

Pakistan

K2 Attempt. Our expedition comprised 10 Basques, Balti "Little" Karim and me. The Basque members were Iñaki Carranza, Juanjo San Sebastián, Txema Camara, Ramón Portilla, Alberto Posada, Koldo Tapia, Matilde Otaduy, Antonio Trabado, Angel Selas and Martín Zabaleta. Our approach march up the Baltoro went smoothly from June 12 to the 21st. The path is taking an acute environmental beating from soldiers, trekkers and climbers. We placed Base Camp at 5000 meters in the usual place. As we were the only team on the Abruzzi Ridge this summer, logistics were simplified. Actually, we functioned as several smaller groups on the ridge, first to acclimatize and then in attempts on the mountain. We used one good spell of weather between July 7 and 12 to acclimate and to replace old fixed lines. Several members got to 7300 meters during this period. From then on, we never had more than three or four good days in a row. On July 31, all but Zabaleta, San Sebastián and I left for home. We made two more attempts. The other two spent two nights at 7350 meters in hopes the weather would clear. On August 13 we too left for home.

CARLOS BUHLER

K2 Attempt and Tragedy. An Austrian expedition was composed of leader Edi Koblmüller, Hans Bärnthaler, Robert Strouhal, Gustav Ammerer, Herbert Hutar, Dr. Herbert Habersack and Maila Pemba Sherpa. They had hoped to climb K2 by its east face but terrible weather prevented them from getting very high. Bärnthaler climbed on a subsidiary peak to take photographs on July 28. Tragically, he was carried away by a windslab avalanche and killed.

K2 Attempt. Swiss Jean Troillet and I made what hardly can be called an attempt on K2 from the west since the weather was so bad. During 42 days at Base Camp, it actually snowed for 30 with 10 to 15 centimeters of new snow each morning.

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Broad Peak Attempts. This was not a good year for expeditions to Broad Peak. Bernard Muller and his wife Laurence de la Ferrière led an international group of some 22 climbers but they were unsuccessful. They included well known climbers such as Swiss guide Stéphane Schaffter, Yves Lambert (son of the famous Raymond Lambert) and Eric Haefelin. Italians Fabrizio Defrancesco, leader, Almo Giambisi, Mario Manica and Stefano Ventura got to Base Camp on June 22. They placed camps at 5900, 6400 and 7000 meters. After a rest at Base Camp, they left on a summit attempt but gave up on July 8 at 7500 because of steep deep snow. Japanese led by Tadakiyo Sakahara established four high camps but could get no higher than Camp IV at 7720 meters.