

the trek to Base Camp from Bongla on June 12 and arrived there some days later. We spent 2½ weeks ferrying loads to Advanced Base Camp at 20,000 feet on the upper Gasherbrum Glacier. After a period of stormy weather, we attempted the south face, hoping to intersect the south ridge higher up. At 22,500 feet we encountered thin, loose snow over very loose rock. We abandoned the route and decided to attempt the east face or the original Italian route on the northeast ridge. After more bad weather, McKibben, Kerns, Nelson and I climbed the Italian icefall to the base of the east ridge. Bibler and Frederickson continued to the base of the northeast ridge, but gave it up because of deep snow and lack of supplies. Meanwhile Nelson and Kerns descended in deteriorating weather, leaving their food for McKibben and me. We remained at our 22,500-foot camp during a spell of bad weather. We made several attempts on the east face but had to retreat because of avalanches and bad weather. We returned to Base Camp after 34 days above to find that Jim had been evacuated due to a bowel obstruction. Porters had carried him to Base Camp. He was then evacuated to Skardu by helicopter and from there by plane to Islamabad, where he was operated on ten days after the onset of his illness. He has since made a complete recovery.

STEVEN J. SWENSON

*Baltoro Kangri on Skis.* Baltoro Kangri, formerly called the Golden Throne, has five distinct summits, the highest of which is 23,880 feet. It was climbed by Japanese in 1963 and 1976 from the Duke of Abruzzi Glacier via the prominent col to the east, Conway Col (20,669 feet). Our aim was to climb the mountain by the Japanese route and ski from the summit back to Advanced Base Camp. We were Dr. Peter Alston, Keith Geddes, Ian Gray, Phil Ham, Harry Rankin, Jess Stock and I as leader. We took 72 porters to Base Camp at 17,000 feet on the edge of the South Gasherbrum Glacier but used none above on our alpine-style ascent. Advanced Base was below Hidden Peak at the foot of slopes leading to Conway Saddle. We used snow caves higher. We were holed up for three days on the saddle in a blizzard. We found a route through the icefall above the saddle and made two more bivouac caves, the highest being at 22,500 feet. At two A.M. on June 6 we set off for the summit of Baltoro Kangri V (7260 meters, 23,819 feet), which we reached at two P.M. all except for Geddes, who had fallen ill on the ascent. Baltoro Kangri III, the highest summit, was avalanche prone and so was not climbed. Alston, Rankin and Stock skied from the summit to Advanced Base, which they reached at 9:30, the last two hours skiing in the dark. The others of us descended on foot, making another bivouac.

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