

*P. 5400m, Ascent.* It was reported that a five-man German team (Markus Aigneheer, Martin Grziwarsch, Bernd Illguth, Christian Schultes and Florian Siemer) climbed the north pillar of a 5400-meter rock spire above the Biafo Glacier. They established a temporary camp at 4800 meters and fixed rope to a bivouac site at 5000 meters in between bouts of weather, then fixed a certain amount above their high bivy en route to the top of the pillar (though not to the summit). Their efforts resulted in an entirely free route christened No Rope No Hope with difficulties up to 5.10d. They descended the line of ascent in 30 rappels. (*High Mountain Sports* 172)

*Ogre's Thumb, South Face.* It was reported that Italians Maurizio Giordani and Mauro Fonz, with D. Jonathan Hall, made the first ascent of the south face of the Ogre's Thumb (5600 m) in the Latok group at the foot of the Ogre (Baintha Brakk). The formation had already been tried without success in 1991 by Giordani and Stefano Righetti and then again in 1993 with Stefano Pellagrini. This time, thanks to a short period of stable weather, the attempt met with success. In four days (July 8-11) the trio managed to climb 33 pitches to the summit, most of which were harder than VI. The crux was rated VII+ A3, and the team climbed over 1300 meters on their route.

*Baintha Brakk, Southeast Ridge, and Latok I, North Ridge, Attempts.* During July and August, nine climbers performing as two teams attempted to make the first ascents of both the north ridge of Latok I and the southeast pillar of Baintha Brakk (the Ogre). Base camp was high on the Choktoi Glacier. Dave Wills and Brendan Murphy made three attempts on Latok, climbing in pure alpine style. Their best attempt was the first. They reached a high point of 6200 meters after three days of continuously difficult climbing (up to Scottish VI) before a cornice collapse led to a rucksack being lost and enforced a retreat. Two subsequent attempts were halted by bad weather. On the Ogre, Rich Cross, Matt Dickenson, Adam Jackson, Al Powell, Nick Williams, Julian Wood and I employed fixed ropes on the icefall's slopes to col 5600m and the initial rock pillar. The col was reached after nearly three weeks of effort; I took little part due to a twisted ankle. Food shortages, caused by raven raids on the col, meant that only Dickenson and Powell were in a position to fix to the top of the buttress and make an attempt from there in alpine style. They reached 6850 meters—the base of the final difficulties—before being caught by weather. Despite waiting two days they were forced to retreat. The route includes difficult rock (E1) and mixed (Scottish VI) climbing. Storms plagued the last days of the expedition but considerable effort was made to strip all camps and fixed ropes.

ANDY MACNAE, *British Mountaineering Council*

*Trango Nameless Tower, South Face, First Japanese Ascent.* Three Japanese recorded the first Japanese ascent of Trango Tower (6239 m) via the south face Slovenian Route on July 17 at 4 p.m. Their ascent took them 27 days. Group leader Tatsuo Shinohara graded the climb 5.10 A2. The group had intended to make a free ascent, but icy cracks forced them to use some aid. The three summiters were Tatsu Shinohara, Toshi Kikuchi and Takeshi Nagano.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

*Shipton Spire, East Face.* Charles Boyd, Greg Child, Greg Collum, and I arrived in Islamabad the first week of June. Our good friend, Gullam Rasoul, traveled for several days from his home village of Hushe to meet us and help us go through the absurd song and dance with the Ministry