
JÓZEF NYKA

Tibet and China 1993

There was a long period of fine weather in late September. A Polish-Italian-Portuguese expedition led by Krzysztof Wielicki climbed a new route on **Cho Oyu**. They started up the 1986 *Zakopane route* on the W Pillar and, from 7100m, continued direct. Wielicki and Marco Bianchi summited on 18 September and Piotr Pustelnik and Joao Garcia six days later.

The expedition members then climbed **Shisha Pangma**. Pustelnik and Bianchi climbed the 1982 British descent route (summiting on 6 October), while Wielicki soloed a fully independent new route on the 2000m S face, right of the 'Scott Gully'. He summited on 7 October after a 16hr climb. A 300m rock wall in the upper part was particularly difficult. Wielicki has now climbed ten 8000ers, including four by new routes and three first winter ascents.

One of the worst accidents of the year occurred in China's **Province Sechuan**. An eight-member Japanese team attempting the virgin **Pt 4900m** were avalanched near 4700m. Four members, including leader Shinichi Tsushima (41) were killed.

Ascents of **Everest** from Tibet are reported in the Nepal Area Notes.

Bhutan 1993

Masa Gang (7194m) Julian Freeman-Attwood and Sean Smith (UK), Steven Sustad and Ed Webster (USA) and John Lecky (Canada) hoped to attempt the unknown SW face but miserable weather made this impossible. On the E side of the mountain they reached 6100m on the *Japanese route* but turned back owing to a combination of serious objective danger higher up and persistent bad weather.

The Royal Government of Bhutan has decided to open three new peaks for expeditions: **Masa Gang (7194m)**, **Jichu Drake (6794m)** and **Khang Bum (6494m)**. In addition, royalties for virgin peaks will differ from those for peaks already climbed, as follows:

Height	Virgin US\$	Already climbed US\$
7001m+	25,000	20,000
6501m - 7000m	20,000	15,000
6100m - 6500m	15,000	10,000

Other peaks will be considered on an individual basis.

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Central Asia 1993

Tien Shan

Khan Tengri (6995m) A party including A Pogorelov climbed the most impressive new route in the area this year, on the N face. Also, in July, an avalanche struck a camp on the col between Pik Chapayeva and Khan Tengri (c6000m) and killed Ukrainian guides Slava and Sergey and two Polish alpinists Marcin Hanzel (22) and Wojciech Krajewski (26). Other climbers in the camp survived and made a very dangerous descent.

On 4 August 1993 Robert Guy and Patrick West, clients of Himalayan Kingdoms, and two Russian mountaineers, Ilia Iodis and Valeri Khrichaty, were killed in an avalanche just below 5000m on Khan Tengri. Peter Potter, an aspirant guide, who was higher up, survived.

On the same day, Dave Wilkinson reached the summit alone after some other members of his party had turned back at about 6400m owing to the intense cold.

The American Himalayan guide Alex Lowe won the Speed Mountaineering Competition organised by the Tien Shan International Mountaineering Centre. Starting at 3950m he raced to the summit Khan Tengri and back again in a time of just over 10 hours.

Pik Alpinist (5492m) A team led by Mikhail Lebedev made the first ascent of this 'Matterhorn of the Tien Shan', climbing the NE face.

Pamir

Pik Sleslov (4240m) A team led by A Klenov climbed a five-day, 800m new route to the right of the other lines on this mountain. A considerable amount was aid climbing.

Pik 4810m R Karle, D Dumont and E Guy climbed a direct line on the NE face from 31 July to 4 August (6b ED+).

Pik 4520m A group including L and J-B Jourjon climbed the 1300m SE ridge.

Pik 3850m F Pallendre and team made the first ascent of *Le Paradis Artificiel* on the N face from 16-31 July (Abo 6b A4 720m). A Franco-Russian team added *Voie Papillon* (5b+ ED 800m) between the French and Russian direct routes on the W face.