

Pakistan

Nanga Parbat Attempt. Although our expedition under the leadership of Jean-Pierre Frésafond arrived in Islamabad on April 8, we had to wait for two weeks until we could take the road constructed along the banks of the Indus by the Chinese. And then an earthquake blocked the road, which was destroyed in several places. Not being able to reach the Rupal Face to attack the central buttress, we decided to try the nearest west face, cost what it might. We tried to climb the very long Mazeno ridge, but the weather was very bad for thirty consecutive days. Moreover the ridge must be 15 miles long and is difficult. We could not set off alpine-style for ten days because of the weather. After having climbed the first of the five Mazeno peaks, we gave up to return some other day. The team had 23 French members and two Pakistanis.

LOUIS AUDOUBERT, *Club Alpin Français*

Nanga Parbat Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Walter Ruppert, leader, Lili Alfrid Ruppert, Walter Knezicek, Herbert Jesenko, Naz Gruber, Walter Snehotta, my brother Gerhard Neumayer and me. We attempted the 10,000-foot-high Diamir Face of Nanga Parbat. We were delayed 12 days in Rawalpindi waiting for baggage and only got to the Bunar Bridge on July 26. We set out from there to Base Camp with 70 porters. Base Camp was on the right moraine of the Diamir Glacier at 13,400 feet. On August 3 we set up Camp I at 15,425 feet at the beginning of a 60° rockfall-threatened ice couloir. We had to retire to Base Camp in the face of snowfall and subsequent avalanche danger. On August 14 we set up Camp II at 19,700 feet but were driven back down by bad weather. On August 17 we set out again. My brother and I reached 22,300 feet on the 19th but were again driven back by snowfall. This time the mountain was plastered with six feet of snow and we abandoned the attempt. Close to Camp I at about 16,000 feet we found the remains of Bob Broughton, the American lost on July 31, 1977. We buried him in a crevasse.

FRANZ NEUMAYER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Pakistan—Karakoram

K2. Italians Reinhold Messner, Friedl Mutschlechner, Renato Ciarrotto and Alessandro Gogna, German Michael Dacher and Austrian Robert Schauer made up a strong team that hoped to climb the well publicized "Magic Line" on K2. This route would have climbed to the Negrotto Saddle between K2 and the Angelus, ascended the south buttress to a point where it would traverse across the south face to meet the Abruzzi Ridge

some 1000 feet below the summit. There were serious delays. The expedition waited three weeks for a flight to Skardu. On the approach the female doctor broke her leg and had to be carried back to Askole and helicoptered out. A porter was killed falling into a crevasse on the Savoia Glacier. After a brief reconnaissance, in view of the tight time-schedule, Messner decided instead to climb the Abruzzi Ridge. Despite the publicity of a "five-day victory, alpine style without high camps," the preparations were in fact much more. On June 22 Messner, Dacher, Gogna and Casarotto moved from Base Camp at 16,250 feet to Camp I at 20,000 feet. The next two days they climbed House's Chimney and carried loads to the site of Camp II at 21,925 feet before returning to Base Camp for a rest. On June 27 Schauer, Mutschlechner and two Balti porters carried to Camp I and the first two on the 28th to Camp II. Gogna and Casarotto were also active. On July 1 Gogna climbed 1000 feet above Camp II extracting from the ice or replacing Japanese fixed ropes. On July 4 Messner and Dacher climbed and fixed rope up to 24,000 feet, near the site of Camp III. The whole team had been active repairing or replacing the Japanese fixed ropes or placing new ones. This was therefore hardly the touted "alpine-style" ascent. After a rest at Base Camp, on July 8 Messner and Dacher moved to Camp I and in the next two days to Camps II and III. On July 11 they climbed to place and occupy a bivouac tent at 26,000 feet. On July 12 they reached the summit at 4:40, having used no oxygen.

K2, South-Southwest Ridge Attempt. A strong, rather massive French expedition nearly climbed K2 by its very difficult south-southwest ridge. The leader was Bernard Mellet, the deputy leader, Yannick Seigneur and the others were Maurice Barrard, Pierre Beghin, Jean-Marc Boivin, Dr. Dominique Chaix, Patrick Cordier, Jean Coudray, Xavier Fargeas, Marc Galy, Yvan Ghirardini, Thierry Leroy, Dominique Marchal, Daniel Monaci and Jean-Claude Mosca. There was also a ten-man publicity-film and television team. Using 1400 porters, they took ten days to get to Base Camp at 16,400 feet on the Godwin Austen Glacier, arriving on July 9. Aided by 50 of the porters, they established Camp I the next day at 18,375 feet. Above there, twelve porters were used until one of them died of a heart attack while carrying a load to Camp IV. (Another porter drowned in a stream while returning to Askole from Base Camp.) Camp II was carved out of the ice above the couloir at 20,675 feet in the col between the Angelus and the south-southwest ridge of K2. The route to Camp III at 22,800 feet was fixed by July 20, but bad weather stopped climbing until July 27. Camp IV was placed at 24,600 feet on August 1. Before the weather broke for the worse again, Mellet and Seigneur reached 25,600 feet, but from then on there was little good weather. The site for Camp V at 26,250 feet was reached on August 18 but not until September 1 could the first tent be pitched there. There were several attempts