

by its north ridge and La Espada (The Sword; 2050 meters, 6726 feet) by its west face.

YVES ASTIER, *Club Alpin Français*

*El Tronador, Pico Internacional, Northeast Face.* On January 13 Alberto Bendinguer, Marcelo and Gabriel Aguilar, Petra Friedrich, Marcelo Pérez, Argentines, and I made the second ascent of the northeast face of the highest summit, the Pico Internacional, of El Tronador (3350 meters, 10,991 feet), above Bariloche. We made the climb from the Otto Meiling Hut. The principal difficulties were a rock band below the summit. This was partially covered with ice, which frequently fell off.

JERÓNIMO LÓPEZ, *Federación Castellana de Montañismo, Spain*

## ANTARCTICA

*Vinson Massif, Sentinel Range, 1979.* In the *Alpenvereins-Jahrbuch, 1980* (German Alpine Club's Annual) on pages 162-6 is described the second ascent of the Vinson Massif (5139 meters, 16,860 feet), the highest point in Antarctica. The first ascent was made in December, 1966 by an American Alpine Club expedition. (See *A.A.J.*, 1967, pages 251-7.) On December 20, 1979 Germans Peter von Gizycki and Werner Buggisch and Soviet Vladimir Samsonov were landed at 8200 feet. That same day, following the American route, they climbed the steep couloir to the 11,000-foot col on the ridge that descends from Mount Shinn. On the 21st they climbed the glacier to 13,125 feet, where they again camped. On December 22, 1979 they made the long climb to the summit, which they reached at five P.M. There they found flags left thirteen years before by the Americans.

## ASIA

### Nepal

*Yalungkang Attempt.* Both Cherie Bremerkamp and I were aware of the many advantages of climbing an 8000-meter peak with two people in alpine style. During the summer of 1980 we received permission to climb the west summit of Kanchenjunga, Yalungkang (27,625 feet, 8420 meters) from the north. It had been climbed twice from the south but was unattempted from the north. We arrived at Base Camp at Pang Pema (16,900 feet) with 21 loads on March 29 after a 17-day, 150-mile trek from Dharan. Pang Pema is at the corner of the Kanchenjunga Glacier where it branches into three lesser subsidiaries. The first week we spent establishing Camp I, getting our first view of the

north face of Yalung Kang, an impressive 9000-foot wall of hanging ice curtains, forming a cirque five miles across. The classic rib which cuts directly up the north face, our initial choice of route, was entirely wiped clean by a colossal avalanche. We proceeded up our alternative route toward the north col of Kanchenjunga and placed Camp II at 19,700 feet in a relatively safe area. We were able to force a way through the first most difficult and objectively dangerous of three ice cliffs, fixing 300 feet of rope on only the steepest and occasionally short vertical sections. Our third and final camp was made at 21,300 feet, just above the first ice cliff. After a month of establishing three camps and acclimatization, the future of the trip was changed drastically. Upon reascending to the ice cliff from Camp I, we found all our supplies cached at 20,650 feet had been buried by a huge avalanche; almost all of our carefully planned gear had been buried by 20 feet of solid ice. We dejectedly returned to Base Camp. At Pang Pema spare crampon parts of several makes were assembled and pronounced inadequate but probably usable. Chapatties and eggs were added to our spartan six days of food rations. Our total remaining fuel supply was 16 Bluet cartridges. Our bivy sack was gone, but we had one snow-fluke and a drinking cup that would act as shovels to build snow caves. No fixed line or rock gear remained and very little ice gear was left. We had no radios or oxygen from the beginning. A single half-sack was chosen as our total sleeping gear. With this equipment we reascended the 5000 vertical feet to Camp III on May 6 and prepared for the summit attempts. The next day we plodded through waist-deep snow to 22,600 feet, where we bivouacked in a crevasse. We were faced with the second ice cliff on the Japanese route of 1980 on Kanchenjunga. Without fixed line, our eyes found a 50° snow-and-ice couloir, previously unclimbed, that led to the north ridge; although less direct, this would enable us to bypass the second and third ice cliffs without fixing a single foot of rope. On May 8 we climbed to within 200 feet of the north ridge and bivouacked among several large boulders. At 24,000 feet the winds were severe but we were protected by the ridge above us until the wind shifted. We spent the next day drying gear and built a snow cave at 24,300 feet. By 10:30 on the 10th we had climbed via the north ridge to within 300 feet of the top of the rock step called "Sugarloaf" by the British. Even with the minimal protection below the Sugarloaf, we were in the midst of a major storm. Out came the snow-fluke and drinking cup; in several hours we had at 24,900 feet a shelter from the storm that raged for 48 hours. During a brief lull we quickly descended the avalanche-prone slopes to Camp III in a white-out. Finally with clearing skies on May 17, we returned up the couloir to our snow cave on the north ridge. Moving fast on May 18 we climbed past our last snow cave to the Sugarloaf and onto the scree-covered slopes above where we got the first complete view of the final

summit section. Monsoon clouds were already forming and our food and fuel were almost finished. Though we had managed the short but steep rock step of the Sugarloaf successfully, we were unprepared for the additional 300-foot steep rock bands above. Even if we had been able to climb them without protection, we would have been unable to rappel down without so much as an anchor. The winds whipped the upper slopes fiercely and the temperature dipped below  $-35^{\circ}$  C at night. We bivouacked in a cave at 25,900 feet, our Camp VIII and the last of seven bivouacs above 21,300 feet. May 19 was our 15th day on marginal gear and six days of food. As we approached the summit block of Yalungkang at about 26,000 feet, we realized that we had to descend to return another year with fresh equipment, renewed energy and pinker lips.

CHRIS CHANDLER

*Kanchenjunga, North Face.* Dr. Igor Miko, Ján Piroh, František Dostál, Andrej Belica, Jozef Just, Ján Obuch, Jozef Psoška, Ján Provzník, František Piaček, Jaromír Stejskal, Vlado Tatarka, Peter Valovič, Ludovít Záhoranský, Marián Zaňko and I as leader made up the Kanchenjunga part of the Slovak expedition. The others went to Jannu. On April 19 we established Base Camp at Pang Pema at 16,900 feet near that of Chris Chandler and Cherie Bremerkamp. In the next three days Camp I was pitched and supplied at 17,050 feet. The team then divided into three working parties. Camp II was established on April 25 at 19,000 feet at the foot of the face below the north col. Kanchenjunga's north face has three suspended icefields. To reach the first one we had to get through a 650-foot-high ice barrier, very properly called the "Ice Building" by the 1980 Japanese expedition, whose route we basically followed. It took two days to supply Camp II. Then, on the third morning we found the tents of Camp II, as well as Chris's, buried in 20-feet of avalanche debris. There was no hope of finding our equipment again! Still the only possibility of reaching the first icefield is a gully on the left of the Ice Building, with the continual danger of falling ice. Camp III was pitched on May 5 at the foot of a rock face. To reach it was not only dangerous but also tiring in the deep snow of the first icefield. The rock band between Camps III and IV was the most difficult part of the route. To climb it and fix ropes took two four-man teams twelve days. On May 18 Stejskal, Belica, Obuch and Valovič left Camp IV at 23,950 feet and climbed the rock band dividing the second and third icefields. It was decided to make two attempts for the summit, without artificial oxygen. Psoška and Záhoranský, supported by Just and Zaňko, climbed to Camp IV on May 18. The next day they reached 25,925 feet and pitched Camp V there. Psoška and Záhoranský got to the summit (8598 meters, 28,208 feet). On May 21 a second party left Camp II for the second attempt,

but that same day Radio Nepal transmitted an erroneous warning that the monsoon was approaching. We recalled all remaining parties from the mountain. (We are grateful to Oto Chudý for the translation from Slovak.)

IVAN GÁLFY, *Horska Slusba, Czechoslovakia*

*Kanchenjunga and Yalungkang.* Our 22-man expedition reached Base Camp on the Yalung Glacier at 18,000 feet on March 16. We started up the British first-ascent route of 1955 and established Camps I, II and III (Advance Base) at 20,175, 21,150 and 23,960 feet on March 22, 25 and 31 respectively. The latter was on the Great Shelf. The Kanchenjunga party continued up the British route and established Camp IV at 25,750 feet on April 23 and Camp V at 27,225 feet on April 29. The Yalungkang party placed Camps IV and V at 25,750 and 27,050 feet on April 20 and 29 on the Austrian route of 1975. The original plan had been for the Kanchenjunga party to traverse to Yalungkang while the Yalungkang party climbed the ridge to the main peak of Kanchenjunga. On May 9 Noburo Yamada, Kazumi Fujikura, Shigeru Suzuki, Akinori Hosaka, Kunio Kataoka and Sherpa Nima Temba reached the main summit of Kanchenjunga (8598 meters, 28,208 feet) at 12:30 after 8½ hours of climbing. Meanwhile Yoshio Ogata, Hiroshi Yashima, Fuji Tsunoda, Kuniaki Yagihara and Kazuo Tobita climbed with nearly identical times to the summit of Yalungkang (8420 meters, 27,625 feet). Deep snow had made the ascent very arduous and it was decided not to try the 2½-km traverse between the peaks in either direction. We set poles on each peak for surveying, one seven meters to the left of the true summit of Kanchenjunga and the other on the very peak of Yalungkang. Other members of the expedition were vice-leader Kaoru Kikuchi, Makihiko Wakao, Takashi Sakuma, Ya Watanabe, Shin Komatsu, Jisaburo Suzuki, Toshimasa Tanioka, Shigeru Fukuyama, Yoshiharu Nikai, Yasuji Kato, Dr. Ryoko Kato and I as leader.

KIN'ICHI YAMAMORI, *Himalayan Association of Japan*

*Kanchenjunga Ascent and Tragedy.* We were Gilles Gaby, Michel Parmentier, Michel Pellé, Jean-Jacques Ricouard and I as leader. There are two approach routes to the Yalung side. We left Ilam and went through Sukepohari, Phidam, Gopetar, Tungrumba and Mamanke to the last village of Yamphuting, where we had to take on porters at double wages. On the return we went through Taplejung, Dankhuta and Daran, a preferable route with wide paths and more inhabitants from whom to recruit porters. Only on September 9 did we get to Base Camp at 17,725 feet, a magnificent rocky isle, sheltered from avalanches

PLATE 61

*Photo by Oto Chudý*

**JANNU.** The Slovak route diagonals  
up from the left.



and with grass and running water. We could see the stone tomb of Pache, buried by an avalanche in 1905, the inscription in memory of the Mexicans who left their high camp never to return, and the piles of garbage and refuse of 18 Japanese and 22 Sherpas of last spring. We began reconnaissance right away. We found Japanese fixed ropes and German ladders up to Camp I. Above, the monsoon had swept all away. Between September 9 and October 9 we five Frenchmen and two Sherpas established Camp I at 20,000 feet in the cwm between the two sérac areas, Camp II at 22,950 feet on the second step and Camp III at 24,950 feet at the foot of the couloir that leads to the summit ridge. In contrast to the weather in western Nepal, we had constant good weather except for a five-day snowstorm at the end of September. The later the season, the more the wind blew. We decided that Pamentier and Ricouard were best acclimatized, and on October 15 they left Camp III just after midnight and reached the summit at three P.M. They found a Japanese flag and an oxygen bottle there. (We did not use oxygen.) They were not roped on the descent. Less fatigued, Ricouard went ahead and out of sight. At sunset Pamentier got back to Camp III and thought his companion must have gone on to join Pellé, the two Sherpas and me at Camp II. At 4:30 P.M., while descending from Camp II to Camp I, Gaby saw something fall in the great couloir. He tried to think it was a pack, considering the speed of the fall and the lack of steepness, but he was nervous all night. On the morning of the 16th, we sent the Sherpas up to congratulate the pair, but they found Ricouard's body at the turn of the great couloir. Our friend must have slipped. We buried him in the nearest crevasse. We decided to give up the expedition and left Base Camp on October 21.

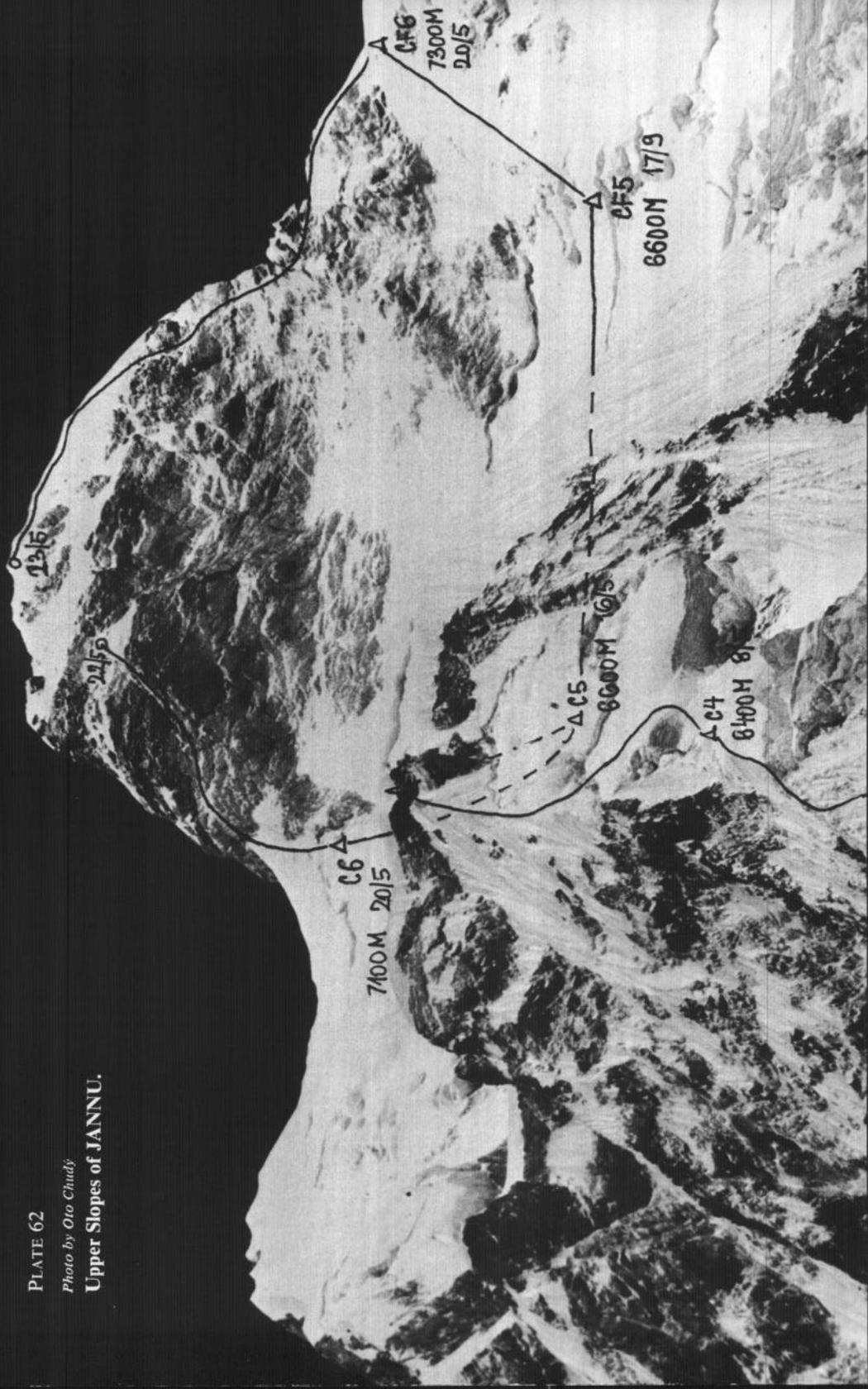
MICHEL BERRUEx, *Club Alpin Français*

*Jannu, Southwest Ridge.* Our expedition, Dr. Laurenc Divald, Daniel Bakoš, Robert Gálfy (son of the leader of our joint Kanchenjunga expedition), Oto Chudý, Ľudovít Chrenka, Jidro Martiš, Ján Špánik, Ivan Vozárik and I as leader, made a new route on Jannu. Two years ago we unsuccessfully attempted the southwest ridge, failing some 500 feet below the summit. On April 19 we all left Base Camp on Dudh Pohari at 14,450 feet for Camp I with 45-pound loads, walking up the Yamatari Glacier to the base of the 6500-foot-high buttress, the foot of our ridge. Hard work began on the 21st in the icfall, the first real difficulty and surely the most difficult section of our route. In two days of doubtful weather, we reached the side basin to the left of the ridge and the site of Camp II at 17,725 feet. On April 24 work began in the 350-foot-high V+ chimney, leading us back to the ridge, where we found fixed ropes from our 1979 expedition. Parties of two climbed from Camp II, fixed ropes and the same day descended to Base Camp to rest. Camp III

PLATE 62

Photo by Oto Chudy

Upper Slopes of JANNU.



was placed at 19,350 feet. Mixed climbing led to an icefield at 21,000 feet, where Camp IV was pitched on May 8. Climbing above Camp IV ended in a 100-foot overhang which gained us the top of the buttress at 22,150 feet. We climbed over the top and onto the Throne Glacier, where we had Camp V at 23,300 feet. It was May 16. We agreed to divide forces. Martiš, Chrenka and Špánik would push straight up the left side of the face, as we had tried in 1979. Bakoš and Gálffy would traverse the Throne Glacier to the right to join the original French south-ridge route. They placed a temporary Camp V of their own and Camp VI on the south ridge. After their first attempt failed, Bakoš had to descend to Base Camp, ill and exhausted. On May 23 Divald, Gálffy and Vozárik reached the summit (7710 meters, 25,294 feet). Meanwhile the other party pushed up the summit face. On May 22 they got to within 325 feet of the top, but, exhausted, they needed a day's rest at Camp VI. On May 24 came the erroneous forecast from Radio Nepal. We left the ridge, just to see more clear days from far away as we left the mountain. (Translated by Oto Chudý.)

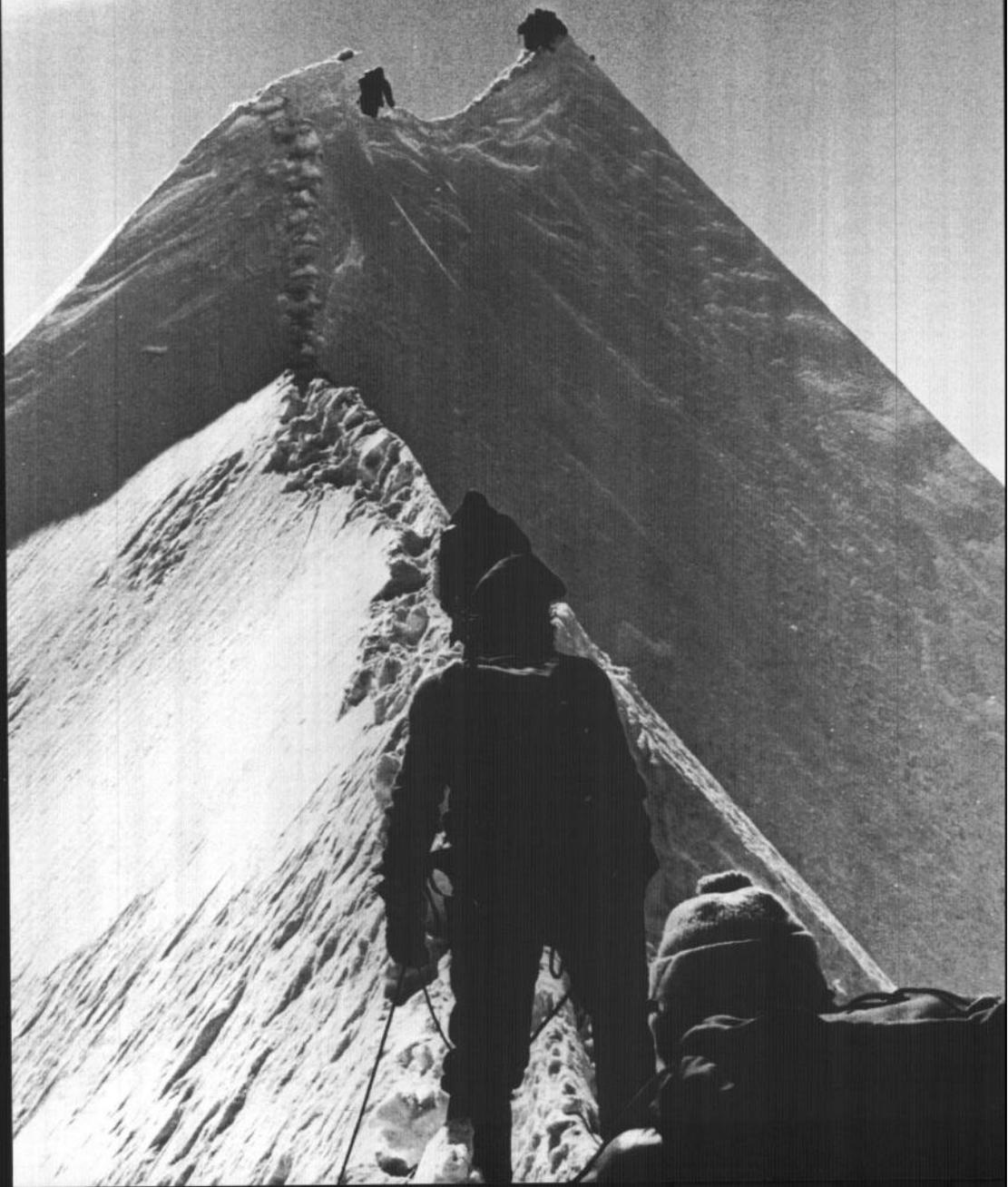
ADAM BLAŽEJ, *James, Slovak Mountaineering Association,  
Czechoslovakia*

*Jannu.* Our team of the Basque Mountain Federation consisted of Angel María Abrego, leader, Iñaki Aldaia, Xabier Muru, Patxi Senosiain, Josema Casimiro and me as doctor. We had two high-altitude Sherpas, Ang Kami and Ang Nima. We established Base Camp at the usual site at 14,600 feet on March 27. Camps I to VI were established at 15,750, 17,725, 19,350, 21,000, 22,650 and 23,950 feet on March 30, April 1, 9, 22, 27 and May 4 respectively. We followed the 1962 French first-ascent route (followed by the Japanese in 1974) except between Camps I and III. The French climbed the whole rock ridge west of the glacier from Camp I. We continued up the glacier to Camp II. Above Camp II we climbed a couloir to the rock ridge, which we followed to come out on the glacier above the icefall. The latter, which had been ascended by the Japanese, was impassable because of huge crevasses. We had one accident but without serious consequences. At four A.M. on April 19 an avalanche, caused by the breaking of a sérac on the "Tête du Butoir" ("Head of the Railroad Buffer"), swept through and leveled Camp III. The two in the camp were unharmed. All the Basques and the two high-altitude Sherpas reached the summit (7710 meters, 25,295 feet) in a single attack, having been forced by the weather to join the two summit teams into one. The weather was not good and it snowed almost every day. We fixed 6500 feet of rope, principally on the "Tête du Butoir" and the "Arête de la Dentelle" ("Lacework Ridge") and the snowfield that joined Camps V and VI. We used 60 ice screws, 30 snow pickets and 10 rock pitons. We used no

PLATE 63

*Photo by Xabier Garaioa*

**Seven Spanish Climbers on JANNU,  
three on Summit.**



oxygen but had it in reserve at Base Camp and Camp III in case of a medical emergency.

XABIER GARAIOA, M.D., *Federación Vasca de Montaña, Spain*

*Jannu Attempt.* A three-man Japanese expedition led by Masayuki Shinohara attempted the French route on Jannu (7710 meters, 25,294 feet). All three members reached 24,275 feet on October 20 during a summit push without bivouac equipment. At one P.M. they were still four to five hours from the summit and the wind was very strong. They turned back.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Makalu, Winter Attempt.* Our expedition consisted of Mario Curnis, my wife Goretta and me as leader, *Italians*, and Romolo Nottaris, Claudio Zimmermann and Giorgio Senaldi, *Swiss*. We left Dharan on November 25, 1980 with 147 porters and arrived at Makalu Base Camp at 16,075 feet on December 10. Crossing the Barun La (14,100 feet) might have been difficult with wind and snow, but we crossed in good weather. We chose the whole southeast ridge as our route; this was climbed by Japanese in 1970, though they avoided the first part of the ridge. Camp I was established on December 14 at 19,300 feet at the beginning of the southeast ridge. Camp II was placed on December 20 at 20,750 feet some 35 feet below the ridge crest to avoid the full north wind. Rope was fixed on parts of this rock and loose snow section. Camp III was made on December 30 at 22,300 feet above a snow and ice ridge. From Camp III we descended some 200 feet into a col and went again up the southeast ridge, reaching on January 15 a high point of 23,625 feet. During twelve days straight, snow had fallen, the cold was intense and there was much wind. The climb was given up. We left Base Camp on January 23, having to leave behind almost all equipment except for the indispensable: five days of food, a sleeping bag apiece and a tent for every two. It took six days to reach the first habitation beyond the Barun La.

RENATO CASAROTTO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Makalu, Solo and Without Oxygen.* The Sherpas climbed with me up the ropes, fixed the day before, to Camp III on the Makalu La at 24,550 feet. They dropped their loads and descended to Camp II, leaving me alone, still 3275 feet below the summit on the first-ascent route on the northwest side. The next day I set out alone in beautiful but windy weather. My pack had the entire equipment for a camp and four days' food and weighed 45 pounds, which got heavier and heavier with time. I kicked steps slowly up 1000 feet, resting often

and taking hours. The snow was soft, at time knee-deep. About noon I had got to 25,600 feet and decided to set up Camp IV. Thus I could rest from early afternoon on and prepare sufficient liquids. The next morning early, April 25, I left the tent with a light rucksack. At first the climbing was easy and the snow frozen. I could not head straight for the summit couloir because of glass-hard frozen séracs and had to take a longer but safer route. A snow-filled gully led to a glacial basin which was connected to the summit pyramid. There, at 26,600 feet, the snow got soft again and I climbed up this snow desert like a panting ant. With a long traverse I got around noon to the beginning of a steep gully cut by two rock bands. "I'll have to be on top by five P.M.," I said to myself and climbed the summit gully relatively fast. Despite technical difficulties in the upper part, I got to the exposed and stormy summit ridge in two hours. Following the long ridge, I soon got to the fore-summit, which I slabbed on the right. A last heavily corniced and exposed upswing took me to the summit (8481 meters, 27,825 feet). It was 5:15. An indescribable feeling filled me. Although I had climbed three 8000ers before, I had never before felt that complete solitude. But my climb was not over. The descent with its fatigue, thin air and great thirst, gave me pause for thought. Quickly I descended the summit gully and started the long traverse to the glacial basin. It got dark and fog hindered my vision. Suddenly I slipped. My ice axe and ice hammer were ripped away. I could not arrest myself. Faster and faster I pitched over several glacial steps. Instinctively I stretched out my arms and gained some control. My head came around uphill and I slowed. Finally I carefully dug my feet in and came to a stop, luckily unhurt. I had slid some 400 feet. Fortunately I found my ice hammer. Not knowing how high I was, I traversed horizontally, hoping to find my uphill tracks. After half an hour the slope got so steep that I knew I must be either too high or too low and decided to dig a snow cave for the night. Luckily there was little wind and shivering hard, I survived the night without frostbite. With the first light I saw that I had traversed too high and began to descend. In Camp IV I drank much tea and slept for two hours. It was late when I got to Camp I. It was hard to believe that in only 16 days from arrival in Base Camp I had reached the summit solo and without artificial oxygen. A few days later my friends, Hanns Schell, Hilmar Sturm and Georg Bachler, set out for the summit. They climbed the chain of camps, but changeable weather forced them down from Camp IV. After four days of rest in Base Camp at 17,725 feet, they went back up. On May 17, in Camp IV Sturm was snowblind and Schell too exhausted. Bachler set out with Sirdar Zang Phu, but the Sherpa soon had to turn back. Bachler kept on up the deep snow to the foot of the summit gully, where he found my ice axe. There he left his pack and climbed on. On the snow-covered rock bands he wet his gloves. His hands began

to freeze on the summit ridge and so he had to give up only 50 meters (about 150 feet) from the summit. The next day all were safely back in Base Camp.

ROBERT SCHAUER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Makalu, West Face Attempts, Pre- and Postmonsoon, Makalu II (Kangchungtse), and Makalu solo.* Both before and after the monsoon the Pole Wojciech Kurtyka and I, plus respective friends, were involved in two attempts to climb Makalu's west face. We intended that all climbing was to be made in alpine-style with no concessions whatsoever to the more traditional techniques. In the spring we were joined by Con Higgins, *United Kingdom*, Dr. Piotr Kintow, *Poland*, and Padam Singh Ghaley, *Nepal*. After a possibly too long acclimatization between March 25 and May 16 on the "normal route," we had achieved a high bivouac at 7800 meters (25,600 feet) and a cache and tent on the Makalu La. Kurtyka and I then attempted the west face but failed at about 6800 meters (22,300 feet) in the face of unfavorable weather conditions and inadequate progress on the quite awkward ground in this area. Meanwhile, Ghaley Padam had soloed Kangchungtse (Makalu II; 7640 meters, 25,066 feet) via the Makalu La. This is probably the first truly independent, self-motivated ascent of a major peak by a Nepali. Kurtyka, the Polish climber Jerzy Kukuczka and I returned to the mountain in the autumn. From September 4 to October 2 we again used the normal route to acclimatize, establishing a cache and tent on the Makalu La and enjoying a bivouac at 8000 meters on the north ridge. Our attempt on the west face began on October 4. All bivouacs on the face were made sitting on platforms hacked out of the ice. On the third evening I received a severe blow on the head from a falling lump of ice. We abandoned the attempt at 7900 meters (25,920 feet) after six hours of sustained effort had yielded little more than 40 meters of progress on the headwall which bars exit from the wall. Supplies were diminishing. From October 15 to 21 Kukuczka soloed Makalu. He followed the Roger Baxter-Jones route from the Chago Glacier to the shoulder, where he followed the normal route to the Makalu La and then he climbed the north ridge to the summit on a calm day after a wind-battered climb, on October 20.

ALEX MACINTYRE, *British Mountaineering Council*

*Makalu Attempt.* Nine Austrian climbers led by Arthur Haid failed to climb the normal route. They reached Camp II at 23,000 feet on September 22. Then came a great storm with much snow and avalanching. After that, the winds defeated all further attempts and they decided to give up on October 8.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club* and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Makalu, Winter Attempt.* Alan Deakin, David Heap, Binn Ryan, Eric Penman, my wife Linda and I as leader arrived at our Makalu Base Camp at 14,500 feet on November 30. We walked in from Tumlingtar with 26 porters in 12 days with excellent weather, although snow and ice did make the route difficult in places. Base Camp was lower than intended since the porters could not go higher because of the extreme cold. We proposed to climb the original French route up the northwest face. By December 8 we had established Advance Base at 17,500 feet. We adopted a "Super Alpine System" of using only two camps at a time and leap-frogging these to make progress. By December 16 we had a camp at 23,000 feet. The weather stayed good except for extremes of temperature of  $-50^{\circ}$  C and winds up to 100 mph. The extreme conditions, altitude and our fast ascent had taken their toll and on December 20 only my wife and I were physically capable of continuing. After we had reached a high point of 24,000 feet (7315 meters), the expedition was abandoned.

RON RUTLAND, *Lancashire Teachers Mountaineering Club, England*

*Kangchungtse (Makalu II) Attempt.* A West German expedition led by Bernhard Günther failed to climb Kangchungtse by the Japanese route on the northwest ridge in the pre-monsoon period. The high point was 23,000 feet (c. 7000 meters). They had two Base Camps, Camp I and a series of bivouacs. Strong winds, snowfall and insufficient food supplies caused abandonment. Probably they had a lack of manpower, having only four members, one of whom did not acclimatize well.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club* and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Chamlang's P 7010.* Reinhold Messner obtained permission from the Nepalese government to climb the southeast ridge of Makalu. He asked me to accompany him, knowing I had attempted the route in the autumn of 1980 (*A.A.J.*, 1981, pages 244-6). I secured permission for Chamlang from the north, reasoning that only by acclimatizing fully would there be any chance to climb a peak of over 27,000 feet, from flowers to the top, alpine-style. Chamlang would provide suitable terrain on which to acclimatize and also be of considerable mountaineering interest. No one had ever approached the north side and the only ascent of the mountain had been by the Japanese and Sherpas from the southwest in 1962. The walk to Base Camp began on September 1 from Tumlingtar airstrip. Apart from us two, Reinhold's girl friend, Nena, accompanied us for three days only, being seven months pregnant. I had with me my wife Jan and daughters Martha (8) and Rosie (3) and two lady climbers, Arianne Giobellina and Elaine Brook, who were trekking to Base Camp. Because Chamlang is open only for joint expeditions, we had to include three Nepalese members for that climb.

They were Pasang, Mingma and Ang Dorje. Also we had our liaison officer, various others and 50 porters. This must be the largest two-man expedition ever! By September 14 we had walked the 150 miles through the monsoon and leeches to Base Camp at 15,700 feet. Acclimatization began with a reconnaissance of the Lower Barun Glacier. Reinhold and I found a way around the icefall by going along the lower slopes of P 6720 until we could walk onto the flat glacier, which would lead easily to the Chamlang Glacier. The route involved 5.6 rock and probably had not been taken before. From the 17th to the 21st we walked north to visit the Austrians on the normal route of Makalu and the Anglo-Poles on the west face. From camp on the moraine hill, P 6140, we visited various cols to the west and north. We had good views of Chamlang and spotted the American camp at the bottom of the Kangchung face. On September 21 we moved off with the Sherpas to camp on grass above the Lower Barun icefall at 17,725 feet. The next day we walked up to the Chamlang Glacier and camped at 19,700 feet beneath Chamlang's north face. Chamlang is really a five-mile-long, level ridgetop, with the main summit (P 7319) to the west and P 7290 to the east. On all its length it drops only about 1000 feet. We discussed attempting the very attractive but steep snow flutings below P 7205 but with two untried Sherpas (Mingma had lost interest) and heavy monsoon snow on the mountain, I did not think it feasible. Eventually we agreed to climb up below the lowest point of the ridge to P 6990. On the 25th we set off up deep snow and reached the bergschrund at 21,650 feet, where Pasang and I dug a snow cave whilst Reinhold and Ang Dorje led out our two ropes. This was Messner's first experience with snow-holing and it may be his last, since we woke up covered with three feet of drifting snow at two A.M. From there the climb steepened and went up and across loose powder-snow flutings. We reached the top of the face at one P.M. after being puzzled by an UFO which hovered over us, a box-like object, shining magnificently in the midday sun. Mushrooms of snow lay heavily on the ridge. We waded along and up one of the central summits, P 7010 (22,999 feet), before going back down the way we had come. Snow began to fall that night and continued for the next few days. Avalanches threatened the Lower Barun gorge and so we walked north and crossed a col north of Sherpani at 20,000 feet. We camped on the far side and returned to Base Camp on the 28th. News had arrived from Kathmandu that Nena, who had walked in with us for the first three days, had walked out the same distance in the next half-day to catch a plane and had had her baby at a Kathmandu hospital that same night. Understandably Messner abandoned Makalu and reached Kathmandu in three days! I did not think it possible to solo the southeast ridge, knowing its technical difficulties and especially now with its masses of fresh snow. After an excursion with Arianne and Martha to a col at 20,350 feet to the east

of Makalu, we walked out. On our return, we pieced together the fact that the same UFO had been seen by the Austrians and the Anglo-Poles to the west at nine A.M. Then it was sighted by Jan and the family over Base Camp at ten A.M. and by Arianne at 11:30 on the Chamlang Glacier. Our sighting was between twelve and one P.M. Finally there were reports in newspapers in Tibet and Nepal.

DOUGLAS SCOTT, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Baruntse.* The seven-man Chiba University expedition was led by Hideaki Yoshinaga. They climbed the southeast ridge, the same route as used by the New Zealanders in 1954 and the Japanese last autumn and winter. After establishing four camps above Base Camp, Nobukazu Toiumi and a Sherpa reached the summit on April 24 and Haruo Kuroki and Fumitaka Sakurai on the 25th.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Ama Dablam.* Our expedition made the third ascent of the south ridge of Ama Dablam and the sixth of the mountain. We were Joan Massons, leader, Jordi Colomer, Ramón Bramona, Dr. Josep Barrachina, Emili Civis, Alex Alom, Lluís López, the Frenchman Jean Clémenson and I. We left Barcelona on March 14 and bought most of our food in Kathmandu. On the 19th we flew to Lukla. We placed Base Camp on March 28 at 16,400 feet at the foot of the south ridge. There was no water. We installed Camp I at 18,700 feet at the beginning of the difficulties on April 3. A provisional Camp II was placed on April 9 on a little glacier at the bottom of the Yellow Tower at 19,350 feet. On the 15th we established the real Camp II at 19,525 feet on the Red Tower. After exposed mixed climbing on rock of a very secure nature, we reached the "mushroom" zone and the last important difficulty, a vertical sérac which gave access to a hanging glacier at 20,600 feet, where we placed Camp III. From there to the 22,295-foot (6856-meter) summit, half of the climbing was difficult. It took ten hours. The first team on April 28 was Civis, Barrachina and I with Sherpas Lhakpa Dorje, Tenzing Tashi and Ang Danu. On May 3 Alom, Clémenson, Bramona and López got to the top. We fixed 6500 feet of 7mm line.

JORDI PONS, *Centre Excursionista de Catalunya*

*Ama Dablam.* On April 11 our Australian expedition arrived at Base Camp for the north ridge of Ama Dablam after a 16-day walk-in from Karantichap. This was at 16,800 feet at the head of the lateral moraine valley of the Ama Dablam Glacier, south-southeast Chhukung. We were Andrew Henderson, Lincoln Hall, Tim Macartney-Snape, Damien Jones, Karen Robins and I as leader, *Australians*; David Pluth

and Hooman Aprin, *Americans*; and Leo Eutsler, *Canadian*. After several days' acclimatization and organization, climbing began on the left side of the huge, slabby wall that buttresses the north ridge proper. (We believe that the French and New Zealand parties took the right side, while the original unsuccessful 1959 English expedition took the same route as we.) After steep and often difficult climbing on excellent granite, Camp I was made at 18,000 feet on April 20. More steep and spectacular rock climbing followed and on May 24 Camp II was established below a steep snow couloir at 18,900 feet. The couloir was climbed to gain the crest of the north ridge proper and our route merged thereafter with the French route. From this point impressive climbing on snow mushrooms and under cornices led to a big rock gendarme at 19,500 feet. Halfway up this tower was the site of Camp III (II for French and New Zealanders), which was established on May 3. The already bad weather now deteriorated further. During the 35 days on the mountain only four were wholly fine; most had four- to five-hour snowstorms from one P.M. on. The 1000 feet above Camp III were the crux. We climbed many difficult mixed and ice pitches, progress being slow. On May 12 Macartney-Snape, Hall and Henderson established Camp IV under a huge ice tower where the ridge turns and makes its sweep to the summit. For two days they fixed ropes above the camp and on May 14 they left in a bid for the summit. After some tricky climbing over huge cornices and ice formations, they bivouacked at 21,500 feet. On May 15, they reached the summit at midday and by 10:30 P.M. had returned safely to Camp IV. All members were in Base Camp the next day. Three days were spent in cleaning the equipment and some fixed ropes from the mountain. The expedition left for Lukla on May 21.

KENNETH McMAHON, *Australia*

*Ama Dablam*. We climbed the 1961 first-ascent route. Our members were John Michaud, John Tuckey, Scott Johnson, Ken Morr, Ben Greene, Karen Simmonds, Joe Burlison, Ron Crotzer and I as leader. We arrived at Base Camp on September 16. We then fixed a mixture of old water-ski tow ropes and ropes left by the Spanish as far as Camp II. Beyond the Yellow Tower we fixed our four climbing ropes to the start of the Mushroom Ridge, saving only one for climbing. Michaud, Tuckey and Johnson took a tent to the site of Camp III to spend the night and reached the summit on October 5. After another night at Camp III, they left the tent there and descended to Base Camp. On October 7 Greene and I descended from Camp II with altitude problems. On October 9 all of us except for Simmonds, Greene and me left Tangboche, while the three of us went back to Base Camp. At that point an old knee injury nearly prevented Simmonds from walking at all. On the 10th I climbed to Camp II. October 11 was a long day getting