

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.

WOJCIECH KURTYKA, *Klub Wysokogórski Kraków, Poland*

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.

Other expeditions that could not reach the summit included Swiss with Romolo Nottaris and Mexicans under the leadership of Antonio Cortés.

Gasherbrum I Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition, composed of four Japanese, Russian Igor Kurkov, Nepali Tsindi Dorje Sherpa and Austrians Gerhard Frossmann and me, was led by Dr. Makoto Hara. When we got to Base Camp in July, we discovered that the route we had hoped to climb on Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak) was off-bounds for us because of the idiotic war between India and Pakistan. Frossmann and I started up a new route on the right side of the south face, despite its being both difficult and objectively dangerous. We ascended some 1000 meters and were at 6500 meters with about 150 meters of difficult terrain badly threatened by falling ice before it appeared that easier ground led to the summit. We would have had to traverse 70° ice that was covered with very deep powder snow. It was too risky to keep on. We bivouacked in a crevasse and descended. A 14-day period of continual snowfall followed. The whole expedition then turned to the normal route. We spent three days on a very broken glacier to get to the foot of the route. I gave up counting how many times someone fell into a crevasse. We climbed to a 6400-meter col above which 50° to 65° slopes led to a rock band at 7000 meters, where we fixed rope. At that point, we had a falling out with the Japanese when they ordered us to go back for more rope. We descended and quit the expedition. Haruyuki Endo, his wife Yuka and Tsindi Dorje Sherpa continued on and climbed to the summit. On the descent, the young Nepali got separated from the Japanese couple. He must have fallen, but they were too tired to be able to search for him.

MICHAEL LEUPRECHT, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

Gasherbrum I. Austrian Willi Bauer was back in the Karakoram in 1989 from which he barely escaped in the disastrous 1986 tragedy on K2. He led a commercial group of 20 Austrians and Germans, including some climbers very experienced in the high mountains. Unfortunately, the extremely bad weather this season robbed the group of success.

Netherlands Gasherbrum II Ascent, 1988. On June 25, 1988, Arjan van Waardenburg, Rene de Bos, Hans van der Meulen and I reached the summit of Gasherbrum II. From Camp I at 6000 meters on the glacier plateau at the foot of the south face, we climbed alpine-style, making a partially new route on the southeast ridge. During the final climb, we had very good weather. Up to 6600 meters, where we had the first pinnacles and our first bivouac, we climbed the southeast ridge. From there we made a new variant on the glaciated southeast side east of the southeast ridge with a second bivouac. We then continued to the foot of the final pyramid and a third bivouac. After reaching the summit, we descended the normal route, where Austrian, French, Czechoslovakian and Swiss expeditions were active. We lost our leader, Ronald Naar, two weeks after