

the approach was up steep avalanching gullies. (We may also have been influenced by the southeast ridge being the only successfully climbed route climbed to the top. It had been done by Chris Bonington and Nick Estcourt.) The initial problem was the icefall. Belcher and I gained the south col by a series of steep ice gullies and loose rock ridges on the left side of the icefall. A few days later, after a spell of bad weather, we all set off at three A.M. on our previous route. Belcher and I reached the col by noon, having pushed ahead of the other two as we had agreed to climb at our own pace separately. Belcher and I started up the ridge which was at first merely broad, easy-angled snow. We bivouacked after 500 feet before the slopes steepened. The route comprised 500 feet of steep hard snow, followed by a 1000-foot sharp rock ridge, punctuated with four gendarmes of vertical rock, the last and most fierce being 500 feet high. Beyond, the 1500-foot summit snowfield led to the top. The fourth tower was indeed difficult and of loose rock but we two made it to bivouac a second time at the bottom of the summit snowfield. The other two spent the night at the start of the rock section. The following morning, August 15, dawned clear, revealing a 1500-foot snow slope to the summit, shallow to begin with but becoming increasingly steep toward the top. The final steep wall demanded absolute concentration. We made it to the top (21,050 feet) after five hours of exhausting climbing. We arrived back at our bivouac site in the midst of a snowstorm to find Nicholson and Scott had completed the rock section and had moved in on our flat ledge, but they left us room enough to sit down and hang our feet over the edge. As the following day was fine, they left for the summit, while Belcher and I descended. I saw them climbing down the snow from the summit and so presumed they had reached the top. Two evenings later when they had not returned, we became really worried. The weather deteriorated the following day and we knew they must have had an accident. We started out at dawn, our enthusiasm dampened by the rain. We set up our bivouac on the south col in a snowstorm worse than we had encountered before. The day after, we continued up a short way but decided that we had to go back down. The mountain had become very unsafe and our return route was in danger of becoming impassable. Our rescue attempt was hopelessly ineffective with visibility down to a few hundred feet. After turning around, we were left with a feeling of total emptiness and remorse at cutting off the last hopes we had of seeing Scott and Nicholson again.

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*Arjuna Attempt.* The British Himalayan Expedition, Kishtwar: Tom Henderson, *American*, Peter Melling, Linda and Ron Rutland and I, made an unsuccessful attempt on unclimbed Arjuna (20,440 feet). We approached the peak along the Chenab valley through the villages of Athole

and Chishote. Base Camp was established above the Bhazun Nala under the peak of Sundar Pahar, six days after leaving the town of Kishtwar. We ferried equipment over a 16,200-foot col to Advanced Base on a moraine a mile from the foot of the mountain. Starting on September 9 we spent two days gaining a col on the east ridge of Arjuna, which buttresses onto the east face. We used two routes; Ron and Lin Rutland followed a line mainly on steep ice whilst we others climbed a series of broken grooves. From the col we traversed the rock ridge, keeping to the south of the gendarmes to gain an upper ice arête. Beyond this, the rock led onto the face of the mountain, which contained steep ice walls and séracs and was heavily crevassed. After a bivouac on the face, we set out for the summit on September 14, reaching by early afternoon a high point about 300 feet below the top. Deteriorating weather forced a retreat to the bivouac site. Continuous snow fell and the descent commenced two days later. Deep powder slowed progress and at the top of the ice arête we witnessed a spectacular avalanche as the upper mountain rid itself of its new cloak of snow. Advanced Base Camp was reached on September 18 and abandoned the following day. The major climbing problems of the mountain have been solved. Technical difficulties on rock were up to UIAA V and on ice up to Scottish IV.

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*Indian Army Expedition to Nun-Kun Massif, 1977.* The massif can be described as a huge névé basin enclosed by a circle of seven peaks: Nun or Ser (23,410 feet), Kun or Mer (23,252 feet), Pinnacle Peak (22,808 feet), P 6800 (22,310 feet), White Needle (21,523 feet), P 6420 (21,096 feet) and P 6410 (21,031 feet). It feeds three glaciers: the Shafat to the east, the Fariabad to the south and the Kangriz Glacier to the north. The peaks rise steeply from the basin and the slopes below it are also precipitous. The approach to it via the Kangriz had been described as nearly impossible by the Swiss in 1953 when they climbed Nun from the south. The approach by the Kangriz Glacier had never been successfully attempted, nor had any one expedition climbed more than one peak, except the Bullock-Workmans, who climbed Pinnacle Peak and P 6800 on the same day. We approached by the Kangriz and climbed five peaks on July 3, 1977. We reached Base Camp at Parkachik (11,975 feet) on June 6. After a ropeway was placed over the Suru River we moved Base Camp across on June 8. Advanced Base (13,950 feet) on the right shoulder spur of the Kangriz Glacier was occupied on June 11. The glacier had three icefalls. We skirted the first by climbing the rocks near the tongue of the glacier onto the spur to the west. All loads were dumped by the porters below the second icefall on June 15 and higher, loads were carried by expedition members. This was Dump Camp (15,100 feet). The second icefall rose to 17,000 feet and required fixed ropes,