

On July 27, Coull, Chinnery and Morten followed the fixed line to the ridge, cleaning all fixed gear as they went. The original Scott/Allen route was then followed, with one bivy, to reach the summit of the arête on July 28.

PAUL SCHWEIZER, *University of Edinburgh Mountaineering Club*

Ogre, South Buttress, Attempt, and Latok IV, South Summit, Ascent. Alexander Huber, Toni Gutsch and Jan Mersch reached Islamabad on May 31. Thomas Huber arrived on June 3. Our lost equipment (24 out of 37 pieces) finally arrived on June 9. We reached Skardu on June 11 and Askoli on the 13th. After a four-day walk-in, we reached Base Camp on June 17. We established Advanced Base Camp (5000m) June 26 and three days later began up the south buttress of the Ogre, establishing a portaledge camp at ca. 6000 meters. We chose the south buttress, an intimidating bow of rock which, due to its protruding nature and steepness, is not exposed to avalanches, rock- and icefall. The pillar was first climbed by the Frenchmen Fine and Vauquet 15 years ago. High on the mountain, the two were hit by a storm and had to give up just below the summit. In 1997, Jan Mersch and Jochen Haase reached the top of the pillar in just six days from BC, but were hit by a storm and didn't reach the top either.

We then changed our objective to Latok IV (6450m). After exploring the route and after several days of bad weather we started our first attempt, but this attempt ended at ABC in bad weather.

On July 10, we started our next attempt, which ended at approximately 6300 meters in the col between the double-summitted Latok IV. On July 16, we started another attempt on the Ogre, ascending from BC to the portaledge camp on the buttress. The next morning we were offended by a cloud barrier only 50 kilometers away from us. In view of the need for another four days of good weather, we canceled our attempt and rappelled down to BC. On July 18, we had another day of unexpectedly good weather, but the barometer was falling and



The south face (with the southwest ridge following the sun/shadow line) of Latok III and the southwest face of Latok IV (right). Latok V is just out of the picture on the right. Huber and Huber took a line on Latok IV on the left side of the face; Motomu Omiya and Tsuguo Tsuchida attempted the right-hand skyline (see below). MOTOMU OMIYA

snow began to fall the night of July 19. Another week of bad and unstable weather bound us to BC. During the night of the 27th, it suddenly began clearing and we immediately started to climb up to the portaledge camp again, where we bivied. The next morning we canceled the attempt due to a heavy storm and health problems in the team. Jan left the expedition after the attempt and started to travel back to Germany on July 29. All further attempts ended in snow or rain, so we canceled the Ogre attempt on August 4. Toni left BC on August 6.

On August 8 at 11 p.m., Alexander and Thomas stumbled up 12 kilometers of rubble-covered glacier toward the base of Latok IV's southwest face, which comprises mainly steep ice fields quite similar to the Spider on the north face of the Eiger. We climbed them without belaying to get up and down the hill in a day, only roping up when the angle became steep just below the ridge. We both reached the (lower) south summit (6450m), then made it back to BC 22 hours after leaving. The porters came on August 10, which marked the end of the expedition.

ALEXANDER HUBER, *Germany*

Latok IV, Attempt. Motomu Omiya and Tsuguo Tsuchida (Japan) attempted the south ridge of Latok IV*. The pair arrived at Base Camp on August 4. They reached their high point of ca. 5700 meters at 2 a.m. on August 14. Heavy snow and a lack of time stopped the attempt. They departed BC on August 21.

*There is some confusion regarding the name of the peak Omiya and Tsuchida attempted. Mr. Omiya personally handed a photo of Latok IV to the Editor of this journal and indicated the line they tried, but referred to the peak as Latok V. He also gave an altitude for the peak as 6190 meters. This does not correspond to the altitudes for any of the Latok group as noted by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research *Karakoram* map. We can say with confidence that the photo captioned Latok IV on page 333 is the one attempted by Omiya and Tsuchida. The confusion may be the result of the Italian measurements of the Latok group, a matter investigated on pages 320-321 of the 1998 *AAJ*.

BALTORO MUZTAGH

Shipton Spire, Ship of Fools. Anders Lundquist, Mattias Jakobsson, Karl Ljung and I reached Base Camp on June 21. After organizing the equipment and admiring what is probably the most beautiful Base Camp in the Karakoram, we started ferrying equipment to Advanced Base Camp. Eighteen days later we established our first portaledge-camp. We climbed in capsule style and established three camps. On July 23, Karl and Mattias reached the summit after 21 days of climbing. Anders and I reached the summit the day after. The route we climbed was Mark Synnott and Jared Ogden's wonderful 1997 route, *Ship of Fools* (VII 5.11 A2 WI6, 1350m).

LUDWIG QVARNSTROM, *Sweden*

Great Trango Tower, Korean Fantasy, Previously Unreported. From June 21-August 19, 1997, expedition members Sang-Jo Lee (leader), Youn-Jung Shin (f), Choi Seung-Chol and Hyung-Jin Kim established a variation to the Norwegian Buttress Route on the North Pillar of Great Trango Tower. The team arrived in Islamabad on June 22, and reached Base Camp on July 2. On July 10, they transported equipment to the start of the climb and fixed the first pitches.