

Notes 1971 Asia

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Hindu Kush

During the year under review the Hindu Kush maintained its popularity for small and medium sized expeditions. The number of virgin peaks over 6000 m is reducing rapidly, but there is still an ample supply of lower summits. Expeditions are now tending towards direct routes and traverses on the major peaks, involving severe climbing.

A brief résumé of the more important achievements is given below, but we regret that details of the Japanese expeditions have not been received up to the time of going to press.

Weather conditions during the climbing season were generally good, and there were only two fatal accidents.

The Permit rules have remained static, but it is not safe to assume no change in 1972, particularly with the Pakistan area, owing to the present political tensions.

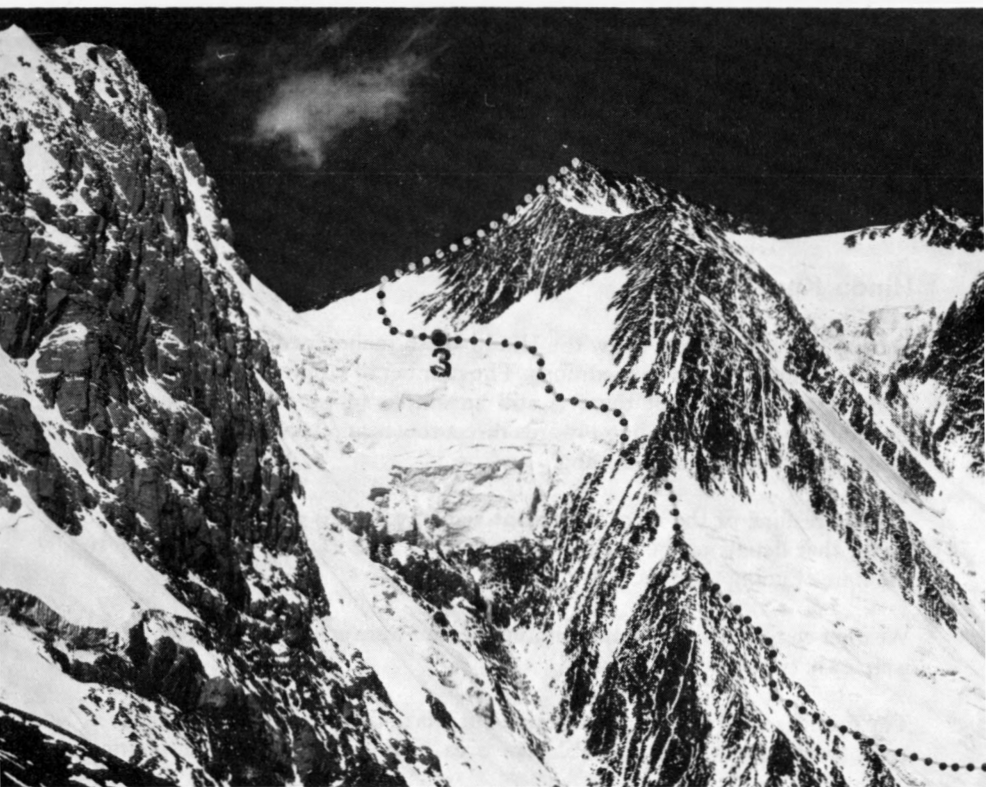
Mir Samir (5809 m) was climbed by two new routes by the Ulster H.K. expedition, leader B. Slader. They also made three first ascents in the Chamar valley, all over 5100 m.

Shkurigal Valley. The British Central Hindu Kush Expedition 1971 made seventeen first ascents around the Shkurigal valley during July and August (see p 170).

Noshaq (7492 m) was climbed from the South for the first time by a three man team led by W. Stefan on 23 July. The route went up the main ridge to a point north-east of the South Col, where it met the old route from the north. On the way down they climbed Aspe-Safed I (6500 m). They also climbed Ghul Lasht Zom East (6111 m) by the East ridge on 13 July and Ghul Lasht Zom South (6400 m) from the north on 15 July.

An expedition led by L. Audoubert also climbed Noshaq on 19 and 21 August. The outstanding feat of this expedition was the solo traverse, for the first time, from Noshaq to Gumbaze Safed on 21 August. Gumbaze Safed (6800 m) was also climbed by the West ridge on 17 August (map *A.J.* 75 167, 170).

Istor-o-Nal (7398 m) was climbed by a new direct route on the South face by the third Yugoslav H.K. Expedition, leader Dr I. Valic. Three high camps were used and 500 m of fixed rope. The summit was reached on 5 June. This



92 *Istor-o-Nal—South face*. Photo: Yugoslav Hindu Kush Expedition

was the second ascent of the mountain, the first being by the Spanish in 1969 (*A.J.* 75 166).

Udren Zom (7131 m) was climbed from the West by a ten-man Italian expedition, leader G. Antoniotti. The summit was reached by seven members between 21 June and 23 June.

P. 6920 which lies to the East of Urgend (or Urgunt 7035 m) was attempted by a Spanish expedition, leader J. Paytubi. On the first attempt they reached about 6750 m. During the second attempt J. Matas died near Camp 2, and the expedition was abandoned.

Hindu Raj-Buni Zom Group. The Cologne H.K. expedition, leader R. Wagner, made several first ascents from the Phargam and Sohnyoan Glaciers. This was the first climbing expedition to visit the Phargam Glacier. Seven first ascents were made including Awi Zom (6484 m). Meanwhile, the other half of the party climbed several peaks around the Sohnyoan glacier of over 5000 m.

Karakoram

The Pakistan Government restricted expeditions to the western half of the range and the major expeditions were out after virgin peaks. Two important ones were climbed.

Malubiting W (7453 m) This is the highest point on the massif and it has been the target of several expeditions in recent years. It was climbed from the north by an Austrian expedition leader H. Schell on 23 August. The approach was via the Barpu glacier. A Japanese expedition also attempted the peak, but it was abandoned after two porters were killed (map *A.J.* 76 180).

Khinyang Chhish (7852 m) was climbed by a strong Polish expedition, leader A. M. Zawada. (See p 21).

Ogre (7285 m) The eight-man Manchester expedition led by D. Morrison had as their target this virgin peak on the eastern side of the Biafo glacier. Bad weather and illness slowed them down and they only managed to reach the junction of the Biafo and Sim Gang glaciers, a few miles short of the proposed Base Camp.



93 *Ogre—South face.* Photo: G. Hibberd

Kashmir

Nanga Parbat (8125 m) was climbed by a Czechoslovakian expedition, leader I. Galfz. They followed the original 1953 route and experienced bad weather except for a few days when two members reached the summit. They also made first ascents of the South-east Peak (7530 m) and Fore Peak (7910 m) (map *A.J.* 76 221).

Kishtwar

A British Expedition led by C. R. A. Clark visited the Brammah-Sickle Moon area (see p 164).

Kulu-Lahul

Indrasan was climbed by the West ridge by a British party (see p 34).

South Malana Glacier Area A British expedition made the following first ascents during May and June—Pt 5301 m (East ridge), South Malana Peak (5429 m) (South ridge), Paptula (c 5335 m) (East face), Bara Ungli (c 5365 m) (East face and North ridge) and Obelisk (c 5240 m) (South ridge). Two ascents of Ali Ratna Tibba were also made (leader: G. Clark).

Nepal¹

It was a disastrous year for climbing in Nepal. The weather was generally bad which led to accidents from avalanches. Sixteen people died on the mountains out of a total of twenty-six expeditions; there is certainly a need for greater experience or a little more caution on the part of the climbers. There were eight successful ascents. The major expeditions continue to look for the more difficult routes on the high summits, while the smaller parties concentrate on the virgin six thousanders.

During the last two or three years there has been an appreciable amount of 'illegal' climbing in Nepal. There is at present an 'understanding' with H.M. Government that trekking permits which are liberally issued by the Home Ministry allow foreigners to go up to 'view points' not higher than 20,000 ft (6096 m). Climbing permits, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are restricted to the thirty-six designated mountains. There are no rules to control Alpine-style climbing of minor peaks up to say 22,000 ft (6700 m). It is understood that the regulations are being revised, but until they are, 'illegal' climbing by small, private parties is bound to increase.

Api (7132 m) was attempted by a small Japanese team, leader K. Fukuzawa. Their route was by the South-west ridge but they only reached 6000 m.

Patrasi Himal A British expedition, leader E. Hammond made the first ascent of Pt. 5967 south of the main summit. This group is to the west of the Kanjiroba Himal.

Kanjiroba Himal A Japanese Expedition, leader K. Abe, unsuccessfully attempted the main peak from the south-east. They made the first ascent of a peak about 6500 m, some 12 km to the east of the main peak.

Churen Himal (7371 m) was attempted by a Tokyo University Expedition, leader M. Takaski. On the West ridge they reached 6700 m, and then on the east side a height of 7250 m was reached. (See also p 105).

Dhaulagiri V (7618 m) There were pre- and post-monsoon Japanese expedi-

¹ These notes are prepared from detailed information received from M. J. Cheney, our correspondent in Kathmandu.

tions and both ended after fatal accidents. On the first attempt three members died when returning from near the summit.

Dhaulagiri II (7751 m) was climbed from the northern side by an Austrian expedition, leader F. Huber on 18 May (see p 168).

Annapurna South (7218 m) was attempted by pre- and post-monsoon Japanese expeditions. The former experienced trouble with their liaison officer and the latter, who were on the East ridge, gave up after the Sherpas left them having received news of the accident on Ganga Purna.

Hiunchuli (6442 m) was climbed for the first time by a route on the East face. A group of Americans living in Nepal, leader C. Anderson, made the ascent on 10 October. This was one of the 'illegal' expeditions mentioned earlier. (See *A.J.* 76 20).

Ganga Purna (7454 m) was climbed from the sanctuary West ridge by a post-monsoon Japanese expedition, leader K. Shimizo, on 15 October. On returning to Camp 3 the summit party learnt that Camp 2 had been swept away by an avalanche, with the loss of three Japanese and three Sherpas. Two Sherpas who had been sent down to the camp site to investigate also died while returning to Camp 3. A pre-monsoon expedition had attempted the North ridge and reached about 7000 m.

Manaslu (8156 m) was climbed by a new route on the West face. The Japanese expedition, leader A. Takahashi, reached the summit on 17 May (see p 26). A South Korean expedition also attempted the peak.

Baudha Peak (6672 m) was climbed by a route on the South-east ridge, by a Japanese expedition, leader Y. Nakai, which reached the summit on 12 and 13 April.

Everest (8848 m) The International Expedition, leader N. G. Dyhrenfurth, attempted the South-west face and West ridge (see p 9). A post-monsoon Argentine expedition, leader H. C. Tolosa, attempted the South Col route and reached over 8000 m. The attempt was abandoned owing to bad weather and lack of supplies.

Lhotse Shar (8398 m) was attempted by a route on the South-east ridge. The South Korean expedition abandoned the attempt owing to bad weather after reaching 8000 m.

Makalu (8481 m) was climbed by a new route on the West ridge. The French expedition, leader R. Paragot, reached the summit on 23 May, having set up six camps.