

*Sosbun Spires Attempt and P 5890 Ascent.* Heinz Zak, Toni Ponholzer, Dietmar Sinnhuber, Rudi Sailer, Michael Larcher, Hans Ganzberger and I as leader were in the Sosbun valley from May 15 to the end of June. We had hoped to climb some of the 1200-meter-high granite walls of the Sosbun Spires. Unfortunately, bad weather kept us from most of our objectives. During the five weeks there, nearly twenty feet (5.9 meters) of snow fell at Base Camp. All of us except for Ganzberger did make the ascent up the eastern side of a beautiful mountain, which is given on the maps as being 5890 meters high. (We feel that in reality it is some 300 meters higher, but in that case, it would have been illegal for us to climb, since peaks over 6000 meters require special permission.) The ascent took place on June 14 in a 17-hour day from our 4300-meter Base Camp. We were able to take advantage of a track from the day before when a sudden lightning storm drove us back when we were only 80 meters from the top. The climb was not difficult technically, but we had hard work breaking trail. There are many unclimbed peaks in the Sosbun valley, but the rock tends to be rotten.

ROBERT RENZLER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Sosbun Spire.* In 1986, Poles led by Janusz Skorek reconnoitered the little known Sosbun valley, west of the Biafo Glacier. This inspired a five-person Italian expedition to visit the region. Led by Paolo Vitali, they established Base Camp at 3800 meters on August 15. Advance Base was on the moraine of the Sosbun Glacier at 4350 meters. They attacked a buttress to the left of the one unsuccessfully attempted by the Poles in 1986. In unstable weather on August 19 and 20, they climbed 350 meters and fixed rope. When the weather cleared, on August 21 and 22, they made the ascent. They bivouacked on a snowfield halfway up the buttress. They climbed 35 pitches of UIAA Grade IV to VI with sections of VI+ and A0 and A1. The last pitches were ascended in a blizzard. The summit (5500 meters, 18,045 feet) was reached by Vitali, Adriano Carnati, Gian Battista Gianola and Daniele Bosisio. Signorina Sonja Brambati waited for them in Advance Base. They left after only 12 days in the area. (It is not clear to the editor whether they were on the same or a different spire from the one climbed by the Austrians in June.)

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Uzun Brakk Peaks.* Our expedition was to train young German climbers in the high mountains. Base Camp was placed on the Biafo Glacier at 4000 meters and Camp I on the Uzun Brakk Glacier at 4800 meters. We climbed two new routes above the Uzun Brakk Glacier. (In 1980, Scots climbed the 6000-meter peak at the head of the glacier, which they called Uzun Brakk. This was reported in *AAJ*, 1982, on pages 275-6. *Editor.*) The first (c. 5500 meters, 18,045 feet) had been climbed by its southwest side by Americans in 1987 and was called "Ogre Stump" by them (*AAJ*, 1988, page 19). This lies on the eastern side of the glacier. Stefan Köhler, Eduard Koch, Christian Fütterer, Bernd Eberle, Michael Saumweber and leader Ulrich Eberhardt climbed this peak by the southwest face

(UIAA VI to VII, A4). This line was clearly to the right of the American route, although the last few pitches may have been the same. Adrak Brakk (c. 5800 meters, 19,029 feet) lies on the west side of the glacier. Michael Lendroth, Jürgen Wittmann, Andreas Dick, Christoph Zuleger and I climbed the northeast face (VI to VII, A4), reached the top of the buttress but did not go to the summit. We fixed about 400 meters of rope on both climbs and removed it later. The Uzun Brakk area is very good for rock climbing with excellent rock although the cracks are usually not very deep.

MICHAEL KINNE, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Baintha Brakk (Ogre) Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Herbert Jans, Reiner Pickl, Christoph Kruis, Christoph Krah, Kalus-Peter Popall and me. We hoped to make the first ascent of Baintha Brakk from the Choktoi Glacier. Base Camp was at 4650 meters on the Choktoi. Our first goal was to reach the 5750-meter col between Baintha Brakk and P 6950 (Ogre II). It took us 16 days before we could reach the col because heavy snowfalls caused avalanche conditions. We made a snow cave at 5450 meters and fixed rope from there to the col. This last slope was badly raked by rockfall. We got to 6200 meters above the col on the ridge but were driven back a final time by a snowstorm.

DIETER ELSNER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Latok III.* Latok III, which rises above the Baintha Lupka Glacier has, according to Pakistani officials we talked to, had twenty official attempts. However, our ascent was only the second, following the Japanese first ascent in 1977 when they climbed the route we climbed, the west buttress, but in Himalayan style. The route rises 1700 meters and is of UIAA VI and A2 difficulty for many pitches. Marco Marciano, Enrico Rosso and I reached the summit (6950 meters, 22,802 feet) on June 20 at seven P.M., which forced us to a rapid and risky descent to our bivouac at 6500 meters. In the previous days, we had made seven bivouacs, which were raised to ten in all for the ascent and descent. The route was climbed in winter conditions because of the heavy snowfall from the day of our arrival through the next twelve days.

MARCO FORCATURA, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*P 19,950, Balcchish Range, Hispar Wall.* Jamie Thin and I climbed P 19,550 (5959 meters) at the eastern end of the Balcchish Range on the southern side of the Hispar Glacier. We crossed an easy icefall to bivouac below the 2500-foot ice headwall of the peak. Climbing this at night to avoid avalanche risk, we reached good mixed climbing on the summit ridge on snow, ice and rock with numerous difficult granite towers. A snow-hole bivouac was made halfway along the ridge. We climbed the final section of the summit ridge and reached the summit on August 8. The descent took two days.

ROGER LAWSON, *Durham University Mountaineering Club, England*