

were more rigorously applied in this part of the Karakoram, it would be more in line with the cost of porters in Baltistan. We arrived at the Rupal Base Camp for Nanga Parbat on August 12 after a harrowing tractor-jeep ride to the roadhead, from where we continued for two days on foot and horseback. On August 15 Alastair Reid, Michael Scott, David Marshall, Nazir, my 12-year-old daughter Martha and I went to the west side of Rupal Peak. After three bivouacs and some Grade 3 ice climbing we were established 800 feet from the summit. All but Martha, who had bad stomach pains, and I went to the summit via this new route. Then although none of us was in really good shape, Michael Scott, Reid, Nazir and I decided to go for the southwest ridge of Nanga Parbat. We climbed appalling loose rock to camp at 21,000 feet. The next day we reached 24,000 feet in a storm and hurricane-force winds. We backed down 500 feet and bivouacked. Reid was ill, possibly with a mild oedema, so we descended the next day to Base Camp. A few days later our much depleted party hired horses and galloped out to the roadhead.

DOUGLAS SCOTT, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Diran and Rakaposhi Ascents and Tragedy.* There were three groups in this region in July and August, two smaller private parties and ours of the Upper Austria Alpine School. I was the leader of the Diran Group and Edi Koblmüller was the Rakaposhi leader. Our weather was excellent. From our 3650-meter Diran Base Camp we placed Camps I, II and III at 4900, 5500 and 6300 meters on the normal route. Between July 23 and 30, the summit (7266 meters, 23,840 feet) was reached by Fred Pressl, Heinz Thallinger, Roland Schulz, Edi Koblmüller, Ingo Granderath, Hungarian Istvan Katouna, Gerald Fellner, Nani Klappert, Herbert Spousta, Christl Stöger and me. Pressl and Koblmüller made the first descent of the north ridge on July 24. On July 27 we began to climb Rakaposhi East by the north buttress. After reconnaissance, we set out on July 30 on an alpine-style ascent from a 4500-meter Advance Base. From Bivouac I at 5500 meters to Bivouac II at 6000 meters, the route was up a 65° steep ice slope and a very exposed, sharp ridge. On August 1 Koblmüller, Pressl, Fellner and I reached the summit (7010 meters, 23,000 feet). We descended that day and the next in bad weather. At 4700 meters Fellner slipped and fell 100 meters down an ice slope. Despite medical attention, he died in the night.

GERHARD HABERL, *Oberösterreichische Alpinschule, Austria*

*Diran Attempt.* Our expedition consisted of Jaume Anglada, Miquel Serrat, Joan Sola, Xevi Robiró R., Xevi Roviró A. Josep Rovira, Joan Colet and me as leader. We had hoped to complete a new route up the north ridge, previously attempted by Spaniards in 1979, who got to the col at 5020 meters, and Japanese in 1981, who got to 5650 meters. On May 30 we contracted for 41 porters in the town of Minapin. In three days we got to Base Camp at 3615 meters on June 3. We placed Camp I at 4375 meters on July 5 in a spot protected from avalanches on the east glacier leading to the col. On June 10 the preparation of the route to

the col was complete with some fixed ropes. The 45° to 50° slope to the col got progressively steeper and near the top there were places it was 75° to 80°. The ridge from the col to 5300 meters was steep but uniform with some rotten rock and some cornices. From 5300 to 6100 meters the ridge was much rougher with many huge overhanging séracs. The first camp site was at 5400 meters, placed there on June 21. It was a long carry from Camp I and we had some bad weather. Above Camp II we found Japanese material cached at their high point. We bypassed a great sérac on the left, found 100 meters of easier snow and again séracs and steep snow to 6000 meters, where on June 29 we placed Camp III. That night was disturbed in all camps. In Camp I a bear broke into supplies and ate up 30 man-days of food. In Camp III the climbers worried about the "steps," a series of snow and ice towers, covered with powder snow. After five hours, we got only to the top of the first step. The towers were very unstable, continuing for over 300 meters. We lacked rope to fix the route. That same day we evacuated Camps I, II and III.

ANGEL SERRA, *Unió Excursionista de Vic, Spain*

*Malangutti Sar.* On August 12 a Japanese expedition made the first ascent of Malangutti Sar (c. 7025 meters, 23,048 feet). The leader Tadao Sugimoto, Kengo Nakahara, Yasushi Muranaka and Ang Nima Sherpa got to the summit.

*Lupgha Group, Batura Glacier.* On August 19 Steve Goodman, Del and Steve Davis and I flew to Gilgit. The next day we hired a jeep to drive up the Karakoram Highway to Passu, about 50 kilometers from the Chinese border. We started with six porters and ascended the north side of the Batura Glacier for three days to Guchisham, a shepherd village. There we left the main glacier and ascended northeast towards the Lupgha group. The porters left us at a small lake at 4400 meters, promising to return in a week. Our old Survey of India map indicated that there were a number of peaks nearby between 5500 and 6000 meters. The porters stated that no foreigners had approached the area before. We ferried loads to the highest practical campsite at 4800 meters. A snowstorm forced us to one rest day. On August 28 we moved to the high camp, leaving Goodman at the lake camp with stomach problems. The next morning we ascended rotten gullies and crossed a crevassed glacier to find that our expected plateau was actually a narrow ridge. Proceeding south just under its crest, we arrived at a pointed snow summit registering 5500 meters on my altimeter. A slightly higher point on the ridge, marked 5800 meters on the map was too far away and complicated to reach. We descended to the lower camp, where Goodman was waiting. The next day we went down to the main Batura Glacier. We ascended the main glacier for two days and climbed a pointed 4800-meter peak which provided a panorama of the region. It revealed there were no easy 6000-meter peaks waiting to be climbed. We packed down to Passu in two days with four porters, arriving on September 3.

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