

Wielicki, having successfully climbed the north ridge of K2, traveled the Karakoram Highway to Chilas with his Sirdar and left for a solo attempt on the Kinshofer route. He climbed more or less continually for 48 hours and reached the summit on September 1, then descended to 5800 meters the same day and was back in Chilas seven days after departing. (*High Mountain Sports* 172)

*Nanga Parbat, Winter Attempt.* The aim of the expedition was to make a small, lightweight ascent of Nanga Parbat (8125 m) in December, 1996. We (Rafael Jensen and Victor Saunders, with Gulam Hassan, liaison officer) chose the Kinshofer route because the technical difficulties are mostly low down. The expedition was in two parts: a reconnaissance in November, and the attempt to climb the mountain in December separated by a visit to Islamabad to complete the bureaucratic formalities, and pick up our L.O., Gulam Hassan. Hassan was an old friend of Rafael's who had climbed Gasherbrum I on his own account.

We fixed our Base Camp at a group of shepherds' huts at approximately 3700 meters. The normal summer base at 4300 meters took us a short day's trail breaking to reach. Rafael and I had heavy trail breaking across the Diamir Glacier, where we hauled three rucksacks each. The triple hauling was necessary because of the constant low temperatures (down to -30°C) and the amount of food we needed to deal with it. It took three days to carry our loads to the bottom of the route, and another three days to establish and occupy a camp at 5000 meters. We found the initial couloir of the Kinshofer slow going. Though there was deep snow on the glacier, the couloir itself was bare and icy. We experienced some stone fall, which may have been caused by the lack of snow at Camp II. It eventually became clear to us that this time we had bitten off more than we could chew, and we retreated from below 6000 meters.

VICTOR SAUNDERS, *United Kingdom*

*Nanga Parbat, Attempt and Tragedy.* From May 10 to July 5, Razvan Petcu (leader), Mihai Gioroianu, Mariuo Gane, Bogdan Pintilie and Gabriel Stana attempted the Kinshofer Route. From Camp IV, at 3:30 a.m., four climbers went for the summit. At 8000 meters, Marius Gane and Bogdan Pintilie gave up and went back to Base Camp. M. Goroianu and G. Stana reached around 8050 meters before being turned back by a violent storm. They went down to Base Camp, but Gabriel Stana decided to stay in CIII with Razvan Petcu to wait for better weather and a second summit attempt. After five days in BC, the other three climbers started to look for the two. They found an avalanche path and some clothes but no other sign of Petcu and Stana. It was the first Romanian attempt on Nanga Parbat. Petcu (41) and Stana (23) were talented and experienced mountaineers with many ascents in the Carpathians, Caucasus, Pamir and Tien Shan.

CONSTANTIN LACATUSU, *Club Alpin Lynx*

*Nanga Parbat, Winter Attempt.* A Polish expedition attempting Nanga Parbat (8125 m) in winter via the Diamir Face returned after being evacuated from the Base Camp. Two of the climbers, Zbigniew Trzmiel, 33, and Krzysztof Pankiewicz, 45, suffered from frost bite on their summit bid on February 11 when they were 250 meters below the summit. It was the first helicopter rescue on the 3900-meter Nanga Parbat Base Camp on the Diamir side. The pilot had problems landing. Other members were Jacek Fluder, Bogdan Jankowski, Zbigniew Kroskiewicz, Maciej Pawlikowski, Ryszard Pawlowski, Bogdan Stefko and Jaroslaw Zurawski. Liaison officer was Rehmatullah Baig.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*