

There have been four ascents of the *Main (central) Summit of the Great Trango Tower* (6286 meters, 20,624 feet). 1. July 21, 1977, Americans Rowell, Schmitz, Hennek, Roskelley, Morrissey, from the Trango Glacier over the Pulpit (new). 2. August 19, 1984, Americans Selters, Woolums, from Trango Glacier to northwest ridge (new). 3. July 25, 1988, Italian Giordani, probably by northwest ridge 4. Several ascents between August 18 and 24, 1992, Australians Singleman, Feteris, Russian Moroz, New Zealander Gabites, northwest ridge.

There have been two complete ascents of the *East Summit of the Great Trango Tower* (6231 meters, 20,443 feet). The Norwegian Buttress was climbed with a big variant to the rim but not to the summit by Japanese in 1990 and by Spaniards in 1991. 1. August 5, 1984, Norwegians Doseth, Daehli, east face (new). 2. July 28, 1992, American Middendorf, Swiss Bongard, east face starting left of the Norwegian route and to its right above the snow ledge (new).

"Shipton Spire" Attempt. On July 24, Andy Selters, Chuck Boyd, Mark Bebie and I set up Base Camp at 14,400 feet on the upper Trango Glacier. Our objective was the first ascent of an impressive rock peak, photographed by Eric Shipton. It is about 19,200 feet (5852 meters) high. It lies north of Uli Biaho and west of the Trango Nameless Tower. On July 30, we placed Advance Base at 14,800 feet at the west base of the spire. Over the next four weeks, we fixed ropes on the "wall" section of our route. The climbing was steep and difficult (5.10, A4), protected by hooks, rivets, copperheads and lots of tied-off pins. On several days, progress was 50 meters or less. On August 27, Mark and Andy fixed the last of our 2400 feet of static rope. Three days later, we jümaired our ropes, climbed more pitches and bivouacked on the ramp, the first suitable ledge in almost 2000 feet. Three pitches up the ramp brought us to 18,000 feet and a good bivouac. Andy and Mark spent September 1 resting, while Chuck and I fixed several of our lead ropes on the two final rock pitches. The next day, in deteriorating weather, we made our summit attempt. After jümairing the ropes, we traversed on 50° to 60° snow and ice for three pitches. Two long, steep ice pitches and a final snow pitch, our 35th, brought us to 18,600 feet on the summit ridge. At five P.M., we had a difficult decision, whether to spend the night out without stove or sleeping bags in a storm. Disappointed, we began the descent. Rappelling and down-climbing until midnight, we regained our bivouac and spent a wet, unpleasant night. We passed most of the next day in storm descending and cleaning the route. We left Base Camp on September 5. Herds of ibex summer in the Base Camp area. Unfortunately, word filtered down to the army camp at Payu. Soon, with automatic weapons, several soldiers showed up and killed three animals. Although ibex are officially protected, the army is a law unto itself. We informed the Ministry of Tourism at our debriefing. The Minister urged us to publish an account of the killing, presumably to help restrain the army.

GREGORY COLLUM, *R.L.M.C.*

Ascent of P 5495 and Attempt on P 5956, Sokha Glacier, Baltistan. Our expedition was made up by Chris Howarth, Mick Wringley and me. We traveled

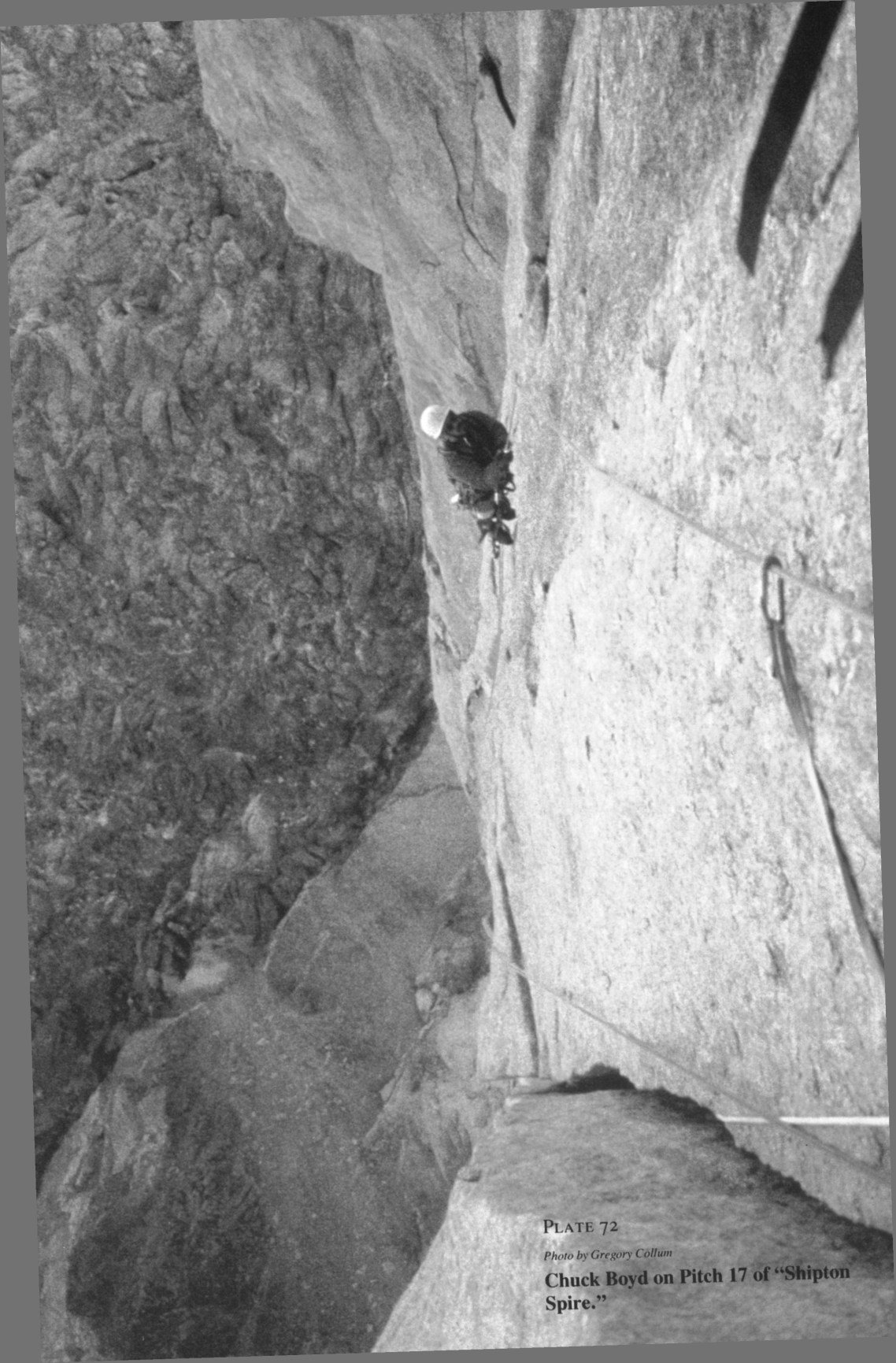


PLATE 72

Photo by Gregory Collum

**Chuck Boyd on Pitch 17 of "Shipton
Spire."**

by jeep from Skardu to the roadhead at Doko and walked for 3½ days via Bisil to the junction of the Solu and Sokha Glaciers and up the Sokha Glacier to Base Camp at 4030 meters. We were west of Sosbun Brakk and the Biafo Glacier. This was an ideal position flanked by numerous peaks of about 6000 meters. From August 3 to 5, we all three climbed for acclimatization P 5495 (18,038 feet) by rock and ice on the south face (UIAA IV+). We bivouacked at 4830 and 5010 meters. We made our first attempt on P 5956 (19,541 feet) via the northwest face on August 13 and 14. We reached a bivouac ledge at 4780 meters below the second snowfield. We retreated as Wrigley had injured his knee. Howarth and I made a second attempt from August 23 to 26 via the same route. We bivouacked below the rockband at 5100 meters. Our high point was 5250 meters but we retreated because of technical difficulty and the risk of accident.

IAN ARNOLD, *England*

Mango Brakk and Gama Sokha Lumbu. A lightweight British expedition composed of Paul Drew, Jim Hart and Dominic Leggett climbed in the mountains west of the lower Biafo Glacier. After a two-day approach from Askole, they placed Base Camp at Mango beside the glacier on July 31 and Advance Base 2000 feet higher on August 2. The next day all three set out to climb Mango Brakk (5355 meters, 17,570 feet), but only Hart continued the final bit to the summit, via either the exposed southeast ridge or on loose rock on the right side to the summit block—100 feet of easy and exposed slab and rib climbing. He declined to climb a 30-foot pile of perched blocks which made up the actual summit. After a long period of bad weather, Hart and Leggett reoccupied a bivouac site some 3000 feet above Advance Base at the foot of the southeast face of Gama Sokha Lumbu on August 12. Starting at one A.M. on August 13, the pair climbed to the top of the 50° snow slope by dawn and climbed along the ridge to the summit (6282 meters, 20,610 feet). [We are grateful to Paul Drew for this information.]

Latok Attempt. Jeff Lowe and Frenchwoman Catherine Destivelle spent a month and a half attempting to climb the north face of Latok. After suffering from miserable weather and dangerous snow conditions, they were trapped high on the wall for six days of storm in mid August and gave up the attempt.

Latok II Attempt. A British expedition led by Edward Howard tried to climb the northwest ridge of Latok II (7145 meters, 23,442 feet). They reached Latok Col but bad weather beat back two attempts on the ridge. This ridge has unsuccessfully been tried by a number of previous expeditions.

Latok III Attempt. After losing ten days to lost luggage, Phil Powers and I attempted the unclimbed west face of Latok III (6950 meters, 22,802 feet). On July 30 and again on July 31, we climbed the 500-meter-high snow gully on the