

We reached the pass on September 4 in good weather, where we saw Barnaj II still several miles distant. The eastern approach was unlikely to be easy with porters and we risked being snowed in beyond the pass. Deep snow is not unusual in late September. Thus we plumped for the west approach and returned to Machail by September 5. The expedition, which also included Amargeet Singh Chabbewal, John Escott, Geoff Tier, Rick Walters and Bob Toogood, was now fully assembled. We set off up the Barnaji Nala on September 7. Smith and I went on, reached the glacier snout in the rain after a six-hour walk and explored both banks of the glacier to find a good Base Camp site. Base Camp was established at 14,500 feet on September 8. Atrocious weather delayed ferrying loads there. A clearing on September 12 allowed six of us to break trail up the glacier to Camp I and dump gear on a snow plateau above, but we were driven down by another three-day storm. On September 16 another clearing allowed us to reopen the path to Camp I. In the next two days we crossed the plateau, climbed an avalanche-swept couloir and fixed rope to its top at 18,000 feet. In even worse weather on the 20th Smith, Tier, Curran and I set up Camp II at 18,600 feet just under the south ridge of the foresummit. Bob Walters and John Excott had to leave because of ill health. We tried to climb the ridge on the 21st but were defeated by a severe storm at ten A.M. The next day Smith and Tier made a bold effort in the blizzard, climbed to the ridge and up to 19,300 feet. On the 23rd and 24th there was no easing of the bad weather and with dangerous masses of snow accumulating, we retreated.

PAUL NUNN, *Alpine Club*

Gharol, Kishtwar Himal. Members of a 20-man team from the Signals Regiment of the Northern Indian Command led by Major A. Roy scaled this peak (19,888 feet) in the Kishtwar region on October 8.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

Peaks in Ladakh and Kashmir. During July Geoff Cohen and I enjoyed a 10-day walk through the remote Wadvan valley. (The Wadvan flows into the Chenab near Kishtwar. Leaving the roadhead at Gaoran, we crossed the Margan Pass over to the Wadvan. Three days' walk took us up to the glacier snout of one of the headwaters of the Wadvan, the Kanital. We crossed the snout, descended for a mile and climbed an attractive peak at the northeast head of a side glacier whose stream flowed into the north side of the Kanital. On the 1:250,000 map, the peak appears to be P 19,330. On July 21 Rob Collister joined us in Srinagar. We crossed the Zoji La by bus and took a truck from Kargil to Panicker in the Surn valley. It took four days to trek to the Pensi La, between the Surn and Zanskar. At the Pensi La (14,500 feet) we shouldered

80-pound packs and followed the Durung Drum Glacier for ten miles. We climbed a fine peak of 18,500 feet on the divide between the Durung Drum and Prul glaciers. A few days later we crossed a col to an upper cirque glacier of the Prul basin. After two false starts, due to monsoon weather, we made a fine route on a peak marked P 6560 on the Japanese map. Unfortunately our altimeter read just 6000 meters (19,685 feet) on the summit. From the Pensi La we walked out through Zanskar, one of the remotest parts of Ladakh. This trek of 130 miles was the most interesting part of the whole trip. We reached Padam, the chief village of Zanskar, in three days from the pass. There we split up, Geoff returning to Kishtwar by the Umasi La and Rob and I making for Lahoul and Kulu by the Shingo La. Each journey took five days.

DESMOND RUBENS, *University of Edinburgh, Scotland*

Z8 and Z2, Zanskar Group, Ladakh. Our expedition consisted of my wife Silvia Metzeltin-Buscaini, Maurizio Gaetani, Lia Risari-Gaetani, Alda Nicora and me. We placed Base Camp at 13,775 feet on the Pensi La, southeast of Nun and Kun. On July 26 my wife, Gaetani and I made the first ascent of Z8 (19,850 feet) by its west-northwest ridge. The peak lies south of the Pensi La. On a five-day trip, my wife and I went west across a 17,225-foot pass from the Pensi Glacier to the Rumdum Glacier, up the latter to make on July 31 the first ascent of Z2 (20,260 feet) by its south ridge, and then back to Base Camp.

GINO BUSCAINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Pakistan

K2, Second Ascent. Thanks to previous expeditions, such as the Americans' and Italians', we were able to make the second ascent of K2 and we climbed on the strong shoulders of those predecessors. Also Dr. Charles Houston, Robert Bates, Fritz Wiessner and Adams Carter gave me much useful information. We sent two reconnaissance parties; in 1975 to find the most suitable route and in 1976 to reconnoiter the reportedly tried southeast ridge. Our 1977 expedition, under the auspices of the Japanese Mountaineering Association, consisted of 52 members, including me (73 years) as General Leader and Isao Shinkai as Leader. Ten were TV and movie cameramen. We invited three of the Alpine Club of Pakistan. Major Kamal Afzal Khan was our liaison officer and he prevented all porter problems. On May 26 we left Skardu with 15 tractors and 20 jeeps for Bahar. Our loads weighed 25 tons. Here we divided into three parties. These left on May 29, 31 and June 2 and reached Base Camp on June 11, 15 and 16 respectively. The oxygen came in later and arrived at Base Camp on June 21. We had 260 Japanese and eight French bottles. Camps were established as follows: