

Base Camp at 5150 meters. A fortnight of bad weather then confined activities. The two ladies and I broke trail to Camp I at 5800 meters on August 4. The day after, a steep slope led to a second bivouac at 6500 meters. Previous heavy snowfall made breaking trail very tiring. On the shoulder at 7000 meters between Bivouacs II and III, we came on the body of Gary Silver, a lugubrious sight. On hands, arms, knees and bellies, we plowed our way through loose snow on another even steeper slope. Due to fatigue, we had to interrupt our climb at 7600 meters. On August 8, we made the final efforts. On slopes up to 50°, we swam rather than climbed to reach the summit at noon. As a climbing couple, Lut Vivijns and I have now conquered our third 8000er. She is tied for second on the women's 8000er list.

JAN VANHEES, *Belgische Alpenclub*

*Gasherbrum IV, South Ridge Attempt.* We were Geoff Hibbert, Phil Thornhill, Martin Hind, Pakistani liaison officer Rozi Ali and I. We suffered a porter strike at Dassu; the porters demanded an extra 400 rupees each but settled for 200 rupees. This took all our reserve money. The journey to Base Camp was uneventful. At Concordia Hibbert fell ill and deteriorated seriously as we reached Base Camp on May 26. I called in a Czechoslovakian doctor and an army doctor. As neither knew what he was suffering from, we called for a helicopter. Hours before it arrived, he got up from what had seemed to be his death bed. The doctors decided he could stay. The other three of us began carrying up the icefall on the 28th with Rozi Ali helping. Hibbert started working on June 3. The approach to the ridge is about eight miles along the East Gasherbrum Glacier with dangerous crevasses at the top of the icefall. We set up three camps. The ridge proper and Camp III were reached in three days of climbing and most of the hardware and ropes were carried and dumped there at 23,000 feet. Climbing onto the ridge involved mixed terrain and hard ice with poor belays and rockfall. Because of the rockfall, we moved this camp to a lower site on a subsidiary ridge. Relationships within the team were not good and as we moved back up on June 27 after a rest at Base Camp, we decided to abandon the trip.

DAI LAMPART, *British Mountaineering Council*

*Biale Attempt.* Our expedition comprised Mark Miller, Sean Smith, Simon Yates, Nick Groves, Maryrose Fowlie, liaison officer Naveed Gaznavi and me. We hoped to climb Biale (6730 meters, 22,080 feet) from the south, approaching from the Baltoro Glacier. Biale lies on the Baltoro-Sarpo Lago divide, west of the Mustagh Tower and northeast of the Trango Towers. After a nine-day walk-in from Dassu, we reached Base Camp at the junction of the Baltoro and Biale Glaciers on June 22. To acclimatize, we climbed the lower Lobsang Spire to 100 meters below the summit, which was still a long traverse away. On our first attempt on Biale from July 1 to 6, we reached 6250 meters just below the

headwall. We wound through a series of steep ice gullies with granite bands to the main Cathedral-Biale ridge. Our third camp was level with the summit of Cathedral but 200 meters north of it. A two-day storm forced us down during which I suffered from altitude sickness, which kept me out of the next attempt. The second and third attempts from July 10 to 14 and July 20 to 22 both ended at 6000 meters when storms hit. We left Base Camp on July 25.

MICHAEL SEARLE, *Leicester University, England*

*Masherbrum Far West.* A ten-man Italian expedition led by Augusto Zanotti climbed the most westerly peak of 7200 meters (23,622 feet) of the Masherbrum group by its west face. The summit was reached on September 8 by the leader Zanotti, E. Corbellini, S. Andreola, S. Savadelli, F. Bottani, M. Bottani, B. Scanabesi, A. Carminati and P. Campostrini.

LUCIANO GHIGO, *Centro Italiano Studio Documentazione  
Alpinismo Extraeuropeo*

*Trango Towers.* Our expedition was composed of Abdel Amar, Mauro Mabboni, Pierre Montiglio, Olivier Soulié and me. On May 19 and 20, Montiglio, Soulié and I made the first of two routes on the south face of the Trango Château or the First Tower, the main summit of which is 5844 meters high. The weather was bad. On May 27 and 28, Montiglio, Abdel Amar and I made a second route on the face to the right of the first. This time we got to the 5300-meter (17,389-foot) presummit. Again we climbed in a snowstorm. We believe the main summit is still unclimbed.

YVES ASTIER, *Club Alpin Français*

*Nameless Tower of Trango Attempt.* Hisao Onami, Izuru Okada, Yasushi Sato, Masahiro Ishiguro and I reached Base Camp at 4150 meters on the Dunge Glacier on July 15. After ferrying loads to the base of the wall, on July 27 we began to attempt what probably was the Yugoslav route climbed in 1987. We found fixed rope, but it was almost useless. On July 28 to 30 we climbed seven pitches and fixed ropes to the lower pedestal. On the 31st we set up Advance Base at 5600 meters on the pedestal. Bad weather stopped us for three days. From August 5 to 8 we climbed 14 pitches. On the 8th Okada, Ishiguro and I bivouacked at 6050 meters, 200 meters below the summit, but on the morning of August 9, the weather was bad and so we had to retreat to Base Camp.

MASAHARU GANDO, *Japan*

*Nameless Tower, Trango Towers.* Our expedition was composed of East German Berndt Arnold and West Germans Kurt Albert, Wolfgang Güllich, Wolfgang Kraus, Thomas Lipinski, Martin Leinauer, Dr. Jörg Schneider, Martin Schwiersch, Jörg Wilz and me as leader. Late summer and fall are ideal for the south and west sides of the Trango Towers. We had nearly perfect weather