

ASIA

Nepal

Annapurna II and IV. Kazmir Drašlar and Majija Maležič reached the summit of Annapurna II (26,041 feet) for the second ascent after sunset of October 22 from Camp VI at 23,800 feet. The camp was regained only at 2:30 A.M. on the 23rd. (First ascent on May 17, 1960 by R. H. Grant, C. J. Bonington and Ang Nyima.) Camp V, below Annapurna IV, was slightly higher than Camp VI, which was placed at the foot of the final steepness of the west ridge. Bad snow conditions slowed the 1969 party. On October 21 from Camp V Golob, Andlovic and the leader of the Yugoslav expedition, Alex Kunaver, climbed Annapurna IV (24,688 feet), the sixth ascent.

JAMES O. M. ROBERTS, *Alpine Club*

Annapurna IV. A nine-man Czech expedition, led by Wladimir Prochaska, attacked Annapurna IV (24,688 feet). The first attempt failed, but on October 7 Albrecht Milos and the Sherpa Angbabu reached the summit for the fifth ascent.

GÜNTER OSKAR DYRENFURTH, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

Attempt on Annapurna I. After an approach march of eight days from Pokhara, a strong German expedition led by Ludwig Greissl arrived at Base Camp at 14,100 feet on the West Annapurna Glacier. The other members of the party were Helmut Müller, Reinhold Obster, Erich Reissmüller, Pit Schubert, Uwe Kerner, Hans Reiter, Karl Winkler, and Adolf Hanke. After a comparatively snowless winter, the glaciers were in bad condition and very active. They were plagued by bad weather. Camp I was placed at 16,750 feet on April 9 and Camp II at 18,700 feet on April 16, after they bridged crevasses with poles. Between Camps II and III, which was established at 19,850 feet on April 22, there was a bottle-necked ice couloir, threatened by falling ice. Camp IV (May 3) at 21,325 feet and Camp V (May 7) at 23,125 feet, which was just below the summit of 23,430-foot Glacier Dome, were established along a line that ascended generally north to the main crest. From there the route was to follow the long east ridge. On May 9 Obster, Schubert and Winkler climbed east along the ridge from Glacier Dome to Roc Noir (24,650 feet). On May 12 Camp VI was established at 23,775 feet below Roc Noir, but frightful storms hit them for the next five days. In a break in the weather on the 18th Müller

and Kerner again climbed to the summit of Roc Noir to fix ropes, but on May 19 the bad weather returned. So late in the season, with such bad weather, it now became obvious that they were too exhausted to continue. All were back in Base Camp by May 22.

Dhaulagiri IV Tragedy. Five Austrian climbers, Richard Hoyer, leader, Peter Lavicka, Peter Nemeč, Kurt Ring and Kurt Reha, with Sherpa Tensing Nindra, were lost on Dhaulagiri IV (25,133 feet), presumably in an avalanche which may have overwhelmed their west-ridge Camp V, at 22,650 feet, some time between November 9 and 11. No signs of their bodies were ever seen in ground and air search. They flew to Pokhara on September 17 and reached Base Camp on October 1 after approaching from the south via the Mayangdi and Konaban rivers. After arrival at Base, they could see that it was to be an extremely difficult climb. To surmount a rock barrier they climbed a long ridge, which they compared to the Peuterey ridge of Mont Blanc. They placed three camps along this ridge, at 16,250, 18,850 and 20,100 feet. Surviving members of the expedition are Dr. Klaus Kubiena, Oskar Krammer, Leo Graf and Wolfgang Müller-Jungblut.

Gurja Himal. The Tomari Expedition consisted of Yoshimi Yakushi, leader, Nobutaka Ito, Masaaki Nukui, Seiichi Kanayama, Tomokuni Saegi, Hiroyuki Sakai, Akira Inoue and Kenichi Shimoda. They left Pokhara on September 21 and got to the last village of Gurjakhani on the 30th and Base Camp at 13,450 feet in the Kape Kholo on October 4. Camp I was established on October 9 at 15,600 feet on the Kape Glacier near a previous British camp. (British attempts were made in 1962 and 1965.) A temporary Camp II was placed at 16,400 feet on the lower end of a tributary glacier, above which avalanche danger complicated route selection. A route was made on the rock wall on the left side of the branch glacier. Camp II was established at 17,400 feet on October 18. On the 20th they climbed a steep rock ridge to an upper snowfield, where Camp III was established on October 22 at 18,850 feet. From there they could see for the first time the west side of Gurja Himal, but they had a difficult time in the deep snow. On October 27 Kanayama, Sakai and the Sherpa Lhakpa Tenzing went to Camp IV at 19,000 feet and two days later to Camp V at 21,150 feet. They climbed to 22,650 feet on October 30 but deep snow and fatigue drove them back. On November 1 Saegi and the Sherpa Lhakpa Tenzing climbed up the tracks and then up a snow and ice

ridge at last to reach the virgin summit of Gurja Himal (23,600 feet). They speedily evacuated the camps. From November 2 on, the winter winds began to blow and banner clouds hung off the high ridges. They would not have succeeded one day later.

ICHIRO YOSHIKAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club and A.A.C.*

Tukuche Peak. On May 10 the leader of the light Swiss expedition, Georges Hartmann, Alois Strickler and Sherpa Sonam Girmi made the first *authorized* ascent of Tukuche Peak (22,690 feet), while Alfred Hitz and Ruedi Homberger were climbing the 22,300-foot western summit. Three days later Homberger and Andreas Hirsbrunner repeated the ascent of the main peak.

Churen Himal. An Italian Expedition led by Paolo Consiglio and composed of Franco Alletto, Carlo Claus, Ignazio Piusi, Aldo Gross, Sergio Bellini, Claudio Dal Bosco, Piergiorgio Franzina, Giorgio Giacomelli and Vincenzo Monti failed to climb Churen Himal (24,184 feet). From Pokhara the approach through Gurjakhani and Ghustung Khola took them two weeks. After reconnaissance of the east and west ridges, they attacked the southern spur, which offered difficult rock. They had high winds. Camp III was established on October 24 at 18,150 feet. The highest camp (Camp V) was at 20,850 feet on the west ridge, which rises from the col between Putho Hiunchuli and Churen Himal. The attempt was given up on November 13 at 21,600 feet.

Peak 29. Osaka University made its third attempt to climb Peak 29. (The new altitude of this peak is now given as 24,652 feet, over 1000 feet lower than the previous altitude. — *Editor.*) The members were Senya Sumiyoshi, leader, Yasuo Tamai, Hideo Misawa, Daisuke Makino, Hiroshi Watanabe, Jiro Kuroda, Yoshihiko Kohda and Yoshiki Tanaka. The tenacious boys from the Osaka University Mountain Club appeared again on the eastern glacier of Peak 29. They had previously tried in 1961 from the west and in 1963 from the east. This time they were equipped with the newest and most efficient equipment but they were defeated at 24,100 feet by a steep ice face. They made the following camps: Base Camp at 13,450 feet on September 9; Camp I at 16,750 feet on September 27, Camp II at 18,375 feet on September 30 and Camp III at 19,350 feet on October 5, all on the south side of the east ridge; Camp IV at 20,000 feet on October 18, Camp V at 20,350 feet on October 19 and Camp VI at 22,475 feet on October 24. Kuroda and Kohda reached the high point on

November 1. There was no place to bivouac on the last ice wall and they would have had to spend the night in hammocks. Some big crevasses lay across the route close to the top.

ICHIRO YOSHIZAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club and A.A.C.*

Patrasi Himal. A Japanese expedition from Kobe University to Patrasi Himal (21,742 feet) failed in the post-monsoon period. Details are lacking.

Mount Everest. There were Japanese climbers on Mount Everest both before and after the monsoon. An expedition of the Japanese Alpine Club was on the Khumbu Glacier reconnoitering for its proposed expedition to the southwest face. A second group was primarily interested in taking skiing movies. The Sherpa Phu Dorje was killed when ice collapsed in the Khumbu icefall. A Japanese, Kazimoto, fell sick and died. One of these groups found the body of Jake Breitenbach, who had been killed in the Khumbu icefall in 1963.

Kanjiroba Himal. In the spring of 1969, following the lifting of the ban on climbing in Nepal, the undersigned took a further expedition to explore the northern side of the Kanjiroba Himal, much of which we had mapped on previous expeditions for publication in the *Geographical Journal*, Vol. 133, September, 1967. The members of this year's group, aside from me, were Simon Brown, Charles Clarke, Peter Dean and Captain Dil Bahadur Karki, together with Sherpas Nima Dorje, Mingma Tsering, Passang Kami and Passang Tendi. We approached the mountains in April from Jumla and then by way of the Mugu Karnali to Dalphu on the Langu Khola. From this last village we followed the Langu upstream, making three bridges to avoid the difficult cliff sections, to the Pukchang Khola, which we had explored in 1964. A further three-mile journey with two additional bridges brought us to the point where the Kuka Khola joins the Langu. This side valley leads directly to the foot of the northern peak of the highest mountain of the group. Attempts on the northwest and northeast ridges were abandoned in favour of the technically easier southeast ridge which led to the southern and highest summit (22,580 feet). Here bad weather and the slightly early monsoon prevented a final assault. Much exploratory work was accomplished in this completely unknown area. At the end the party traversed the whole Langu gorge, returning across Dolpo to Jomosom in July.

JOHN TYSON, *Alpine Club*