

having cleared a huge pack of gear off the mountain. As we reached base camp the following day our jeeps were waiting to drive us back to Lhasa.

JON OTTO, AAC

*Editor's Note: The 7126m West Peak was first climbed in 1986 by three members of Mario Kuzunushi's Japanese Expedition via the west ridge. The first ascent of the Central Peak took place in 1989 when Wolfgang Axt and five other Austrians reached the summit via the south-southwest Ridge. This route appears to have been repeated in 1992 by a team from Beijing University. The 2001 ascent is probably the third.*

*Yarlha Shampo, attempt.* This 6635m peak, which lies 80 km southeast of Lhasa at 28° 45' N, 91° 50' E, was attempted for the first time last year. Yoshiaki Ito and 17 members of the Yamagata Mountaineering Association met with bad weather (particularly thunderstorms) and were forced to abandon their attempt at 6100m.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Japanese Alpine News*



The Kangri Garpo Range, showing the Lhagu Glacier from the village of Lhagu. The peaks are unnamed and between 6100m and 6500m high. *John Nankervis*

*Kangri Garpo Range, exploration.* During October and November 2001, New Zealanders John Wild, Wilf Dickerson, Nick Shearer, Colin Monteath and I (leader), accompanied by trekkers Jos Lang and Betty Monteath went on a reconnaissance expedition to the remote and stunningly beautiful Kangri Garpo range, three days' drive southeast of Lhasa largely on the southern Sichuan-Tibet Highway. From the junction at Rawu the last section of the road passes beneath the partially restored monastery of Shugden Gompa and continues to the village of Lhagu. Yaks and ponies



Unnamed peaks in the Kangri Garpo Range. Top: Skiing on the southeastern end of the Lhagu Glacier. The left peak is 6127m and the right peak is 6421m. Bottom: the highest peaks are circa 6500m. *John Nankervis (2)*

were used for transport to a base camp, one day's walk above Lhagu. No high summits were reached. However, what was probably the first traverse of the 30 km long Lhagu glacier to its expansive upper névé was undertaken on skis, an unclimbed subsidiary bump of 5,750 metres was ascended on skis and a legion of 6,000-to 6,600-meter peaks were seen and committed to photographic memory. Colin Monteath was lucky to survive an unroped 20-meter fall into a narrow crevasse high on the Lhagu névé while skiing. Characteristically he continued professional photography from its icy bowels. The group also visited the Ata Kang La area where the Tibetan plateau topples steeply over into the jungles of India. There was clear cold autumn weather for much of the period but unfortunately unsettled spells with wind and light snow came



Lhagu villagers on tent-inspection duty in the Kangri Garpo. John Nankervis

at critical periods for climbing. The 250 km long Kangri Garpo range is just north of the Burma and Assam borders and east of the big bend in the Tsangpo river and Namcha Barwa, the farthest outpost of the Himalaya. No major peaks in the range have been climbed. The expedition was supported generously by a Shipton/Tilman grant and a Mount Everest Foundation grant (UK).

JOHN NANKERVIS, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Editor's note: The Japanese explorer, Tamotsu Nakamura, had trekked through this region of the Kangri Garpo several years previously. In October and November 2001, two elderly Japanese mountaineers from the Silver Turtle Group also visited the Lhagu Glacier. They then moved south and made an extensive reconnaissance of the southeastern part of the range crossing the 4610m Ata Kang La to the Ata Glacier.*

*Kula Kangri Central and East, first ascents.* In spring a joint expedition comprising 11 Japanese (leader, Yoshitsugu Deriha) and eight Tibetans (leader, Tsenden Jigmy) made the first ascents of Kula Kangri Central (Kula Kangri II; 7418m) and Kula Kangri East (Kula Kangri III; 7381m), both of which lie along the ridge running east from the Main (7538m) summit. These were wrongly reported in AAJ 1998 as having been climbed by a Spanish expedition in May 1997. The Spanish climbed only the main summit, noting the existence of two unclimbed subsidiary summits to the east.

The expedition set up base camp on April 1 in the village of Monda at 4250m, then used 85 horses and donkeys to transport equipment to an advanced base at 5400m. Progressing up the moraines on the west bank of the glacier, the team established Camp 1 at 5900m in the upper cwm below the mountain. A route was opened through a large icefall to reach the ridge connecting the east summit with Karjiang (7221m), and Camp 2 placed at 6350m. One aluminium ladder and 1,500 meters of rope were fixed on this section. The climbers then slanted up the northwestern flank of Kula Kangri East, fixing another 1,500 meters of rope. By the 30th they