

morning. We were back on the mountain on the 17th. At 5150 meters, MacNae became ill and so we descended to Advance Base. After a day's rest, McDermott and I returned to the mountain. By midday, we had topped out of the ice gully above the rock buttress but because of snow conditions had to stop for the night on a snow mushroom at 5350 meters. The next day, progress up the snowfield was made possible by cloud cover. We bivouacked in ice buckets at 5880 meters at the start of the main central buttress. By two A.M. a fresh storm had engulfed us. We made the decision to retreat. Fifteen hours and 32 abseils later, we reached safety. On July 25, we vacated Base Camp.

DAVID K. WILLS, *North London Mountaineering Club*

*Snow Lake Peaks and Hispar Sar.* New Zealanders Dave Bamford, Matt Comeskey, John Cocks, John Wild and I with liaison officer Major Arif Khan spent July and August climbing in the Lukpe Lawo (Snow Lake) region during a Biafo-Hispar traverse. We placed Base Camp at 4780 meters at the foot of the rock spur on the northern side of the junction of the Sim Gang Glacier with Lukpe Lawo. The voracious bears did visit us but proved more of an amusement than an inconvenience. This does, however, appear to be their furthest recorded incursion up the Biafo. From a camp at the northwestern head of the Sim Gang, an unnamed peak of about 5950 meters was climbed and another of about 6000 meters turned us back because of deep loose snow. We returned to Base Camp via a col leading to the most easterly feeder of Lukpe Lawo. We crossed the Khurdopin Pass and from a camp in the upper névé of the East Khurdopin Glacier all of us climbed via its southeast spur the highest and most elegant peak. It is about 6500 meters high and the height of 6858 meters on the new SFAR map is incorrect. On the return to Base Camp, a peak of about 5990 meters immediately south of Tahu Rutum was climbed from the Tahu Rutum Glacier. We visited a number of side glaciers and minor peaks and climbed Workman Peak (c. 5885 meters) by the west ridge. Skis were used to access all peaks. We then crossed into the upper Hispar and failed in two attempts to climb virgin Hispar Sar (c. 6400 meters). The first, via the north face from the Khani Basa Glacier, was turned back at 5850 meters by slab avalanche conditions. The second, from the glacier immediately down valley from the Khani Basa, was frustrated by a dangerous icefall. We continued down the Hispar to partake of the pleasures of Hunza.

JOHN NANKERVIS, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Makrong Chhish Attempt and Tragedy.* Steve Hillen, Mike Penlington, Dave Tyson and I traveled on June 16 with three jeeps along the Karakoram Highway from Gilgit to Nagar. At Nagar, 30 porters were hired. The jeeps continued to Huru, the furthest jeepable settlement along the road to Hispar. The walk-in began the following day and went past Hispar and on the north side of the Hispar Glacier to Bitenmal, where Base Camp was established in sight of unclimbed

Makrong Chhish (6608 meters, 21,680 feet). The walk-in took three days. With liaison officer Major Farooq, we established Advance Base in an ablation valley of the East Makrong Glacier, a tributary of the Hispar Glacier. We began the first attempt on July 27. The planned route was on the south face via a large gully leading to the east ridge about 300 meters below the summit. We made two bivouacs, the second just below our high point at 6000 meters. We abandoned the attempt as we were not sufficiently acclimatized. During a period of bad weather, Camp I was established at 4800 meters. The final attempt began on July 8, following the original route. We had some difficulty with crevasses which had opened up since the previous attempt. At eleven A.M. on July 9, we dug ledges at the previous high point in order to rest until evening. Shortly afterwards, a large avalanche swept down the gully over the ledges. No one was injured but we decided to abandon the attempt. At five P.M. on the descent whilst I was abseiling over two crevasses, a snow stake pulled out and I slid some 60 feet before stopping. This left Steve Hillen above the crevasses without a rope. He frontpointed down the slope to the second crevasse, which he jumped across, but he lost his footing and started to slide. Dave Tyson, who was below him, tried to stop him, but they became entangled and both slid down an avalanche runnel and over an ice cliff to their deaths. Penlington and I recovered the bodies and then arranged for an army helicopter to retrieve them and for them to be flown back to the United Kingdom.

DAVID LISTER, *Loughborough University Mountaineering Club, U.K.*

*Hanispur.* Our expedition was composed of Duncan Tunstall, Wiz Pasteur, Angus Atkinson and me. We had hoped to cross the Karakoram from Skardu to Shimshal via Snow Lake, ascending by the little known Nobande Sobande Glacier and descending by the Virjerab Glacier. With the help of nine porters, we established Base Camp on the Nobande Sobande Glacier at 4100 meters on July 16. The porters left. On the 21st, we set up Advance Base at 4600 meters seven miles up the glacier. Atkinson and Wiz Pasteur set off on July 29 and bivouacked at 5400 meters on the west ridge of Hanispur (5900+ meters, 19,357+ feet). The next morning they completed the ascent along a technically not difficult but long ridge with many false summits. On August 3 and 6, they made the ascents of two other smaller peaks. Meanwhile, Tunstall and I skied over the Skam La to Snow Lake. On August 8, we skied up the West Sim Gang Glacier to the Virjirab Pass, which we climbed by an easy 70° snow ramp. This is almost certainly the first ascent of the pass. We got only glimpses of the Virjerab Glacier because of poor visibility. We did not continue on to Shimshal but returned to Askole and Skardu by the Biafo Glacier.

CHRIS PASTEUR, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

*Diran.* Two successful climbs of Diran (7257 meters, 23,810 feet) have been reported in 1991. An Italian expedition was led by Martino Moretti. Moretti, D. Deiana and P. Paglino took six days to ascend the north ridge. The ridge rises 2200