan and immediately began a five-day reconnaissance in the Shakhaur valley, in which the Kotgaz An (pass of 17,940 feet) was reached. Base Camp was established on July 31 on the Shakhaur Glacier at 12,475 feet. We decided to climb Shakhaur alpine-style from the Kotgaz An via the east ridge and to traverse along the ridge to Nadir Shah (22,356 feet) and on to the col between M3 and M4 before descending the Shakhaur Myani Glacier, making no immediate camps. On August 3 E. Chrobak, K. Liszka, J. Maczka and I climbed the Hoshk Glacier to 14,450 feet and climbed the next day to the Kotgaz An via very steep ice with penitentes. On August 5 we climbed on rock and ice, passing ice towers on the north to bivouac behind the second tower at 19,350 feet in a saddle. The next day was difficult ice and wind-drifted snow; night caught us on an ice slope at 21,325 feet. On the 7th we had to traverse 200 yards south until we could get across a crevasse with artificial aid; we reached a plateau for the third night on the ridge at 22,800 feet. On August 8 at

one P.M. we climbed the last vertical pitch to the summit of Shakhaur. We found no trace of the previous ascents. That same day we descended along the easy ridge to the Nadir Shah col, where we bivouacked at 21,650 feet. By detouring around huge cornices we climbed Nadir Shah at 2:30 the next day, where we found traces of the Yugoslavs of 1968 and a bottle with the names of the Polish first-ascent party of 1962. We descended the ridge to its abrupt 1300-foot icefall, down which we made six abseils. Below was the broad M3-M4 saddle and there we spent the seventh night. The further route was marked with flags left by our support team: Z. Dudrak, W. Jedliński and A. Pawlik. The next day we descended to the col in the ridge between Nadir Shah and Shakhaur Myani Glaciers. It took three long abseils to reach the latter. Two attempts by the support team on Languta-e Barfi failed at 19,700 feet in bad weather.

MARIAN BALA, *Kraków Academic Alpine Club, Poland*

Sad Ishtagh Group, Darrah-e-Qalat. The North of England Expedition was made up of Michael Anderson, New Zealand, Miss Terry Funk, Switzerland, Michael Hosted, my wife Dawn and me. We drove to Kabul and used local transport from Kunduz to Eshkashem. We made a one-day approach march south into the Darrah-e-Qalat, which terminates in the Sad Ishtagh massif. We had bad weather at first but made the following first ascents: Kohe Nova (5200 meters or 17,061 feet; one mile north of Wala 91) via east face on July 19 by P. and D. Bean; Kohe Barabar (5050 meters or 16,568 feet; one mile northeast of Wala 91) via south couloir on July 20 by P. and D. Bean; and Kohe Akhery (5100 meters or 16,733 feet; Wala Peak 98) via north face on July 24 by Hosted, Funk. Anderson and I made the second ascent of P 4750 (15,584 feet; Wala Peak 107) on July 24. We also found and crossed an ice pass (4885 meters) connecting the Qalat and Syarpalas Glaciers and made other minor ascents.

PAUL BEAN, *Cleveland Mountaineering Club, England*

Koh-e-Bandaka. The first Rumanian Hindu Kush expedition was made up of Valentin Garner, Ionel Coman, Anton Demeter and Zoltan Kovacs. On August 26 they climbed Koh-e-Bandaka (22,451 feet).

ADOLF DIEMBERGER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*

Restrictions on Expeditions in Afghanistan. Friedrich Weber of Marktoberdorf, Germany informs us that the Afghan government is now collecting duty on food imported amounting to one to two dollars per kilo. Porter fees are very high; they had to pay \$16 per day for each porter for the 1½-day pack from Qazi Deh to the Noshaq Base Camp.