

lightly falling snow, they followed the snow-topped, sharp crest, to a more rounded and steeply inclined snowy ridge with occasional cornices on the eastern side. Having waded through knee-deep snow in whiteout conditions all morning, the pair made the western summit, recording its height as 6,603m (Alpine grade PD+). Exhausted, they descended by the same route, arriving safely back at the high camp by mid-afternoon.

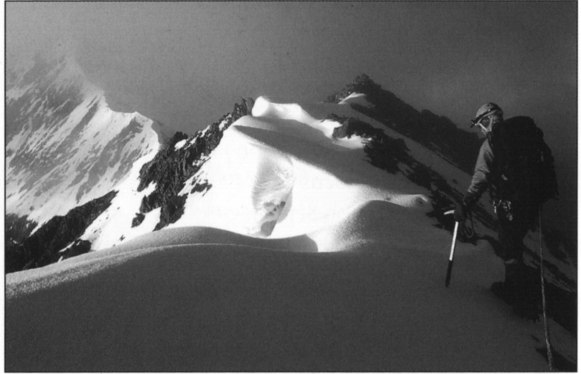
After restocking ABC with food, the same pair headed farther north up the valley to attempt the highest peak, Shahkangshan (6,822m), via the southwest flank and southeast ridge. However, a few days later, as they were commencing their summit bid, three avalanches higher up roared down their intended line of ascent, forcing them to abandon their attempt.

Meanwhile, on August 8 Naomi and I reached the snowy bowl and headed up to the col southwest of Pt. 6,210m. Having set out along a mixed ridge toward the peak to the south (ca. 6,500m), it soon became apparent that the way ahead was longer and more technical than first envisaged. In building cloud we turned around, returned to the col, and headed northeast up a short snow slope with patches of scree to the summit of Pt. 6,210m (Alpine grade F+).

Taking advantage of the now settled conditions, we launched a lightweight assault on Pt. 6,390m. Leaving base camp at midday, we ascended a series of nightmare scree slopes to gain the west ridge. The ridge was no better, with similar terrain punctuated by areas of extremely loose, in situ bedrock. That evening we arrived at the snow line and bivouacked under clear skies. On the 10th we continued up the ridge on hard snow, past rocky bluffs, to gain a snowy plateau. From there we headed east up snow slopes and over a false top to link up with the heavily corniced east ridge, along which we gained the top (Alpine grade PD-). We returned to base camp the same day and started our return home that evening.

DANIEL CARRIVICK, *Imperial College, London*

Editor's note: the Shahkangshan Range lies west of, but nearly alongside, the Tsochen road and the highest summit, 6,822m, has received at least one unauthorized ascent.



Daniel Carrivick on the col southwest of Pt 6,210m in the Shahkangshan Massif. Ahead of him is the ridge leading south to the unclimbed Pt 6,500m (in cloud). *Daniel Carrivick collection*

HABUQUNG SHAN

Dobzebo, first ascent, via southwest ridge. When our team of four, comprising Alpine Club members Derek Buckle, Alasdair Scott, Martin Scott, and Bill Thurston, were searching for new climbing opportunities, we looked no farther than Tibet. Requiring a relatively unexplored region with interesting unclimbed 6,000m peaks, we eventually chose the Habuqung Shan range, which rises to the northwest of Lhasa and has reasonable access. One mountain

in particular, Dobzebo, which possesses an impressive north face and rises in splendid isolation to over 6,400m south of the lake of Zuru Tso, attracted our attention and became our main focus.

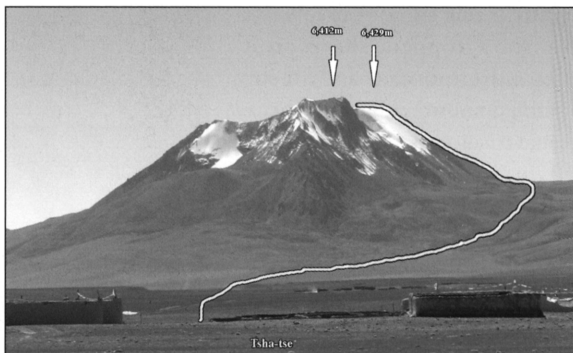
Leaving London on September 25, our party flew to Lhasa via Beijing, before traveling by Land Cruiser to the village of Tsha-tse near the foot of Dobzebo. From here we established a base camp at 5,120m to the southwest of the mountain. Subsequently we established two further camps, at

5,690m and 6,100m. We climbed the 30-40° glaciated south face above our high camp on October 8 and reached the 6,412m (GPS reading) north summit (Alpine PD). The view reinforced earlier conjectures that the southwest summit was indeed somewhat higher, but the double-corniced ridge leading to it was an unattractive option. We descended, in order to relocate our base camp farther to the north. From this second base camp, at 5,005m, we placed a third high camp at 5,503m, beside a large lake lying beneath the foot of the long southwest ridge.

After an early start on the 14th we climbed over steep broken ground to the crest of the initially broad southwest ridge. This narrowed considerably before reaching the summit ice field at ca. 6,100m. Straightforward climbing (Alpine F+) up the corniced ridge brought us to the 6,429m (GPS reading) southwest summit. A broad panorama stretched from the Himalaya in the south to the Lungmari group and beyond in the north. Loinbo Kangri (7,095m) was visible a little south of west.

We made a brief reconnaissance of the Lungmari massif before returning home. We are grateful to the Mount Everest Foundation and the British Mountaineering Council for their financial support for this expedition.

DEREK BUCKLE, *Alpine Club, United Kingdom*



Dobzebo (6,429m) from the village of Tsha-tse, showing the line of the first ascent to the south (and highest) summit. The north summit (6,412m) was also climbed by a different route during the same expedition. *Derek Buckle*

NYANCHEN TANGHLA

Qungmo Kangri, first solo and first alpine style ascent, via south ridge. After a month of mountaineering in the central part of the Nyanchen Tanglha, Gerhard Gindl and I went to the far southwestern end of the range to make a reconnaissance of Qungmo Kangri (a.k.a. Jomo Kangri; Tibetan name Neiji Kangsang: 7,069m; N 29° 54.162', E 90° 01.521') and surrounding mountains. The only information we had was that the mountain had been climbed only once before, in 1996 by a Chinese-Korean expedition via the east ridge. However, I later found the mountain had received three previous ascents: on October 7, 1996, by the Chinese-Korean expedition via the south ridge; on May 17, 1997, by a Japanese expedition via the south ridge; and on August 15, 1999, by another Japanese expedition again via the south ridge.

We established base camp on October 6 at 5,450m after spending a day looking for the