

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

Tatsuo Goto climbed to the summit (25,290 feet) from a 24,350-foot Camp V. More details appear in *Iwa To Yuki* N° 69.

*Peaks East of Tirich Mir, 1978.* My wife and I, the only ones finally to make the trip, were beset with many problems while driving toward the Hindu Kush and had to alter our plans. Lacking a firm attachment to the cliffs, the shelf-road between Chitral and Knoll was badly damaged in parts by the severe monsoon, which penetrated in the Hindu Kush. We joined up with the Polish expedition to get along the road better. We had to repair stretches of the road and relay loads ourselves. Abandoning our original goal, we went with the Poles to the North Barum Glacier. I soloed three peaks which I believe were unclimbed, all about 6000 meters (19,685 feet). On July 22, 1978, from a bivouac I climbed a peak about five miles east of Tirich Mir between the North Barum and Lono Glaciers. The second peak was southwest of the first, about a kilometer toward Tirich Mir. I climbed this on July 27. To reach my third peak I went up the South Barum Glacier to the Japanese Camp I and from there on July 30 I went directly south up a glacier to a col and along the west ridge to the summit.

HARRY ROST, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Bindu Gol Zom II.* A Japanese expedition from Kawashi City was led by Tadakiyo Sakahara and composed of H. Suzuki, T. Hayashida, E. Kusakabe and K. Iwano. Iwano fell ill and had to be helicoptered out. They established Base Camp at 12,625 feet on the North Barum Glacier on July 29. Camps I, II and III were at 14,375, 16,575 and 17,300 feet on the glacier and Camp IV was at 18,400 feet on the west ridge. Sakahara and Suzuki completed the first ascent of Bindu Gol Zom II (20,387 feet) on August 15, followed on the 16th by Hayashida and Kusakabe. They report that the North Barum Glacier heads from Bindu Gol I and II and not from Tirich Mir East. An account and map are in *Iwa To Yuki* N° 71.

## Afghanistan

*Kohe Shakhaur, Kohe Nadir Shah, M2 and M3, 1978.* On July 31, 1978 our expedition from Brno placed Base Camp at 13,000 feet in the Shakhaur valley. We climbed alpine-style, making mostly new routes. Our first climbs for acclimatization were west of Kohe Shakhaur, where we established a camp at 16,400 feet. On August 7 Piotr Bednařík, Jaroslava Tallová and I climbed M3 (20,042 feet) by its east ridge from Camp II in the col at 18,375 feet. Karel Cídl and Tomáš Skříčka repeated the route the next day. Also on August 7 Jiří Beneš and Jan Krch climbed the north face of M3, an ice face averaging 40° but with passages of 80°.