

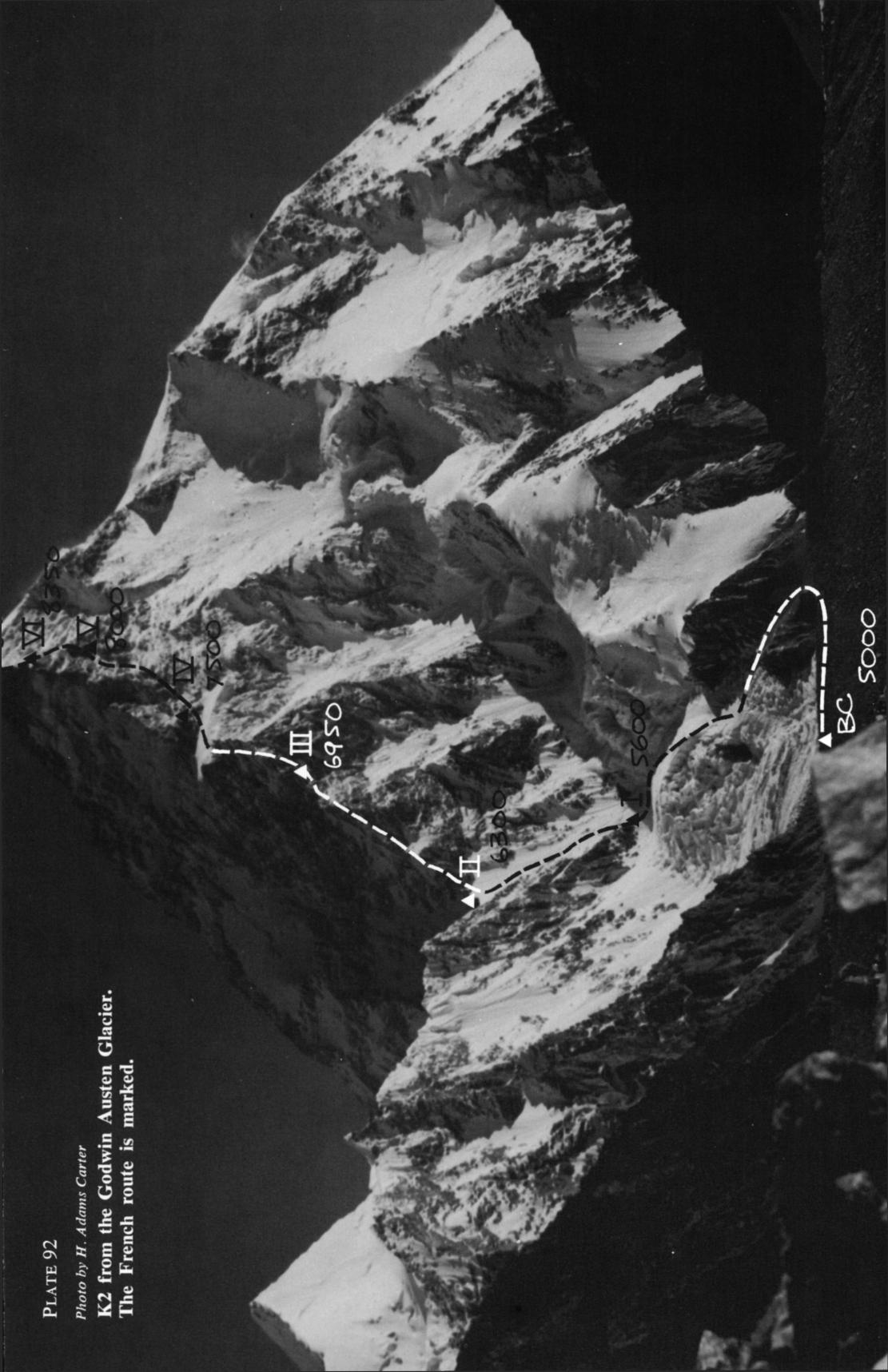
some 1000 feet below the summit. There were serious delays. The expedition waited three weeks for a flight to Skardu. On the approach the female doctor broke her leg and had to be carried back to Askole and helicoptered out. A porter was killed falling into a crevasse on the Savoia Glacier. After a brief 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

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Photo by H. Adams Carter

K2 from the Godwin Austen Glacier.
The French route is marked.



to get higher in the unstable weather. Boivin suffered a severe retinal hemorrhage and descended from Camp IV to Base Camp by hang-glider. On September 9 Monaci and Leroy left Camp VI, heading for the summit in unsettled weather. Monaci soon felt it hopeless and stopped but Leroy kept on for another 350 feet. However it was obvious that winter had come and the attempt was abandoned. (We are indebted to Yannick Seigneure for this information. He also points out that one can live for 2½ months at over 20,675 feet and go five times to 26,250 feet without oxygen and that one can climb UIAA Grade V+ rock at 27,225 feet.)

Broad Peak Attempt. Our expedition was led by Dr. Franz Berghold and composed of Günther Knauseder, Horst Schindlbacher, Peter and Wastl Wörgötter and me. We had the usual approach problems, such as porter strikes, lost baggage and swept-away bridges, which delayed our arrival at Base Camp until the end of June. Our original plan of climbing a new route, the southeast buttress, was given up because of bad conditions and lack of time. We prepared the normal route with the variant used by the Poles, Japanese and French. In only nine days, in which the weather could not have been better, we fixed ropes and set up camps at 18,700, 21,000 and just under 23,000 feet. On July 12, the day Messner climbed K2, we were all at Camp III and in top form. We set out on Friday the 13th of July at 1:30 A.M. in icy cold. There was some difficult trail breaking. The forward group, both Wörgötters, Schindlbacher and Knauseder, reached the col at 25,600 feet at about 9:30 when the weather turned bad and drove them back. I had to give up sooner fearing frozen feet. Two other attempts ended, one at Camp II and the other at Camp III. Time was up and we had to quit. Dr. Berghold did high-altitude medical research during the expedition, using the most modern equipment. We wore electro-cardiograph equipment during our summit attempt.

HERBERT KARASEK, Salzburg (Austria) Karakoram Expedition

Broad Peak Attempt. Our Spanish expedition consisted of Carlos Soria, Miguel López, Mariano Arrazola, Salvador Rivas, Luis López and me. The route we picked was the west spur, which rises some 11,000 feet and has difficult spots. This was the Polish route of 1975 and coincides in great part with the first-ascent route of the Austrians in 1957. The approach march took ten days. A porter lost his life when he fell into the river shortly before Payu Camp. We placed Base Camp on the central moraine of the Godwin Austen Glacier at 15,600 feet. The weather was the worst that has been seen in the Karakoram for many years. Despite the daily snow storms and unstable weather, we went ahead preparing the route on the lower part of Broad Peak. After leaving a supply dump at 17,225 feet, we placed one camp at 18,375 feet and a second at