

attempt when bad weather struck again. After two days of snow and temperatures of -30°C , a break allowed another tiring descent to a completely deserted Base Camp. We made the four-day walk out to Shagrom, which we reached, rather hungry, on September 26. Two expeditions were given permission for Tirich Mir prior to us. The jeep road from Chitral is particularly hair-raising and the Italian Gervasutti Memorial Expedition, led by Franco Ribetti, failed to reach the roadhead when their jeep went off the road, killing the liaison officer and Dr. Alessandro Nacamuli. The West German team, led by Siegfried Ludwig, abandoned their efforts a little below our Camp I due to the conditions.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

China

Gyala Peri. In 1985 the Himalayan Association of Japan sent two men to reconnoiter Gyala Peri, which lies just north of the great bend of the Yalu-Tsangpo (Brahmaputra). In 1986 an expedition of six returned with Kazuo Tobita as their leader. The approach was difficult with constant rain and dangerous river crossings. They set up Base Camp at 3200 meters on September 16. Their route was the west face and then the south ridge. Climbing began on September 22. Advance Base was placed at 4200 meters at the foot of the west face on September 25. Camps I and II were established on October 3 and 11 at 5000 and 5650 meters. They gained the south ridge at 6000 meters and placed Camps III and IV on it at 6300 and 6750 meters on October 19 and 21. Two unsuccessful summit tries were made on October 29 and 30. On October 31 Yoshio Ogata, Yasuhiro Hashimoto and Hirotaka Imamura got to the summit (7151 meters, 23,461 feet). Further details and photographs appear in *Iwa To Yuki* Annual 1986 and N° 120 of February, 1987.

Kula Kangri (Künla Kangri)*. The Kobe University Scientific and Mountaineering Expedition to Tibet consisted of 25 Japanese, i.e. 12 climbers, eight scientists, three TV cameramen, a newspaper reporter and myself as leader, and 17 Chinese, i.e. five climbers who helped with high-altitude transport, four scientists from the Academia Sinica and others (liaison officer, interpreters, drivers). In all we were 42 members. We arrived at Base Camp at 4400 meters north of the mountain on March 17. Advance Base was at 5300 meters and Camp I at 5700 meters just below the west ridge. We climbed a steep ice wall up to Camp II at 6200 meters on the ridge and Camp III was at 6800 meters. A 70-meter-high rock wall rises in the upper part of the ridge. Fortunately we could traverse south to a small snow couloir. Camp IV at 7100 meters was dug out of the snow slope. On April 21 C. Itani, J. Sakamoto, H. Ozaki and

* According to the Swiss authority, Professor Augusto Gansser, the name of the peak is Künla Kangri. However, local people near Base Camp pronounced it Kula Kangri. The col where we had Camp I was used as the shortest route to Bhutan. We found there a prayer flag and the skeleton of a yak.—K.H.

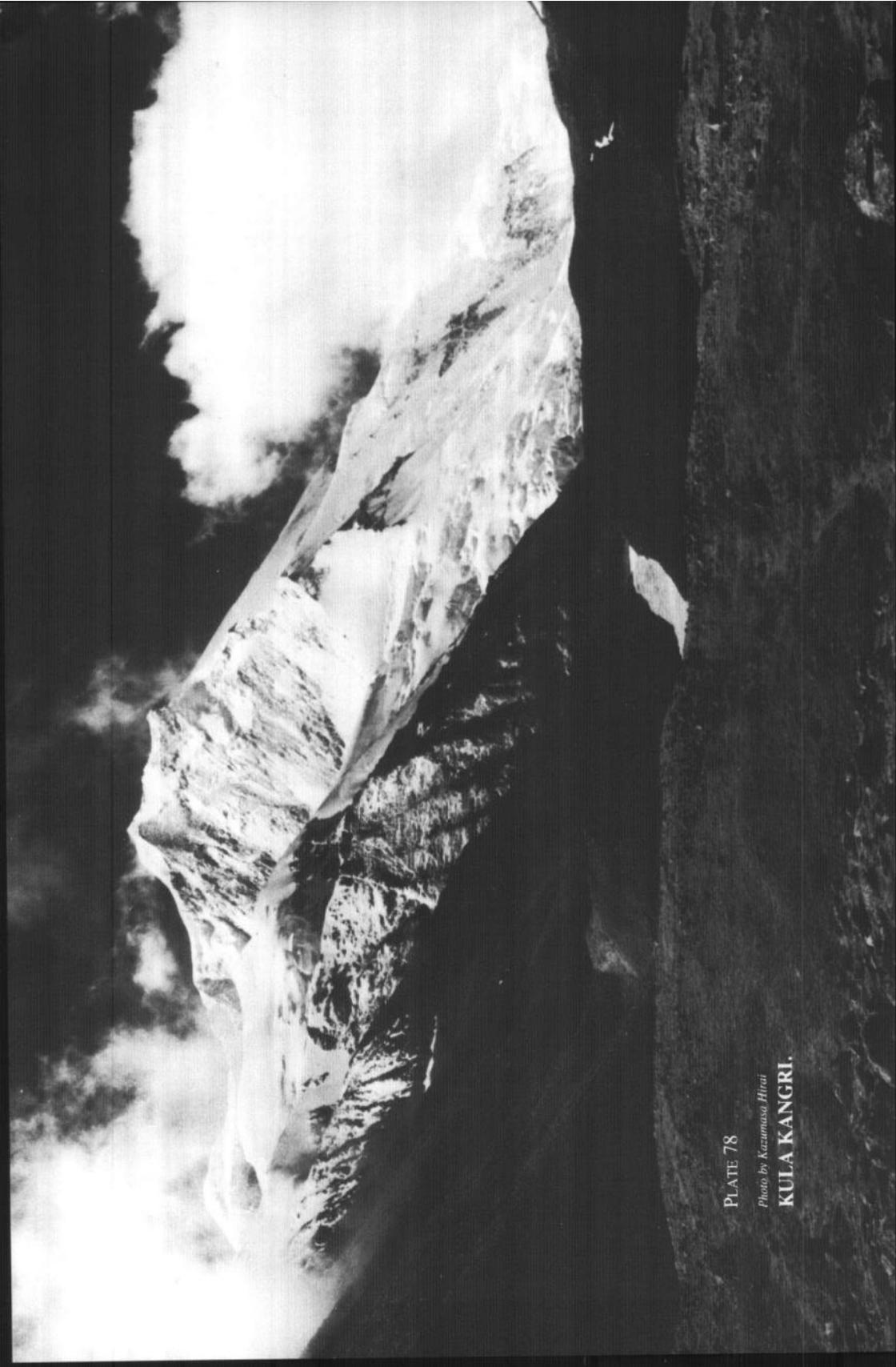


PLATE 78

Photo by Kazumasa Hirai

KULA KANGRI.

E. Ohtani reached the summit (7554 meters, 24,784 feet) at 4:15 P.M. The next day T. Morinaga and H. Hasegawa also climbed to the top. The scientists left Base Camp on April 15 to work towards Chengdu. They were the first foreigners to work first around Base Camp and then on their 2800-kilometer trip back to Chengdu. They did research in entomology, botany, geology, geomorphology, political sociology, cultural anthropology, etc.

KAZUMASA HIRAI, *Kobe University, Japan*

Karjiang, Kula Kangri Group. This peak lies just northeast of Kula Kangri. Under the leadership of Nobuhiro Shingo, six climbers of the Himalayan Association of Japan traveled from Lhasa to Monda. They headed up the glacier on September 9. At first they tried to reach the higher south summit (7221 meters) but it was too difficult and so they turned to the central summit, which was slightly lower (7216 meters, 23,675 feet). On October 13 they set up Camp III at 7000 meters. On October 14 leader Shingo, Kenji Tomoda and Hiroshi Iwasaki climbed to the summit. There was some overhanging rock near the top and the wind was very strong. On October 16 Tsutomu Miyazaki and Akinori Hosaka also reached the top. More details appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 120 of February 1987.

Anye Maqen Attempt. Late August found our group of eight American climbers, Karl Gerdes, Jerry Tinling, Tony Watkin, John Byrne, Bruce McCubbery, Jay McCubbery, Rich Henke, and me winding our way toward Anye Maqen through the high pasture lands of the Tibetan plateau. We spent much of our time exchanging pleasantries with the nomadic Tibetan families we passed, drinking a hard white liquor in their huge Yak hair tents where the customs included checking all guns at the door as you entered. Base Camp was established at 4175 meters, on the wrong side of a river that in the late afternoon became almost unfordable due to glacial melt. This led to some adventurous crossings and bareback yak riding, with Bruce taking the only real dunking. With time short, we quickly established a high camp below the ridge first climbed by Galen Rowell and party several years ago. (*A.A.J.*, 1982, pages 88-92.) Six of us then reached a wind-swept ridge at 5500 meters and spent a long night holding down the tents against a storm that lasted well into the next day. Late in the afternoon Karl Gerdes, Rich Henke, and I crossed a short corniced arête to establish a bivouac in a crevasse just below the face leading to the summit plateau. Morning dawned clear, but by noon Rich and Karl were pinned down by a lightning storm at 5800 meters, and retreated. This was to be our high point, as storms continued for the next two days. One last rodeo-ride river crossing, and we began the long trip home.

BROCK A. WAGSTAFF

Yulong Shan Attempt. Imposing as it may appear from the Yunnan town of Lijiang, Yulong Shan (Jade Dragon Peak) presents no special technical chal-

lenge to explain its 50-year virginity and rebuff of four attempts. Only the weather guards it. So far, that has been enough. In April Mick Deiro, Dan Batwinas, Andy Fried, Russ Faure-Brac, Andrew Palmer, Kenny Moser and I as leader threaded the pony carts, roto-tiller-mobiles, bicycles and "honey wagons" for three days from Kunming to Lijiang. A two-hour truck ride from Lijiang brought us to the Base Camp established by the American team in October 1985. Racing on an absurdly tight climbing schedule, we set up Base Camp, carried packs up a forested cow trail to the snowline and established Advance Base, all on the first day. Though crippling bronchial diseases struck one member after another, the supply carrying continued. Good weather allowed rapid progress. University of Chicago anthropologist Chas McKann, studying the Naxi culture near Lijiang, joined our effort. With Glacier Camp established, Deiro and Batwinas made a powerful push to the long summit ridge and established Ridge Camp. Several days later they made a make-or-break try, attempting to cover the entire distance from Glacier Camp in a day. Fighting ill health and deteriorating weather, they got to within 500 vertical feet of the summit before pitching a small tent on the ridge. Though the next day was clear and the summit less than two hours away, they were so spent that they felt their only choice was to return. Fried and Faure-Brac tried next, hauling heavy loads to Ridge Camp. A major weather change came in. Snowstorms scoured the ridge and visibility dropped to 100 feet. With our tight climbing schedule coming to an end, Palmer, McKann and I left Glacier Camp the next day for Ridge Camp. Spindrift avalanches raked the route, drenching us in icy showers. Visibility dropped to 50 feet. We found Fried and Faure-Brac wisely bivouacked at Ridge Camp. While they rappelled and hiked back to Glacier Camp, we took up residence at Ridge Camp. We awoke to the same howling snowstorm and minimal visibility. On this, our last climbing day, we turned back.

ERIC S. PERLMAN

Ningchin Kangsha. Ningchin Kangsha, which used to be given by G.O. Dyhrenfurth as Nodzin Kangsan with an altitude of 7252 meters, lies southwest of Lhasa on the highway from Lhasa to Kathmandu, two kilometers from the Lalo La. It was climbed by a Tibetan Mountaineering Association team. They had Base Camp and Camps I and II at 5000, 6100 and 6900 meters. Twelve members, including three experienced Tibetan climbers, Sang Zhu, Pemba and Jia Bu, reached the summit (7191 meters, 23,593 feet) on April 28. It took them only 20 days to climb the mountain from the time they unloaded supplies alongside the highway. This peak was attempted in 1985 by a Japanese party from Oita Prefecture, but they were stopped at 6600 meters on the southwest ridge.

SADAO TAMBE, A.A.C. and *Himalayan Association of Japan*

Nianqintanggula. A 12-person expedition from Tohoku University in Japan was led by Mario Kuzunushi. They left Lhasa on March 25 and traveled about 100 kilometers on the highway and another four off of it to place Base Camp at

4800 meters at Panyuto. Advance Base was established on April 5 at 5300 meters near the frozen lake, Panitsuo. Nianqintanggula has a row of subsidiary peaks to its southeast of 7111, 7117 and 7046 meters. From Advance Base, P 6053 on the south side of the first was climbed for acclimatization. The party ascended the south glacier after crossing the frozen lake and on April 8 established Camp I at 5700 meters on a branch glacier. On the 17th Camp II was first placed at 6230 meters where the route reaches the west ridge and then on the 20th moved up to the west-ridge col at 6270 meters. The weather deteriorated in the second half of April. On May 3 a temporary Camp III was set up on the west ridge at 6600 meters and that was moved up three days later to 6800 meters. Rope was fixed to the base of the summit rock wall to 7000 meters. On May 8 Hiroshi Naganuma, Yusake Maruyama and Michiharo Wada overcame the UIAA IV + rock to reach the summit (7162 meters, 23,495 feet according to the Japanese although an altitude of 7088 meters, 23,584 feet has been given us by the Chinese). [It is not clear to the Editor where this peak is located.]

Everest North Face Attempt. Our expedition consisted of Todd Bibler, Carlos Buhler, Dana Coffield, Mark Jennings, Douglas Kelley, Andrew Lapkass, Michael Lehner, Sandy Stewart, Ann Whitehouse, Brinton Young and me as leader. We reached 7775 meters in our attempt to make the second ascent of the great couloir on the north face of Everest. Bad weather, avalanche danger and exhaustion delayed and then ended our attempt to place Camp VI and to try for the summit. We got to Base Camp at 5200 meters at the foot of the Rongbuk Glacier by jeep and truck on March 19. Camp I at 5675 meters was established a week later and Camps II and III at 6000 and 6150 meters on the main Rongbuk north of the north face by late March. The route from the foot of the face to Camp IV at 7150 meters was obstructed by a bergschrund at the start and made more difficult by 2000 feet of blue ice. Spring conditions differed considerably from the styrofoam-like snow in the fall of 1984 when the Australians made the first direct ascent of the couloir. We spent much time fixing 18 ropes before occupying Camp IV on April 19 and another three weeks putting up Camp V at 7775 meters. After five attempts to establish Camp VI, our permitted time expired and the team turned back, reaching Base Camp on May 24 and Lhasa two days later.

JOSEPH E. MURPHY

Everest Attempt. Our expedition hoped to climb Everest by the North Col route without high-altitude porters or artificial oxygen. We were six climbers: Luis Bernardo, Pedro Nicolás, Salvador Rivas, Angel Sánchez, Carlos Soria and I as leader; Dr. Mariano Arrazola, scientist Eduardo M. de Pisón and photographer Tote Trenas. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, and IV at 5150, 6100, 6500, 7050 (on the North Col) and 7600 meters on March 22, 31, April 1, 19 and May 9 respectively. The wind was strong and continuous, making progress difficult near the North Col and nearly impossible above Camp