

Parkachik and Rangdom Gompa to Base Camp and thence over Indian Ridge to the plateau and Camp II at 21,000 feet. The summit was reached by Adolf Deichstätter, Günther Buntrock, Dr. Erich Bosina, Helmut and Martina Hausmann, Dr. Manfred Hehl, Leo Graf and me.

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*Kun and Nun.* Numerous ascents are now being made of Kun (23,250 feet) and Nun (23,410 feet). A Japanese group led by Kunihiro Kondo attempted both the northeast ridge and the west face of Kun in July. The liaison officer, Captain H.K. Joshi, accompanied the west-face group. On July 15 at 21,000 feet he showed the first signs of high-altitude pulmonary edema. He descended to 18,750 feet. A helicopter was called for by runner but could not arrive before the 19th. Joshi died in the hospital in Kargil. Another Japanese expedition led by Masato Katagiri was successful when on October 10 Jun'ichi Kawakami and Hiroaki Iwai reached the summit of Kun by the northeast ridge, the Czech route. Two Austrians were arrested for attempting Kun without permission. Nun was climbed by the first Indian civilian group when on July 11 Shrikanta Mitra, Pulak Mazumdar, Nitai Roy and Sherpas Mingma and Karma got to the top.

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*Saser Kangri, Second Ascent.* Saser Kangri (25,170 feet) was first climbed in 1973 by an Indian expedition led by Jogindar Singh. It was climbed again in 1979 by 13 of the 50-member Army team led by Colonel Jagjit Singh. Major Prem Chand was deputy leader. He reconnoitered in July 1978 hoping to find new routes from the west. An approach from the west or northwest appeared to be technically difficult. Later Colonel Jagjit Singh also made a survey and decided to repeat the first-ascent route from the east via the Shyok valley, North Shupka Kunchang Glacier and south ridge. The expedition left Delhi on April 7 to avoid problems created by melt-water in the Shyok River, which had to be crossed and recrossed forty times. They returned by a different route via the Changla Pass. Reaching Base Camp via Darbuk was in itself a mini-expedition, though they used mules. From Base Camp onwards the members carried everything themselves. Base Camp was set up at 15,000 feet at the snout of the glacier on April 19. Five more camps were placed at 16,500, 17,800, 20,900, 21,800 and 23,800 feet, the last on the south ridge. Most hazardous were icefalls between Camps II and III and Camps IV and V, where over 10,000 feet of rope were fixed. Major Prem Chand, Captain R.C. Patial, Havildar N.D. Sherpa and Sepoy Dhandup reached the summit on May 22. Major S.P. Sharma and eight *jawans* summited on May 24.

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