

getting to the base of the wall up a rockfall-threatened couloir. The couloir is 800 meters high and has sections of 80° ice. Bad weather moved in shortly after our arrival at Base Camp and hindered us as we fixed rope in the couloir and moved up supplies. The face itself was mostly covered with new snow and the cracks were full of ice. On a second attempt on the wall from June 13 to 15, we climbed to 5200 meters, where we dug a snow cave. We were blocked there for two days by the weather. On the 17th, I had to head for home with a bad knee. More bad weather followed. From June 23 to 26, the group reoccupied the camps at the foot of the wall and on the wall and, with miserable conditions, got to 5500 meters before more bad weather moved in again. All rope and equipment was removed from the face. They started the trek out on June 29.

STEFAN STUFLESSER, *St. Ulrich, South Tirol, Italy*

Uli Biaho Spire. A New Zealand expedition was made up of leader Nicholas Craddock, Guy Cotter, Paul Rogers and Murray Judge. In July, they climbed the Uli Biaho Spire, although we do not know by which route. Details have not yet reached us.

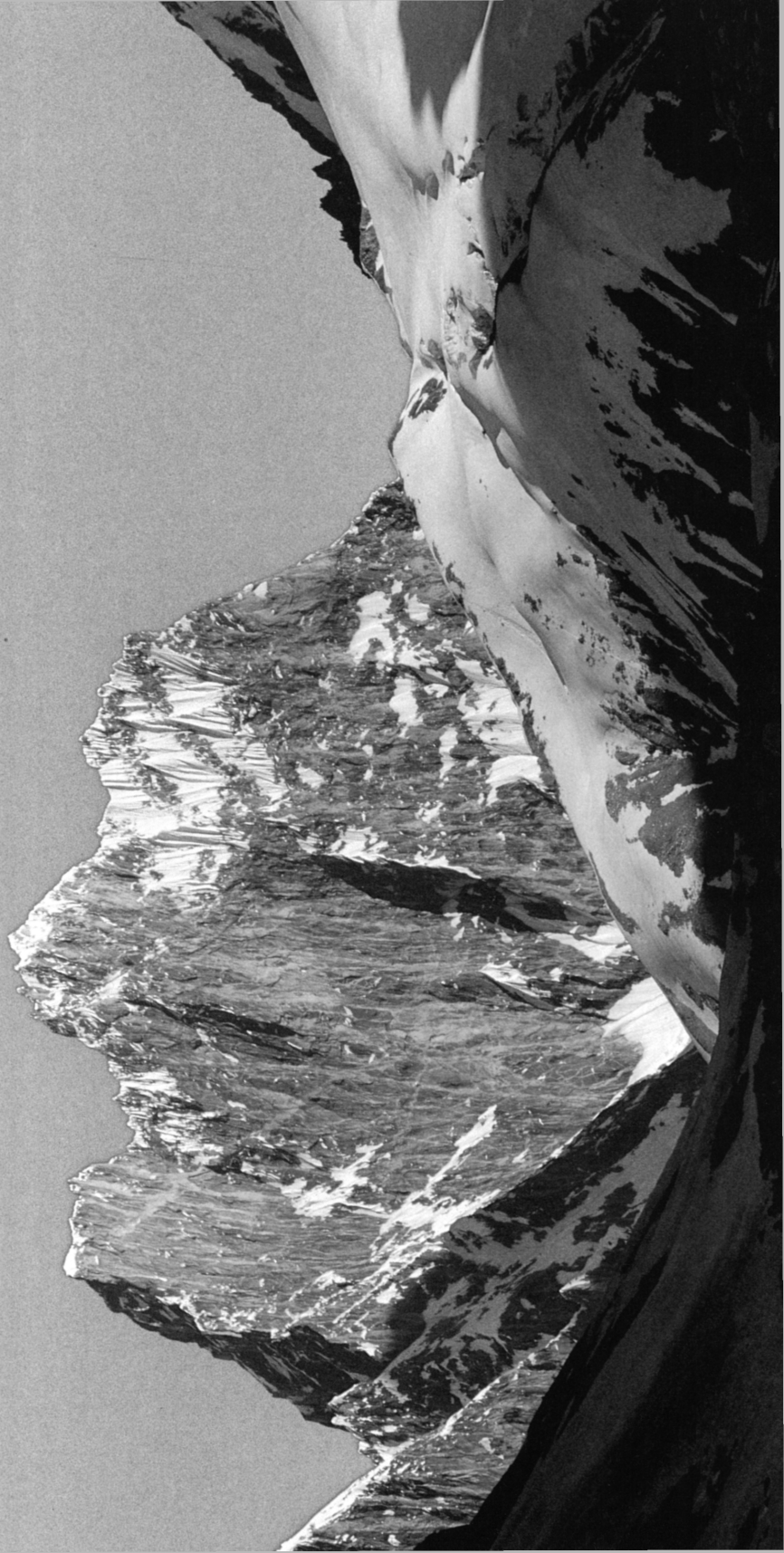
P 6100, Choktoi Glacier. Spaniards Jon Lazcano and Javier Mugarra made the first ascent of a very difficult 6100-meters (29,013-foot) spire which rises above the Choktoi Glacier to the right of Baintha Brakk. They got to Base Camp on June 24. They then fixed rope up much of the first 600 meters of the 800-meter-high face. On July 29, they jumared up the 600 meters and climbed to the summit in a twenty-two hour day. An article on this climb with photographs appears in *Desnivel* of December, 1989, pages 33-39.

Sosbun Tower Attempt. Tilman described the peaks of the Hoh Valley as "an uncompromising rock wall crowned with jagged towers," but the attraction of these towers is deceptive; the rock everywhere is dangerous: enormous, rotten loose rocks and cracks with sandy edges. The climbing is very hard because of it. It seems useless to continue further exploration there. However, innocently J-Ph. Dolby Monet, Y. Duverney and I attempted the very beautiful east face of Sosbun Tower (c. 6000 meters, 19,685 feet). The face is 1100-meters high, very steep and in part overhanging, but its rock is nonetheless treacherous. We prepared the route on July 10 and 11 and climbed the first 700 meters from July 27 to 30. We felt we were within a rope-length of easier ground and at the end of the difficulties, but we quit there. The objective danger from rockfall was enormous even though the route we chose was relatively sheltered. The weather was also mediocre. From July 4 to August 6, we had only 11 fine days. Italians Daniele Bosisio, Adriano Carnati, Tita Gianola and Paolo Vitali climbed one of the Sosbun Needles (5400 meters, 17,717 feet), which lies southwest of Sosbun Tower. On August 19 and 20 they fixed 350 meters of rope on the southeast ridge. They then bivouacked halfway up the wall

PLATE 53

Photo by Bernard Domenech

SOSBUN TOWER, Karakoram.



and climbed to the summit on August 22. They climbed some 800 meters up compact, wet rock with rotten cracks.

BERNARD DOMENECH, *Club Alpin Français*

Baintha Brakk, North Ridge Attempt. Our expedition had as its members Andy Perkins, Chris Flewitt, Steve Hartland, Phil Butler, Dave Green, Dr. Timothy Jordan, Paul Nunn and me. After porter problems, we eventually established Base Camp on July 17 on moraine at 15,200 feet. During a week of poor weather, on skis we moved loads to Advance Base at 5060 meters on the Sim Gang (glacier). It was about a seven-hour trip with a 25-kg load. During the six weeks we had only two spells of good weather, one of four and the other of five days. We made two light-weight attempts on the left-hand spur. On the first, on August 8, Perkins, Flewitt and I were hit by severe rock-and-ice fall at 5600 meters. I was luckily unhurt, but Flewitt was severely struck on the shoulder. Perkins was a little behind and so out of the fire. Butler and Perkins on the second attempt on August 10 reached the col on the ridge at 5800 meters. They set up a tent and scanned the route above. It seemed a tottering pile of séracs and so they judged it unjustifiable and retreated. That ended our try.

ANDREW CAVE, *England*

Lawa Brakk. A British Metropolitan Police expedition was led by Gordon A. Briggs. On July 29, after a seven-day climb, Arthur Collins, Lew Hardy, Steven Sands, Philip Solt, Peter Stapely and Paul Vardon reached the summit of Lawa Brakk or Snow Lake Peak (6590 meters, 21,621 feet). They climbed the west ridge. A 6000-meter peak at the head of the glacier south of Cornice Peak was climbed on July 29 by Mark Deith, John Wakefield and Tony Walkenden.

Peaks Above the Hispar Glacier. During August and September, Mike Searle, Sean Smith, Simon Yates, Mark Crawford and I visited the Hispar Glacier to climb small peaks and study the geology of the area. Our approach was delayed by bad weather, which persisted until mid September. We established Base Camp at Bitenmal on the east side of the junction of the Kunyang and Hispar Glaciers on August 19. From August 23 to 27, Smith, Yates and I climbed a relatively simple route up the snowy north ridge of P 5700 (18,701 feet), which lies at the western end of the Bal Chhish range, reaching the summit at ten A.M. on August 26. Smith and Yates then attempted the fine ice couloir on the west face of a 6000-meter peak near the Jutmau Glacier; after a two-day approach followed by two days and 800 meters of climbing in the couloir, they were forced to retreat 400 meters from the summit in a storm. From September 14 to 17, Yates and Searle climbed P 5700 (18,701 feet) at the head of the Makrong Glacier. They reached the summit at dawn on September 16 after a steep snow-and-ice climb from a bivouac on the glacier. The peak straddles the Hispar-Chogolungma divide. We left Base Camp on September 19.

SIMON RICHARDSON, *Alpine Climbing Group*