

to the skin and enduring a bivy higher up on unknown terrain being unappealing, we left our two ropes fixed and rappelled back to a snowfield where we could chop a bivy ledge, and spent the evening waiting for the water to freeze.

At 4:00 a.m. the second day, we left the bivy gear and went light for the summit, intending to just climb up and back in a single push. When we reached the former shower-stall chimney, it was a seized-up gorgeous section of mixed climbing for two more pitches, leading us to a ramp system. Fabrizio took over, and we pitched out and then simul-climbed six pitches across the face into the center wall, which led us to the second, and crux, rock band. I searched for a weakness and found an amazing flaring dihedral with a thin strip of ice in the back. It led to easy ground above but, although it was only 80 feet, it proved to be the most challenging part of the route. We lost time working on this pitch, first Fabrizio, then I. Finally, with some creative problem solving, I broke through our temporary barrier. It was now 6:00 p.m. and we started simul-climbing again up the throat of the main upper face, heading for upper summit ridge of the Harvard and West Face Couloir routes.

The weather deteriorated, and it was snowing and sloughing spindrift everywhere around us. We climbed until 11:00 p.m. and finally turned around when we could no longer see more than 30 feet ahead. We had intersected the Harvard Route finish, maybe 500 feet below the summit, but opted to start rappelling in light of conditions. As we descended our route, the snow became more intense. We lost two hours dealing with a hung rappel in the coldest and darkest part of the night, and stripped 40 feet of sheath off of our second rope with our Ropeman while trying to pull the rope.

Twenty-seven hours after we left the bivy, we lay down and slept for five hours. I was so tired, I fell asleep while devouring my food and awoke like a frozen Mastodon with unchewed jerky still in my mouth. After our short respite, we rappelled off the lower Harvard Route and a few hours later enjoyed a gracious reception from our base camp comrades.

The Imperfect Apparition seemed an appropriate name for our route, in light of the nearby Phantom Wall, the phantom summit, and the proper alpine etiquette—tell the truth.

JACK TACKLE, AAC

*Mt. Huntington, Shi-Shi, and Mt. McKinley, Denali Diamond, third ascent.* In April and May, Fumitaka Ichimura and I spent a substantial holiday in the Alaska Range.

On April 25 we made base camp on the west fork of the Tokositna Glacier at 2,500m. We had planned to first climb the Phantom Wall (Smith-Teare, 1991), but there was little snow or ice on the crux part of the route. We found a straight gully, filled with ice, that forked right off the Phantom Wall, and it seemed so interesting that we went there. On April 27 we departed from base camp at 4:00. After reaching the col of the west ridge,



Katsutaka Yokoyama climbing in the gully on Shi-Shi, just below its junction with the South Ridge, Mt. Huntington. Fumitaka Ichimura

we climbed down toward Huntington's southwestern side (Death Valley), making one rappel. We started climbing the southwest face at 7:00. First we climbed continuously up 800m of ice (55°) on the Phantom Wall. After passing a steep gully (one pitch, M5), a remarkable gully appeared overhead. The ice in the gully was thin and the granite smooth. It was not easy to get reliable protection, but the actual climbing was comfortable and brought us fun. The maximum steepness was 90°, and the grade was AI5 and M5. We climbed 450m in this gully, then reached the South Ridge (Jay-Woolums, 1979). We got more tired climbing the ice on the ridge. Just below the summit was a 20m serac that began at 95°. We reached the 3,730m summit at 19:00, then descended via the west ridge. It was a long descent, with over 20 rappels. The complicated routefinding consumed us. At 2:00, 22 hours after leaving, we returned to base camp.

This line might have already been climbed, due to its prominent location, but I couldn't find any record in the literature. Or it may be a variation of the Phantom Wall route. Anyway, this line was so beautiful, and we enjoyed the climbing. We named the route Shi-Shi (1,800m, Alaska Grade 4, M5 AI5). Shi-Shi means a person who works to realize his worldly ambitions at the risk of his death, like a Samurai. Shi-Shi never regrets, even if his body is thrown in a ditch or a ravine after his cruel death. The person like Shi-Shi always must imagine his body lying in a ditch.

We flew to the Kahiltna Glacier base camp on May 5. After waiting out a week of intermittent bad weather, we traveled up the Northeast Fork Kahiltna Glacier, weaving our way among the many icefalls and hanging glaciers to reach Denali's 2,500m southwest face. We started climbing the Denali Diamond (Becker-Graage, 1983) on May 19. On day three, the crux pitches appeared, with continuous 90° sections. At the uppermost part, there was no ice in the corner, so we used dry-tooling technique. We took the left-hand line of the chimney, climbed by the first ascent party. I supposed it was also the line of the second ascent, reported at M7 with two point of aid. I also used two rest points, but regret using the protection for rest and believe a completely free ascent possible. On day five we reached the summit of Denali (6,194m), following the upper Cassin Ridge. We went down to base camp via the West Buttress.

KATSUTAKA YOKOYAMA, *Shinshu University Alpine Club, Japan*

*Idiot Peak, The Mini-Intellectual, and Peak 11,520', repeat to summit cornice.* Chris Thomas and I climbed the sub-peak immediately south of Mt. Huntington's South Ridge route on May 9. Beginning from the Mt. Huntington base camp (ca 8,000') at 11:00 p.m. on May 8, we climbed to the "upper park" snowfield (ca 10,000') on the Harvard Route. We then made a descending traverse south-southeast below Huntington's towering Phantom Wall until we reached the fan of the large gully that drains from the col separating Mt. Huntington from the sub-peak. Returning to upward progress, we surmounted a 70° ice bulge and crested a snowy rib, to attain the rotten gulch that provides access to the stunning bobsled run-like ice couloir arching directly to the summit. We simul-climbed the 600' gully, which consists of two snowfields and two steep steps of loose, scantily protected rock. At last we reached the ice and raced up the 1,200'-vertical couloir of perfect 70° alpine ice and straddled the summit (ca 10,700') as it started to snow. We rappelled, and fortunately the snow squall subsided, because the gully to which we were returning would spell doom during a snowfall. The sun emerged, and the return trip was enlivened by multiple rockfall events, which resembled dismounted jet engines at full throttle hurtling end-over-end down the southwest face of Mt. Huntington,