

*Latok II Attempt.* Because of very bad snow conditions when, seven days after leaving Dassu, Paul de Mengel, Dr. John Hancock, Brian Mullen and I as leader reached the Uzzam Brakk Glacier, the porters were unable to reach our intended Base Camp. We had to settle for being about 1½ hours short. We paid the porters off and made an enforced camp where we stood in the deep snow. The following week was spent ferrying 1.3 tons of gear as far as we could, still just short of where we had intended to place Base Camp. On June 21, Paul Nunn, Bill Barker, Joe Brown and Mo Anthoine arrived at Base Camp, bringing the full complement of eight team members together. We forced a passage across the Uzun Brakk Glacier and up the subsidiary glacier leading to the west ridge of Latok II. We established Advance Base at 17,500 feet on June 23. The ridge flank was climbed in five days to Camp I at 20,000 feet. Five more days were spent pushing along the ridge to what we called Camp I½. This was used to overcome a difficult rock-and-ice section. After ropes were fixed, Camp I½ was not used. After much hard work in poor weather, Camp II was established at 22,000 feet on July 8. On July 10, Brown and de Mengel reached a high point of 22,500 feet. A storm started that evening and lasted for three days. Concern was expressed about our being able to get *off* the mountain, never mind getting *up* it! Avalanches swept away fixed ropes. Food was running short. On July 14, the descent began. Despite extremely dangerous conditions, the evacuation was completed safely. In spite of a multiplicity of attempts, no summit in this range has ever been reached more than once. Italians climbed Latok II from the south in 1978. The Pakistani official altitudes are 7145 meters for Latok I and 7108 for Latok II. Yet there are doubts about their height. This led Arturo Bergamaschi's 1978 Italian expedition to resurvey and renumber the peaks, but as this has not been accepted in Pakistan, it would be best to keep the old ordering to avoid confusion.

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*Peaks Above the Biafo Glacier.* Matthew Powell, Robert Rider and I of Cambridge University and Bruce Hubbard from St. Andrews University spent 3½ weeks climbing peaks above the Biafo Glacier in July and August. We made three first ascents and carried out a scientific programme for the St. Andrews Botany Department. All were alpine-style, single-day, snow-and-ice climbs. Base Camp was at Ho Bluk at 13,500 feet on the southwest bank of the Biafo. Our first peak, Ho Bluk (5364 meters, 17,600 feet; 35°50'N, 75°42'E) was traversed by its northeast and north ridges on July 30. A short section of mixed climbing on the north ridge added interest to an otherwise easy route. P 18,600 (5669 meters; 35°54'N, 75°43'E) was right under the Ogre. Our route followed a 3000-foot gully up the south end of the Biafo side before taking the southeast ridge to the summit. The 5000-foot route was climbed in 12 hours on August 5. Our main objective, Ghur, (5796 meters, 19,010 feet; 35°52'N, 75°37'E) was climbed from an Advance Base at the junction of the Ghur