

ridge. At that point the weather deteriorated, heavy snowfalls made the route dangerous, and we had to wait until August 6 before making our next attempt.

The ridge above Camp 2 is not steep; it terminates at a 400m-high snow/ice wall that leads to the crest of the main ridge. We fixed another 200m of rope on this wall and reached the crest on the 9th. Huge cornices overhung the Batura (east) side, so we were forced to dig our tent platform for Camp 3 out of the slope 50m down the west flank. The next day, we explored the ridge above, but a day later further progress was blocked by the next spell of the bad weather, which brought a lot of fresh snow and new avalanches on all slopes. We descended to base camp on August 12.

LEV IOFFE, *New Jersey*

## HISPAR MUZTAGH

*Shimshal White Horn, second complete ascent.* Alexandra and Mattias Robl and Markus Tannheimer made an ascent of Shimshal White Horn (6,303m) that is apparently only the second complete ascent to the highest point of the mountain. As reported in *AAJ 2006*, p. 352, the mountain was climbed in 1999 by an international party by the east spur of the northeast ridge from a base camp at Parigoz on the Yazghil Glacier. One member believed he had reached the summit on July 19 and believed his ascent to be the first of this shapely snow and ice pyramid south of Shimshal village (but see below). This climber reached his high point in a white out, and subsequent to the 2006 ascent and photos provided by the Germans he realized there was a point perhaps 30m higher 200m farther along the ridge toward the southwest. This higher top is the one the German trio claims to have reached, so making the first complete ascent of the mountain from the east. The first ascent was in fact made by a British expedition in 1986, see below.

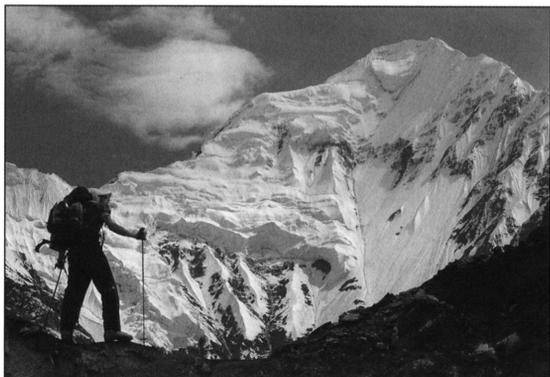
The team acclimatized by making ascents of several smaller peaks in the region, some of which may have been previously unvisited. On July 11, from a high camp at 4,450m, Tannheimer and Mattias Robl climbed the 5,366m east summit of Chu Kurrti Dast. The ascent took only a few hours and reportedly featured ice up to 85°. Three days later both Robls made the ascent of the 5,700m west summit with a short section of vertical ice. From the 16th to 18th the team made ascents of both the east (5,730m) and west (5,685m) summits of Yeer Gattak (a.k.a. Sunrise Peak), relatively easy climbing but with a 70° section. The west summit had been reached previously.

On the 21st they established a base camp at 4,500m in the Yazghil Valley below the White Horn and the following day a high camp at 5,200m. Starting at 1 a.m. both Robls and Tannheimer climbed the steep 750m north-facing ice wall leading to the high col on the east spur, at a point where it starts to rise to the junction with the northeast ridge. This shortcuts the line taken in 1999, which started well to the east, reaching the crest of the east spur via the north flank, before traversing the rounded snow dome below the col; in 1999 the team thought the ice wall looked too dodgy. Despite an 85° section, they moved unroped and speedily, reaching the col at 5 a.m. From here they climbed near the crest until 150m from the top, where they traversed almost horizontally across the left flank, well below the crest, before climbing to the summit directly. They reached the far (southwest) summit at 9:30 a.m., after climbing four pitches of ice up to 70° and rock to UIAA III. (The first ascensionist of this route rated the difficulties as AD, with snow and ice to 50°.) Unfortunately, members of this expedition declined to write a report for the *Journal* if a historical record of climbing on the mountain was also to

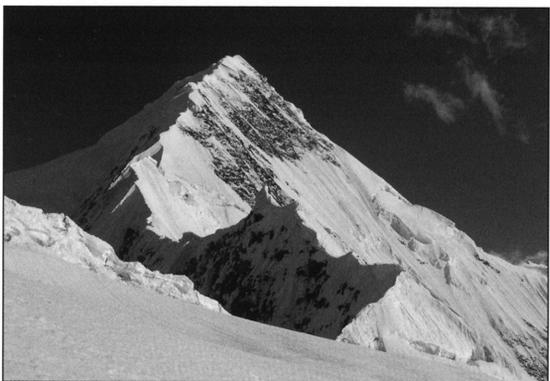
be published. This report is based on an account published on Mattias Robl's website and in the German magazine *Kletterern*.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, *CLIMB Magazine*

*Shimshal White Horn, attempt; Madhil Sar, probable first ascent; Haigutum East, first ascent; Khani Basi Sar, attempt; Gorhil Sar first ascent.* Peter Thompson and I visited three regions during the summer: Shimshal, Hispar, and Chapursan. In Shimshal we were accompanied by fellow U.K. mountaineers Ben Cheek and Gregory Nunn. We attempted six peaks, reaching the summits of four. Nearly all climbing was on snow and ice.



The unclimbed north face of Shimshal Whitehorn (6,303m). The left skyline is the northeast ridge, the upper section of which was climbed in 1999 and again in 2006. The right skyline is the north ridge, currently unclimbed despite attempts in 2005 and 2006. The face itself is probably more than 1,200m high. *Lee Harrison*



Looking up the final section of the unclimbed north ridge of Shimshal Whitehorn (6,303m) from close to the exit (ca 5,600m) of the 2005 French couloir. The right skyline is the upper northwest ridge, the route followed on the first ascent in 1986. The left skyline is the northeast ridge, climbed on its east flank in 1999 and 2006. *Lee Harrison collection*

We spent June and July in the Shimshal region, first acclimatizing on Yazghil Sar (5,964m). Ben, Peter, and I then made three unsuccessful attempts on Shimshal White Horn (6,303m) from a 4,400m base camp and higher bivouac at 4,600m on the Adver Glacier. Our intended route was the north ridge, gained by a couloir (D, 50°, 800m) well to the right of the true north face. This couloir had been climbed in 2005 by a French team. Our first attempt was thwarted by bad weather that began soon after we started climbing. Poor visibility led us mistakenly to follow a smaller branch couloir that reached a dead end after 300m. We made a second attempt two days later. After quickly climbing the first 700m of couloir, we were subjected to rockfall. Ben was struck on the thigh and injured. We retreated, a determined Ben lowering himself on two axes.

Five days later Peter and I tried again. Following the left side of the couloir toward the top, to avoid further rockfall, we encountered poor ice conditions. With limited ice protection we were forced to make a tricky traverse to the col. Exhausted from our efforts, we bivouacked a short distance up the ridge, at 5,600m. The following morning the weather was again bad, and we again