

mushrooms. It was first climbed after a struggle with wind and technical difficulties in 1968 by a British party. (See *A.A.J.*, 1968, pp. 206-7.) In the following years various attempts were unsuccessful, including the one by climbers from the University of Chile in 1978, which came to within 100 meters of completing the climb. (*A.A.J.*, 1979, p. 256.) On January 3 another University of Chile group flew to Punta Arenas and on the 5th drove by military truck to the Paine Towers National Park. Helped by park rangers, we moved with pack animals to the Valle del Francés, where we established Base Camp on January 11. Thirteen long days followed, interrupted by wind and snow storms, while we climbed rock walls and fixed rope. High Camp was established at 6000 feet on January 26. Rope was fixed above to within 650 feet of the top. On February 7 Eduardo Parvex and I moved up to High Camp. We set out with headlamps at midnight on the 8th. Above the fixed rope we had 350 feet of very difficult direct-aid climbing. We reached the summit (c. 2775 meters, 9103 feet) as night came on and in a storm. The descent took all the rest of the night. The other members were Claudio Gálvez, Juan Pardo, Dagoberto Peña, Iván Sepúlveda, Zady Novoa, Esteban Bravo and Patricio Keller.

GASTÓN OYARZÚN, *University of Chile*

*Castillo del Paine.* An expedition from the town of Rengo in central Chile made on January 27 the first ascent of a fine rock peak (c. 2400 meters, 7874 feet), belonging to the Cordón Olgúin, north of the Paine massif. The group was formed by F. Arias, J. González, E. Lagos and J. Rivera, who christened the peak Castillo (castle) del Paine. Five days later the entire group also climbed Cerro Cota (2000 meters, 6562 feet), which had only been ascended once, by another Chilean party in 1971.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

## EUROPE

### Swiss Alps

*Grosshorn, North Face, Berneroblerland.* On September 2 and 3 Philip Fanchon and I climbed the north face of the Grosshorn by a new route. We followed the Welzenbach route through the first rock band and then, instead of traversing left toward the northeast ridge, continued straight up to the prominent col just west of the main summit. This season's peculiar weather left most of the 3600-foot, 50° to 60° face above the bergschrund hard water ice, in places with a cover of rotten shingles. We approached the col via the first couloir west of the main summit, which contained 60°+ water ice, rotten near the top. The crux

of the climb is a 25-foot-high vertical to overhanging "waterfall" which traverses a rock band halfway up the couloir. I took a 65-foot free leader fall on this pitch, which was just above our bivouac spot. I ripped out two pitons (a soft-iron one in rock and a wart-hog in rotten ice) and put a 40° bend in the end of a solidly placed 25cm tube screw. I suffered a sprained ankle, broken ribs, facial lacerations and a bruised psyche. The difficult mixed climbing of the crux led to a broken area. We then had to traverse right into the upper part of the adjacent couloir. From there a pitch and a half of steep ice led to the corniced west ridge. The last four pitches took seven hours to climb, including the fall.

JOHN SHERVAIS

## AFRICA

### Kenya

*Batian, Mount Kenya, Diamond Face.* Miguel Angel Gallego and Miguel Gómez made a new route with three bivouacs on the Diamond Face of Batian in February.

JORDI PONS, *Club Montañés Barcelonés, Spain*

## ASIA

### Nepal

*Kanchenjunga, North Face Direct.* Our expedition, led by Masatsugu Konishi, without oxygen climbed a new route on the north face of Kanchenjunga to the right of the British route of 1971. The face rises for 11,500 feet above the head of the Kanchenjunga Glacier with two huge rock bands and the summit rock face sandwiching three snowfields or hanging glaciers. After a long approach march, we reached Base Camp at Pang Pema (18,050 feet) on March 19. We spent ten days arranging food and gear and acclimatizing. Three pairs started on March 29 to rotate pushing the route upwards, with the leader assisting any pair. Led by Ang Phurba, eleven Sherpas carried loads. Camp I at 19,000 feet was established on April 1 at the site of British Camp II. Camp II at 21,325 feet was placed on the first snowfield on April 7. Between Camps I and II there were potential threats of avalanches and collapsing hanging glaciers. It took ten days to fix rope on the 1500-foot-high rock band to reach Camp III at 24,000 feet on the second icefield. This was the most crucial section of the route. Camp IV at 25,925 feet was made on May 1 by four aggressive Sherpas while all the Japanese descended to Base Camp because of heavy snowfall. Each summit team went to Camp IV for acclimatization and then descended to Base Camp, the first group on

May 5 and 6, the second on May 7 and 8. On May 11 Ryoichi Fukada, Seiichi Kawamura, Shomi Suzuki, Sherpa Ang Phurba and I set out from Base Camp and reached Camp IV on May 13. We left on May 14 at five A.M., unroped up the 800 feet of fixed rope in the snow couloir above Camp IV. Each led a pitch in turn in the knee-deep snow. At last we reached the summit at 4:15 P.M. Only the summits of Yalung Kang and the central and south peaks of Kanchenjunga could be seen above the clouds. We returned to Camp IV at 7:50 in heavy snowfall. On May 17 Konishi, Motumo Ohmiya, Dr. Toshitaka Sakano, and Sherpas Pemba Tsering and Dawa Norbu set out from Camp IV at 3:30 A.M. Dawa Norbu led all the way to the top in knee-deep snow. Four climbers reached the summit at 5:40 P.M. Konishi had to turn back at 27,500 feet, still some 700 feet below the summit. They were all back in Camp IV at ten P.M. We cleaned the face of ropes, pegs and tents in the next two days. We evacuated Base Camp on May 25.

NAKAOE SAKASHITA, *Sangaku Doshikai Club, Japan*

*Kanchenjunga, via First-Ascent Route.* Our 20-person expedition left Munich for Kathmandu on March 9 but had delays caused by customs on the Indian frontier, final permission difficulties, a shortage of motor transport and a lack of porters. The two-week march to Base Camp had to be done in several groups. In the Yalung Valley we followed the glacier to Base Camp. Every afternoon there it stormed with snow showers. Finally on April 29 Camp II was well established and several tents were up at Camp III at 23,000 feet. The material for Camp IV was being carried up despite deep snow, which led to making various depots at different heights. On May 6 the Swiss Marti and Germans Franz Oppurg, Giri Göbl and Georg Ritter returned from Camp IV sick from a respiratory virus. We saw that the summit could be reached only if we made more use of the Sherpas. Many supplies were still lacking at Camp IV. On May 12 Ritter, Göbl and Oppurg reached Camp II with two Sherpas. On May 14 the three sahibs and five Sherpas started from Camp IV. Only Ritter, Ang Tsangbu, Nima Dorje and Lhakpa Gyalbu reached the camp. These four left for the summit at 6:15 A.M. on May 15. After leaving the ramp, they climbed the 40° snow couloir toward the summit ridge, unroped to save time. At 11:30 they left the broad snow gully still 1300 feet below the summit. Following the British route of 1955, they climbed a snow strip upwards on the south side of the summit cone. Above the strip, they had to make a delicate 500-foot-long traverse to a difficult 20-foot crack, which gave access to the summit ridge. At 1:50 P.M. Lhakpa Gyalbu, followed by Ritter and Nima Dorje, reached the summit (8598 meters, 28,208 feet). They found tracks from the Japanese who had climbed to the top the day before from the north and a flag from the Indians in 1977. As the three descended, they found

Ang Tsangbu, who had been climbing without oxygen, waiting 250 feet below the summit. In three more hours they were all back at Camp IV.

KARL MARIA HERRLIGKOFFER,  
*Deutsches Institut für Auslandsforschung*

*Yalungkang Tragedy.* A nine-man Mexican expedition was led by José Manuel Casanova. They were on the south-face route of the Austro-German expedition of 1975. They established four high camps. Hugo Saldana and Alfonso Medina never returned from their summit bid, in which Chawang Rinze Sherpa also participated. All these men reached 27,500 feet. The Sherpa turned back because of freezing fingers. He reports he heard Saldana shout that he was on the summit. Medina was trying to go to the top, but the Sherpa doubts he succeeded. Neither Mexican was ever seen again.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Makalu Attempt, Makalu II Ascent.* Makalu, the world's fifth highest peak, has had 14 ascents since the first by the French in 1955. Our expedition was fortunate not to have any other expedition on the mountain and we were able to choose our route after a thorough reconnaissance. To acclimatize we were given permission to climb a number of minor summits and also 25,066-foot (7640-meter) Kangchuntse, also known as Makalu II. Roger Baxter-Jones, Georges Bettembourg, Ariane Giobellina and I on September 6 flew to Tumlingtar and reached Base Camp at 15,750 feet on the 16th after a wet, leech-infested walk in the late monsoon season. Between September 18 and 28 we established High Base Camp at 17,725 feet on a bend where the Chago Glacier meets the Barun. From there we climbed P 6170 (20,243 feet), P 6250 (20,506 feet), P 6350 (20,834 feet) and a southern peak of Chago at 6600 meters (21,654 feet). We left High Base Camp for Kangchuntse on October 1 and camped at 19,000 feet on the medial moraine of the Chago Glacier. Camp II was at 21,000 feet where unfortunately Ariane was forced by a severe throat infection to descend. After escorting her down to the moraine, that same afternoon, October 3, we three pushed camp to 22,000 feet. The next day we broke trail to the Makalu La (24,275 feet), with Georges laboriously pulling his skis behind. On October 5 we climbed a 60° gully west of the ordinary route and reached the heavily corniced summit ridge. We scrambled along the airy ½-mile ridge to the 25,066-foot summit. Georges had left his skis at the south end of the ridge and from there skied down difficult snow on the eastern side and around to the Makalu La, where we had a second very windy night. On October 6 we descended to Base Camp. We decided on attempting a traverse of

PLATE 74

*Photo by Douglas Scott*

**MAKALU.** The British Route ascended the entire southeast ridge on the right skyline almost to the summit.



Makalu up the southeast ridge and down the French (northwest) ridge. Our plan was to climb the whole ridge from Base Camp. We left camp on October 14 during indifferent weather, hoping it represented the tail-end of the monsoon and that by the time we were crossing the summit there would be a lull in the wind systems. We camped at 21,000 feet. On October 15 we crossed over P 6260 and P 6825 and descended to the col at 22,310 feet (6800 meters). On the 16th we climbed slowly up to a flat boss of snow at 24,250 feet. The next day, after about 1500 feet of difficult mixed climbing, we reached a point below a huge black gendarme. We were unable to move along the ridge crest in the savage wind. We therefore dropped down the northern side and into Makalu's isolated eastern cwm. We set up camp below P 8010. On the 18th we continued up the cwm for a mile and climbed directly towards the summit slopes. We pitched camp at 26,500 feet in very high winds. The 19th and 20th dawned no better. We were in Makalu's plume with the winter winds now blowing from the west. We had no alternative but to retreat the way we had come. It took us three days to reverse our route to the 6800-meter col and then to find our way down a steep, unknown, heavily crevassed glacier. We were back in Base Camp on October 22. Whilst awaiting the porters, from October 26 to 31 Roger took advantage of clear weather to attempt Makalu by its west side solo. From High Base Camp he hiked to the moraine camp and the next day ascended a rib to bivouac at the foot of a prominent gully that bounds the left side of the west face. On the 28th he climbed the 50° gully and reached the northwest ridge 500 feet above the Makalu La. Here he met the wind and retreated that same day to Base Camp, after a very bold solo bid up untrodden ground.

DOUGLAS SCOTT, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Makalu II or Kangchungtse, 1979.* On page 605 of *A.A.J.*, 1980 we gave a report on this ascent but did not have the names of the climbers who reached the summit. These have been kindly given by Dr. Gerhard Lenser, the expedition leader. The ascents were made as follows: October 9, 1979 by Dölf Fröhlich, *Swiss*, and Ron Pochon, *American*; October 12 by Hansruedi Staub, *Swiss* and Ang Rita, *Sherpa*; October 15 by Peter Rutz, *Swiss*, and Gerhard Lenser, *German*, Sonam Girmi, Ang Namgyal, Phurba Kitar, Ang Nima (of Phortse) and Ang Nima (of Namche), *Sherpas*; October 17 by Martin Braun, Stefan Woerner, *Swiss*, Heinrich Weichert, *German*, Ang Rita (for a second time) and Gyaltsen, *Sherpas*.

*Makalu II or Kangchungtse Attempt.* Armando Menocal, Jim Jennings, Ken Morr, Geoff Radford, Mike Warburton, my wife Elizabeth



and I arrived at Tumlingtar on April 17 and established Base Camp on April 26. We gradually moved up towards Makalu II, and on May 7 four of us occupied a camp at 21,000 feet. During the night Mike Warburton fell unconscious from cerebral edema. We abandoned the climb because it took the efforts of all expedition members to evacuate Mike. We got him to our Camp I at 17,500 feet (Base Camp for John Roskelley's group) on May 12 and gave him oxygen, found by a Sherpa from the supply left there by French years before. He finally regained consciousness the next morning. He then developed blood clots in his left leg. He fell unconscious again on May 17. He had to be carried to Tumlingtar, whence he was evacuated to the hospital in Kathmandu. After two weeks in the hospital, he flew home and has recuperated.

GENE F. WHITE

*Baruntse, East Ridge.* Baruntse had been climbed by the Hillary expedition in 1954 by its south ridge. It was unsuccessfully attempted by French and Japanese in 1964. We made the second ascent by a new route, the east ridge. We flew to Tumlingtar and ascended the Arun river to Num, from where we climbed over the 14,275-foot Barun La with three difficult days for the porters on snow. After eleven days of march, we placed Base Camp on April 7 at 17,400 feet on the Barun Glacier, a day above the normal Makalu Base Camp. Camps I, II and III were at 18,375, 19,850 and 21,650 feet. The principal difficulties were above Camp II. We had a 50° to 65° ice slope to reach the east ridge. We continued first up mixed climbing and then ice and snow to pitch Camp III in a small crevasse. From Camp III on it was all snow, some under séracs. We ended the climb on the north ridge, part of which was very airy. On April 27 Javier Escartín, Lorenzo Ortas, the American Carlos Buhler and I left Camp III at two A.M. With a strong wind and sub-zero (F.) temperatures, we overcame the last sérac. Dawn brought better weather. We reached the summit (23,688 feet, 7220 meters) at 1:30 P.M. The next day Gonzalo Prado and the Sherpa Lhakpa Dorji got to the top. That same day after our pair had returned to Camp III, we observed from Camp I two climbers moving up the north ridge. They probably got to the top but as they descended, they suddenly disappeared from about 22,650 feet. They were doubtless the French climbers, who were later missed. On April 27 Dr. José Ramón Morandeira, Juan Manuel Blanchard and the Sherpa Pasang climbed the virgin 20,350-foot peak (Baruntse Shar), situated to the east of Baruntse on our ridge. Our liaison officer developed pulmonary edema and had to be evacuated for a few days to a lower altitude. The leader, Juan José Díaz, fell into a crevasse between Camps I and II and suffered lesions on the thorax.

JERÓNIMO LÓPEZ, *Montañeros de Aragón, Spain*

PLATE 75

*Photo by Gordon Wiltsie*  
**Camp I on BARUNTSE.**





*Baruntse Tragedy.* Three Frenchmen attempted or climbed Baruntse by the north ridge from the west. One of the three left the expedition early, having received minor injuries in a fall. Julien Graux and Phillipe Grézat climbed high on the north ridge and apparently fell to their deaths on April 27. (See above.)

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Sherpa Climbing Courses.* 37 Sherpas received certificates upon completion of mountaineering safety and rescue courses taught by two Sherpas and the members of the Eastern Sierra Himalayan Expedition in September. They were conducted in the Dzongla/Tsola Pass area of the Khumbu, quite close to the Sherpas' homes. Three consecutive groups of twelve students each received five days of instruction. Course content included: anchors, belays and protection (Yosemite technique); rappelling, raising and lowering; glacier travel, self-arrest, technical ice climbing and crevasse rescue; handling and transport of sick and injured; basic mountaineering medicine, with emphasis on altitude sickness and cold injury. The project was inspired by requests from the Sherpas themselves who are renowned for their natural climbing abilities, but feel the need for instruction in technical safety and rescue techniques. All the students work as high-altitude porters and guides, and were sponsored by both their employer, Mountain Travel Nepal, and private sponsors from the U.S. Course directors were John Fischer and Pertemba Sherpa. Instructors were Gordon Wiltsie, Jay Jensen, Richard Collins, Lanny Johnson, Pasang Kami Sherpa and I. All involved considered the project quite successful, and Pertemba hopes to offer such courses in the future, eventually with all Sherpa instructors.

PETER HACKETT, M.D.

*Baruntse, North Ridge from the West.* Baruntse (7220 meters, 23,688 feet) is strikingly situated between the Lhotse-Everest and Makalu massifs. The Eastern Sierra Himalayan Expedition was the third group to attempt the steep icy headwall which leads to the north ridge from the Imja glacier. All five members of the previous two attempts had perished. We had hoped to attempt the easier south ridge but could not get permission from the ministry. Our members were John Fischer, Gordon Wiltsie, Jay Jensen and me. Base Camp was established on September 27, after three weeks of Sherpa climbing courses, which aided acclimatization considerably. We climbed without Sherpa support above an Advanced Base Camp. The face on the right of our route had been swept clean, and the debris nicely filled in a large section of the icefall, providing easy climbing to a large sérac which protected Camp I at 17,725 feet. We then

PLATE 76

*Photo by Gordon Wiltzie*

**WIND on BARUNTSE's North  
Ridge.**



fixed 2500 feet of rope on the headwall over a total period of twelve days. From the bergschrund we ascended a central rib of sugary snow, and about 1000 feet up traversed left underneath the large upper rock band over difficult mixed ground. We eventually found a 60° narrow ice couloir which ended just 150 feet short of the col, but there remained a steep section of loose snow and rock. This was finished in the dark, after a one-day climb from Camp I, and we spent the night in the open at 20,300 feet, just on the other side of the col. A snow cave was made the next day, and from there we went in a single push for the north summit (7060 meters, 23,163 feet) after fixing a short section above the camp. The north ridge was relatively easy terrain averaging 45°, and we made rapid progress. We were forced to turn back while still early in the day, however, because of severe winds and incipient cold injuries. It was not until later that we realized we turned around at 6950 meters, only 100 meters from our goal. The winds did not abate, and we rappelled the headwall, taking our fixed ropes with us.

PETER HACKETT, M.D.

*Baruntse.* A Japanese expedition from Utsunomiya University led by Tetsuyo Saito successfully climbed the south ridge of Baruntse, the first-ascent route. The summit (7220 meters, 23,688 feet) was reached on September 26 by Noriaki Ujiie, Motoi Nagashima and Sherpa Pemba Norbu, on September 27 by Takashi Okumura and Isamu Nobuyasu and on September 28 by Saito and a Sherpa from Camp IV.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Baruntse Winter Ascent.* As we go to press, we receive news of the first winter ascent of Baruntse by a Japanese expedition from Hokkaido led by Kazuo Hayashi. After an approach up the Barun Glacier, they set up Base Camp at 16,350 feet on December 1. They climbed the southeast ridge. Camp IV at 22,000 feet was established on December 13. On December 15 Jun Hamana, Koichi Ikenaga, Osamu Hanai, Akiya Ishimura and two Sherpas reached the summit. (See Iwa To Yuki, N° 80, page 107.)

*Ama Dablam, North Ridge.* Paddy Freaney, Peter McNally, Graham Elder, Rob Hall, Bob Murie and I walked to our 17,000-foot Base Camp, covering 180 miles in 24 days, with a side trip to the Everest Base Camp for acclimatization. Starting on the north ridge on September 15, we reached Camp I at 19,500 feet eight days later. With the aid of fixed ropes it took five hours from Base Camp to Camp I. We then used 17 days to fix ropes to Camp II at 21,500 feet. We then spent four days

fixing rope to within 500 feet of the top. On October 18 Freaney and I reached the summit (6854 meters, 22,495 feet) at 11:30 A.M. On October 21 Elder, Hall and King reached the summit. During the next three days we removed the camps and all the fixed rope below Camp I. (This was the route of the French in 1979.—*Editor.*)

RUSSELL BRICE, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Ama Dablam, North Face.* A Japanese expedition led by Kasuji Kato climbed a new route on Ama Dablam, the north face. The route was threatened by avalanches and Hisao Fukushima was hit and had to be evacuated. They established three high camps. All the other five members reached the summit (6856 meters, 22,294 feet) on September 8, 9 or 10.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Everest, Basque Expedition.* Our expedition was composed of Juan Ignacio Lorente, leader, Juan Ramón Arrue, Xabier Erro, Xavier Garayoa, Luis María Saenz de Olazagoitia, Angel Rosen, Emilio Hernando, Enrique de Pablos, Felipe Uriarte, José Urbietta, Ricardo Gallardo and me. We left Lukla on February 24 and set up Base Camp on March 18 after several acclimatization climbs. After failing to open a route in the center of the Khumbu Icefall, we advanced close to the slopes of Nuptse and placed Camp I at 20,000 feet on March 27. A Sherpa was injured in the icefall and had to be evacuated by helicopter. Camp II or Advanced Base was established on April 3. Despite high winds, ropes were fixed on the Lhotse Face, where Camp III was placed on April 11 at 24,150 feet. We reached the South Col on the 19th and stocked Camp IV there in the next days. On May 4 Rosen, Gallardo, Garayoa and Sherpa Nima Temba got to the south summit but were driven back by bad weather. On May 7 Erro and Pemba Tsering were halted on the very col by the weather. On May 14 Lorente, three Sherpas and I set out from the South Col at 3:30 A.M. Two hours later Lorente had to give up because of not being fit. Pasang Temba and I continued on, sometimes in knee-deep snow, and got to the south summit at one P.M. Hillary Step caused no particular problems other than the soft snow and at 3:30 we reached the top. Our oxygen gave out on the descent at the foot of the Hillary Step. Pasang Temba had a frightening and exhausting fall when a cornice broke just below the step, but he was unhurt. We bivouacked in a crevasse in a snowstorm near the south summit. We spent a long night without food, water or bivouac gear but descended unharmed the next day to the South Col.

MARTÍN ZABALETA, *Euskal Herriko Mendizale Elkargoa, Spain*

*Mount Everest.* A huge post-monsoon Nepalese-Italian expedition led by Francesco Sinton did not reach the summit of Mount Everest. There were 32 Italians, 15 Nepalese, one Austrian (Kurt Diemberger), two Czechoslovakians and two Thais, as well as 25 high-altitude Sherpas. They reached the south summit. They made four camps, the highest on the South Col and had a depot at 27,900 feet. There were three summit attempts. Two men died, Sherpa Nawang Kersang and Italian Mario Piama, one in the Khumbu Icefall and one higher.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Mount Everest, Winter Attempt, 1981.* Six Japanese climbers and five scientists and reporters, led by Naomi Uemura, failed to make the second winter ascent of Mount Everest by the South Col. They climbed the Khumbu Icefall and made Camp I at 19,850 feet on December 9. Camp II was established at 21,150 feet on December 17. On the day when Camp III was placed on the Lhotse Face on January 12, 1981, Noboru Takenaka was killed as he slipped from a fixed rope. Evacuating his body and bad weather stopped things for a week. On January 27, Ken'ichi Matsuda, Toichi Mitani, Uemura and three Sherpas set out for the South Col in high winds. Mitani and a Sherpa got there, but they could not camp. The expedition was given up. (See *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 80, page 107.)

*Lhotse Attempt.* Our expedition of 14 Spaniards and 14 Sherpas began reconnaissance of the Khumbu Icefall on March 22. We were there at the same time as the Polish and Basque expeditions. Our objective was Lhotse by the northwest couloir. We were Jaume Badrenas, Jaume Barnils, Dr. Salvador Cabré, Enric Bonastre, Ramón Majó, Joan Frontera, Franz Ludwig, Jaume Llasera, Xavier Pérez, Fredi Puig, Jordi Selga, Joan and Jordi Vinyoldi and I as leader. We established Camp I on March 30 at 20,000 feet and Camp II on April 4 at 21,325 feet. By April 15 we had Camp III on the Lhotse Face at 24,125 feet and on April 26 the first team to try for the summit spent the night at Camp IV at 25,600 feet. On the 27th high winds and bare ice in the couloir forced them to quit at three P.M. Until then the weather had been excellent, but it changed, piling up snow every afternoon. We were prevented until May 15 from making another try on the couloir. One Sherpa had to retire at the foot of the couloir and a Spaniard had to quit with oxygen-equipment trouble. The other two continued to 27,550 feet until they had exhausted their oxygen at eight P.M., often burrowing waist-deep in the snow. While the four were descending the Yellow Band the next day, an enormous avalanche falling from the couloir swept over them, broke fixed ropes and hurtled Pasang Nima to the bottom of the

Lhotse Face. Although he was attended to medically and evacuated to Camp I, he died in the evening of May 17. Camp IV had already been swept away by the avalanche. Two days after Camp III was dismantled, another huge avalanche completely covered the whole area where it had been.

RICARD COTS, *Centre Excursionista, Comarca de Bages, Spain*

*Lhotse Tragedy.* Nicolas Jaeger, the French climber who had such a remarkable record, particularly of solo ascents, disappeared on Lhotse on April 27. His original plan had been to make the first ascent of the 10,000-foot-high direct south face of Lhotse, supported by two friends, and then to climb the west ridge of Mount Everest solo. Jaeger set off from a bivouac he had made at the foot of the face of Lhotse with Georges Bettembourg and Nicholas Bérardini. He climbed the direct route to about 20,000 feet but returned because of bad conditions and avalanche danger. He then turned to the southeast ridge of Lhotse Shar, by which in 1970 Sepp Mayerl and Rolf Walter had climbed that lower summit of Lhotse. It was his intention to climb Lhotse Shar, continue over the unclimbed middle summit and reach the main summit before descending the normal route. He set out on this route on April 26 and was seen the next day at about 26,500 feet, having climbed with amazing speed to a point some 1000 feet below the summit of Lhotse Shar. Bad weather closed in for the next six days and he was never seen again. A helicopter search turned up no signs of him.

*Lhotse, Solo Attempt.* In the second week of October Reinhold Messner climbed through the Khumbu Icefall and the Western Cwm to 24,275 feet along the route of the 80-man Italo-Nepalese Everest expedition accompanied by its Sherpas. He went from the 17,700-foot Base Camp to 24,275 feet in two mornings' climbing. On the third morning he climbed up to 25,600 feet, where bad weather defeated him, and descended back down to Base Camp.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Pumori Attempt.* Five Italians led by Toni Klingendrath hoped to climb Pumori alpine-style. They first tried the southeast face direct and in mid-October placed a camp at 19,200 feet. Then three members left for home. Klingendrath and Roberto Giberna attempted a spur on the east face. On October 25 they were hit by an avalanche at 21,650 feet in which Giberna was hurt, putting an end to their climbing.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Pumori.* A Japanese expedition led by Yasuo Iwazoe successfully climbed the normal, south ridge of Pumori. From Camp III, after a



bivouac, on October 21 Ryoichi Hamada, Michio Sugawara and Hiroyuki Mizuguchi got to the summit (7145 meters, 23,442 feet).

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Thamserku, North Face.* In 1979 Japanese failed to climb the north face of Thamserku (6608 meters, 21,680 feet) when one member fell ill. In 1980 the leader Koji Okano and Katsuyuki Masunaga returned accompanied by Kimio Takehara and Dr. Keiichi Hayama. They established Base Camp on the Phunki Glacier at 12,800 feet on March 25 and Advanced Base at 16,250 feet under the central buttress on March 28. Repeating last year's route, bivouac snow caves were made at 18,700 and 20,000 feet. Only Okano and Masunaga climbed high since the other two suffered from the altitude. On August 20 they reached 21,325 feet but returned to Base Camp. They climbed on the 24th to 18,700 feet. They then climbed the rest of the north face and three very difficult pitches on the east ridge to reach the summit at four P.M. on April 25. A full account is in *Iwa To Yuki* 77 with photographs and a map.

*Gaurishankar Attempt.* An expedition led by Michio Yuasa in the pre-monsoon season was composed of 14 Japanese and three Nepalese. They established three high camps and reached 21,000 feet on the southeast ridge. The route was very long and required fixed rope all the way. They fixed 16,000 feet of rope. The climbers were too tired to continue and bad weather set in.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Tseringma Peak, Gaurishankar Group.* Our aim was to climb Gaurishankar via a five-kilometer traverse on the southeast ridge, climbing initially a subsidiary peak known locally as Tseringma (6333 meters, 20,778 feet). The team consisted of Paul Richards, Graham Brammer, John Remynse, Dr. Val Lishman, Barry Young, Chris Bennett, Mick Hardless, Wayne Carroll, Jim MacDonald and me as leader. We left Bahrabise on March 2 with 103 porters, took the route to Charikot, then followed the Bhote Kose to Simigaon and went into the Rolwaling valley, arriving eight days later at the village of Gyabrug (10,800 feet) near Beding. After reconnaissance, we took the track into a large cirque between the southeast and southwest ridges and established Base Camp at 15,400 feet on March 14. On March 15 the previously fine weather turned bad. In appalling weather we established Advanced Base below and adjacent to a large ramp at 16,600 feet. We then fixed ropes along the ramp and onto the ridge at 17,450 feet, where we established Camp I. The weather continued bad. Finally on March 24 we established Camp II

at 18,300 feet on the side of the south gully between the southeast and southwest ridges. We carved the single tentsite out of the solid ice. Two days later Camp III was established in the gully at 18,600 feet in a hazardous position but there was no alternative site. Jim MacDonald failed to acclimatize and returned to Australia. A fierce 48-hour snow-storm made the gully a death trap, burying Richards and Shambu Tamang for 24 hours at Camp III. The storm forced everyone off the mountain. We were running out of time. The gully was in a continual state of avalanche. On April 3 Barry Young, after detaching himself from the fixed line, caught one of his front points in the strap of his other crampon and fell 1200 feet down the gully, injuring both legs and suffering a mild concussion. Only the quick thinking of Anu Sherpa and the heavy snow-falls of the previous day saved his life. Anu saw a pack fly past, moved further into the gully and grabbed Barry as he came past. The pack travelled another 3500 feet over an ice cliff. He did not climb for the rest of the expedition. Camp IV was established at 19,800 feet on April 4. Richards, Shambu Tamang and Brammer on April 11, after some excellent technical work and vertical climbing, reached the high point called Tseringma by the locals. Looking along the ridge, they saw that we had neither the time nor the equipment to reach even the south summit. On April 13 Hardless, Remynse, Carroll and I ascended to the high point in fine weather. The point we reached, the culmination of the southeast and southwest ridges, is the highest point visible to the villagers of Gyabrug and is referred to by them as Tseringma. The whole Gaurishankar complex is called by them Jomo Tseringma or Kangri Tseringma.

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*Cho Oyu, 1979.* Mischa Saleki from Iran illegally soloed Cho Oyu. After crossing the border into Tibet over the Nangpa La (18,750 feet), he made his Base Camp on September 20. His high camp was at 23,300 feet on the Austrian 1954 route on the west ridge. He climbed to the top (26,750 feet) on October 10, 1979. After his descent he was taken into custody by the Chinese. (Noted in *Iwa To Yuki* N° 74.)

*Numbur Attempt.* A Japanese expedition, led by Senkichi Kitaoka, attempted in the pre-monsoon season to climb the northwest ridge of Numbur (6959 meters, 22,832 feet). They got to Camp III at 21,650 feet but found the ridge beyond too knife-edged to continue. This would have been a new route. The team doubts the claims of the 1963 Japanese expedition (as other Numbur climbers have before them); if their doubts are correct, Numbur has never been successfully climbed.

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