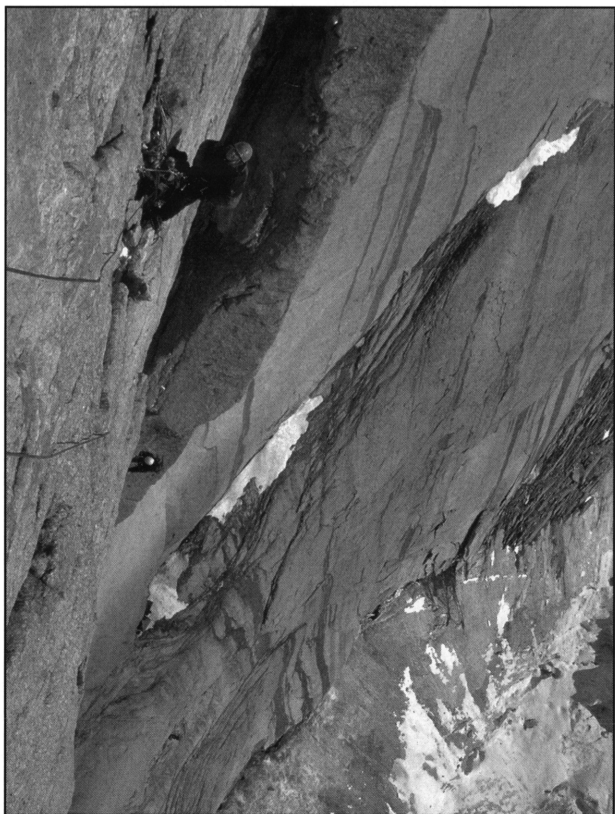


Ratty had been granted permission for the peak in 1995 only to have it rescinded at the last minute. In 1997, the team first attempted the south face of Chakula, a day's walk from the road, via its south face, reaching a height of 6000 meters before being turned back by soft snow. The expedition then moved its ABC below Pologongka, from where Law, Ratty and Singh climbed the southwest buttress in a day on August 21 at Alpine F. (*High Mountain Sports* 187)

PAKISTAN

Hainablak East Tower, Attempt. (This account clarifies an inaccurate report from last year's volume; see 1998 AAJ, pp. 321-322.) On our three-man, four-week Karakoram big wall expedition, we attempted the unclimbed 1400-meter northeast face of Hainablak East Tower (ca. 5800m). We were very early in the season, and had a lot of bad weather (with only four really nice days). We also ran out of our time. We climbed 21 pitches between June 3 and 21, 1997, in capsule style. The climbing to that point was 5.10 A4. (See photo on preceding page.)

THOMAS TIVADAR, *Germany*

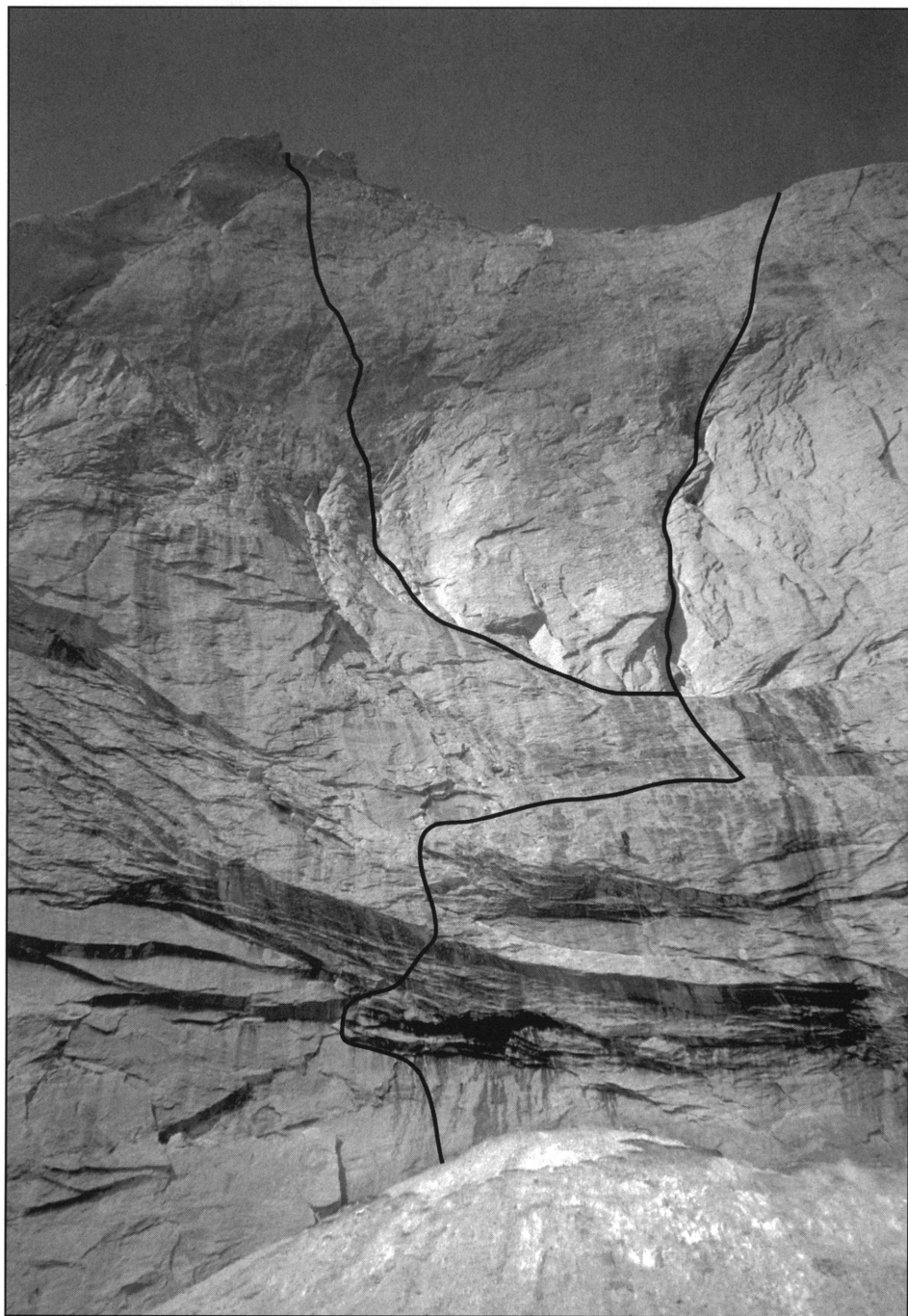


Looking down Hatija ("strong-willed") at Louise Thomas and Glenda Huxter from 1,800 feet up Beatrice. KATH PYKE

Hushe Region

Beatrice, Southeast Face. In last year's volume (p. 327), the two 1997 British routes on Beatrice were reported. We now have the opportunity to show the lines of ascent (see photos, left and right).

Ghulam Tower, Giorgio Lorenzo. It was reported that the four-man team of Riccardo Milani, Adriano Selva, Andrea Spandri and Natale Villa made the first ascent of the Ghulam Tower (4720m), a rock spire on the west bank of the Gondokoro Glacier that is more or less opposite Balti and Cholon peaks. The ca. 15-pitch route, *Giorgio Lorenzo* (TD+, 650m), roughly followed the left edge of the face overlooking the glacier; difficulties



Beatrice (ca. 5900m) in the Charakusa area, Pakistan Karakoram. The women's route, Hatija (VI E3 6a A3+, 20 pitches) is to the left, the men's, The Excellent Adventure (VI E3 6a A3+, 20 pitches), to the right. GRANT FARAQUAR

were reasonable yet sustained (V to VI) on excellent granite. The crux pitch entailed VII climbing and A3 hooking. No bolts were placed on the route. (*High Mountain Sports* 188)

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Khan Tengri, Attempt, Tragedy, and New Route. It was reported that Yuri Krasnoukhov was attempting the standard route on Khan Tengri in mid-August, 1997, and while climbing from the CIII ice cave to the summit fell down the south flank and died. D. Komarov and V. Shamalo climbed up on August 17 to locate the body via the Southwest Face. They found Krasnoukhov's body, then continued on to the summit via a new route. The crux proved to be steep slabs on the upper part of the route, which was graded 5B. The climb placed third in the Russian championships. (*High Mountain Sports* 188)

TIBET

CHOLA SHAN

Chola Shan Range, Various Ascents. In July and August, 1997, Joanne Jeske and I traveled widely throughout Kham, the old eastern province of Tibet. With the exception of Minya Konka and vicinity, this region has largely been neglected by climbers, despite the fact that it is one of the most mountainous areas of Asia.

Traveling by local buses, we arrived in the town of Dege in early August. Here we stocked



The northwest face of Chola Shan I. Solid line indicates ascent route. Dotted line indicates hidden finish to summit and descent. CHARLIE FOWLER