

ascent of Zaskar I, first climbed by Japanese in 1980. (See *A.A.J.*, 1981, page 285.) This was abandoned after four of us were hit by an avalanche on the approach.

R. BARRY NEEDLE, *Alpine Club*

*Nun.* Our original objective was the unclimbed 5000-foot-high west face of Nun (7135 meters, 23,410 feet). After a two-day bus trip from Srinagar to Tangol in the upper Suru valley, on September 4 we started with 20 porters and arrived the next day at our Base Camp at 15,900 feet below the icefall. From then on we climbed without porters. We fixed 650 feet of rope in the icefall. After crossing the three-mile-wide snow plateau, we placed Camp I at 17,400 feet at the foot of the west face. The ascent seemed impossible because of very difficult ice conditions. We moved our camp to the foot of the southwest ridge at the same altitude on September 14. On the 15th we fixed rope on the Black Needle and established Camp II at 19,700 feet. On September 17 we reached the foot of the south face and placed Camp III on the side of a steep sérac at 20,850 feet. On September 18 Hermann Pausch, Roland Ossovsky, Klaus Stark and I got to the summit at seven A.M. after a night climb. We climbed the first 1300 feet on the 45° south face and finished the climb on the exposed southwest crest. We descended the same day to Camp I through mist and snow.

NORBERT MENZEL, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Kun, West Face.* After an unsuccessful attempt to climb the west face of Kun in 1979, Kunihiko Kondo returned to complete the ascent. The expedition approached via the Parktik Glacier. It took 12 days from Base Camp to reach and carry loads to the foot of the face at 19,200 feet. Kondo and Minoru Nagoshi started up the face on June 24 and reached the summit (7085 meters, 23,245 feet) on July 5. The steep face had much rotten rock. They were met on the descent at the col on the east ridge by a third member, Koichi Sakata.

*Kun.* Now that access to the Nun-Kun group is easy, it is frequented by many and not always well qualified parties. Accidents have become common. One group had better luck than some. Three Japanese attempted Kun in late August. Masaki Matsumoto was too exhausted to continue as he approached the summit on August 27. His companions left him and descended to camp. Matsumoto could not find his way in a white-out. His friends searched for him in vain. Finally on September 4 he staggered into Base Camp. He was flown to Srinagar by helicopter and survived.

*Kun.* From July 18 to August 15 I took part in a Hauser Excursions expedition led by Martin Lutterjohann. After a difficult rubber-boat crossing of the flood-waters of the Suru River, we set up Base Camp at