

*Savoia Kangri Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Jan Tichý, Jiří Ulrych, my brother Zdeněk Lukeš and me. All but my brother are Czechs in exile. We set up Base Camp on June 6 at the junction of the Godwin Austen and Savoia Glaciers at 16,400 feet. We had only 23 days left for the climb. From then until June 19 bad weather prevented our occupying Advance Base at 17,725 feet on the Savoia Glacier at the foot of Savoia Kangri I (7263 meters, 23,830 feet). The 6000-foot-high east face seemed best, as the rest of the mountain was avalanche-threatened. Without Ulrych, on June 20 we started up the prominent ridge. We were stopped on June 22 by strong winds and snowfall 2000-feet-up. On June 24 we came to where the ridge abutted the true face. The link was a very delicate, thin ice ridge. We just did not have enough time or equipment to cross this. We had reached 21,500 feet. After our descent, the weather deteriorated again, confirming we had made the right decision.

ČESTMÍR LUKEŠ, *Czech living in Switzerland*

*Various Unsuccessful Expeditions to the Karakoram.* Bad weather drove back a number of expeditions. Frenchmen under the leadership of Hubert Odier got to 23,950 feet on Gasherbrum II before being turned back. Germans led by Dr. Volker Stallbohm failed on Masherbrum. Japanese under Kenichiro Tsujiyama could not climb Saraghrar. There were two unsuccessful expeditions to Kunyang Chhish: Japanese led by Isao Nakamura on the east ridge and French under Pierre Pujot on the north ridge. Guillermo Lateo's Spanish group failed on Latok II (the official Latok II, not the Italian designated one).

*Latok I Attempt.* (The officially designated Latok I, called Latok II by the Italians.) The mountain was everything we expected: superb rock, good line, good sustained climbing. Unfortunately Martin Boysen, Choe Brooks, John Yates and I could not finish the job. We attempted the north ridge tried by the Americans in 1978. (See *A.A.J.*, 1979, pages 24 to 28 for text and photos.) In July we placed Base Camp at the junction of the Panmah and Choktoi Glaciers and Advance Base up the Choktoi. There was more snow than usual around. Our first 2½-day sortie was to leave equipment and a tent a third of the way up the ridge. The second attempt took place several days later. We reached our high point in a day and continued up for two more. On the fourth day one of the team decided it was too dangerous. A single person could not retreat safely or stay in the tent alone and so we had to retreat. Afterwards we had no food, equipment or inclination to return.

RAB CARRINGTON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Baintha Brakk II (Ogre II) Attempt.* Brian Hall, Alan Rouse, Andrew Parkin and I attempted unclimbed Baintha Brakk II or Ogre II (6960 meters, 22,835 feet). It promised to be at least as difficult as Baintha Brakk (Ogre). A British party tried it in 1979 and large Japanese and Korean expeditions

PLATE 80

*Photo by Zdeněk Lukeš*

**SAVOIA KANGRI.** The route attempted rises up the rock ridge on the right.



subsequently. None scored much success, and one Korean died when ice swept him away in "Death Valley," the dangerous corridor between the Ogre peaks. Baintha Brakk II is a difficult and complex peak. The west summit is a gigantic Matterhorn-like spire. The east peak is an icy ridge, and between is the central and highest summit, approachable only by devious routes through the lower walls and an extremely long and difficult summit ridge protected by steep towers. The lower reaches were obviously dangerous, making alpine style seem best. Thirty-three porters took our equipment to Base Camp in six days from Dasso. By July 16 we were installed at 15,500 feet. For acclimatization, we attempted Uzun Brakk Spire, a challenging rock spire of about 19,500 feet on the west side of the Uzun Brakk Glacier. A new route was pioneered on July 23 and 24 and we bivouacked within a day of the top. A storm ended the attempt and enforced a dangerous descent by a different unknown route. On July 28 we climbed the ice slopes towards the northwest ridge of the west peak of Baintha Brakk II. After a bivouac, we reached 20,000 feet early in the day after crossing an extremely hazardous hanging glacier, to bivouac in an ice cave we excavated. The next day we proceeded up difficult rock to 20,850 feet, but no bivouac position could be established. This enforced a retreat to the ice cave. The labour on this buttress caused damage to half our supply of rope either through stonefall or razor-edged flakes of rock. Our supplies were too limited to continue, and so on July 31 we retreated, traversing the northwest face and abseiling into the top of Death Valley down steep rock and ice. In this fast descent we were mightily impressed by the immense amount of debris and danger on this route; all wished if possible to avoid it in the future. On August 2 and 3 we investigated the south face but decided that the only possibility was far too steep and threatened by falling ice. The south ridge of the west peak did have some appeal though it was technically of the highest standard. This attempt was delayed when Hall injured a shoulder in a fall near Base Camp; for him further climbing was impossible. On August 6 and 7 we three remaining climbers tried the south ridge of the west peak. Unfortunately the gully leading to it was extremely long and very dangerous. The Japanese had tried this route in expedition style. It took us twelve hours of extremely threatened climbing to reach the ridge and we bivouacked in an exposed position on the corniced ridge. The next day we set off but turned back when one of my crampons disintegrated. With four or five days of difficult climbing ahead, retreat was inevitable. On August 8 we made a dangerous retreat to Base Camp. The only really feasible fast route now seemed to be the north ridge of the central summit, which involved taking our life into our hands in Death Valley. When the weather cleared on August 16, we bivouacked below it and set off in fine conditions early on the 17th. We climbed the corridor quickly before dawn and by six A.M. were almost clear of the dangerous area. Just then, an ice cliff 1000 feet higher collapsed and swept the gully, crashing past within thirty feet. Much chastened, we climbed fast into the safer area ahead. Yet to reach the ridge, we had to climb under ice cliffs with the risk of falls.

PLATE 81

*Photo by Paul Nunn*

**BAINTHA BRAKK II's Northwest  
Face.**





We decided to retreat. Base Camp was reached that day and vacated on August 21.

PAUL NUNN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Distaghil Sar, Second Ascent.* After arriving on June 23 at Nagar, we spent two days haggling with the porter chiefs. We finally contracted for 37 porters and a sirdar. We ascended the Hispar valley and glacier and on July 1 got to Bularung on the Kunyang Glacier. With the help of other porters from Hunza, we moved supplies to Base Camp at 14,600 feet on the true right lateral moraine from July 3 to 8. Our liaison officer and cook stayed at Bularung and then returned to Hunza. We placed Camp I at the foot of the southeast face of Distaghil Sar at 16,400 feet on July 8. Camps II and III were established on the face at 19,350 and 21,650 feet on July 19 and 22. We fixed 2600 feet of rope between Camps I and II and 1000 feet between Camps II and III. We were entirely on snow and ice. We followed the route of the only other ascent, that of Wolfgang Stefan's Austrian expedition of 1960 except between Camps I and II, where we were well to the right. From July 19 on, we finally had good weather. The summit attack began on July 26. Five climbers ascended to Camp III on July 28. Three carried to Camp IV the next day, fixing 500 more feet of rope, and established it on July 30 at 23,800 feet on the west ridge. On July 31 Ramón Biosca, Jaume Matas and Toni Bros set out. Bros was too tired to climb the last 150 feet, but the other two arrived on the summit (7885 meters, 25,868 feet) at 2:50 P.M. They were back at Camp IV at seven P.M. Soft snow made the descent to Base Camp take two days more. Other members were Dr. Josep Aced, Josep Paytubi and I as leader.

JOAQUIM PRUNÉS, *Club Muntanyenc de Terrassa, Spain*

*Bojohaghur Duan Asir I.* Six Japanese climbers led by Muneo Uyeda failed to climb Bojohaghur Duan Asir I (7329 meters, 24,046 feet). They approached the mountain up the Ultar Glacier from Hunza and attempted the south side. Base Camp at 12,950 feet was established on June 9 and Camps I and II at 14,450 and 16,750 feet. Then the weather went bad. Camp III was placed on the southwest col at 19,525 feet only on July 19. The high point of the expedition was not much higher. The route was threatened by rockfall and three members were hit.

*Bubuli-Mo-Tin, Ultar Group.* Jacques Maurin and I made the first ascent of a 6000-meter (19,685-foot) tower, a satellite of the Ultar group on May 22. It lies southwest of Bojohaghur Duan Asir between the Ultar and Hasanabad Glaciers. We ascended north from Karimabad, a village just east of Baltit. We reached the summit in three days from Karimabad. The climb was mixed ice and rock and at times was very difficult. The approach was threatened by