

de Bruin and P. Gray opened a new route on the W face of the Drakensberg Sentinel, via intriguing pitches on slabs, in chimneys and through plenty of tough useful 'Berg' grass. A feature of climbing in the Drakensberg is that the grass is more reliable than the rock, both for grips and for belays!

In the Transvaal, H. Boshoff and P. Dawson made an ascent of the Barley route in the Magaliesberg, Red Column Face, dispensing with the pendulum move, while at Krantzberg, P. Fatti, A. McGarr, P. Andersen and J. Linke have done several worthwhile lines, mostly in or near G category. At Willgepoort, Linke and Druschke cracked a hard, mechanical problem that has repulsed all attempts for 7-8 years now.

Depressing generally has been the spate of severe rock climbing accidents and deaths, perhaps the worst year ever in South African climbing. Leaders fell fatally from Jacob's Ladder on Table Mountain, the S Face of Mount Superior and Echo Face in the Magaliesberg. As a consequence new training programmes are being undertaken and the MCSA has organised safety symposiums, which have met with enthusiastic response.

(We are grateful to Michael Scott for these South African notes.)

98 Saraghrar.  
Photo: Spanish  
expedition 1975



## ASIA

It has been an outstanding season in the Greater Himalaya. Apart from the final conquest of Everest's SW face by Bonington's team, there have been a number of other very noteworthy climbs. Messner and Habeler's ascent of Gasherbrum I, the Polish expedition's successes on Gasherbrum II and III, the Yugoslav climb of Makalu's S face and the very well organised Austro/German ascent of Yalung Kang, where 9 members reached the summit seem worthy of special mention.

### HINDU KUSH

**Tirich Mir West III (7699 m)** The first ascent of this peak was made by a 13 strong French team led by B. Amy and G. Lucazeau on 30 July 1974. Five climbers reached the summit via the E Buttress, and 3 more the following day. This route was then repeated in 1974 by the Italians G. Machetto and B. Re, who continued to the unclimbed summit of Tirich Mir West II (7500 m). This year in August Machetto and G. Calcagno made the first ascent of the W Spur of Tirich Mir (7699 m) in fast time with only one bivouac in a route with 2500 m of climbing.

**Saraghrar (7349 m)** A Spanish team under Jordi Colomer attempted an Alpine style ascent of the very steep SW ridge of this peak, but were forced to retreat by bad weather, after reaching 6000 m.

**Noshaq (7250 m)** Climbed by a Spanish team under Jose Montfort, including one woman. This is the highest altitude reached by a Spanish woman.

### KARAKORAM

**Gasherbrum I (8068 m)** On 10 August, Messner and Habeler completed a new route up the NW face. The climb was done in a rapid Alpine style, the penultimate day being comparable to climbing the N Face of the Matterhorn.

**Gasherbrum II (8035 m)** A French expedition climbed a new route on the SW face, M. Batard and Y. Seigneur reaching the summit on 18 June; Villaret died on a later summit bid. This mountain was also climbed on 1 August by a Polish men's team, led by Janusz Onyszkiewicz, by the previously unclimbed NW face. Another team from the same expedition climbed it on 9 August by the original E ridge route.

**Gasherbrum III (7952 m)** The same Polish expedition also climbed this mountain for the first time on 11 August via the E face, 4 climbers reaching the summit (2 men and 2 women, one the English wife of Onyszkiewicz, Alison née Chadwick). The following day it was climbed again without male support by 2 women, Halina Kruger-Syrokomska and Anna Okopinska. This was the highest unclimbed mountain in the world.

**Broad Peak (8047 m)** Another Polish team made the first ascent of the N Peak via a route on the W face, 5 climbers reaching the summit; 3 were killed on the descent in 2 separate accidents.

**Trango Tower (6248 m)** A British team failed to make a first ascent of this small but difficult peak; see p 45.

**K 12 (7469 m)** A Japanese expedition, under Goro Iwatsubo made the first ascent of this mountain on 30 August 1974, from the NW Col. The summit pair, Tagachi and Ito fell to their deaths on the descent. This year on 4 August 3 climbers from another Japanese party made the second ascent.

**Malubiting (Central Peak, 7260 m)** A Japanese expedition made the first ascent of this peak on 2 August, M. Onodera, H. Atsumi, T. Takahashi and K. Mori reaching the summit by a route on the W wall.



*99 Gasberbrum III (left) and II (right) with Polish routes. Photo: Ewa Abgarowicz*

**GILGIT**

In August 1975, R. Ferguson, R. Collister and D. Wilkinson climbed **Snow Dome** (5029 m) and **Mehrbani** (5639 m) from the Naltar Valley and **P 5961 m** from the Daintar Valley. An attempt on **P 6885 m** at the head of the Kukuay Glacier was thwarted by bad weather and lack of food. (See map by T. Braham, AJ 76 162.)

**KISHTWAR**

An expedition comprising S. and E. Brown, P. Butler, N. and J. Clough and R. and N. Collister was in the Padar region in September and October, to climb **Brammah II**. Routes into the Kijai Nullah from the E (via Ligri) and from the S (via La) proved impossible. Seen from the E, the N face and ridge appears to be the only feasible route up Brammah II. Col 5600 m, below the N face was eventually reached from the Donali Glacier to the N, by traversing from the top of the Donali-Kijai col (5200 m). Some lucky escapes from avalanches led to the route being abandoned. Two of the party returned to Kishtwar via the Kiar Nullah, climbing Consolation Peak (5685 m) on the way. (Fritz Kolb, 'Third Choice, Adventures in the Padar Region', HJ 1947; map by John Harriss, AJ 75 187.)

**GARHWAL**

**Dunagiri** (7066 m) J. Tasker and D. Renshaw made the first ascent of the S Face in 6 days on 8 October, by a route 'comparable to the N Face of Les Droites'. The descent by the same route took a further 5 days.

**NEPAL**

**Everest** (8848 m) The outstanding event of the year was the successful completion of the ascent of the SW face by D. Haston and D. Scott on 24 September. P. Boardman's account of the climb appears on p 3. A 15 member Japanese ladies' team also climbed the mountain via the S ridge. The summit was reached on 16 May by Junko Tabei, a 35-year-old housewife, and Ang Tsering. The Chinese claim to have put a summit party of 9 on top on May 27, via the N ridge, including one woman, Phanthog. The official Chinese account of the expedition, well interlarded with Maoist propaganda, appears in 'Mountain' 46, 20.

The importance of maintaining good communications with the outside world is brought out by the account of the disaster which overtook the French W ridge expedition in September 1974 ('Mountain' 41, 9). Weather forecasts indicating an unexpected return of monsoon conditions were not received; as a result camps were not evacuated when the temperature rose sharply. Camps 1 and 2 were swept by avalanches, killing 5 Sherpas and the expedition leader, G. Devouassoux.

**Lhotse** (8510 m) An unsuccessful winter attempt was made by a Polish team under Andrzej Zawada, who reached 8200 m, the highest altitude yet reached in winter. The Poles have been in the forefront of winter climbing in recent years, recording the first ascent of a 7000 m peak (Noshaq) 2 years ago.

**Nuptse** (7879 m) A British Army team under Jon Fleming lost 4 members in its bid to repeat the central ridge route (see p 107).

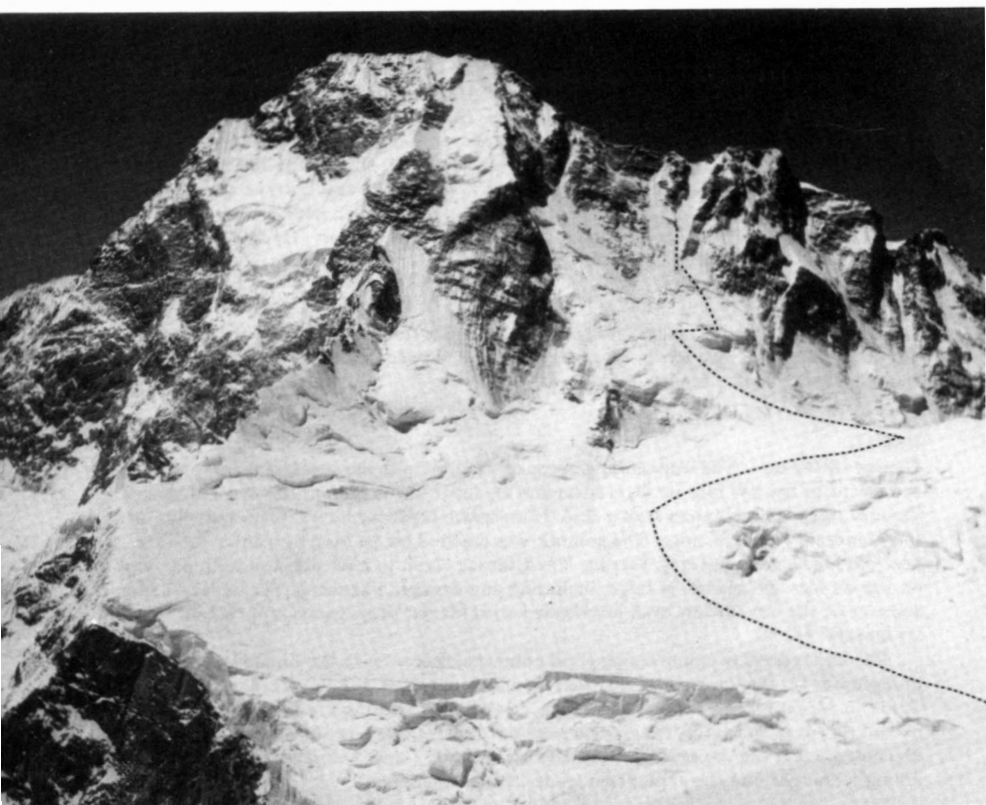
**Makalu** (8470 m) A Yugoslav expedition under Ales Kunaver succeeded in climbing the huge S face of this mountain in October, 7 men reaching the top in 4 groups. This route has defeated several very strong teams in the past.

**Pumori** (7145 m) In October 1974 a Japanese team under H. Fujita climbed the very difficult W face, 2 men reaching the summit. A French expedition led by J. Lescure climbed the SW ridge in April 1975, 3 climbers and a Sherpa reaching the summit. During a subsequent attempt, P. Bernardin and Ang Kami disappeared.

**Dhaulagiri IV** (7634 m) This dangerous mountain has at last been climbed. S. Kawazu and E. Yusuda reached the summit on 9 May by the SW ridge, but both were lost on the descent. Fourteen climbers have now lost their lives in this and past attempts. Another

Japanese party under K. Takahashi made the second ascent in October, 10 members of the expedition reaching the summit by the same route.

**Dhaulagiri V (7617 m)** A Japanese expedition climbed this peak on 1 May by the S ridge M. Morioka and P. Tsering reaching the summit.



*100 Himal Chuli, Photo: Gianni Scarpellini*

**Himal Chuli (7864 m)** An attempted second ascent by the unclimbed NE face was made by an Italian team under A. Bonicelli. Bad weather and injury forced a retreat from a height of 7450 m in June 1974.

**Yalung Kang (8420 m)** An Austro/German team led by S. Aeberli made a new route up the S face of this W peak of Kangchenjunga, 9 members reaching the summit in May.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

A series of articles on the highest mountains of the world in the Greater Himalaya by the father and son team of the late Günter Oskar and Norman Dyhrenfurth is appearing in 'Mountain'. It commenced with Nanda Devi ('Mountain' 41, 34) and has since dealt with Masherbrum, Peak 29, Khinyang Chhish, Nuptse and Disteghil Sar.

The following book is noted:

'Die Grossen Kalten Berge von Szetschuan', Erlebnisse, Forschungen und Kartierungen im Minya Konka Gebirge. Eduard Imhof (Schweizerischen Stiftung für Alpine Forschungen, pp 176 plus many plates, tables and diagrams, 65 SF).

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