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This was an eventful year, with more expeditions than ever before and more action on sub-6000m peaks. Some good weather allowed successes on the high peaks, but it was punctuated by bad spells, especially in mid-July and August, which caused some expeditions to fail. On smaller peaks successes were rare.

Nine expeditions attempted **K2** and at least four succeeded in reaching the summit. Early in the season (Base Camp 25 May) Tomaz Jamnik (Slovenia) led a multi-national party on the **Abruzzi Spur**. A high camp was placed at 7850m and on 13 June Stipe Bozic (Croatia), Carlos Carsolio (Mexico), Victor Groselj and Zvonko Pozgaj (Slovenia) reached the summit. Support climber Bostjan Kekec died from cerebral oedema near Camp 4. David Sharman (UK) and Goran Kropp (Sweden) also made an attempt, but Sharman suffered a fall above Camp 4 and retreated. Kropp continued and reached the top on 23 June. Pozgaj and Boris Sedej had serious frost-bite and had to be evacuated by helicopter. It was Groselj's tenth 8000 metre peak.

In early July three climbers from an American party led by Stacy Allison reached the summit, but Dan Culver (Canada), slipped to his death descending, while filming near the bottleneck.

The German Northlight expedition, led by Dr Reinmar Joswig, climbed the **Abruzzi**. Joswig and Hans Peter reached the summit with fellow team members Anatoly Bukreev, an experienced Russian, and Andrew Lock (Australia). In descent above the Shoulder they separated and the Germans were not seen again.

Also on the **Abruzzi** Rafael Jansen (Sweden) and Daniel Bednener (Canada) summited on 31 July, after staying in a tent and snow-hole belonging to the British team Roger Payne, Julie-Ann Clyma, Alan Hinkes and Victor Saunders. Bednener developed cerebral oedema and Jansen spent a night trying to get him down, but then had to leave him. Later he appears to have fallen down the S face. In a weak condition Jansen met Alan Hinkes and Victor Saunders at 7600m. They, with Payne and Clyma, helped him down. A subsequent attempt by the British faltered on 13 August in deep, dangerous snow and the return of further bad weather. (*Full details in 'Summer on the Savage Mountain', pages 54-57.*)

This group found clothing belonging to Art Gilkey, who died on the 1953 attempt, and, near Base Camp, bones believed to be the remains of Sherpa Pasang Kitar of the 1939 expedition.

Expeditions led by Wim van Harskamp (Holland) and Josep Aced Avda Abat were also unsuccessful on the Abruzzi. There appears to be some confusion about a possible repeat of the *Kukuckza-Piotrowski route* on the S face by Canadian Barry Blanchard and party (recorded by Pakistanis as unsuccessful).

An extended epic was played out on the *W ridge route* first attempted by Bonington's 1978 expedition and climbed by the Japanese Ohtani and Nazir Sabir (Pakistan) in 1981. Dan Mazur led a US/UK expedition comprising twelve climbing members and some trekkers. Base Camp was set up at 4900m on 24 June. A storm destroyed Camp 2 on 15 July and various members were avalanched and contracted oedema and frostbite. Camp 6 (8200m) was established on 18 August, but the party was by now too battered and the remaining climbers too tired to continue in the good weather that followed.

29 August saw a climb by Jonathan Pratt and Dan Mazur to Camp 3 in one push of 24 hours and three days later Camp 6 at 8200m was attained 'in light cloud and breeze'. The summit was reached in a long push of 31hrs 30min from 2 September (6.30am) to 3 September (2pm). A gully was climbed above Camp 6 and an old rope followed over slabs. 50m of steps and ledges followed, then a plateau, where some gear was left. Above was a gully, then a long traverse right on snow passing a wrecked Japanese tent. This ended in a six-metre vertical wall sporting an old piton. Mazur used two more for aid on this difficult section to reach the *Magic Line (S Pillar)* at 8350m. From there radio contact was made with Base Camp.

Pratt led a difficult mixed 200m section to 8550m, finding only two old pitons. After another brew behind a sheltering boulder at 8.35pm they took turns on the long easy-angled ridge which followed over false summits to reach the top in moonlight at 11.15pm. There was wind and snow and they quickly retreated to bivouac at 8550m for an hour, to rest and make tea. Pratt fell off the ledge napping, luckily stopping in soft snow.

At 2.25am they resumed their descent, making short abseils from small rock anchors as they had only 12m of rope. The weather deteriorated, with a high wind and snow, but they reached the top of the S Pillar at 6.30am. From there they made radio contact with Base and rehydrated. There followed a long descent in blizzard conditions to Camp 6.

They had repeated the 1981 *Japanese route* and used 4000m of fixed rope between 5700m and 7600m. Their account matches details and photographs shown by Nazir Sabir (Pakistan) of the 1981 Japanese expedition, of the section from the top of the S Pillar to the summit. Mazur and Pratt had previous experience of high altitude on Everest, but were advised in Britain before departure that most of their party seemed inexperienced for this difficult route, especially as they originally intended to finish the W ridge by a more difficult direct route to the summit, avoiding the original traverse right. (*A more detailed account of this expedition will appear in the Alpine Journal in 1995.*)

On the Chinese (Sinkiang) side of the mountain a Russian commercial expedition is reported to have reached 7000m on a new line left of the N

ridge. A Spanish expedition exceeded 8000m on the N ridge before the weather defeated them. It seems that snowfall was even heavier this year on the north (Sinkiang) flanks of the mountain than in Pakistan.

On **Broad Peak** eight expeditions attempted the mountain. Four succeeded, including those led by Fausto de Stefani (Italy), Koji Sekine (Japan), Sergio Martini (Italy) and Tanabe Osamu (Japan). Unsuccessful were American, Andorran, Korean and Mexican parties.

On **Gasherbrum 1 (Hidden Peak)** one expedition succeeded. From Norbert Joos's Swiss expedition of 12, three climbers reached the summit. Japanese, Spanish and DAV Summit Club expeditions failed.

On **Gasherbrum 2** there was a different story. Six out of seven expeditions succeeded, several being commercial ventures. The proportion of the total membership reaching the summit possibly becomes significant on the more accessible 8000m peaks of the area, and could be a criterion of efficiency for commercial expeditions' clients.

The successful expeditions were led by Yasunari Yamashita (Japan – six out of seven summited), Yi Seok Yang (Korea – five out of six), Hirofumi Konishi (Japan – four out of four), Han's Kitel (Germany – four out of twenty), Lluís Bancella Nogue (Spain – three out of seven) and USA's Thor Keiser (Himalayan Kingdoms – twelve out of eighteen). Another three-member Spanish expedition failed.

Gasherbrum 4 (7980m) Danilo Valsecchi's City of Lecco (Italy) expedition failed, as did the strong British party, led by Andy Macnae, attempting the S ridge. The latter established Base Camp at the usual site on 25 June below the S Gasherbrum glacier.

The last day's approach was hampered by a snowstorm and porter strike. Better weather then allowed them to get through the icefall to a camp at 6000m in the upper basin under the S ridge. Like Steve Swenson's US party in 1992, they tried the slope between the icefall taken in 1957 (R Cassin G4 first ascent) and 1985 (G Cohen G3 expedition) and the S ridge itself previously tried by Dai Lampard (UK). Some of the American ropes were found. Ropes were fixed up big snow slopes to the ridge crest, avoiding the long rock ridge to the west, but July bad weather hindered their efforts. The party comprised Andy Cave, Chris Flewitt, Andy Macnae, Brendan Murphy, Andy Perkins and Kate Phillips. Murphy and Phillips reached 7200m on their sixth attempt in early August. Time and energy then ran out, presumably not helped by the long approach, but this line was thought to provide the key to the route for the future.

Hirofumi Konishi's four-person group (Japan) had permission for **Gasherbrum 4**, as in 1992, but appears to have been unsuccessful (if an attempt was mounted after climbing **Gasherbrum 2**). David Hamilton's four-man British team (José Bermúdez, Grant Dixon, Jerry Lovett and Hamilton) attempted to repeat the 1986 **Chogolisa** traverse. After much delay through bad weather crossing the Gondokoro La (5650m), where a porter broke a leg when avalanched and another became ill with altitude sickness and was evacuated from the E Vigne glacier by helicopter, they reached 6950m in deep snow close to the heavily corniced ridge. A joint

American-Pakistani expedition suffered the same problems and left in August, after helping the treatment of the porter with drugs and a Gamow pressure bag.

There were no deaths in the Gasherbrum range and a French group began to try to clean up the base camp on the Duke of Abruzzi glacier in early August 1993. This has been a mess for years, with little previous attempt at cleaning and 10 or more expeditions every year for about a decade. Several corpses remain on **Gasherbrum 2's** standard *Austrian route*.

The worst pollution to the area continues to be caused by the military, both Pakistani in the Baltoro and elsewhere, and Indian in the Nubra and Siachen. A telephone line runs up the Baltoro, Paiju camp is reported a denuded desert, contaminating mule and pack-horse trains supply permanent military camps, and there are confirmed reports of the military shooting wildlife from vehicles and helicopters, including protected species like ibex, in the Trango region. Track and road building into the wilderness areas above last settlements is also proceeding on both sides, degrading the area solely for military purposes.

On a more positive note environmental projects at Askole and Hoto in the Braldu are attempting to improve water supply quality to villages, with inputs from Doug Scott, Roger Payne's sponsor Eastern Electricity and the Aga Khan Foundation, while Wilderness Experience and a French clean-up group have been active at Gasherbrum Base Camp and elsewhere.

Of 21 expeditions on peaks below 8000m, only three succeeded. Tagawa Yoshihisa's Japanese party climbed **Shayaz (6050m)**, three out of four climbers reaching the summit. Three out of five Koreans led by Chang Ho Kim climbed **Trango (Nameless) Tower**, and a large 29-member British RAF expedition led by William Batson from Lossiemouth succeeded when three climbers reached the summit of **Diran (7285m)**.

Sadly there were several deaths on unsuccessful expeditions, including Xavier Sociés and José Marmul (Spain) on **Diran**, Philip Grobke (Bavaria) on **Baintha Brakk** and Mrs Anita Fendt and Klaus Gremer died on **Akher Chioh** near **Diran** during Alfred Fendt's expedition to that peak. Tetsu Ozasa and Satoshi Takahashi also died on **Sani Pokkhush (6885m)** in the Batura. An avalanche hit their top camp on 11 July, and injured a third climber. The five-man team led by Ozasa were seeking to make the second ascent of the mountain, which had been tried by a Japanese party in 1988 and climbed in July 1990 by Hubert Bleicher's German group via the NW ridge. In the same region a (mainly British)'trekking party' climbed a **5500m peak** south of **Baltar** via its N face (Stone Elworthy and Zoltan, a Hungarian student from Beijing) but failed on 9-10 August on **Darijo Sar (5600m)**, a beautiful wedge-shaped peak (David Anderson, James Howell, Stone Elworthy and Andy Riley).

Other enterprising but unsuccessful attempts were launched on **Koz-Sar (6677m)** in the Batura by an Anglo-Irish party led by Andrew Creigh, and on **Baintha Brakk (7285m)** by a Japanese party led by Hedeki Yosida and Carlos Buhler (USA). The Norwegian **Ultar (7388m)** expedition led by Jo Wang tried the route previously attempted by Mick Fowler and upon

which Tsuneo Hasegawa and Kiyotaka Husino were avalanched leaving Nazir Sabir as sole survivor in autumn 1991. Though four climbers set up a well-stocked camp at 4900m by 13 July the team had only reached 5800m in dangerous snow conditions. More snow followed, and one member was frostbitten. One climber survived a 150m fall during the descent after 16 days on the mountain. Kitty Calhoun's (USA) attempt on **Latok 1 (7151m)** N ridge, Jack Tacklff's (USA) on **Uzzun Brakk (6422m)**, the Korean Alpine Club's attempt on **Rakaposhi (7785m)** led by Jae Heon Song and that by Japanese led by Tateshi Sudo all failed. Dai Lampard (UK) returned to the huge rock ridge on **K7** without success and Simon Yates failed on **Bobisghir peak (5415m)**. A Spanish party led by Jaume Campolier I Soy failed on **Malubiting W (7459m)**.

A refreshing sign was Gunter Schultz's Hamburg expedition to **Durban Zom (7110m)** in the Hindu Kush, long neglected because of the Afghan war.

Isolated and yet relatively accessible, **Nanga Parbat** attracted a two-climber French winter attempt on the *Schell route* on the Rupal flank which ended on 9 January 1993. The summer saw seven expeditions, less than of late (13 in 1992). A four-man Spanish party set up Base Camp on 6 June and were the first to try the *Kinshofer route*. They fixed ropes, set up four camps (Camp 4 at 7300m) and on 7 July Pablo Barrenetxea and José Luis Clavel reached the top. Three other members were later defeated by the weather. Two Catalan climbers from Girona on Joaquim Bover's expedition set off from Base by the same route on 7 July. At least one, Iniki Garijo, reached the summit. One Japanese climber reached the top from Tadakiyo Sakahara's group of six, as did four climbers from Richard Pawlowski's ten-person Anglo-Polish group.

Doug Scott's second attempt at the **SW 'Mazeno' Ridge** was to have been undertaken with Wojciech Kurtyka. For acclimatisation they were accompanied by Richard Cowper. After initially approaching the area via Astor and the jeep road to Tarshing and spending time thereabouts, they reached Mazeno high camp (4900m) on 30 July. This is near the easy link between the Rupal and Diamir valleys via the Mazeno Pass (5377m) frequented by trekkers. On 1 August Cowper and Scott climbed unroped on the rock spire at the S end of the W wall of the glacier. There was much scrambling, then a 200m section of VS on the S side. Scott climbed a final six-metre section (5a) to the summit, while Cowper waited below. There was no sign of any previous ascent of this '**Mazeno Spire**'. After bad weather all three aimed for **Mazeno W Peak (5700m)**, climbing by a 600m avalanche chute and final basin. There was no sign of previous ascent. Scott was avalanched in the chute during descent and fell 400m over rock and ice cliffs, but survived with severely wrenched tendons in the right ankle, which finished this second exploration of the **Mazeno Ridge**.

In Hushe region the Irish attempt on **Masherbrum 2** led by Michael Keyes was unsuccessful. After most climbers had left the Karakoram an international group led by the guide Edward Bekker (Holland) of the Expeditions Commission of the UIAA arrived, setting up a base in

Gondokoro Village at 3820m on 7 September. In 16 days of climbing the 25 climbers from 13 different countries split into small teams for climbing purposes.

First ascents claimed include **Glas Peak (c6000m)**, a serious three-day route (completed on 16 September) on 55°- 60° ice done with one bivouac by Bogdan Baciú (Romania) and Falk Leibstein (Germany), and the W ridge of **Gholon Peak (c6000m)**, a 1200m D/TD mixed climb done by Jorg Wilz, Evelyne Binsack, Edward Bekker, Andreas Daffner and Julian Neumeyer (Austria) and stopping 15m short of the summit because of avalanche danger and cornices (15 September). The same party climbed a rocky spire above their ABC (5700m), which was mostly ice with two TD-rock pitches. They called this **Sepp Jansen Peak**.

On **Balti Peak (5200m)** a 24-pitch rock route (TD IV-VI) on beautiful granite was done by Jorge Wiltze, Marringje Hartmann (Holland), Hamid Olange (Iran) and Andreas Daffner (Germany) on 18 September, with one bivouac during the descent. Next day it was repeated by Federic de Wargny (France) and Neil McQueen (South Africa), and on 20 September by Evelyne Binsack, Julian Neumeyer, Brendan Waye (Canada) and Bekker.

On 15 September the **5700m Peak (Matzenspitze)** next to Laila was climbed by Hartmann and Wolfgang Rieder (Austria) by a classic AD snow and ice route, and subsequently by others. Its neighbour **Eiger Peak (5650m)** gave another classic ice route on 22nd (Wiltz, Wargny, Binsack, Olange, Rieder, Bekker and Ralph Hance from Ireland). Rock routes were also done above Base Camp. Kevin Tatsugawa (USA) and Hennie Niemand (South Africa) did a 9-pitch V and VI and a rock buttress above Saicho Camp gave two 15-pitch IV and V climbs, with some loose rock (Binsack, Wiltz Brett Pierce(USA) and A Daffner).

In September they were alone in the area and can be congratulated on a most successful international meet of younger alpinists. Guides Jorge Wiltz (German), Evelyne Binsack (Swiss) and British Doctor Ruth Howlett helped Edward Bekker, who also appreciated the logistical support from Mr Mohammed Iqbal and his staff. It seems likely from Edward Bekker's report and the discussions at the Pakistan Tourism Convention of November 1992 that some entry restrictions will be imposed on Hushe.

The aim of the Expeditions Commission of the UIAA in encouraging such events is to help younger alpinists to organise their own expeditions in future and to encourage good practice. There are plans for possible attempts on Gasherbrum 2, Gasherbrum 4, Broad Peak, Masherbrum 2 and possibly even K2 among young members of this expedition.

Jozef Nyka writes:

Two Polish climbers visited the still unexplored Lupghur S glacier and made the first ascent of a c6500m ice summit, called by locals **Borondo Sar**. Their ascent was via a 1500m face, the ice varying from 40° in the lower part (800m) to 60° in the upper (500m).