

as you come around the corner of the glacier. The two skyline ridges looked deceptively easy, for their very steep approaches are hidden by intervening ground. We spent a fortnight acclimatizing on the surrounding peaks. On June 14 we reconnoitred the southwest ridge of Karun Koh, finding a safe route up the snow slopes to the side of the glacier and then along a glaciated shelf below the crest of the ridge. We camped in a snow basin just short of the southwest ridge and then reconnoitred a route to the foot of the ridge. This was barred by three steep rock pinnacles and the only way around them seemed to be a long traverse on snow and ice below them. Above the pinnacles a knife-edged ridge led to a barrier of séracs at about 23,000 feet. Beyond that the difficulties seemed to ease. We were back at our high camp on June 22 after a few days of unsettled weather. We shifted this camp closer to the foot of the pinnacles to 18,700 feet. On July 23 Al and I set out for our first attempt on the mountain with four days' food, a selection of ice and rock gear and 100 metres of rope. Almost immediately we encountered hard, bare ice. We had set out at three A.M. and by ten o'clock the sun had softened what little snow was covering the ice on the traverse and we had climbed only nine rope-lengths. There seemed to be at least another six pitches before we reached its end and the probability that we should have to contend with bare ice for most of the way to the top. We therefore decided to retreat and to try to find an easier route around the unexplored east side of the mountain. On June 24 the four of us crossed the shoulder below the southwest ridge to drop down onto the glacier to the south of Karun Koh. We followed this down to where it was joined by a steep icefall which descended the eastern side and then climbed this to a col to the east of the mountain. We could now see the southeast, the east and the north ridges of Karun Koh. They were dramatically steep and narrow with the faces in between threatened by séracs. They looked even more difficult than the pinnacled southwest ridge. We returned to the southwest side to try this once more. Unfortunately the weather now broke and after ten days of continuous bad weather and one more attempt curtailed by it, we judged that it had set in for a long time. We therefore evacuated the mountain.

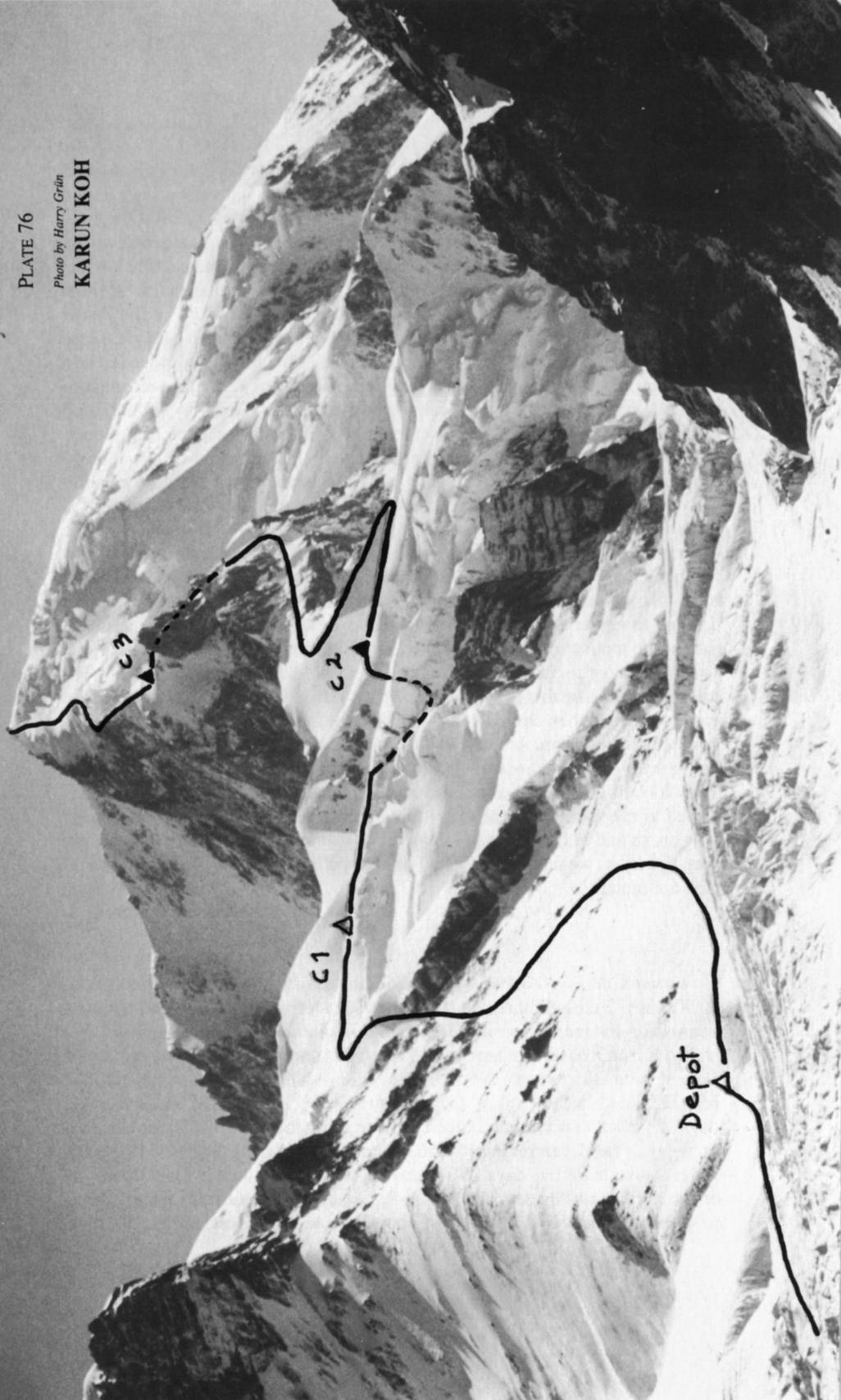
CHRISTIAN BONINGTON

*Karun Koh, First Ascent.* Our expedition consisted of Oskar Bubbnik, Walter Krampf, Heinz Zimmermann and me as leader. Although we had obtained permission for the K12 group, that area was closed for political reasons. We picked Karun Koh as an alternative. We left the Karakoram Highway at Pasu on June 9 with 38 porters. We were not allowed the easy approach through Marchum and had to follow the Shimshal valley upriver for one-and-a-half days. Then we constructed a rope bridge to cross the Shimshal River and continued over the Karumpir Pass (4850 meters). After leaving the river, we had no water available for two days. We reached Base Camp on June 13 at 4900 meters on the Karun Koh Glacier. The British-Pakistani team was already there, hoping to climb Korun Koh via the west shoulder and southwest ridge. The main

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Photo by Harry Grinn

KARUN KOH



difficulty was getting around the three pinnacles. It started with a steep 45° to 50° traverse to the right of the ridge and continued on the east side over mixed terrain, in places 55° to 60°, to a small saddle above them. From there a corniced ridge broken once by rock led to an ice ramp and the summit face. We set up Advance Base at 5200 meters, then Camps I and II at 5800 and 6000 meters on June 24 and 28. We joined Bonington's group to place fixed ropes on the traverse. Neither group had enough rope to accomplish this alone. Then we struck a long stretch of bad weather and time ran out for the Bonington party, which had to leave on July 7. On July 12 a break in the weather allowed us the first ascent of a 6200-meter (20,342-foot) peak west of Karun Koh. We spent the 13th and 14th carrying loads from Camp I to Camp II. From July 15 to 17 we fixed ropes on the pinnacles traverse. The next day we set up Camp III on the saddle above the pinnacles at 6700 meters. We were all set to make the summit push, but storm conditions pinned us down for three days. Our food ran out and so we descended to Base Camp to wait for better weather. Bubbnik had to leave for lack of time. Finally on July 29 we started for Camp II. Camp III was reoccupied on the 30th. The next day the weather was still unsettled but we set out. We overcame the poor ice on the ridge and reached the ramp above the rock section. From there we climbed the summit face. It was 45° to 60° sheer ice in places. At 4:30 on July 31 we reached the summit (7350 meters, 24,115 feet).

HARRY GRÜN, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Bojohagur Duanasir.* Tsuneo Omae led a Japanese expedition which made the first ascent of Bojohagur Duanasir by its southwest ridge. They approached via the Hasanabad Glacier west of the peak. They placed Base Camp at 4300 meters on June 19 and Camps I and II on June 24 and July 4 at 4600 and 5500 meters on a spur of the southwest ridge. Camps III and IV on the ridge at 6200 and 6900 meters were established on July 14 and 24. On July 28 three climbed over a 7250-meter foresummit to the summit (7329 meters, 24,045 feet), followed by five others on July 30. Photographs appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 107. A British expedition led by Anthony Saunders was attempting the mountain at the same time from the Ultar Glacier in the south. They failed at about 7000 meters.

*P 6872 (Serei Porkush).* English climbers Steve Roberts and Steve Pymm made the first ascent of P 6872 (22,546 feet), possibly called Serei Porkush, in the Batura region, apparently at the western end of the Batura chain. The other members were Martin Bunegar, Phil Duffy and Geoff Robinson. Further details are not available.

*Batura Attempt.* A three-man German expedition led by Volker Stallbohm failed to climb Batura. Details are not yet known.

*Sangemar Mar.* Our expedition succeeded in making the first ascent of Sangemar Mar by the southwest ridge. The members were Takashi Matsuo,