

Three–five km east and northeast of Kongsberg lie three peaks first climbed in 2005 by the Singapore Maccoffee Expedition and also led by David Lim: Ong Teng Cheong Peak on the Kyrgyz–Kazakh border (4,763m), Temasek, and Singapura I (4,550m).

On the 9th we made an attempt on Pk. 5,153m but turned back at ca 4,250m due to avalanche danger. The next day Lim and Rawlinson climbed for seven hours to a previously virgin summit (PD–, 42°18'57.7" N, 79°56'08.1" E, 4,447m map, 4,457m GPS), west of Kongsberg.

The ascent was particularly satisfying due to the extreme weather and exposed third-class scrambling over steep, loose rock. It was energy sapping and very difficult for Lim, who is partially disabled by Guillain-Barre Syndrome. His right leg no longer works below the knee, but it hasn't stopped him from making more than 32 climbs since his disability in 1998. The summit was named Resilience Peak in respect of the determination Lim needed to reach the top.

Finally, on the 13th and in gradually worsening weather, we made a last attempt to climb a mountain over 5,000m. Shown on the map as 5,152m, and lying between the Mushketova and North Inylchek, it required three days of reconnaissance and much "discussion" before we agreed on a relatively safe route up the northeast face and onto the long north ridge. After a cold 3:30 a.m. start, we climbed strongly up the glacial headwall and onto the ridge, where the snow was heart-breaking soft. At times we sunk to our waists. It took seven hours in high wind to reach the summit. This was definitely the hardest ascent of the trip, with strong winds and a snowstorm reducing visibility (sometimes to 20m), and wiping out our tracks for the four-hour descent. We picked our way carefully down the long ridge and rappelled some sections before winding through a mass of crevasses along the Mushketova glacier to regain base camp, 13 hours after leaving. We recovered after many brews of tea, mouthfuls of dried Kazakh horse meat, and muesli bars. We named the peak Majulah (PD+, 42°16'19.9" N, 79°56'52.2" E, 5,174m GPS), a Malay word meaning "onward," or "forge ahead." All GPS heights are uncorrected, and we estimate errors of between +/- 20m.

DAVID LIM AND GRANT RAWLINSON, *Republic of Singapore*



Looking east from Resilience Pk. at Kongsberg Pk. The glacier below and to the right is the upper Mushketova, while the high peaks behind form the watershed with the Inylchek, or the Semenova (a parallel glacier to the Mushketova immediately north). David Lim

## TENGRI TAG

*Khan Tengri, second ascent of Ukrainian Route.* In early August Alexander Kirikov and I completed what we believed at the time to be a new route on Khan Tengri. It began from the standard site of Camp 2 (5,300m) on the classic route from the south up the Semenovskiy Glacier and then followed a beautiful, logical, and relatively easy line up the southwest face, between the Normal Route (Russian 5A, Pogrebetskogo, 1931) up the west ridge, and the 1964 Romanov Route up the south-south-



The upper section of the 1982 Ukrainian Route on the southwest face of Khan Tengri with the Kirikov-Sokolov bivouacs. *Gleb Sokolov*

west or Marble Rib (6A). We named our line Zmeyka (little snake) due to its sinuous nature and graded it 5B. I felt that it was generally safe and could be recommended to soloists. However, only later we discovered it was not new.

Historically, Soviet mountaineering was a highly structured affair, with climbers progressing through “categories” towards gaining their Master of Sport. More experienced alpinists participated in Soviet Championships. Ascents were recorded, and new routes, particularly at high altitude, were recorded in great detail and submitted to the USSR Classification Committee of the Federation of Alpinism. So it is strange that a report of a new route on Khan Tengri climbed in 1982 by Eugeny Kondakov and his Ukrainian team was either not completed or it was lost. A description of their line appears in the standard *Putevoditel* guide by Solomatin, and in several

other sources, but it is vague to say the least.

There was a lot of snow on the slopes of Khan Tengri this August, and it quickly became soft in the calm weather and hot sun we experienced. This forced us to camp early and spend a comfortable night enjoying a little cognac and making long philosophical discussions about the meaning of life. The second day on the face saw us moving on or alongside the twisting rock rib. The large snow slope to the right looked tempting, but who knows what could have been in store for us: A gigantic ride on an avalanche, melting out 1,000 years later as objects of research studies and to the astonishment of our descendants? We only roped up for the upper part of the ridge, and even there moved together.

Camp 4 was pitched between two large boulders and again provided a comfortable site. However, during the night the wind picked up, and it started to snow. By morning there was no change.

We continued climbing. Crampons held perfectly on the rock, and we found Peckers, angle pins, Friends, and nuts very useful for protection. The upper wall is a huge chunk of marble, but in



Alexander Kirikov during the second ascent of the 1982 Kondakov Route on Khan Tengri. Gleb Sokolov

the bad weather was covered in ice crystals, which appeared as though someone had spilled a sea of acid down the slope.

We spent two nights at Camp 5, located on the ridge beneath a rock. The wind was so strong that we spent the whole time inside the tent fully dressed with our boots on, scared that our home would be blown away. It was extremely cold.

On August 8 we left late for the summit, the wind having only begun to decrease at 10 a.m. We wore down jackets and insulated pants on top of our Goretex suits. Close to the top the rock became steeper, but it was always possible to set up a good belay. The wind froze whimsical patterns on the slope; leaves and needles protruded from boulders. At 5:30 p.m. we reached the summit in blue sky, the rays of the setting sun, and relative calmness, while below it was still total shit. The entire summit area was covered in ice fronds, like millions of frozen children, or maybe little devils, trying to reach us with their glistening hands. It was enchanting but also a little terrifying. We tried to tread carefully as we descended to the fixed ropes of the west ridge, the maelstrom, and home.

GLEB SOKOLOV, *Russia*. Supplied by Anna Piunova, *mountain.ru*,

translated by Ekaterina Vorotnikova

*Editor's note: Kirikov and Sokolov, the latter with intimate knowledge of the mountain having climbed it more than 20 times, followed the little-known 1982 Ukrainian route, though it now appears as though a similar line may have been climbed in 1936 during the third ascent of Khan Tengri by Eugeniyy and Vitaly Abalakov, Michael Dadiomova, Leon Gutman, and Lorenz Saladin. These five were ostensibly repeating the west ridge but there was much snow on the mountain and they had only a photo from above 6,000m given to them by Pogrebetskiy. They ended up taking the easiest way at the time. Their descent from the summit proved something of an epic. All suffered frostbite and the great Swiss explorer Saladin died of his injuries less than two weeks later.*