

*Gasherbrum III, Southwest Ridge Attempt.* Our objective had been the north ridge of Gasherbrum III, which was reconnoitered by Cassin in 1958. In the event, we tackled instead the long, rocky southwest ridge, which rises from the top of the dangerous 800-meter icefall between Gasherbrum II and Gasherbrum IV. Our party, comprising Paul Nunn, Clive Rowland, Des Rubens and me, arrived at Gasherbrum Base Camp on July 11. After placing an intermediate camp halfway up the first icefall, we placed Camp II at 6000 meters at the base of the southeast rib of Gasherbrum II, which was being attempted by numerous parties. By the end of July, we had found a route through the second icefall, with an ice cave halfway up, and had established an ice cave in the remote upper cirque between Gasherbrum III and IV. A five-day period of very bad weather sent us down to Base Camp, and Rowland and our liaison officer departed soon afterwards. On August 11 we regained Camp II in very deep snow. Nunn then departed, leaving the two of us to make the final attempt. We remade the trail to the upper cirque and embarked on the ridge on August 14. The wind was very strong and the weather poor. The climbing was mixed II to III by Scottish or Alpine standards. We bivouacked at 7400 meters on a very exposed patch of snow. On the 15th we left all the bivouac gear behind and attempted to reach the summit. After four hours of unroped climbing, we had to start climbing in pitches and this slowed us considerably. We reached 7700 meters, just below a horizontal step that lies below the summit tower, but bad weather and lack of time compelled a retreat. Des Rubens contracted frostbite in our second bivouac, but we regained Base safely on August 19. The circus-like atmosphere of the Gasherbrum Base Camp, the rubbish left by other expeditions and the strains of a busy social life were not the sort of pressures we had been expecting. A major task was tidying up the huge amount of junk left by other expeditions.

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*Gasherbrum VI.* Maria Luisa Ercalani led this expedition about which we were able to obtain no details. On the approach march a low-altitude porter on May 9 fell off a bridge near Chapko and was drowned. She claims to have climbed Gasherbrum VI (7003 meters, 22,975 feet) from the Duke of the Abruzzi Glacier. In *Mountain 106* it states, "The likely route of ascent involves considerable objective dangers and steep ice and seems to have been achieved with no support whatsoever. Because of her age and sex, her activities were treated with incredulity by climbers in the vicinity and even more so by the Pakistanis."

*Masherbrum from the Northwest and Broad Peak.* The Kansai Karakoram Expedition left Skardu and after traveling up the Baltoro Glacier, established Base Camp on the Yermanendu Glacier at 4600 meters. They placed Camp I at 5600 meters on the north ridge on June 6, but frequent collapses of the upper glacier forced them to traverse right to the northwest ridge. Camps II, III and IV were established at 6100, 6300 and 7200 meters on June 13, 29 and July 11.