

Morphen and I as leader walked for three days to arrive at our 12,000-foot Base Camp on Bashkargolo Chat (lake) on August 11. From a higher camp at 13,000 feet just below the snout of the Thalo Glacier, we explored the region. On August 15, from a camp at 16,200 feet, Wrigley and I climbed the west face of an 18,500-foot peak. Most of the 1500-foot route was on good ice up to 60°, but the top 200 feet were on extremely broken, loose rock. This region of easy access has several interesting objectives for a small group with limited time or funds.

DAVID J. WILSON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Gul Lasht Zom South and Gul Lasht Zom Southeast, Hindu Kush. Our 12-member Italian expedition reached the roadhead at Shogrom and in three days got to Base Camp at 4650 meters below Istor-O-Nal on the Upper Tirich Glacier. On August 9, we crossed that glacier and placed Camp I at 4950 meters. On August 12, four climbers established Camp II at 5650 meters on the snowy plateau below the Gul Lasht Zom peaks despite incredibly hot weather. On August 15, Elena Guabello, Giacomo Bornancini and I climbed to the summit of Gul Lasht Zom South (6401 meters, 21,000 feet) via the northeast face and north ridge. The entire climb was on ice and was made difficult by meter-high *penitentes*. On August 17, Francesco Pavanini, Andrea Miotto, Enrico Perani and Marco Baldan climbed Gul Lasht Zom Southeast (6100 meters, 20,013 feet) via the east face and north ridge.

LUCIO DE FRANCESCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Afghanistan

Mir Samir Attempt and Ascent of P 5000. After years when it was too dangerous to enter the mountains of Afghanistan, New Zealander Bob McKerrow and Englishmen Ian Clarke and Jon Tinker headed in 1994 for Mir Samir in the Hindu Kush. McKerrow is Head of Delegation for the International Red Cross in Afghanistan. Clarke is a former Royal Marine, now head of the Halo Trust mine clearance organization in Afghanistan. Tinker has worked in that country a number of times in the past seven years. The three climbers set off from Kabul on September 23, first acclimatizing near the Salang Pass before driving to Patian in the upper Panjchir valley. There four horses were hired to carry food and equipment up the Chamar valley to Base Camp at 3400 meters. Clarke's skill was put to test when they saw air-dropped scatterable anti-personnel mines. They established a higher camp at 4300 meters on September 29. Because of deep snow, the two Englishmen made slow progress the next day to bivouac at 4900 meters on an unclimbed snow route on the southwest face of Mir Samir. On October 1, they made a summit attempt, but unseasonably deep snow turned them back at 5200 meters, some 600 meters from the summit.

On September 29, McKerrow soloed a 5000-meter peak above the Chamar valley. [More details appear in *The New Zealand Climber*, Summer, 1994, N° 12.]

Southeastern China

Gonga Shan Attempt and Tragedy. On August 25, Hitoshi Watanabe, Takuya Fukuzawa, Sachiko Takada (f), Yasuyuki Watanabe, Yosuke Suzuki, Junji Kudo and I as leader established Base Camp at 3950 meters near the tongue of the Yanzeko Glacier north of the peak. Camps I and II were placed on the glacier at 4200 and 4950 meters on August 30 and September 6. We climbed the staircase-like glacier on the west face of the northeast ridge, fixing 33 ropes. Camp III was put just below the northeast ridge at 5850 meters on September 19 and on the 20th four climbed the spur that joins the northeast ridge to 6050 meters, fixing seven more ropes. After some bad weather, at eleven A.M. on September 28, Fukuzawa, Y. Watanabe, Suzuki and Kudo radioed from Camp III that they had collected loads from the glacier and would climb to prepare the route higher. At three P.M., nobody answered me by walkie-talkie. They must have been lost in an avalanche. On the 30th, Hitoshi Watanabe and I climbed to Camp II but could find nothing with binoculars. On October 1, we tried to dig up fixed ropes to get to Camp III, but we could find only four of the 33 fixed ropes in the avalanche debris. We gave up the search to avoid a double accident.

KINICHI YAMAMORI, *Himalayan Association of Japan*

Tibet

Kula Kangri Region, 1993. A seven-member climbing-and-scientific French party, including geologist Arnaud Pêcher, visited the Kula Kangri area in southern Tibet on the Border with Bhutan. Base Camp was at 4450 meters below the northern foot of Kula Kangri. They placed Advance Base at 5400 meters and reconnoitered the western glaciers. On May 21, 1993, Pêcher, Richard Jessup and Guy Sévenier climbed a virgin peak of 6000+ meters. The expedition also included Jean-François Porret, a paraplegic as a result of a parapente accident in 1989. Using a wheelchair, he completed some impressive mountain trips in the vicinity.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Kula Kangri, Second Ascent. An Austrian expedition consisting of Gerhard Berger, Anton Dollfuss, Dr. Martin Donner, Kurt Ebner, Helmut Ortner, Otto Plattner and me left Kathmandu on April 14, crossed into Tibet at Kodari and traveled east through Xegar and Xigatse to Base Camp at 5200 meters north of Kula Kangri. (The peak lies north of Bhutan.) Berger had to leave the expedition because of high-altitude sickness. Camp I was established at 5700