

route was then soloed on the right side of the W face of Batian (V + ,A1) by Drlík, which is now established as the classic hard line on the mountain. On the Buttress Original Route, Americans Geoff Tobin and Bob Shapiro made a completely free ascent, eliminating the tension traverse; they assessed the climb as 5.10 +. Elsewhere, at Embaribal attention has concentrated on the Rift Valley crag—further details are given in *Mountain* 73 17.

Montagnes 21 82 has an article by Christian Recking on the Hoggar which gives brief descriptions of 7 of the massifs and other more general information on access etc.

The following guide book is noted:

Atlas Mountains Morocco R. G. Collomb (West Col Productions, 1980, pp131, photos and maps, £6.00)

ASIA

PAMIRS

Russian, Polish, Yugoslav and Czechoslovak parties were responsible for a variety of new routes in 1979. A Polish expedition led by Janusz Maczka established a new extremely hard route on the E face of Liap Nazar (5974m), up a prominent rock pillar dubbed 'one of the most serious rock problems of the Pamir'. It involved 70 pitches, 40 of them V and VI, all free climbed in 5 days, the summit being reached on 6 August. The party's activities were halted at one point by stone avalanches. On the 3000m SW face of Peak Revolution (6974m) 2 teams, one Russian and one Czech/Russian, climbed different routes in July 1979.

KARAKORAM

Beginning in late March 1980, Galen Rowell, leader, Dan Asay, Ned Gillette and Kim Schmitz made a 435km ski traverse of the Karakoram in 42 days, setting off carrying 50kg packs. They ascended from Khapalu through Goma, up the Bilafond Glacier to the Siachen Glacier. There they turned W and travelled along 4 of the longest glaciers in Asia, the Siachen, Baltoro, Biafo and Hispar Glaciers, which lie almost end to end. To connect the Siachen to the Baltoro, they had to traverse the W face of Sia Kangri at 6860m, travelling almost entirely on Nordic skis, except for an occasional rappel from ice seracs. Porters were used only to get to the snow line. One cache of food was placed midway at Askole, the only village, near the central part of the route. The final section up the Biafo and down the Hispar was done in 8½ days.

Baltoro Kangri (7312m) A British expedition made an ascent and ski descent from an ice cave on the Conway Saddle, via the 1963 Japanese route. Six members reached the summit at 2 pm (Dr Peter Alston, Harry Rankin, Jess Stock, Ian Gray, Phil Ham and Brian Hall). The first 3 then skied down to advance base camp, which they reached at 9 pm. This was the highest mountain yet skied from its summit. (see p.198).

Gasherbrum I (8068m). Frenchmen Maurice Barrard and Georges Nabaud made the first ascent via the SW ridge using no oxygen or porters in true alpine style. Their first attempt took them to the summit of Gasherbrum I South via the S arête. To climb the main peak, a traverse was made on cross country skis across the 6km plateau at 8000m, and the summit was reached at 1.30pm on 15 July 1980. They used cross-country ski boots with super gaiters and crampons on top.

Mitre Peak (6486m) This mountain was climbed solo by Yvan Ghirardini on 2 June 1980, after difficulties with bad weather.

Nanga Parbat (8124m) A British expedition consisting of Adrian and Alan Burgess, Graham Drinkwater, Jon Jones, Randy Morse and Paul Moores was unsuccessful in reaching the summit in July 1980, due to sickness and bad weather. However, the Burgesses and Moores climbed the Rupal face reaching a height of 8000m.

Off Belay 50 4 contains an article by John Roskelley on the planning, organizing and transporting of a Karakoram expedition which gives a lot of useful information to anyone contemplating a venture of this kind.



100 *Nanga Parbat (Photo: P. Moores)*

KASHMIR

Bagirathi II (6497m) and **Bagirathi Parvat** (6527m). A Czech expedition made the first ascents of these mountains in 1979 from the Gangotri Glacier.

KISHTWAR

A Polish expedition, led by Krzysztof Losinski, visited the Kijai Nullah Valley in 1979. This is one of the less well known areas of the Kishtwar because the approach is difficult. They made a number of first ascents; 3 members left the main party to attempt Arjuna, 2 of whom disappeared on a reconnaissance. The third member, wife of one of the missing men, eventually had to make the dangerous descent on her own; she fell several times during the 10 day journey and was eventually rescued by a local hunter.

GARHWAL

Rishi Kot (6222m) A Polish expedition made the first ascent of the NW face of this mountain in September 1979. The 1500m face is technically difficult, has a 60—70° angle, without possibility of bivouacs. The alpine style ascent took 16hr and Karolczak and Pawlowski spent the night on the summit (reached at 10pm) before descending to base camp.

Brigupanth (6772m) The 1980 Women's Expedition to the Gangotri Glacier made the first ascent of this mountain—there were 5 Americans, one New Zealander and 2 Indian women led by Arlene Blum. Nancy Goforth, Susan Coons and Penny Brothers reached the summit on 19 June after 3 nights in a bivouac at 6400m due to deep snow over hard ice.

NEPAL

Everest (8848m) A Polish expedition led by Andrzej Zawada made the first winter ascent in February 1980. Leszek Cichy and Krzysztof Weilicki made the successful attempt, after 2 previous failures, setting out for the summit from the South Col in violent storms and snow at temperatures of -50°F, and reaching the summit at 14.40hr on 17 February. More details of this outstanding achievement are given in *Mountain 74* 13 and in *Himavanta 12* 68 (September 1980). In May 1980, another Polish party, again led by Zawada, succeeded in climbing the

South Pillar between the SW Face Route and the S Col Route. Andrzej Czok and Jerzy Kukuczka reached the top on May 19. The route did not present great technical difficulty apparently, most of the climbing being on snow fields to the right of the pillar.

The magnificent winter climb of Everest was followed by another outstanding feat, Messner's solo climb in August via the N Col and NE ridge. The climb was made in the monsoon period, this being the only time available, but Messner was able to time his ascent for one of the stable periods of weather which occurs at that time of year. He took 3 days, from 18 to 20 August, after an acclimatization period. Messner was beaten by a few months by Yazuoh Kato, who became the first non-Sherpa to climb Everest twice. The ascent was made without artificial oxygen.

A large Japanese expedition also climbed Everest from the Tibetan side; Yazuoh Kato made the summit solo on 3 May by the NE ridge and was later followed by Takahi Osaki and Tsuneoh Shigehiro via a direct route on the N face, finishing by the Hornbein Couloir on 10 May.

It was reported that a British body was found high on Everest by a Chinese climber in 1979, and this led to the speculation that it might have been either Mallory or Irvine who disappeared in 1924, or else the lone eccentric Maurice Wilson who attempted the mountain in 1935. However, the body was dressed in green down clothing, which was not generally used by British climbers till after the war. It is known that clandestine attempts have been made since the war and it may be that the body is the result of an accident which occurred on one of these. Since 1921, at least 49 people have been killed on Everest, 16 on the N slopes and a further 16 above icefall level on the S and W sides.

Mountain 76 is almost entirely devoted to various aspects of Mount Everest. Besides the news of Messner's solo ascent, it has articles by Chris Harris on the geology of the mountain, by Pete Boardman entitled 'So you're an Everest climber', by G. O. and N. Dyhrenfurth on Everest (part of their series on mountains in the Himalaya), and an historical summary of events in the mountain's history.

Lhotse (8511m) Nicholas Jaeger, the well known French solo climber, disappeared during a solo attempt on the extremely difficult S face. He initially tried a direct route which he abandoned at 6000m because of avalanches. He then tried a route towards the Lhotse Spur and was last seen on 28 April at about 8000m.

Kangchenjunga (8597m) A Japanese expedition led by Matatsuga Konishi climbed a new direct route on the N face, to the right of the route taken by the Anglo/French party in May 1979 (*AJ 85* 224). Fixed ropes had to be used on the rock band on the centre of the face; after overcoming this difficulty they made 2 lightweight forays to the summit. No artificial oxygen was used.

Dhaulagiri (8167m) An international party consisting of Alex MacIntyre (UK) Rene Ghilini (France) and Wojciech Kurtyka and Ludwick Wilczyzyski (Poland) climbed the E face in a 3 day push in May 1980. The climb was made in almost continuous blizzard, spindrift and electrical storm with very poor bivouac sites. They gained the NE ridge on 9 May and retreated down it to Base Camp, returning a week later to reach the summit on 18 May. A large Swiss expedition was climbing the NE ridge at the same time and put 17 people on the summit.

Ganesh V (6934m) A joint Japanese/Nepalese expedition made the first ascent on 21 April (2 Japanese and 3 Sherpas) and the second on 22 April (4 Japanese and 4 Sherpas), by a route on the NE ridge and across the N face to the NW ridge. A French party climbed Ganesh IV on 11 October 1980 via a new route on the SSW spur; they were led by Michel Feuillarde and put 3 men on the summit.

Makalu (8481m) An American party (Roskelley, Kopczynski, Momb and States) successfully climbed the W pillar of Makalu on 15 May 1980, after 43 days effort, including the walk-in, without Sherpa support or artificial oxygen. Ultimately, Roskelley made the summit alone at 15.30 hr and returned to Camp IV 5 hr later, after descending 1½ hr in the dark.

Makalu II (Kangchungtse; 7640m) In October 1979, a German party climbed a new E ridge route from the N col, 8 climbers and 8 Sherpas reaching the summit.

Ama Dablam (6856m) A 6 man Japanese team climbed a new line on the N face in November 1980, all reaching the summit. A New Zealand party was also successful on the N ridge, Russel

Price and Paddy Freaney reaching the summit on 18 October followed by Rob Hall, Graham Elder and Bill King on 21 October—their route was similar to the 1979 French route.

Langtrang Lirung (7245m) A 6 man Japanese expedition led by Iwao Otsuka climbed this mountain on 26 October 1980, all members reaching the summit by a new route on the S ridge.

Baruntse (7220m) A Spanish party climbed a new route, the E ridge, on 27 April 1980, Jeronimo Lopez (leader), Javier Escartin and Lorenzo Ortas and the American Carlos Buhler reaching the summit at 13.30hr.

Fang (7629m) An Austrian expedition led by Joseph Mayerl made the first ascent of Fang via the W ridge. It was the highest unclimbed mountain in Nepal.

Some accident statistics for pre-monsoon expeditions to Nepal in 1979 are given in Himavanta XI 7 105. There were fatal accidents in 6 expeditions out of 21; these involved 7 foreigners and 3 Sherpas, a total of 10 out of the 201 foreign climbers and 83 Sherpas involved. It has been suggested that Sherpas are at greater risk than their employers, but these figures do not bear out this idea. Since 1949, when Nepal was first opened to foreign climbers, 178 including 118 foreigners died on expeditions up to the end of 1978—the largest group is Japanese, 43 in number. Japan provided the largest number of teams in the period also so one might expect them to head the accident statistics, although the note suggests that their 'kamikaze' approach has something to do with this. Everest took the largest toll, 25 in total of whom 18 were Sherpas. Dhaulagiri claimed 22 lives in the same period.

SIKKIM

Simvu (6816m) An Indian expedition led by Major Pushkar Chand climbed the major peak of the Simvu Massif E of Kangchenjunga in May 1979. It is believed that only the lower of the other 2 summits had been climbed before.

Siniolchu (6892m) A very large Indian expedition (43 members) climbed this mountain, 18 members and a Sherpa reaching the summit. The team consisted of young climbers prepared for the ascent by Sonam Gyatso Mountaineering Institute at Gangtok. Only 2 previous ascents had been made, in 1936 and 1937.

CHINA

China is now opening its border to climbers from other parts of the world. The obvious attraction is the ascent of Everest from the N side, and some evidence of this interest has been outlined above. Various expeditions are being arranged to other areas as well, and on p7, Michael Ward describes a 40 day reconnaissance in the area of the Kongur in the Pamir, near Kashgar 50 km from the Russian border. Kongur, at 7719m is the highest unclimbed peak in China. The peaks specifically open to foreigners are:

Kongur, Kongur Tiube and Muztagh Ata (Kunlun Xinjiang); Xixabamba (Shisha Pangma or Gosainthan) and Qomolungma (Everest) (Himalaya-Tibet); Gongga (Minya Konka) (Hengduan-Czechwan); Anyemaqen (Amne Machin) (Qinlin-Qinghai); Bogda Ola (Tianshan-Xinjiang).

Permission will also be given for 'sister peaks' of Qomolungma and Shisha Pangma although none of the information to hand defines these. Information can be obtained from the Chinese Mountaineering Association in Peking. According to them, more than 100 expeditions had asked for permits by mid-1980, although only 30 parties had been granted permission at that time. Chinese officials have visited Nepal to learn about handling foreign expeditions. It is hoped that regions in Tibet and Xinjiang may eventually be opened to mountain trekking.

Off Belay 51 41 contains the tentative regulations issued by China for foreign climbers including the prices for registration fees, portage, food, lodging etc. These seem to be high—thus an American expedition to Gongga was estimated to cost the participants £10,000 per head, not including air fare to Peking.

Mountain 76 14 contains an extensive news report by Alan Rouse and Ken MacTaggart on the current situation in China; Rouse was a member of the reconnaissance party to the Kongur region, and also calls attention to the high cost of expeditions to China. The Chinese are unlikely to look with favour on the small-scale parties which are the current trend, because they will not

bring the much needed large amounts of foreign exchange to the country. A number of the expeditions already arranged are listed. *La Montagne et Alpinisme* 121 343 also contains an article on mountaineering in China by Jean-Claude Marmier.

We have had news of American expeditions to Gongga; 2 parties attempted the mountain in September and October. Andrew Harvard, Louis Reichardt, Jed Williamson, Henry Barber, Gary Bocard and Lance Owens from Advanced Base at 4600m ascended the left side of the first icefall, establishing Camp I below the second icefall at 5125m. Three routes were unsuccessfully attempted through this unstable icefall. It was abandoned in favour of the SW face to the left. Williamson and Reichardt tried 2 different routes on the face, reaching 6000m but avalanches down both led to a third alternative farther left. The same pair and Harvard climbed a snow-and-ice rib to reach the double-corniced SW ridge at 6250m. This route would have taken many days and almost continuous snowfall and serious avalanche hazards led to abandonment of the attempt. The NW ridge, by which the Americans Terris Moore and Dick Burdsell had made the first ascent in 1932, was tried by a second group. They established Camp I at 5500m on the buttress leading to the ridge. Yvon Chouinard, Rick Ridgeway, Kim Schmitz and Jonathan Wright had ascended to the ridge at 6000m with gear. They were 50m above Camp I when they triggered a wet-snow avalanche. They fell 500m, going over two 10m to 15m cliffs. Wright was killed, Schmitz had 2 crushed vertebrae, Chouinard broke ribs and Ridgeway was only bruised. The climb was abandoned.

General Items

The Himalayan Club News Letter (vol 33, 1980) contains a compilation by Harish Kapadia of 1979 Himalayan expeditions and less complete lists covering selected areas for the earlier years 1976, 77 and 78. Of interest is the supplementary list of the climbs made by the India-Tibet border police about which little has been heard previously. Detail is still scanty but reveals that they have been responsible for 15 first ascents since 1970, most outstanding perhaps being Saser Kangri I (7672m) in 1973.

Volume XXXV of the Himalayan Journal (1976—1978) celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Himalayan Club. The opening article is a history of the club over these first 50 years written by John Martyn and is followed by a paper by Trevor Braham which besides reviewing the past also looks forward to the Club's future.

Mountain (73 30 and 74 37) has published 2 long articles by Tsunemichi Ikeda (translated by Kanji Takamasu) on climbing in Japan; this is essentially the history of the leading Japanese mountaineering club, Sangakudoshikai, and one of its leading members, Masatsuga Konishi.

We would like to thank Mike Cheney and H. C. Adams Carter for kindly providing material for these notes.

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

As usual a considerable amount of detailed information is given in the pages of *Mountain* (72 and 76) about recent activity of note. In the Mount Arapiles region the pace has slackened off slightly due to the absence of Kim Carrigan overseas. The best recent new route was led by a visiting Californian, Mike Graham; Ride like the Wind (26) has only 4 runners, 2 of them bolts, in a long and sustained lead. He was followed by Mark Moorhead, who with Rod Young has recently been responsible for a large proportion of the new routes in this area.

One of the most newsworthy items concerning Australian climbing is perhaps the 'annexation' of the famous sea stack, Balls Pyramid, off the New South Wales coast by a group of climbers calling themselves the Pyramid Committee. According to a letter in *Mountain* 72 17 from the Committee, the Pyramid is not officially part of Australia, but has recently been the subject of interest by the State of New South Wales and a Sydney electrical retailer and 'business climber', Dick Smith. The Committee evidently feel that access to the rock is likely to be threatened and have decided to pre-empt other attempts to take it over, including surrounding waters to the distance of 8km. It is believed that the Australian constitution would need to be amended before the Pyramid could be included within the boundaries of Australia, and so far Canberra has shown no interest. The Committee are seeking the support of climbers worldwide, and wish to raise money to manage the area.

We have received the first 2 copies of the Australian climbing publication *Rock*, edited by Chris Baxter, which first appeared in 1978. The objective is (to quote the editorial) to produce