

ed, and for a week the rain splashed down. In the village of Kurgali, some two hours away, Reinhold had issued invitations for a “gathering of veterans.” Those who participated in the 1970 expedition, who saw the seriously injured Reinhold drag himself off the Diamir Glacier, enjoyed the reunion. The rain stopped, and the weather turned. On the night of July 27, the four climbers and two porters got moving, reaching the upper camp with no problems. The next morning, the Messners, Eisendle and Tomaseth climbed through the icefall and up onto the north face and through to 7200 meters—an accomplishment of 3000 vertical meters in only two days. An avalanche path that reached 1000 meters down the side of the mountain offered them solid footing. The weather continued to hold and the walkable avalanche path continued above the bivy site. The next day, after a sleepless night and in spite of wind and cold, the team quickly moved up 100 vertical meters. However, where the avalanche path ended, snowdrifts began. The six days of bad weather that kept Reinhold and his crew in base camp had filled hollows and slopes with hip-deep snow. After two hours, in which they gained only 300 vertical meters, they knew that they had hit the limit and that the summit was unreachable.

“The new route stands,” said Reinhold, “but because of poor snow conditions we could only get to 7500 meters.” At that point, the new route connected with the 1978 Czech Route. Reinhold had reached his personal goal: the Mummery route was complete. According to him, the summit was merely a byproduct; what counted was that they had tried a clean ascent “by fair means.”

From an August 10, 2000, article in the German newspaper Die Zeit, by RALPH-PETER MAERTEN

Panmah Muztagh

Peak 5750m, Ascent, Peak 5990m, Possible First Ascent, and Baintha Brakk, Attempt. Doug Chabot and Jack Tackle flew to Islamabad on June 15 and arrived at Base Camp below the Ogre Thumb on June 21. After establishing Advanced Base Camp on the Uzun Brakk Glacier, they fixed five pitches of beautiful climbing on the south buttress of the Ogre (Baintha Brakk, 7285m). Acclimatizing on the previously climbed Peak 5750m located near Latok II and then Peak 5990m near the east face of Uzun Brakk (which they believe was a first ascent), they then patiently waited for clear weather to climb the south buttress. Unfortunately, 27 days of bad weather during the month of July prevented them from climbing any higher up the buttress. They were able to remove all their fixed line before leaving BC on July 29.

DOUGLAS CHABOT

Ogre II, Southeast Ridge, Attempt. The team was supposed to be composed of Luca Maspes (leader), Maurizio Giordani, Mauro Girardi, Emanuele Pellizzari, Natale Villa and Maurizio Venzo. One week before leaving, our “leader” decided, for lack of motivation or out of self-doubt, to stay home. The remaining five of us left for Pakistan. Maurizio Giordani, Mauro and I left Italy on June 4, arrived in Islamabad the following day and left on the 7th for Skardu with the permit issued by the Ministry of Tourism. In Skardu we found that our leader had sold our ropes for fixing last year to pay for his ticket home; he had forgotten to mention this minor action to us. We went crazy in Skardu trying to find some ropes that were suitable as fixed lines. The only thing we found were 6mm nylon lines that are usually used by farmers to make stacks of wood.

We arrived in Base Camp on July 12. The following day we did an acclimatization trip to