

*K2, South-Southeast Ridge, Ascent.* A Japanese expedition led by Yamamoto Atushi (33) put 12 members on the summit of K2 and recorded the third and fifth ascents of K-2's south-southeast ridge. Deputy leader Matsubara Masayuki (31) led a team of six climbers from Camp III at 7850 meters. The climbers reached the top and recorded the third ascent of the Basque route, followed by a Chilean expedition which put four members on top on August 13. Yamamoto started on August 14 with six others, including Takahashi Kazuhiro (22), who upon summiting, became the youngest climber to climb the mountain.

The summiters who reached the top on August 12 were Matsubara Masayuki, 33, Akasaka Kenzo, 28, Murata Bunsho, 26, Yoshida Yuichi, 26, Tanigawa Taro, 29, and Sshiina Atsushi, 26. The summiters who reached the top on August 14 were Yamamoto Atsushi, 33, Inaba Hideki, 32, Nagakubo Koji 27, Takeuchi Hiroataka, 25, Takahashi Kazuhiro, 22, and Sana Takashi, 23.

The expedition used oxygen above Camp III and used 4000 meters of fixed ropes. The team made Base Camp at 5200 meters, Camp I at 6400 meters, Camp II at 7050 meters, and Camp III at 7850 meters.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

*K2, Ascent and Tragedy.* Italian climber Lorenzo Mazzoleni, 30, died on July 29 in a fall from the Shoulder (8000 m) after having successfully climbed K2 via the Abruzzi. According to sources, Lorenzo, along with three others, reached the summit at 4:30 p.m. on July 29. On the descent Lorenzo was the last climber. Salvatore Panzeri, who was ahead of Lorenzo, never knew what happened as the climbers were unroped. All the four climbers were members of an Italian National Research Council (CNR) scientific expedition led by Agostino Da Polenza. The climbers, whose goal was to place a two-meter laser reflecting tripod on the summit to facilitate an accurate height survey of the mountain, were also part of a golden jubilee celebration of Lecco Spider (an Italian climbing club). The body of Lorenzo Mazzoleni couldn't be brought down and was placed between Camp III (7700 m) and the Shoulder. The summiters who made it down to Base Camp are Giulio Maggioni and the brothers Mario and Salvatore Panzeri.

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*K2, Abruzzi Ridge.* It was reported that Japanese Masafumi Todaka had planned a solo ascent of the unrepeatd Kukuczka-Piotrowski route on the south face in three days with bivouacs at 6800 meters and 7900 meters, but unsettled weather and deep snow forced him to change his goals to the Abruzzi Spur route, which he climbed in the company of but independent from the Italian expedition on the same route. He summited on July 29. (*High Mountain Sports* 172)

*K2, Attempts.* It was reported that a seven-man group (Rick Allen, Andy Parkin, Mike Smith, Harry Taylor and Brian Tilly, U.K., plus Maciej Berbeka, Poland) planned to attempt the unclimbed east face. Some members reached ca. 6500 meters on the south-southeast spur, while other reached more or less the same height on the Abruzzi. Allen and Parkin reached ca. 6300 meters on their east face line. Berbeka was avalanched on the lower part of the Abruzzi, sustaining vertebrae damage. He was then evacuated by helicopter, and the expedition was soon after called to a halt.

A German expedition led by Falk Liebsstein had hoped to climb the northeast ridge but, upon realizing the objective was too serious, turned their attentions to the Abruzzi. Liebsstein and a partner reached ca. 7000 meters before the expedition ended on August 17. (*High Mountain Sports* 172)