

I at 18,150 feet on June 19, II at 20,200 feet on June 22, III at 22,475 feet on July 1, IV at 24,475 feet on July 12, V at 26,000 feet on July 25 and VI at 26,675 feet on August 3. The first summit attempt on August 4 from Camp VI was driven back at 27,225 feet by a violent storm. On August 8 Shoji Nakamura and Takeyoshi Takatsuka left Camp VI at five A.M., followed 30 minutes later by Tsuneo Shigehiro. The snow slope from Camp VI to the couloir above at 27,000 feet was about 50°. They traversed left in deep snow under a huge threatening hanging glacier. There were fixed ropes to this point. They had a little easier going and then fixed the last 130-foot rope up to 28,000 feet. At 28,050 feet Nakamura broke a snow bridge and fell 20 feet into a crevasse but the other two managed to get him out in an hour. They continued on and reached the summit at 6:50 P.M. Groping in the black night, they got back to Camp VI at 11:30 P.M. and Camp V at 12:15 A.M. Oxygen lasted until they were back at Camp VI because they used it only at two liters a minute. On August 9 Mitsuo Hiroshima, Masahide Onodera, Hideo Yamamoto and Pakistani Ashraf Aman left Camp VI at 5:15 A.M. and following the fixed ropes, got to the top at 2:15 P.M. A third party was in Camp VI but on August 10 the weather changed and they were instructed by radio from Base Camp to abandon the attempt. Base Camp was evacuated on August 22.

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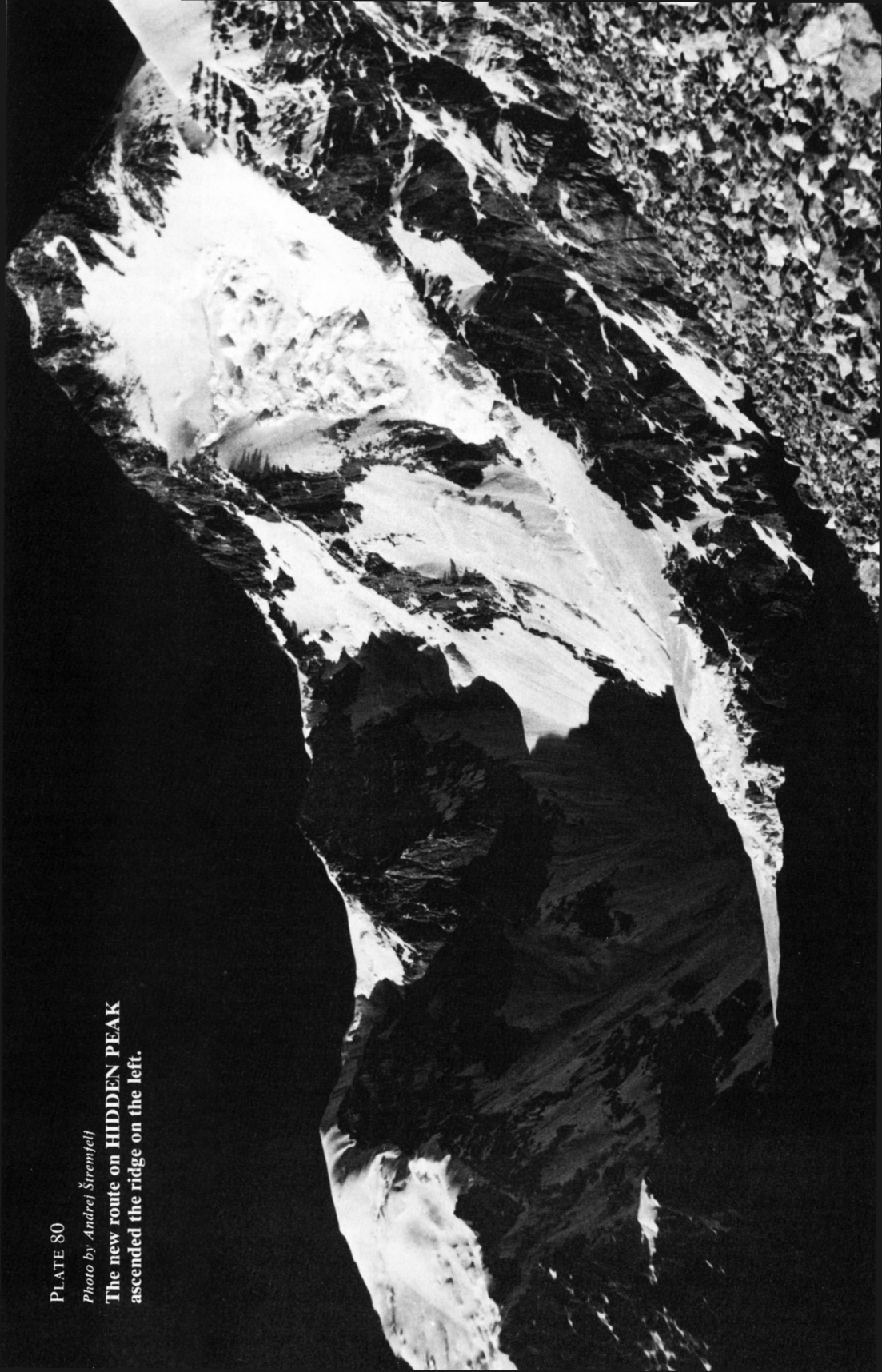
Broad Peak. A 13-man Japanese expedition led by Michio Yasua made the second ascent of Broad Peak (26,400 feet) by the route first ascended by the Austrians in 1957. Base Camp was established at 16,000 feet on July 7. Camps I, II, III, and IV were set up at 17,900, 20,350, 22,650 and 24,600 feet on July 11, 20 and 28 and August 2 respectively. Yoshiyuki Tsuji, Kazuhisa Noro and Takashi Ozaki reached the summit on August 8.

Hidden Peak (Gasherbrum I), Southwest Ridge. In March we got permission for Gasherbrum I, Hidden Peak. It was only two months before the expedition left and it took great effort to put together money, food and gear. We were Janez Lončar, leader, Filip Bence, Borut Bergant, Franc Čanžek, Drago Bregar, Andej Stremfelj, Dr. Martin Košak, truck driver Matinko Pintar and I. On the thirteenth day of the approach, we saw a rocky pyramid shining in the setting sun, high in the cold blue sky. The next day we paid off porters and built Base Camp. We decided on the yet unclimbed southwest ridge, between the American and the Habeler-Messner routes. The next morning at four A.M. we left Base Camp and looked for the way through the icefall to Camp I under the ridge. The sun softened the snow and the way through the icefall was very complicated. At noon we were at the first rocks in a little cirque under the south face and established Camp I. From there rises a steep couloir,

PLATE 80

Photo by Andrej Štremfelj

The new route on **HIDDEN PEAK**
ascended the ridge on the left.



which narrows more and more into a rocky chimney. A long, steep ice slope leads to a narrow snow rib before we climbed a vertical rock and ice pitch to a good camp site. Camp II was at 18,900 feet. The next day we returned to Camp II up fixed ropes with heavy loads. While our group descended to Base Camp, the others made their way up from Camp II to the White Dome, the real beginning of the ridge. Later we climbed the White Dome's 50° south face on potential avalanche snow to the beginning of the narrow, corniced ridge. Just when we had reached the start of the ridge, the whole south face went down, the greatest avalanche I had ever seen. It was within a hair's breadth of us. Two hours higher we were wading through bad snow to the Black Cap, where we placed Camp III at 20,800 feet. It was snowing as we descended to Camp I and the next day to Base Camp. Our leader Loncar fell ill and Bence didn't feel well and we were only five in good health. Andrej Stremfelj and I went back to the mountain immediately after an afternoon's rest, carrying all the gear for Camp IV. In one day we reached Camp II from Base. We were in excellent form. At Camp III we met Bence and Bergant; the latter had fixed 450 feet of rope on the beginning of the summit pyramid at the end of the snow slopes. By sunrise we were at Bergant's ropes and, loaded like donkeys, began to climb the west face, steep snow and ice with bad, crumbling rock. After five pitches, the ropes were finished and we climbed on without protection. The face went over to a 70° couloir. Above were two snow shoulders, the first only a narrowing of the west ridge, but the upper was better, a gentle slope. At four P.M. we began to dig a small shelf for Camp IV, but there was so little snow and ice that half the tent hung over the face. We cooked a great quantity of tea and tried to sleep. The night was endless. The wind increased. The morning of July 8 is windy and cold. To the south is a black wall of clouds. We hurriedly mix up potatoes and salt fish and drink milk and honey. At seven A.M. we leave Camp IV. The face gets ever steeper and the wind stronger. At eight o'clock it is foggy and the first snow flakes begin to dance. We are on dangerous wind-slab and icy rocks. I lead all the way, breaking trail. We are desperately cold. After some steps I dig a small shelf and standing on one leg, wave the other to get blood to the toes. Conditions are terrible, but the will is stronger. At noon we climb the last rocks. We are in a small gap just below the summit. Through the fog we can see a light ball, the sun. It has stopped snowing but the wind picks up. We climb the last meters with frozen tears on our faces. We tie Yugoslav, Pakistani and Slovene flags to an ice-ax and take photos. Fog, wind and snow. Then down, down, down. Descending is harder than going up. The snowstorm increases, snow freezes on our glasses and we have to make every effort to find the way. At four P.M. we fall into our tent at Camp IV, dead tired. In this weather we did not expect anybody from the lower camps, but Drago Bregar comes. At the beginning of the fixed ropes Drago and Franc Čanžek separated. Franc

descended, but Drago reached Camp V at five P.M., hoping later to get to the summit. He cooked tea for us and forced us with food, but we couldn't eat. The next morning was gray and dull. In the roaring wind we tried to persuade Drago to descend with us, but he was determined to stay on at Camp IV to wait for better weather. Andrej and I disappeared in the furious snow dance, sorrowing deeply about Drago's staying on. We missed the beginning of the fixed ropes and descended a vertical chimney. It took six hours to reach Bence, Bergant and Čanžek at Camp III. At darkness Andrej and I were at Camp I. On the 10th there was no more radio contact with Drago. The weather was better. We tried to reach the upper slopes of the mountain to look for him, but on the 14th it started to snow again. From all the faces, avalanches were roaring. Sadly, we returned to Base. On the 19th the weather was better and the porters came. I sat at Base Camp, looking at my second 8000er, Drago's grave.

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Chogolisa Southwest. There are two summits southwest of Chogolisa which rise to about 7000 meters or 22,966 feet. The western-most one, about two miles from Chogolisa, was climbed by a 13-man Japanese party led by Hiroaki Akiyama by its northwest ridge from the glacier west of the peak. They went from Khapalu up the Hushe valley to set up Base Camp on June 14 at 14,100 feet on the east bank of the Chogolisa Glacier. Camp I was established at 15,425 feet on June 21 and Camp II at 17,225 feet on the snow plateau above the icefall on the 29th. Camp III was set up near the northwest col at 19,200 feet on July 5. Camp IV was made on the northwest ridge on July 10. On July 14 Mitsuo Yajima, Sanji Kobayashi, Tetsuo Nakamura and Shoichi Yasuji climbed to the top in eight hours. On the 22nd Hiroshi Narita, Minoru Osawa and Akio Kida set out from Camp III at one A.M. and got to the summit at 2:45 P.M. (More details will be found in *Iwa To Yuki*.)

Biale, Baltoro Karakoram. Our expedition consisted of Fumiyoshi Shigematsu, Tokiyoshi Kimura, Chitose Okada, Mikio Hamada, Tadanori Ochiai and me as leader. Base Camp was on the right bank of the Baltoro Glacier near the junction of the Mustagh Glacier and opposite Rdokas. The south and southwest faces of Biale were so steep and dangerous that we avoided them and advanced our camps up the Mustagh Glacier toward the snow-covered north face. Fortunately our route was rather easy because we could find a route on ice and snow without the steep rock characteristic of the nearby Trango and Payu groups. (Biale lies about two miles south of Karphogang.) On July 21 Shigematsu, Kimura, Hamada and Ochiai set up Camp III west of the peak on the col between the Mustagh and Kruksum Glaciers and on the 22nd climbed the 2500-foot snow and ice west face to the sum-