

halfway up the face, where we were fortunate to find an ice cave that made an ideal bivouac. We reached the summit at about two P.M. on June 22 and got back to the ice cave by seven o'clock. We spent the next two days retracing our steps back to Base Camp. The first half of the face was relatively straightforward except for a maze of crevasses and schrunds at the bottom. It was the second half which was interesting, especially near the top, where the difficulties were of Scottish Grade 4.

IAN TATTERSALL, *England*

Ghochhar Sar Tragedy. Six members of a Japanese expedition were killed when buried by a huge avalanche on the Shachiokh Glacier as they were heading for Ghochhar Sar (20,502 feet). This peak lies east of Chitral. The leader was Yoshio Sugimura. More details are in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 70.

Pakistan—Hindu Kush

Darban Zom Attempt and Accident, 1978. Paddy Feely, *Irish*, Fred van Gemert, *Dutch*, Bob Milwood and I, *English*, in early August of 1978, made very good progress on the north side of Darban Zom (23,665 feet). After only two weeks our first summit attempt came within 500 feet of the top. During a temporary retreat toward our high camp, van Gemert fell, forcing all four to a bivouac at 22,000 feet without equipment. Van Gemert was unconscious for the night and semi-conscious for the next three days, during which he was lowered 4000 feet. During the second day a belay failure resulted in a further 60-foot fall into a bergschrund, luckily with little extra damage. On the third day we got to the head of a difficult icefall at 18,000 feet. We were forced to wait there, feeding the casualty on double rations while remaining on half-rations ourselves. After four days, with almost all the food gone, we descended the icefall with van Gemert walking (with help) for the first time in eight days. After a ten-hour, foodless day we got to Base Camp. Milward soloed an elegant peak behind Base Camp, P 20,230, on the south side of the Udren An (pass). This may have been climbed previously by Japanese. The return trip took 18 hours from our 13,900-foot Base Camp with a bivouac at 19,000 feet. There were 4000 feet of serious snow and ice climbing on the north face and west ridge.

STEPHEN PARR, *England*

Tirich Mir, South Face, 1978. Not reported in last year's *A.A.J.* was a Japanese expedition led by Kotsutoshi Ikebe. They placed Base Camp on June 20, 1978 at 12,800 feet and Camp I at 15,250 feet on the South Barum Glacier. On July 26, 1978 Eiji Kitazaki, Naoya Yamazaki and