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Tulser report (loaned to MPW 9.11.8)

KARAKORAM ALPINE STYLE

(Entered in Index under 83/5 83/5A)

During May, June and July of this year a mainly British team but with an international flavour visited the Karakoram. Our trip was more of a camp than a set piece expedition and one that was fairly mobile to cater for all tastes as far as this is possible.

Using Urdukas as our first base camp Greg Child (Australia) Andy Parkin, Al House and Peter Thexton climbed a relatively straightforward unclimbed snow peak (18,200') from the Biale Glacier and attempted a more technical route up Pt. 5607 but gave up some six rope lengths from the top. Al and Andy attempted the West Ridge of Lobsang Spire (18,724') but were forced to retire some 1500' from the summit due to heavy snow storms.

Greg, Peter and Doug Scott climbed Lobsang Spire after three bivouacs and some magnificent big wall climbing up the 2000 ft. South Pillar. The climbing was an excellent granite involving hard free and aid climbing reminiscent of El Capitan.

Jean Afanassieff (French), Roger Baxter-Jones, Michele Stamos (French), Beth Acres (U.S.A.), Stephen Sustad (U.S.A.) Don Whillans and Doug Scott visited the Mustagh Pass (17,788') and all but Don climbed the easy snow peak, Karphogang (19,046') by the East Ridge.

From K2 Base Camp at the junction of the Savoia and Godwin Austen Glaciers we set out to climb Broad Peak and K2. More acclimatisation sorties were made first. Andy, Al and Stephen climbed up the South Ridge direct on K2 for 3000 ft. Peter, Stephen and Doug visited the Savoia Saddle (6666 m) whilst Jean and Roger skied to the Windy Gap (6233 m). Other members of the group also went up the Savoia Glacier enticed by the Spanish expedition attempting the West Ridge of K2 and their 50 bottles of cognac and crates of beer.

In four days Al and Andy reached the summit of Broad Peak (26,400') via the ordinary route accompanied by Roger and Jean who had left Base Camp a day later. Two days later on 28th June, Stephen and Doug benefitting from the tracks left by the others and also by those left by two Polish ladies reached the summit in 2½ days from K2 Base Camp.

Greg and Peter turned back only an hour away from the top when first Greg then Peter became altitude sick. Greg revived but Peter became worse. After a desperate retreat in high winds Greg valiantly got Peter to their top camp (7,500m). Don and the Hunza Gohar Shar were there planning to go to the summit the next day. At 4.00 a.m. on 29th June Peter died from pulmonary oedema. The rest of the party returned to Base Camp with the awful news. Three weeks of bad weather followed Peter's death during which Don, Greg, Stephen and Al returned home.

On 20th July, Jean, Roger, Andy and Doug set off to climb K2 via the South Ridge direct - an unclimbed line to the

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West (left) of the Abruzzi Spur and joining the spur at the Shoulder at approximately 7,700 meters. After four bivouacs and hard climbing up several rock and ice steps and dealing with heavy soft snow accumulations we reached a point some 300 feet below the Shoulder. Jean was suddenly struck down with cerebral oedema and so we retreated descending rapidly down 10,000' in two days during which time Jean recovered. He then went home whilst Roger, Andy and Doug set out for another go a few days later. This was a half hearted attempt that was abandoned after only two hours climbing. Only Roger felt fully fit and determined enough to try again which he did by joining forces with the Spaniard Mari Abrego a member of the Basque Abruzzi Spur expedition. They went up the fixed ropes of the Spur to the Shoulder and then after wading through soft snow and climbing the steep ice amongst the seracs above the Shoulder retreated from 8,250 meters in threatening weather.

Although we were disappointed not to climb K2 we were content with all the climbing achieved. We owe a lot to the 150 friends, retailers and manufacturers who made it possible for us to afford this experience.

Brief Expedition Report: Doug Scott

K 2

Staircase Pk.

26.017

Broad Pk.

Gasherbrum



Godwin Austen Gl.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To all our sponsors and friends, many thanks for all your support which helped to make this venture possible.

JAPAN

Iwa To Yuki - Tsunemichi Ikeda - Photographs.

FRANCE

Beal Ropes - Michael Beal
Camping Gaz - Mue Paulet
Charlet Moser Climbing Gear
Dynaster Skis
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Petzl (Grenoble) - Head Torches
Poulloux - Sun Glasses
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Valandre - Down Gear

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David Corrfield, Ken Richardson, David Waugh, Michael Simms.
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Grindlays Bank Islamabad - A.R. Ghazali - Guarantee facility
Tourism Division - Government Pakistan

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Salewa - Hermann Huber - Tents, ice/rock pegs, karibiners, crampons.

U.S.A.

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Granada Publishing - Mark Barty-King

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