

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

4800 meters and the day after reached 5100 meters, where we established Camp I. The south-east ridge of Ogre III (a.k.a. the west summit of Ogre II, 6960m) that we planned to climb was in reality not a ridge but a serious, major pillar interrupted by some huge ledges.

Camp I, in a very highly crevassed area, was in a relatively safe position. From CI we looked at the only safe line that we could climb and we took the obvious gully on the left. This, while relatively straightforward, was much longer than expected, and sometimes dangerous. The gully is about 900 meters long with sections of 80 to 85 degrees. We fixed it with our "wood ropes" all the way to the top. Three of us carried all the gear to CII (ca. 6100m), spent the night, and returned to BC.

Bad weather trapped us at BC for three days. Mauro Girardi and I, with Maurizio Giordani and Maurizio Venzo following us the next day, departed once more for CII. We planned to fix some ropes in the very avalanche-prone snow plateau and then bivouac high (or return to CII) and do an alpine-style attempt to the summit as a team of four. (Natale Villa had already had two very close calls in the lower part of the glacier and called his expedition off before reaching 6000 meters.)

The day of the first attempt of the peak, Mauro and I tried to overcome the higher part of the snow plateau to get to the rocky pillar. After four hours of struggling (to climb 85 meters), we rappelled to CII to rest. We found very inconsistent snow that proved to be almost insurmountable in such conditions.

At this point we had only seven days to go before leaving base camp. We waited for the two Maurizios to join us and then decided to bring all gear down to base camp and look for easier targets. In the event, the weather deteriorated badly from then on, and even if we had wanted to, we wouldn't have had another chance to try for the summit.

The last five days, during bad weather, Mauro Girardi and I tried to open a new line on the Ogre Thumb. The first day we climbed three pitches and were stopped by snowfall. The second day we added two more, were again stopped by snowfall, and decided to clean the line.

We cleaned all our fixed lines. We left nothing on the mountain, and brought down about 75 kilos of other parties' rubbish. (Some of this rubbish, including a snow shovel, is now on display at the Mountain Museum of Ragni di Lecco.) Considering that very few people have been there, we found the lower part of the glacier to be very dirty. We carried all our rubbish down to Skardu (not to Askoli, as usual) after having burned what we could.

EMANUELE PELLIZZARI, *Italy*

Latok III, Attempt. The members of the expedition were Alexander Odintsov (leader), Sergey Efimov, Alexander Rutchkin, Yuri Koshelenko, and Michail Bakin, the expedition doctor. Our Base Camp was established in a morainal pocket less than two hours from the wall on the shore of a lake fed by rivers. After an acclimatization ascent, we established ABC right under the wall. Later, this camp would suffer greatly from an air-blast as the result of an icefall from Latok's slopes.

By a three-to-one vote, we agreed on a route suggested by Rutchkin: a diretissima on the left side of the face. I reluctantly agreed, but hoped for the possibility of correcting the line during the ascent. This route necessitated a capsule-style ascent with a large amount of gear, aid climbing, and time (and a great likelihood of bad weather).

We tried to start our ascent each day for a week, but snowfall at night prohibited us. We spent one of these days digging out our haulbags. On July 19, during a brief pause in the bad weather, the four of us (Bakin remained in BC) began the route. Climbing ice/snow couloirs