

ing to the main summit block and at 22,900 feet on a saddle below the summit were reached on August 4 and 6 respectively. On August 7, Harder, Cohick and Soaper reached the summit. Three days were needed for the descent. The climb was blessed with what our Russian friends called normal weather, that is, perfect sunny days and mild temperatures. Isherwood, Dee and Flagor along with three other Americans (Bob Fujita, Bob Hammer and Fred Lange) and one Russian (Victoria Galkina) climbed a 21,000-foot consolation prize named "Peak of the Four" in the same general area. In 1979, a second group of Americans made a try for Pik Kommunizma via the Firn Plateau from the Russian Base Camp near the Fortembek Glacier. Our eight-member team consisted of Dana Isherwood, leader, Dee Crouch, Barbara Euser, Jini Griffith, Al Gunter, Bill Isherwood, Steve Pomerance and Bill Seale. Our timetable and camp locations were almost identical to the 1978 climb. We arrived in Base Camp on July 22, occupied Camp I on July 16, and established Camps II, III and IV on July 30 and 31 and August 4. Up until the time we reached Camp IV, the weather was generally clear in the mornings with increasing cloudiness and a light snow in the late afternoons. On August 4, a major storm hit with high winds and heavy snow. The next day the storm abated slightly and the Isherwoods, Seale and Pomerance returned to Camp III. In the following days, Seale, diagnosed as having pulmonary edema, was pulled across the plateau on a sled and helped to Base Camp by Pomerance and several Russian climbers. The Isherwoods waited at Camp III while the rest of the group attempted to reach Camp V where they hoped to wait out the storm, but were eventually forced back by gale winds. They descended to Camp III with extreme difficulty. A second evacuation was now necessary to rescue Euser, a cerebral edema victim. Fortunately, the storm concentrated on the upper slopes above 20,000 feet. With the help of our Russian friends, we reached Base Camp on August 11. Three Europeans at Camp V were lost in the storm. They were either blown off the ridge or caught in an avalanche. Their bodies were not found. The Pamir has long enjoyed a reputation for good climbing weather during the months of July and August. Expecting easy climbing conditions, a number of European parties on the mountain were ill prepared and required our assistance during the storm. Considering the extreme weather encountered this year as well as in the tragic year of 1974, the Pamir's reputation for mild summer weather is exaggerated.

DANA ISHERWOOD

Yugoslav Climbs in the Yazgulem Glacier Area, Pamir. Our group of 14 climbed in the central Pamir from the same camp as Polish, Czechoslovakian and Soviet climbers during the second half of July and the beginning of August. In spite of relatively bad weather, we did some fine climbs. The new routes follow. Filip Bence, Slavko Frantar, Marija Sa-

bolek and I on July 19 to 21 made a new route on the north face of Ljap-Nazar (19,647 feet) with two bivouacs, which were forced on us by the bad weather. The 4500-foot-high route was ice of 40° to 60° . The brothers, Franci and Janko Arh, and Rajmond Kovač made the first ascent of P 5741 (18,835 feet) from July 22 to 24 via the ice south face and the east ridge. From July 24 to 26 Bence, Frantar and Marija Sabolek climbed a new route on the south face of P 6002 (19,691 feet) and ascended to its previously unclimbed summit. After that they traversed to the Peak of Paris Commune and descended its south face. The ice on P 6002 averaged 55° with pitches of 70° . The brothers Arh, Kovač, Peter Poljanec and Emil Tratnik climbed a new 4000-foot line on the south face of the Peak of Paris Commune (20,847 feet) on July 27 to 29. The ice was 50° with pitches of 60° . Bence, Frantar, Herzog, Marija Sabolek and Franc Šter climbed the couloir between the Peak of 26 Commissars of Baku (22,418 feet) and Revolution Peak (22,881 feet) during July 30 to August 3. The 7250-foot-high couloir is very steep with pitches of 70° and 80° and is exposed to avalanches. The rise to the summit of Revolution Peak is some 8500 feet. The Arh brothers, Kovač, Poljanec, Leo Svetličič, Tratnik and I made the second ascent of the Staroseltsev route on Revolution Peak South (22,802 feet) by the south ridge from August 1 to 4.

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Polish, Soviet and Czech Climbs, Pamir. Polish climbers, Janusz Maczka, Tadeusz Preyzner, Jerzy Zajac and Bogdan Strzelski, climbed a new 7250-foot route from July 29 to August 2 on the east face of Ljap-Nazar, which took four bivouacs, two of them hanging, one without water. This mixed route is exposed to avalanches (UIAA V). From July 22 to 28 Soviets Studenjin, Marchenka, Petrashka and Stiepanov did a new route on the south face of Revolution Peak, some 8200 feet high. Soviets Nadbah-Kijedesa and Masiukov did a 4250-foot new route on the south face of the Peak of Paris Commune. A mixed Soviet-Czech team did another new route on the south face of Revolution Peak from July 24 to 29. The climbers were Muslovsky, Orolin and Neuman.

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