

*Pumori, South Face Solo Winter Ascent.* Earl Wiggins and I had hoped to climb the south face of Pumori in winter, doing it for the first time alpine-style. We established Base Camp at 17,500 feet below the face. During the second night in camp, Wiggins developed a life-threatening case of high-altitude pulmonary and cerebral edema, which dictated evacuation to a lower altitude. After escorting him to the lower villages, I returned to Base Camp on December 12, determined to make the climb alone. On December 15, I bivouacked at 18,000 feet at the beginning of the route. The next day, I climbed in six hours to a hanging bivouac at 20,500 feet in a Bat Tent. A difficult 300-foot-high rock band required several hours to climb on the morning of December 17. I climbed another 800 feet of steep ice that day to bivouac in a natural ice cave at 21,600 feet. On December 18 I encountered another vertical rock-and-ice band above 22,000 feet. From there to the summit (7161 meters, 23,494 feet) there were moderately steep slopes of wind-packed snow. I arrived on top at 4:30 P.M. A nearly full moon lit my way back to the ice cave, which I got to at midnight. I finished the arduous descent the next day.

JEFF LOWE

*Kwangde, Winter Ascent.* A Japanese expedition led by Shin'ya Ikuta climbed Kwangde's northeast ridge. In the last week of December 1982 and first week of January, they placed two camps and fixed rope on a headwall. Yasuki Nishimoto, Kenji Fujita and Yozo Yokoyama left Base Camp on January 7 and bivouacked at 19,000 feet while Ikuta and Masaru Mizukami spent the night at Camp II. On January 8 they all reached the summit.

*Kusum Kanguru East, Northeast Ridge.* Guy Neithardt, Swiss, and Andrew Wielochowski, British, made the first ascent of the northeast ridge of Kusum Kanguru East and the fifth ascent of the summit on September 16. The two other members, Richard Backus, Canadian, and I, Welsh, twice reached 20,000 feet at the base of the summit pyramid of the northeast ridge. The climb was completed alpine-style in a one-week absence from Base Camp. Base Camp was established on September 5 at 14,050 feet at the snout of the Kyashar Glacier. It was reached in two days from Monjo, a small village two-hour's walk north of Namche Bazar. The route had six distinct sections. First, we followed the southeast moraine of the Kyashar Glacier to a steep ascent toward the col between Kusum Kanguru and Charpati. We bivouacked on September 12 at 17,000 feet. Second, we climbed the small but complex glacier descending from the col to a flat basin below the col. Third, we ascended an 800-foot 45° snow rib to the col with 650 feet of fixed rope. We camped in the col at 18,550 feet. Fourth, the northeast ridge presented rock-and-ice difficulties where we first followed ledges on the southeast and then in the centre of the ridge. Fifth, the steep face leading to the top of the northeast buttress (20,400 feet) provided more difficulties and complex route-finding on loose rock and variable snow.

Sixth, the knife-edged snow ridge was followed to the east summit (6356 meters, 20,854 feet).

DAVID HOPKINS, *Association of British Mountain Guides* and A.A.C.

*Cho Oyu.* Reinhold Messner, Michl Dacher and Hans Kammerlander reached the summit of Cho Oyu (8201 meters, 26,906 feet) on May 5. This was one of the fastest ascents of an 8000er ever and surely the fastest from the capital city to the summit. They left Lukla on April 15 and made Base Camp on the 26th. From Advance Base at 18,375 feet on the Nepalese side of the top of the Nangpa La, they began an alpine-style ascent on May 2. The new route was up the southwest ridge to the southwest face. After three bivouacs they reached the summit at 12:30 P.M. on May 5. They were back in Base Camp on May 7. This was Messner's tenth 8000er and Dacher's fifth.

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

*Ngojumba Kang Attempt.* An 11-man Japanese-Nepalese expedition led by Kazumi Shigeto had hoped to climb Ngojumba Kang by its south or southeast face and then traverse to Cho Oyu by the east ridge of that mountain. Five of the members were Sherpas. They established four camps above Base Camp. On October 17 Mamoru Kituchi and Tatsuhisa Mitoma very nearly reached the summit of 7743-meter (25,403 feet) when they got to 7730 meters. It was late in the afternoon, they had run out of climbing hardware and there was deep snow and strong wind and so they gave up. That same day it was decided to abandon the entire climb.

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

*Cho Oyu, South Face Attempt.* Six Italians led by Toni Klingendrath failed to climb the south face of Cho Oyu. Two members reached 21,325 feet on October 6 and another two the same point on October 12. They gave up the climb on October 20 after constant heavy snowfall when the liaison officer said that their permitted time had expired.

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

*Cholatse and Taweche Attempts.* A five-man British expedition led by William Dark failed to climb the southeast ridge of Cholatse and the northeast ridge of Taweche in the pre-monsoon period. They established a high camp in the col between their two objectives. They could not reach either summit because of lack of manpower and skills, plus avalanching. They attempted Taweche first and got to 19,000 feet; they got to 20,400 feet on Cholatse.

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

*Numbur Attempt.* Seven Spaniards led by Andrés Fernández attempted the southwest ridge of Numbur. Three reached 19,350 feet on October 16 and the next day the team decided to give up the climb. Daily snowfall meant difficult, dangerous snow conditions which in turn required much fixed rope, more than they had taken with them. Time was running out and several members were no longer in good shape.

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

*Numbur, Winter Ascent.* Seven Japanese, led by Kensuke Kikuchi, climbed Numbur by its southwest ridge. On December 11 Naoki Yamada, Tomio Mashimo and Ang Tshering Sherpa reached the summit (6957 meters, 22,824 feet), followed the next day by Tamio Hitachi and Nima Wangdu Sherpa. They had three camps above Base Camp.

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

*Chobutse Tragedy.* On October 10 Austrians Ernst Gritzner, leader, his brother Karl, Karl Pfeifer and Udo Ertl climbed from Camp I at 16,650 feet to establish Camp II at 19,200 feet. The Gritzner brothers descended to Base Camp. When Manfred Ehrenguber, Oswald Pletschko and Siegfried Varch ascended, they found that Camp II had been buried by a powder-snow avalanche apparently on the night of October 11, killing Pfeifer and Ertl as they slept. They were attempting the unclimbed northeast face and ridge of Chobutse (less properly Chobuje, 6685 meters, 21,932 feet).

*Gaurishankar Attempt.* A nine-man Japanese expedition led by Masaaki Tomita attempted to repeat the American 1979 route on the southwest face of Gaurishankar (7134 meters, 23,906 feet). Base Camp at 12,800 feet was much lower than planned and was difficult to approach because of deep snow. Two Sherpas ferried loads to Camp II at 17,050 feet. They had two more high camps. Satoru Hashimoto, Takashi Iihama, Akira Kiuchi and Hiroyuki Kuraoka reached almost 23,000 feet on May 22 but gave up the climb because of a 150-foot vertical rock wall above them; the expedition had no strength left to surmount this final obstacle. They had constantly heavy snowfall, which required them to remake the route constantly. One member was injured by falling rock and two others escorted him to Kathmandu.

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

*Gaurishankar Attempt.* Six Poles led by Tadeusz Preysner made an unsuccessful attempt on the south face of Gaurishankar but were driven back by avalanche danger. Four climbers reached 19,700 feet on April 22.

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

*Gaurishankar, South Summit.* A ten-man Yugoslav expedition was led by Slavko Cankar. They climbed the south face to the southwest ridge, where at 21,325 feet they joined Peter Boardman's route, which they followed to the south summit (7010 meters, 23,000 feet). They made no attempt to go to the main summit. They had three high camps plus a snow cave on the ridge. On November 1 Cankar, Smiljan Smodie and Bojan Sret reached the summit, followed on November 4 by Franc Papevnik and Joze Zupan.

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

*Langtang Ri.* An expedition of three Japanese and three Nepalese was led by Ryohei Nishioku. They climbed the previously ascended southwest ridge of Langtang Ri, establishing three high camps. On October 9, Japanese Yasunori Tsuchiya, Nepalese Sudeep Gurung and Sherpas Pema and Pemba Lama reached the summit (7205 meters, 23,638 feet).

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

*Langtang Lirung Attempt.* Steve Tenney, Chris Wood, Chris Reveley and I were unsuccessful in an alpine-style attempt on the south ridge of Langtang Lirung (7234 meters, 23,734 feet). Advanced Base Camp at 16,000 feet was abandoned in late April after twelve days on the mountain due to extremely heavy snow and avalanche potential.

ROBERT M. HARWOOD

*Ganesh II Tragedy.* A nine-man Polish expedition led by Janusz Majer attempted the dangerous southwest face of Ganesh II. After a nine-day approach, on October 7 they got to Base Camp at 14,100 feet. Because of objective dangers, they decided to climb rapidly, alpine-style. On October 18, Andrzej Hartman, Ryszard Pawłowski and Krzysztof Wielicki set out up the right side of the face. After six days of difficult climbing up to UIAA V and 55° slopes, on October 23 they got to a big tower on the southeast ridge at 22,300 feet, 1000 feet below the summit. Having used up their technical gear, they regretfully started to descend. On the third rappel, Hartman's dead-man anchor pulled out and he plunged with both ropes, 6500 feet to his death. Pawłowski waited there, without food while Wielicki made a daring solo descent. He melted a liter of water each day in his sleeping bag. On October 24 his companions set out on his rescue. It took three days to reach him. They descended in 16 hours.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Ganesh Himal IV (Pabil).* Our members were Stanley Kent, Dr. Lawrence Dunn, Gordon Seibel and me. Our approach took eight days through an area new to Americans. We had planned to take twelve days on the approach, as had the Koreans and Japanese before us, but managed to cover significant ground on

the first four days. The weather was terrible. It rained every day on the approach and snowed on all but three or four days on the climb. We established Base Camp below the southeast ridge at 14,300 feet on October 6 and Camp I at 17,500 feet on October 8. We started to stock that camp but had to abandon it on the 10th because of heavy snowfall. When we returned on October 17, we found it buried by two avalanches. We placed Camp IA 500 feet higher. Camp II was made on the 19th on an ice formation, the "Ship's Prow." On October 21 Kent, Seibel, Ganesh Gurung and Nawang Sherpa planned to climb the ice and rock rib above the prow, ascend the icefall above the rib, bivouac at 22,000 feet and go for the summit. It took them six hours to climb the rib because of the snow and ice conditions. At 21,000 feet at the top of the rib, where the Koreans had exited last year over a large sérac, they found that the sérac had pitched over at least 45° and stopped any exit from the rib. All exits were barred by overhanging ice, crevasses or required climbing avalanche chutes. Because of the obvious danger and continued bad weather, we gave up the attempt.

RICHARD RANSON, *Unaffiliated*

*Chamar Attempt and Tragedy, Sringsi Himal.* A joint expedition of seven Japanese and three Nepalese led by Yoshiharu Miyashiro attempted the east or northeast ridge of Chamar (7177 meters, 23,580 feet), the route successfully climbed by New Zealanders in 1953. They established three high camps. The site for Camp IV at 22,300 feet had been reached before the summit attempt and although loads had been dumped there, the camp was never made. The summit assault party, Koichi Akao, Mitsuzu Harada, Mingma Tshering Sherpa and Dorje Sherpa, reached a high point of about 23,000 feet on May 23 and then turned back because the route to the top was too long and the snow too deep. The leader called off the expedition. The next day, May 24, it was discovered that the two tents of Camp II and one of the members had disappeared. The tents were dug out of the deep snow and Koichi Ikari was found dead, apparently the victim of an avalanche.

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

*Himal Chuli Attempt.* A six-man Polish expedition led by Tadeusz Piotrowski attempted Himal Chuli (7893 meters, 25,895 feet) by its unclimbed south ridge. The porters quit on April 12 and so the march-in took three weeks. Base Camp was established at 13,375 feet on April 30. The route started up a 6500-foot-high ice wall, which faces the west. On May 3 and 6 the team placed Camps I and II at 17,225 and 20,350 feet. Above Camp II the face became difficult; the crux pitches were over 60° and some 1000 meters of rope were fixed. On May 13 Camp III was set up at 23,450 feet near the crest of the south ridge. From May 18 to 21 Piotrowski and Andrzej Bieluń made a summit attempt. They reached 25,100 feet but were turned back by the difficulty and bad

weather. Generally the weather was poor, cloudy and windy and it snowed every day.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Himalchuli Tragedy.* A nine-man Japanese expedition, led by Hisatoshi Takabayashi, hoped to make a new route on Himalchuli, the south face to the west ridge. Shunji Nishida and two Sherpas reached 21,325 feet on the west face on September 30 where Camp III was to be pitched. Bad weather intervened. On October 6 four men were going up to this site when one Japanese slipped and pulled the other three down with him. They fell 650 feet and Masayuki Fujita and Nobuhiro Hase were killed. This ended the attempt.

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

*Manaslu Tragedy.* A heavy blow struck the Croatian Manaslu expedition from Yugoslavia led by Vinko Mareveć when on April 24 Nejc (Jernej) Zaplotnik and Ante Bućan were killed in an avalanche of rock and ice. Their companion, Srećko Gregov was badly injured. They were only 100 meters above Camp I at 14,450 feet on the Manaslu Glacier. The team was hoping to make a new route, via the dangerous south face and then the south ridge. They already had established four high camps and had reached a high point of 23,300 feet. The attempt was given up after the accident. Zaplotnik, a Slovene, was one of the foremost Himalayan climbers. He had made new routes on three 8000ers: Makalu's south face, Hidden Peak's southwest ridge and Mount Everest's entire west ridge.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planiska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*Manaslu, South Face.* An expedition of guides of the German Alpine Club (DAV) Mountain and Ski School had hoped to climb the unascended south ridge of Manaslu. They had Base Camp at 13,125 feet. They climbed a rock buttress to establish Camp I at 17,050 feet. Camp II was at 18,700 feet at the point where they would leave the south-face route climbed by Messner in 1972 for their new route. They continued up the south ridge, placing Camps III and IV at 21,650 and 24,275 feet. In the first week of October, a dump of gear was covered and lost in a three-day snowstorm. When leader Günther Härter, Uwe Schelhas and Sherpa Ang Dorje set out from Camp IV on October 18, they had only five rock pitons, two ice screws and one rope, hardly enough for the very difficult climbing above. At 24,600 feet they gave up, realizing that they lacked equipment and time. They descended to Camp II from which they would make the second ascent of Messner's south-face route. They set out on October 20, each climber carrying a 45-pound pack. They climbed unroped since belaying would have taken too much time. They bivouacked at 21,650 and 24,275 feet. This last bivouac was in a snow-filled crevasse that gave some protection from the wind, which was generally violent. In the morning of October 22, Peter Popall was in

poor condition; Franz Seeberger and Paul Geyer volunteered to help him descend. The other six, Härter, Hubert Wehrs, Herbert Streibl, South Tirolean Hermann Tauber and Sherpas Ang Dorje and Nima Rita climbed to the summit. To their amazement, they met there the Korean Huh Yong-Ho, who had climbed solo the normal route from the north. (More details and photographs appear in *Der Bergsteiger*, February 1984, pages 24 to 28.)

*Manaslu Solo.* I spent a couple of weeks on the Manaslu plateau at Advance Base (17,050 feet) to acclimatize before attempting the normal northeast-face route of Manaslu. On October 19 I left Base Camp all alone and got to Camp I at 21,000 feet at 3:30 P.M., taking all my stamina to get there up icefalls and over crevasses. I left Camp I at 7:30 A.M. on October 20, carrying my mini-tent, and got to Camp II despite wind and deep snow. On the 21st, strong winds kept me in my tent all day. In spite of the gale, I left Camp II at 3:30 A.M. on October 22. Above the plateau I caught sight of the Germans moving up below me. I finally reached the summit (8463 meters, 27,766 feet) at 3:30 P.M. After a few photographs, I descended a little and met the Germans. After talking to them a short while, I hurried back to Camp II. I was back in Base Camp (15,750 feet) on October 23, not eating, and drinking only hot water on the descent.

HUH YONG-HO, *Korea*

*Manaslu, East Ridge Attempt.* Five Austrians led by Wilfried Studer attempted to climb the unascended east ridge of Manaslu from the north. They established three high camps. Studer and Manfred Kessler reached 24,275 feet on October 7. Very deep snow, avalanche danger, unstable séracs, tents destroyed in fierce winds at Camp III and limited time available put an end to the climb.

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

*Manaslu, Northeast Face Attempt in Winter.* A little after midday on December 22 my brother Alan and I were climbing carefully upwards at 23,000 feet on the northeast slope of Manaslu. Winds of more than 80 mph kept throwing us sideways into the waist-high pinnacles of eroded snow. We would hide behind them, waiting for a lull and then quickly move upward into the shelter of another. Caught out in the open, we would occasionally finish on our knees, while coffee-table-sized slabs of snow flew overhead. The beginnings of frost-bite in our three Sherpa companions had forced them back to our top ice cave. At 23,300 feet we too realized that placing a final camp would have to wait for a calmer day. That evening we sadly discovered that two of our team who were below were sick and would not be able to help any more. We decided to abandon our attempt to make the first winter ascent of Makalu. Our group consisted of my brother Alan, Gordon Smith, Trevor Jones, Carl Hannigan, Sherpas Pema Dorje, Tenzing Tashi, Lakpa Tsering, Sawa Nuru, Gyaltzen, Pinsu and me. Our







COLOR PLATE 4

*Photo by Nikola Kekus*

**The Southeast Buttress of  
ANNAPURNA III in the center and  
the East Ridge on the right.**

Base Camp was at 13,500 feet and Camps I and II were at 18,300 and 21,500 feet.

ADRIAN BURGESS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Himalayan Winter Climbing.* The strongest winds generally come from the west and south. Route selection should consider this because jet-stream winds can stop movement altogether. The height of the mountain is more critical in winter because winds are worst above 21,000 feet. [See also Dr. West's article in this issue which explains that in winter there is less barometric pressure and therefore less oxygen.—*Editor.*] Routes passing through or near cols are much more windy and can funnel winds onto slopes which would normally be considered to be in the lee. When the wind direction changes from southwest to north, there is often one day of good, calm weather, but northerly winds never seem to last for many days. Although occasional snowstorms can occur in early December, they are rarely heavy and the first three weeks of December are normally the best for climbing. However, if there is an early snowstorm, it can hinder (and put up the price of) getting to Base Camp. November weather is normally sunny and dry and the Nepalese government does not seem to mind expeditions preparing Camp I (the higher the better) before December 1, provided no one occupies it, and even this may depend on the liaison officer, who may be looking forward to the New Year in Kathmandu. When hiring porters to go to Base Camp, beware the Tihar Festival around the beginning of November. It is like trying to coax a Westerner to work at Christmas. Because expeditions are better completed by December 24, there is little time to acclimatize on the mountain and previous acclimatization is advisable, possibly on a nearby trekking peak. When getting porters for the return trip, consider that a heavy snowfall might trap the expedition behind a high pass, such as on Makalu. Snow caves are best as camps on the mountain. Only very strong tents will resist the winds above 21,000 feet; living in them is worse than miserable. One-piece down suits are the best outer clothing in very windy conditions. The short cold days of winter seem to make climbing more tiring than at other times of the year. Since Christmas is when people like to be with their families, climbers have to be very highly motivated. Climbing Sherpas dislike high winds and are better below the windy zones. Frostbite may lead to amputation and so they are hesitant to commit themselves to long days in the cold.

ADRIAN BURGESS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Manaslu, Winter Ascent and Tragedy, 1984.* Our expedition consisted of Maciej Berbeka, Marek Danielak, Ryszard Gajewski, Stanisław Jaworski, Andrzej Machnik, Zbigniew Młynarczyk, Andrzej Osika, Maciej Pawlikowski, Bogusław Probulski, Włodzimierz Stoiński and me as leader. We planned to make a winter ascent of the Messner route from the south. Our approach via the Marsyandi and Dona Khola valleys took eight days. We reached Base Camp at

4000 meters on December 2. The next day Advanced Base was established at 4400 meters on the Thulagi Glacier. We then climbed and fixed with rope a 500-meter-high rock face of UIAA V, A2 difficulty. Camp I was set up at 5650 meters on December 5. On the 11th, while descending the wall from Camp I, a fixed rope, which had been cut by a stone, broke and Jaworski fell 100 meters to his death. After discussions, we decided to continue. On December 11 we crossed the "Ice Labyrinth" and placed Camp II at 6400 meters in the "Butterfly Valley." On December 21 Camp III was established at 7100 meters. From December 23 to 26 we celebrated Christmas in Base Camp. After that the weather deteriorated. Twice the tents of Camp III were blown off into the "Butterfly Valley." Temperatures at Camp III were down to  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ . We fixed with rope the whole ramp where Camp III lay. On January 11, 1984 Gajewski and Berbeka set up Camp IV at 7700 meters on the plateau. That night the temperature inside the tent fell to  $-32^{\circ}\text{C}$ . On December 12 they made an early start for the summit and were on top at eleven o'clock. On the descent they had to buck hurricane winds directly in their faces and sometimes had to crawl downward. Berbeka froze toes and Gajewski a finger. On January 14 Pawlikowski and Probulski left Camp III and in worsening weather climbed to the plateau. They could not find Camp IV, which had been blown down by the wind. We decided to abandon the attempt and the expedition. This was the first ascent of an 8000er in January and the first winter ascent of an 8000er without supplementary oxygen.

LECH KORNISZEWSKI, *Klub Wysokogórski, Zakopane, Poland*

*Manaslu North.* Our Joint British Services expedition had 12 members under my leadership. We had 170 porters for the 15-day march to the traditional Manaslu east-face Base Camp. We established Base Camp, Camp I, Camp II, Snow Cave and Camp III at 12,600, 16,100, 18,200, 20,200 and 22,200 feet on April 12, 17, 22, 26 and 29 respectively on the eastern side of Manaslu North. The first summit bid was made on May 1 by me and three others after the weather had turned foul overnight. We set out at four A.M. but were caught and partially buried by a large avalanche, which wiped out the trail and marker poles behind us. We withdrew. Another full-scale assault started on May 4, despite snow so deep that the top of the tents at Camp III were two feet below the surface. After climbing to the north col of the main peak, Pat Parsons, Charles Hattersley, Terry Moore and Doug Borthwick reached the summit (7157 meters, 23,481 feet) on May 10 at 12:10 via the kilometer-long, technically difficult south ridge. We believe this to be the second ascent of the peak and a new route. When they got back to Camp III, they discovered it had been swept away by an avalanche. They finally found shelter at the Snow Cave after 20 hours on the move. Three peaks between 18,000 and 20,000 feet were climbed after the main assault.

DOUGLAS KEELAN, *Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Marines*

*Himlung Attempt.* A joint expedition of 15 Japanese and three Nepalese was led by Teizo Yoshino. They attempted the northeast ridge of still unclimbed Himlung (7126 meters, 23,380 feet) from the southeast, the same route attempted by the Japanese in the spring of 1982. Yukitoshi Endo and Nobuyuki Furuya reached 21,325 feet on May 7. The climb was given up on May 8 when they felt they needed 2000 feet more of fixed rope but had no more supplies left. Several members were sick and two Sherpas had gone home. Daily snowfall made for very slow progress and frequent avalanches.

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

*Himlung.* Under the leadership of Junji Kurotaki, five Japanese and three Nepalese made the first ascent of Himlung (7126 meters, 23,380 feet) via the east ridge from the south. The route had been twice unsuccessfully attempted by Japanese. On October 27 Japanese Makito Minami and Ken Takahashi, from a bivouac at 21,625 feet, and Wataru Saito and Sherpa Kirkin Lama, from Camp III at 20,475 feet, all reached the summit.

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

*Kang Guru Attempt.* A German expedition of eight unsuccessfully attempted to reach the northwest ridge of Kang Guru (6981 meters, 22,904 feet) by its west face. They had three high camps. The leader Bernhard Scherzer and Peter Brill reached 20,350 feet on May 9. They abandoned the climb the next day when they realized that above the high point lay at least 1500 feet of hard ice, requiring much tedious step-cutting and rope fixing, for which they had neither sufficient equipment nor interest. A quantity of equipment and clothing (sleeping bags, down trousers) were stolen from Camp I at 16,075 feet by yak herders while the camp was unoccupied because a member suffering from altitude sickness was being taken down for a helicopter evacuation. The police recovered the goods after one week.

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

*Kang Guru.* A Japanese expedition led by Shuichi Torii climbed Kang Guru (6981 meters, 22,904 feet) by the west ridge, following the post-monsoon 1982 route of the Yugoslavs. They had three camps above Base Camp. The summit was reached on October 19 by Masanori Inada, Misatomi Matsumoto, Shuji Tsuchiya and Ang Dorje Sherpa and on October 20 by Shigatoshi Ichimaya, Sukeharu Shinabara and Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa.

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

*Kang Guru, Winter Solo Ascent.* A four-man Japanese team led by Koichi Kato pitched Base Camp at 12,625 feet, Camp I at 17,050 feet on December 11 and Camp II on the west ridge. Hiroyuki Baba left Base Camp on December 17

and bivouacked at 20,500 feet, above Camp II. On December 18 he left the bivouac at 7:15 and reached the summit via the southwest face at 2:15 P.M. He bivouacked on the descent and returned to Base Camp on the 19th. No further attempts were made.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Bhrikuti Unclimbed?* After considerable effort, the Austrian Himalayan Society got permission to enter the restricted Mustang area to attempt Bhrikuti, the highest of the Damodar Himal. (See *A.A.J.*, 1983, page 246 for details.) Since it was said to be an unclimbed peak, they were amazed to hear that a Japanese-Nepalese expedition had just climbed the peak in the pre-monsoon period. (See *A.A.J.*, 1983, page 245.) Rudolf Weber of the Austrian expedition has sent me a report parts of which I summarize here: "After our ascents, for which we actually did not have permission, our liaison officer certified that we had climbed Bhrikuti. That caused false press reports. We were also able to establish that the Japanese-Nepalese expedition in the spring, like ours, did not reach the summit of Bhrikuti but was certified by their liaison officer to have done so. The Japanese Base Camp was 100 meters below our camp. Following a ridge, the Japanese reached only a very much lower subsidiary summit, 'Japan Peak.' I feel that the report that on May 18, 19 and 21, 1982 eight Japanese and two Nepalese reached the summit of Bhrikuti requires correction."

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

*Annapurna II Tragedy.* Klaus and Jochen Schlamberger, Hans Gsellmann and I tried to climb Annapurna II by the north face and northwest ridge of Annapurna IV. We were at Base Camp at 15,100 feet on April 11 but were held there by bad weather until April 20. In the next ten days we were able to set up a camp at 18,700 feet, a snow cave at 21,000 feet and a tent at 23,000 feet. We did much of this on skis. Bad weather forced us back to Base Camp. On May 4 Klaus Schlamberger and I climbed the 6000 feet back to the snow cave for a bivouac. The next morning we got to Camp III and after a short rest climbed on toward the ridge that connects Annapurna IV and II. On the exposed northwest ridge of Annapurna IV we were surprised in what had been fine weather by sudden violent wind squalls. We were both skiing on the very steep slopes of the ridge. I ascended into a hollow 100 meters ahead of Klaus and waited for him just below the connecting ridge at 24,450 feet. The storm grew more violent and as Klaus did not turn up in 20 minutes, I left my skis and descended to look for him. It suddenly clouded in and reduced visibility to a few meters. I shouted and moved about. Hoping to find him in Camp III, I descended. I was lucky to find the camp, but he was not there. At dawn I renewed my search in fine but cold weather and climbed to where I had last seen him. From there I went straight down the 35° slope. I found his pack 1250 feet lower. His lifeless body was some 650 feet lower still. Gsellman and Klaus' brother Jochen were ascending from

Camp II to Camp III. Later that afternoon we buried him in a crevasse. Klaus must have been thrown off balance by a wind squall and fallen. The expedition was abandoned.

ROBERT SCHAUER, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Annapurna II.* A five-man team from Australia, led by Timothy Macartney-Snape climbed Annapurna II by its south face and south spur. They set up Base Camp and Advance Base at 8525 and 12,150 feet on August 19 and 20. Camp I at 16,000 feet, Camp II and Camp III at 23,300 feet were also set up. After a heavy snowstorm on September 9 and 10, the weather was fine until the 19th when an even bigger storm struck. Lincoln Ross Hall was hit in two separate rockfalls and was out of action for a few days after each. Macartney-Snape escaped a small avalanche about the same time. Hall, Macartney-Snape, Andrew Henderson and Gregory Mortimer left Camp III on October 6 and bivouacked at 24,950 feet for two nights. They reached the summit (7937 meters, 26,041 feet) on October 8.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Annapurna II Attempt.* A six-member team from South Korea was led by Jung Sang-Mo. They set up Base Camp and Camps I, II, IV and V at 11,500, 14,750, 16,725, 22,300 and 23,950 feet on September 3, 4, 7, October 1 and 8 respectively. They hoped to climb the north face to the west ridge. Although they set up Camp V on the north face on October 8, they could not stay there due to heavy snowfall and wind toward evening. They returned to Camp IV, where an avalanche struck them at eight P.M. on October 10. Jung was buried, but he was dug out and brought down to Camp III by the others. An avalanche then hit Camp III as well. He was carried down further but they had to bivouac on the way to Camp II. He was evacuated to Kathmandu because of frostbite. The expedition continued but was finally abandoned on October 23 because of heavy snowfall, high winds and avalanches.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Annapurna II, Winter Attempt.* A British team, which included Ronald Rutland and his wife, set up Base Camp and Camps I, II and III on the north face of Annapurna II at 11,975, 13,775, 17,050 and 18,375 feet on November 24, December 1, 5 and 10 respectively. Due to continuous avalanches, they decided to abandon the expedition on December 13 and evacuated Base Camp on December 15.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Annapurna IV.* Our expedition was made up of Osamu Yamamoto, Noboru Yokoyama, Mikio Takamatsu and me as leader. We set up Base Camp at 11,500 feet in the Salatang Khola above Pisang on April 2. We climbed Annapurna's



north ridge. Camps I, II, III and IV were established at 14,100, 17,225, 20,000 and 23,000 feet on April 8, 21, 29 and May 8 respectively. On May 9 Yokoyama, Takamatsu and Sirdar Ang Phuri Lama reached the summit (7525 meters, 24,688 feet).

YASUMITSU YAMANO, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Annapurna IV.* A guided expedition led by Austrian Adolf Weissensteiner had eight Swiss, five Austrians, one German and one Frenchman. After establishing three camps on the northwest ridge, on October 7 Austrian Franz Breitenbauer, Swiss Anton Karl Spring, Ueli Stahel and Pierre André Levet and Sherpa Pa Nima reached the summit (7525 meters, 24,688 feet).

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Annapurna III, Southeast Pillar Attempt and Tragedy.* Our team of Jon Tinker, Rob Uttley, Trevor Pilling and me reached Base Camp on September 5. The walk-in to the upper Seti Khola was awkward and in places dangerous. We were only the second expedition to venture so far. Base Camp was at 10,500 feet near the Seti Glacier. From September 6 to 12 we carried loads to Advance Base at 13,775 feet on the plateau just below the southeast pillar. Monsoon conditions prevailed until September 27. On the 28th we made our first acclimatization climb on the east ridge of Annapurna III. We made a snow hole at 20,000 feet and the next day continued to make a gear dump halfway along the lower part of the ridge. The weather deteriorated. On October 6 we returned to the dump and continued along the almost Peruvian-type corniced ridge to make another snow hole at 20,175 feet at the foot of the 3500-foot-high face of the east ridge. In view of the shortage of time, Pilling and Uttley decided to make an attempt on the summit via the east ridge, much less technical but more dangerous than the southeast pillar. On October 8 Tinker and I descended to prepare for an attempt on the pillar. As the weather turned worse that evening, Pilling and Uttley continued on to a bivouac at 20,675 feet. It started snowing and strong winds picked up. It continued thus without relenting for five days. Tinker and I retreated to Base Camp, calling off our attempt. On October 10 the east-ridge pair attempted to retreat and managed to descend 350 feet, finding a natural ice cave. It was obvious to Pilling that Uttley was not well and had chest pains and a bad cough, possibly oedema. His condition rapidly deteriorated. On October 12 Pilling tried in vain to prepare Uttley for descent, but the latter was too weak and at times delirious. Again on the 13th he tried to no avail. Pilling realized that the only way to get Uttley down was with the aid of other people. He descended to Advance Base on the 14th in very dangerous conditions and had to spend another night out before he met us. He was too fatigued to take part in the rescue. Tinker and I tried to climb a direct line to Uttley. It was a dangerous route but meant that Uttley could be lowered more easily. The weather continued bad and

many avalanches swept the proposed line of ascent. On October 18 we realized that the situation was hopeless and returned to Base Camp.

NIKOLA KEKUS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Annapurna III.* Five Australians led by Jonathan Chester failed to climb a route on the southwest face of Annapurna III to the west ridge. They had four high camps above Base Camp. On October 22 Chester and three others reached the top of the face at 24,000 feet. Chester and two members bivouacked there, hoping to climb the remaining 800 feet to the summit the next day. On October 23 the winds were so strong that they prevented any upward progress. A severe snowstorm came. The other two were frostbitten during the descent.

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

*Gangapurna Attempt.* Four Austrians led by Reinhold Amann failed in the pre-monsoon period to climb the east ridge of Gangapurna (7455 meters, 24,458 feet), which they hoped to reach from the south. They originally hoped to climb the west ridge but even from Base Camp conditions looked too dangerous. Heavy snowfall caused a powder-snow avalanche to destroy Camp III, though the two occupants of the camp escaped unharmed. Continuing snowfall led the expedition to give up two days later.

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

*Gangapurna Attempt.* We had the last of the monsoon rains on the first day of our march in, followed by a long stretch of good weather. During this time we set up and stocked Advance Base at 14,500 feet and placed two camps on the mountain. We and Australians attempting Annapurna III from the same side originally had our first camps at the same site at 15,800 feet. However, we moved our camp to 16,500 feet atop the first step of a large rock buttress which lies in the center of the cirque formed by the southern sides of Gangapurna and Annapurna III. On October 10 this camp was occupied by five people. A storm hit that day and on the morning of the 11th an avalanche buried them. Luckily, all were able to get out. The last man to be found was nearly unconscious and turning blue. After finding what gear they could, these five descended to the unoccupied Australian Camp and spent the next two nights there. This incident destroyed the morale of a couple of the climbers, as well as all but one of our remaining high-altitude tents. After a day of discussion, we elected to quit. The members were Susan Coons, Brian Cox, Henry Hazebrouck, John Herb, Frank King, William Robinson, Erik Simpson, Hal Tompkins and I.

CHARLES K. SINCLAIR, *Unaffiliated*

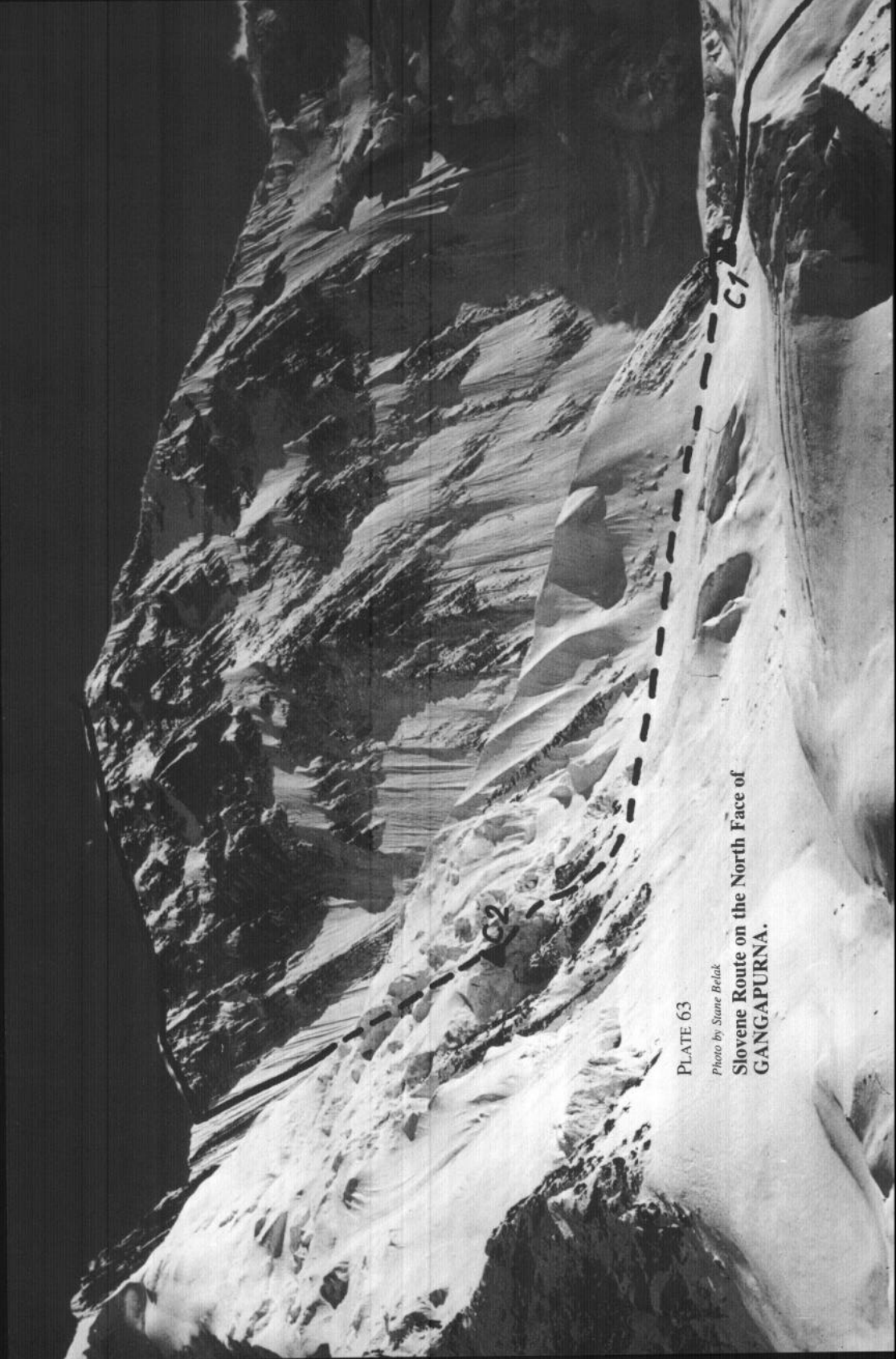


PLATE 63

*Photo by Stane Belak*

**Slovene Route on the North Face of  
GANGAPURNA.**

*Gangapurna from the North.* Our expedition was to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Slovensko Planinsko Društvo (Slovene Alpine Club). We were delayed five days in Kathmandu trying in vain to find a precious load which had our ski poles, Base Camp tent and all our tent supports. We traveled by special bus to Dumre and walked to Manang in nine days. We had difficulty with porters on the approach. They shortened the days' stages and even demanded 100 rupees per day instead of the official 25 rupees. At Manang we hired mules because of a shortage of porters. On the precipitous footpath to Base Camp, the animals panicked and eleven loads fell 1000 feet to the bottom of the valley. On October 8 we finally reached 15,900 feet, beyond which most of the porters would not go. We had planned for a higher Base Camp but had to settle for Base Camp I there. We provided ten porters with clothing and footgear. On October 10 we carried to Base Camp II at 17,550 feet, next to the French Grenoble expedition to Glacier Dome. That evening a blizzard began. When we had plowed back through three feet of snow on October 13, we found Base Camp II demolished. The sky cleared but there were hurricane winds and  $-20^{\circ}$  C temperatures there. We had only 18 days left. The north ridges from Gangapurna and Glacier Dome embrace a hidden cwm. The center of the north face rises 6000 feet to the summit of Gangapurna. Being pressed for time, and because of strong winds on the western side of the face, we decided to ascend the left (eastern) 4250-foot-high side and reach the northeast ridge at 23,000 feet. On October 16 we set up Camp I at 18,050 feet. We continued into and up the cwm and then fixed 650 feet of rope on the face to 20,000 feet, the site of Camp II. Rope was then fixed up to 22,500 feet. Camp III was to have been established at 22,000 feet. Marjan Kregar and Pavel Kozjek were to have made a summit push but wind and cold drove them back to Base Camp II on October 24. Camps I and II were swept in that storm by avalanches. We realized that a Camp III on the ridge would be of no use and so we decided to climb the mountain from Camp II. On October 27 Kozjek, Kregar, Emil Tratnik and I set out from Camp II in the moonlight and reached the ridge in the early morning hours. We fixed the last 650 feet of rope to protect the descent. We had fixed in all 4000 feet of rope. At nine A.M. we started unroped up the technically easy northeast ridge. The wind grew stronger and stronger and at times we had to crawl. We completed the new route to the summit (7455 meters, 24,457 feet) at 12:40. In 100 mph wind and  $-30^{\circ}$  C temperatures, we had to leave in 15 minutes. The wind abated lower down and with the fixed ropes we reached the support party of Božidar Alič and Boris Kofel at Camp II. We evacuated the high camps and were in Manang on October 30. The other members of the party were Marjan Brišar, Vid Mesarič, Andrej Beg and Marjan Novak.

STANE BELAK, *Planinsko Društvo Ljubljana Matica, Yugoslavia*

*Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome).* A French expedition led by Bernard Muller attempted this peak by its north face. They pitched three camps above Base Camp. They had reconnoitered to 21,000 feet above Camp III on October 8.

Heavy snowfall brought avalanches which swept the camp, destroying the tent. The four occupants managed to get out and dug a snow cave, which in turn was covered by slides. They managed to get down in the deep snow and called the expedition off.

*Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome).* Our expedition, led by Rudi Mayr had 16 members, most of them high-altitude trekkers with no serious ambition for the summit (7193meters, 23,600 feet). The mountain was approached from the south and Base Camp was established on October 14 at 14,450 feet. Further progress was delayed due to very deep snow and daily avalanches particularly in the dangerous area between 16,400 and 19,700 feet. On October 22, at four A.M. Rudi Mayr, Friedl Kleissl, Ang-Nima Sherpa, Gyaltzen Sherpa and I left Camp II at 19,000 feet. The ascent was first through a 1000-foot-high ice gully and then over ice slopes to the ridge between Glacier Dome and Rock Noir.\* Following the long snow slopes to the east, we reached the summit at 4:30 P.M. Since I stayed on the summit for a longer time, I had to descend alone. Due to hallucinations and later to darkness, I lost the track and had to bivouac. On the next day I also got into an avalanche but finally escaped with some frostbitten toes. No further attempts on the summit were made.

OSWALD ÖLZ, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Annapurna, South Face Attempt.* An expedition of five Yugoslavs and two Italians was led by Andrej Štemfelj. They attempted a new route on the south face of Annapurna between the British and Japanese routes. Warm weather triggered much rockfall. On October 22 Janez Benkovic and Bogdan Bičak reached a high point of 21,000 feet. A rock struck the pack of one of them. Séracs were also falling in the area and so there was no safe route in the vicinity where they were climbing. They decided to stop on October 26.

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

*Annapurna, Northwest Buttress Attempt.* Annapurna's still unclimbed northwest buttress is very dangerous. My friends and I are still alive, but we were in the wind from many avalanches in Camp I. An avalanche in Camp II killed a member of the Korean expedition and two of their porters on September 24. The Korean climbing leader, Carlo Besana and I rescued Kim Chung-Hwan below Camp II four hours later. Our group was made up of Besana, Giuseppe Lafranconi, Achille Pasini, Claudio Cavenago, Fabio Nicoli, Giulano Maresi, Lino Tagliabue, Paolo Lietti, Remigio Bonacina, Sante Armuzzi and me as leader. We had only ten days of good weather out of 38. We established Base Camp at 13,300 feet on September 12 and Camps I and II at 16,400 and 17,400

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\* The official names recently announced by the Nepalese government for Glacier Dome and Roc Noir are Tarke Kang and Khangsar Kang.

feet on September 14 and 20. On September 24 Camp II disappeared and Camp I was destroyed. We placed a new Camp II at 17,550 feet on the 28th but the weather was bad until October 5. On October 8 Besana and I placed Camp III at 20,350 feet, but heavy snow from October 9 to 12 made Camps II and III disappear from sight. We got back down on the 14th and 15th.

PAOLO PANZERI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Annapurna Attempt and Tragedy.* A nine-member South Korean expedition led by An Chang-Yeul attempted Annapurna's face by the Dutch Rib. They set up Camps I, II and III at 16,050, 17,725 and 20,350 feet on September 1, 5 and 9 respectively. On September 24 an avalanche swept through Camp II killing Chung Yang-Keun and two Nepalese porters, Malla Magar and Tikaram Magar. Kim Chung-Hwan miraculously escaped. Miss Kim Young-Ja and two Sherpas reached the high point of the expedition of 22,000 feet on October 1. They discovered that so much of the team's supplies had been lost up and down the mountain in avalanches that the climb was abandoned.

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

*Annapurna, Winter Attempt.* A four-man Japanese team led by Tadao Sugimoto attempted the north face of Annapurna. They set up Base Camp and Camps I, II and III at 13,950, 16,075, 17,725 and 20,000 feet on November 27, December 1, 3 and 10 respectively. On December 19 Yu Watanabe reached 22,310 feet. Two days later the expedition was abandoned due to strong winds.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Hiunchuli, Southeast Face.* Rising 10,000 feet above the Modi Khola gorge, Hiunchuli (6441 meters, 21,133 feet) presents a climbing and route-finding challenge. We arrived at our 13,200-foot Base Camp after a strenuous 3000-foot climb up grass slopes out of the gorge. Camps I and II were at 15,500 and 17,500 feet respectively below and above the rock band that guards the upper mountain. Camp III was at 18,800 feet among seracs on the glacier that descends from the summit. Our summit day, October 9, required laborious trail-breaking with several ice pitches. We descended our 3000 feet of fixed rope to Base Camp in a raging blizzard. Reaching the summit were Andy Politz, Ron Highet, Jim Waldron, Dick Wright, Daria Jezierska and I.

ERIC SIMONSON

*Tilitso, Winter Ascent.* A four-man team from South Korea had permission for Tilitso's northwest ridge, but they found the route dangerous and switched to the northeast ridge. All four climbed together and bivouacked for four nights, one without a tent. On December 10, Kim Yong-Un fell sick at 22,300 feet. The leader, Lee Yong-Ho, descended with him while the other two continued on.



Jong Bon-Wan and Yoon Dae-Pyu reached the summit (7134 meters, 23,405 feet) at 10:30 A.M. on December 11. On the way down they bivouacked twice. This is the second winter ascent of Tilitso and the first by a foreign team.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Nilgiri North.* The Australian Army Expedition was composed of Philip Pitham, David Evans, New Zealander Mark Whetu, Peter Allen, Peter Lambert, Dr. Bruce Fox, Terry McCullagh, sirdar Maila Pemba and me as leader. We arrived at Base Camp at 13,300 feet on October 8, only 20 minutes from Herzog's Base Camp on Annapurna I. The amount of rubbish accumulated there is staggering. I thoroughly briefed our sirdar. All our rubbish was collected throughout the expedition and burned at the end. (The Sherpas would not allow burning during the expedition.) Our campsites were left as clean as we found them. Most of our fixed rope was removed. We quickly established Camp I at the foot of the prominent couloir on the southeast aspect of the Nilgiri North buttress on October 9 at 14,750 feet. Four days of snowfall kept us tent-bound but when it cleared, we had continuous good weather until the end of the expedition. During the bad weather Dr. Fox contracted pneumonia and had to be evacuated by helicopter on October 15. Camp II at 17,725 feet at the top of the couloir on a very narrow col was occupied on October 16. Because of the exposed position, tents were not erected and advantage was taken of a small schrund. The route above Camp II involved technical climbing over a narrow ridge. This was the most enjoyable part of the climb. After seven days, rope had been fixed to just below an 800-foot face. Whetu, Pitham and Evans moved up to the end of the ropes on October 23 and then climbed up the face and around a large ice cliff to establish Camp III in the darkness. The next morning they reached the summit (7061 meters, 23,166 feet). On October 26 Maila Pemba, Allen, McCullagh, Lambert and I also reached the summit. On both occasions temperatures were down to  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  and strong winds were prevalent. This was the second ascent of the southeast face and the fourth of Nilgiri North.

ZACHARAKIS ZAHARIAS, *Captain, Australian Army Alpine Association*

*Tukche.* A six-woman Japanese expedition, led by Mrs. Hisako Yamamoto, made the first female ascent of Tukche. We had camps at 17,725, 20,000 and 21,325 feet and one bivouac at 21,650 feet above Base Camp on the north ridge. On May 9 Fumie Shimamura, Kazuyo Fujikura, Emiko Maki, Sherpa Nawang Yonden and I reached the summit (6920 meters, 22,703 feet).

KIYOMI KURITA, *Bush Women's Mountaineering Club, Japan*

*Dhaulagiri.* A 12-person expedition from Toruń, led by Wojciech Szymański, included Austrian Sepp Kathrein and German Dr. Ewa Demand. After setting up Base Camp at 15,100 feet on April 22, they placed Camp I at 18,975

feet on the northeast col five days later. Camps were established on the normal route at 21,500 and 23,125 feet. On May 17 Mirosław Gardzielewski, Jacek Jezierski, Tadeusz Łaukajtys and Wacław Otreba placed Camp IV at 24,600 feet and the next day reached the summit at four P.M. They were forced to bivouac on the descent without gear. Łaukajtys had become confused from the altitude and had lost his down jacket and gloves. The night was difficult. The long descent to Camp IV took place on May 19 and to Camp III the next day. Aleksander Lwow and Tadeusz Karolczak were there. Three summiters descended further while Lwow and Karolczak escorted Łaukajtys, reaching Camp I with difficulty on May 21 despite mist, snowfall and avalanches. Łaukajtys and Jezierski, suffering from frozen hands and feet, were evacuated by helicopter.

JÓSEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

*Dhaulagiri Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of James Merel, Yves Tedeschi, Jean Clauzier, Dr. Sylvie Romin, Jacques Maurin, Norbert Silvin and me as leader. Originally we had permission for the southwest buttress of Dhaulagiri but we changed it for either the north face or the northwest ridge. However after observing the unclimbed northwest ridge, which was difficult and dangerous for the first 3500 feet, we abandoned it in favor of an alpine-style attempt on the Pear Route on the north face. This route was finally climbed by Japanese in October of 1982 with siege tactics. It is not hard up to 22,000 feet, but then it has great difficulties around 25,000 feet. We got only to 19,750 feet because of bad weather and some strategic errors. There was very heavy snowfall in October 1983.

YVES ASTIER, *Club Alpin Français*

*Dhaulagiri Attempt.* A 15-man Japanese expedition led by Tsuneo Hasegawa failed to climb Dhaulagiri by the normal northeast-ridge route. Hasegawa and Shinishi Ishi made a bid for the summit on November 3 from Camp III at 24,600 feet and reached 25,250 feet before strong winds drove them back. Two days later Hasegawa set out solo from Advance Base (Camp I) at 18,700 feet on the northeast col on another summit attempt. However Chin Chikahiro, a Chinese national living in Japan, who was supposed to descend from Camp II to Advance Base the previous day, had not turned up. Hasegawa turned from his summit try to search for him, found him in a bivouac and brought him down. By then the one-week extension of their climbing permit was about to expire and they made no further attempt. Chin died, apparently from altitude illness, on the second day of the trek out from Base Camp on November 7. He had been very slow all during the climb and on the first day away from Base he fell behind the others, who left him to move at his own slow pace. The next day a Japanese and a Sherpa went back to look for him, found him very ill and helped him to move to a lower altitude, but he died early that afternoon.

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

*Dhaulagiri VI, Southwest Buttress.* On October 9 Dan Griffith, Peter Carter, Albi Sole and I reached the summit of Dhaulagiri VI (7268 meters, 23,846 feet), via a new route on the southwest buttress. The ascent was made alpine-style in six days from Base Camp at 4100 meters. The fifth member, Mike Down, had performed strongly during the acclimatization phase, but he opted out of the final push because of an old injury. The route, reached after a lengthy glacier approach, followed an elegant and objectively safe ice buttress. The climbing was exclusively in deep snow or on alpine ice. The weather was quite unsettled this fall with heavy snowfall, and we were fortunate to sneak the climb in between storms. A more complete report will appear in the *Canadian Alpine Journal* 1984.

ROBERT ROHN, *Alpine Club of Canada*

*Churen Himal Tragedy.* On September 14, a 15-man German Alpine Club (DAV) expedition led by Gustav Harder began its approach. The purpose was to train experienced climbers from the Alps to climb in the great mountains of the world. The south ridge of Churen Himal seemed objectively so dangerous that they hoped to reach the upper part at 7000 meters via the southwest face. Three camps were set up. On October 9 the lead climbers fixed rope to 6800 meters. They returned to Camp III at 5800 meters where they were pinned for several days by a severe storm. On October 12 a three-foot-thick windslab broke loose just above them. Herbert Jans, who happened to be out of the tent, was dragged 200 meters down the slope. He freed himself and climbed back up to release Dieter Elsner, Christoph Kruis, Thomas Höss, Walter Fichter and Uwe Schmidt. However, Hans-Peter Hamm and Christoph Hawlitschek were dug out dead. The survivors could not find boots or clothing but managed to descend despite the deep snow and avalanche danger. All suffered frostbite.

*Changla Attempt.* A joint Japanese-Nepalese women's expedition led by Mrs. Kyoko Endo failed to make the first ascent of Changla (6721 meters, 22,051 feet). There were seven Japanese and three Nepalese members. The women were supported by two high-altitude porters. After establishing four camps above Base Camp on the southwest ridge, four members and two Sherpas reached a high point of 20,675 feet on May 28 but the climb was abandoned because the sharp snow ridge above them was very difficult, had hidden crevasses and occasional ice sections. The Sherpas would not climb without fixed rope and the rope supply was exhausted. Fuel ran out and they had little time left. The peak lies in western Nepal in the Gorakh Himal. They approached from Simikot.

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

*Api, Winter Ascent and Tragedy.* Api (7132 meters, 23,399 feet) is difficult to approach and the climbing route is long and dangerous. It was first climbed

in 1960 by Katsutoshi Irabayashi, Gyaltzen Norbu, M. Terashi and Y. Tsuda from the northwest; Italians made the second ascent in 1978 from the southeast. Other attempts have failed. In December 1983 a Polish expedition of 11 men, led by Tadeusz Piotrowski, made the third ascent, the first in the winter. Base Camp at 9850 feet and Advance Base at 13,125 feet were established on December 10 and 12. Camps I and II were placed on the first-ascent route at 16,400 and 18,050 feet on December 14 and 19. On December 22 Piotrowski, Andrzej Bieluń and Zbigniew Terlikowski started up the northwest ridge toward the summit, bivouacking at 19,025 and 19,700 feet. On December 24 the trio began the final push. Terlikowski climbed slowly and Piotrowski accompanied him, while Bieluń pressed ahead. At 5:30 P.M. he was seen reaching the summit. At 21,000 feet Terlikowski gave up but Piotrowski kept on, getting to the summit at seven P.M. He did not meet Bieluń. His descent was made in darkness, cold and wind. He lost his way, slipped and fell 150 feet, but was not injured. He spent Christmas Eve in a snow hole. The next day he reached Camp II. Terlikowski was there but Bieluń was not. They searched for him in deteriorating weather. They waited for him for 2½ days in vain. While searching for Bieluń, on December 28 Wojciech Jedliński, Ryszard Kowalewski and Jacek Gocyla climbed P 6050, a high point on the ridge, to look for him.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Himalayan Traverse.* On June 15, 1982 Hugh Swift and I completed a nine-month, 2000-mile walk across the Himalayan regions of Bhutan, Nepal and India, the first Americans to complete such a trek. The traverse began on September 20, 1981 at Tashi Yangtse Dzong in northeastern Bhutan. The route we followed passed through Lhunsi Dzong, Wangdiphodrang, Thimphu, Chomo Lhari Base Camp, Gangtok and Runtek with border crossings by vehicle. Then we walked continuously from Ilam in eastern Nepal to Lamayuru Monastery in Ladakh, India via Dhankuta, Namche Bazaar, the Rolwaling Valley, Gosainkund Lake, Trisuli, Pokhara, Dhorpatan, Jumla, Baitadi, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Ukimath, Uttarkashi, Rampur, Malana, Manali, Khyelang and Padum. Immediately following this, John Mock joined Hugh Swift to trek for 3½ weeks across the Baltistan region of Pakistan from Goma to Rupal, directly beneath Nanga Parbat, the westernmost peak in the Great Himalayan Range.

ARLENE BLUM

### **India-Garhwal**

*Kamet and Abi Gamin.* In the pre-monsoon period, I led an expedition to Kamet. We left Joshimath on May 28 in two separate groups. One, led by Captain S.B. Dalal, went to the virgin west face. Captain Dalal, Naik Dhan Singh and Naik Rajinder Singh made a route along an icefall and up very steep