

this was wiped out by an avalanche on June 21, luckily without loss of life. A new Camp I was placed on June 23 high on the glacier at 16,575 feet. Camp II was placed at the point where they left the couloir for the steep rock buttress at 19,000 feet. It took eight days to fix the route on the buttress from Camp II to 20,675 feet, where they had hoped to have Camp III. As it was difficult to find space for a tent, the climbers bivouacked there and moved on July 15 up to 21,325 feet to pitch Camp III. The first summit attempt on July 17 failed. On July 19 Tsuneo Shigehiro, Sin'e Matsumi and Yu Watanabe struggled for 13 hours up bad snow to the summit. On July 22 Hideo Muto, Jun'ichi Oku and Kota Endo also climbed to the top. They considered themselves lucky not to have been struck by rockfall or avalanches.

Latok III. The following were members of the Latok III expedition: Kazushige Takami, Sakae Mori, Kiyukaza Kitamura, Keiso Sadatomo, Naoki Ohudaira and I as leader. We climbed the mountain from the Baintha Lukpar Glacier via the southwest ridge, which had repelled another Japanese expedition in 1978. We placed Camp I at 15,100 feet on the glacier on June 25 and proceeded up a steep snow couloir to establish Camp II on June 27 at 16,750 feet on the snow below the main peak. Camp III was placed at 20,000 feet on July 3. Above Camp III there were three ice grooves. We took the right-hand one and placed Camp IV on July 10 at 22,000 feet at the foot of the final 1000-foot-high rock wall. Above Camp IV we took the center crack system. It took two days to work out the route up to the final snow ridge. On July 15 Takami, Mori and I reached the summit (22,475 feet).

YOJI TERANISHI, *Japanese Alpine Club*

P 6960, Latok Group. Hoping to climb a technical Himalayan peak using alpine techniques, we attempted P 6960 (22,835 feet), situated between the Ogre (Baintha Brakk) and Latok II, by a route up the north-west ridge. Chris Gilley, John Bennison, American Donald Bouyea* and I arrived in Pakistan on June 3 and reached Base Camp on June 17 after an eight-day walk from Skardu. Twenty porters were used to reach Base Camp (15,500 feet) via the Biafo Glacier. Within another week we had made a carry to the col (18,500 feet) between the Ogre and P 6960. We dumped the gear and enough food to complete the route in a snow hole at the col and returned to Base Camp. The climbing to the col was technically straightforward but involved an interesting icefall and the notorious "Death Alley," so named by Japanese expeditions using this route on the

* Recipient of an American Alpine Club Climbing Fellowship grant.

Ogre in 1975 and 1978. The dangers of Death Alley are huge séracs which threaten much of the way to the col. On June 26 Bouyea and I set out from Base Camp for our summit bid. We used no tents above Base, relying on Gore-Tex bivouac bags and sometimes snow holes. Our first bivouac was between the icefall and Death Alley and the second on the col. From there we took food for five to six days. To leave the col we had to climb 45° slopes and then three ice pitches up to 75° to gain another large snowfield, where at 20,000 feet we made our third bivouac. Unfortunately it began to snow in the night and stormed for two nights and a day. Not having dug a snow hole and finding it impossible to dig one in the storm, we had to retreat to Base Camp. Gilley and Bennison left on a summit attempt on July 1. They reached 21,000 feet with four bivis but had to retreat after a bad bivouac and because of continued difficulties ahead. Above the snowfield where Bouyea and I bivouacked were 45° ice slopes which gradually changed to mixed climbing and mostly rock on the steeper final slopes. I fell ill with hepatitis but the other three attempted the south buttress. This turned out to be very steep and would need much aid climbing. We lacked food and equipment for a serious attempt. We left Base Camp on July 18.

ROWLAND C. PERRIMENT, *England*

Pumari Chhish. Our expedition was composed of Susumu Ogasawara, Hideo Yokoyama, Yoshimasa Chiba, Katsutoshi Kariya, Kenji Hirooka, Koichi Minami, Michio Hayashi, Michihiro Kanno, Mitsuo Shiroishi, Masaki Ohashi, Shigeki Chiba and me as leader. We placed Temporary Base Camp at 13,775 feet and Base Camp on June 19 at 14,100 feet on the Kunyang Glacier. Camp I was also on the Kunyang Glacier at 17,400 feet at the foot of the pass to the Yazghil Glacier. The 2300-foot icefall leading to the col, where we placed Camp II at 19,700 feet, averages almost 60° . It took four days to prepare this part of the route with fixed ropes. Camp III was also at 19,700 feet, at the foot of the north ridge of Pumari Chhish on the upper Yazghil Glacier. The snow slope to Camp IV averaged 50° and took four days to prepare. Camp IV was established on July 14 on a fore-peak at 22,650 feet. In all we fixed 7500 feet of rope. On July 15 Yokoyama, Mimami, Ohashi and H. Chiba climbed to the top, followed on July 17 by Ogasawara, Y. Chiba, Hayashi, Kanno and Shiroishi. From Base Camp to the summit was 12 miles. We had difficulty over porter pay for four days in Nagar, finally paying 80 rupees per day plus 20 rupees for the return.

TAKAO SASAKI, M.D., *Japan Hokkaido Alpine Association*

Kunyang Chhish North. A Japanese expedition from Hokkaido University was led by Kohei Echizenya climbed the north ridge of Kunyang