

out the generous help of the Indian expedition on the normal route, which offered tents, oxygen, food and even medicine. Savov suffered frostbite and was evacuated from Base Camp. Valtchev healed in the Indian camps and Base Camp and suffered no serious consequences.

SVETOSLAV KOLEV, *Bulgarian Mountaineering Federation*

Everest. After the brilliant success in 1965, India waited 19 years to put a woman on top of Everest. A seasoned team during May climbed Everest by the traditional southeast ridge. On May 9, from Camp V at 27,800 feet, Phu Dorjee became the first Indian to reach the summit solo. On May 23 Miss Bachendri Pal, Dorjee Lhatoo, Sonam Palzor and Sherpa sirdar Ang Dorje made an ascent directly from the South Col in excellent time. (Lhatoo took under five hours.) Bachendri Pal was the first Indian woman and the fifth in the world to climb Everest. Ang Dorje was the second man to make the ascent twice without oxygen. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III and IV at 17,700, 20,000, 21,600, 24,000 and 26,200 feet on March 16 and 24 and April 9, 15 and 29 respectively. The potential of the team was greatly marred by continuous bad luck. At the beginning, an avalanche from the Lho La claimed the life of one Sherpa and injured six others. A kitchen boy died of pulmonary edema. A group, already poised at the South Col, had to come to the help of the Bulgarian summit pair of Ivan Valtchef and Metodi Savov, who on request had been permitted to come down the southeast ridge. An ice avalanche on the night of May 15 buried one of our strongest groups at Camp III and all save Bachendri Pal were injured. Out of our 40 Sherpas, only 12 reached the South Col. Of the climbers, 4 out of 7 women and 11 out of 13 men reached the South Col. The composition of the team was Lieutenant Colonel Prem Chand, deputy leader; Majors Kiran I. Kumar and Jai Bahaguna, N.D. Sherpa, Dorjee Lhatoo, Rattan Singh, Lopsang Tshering, Magan Bissa, Phu Dorjee, Sonam Palzor, Chandra Prabha Aitwal, Bachendri Pal, Rekha Sharma, Rita Gombu, Harshwanti Bisht, Sharawati Prabhu, Dr. Minoo Mehta, Dr. Meena Agarwal and I as leader.

D.K. KHULLAR, *Colonel, Principal, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, India*

First Sagarmatha Preservation Expedition. The First Sagarmatha Preservation Expedition, a unique environmental project to remove the debris of previous mountaineering attempts on Everest, finished the second phase of its operation during the autumn climbing season of 1984. Nepal Mountaineering Police and Sherpa climbers joined forces with American volunteers to clean up after the more than 70 expeditions that had gone before them during the past 32 years. The project was conceived by Inspector Yogendra Thapa of the Nepal Police and Pemba Tsering Sherpa of Journeys International, a trekking agency in Kathmandu. They wanted to reverse the growing reputation of Everest as being the garbage pit of the Himalaya. The project was scheduled in two phases,

a spring campaign to clean up the Everest Base Camp area and an autumn campaign to clean up the Icefall and upper camp sites up to the South Col. Funding was provided for the spring phase by the Nepal Department of Tourism and for the autumn phase by the Earth Preservation Fund and private American donations. During the spring campaign in May 1984, 1200 loads of rubbish were removed from the upper part of the Khumbu Valley and the Base Camp site (one load approximates the size of a large household aluminum trash can). Virtually all of the trash came from foreign trekking and climbing groups and consisted of paper food wrappers, tin cans, plastic food containers, liquor bottles, empty film canisters, broken tent stakes, discarded clothing, and other assorted pieces of camping and climbing equipment. The autumn campaign began in August when an advance team from the Police arrived at Base Camp and forged a route through the Khumbu Icefall. The route which was also used by the Dutch, New Zealand, and Czechoslovakian expeditions was maintained by the Police with equipment supplied by those groups. The main team of climber-cleaners arrived at Base Camp in September and began the dangerous task of retrieving debris from the high wind-swept slopes and carrying it down through the Icefall. After cleaning the lower part of the Icefall, the Police team went up to Camp I just above the Icefall and worked its way up the Western Cwm towards the upper camp sites retrieving material from as high as Camp IV at the South Col. Everything collected was carried back by hand to Base Camp. From there Sherpa porters and yaks moved the debris to lower elevations where it was buried at Gorak Shep, a small summer yak herder village off the edge of the glacier. The more significant material such as aluminum ladders and oxygen cylinders was sent to Namche Bazar where it is to be housed in a small museum to be built at Sagarmatha (Everest) Park Headquarters. The autumn campaign collected over 600 loads, 150 loads coming from the Base Camp area and the rest from the Icefall and the upper camps. Unfortunately, the Police expedition ended in tragedy. Expedition Leader Yogendra Thapa and Ang Dorje Sherpa were killed as the result of a fall from the South Summit while searching for the body of Hannelore Schmatz, a German woman who perished while descending from a successful summit bid in October 1979.

RICHARD A. SALISBURY

Nepal Police Everest "Clean-Up" Expedition. This expedition (First Sagarmatha Preservation Expedition) was certainly a most controversial expedition and has caused much of a stir in Kathmandu. Looked at from different points of view, it was either (1) a blatant and irresponsible attempt to climb Everest without permission with fraudulently obtained large sums of money from foreigners (much of it unaccounted for) under the pretense of a clean-up operation or (2) an expression of deep concern for the sanctity of the high Himalayan peaks, a courageous attempt to rescue Sagarmatha from the mantle of defiling trash left there by uncaring foreign climbers and trekkers. The truth is somewhere between the two, perhaps exactly in the middle. The tragic end of the enterprise was a bold, foolhardy attempt to retrieve the situation to reach the

summit as it seems they may have been trying to do, in defiance of authority. That Yogendra Thapa, a senior Police officer, acted in such an irresponsible manner is something the Police headquarters would rather forget. The tragic death of Thapa let a lot of people off the hook. That Ang Dorje Sherpa should lose his life in the best forgotten expedition is tragedy.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

Everest. An expedition of eight Netherlanders was led by Herman Plugge. They set up Base Camp on August 31 but claim they were prevented for a few days by the Nepalese clean-up group from using the route the latter had just opened through the icefall. They came to an agreement, set up Camp I on September 8 and placed three more high camps, the highest being Camp IV on the South Col. Bart Vos went alone to the summit on October 8 after the expedition's only woman, Mariska Mourets, turned back at 8600 meters when her oxygen supply ran out. This is an altitude record for Dutch women. Ganesh Gurung stopped at the south summit. Although Vos' oxygen was also finished there, he continued on and reached the summit at 4:30 P.M.

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

Mount Everest, Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition was organized by the Slovak Geographical Society of the Slovak Academy of Sciences with two parallel programs: scientific research and mountaineering. The research concerned the problems of nature in the National Park of Sagarmatha from ecological aspects. The Slovak Geographical Society was the first in the world to undertake a project inspired by the UIAA Kathmandu Declaration of 1982. The climbing program was to ascend Everest by the southern buttress, the Polish route. (An earlier plan to repeat the Soviet route of 1982 was declined because of many objective reasons.) Snow conditions allowed us to ascend from Camps III to V closer to the buttress itself. Base Camp was reached on September 6. We placed Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 6050, 6400, 7300, 8050 and 8300 meters on September 9, 12, 22, October 2 and 14 respectively. We used no supplementary oxygen. On October 15 the summit was reached by Zoltán Demján, Jozef Psoška and Sherpa Ang Rita. They descended the classic South Col route. Demján and Ang Rita reached Camp II that night but Psoška lagged behind and apparently fell on the Lhotse Face. His body was found at the foot of the face. We had 25 members, including the scientists. Those who worked in the Base Camp area and higher were climbing leader, Michal Orolín, Ivan Fiala, Psoška, Demján, J. Porvazník, L. Záhoranský, J. Just, M. Šajnoha, R. Mock, V. Launer, V. Petrik, M. Neuman, Z. Brabec, J. Oršula, V. Dudeš, Dr. M. Šimon, Dr. M. Skladaný, M. Matis, M. Končok and me as leader.

FRANTIŠEK KELE, *Slovak Geographical Society*

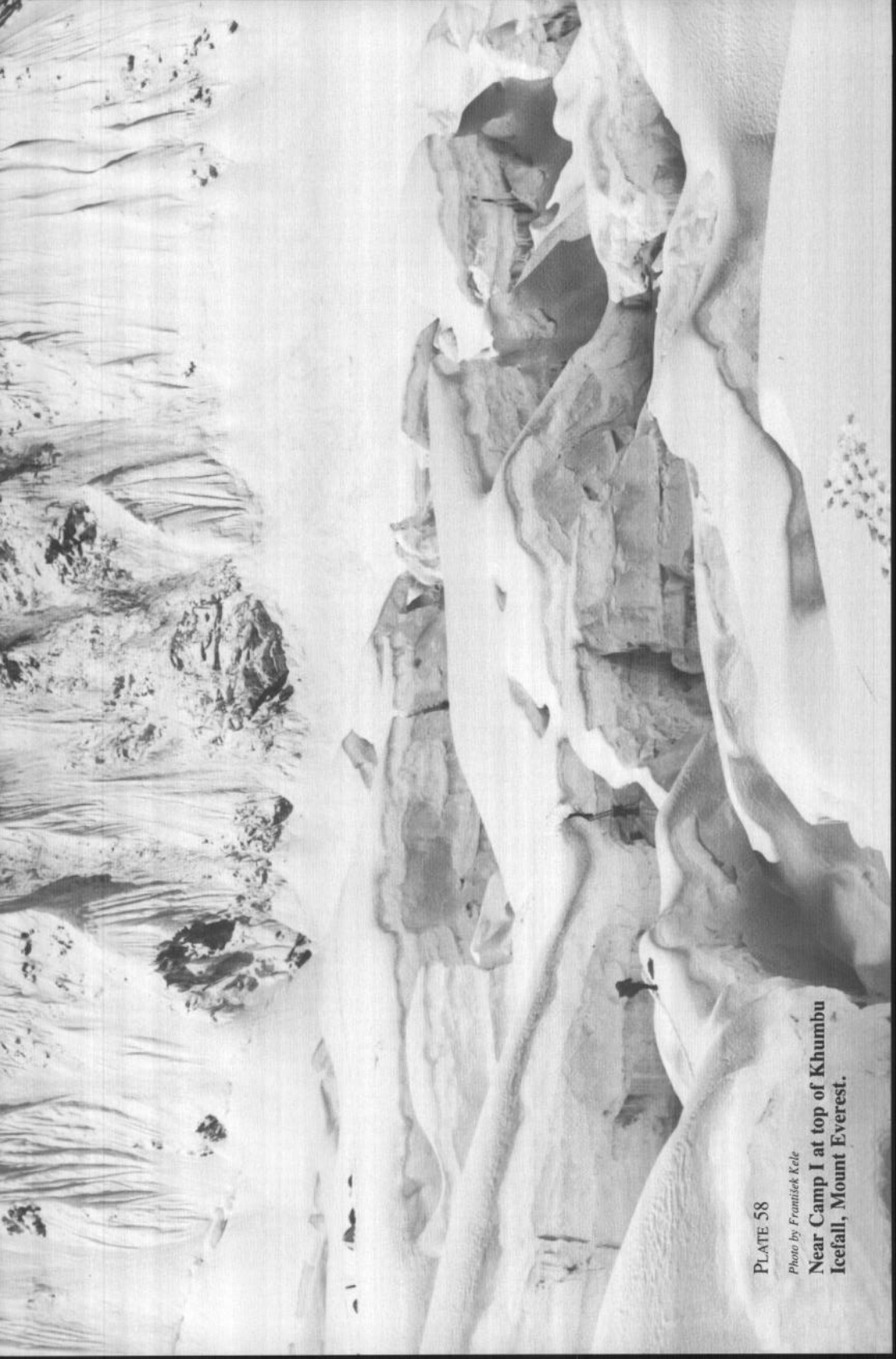


PLATE 58

Photo by Framtiek Kela

**Near Camp I at top of Khumbu
Icefall, Mount Everest.**

Everest Attempt and Tragedy. Peter Hillary led an expedition of two New Zealanders and four Australians on an attempt on the west ridge of Everest from the Western Cwm. They had three fixed camps above Base Camp plus a bivouac at 7900 meters. Five members set out for the summit on October 9 from the bivouac. At 8140 meters Hillary, Craig Nottle and John Muir decided to turn back because the wind was so strong and bitterly cold that they believed they could not reach the summit that day. Fred From and Kim Logan continued upwards and got to 8200 meters, the expedition's high point, when they saw something hurtling down the mountainside. They turned back in case they were needed for a rescue. During the first party's descent, Craig Nottle somehow lost his footing at the bottom of the Hornbein Couloir and fell about 500 meters down the north face. The object From and Logan had seen was Nottle's body falling. When From in his descent reached the same place as that from which Nottle had fallen, he too fell down the north face and was killed. The expedition was called off.

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

Everest, Winter Attempts. A team of six French and two Belgian climbers led by Eric Dossin attempted to climb the west ridge of Everest. South Koreans led by Oh In-Whan were on the South Col route. Strong winter winds kept both parties from climbing as high as 8000 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

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West, J.B. and S. Lahiri (eds.) *High Altitude and Man*, Washington, DC: American Physiological Society, 1984. (This monograph contains several summary-type articles describing scientific findings of the expedition.)

A full account of the scientific findings of the expedition in non-technical language will be found in *Everest—The Testing Place* by John B. West, published by McGraw-Hill, June 1985.

If any reader would like a complete list of scientific papers from the expedition, write to John B. West, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Medicine, M-023A, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093.

JOHN B. WEST, M.D., PH.D.

Nuptse Northwest Summit, Northwest Ridge. A French expedition led by Raymond Renaud climbed Nuptse Northwest (7720 meters, 25,328 feet) by the northwest ridge from the south, a new approach to the ridge. They had four high camps. The French gave climbing instruction to the Sherpas every afternoon. A total of eight Frenchmen and six Sherpas got to the summit. On October 15 Jean-Marie Perrier, Sherpani Nima, her husband Lakpa Norbu and Sherpa Ang Kami got to the top. Nima, inexperienced before this climb, holds the altitude record for Nepalese women. On October 19 Yvan Estienne, René and Rémy Roux and Pierre Cinquin reached the summit. On October 20 and 21 Vionnet, Pailheret, Dr. Dantoine, Renaud and three other Sherpas got to the top. No attempt was made to continue to the main summit, which was very far away over an exposed ridge in high winds and for which they had insufficient climbing gear.

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

Pumori, Southeast Face to Northeast Ridge. Our multi-national team of friends consisted of Australian Geoffrey Bartram, Englishman Chris Curry, Americans Peter Getzels, Steve Amstutz, Robert Schreiber and me, and Nepalese Narayan Shrestha. Our route was to scale the icefall beside the rock spur on the southeast face and to follow the northeast ridge to the summit. Our route lay left (south) of the American winter ascent of 1981. We left Jiri on April 4 and established Base Camp at 5200 meters on April 16. Advance Base was placed in the séracs of the southeast face at 5915 meters on April 20. A higher cache was located at 6100 meters, but daily storms piled two feet of snow on the glazed blue ice of the face and forced a retreat to Base Camp on April 27. Curry and Schreiber, who remained at Camp I, narrowly escaped disaster the next day when a massive avalanche swept the route. Advance Base was moved up to 6100 meters in one climb from Base Camp and occupied by all climbers on May 2. Two days later, after struggling with several steep ice cliffs, daily snow-

PLATE 59

Photo by Michael André

PUMORI.



storms and nagging coughs, Bartam, Getzels and Shrestha bivouacked beneath a rock cliff at a notch on the northeast ridge at 6400 meters. They reached the summit at 1:45 P.M. on May 5 and descended to the bivouac to join their four teammates who had moved up for an attempt the next day. Amstutz and Curry surmounted the top at 12:30 P.M. on May 6 and were followed by Schreiber and me at 12:45. Lingering on the summit, we two were enshrouded by cloud in a sudden storm with minimal visibility, which delayed our descent until sundown, when it subsided. We spent three more days clearing the route and finally left Base Camp on May 11. Shrestha's ascent was the highest elevation reached by a Newari climber.

MICHAEL ANDRÉ *Unaffiliated*

Pumori Attempt. Six climbers of Korean ancestry, although two are American citizens and one a Canadian, were led by Kim Ki-Hwan. They attempted the first-ascent route on the northeast ridge. After a three-week struggle on the east face, they gave up on September 22 when Kim and Young Chu pitched their fifth high-altitude camp at 6260 meters at the top of the face on the ridge. They found that their plan to climb hard ice was useless when the ice was actually soft and broke easily. They had to climb very difficult rock and used up all their own and some Dutch rock pitons to gain the ridge, only to find another rock obstacle for which they had no pitons or rope.

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

Pumori Ascent and Tragedy. Dan Fox, Rich Pierce, Richard Wilson, Kevin Murray, John Taylor and I wanted to make the winter ascent of the south ridge of Pumori. Andy Randall was Base Camp manager. We lost Taylor and Murray to illnesses before reaching Base Camp. Taylor returned to the U.S. but Murray could rejoin us later. We established Base Camp on December 1 and Camp I at 18,500 feet on December 4. Camp II at 20,210 feet was occupied on the 7th by Wilson and Pierce who spent the 8th fixing the two rock towers just above 20,000 feet. December 9 found five of us (Murray had arrived at Camp I on the 7th) conferring atop the ridge. Fox and I had decided to return to Base, both affected by violent coughing spells. Murray was not sufficiently acclimatized and returned to Base as well. Wilson and Pierce went on alpine-style and climbed to their first bivouac at 21,000 feet on the 10th and their second at 21,800 feet on the 11th. On December 12 they established a bivouac at 22,900 feet, possibly without sleeping bags. They reached the summit at ten A.M. on December 13 in high winds. After ten minutes on top, they descended to their last bivouac site on a rock outcrop 500 feet below the summit. We never saw them again. We can only assume that they had been overcome by the cold due to prolonged exposure.

STEVEN G. JORGENSON, *Unaffiliated*

Lobuje East. We reached our high camp of 17,000 feet on April 19. On the 20th I soloed P 5551 (18,212 feet), which lies a mile south of Lobuje East, for a better look at our chosen southeast-face route on Lobuje East. Bad weather forced us to remain in camp until April 25. That morning found Sherpa Ang Gyalzen and me working our way up the southeast face. It began to snow at ten o'clock. We summited (6119 meters, 20,075 feet) at 11:30 A.M., descended to camp by one o'clock and then to the village of Pheriche. Our third member, Len Torobin, could not go beyond high camp because of an ear infection. The Sherpas and the Nepalese authorities state that ours was a first ascent, but Japanese led by Yoshihiro Hayata climbed the peak in 1979.*

LAWRENCE NIELSON

Lobuje East. Our French and Swiss expedition was composed of Denise Hembise, Samyr Lazizi, Bernard Nief, François Ryter, Serge Chartoise and me. After an approach of 12 days, we placed Base Camp beside a lake at 5000 meters below the southeast ridge of Lobuje East. The route ascended a snow slope to reach the crest of the southeast ridge where it has two rock bands at 5500 meters. We placed Camp I at 5700 meters. The difficulties began there. There were two steep steps on the summit ridge and there were knife-edged sections. On November 5 Chartoise, Lazizi, Ryter, Sirdar Chowang Rinzi and I reached the summit at 1:30 P.M.

DOMINIQUE HEMBISE, *Club Alpin Français*

Lobuje West. Yuji Kamakura, Yoshihiro Taguchi, Mrs. Akiko Kanazawa, Miss Keiko Nishihira, Dr. Ken Kanazawa and I settled Base Camp on September 16 on the Lobuje Glacier at 5000 meters. Within a week we made a route in the labyrinth of a huge icefall, using 1000 meters of fixed rope. The icefall completely hid the upper glacial basin and the couloir which led to the summit ridge. On September 26 Kamakura and Taguchi left Base Camp and entered the camp which had been pitched in the basin at 5650 meters the day before. The next day they climbed the slope to the 60° couloir. In the lower part, they climbed the left side of the couloir for 300 meters and then traversed to the right and climbed another 120 meters. After a few pitches, they reached the rock wall below the summit ridge, where they bivouacked. On September 28 they continued up the wall and snow to reach the summit (6145 meters, 20,160 feet) at 10:15 A.M. The summit was a sharply knife-edged point. It seems likely that Fred Beckey and party in 1955 climbed the east peak of Lobuje East and so ours may have been the first ascent.

TAMOTSU OHNISHI, *Osaka Alpine Club, Japan*

*George Bell has cleared up details about what he and Fred Beckey climbed in 1955. They climbed the southeast face of Lobuje East but did not go to the highest summit. Bell states, "We climbed the east peak of Lobuje East, not the west peak as stated in the 1956 A.A.J. account. The real summit tower is some ten meters higher and 200 meters west of where we got."—*Editor.*

Cholatse, North Face and Lobuje East, East Ridge. Catherine Freer, Renny Jackson, Sandy Stewart and I arrived at Base Camp at Tsholo at 4665 meters on October 14. We spent the next few days acclimatizing by walking up to Everest Base Camp to visit friends. On October 24 Freer and I started up the steep rock corner forming the east ridge of Lobuje East (6119 meters, 20,075 feet). We reached the summit four days later after an enjoyable climb of up to 5.8 difficulty, some on excellent rock. Jackson and Stewart had climbed the standard route and we followed their tracks to descend. Two days later, on October 30, we started up Cholatse's north face. Our route went up a ramp system to reach the green gully. We followed a crest on the right side of the gully to a bowl and the mushrooms of the summit ridge. The climbing was varied: some hard rock, water ice, dangerous mushrooms and a lot of steep, rotten, unprotected snow-ice, where bollards were the only belay. Route-finding was difficult amongst all the overhangs and walls of ice. At one point rockfall forced a half-day halt until the face was in the shade and cold enough to be safe. Jackson and Stewart spent three nights sitting on ledges unable to pitch their I-tents. Freer and I had only two nights out. We took seven days to reach the summit (6440 meters, 21,128 feet) and another two to descend the Swiss route.

TODD BIBLER

Tawoche Attempt. John Roskelley, Naoe Sakashita and I climbed to 18,000 feet to observe Tawoche's east face. Alternating warmth and cold produced avalanches, running water and rockfall, a deterrent to insane behavior. We made no attempt on the face and returned with reverence for the power of nature. A half-hearted attempt was made on the southeast ridge on April 23, but we left off with bad weather approaching.

JAMES BRIDWELL

Ama Dablam Attempt. The following participated in our expedition: Ted Brittsan, Ben De Han, Carl Root, Barbara Rumer, Michael Trotter, Dorothy Landeen and I as leader. Following 12 days of acclimatization, which took us from Lukla to Kala Patar and back to Pangboche, we established Base Camp on April 4 near Mingbo at 15,000 feet. The absence of water above Mingbo, the result of an extremely dry winter, forced the low Base Camp. We established Advanced Base at 16,000 feet to facilitate the move to Camp I at the apex of the lower southwest ridge. For four days we moved loads to Camp I at 19,000 feet which Trotter and Root occupied on April 9. On April 10, 12 inches of snow fell at Advanced Base, which doubled the time between there and Camp I to eight hours. The remaining team members each carried a final load and occupied Camp I on April 11 and 12. The serrated ridge narrows and steepens abruptly above Camp I and its snow-covered condition required fixing 600 feet of rope. Establishing Camp II was further stalled by daily snowfalls. Trotter and Brittsan reached Camp II at 19,700 feet on April 17 and the first loads were carried by the others on April 18. On April 19, following much discussion, we all agreed

PLATE 60

Photo by Sandy Stewart

**The Upper Part of CHOLATSE's
North Face.**

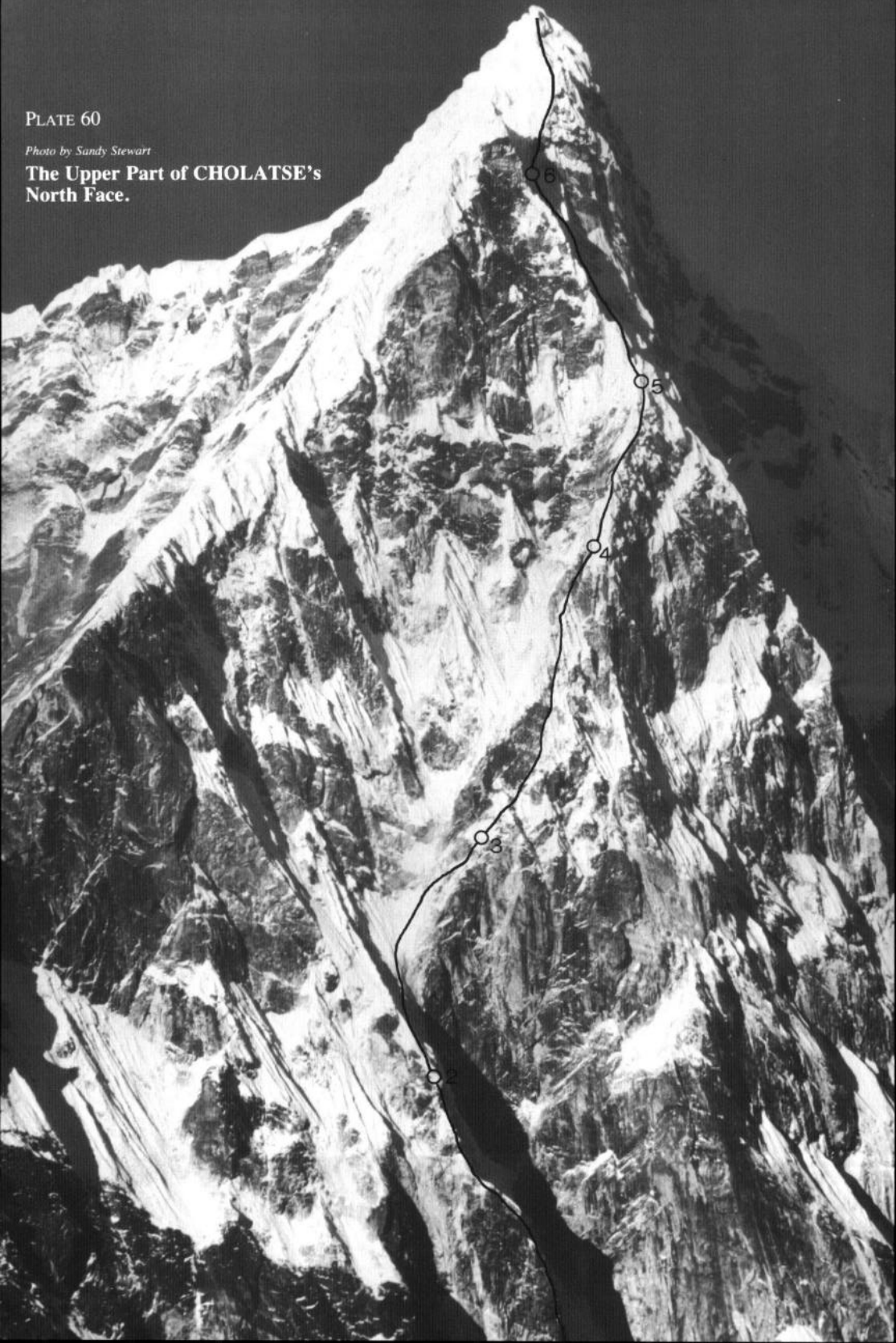


PLATE 62

Photo by Sandy Stewart

**Catherine Freer reaching
CHOLATSE's summit on the
seventh day.**

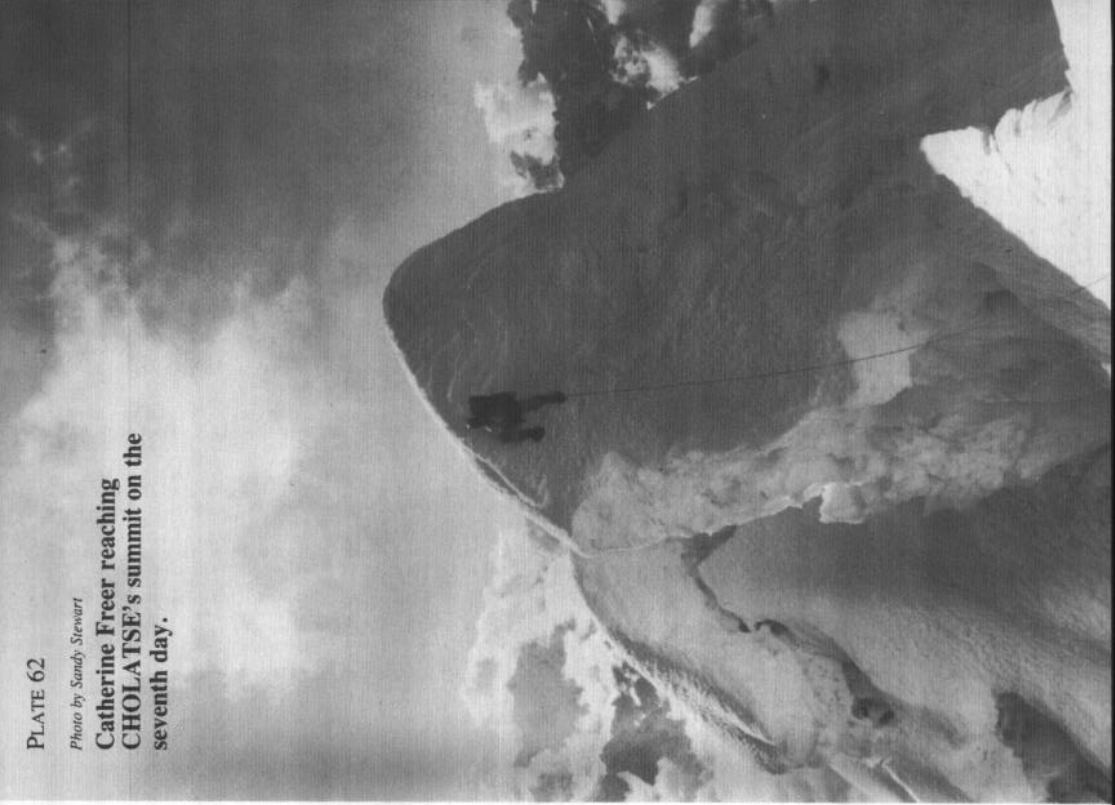
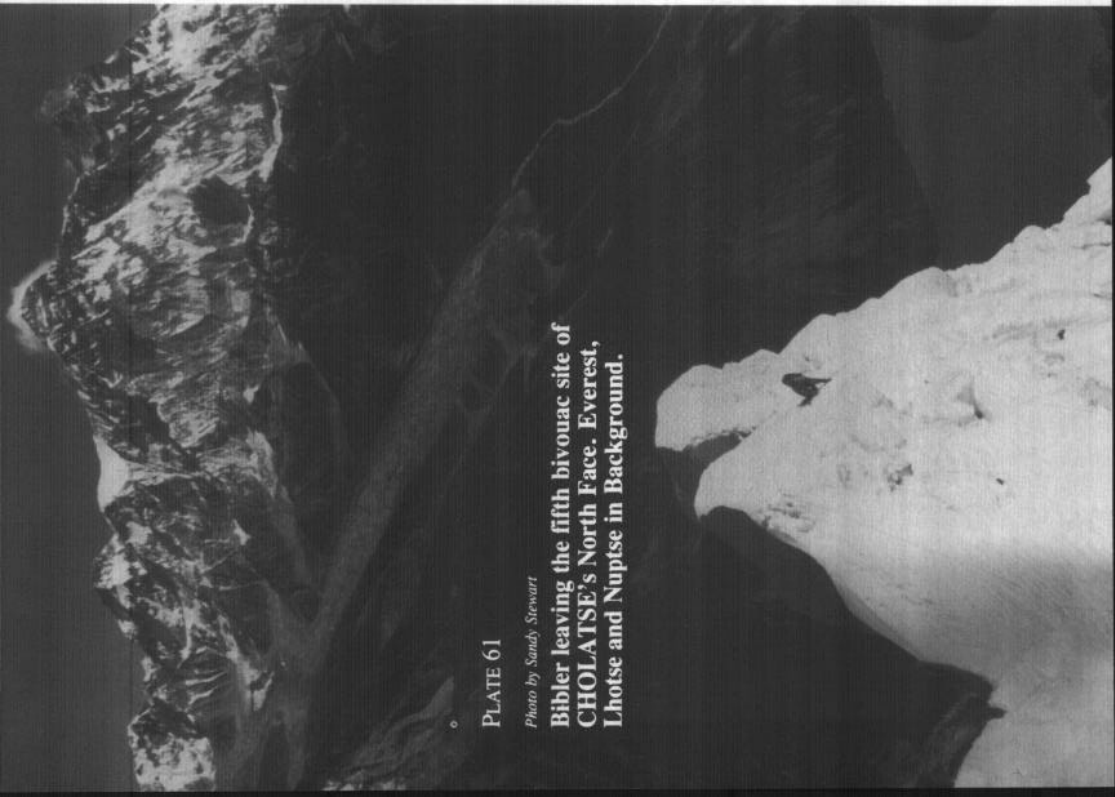


PLATE 61

Photo by Sandy Stewart

**Bibler leaving the fifth bivouac site of
CHOLATSE's North Face. Everest,
Lhotse and Nuptse in Background.**



that with the prevailing weather pattern it would not be possible to complete the route with our food, fuel and time limitations. On April 20 we vacated Camp II and cleaned as much as possible of our route. The high point was about 350 feet above Camp II. Bad weather continued. By the time we reached Lukla on April 24, a steady, gray pre-monsoon rain had settled in.

JAMES EISENHARD *Unaffiliated*

Ama Dablam Attempt. A five-man French team led by Michel Pelle reached 19,000 feet on April 5, four days after having reached Base Camp and having placed Camp II at that height. They learned that an American expedition had arrived with a permit for the south ridge, which they were climbing. Upon return to Base Camp, they found that the Americans had the permit for the ridge and that the French permit was for the south face. The French had not come prepared for the much more difficult face climb, did not have the equipment for it and so they had to quit.

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

Ama Dablam Solo. After the Tawoche climb with Roskelley and Bridwell was given up, our Japanese American Alpine Club member, Naoe Sakashita, headed alone for Ama Dablam's south ridge. After reconnaissance, on April 30 he bivouacked at 5700 meters. Making use of the American expedition's fixed ropes and fixing some of his own and with a minimum of bivouac gear, he continued. On May 2 he made a cold bivouac at 6100 meters, having climbed that day as high as 6300 meters. On May 3 he found steep, rotten ice near the top of the ice wall at 6400 meters but reached the summit at 2:20 P.M. After another bivouac at 6100 meters, he descended safely to complete the second solo ascent of Ama Dablam.

Ama Dablam Attempt. The British twins, Alan and Adrian Burgess, and American Craig Ballenger attempted to climb the south ridge, the normal route, on Ama Dablam in winter. They reached a high point of 6400 meters on December 16 and then gave up in the face of high winds, which were so strong that they were blowing about chunks of rock, and dwindling food and funds. They had one high camp and a bivouac.

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

Ama Dablam, Winter Attempt. Japanese led by Tsutomu Dobashi on the north ridge of Ama Dablam in the winter of 1984-5 got to 6600 meters before being forced to quit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Kangtega, Women's Ascent. Our expedition climbed Kangtega largely by the same route after Camp I as the New Zealanders, who made the first ascent in 1963. We established Base Camp on April 24 at 4700 meters at the foot of the Kangtega Glacier. Because the New Zealand route on the glacier was threatened by avalanches and falling séracs, we ascended the glacier only to the bergschrund where we turned to the right on the rock spur that descends from Kangtega. Fixing rope on nearly all this section, we climbed on mixed terrain to one of the cols on the ridge and rappelled down to the glacier, where we placed Camp I at 5400 meters. A summit attempt on May 13 failed because of the distance to the top. We moved up the smooth glacier to a great plateau where we overcame a sérac, fixing rope again. Afterwards, we had to climb past a second sérac and up a plateau where we placed Camp II at 6300 meters. On May 13 leader Emérita Puig, Esperanza Capella, Carmen Melis, Mónica Verge and I and the Sherpas Ang Phuri Lama and Ang Karma left Camp II, climbed 40° snow for 250 meters near the left side of the slope, passed between two sérac bands, turned left to reach the corniced southwest ridge and reached the summit (6779 meters, 22,240 feet) at one P.M. on May 15. Dr. Lidia Riera also accompanied the expedition.

MARÍA CARMEN MAGDALENA, *Unió Excursionista de Catalunya*

Thamserku. Koreans led by Yong Tae-Shin climbed Thamserku by a new route, the east face to the south ridge. They had three high camps. Chang Jae-Shin, Jong Back-Ro and Sherpas Ang Dorje and Ang Temba reached the summit (6623 meters, 21,730 feet) on September 27, just twelve days after establishing Base Camp.

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

Cho Oyu Attempt. A team of eight Britons, an American and a New Zealander, led by Steven Berry, attempted to climb Cho Oyu by ascending the right side of the south face to the east ridge. They established four camps on the face, the highest at 23,000 feet. There were three bivouacs on the summit attempt. Englishman Matthew Priestman and American Jeffrey Jackson, the team's strongest climbers, got onto the east ridge at 25,425 feet on May 16. The next day they climbed along the ridge, confident that they were on the way to the summit when, halfway or more along the ridge, they encountered an impassable gully system, stretching down into Tibet. Priestman tried to solo around it on very steep, loose rock, but it was impossible. He got frostbite that caused him to lose a bit of a toe. The expedition was given up.

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

Cho Oyu. Our expedition was made up of leader Lluís Belvis, Emili Civis, Toni Llasera, Carlos Vallés and me, *Catalans*, Jean Clémenson, *French*, and Tsambu Tamang, Karma Sherpa and Nima Dorje Tamang, *Nepalese*. We established Base Camp on August 22 at 5200 meters on a moraine called Dzasampa below the face of Nangpai Gozum, two or three days from Thame. We headed north up the glacier to place Camp I at 5650 meters on August 31. We turned up the moraine-covered glacier beneath the southwest face. At 5850 meters we found the site used by the Czech-American ladies in the spring, and at 6000 meters the bivouac of Messner. It was there that the real climb began up a spur which took us to 6350 meters, where we placed Camp II on September 4. From there the route lay along the snow-covered southwest ridge until the ridge ended in the west face. We placed Camps III and IV at 7050 and 7450 meters on September 11 and 18. On September 19 our first summit attempt was turned back in bad weather. On September 20, Llasera, Vallés, Tsumbu and Karma reached the summit. Clémenson and I got there on the 21st. This was the third ascent of this route.

JORDI PONS, *Centre Excursionista de Catalunya*

Cho Oyu Attempt. A Slovene (Yugoslav) expedition attempted to climb Cho Oyu by the south ridge. The leader was Matjaž Pečovnik. Marjan Frešer, Franc Knez and Danilo Tič reached the expedition's highest point at 7700 meters, the highest point so far reached on this ridge, on October 27 in a three-day alpine-style climb from Camp II at 6600 meters. They believe that they had surmounted all the technical difficulties but they were driven back by fierce winds.

Cho Oyu, Winter Ascent. A Polish-Canadian party led by Andrzej Zawada completed the first winter ascent of Cho Oyu (8201 meters, 26,906 feet). They climbed the southeast-face route. Maciej Berbeka and Maciej Pawlikowski climbed to the summit on February 12, 1985 followed two or three days later by Zygmunt A. Heinrich and Jerzy Kukuczka. They established five camps. The weather was generally bad. This was the second 8000er for Kukuczka in one month, since he also climbed Dhaulagiri on January 21, 1985. This is his eighth 8000er, a record bettered only by Reinhold Messner. During the winter of 1984-5 more expeditions were in the Himalaya than ever before, but surprisingly fewer summits were reached. Of the 19 parties, only five or six were successful. Five climbers were killed.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

Kwangde, North Face. Our expedition started with three members, José M. Cardero, Angel L. Muñoz and me, but Cardero was struck by a falling rock at the base of the wall, which broke his leg. He had to be carried by porters to Lukla. Our Base Camp was near Hungo village. Muñoz and I attempted to make a new direct route on the north face of Kwangde. After a first bivouac on the

face, we came to a very dangerous rock band and traversed right to the west ridge, which we reached after two more bivouacs. The snow there was also very dangerous. After a fourth bivouac at the point where we got to the ridge, we reached the summit (6187 meters, 20,299 feet) on November 1. We had climbing of UIAA VI difficulty and ice from 65° to 90°. This is the second route on the face. Our route was well to the right of that of Lowe and Breashears of 1982.

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Kwangde South or Nupla. We made the first ascent of Kwangde South, climbing its northeast ridge. [The peak lies 3 kilometers southeast of the main peak. On Erwin Schneider's map, *Shorong/Hingu* it is called Nupla.—*Editor.*] The climbing team included Rob Burhoe, Pemba Norbu Sherpa, Jim Traverso and me and for a short time Dr. Steven Parker of the Himalayan Rescue Association. Burhoe and I reconnoitered the route during the last two weeks of April and ferried loads to 1500 feet below our Base Camp site with Sherpa help. Over the next few days, we moved most of the gear to Base Camp and then descended, leaving some behind at the lower point. I returned three days later to find all the gear in the lower cache gone, \$1000 worth. With the help of local friends, the gear was replaced and the climb continued. It saddens me to make this report, as the majority of people in the area are hard-working and honest. We thought we had done a sufficient job hiding the gear—and it was four miles and 6000 feet above the nearest village. Any low-budget expedition such as ours should not leave any caches at all, should leave one trusted person with them or hide them so well you have trouble finding them yourself. Burhoe and I were joined by the remainder of the team on May 4 in Base Camp at 15,750 feet. Pemba had just returned from the ill-fated French Annapurna expedition, taking one day to rest in Kathmandu! Pemba, Parker and I placed Advance Base at 16,400 feet after climbing some exposed but easy fifth-class rock and snow. We spent the next several days fixing our 1200 feet of rope on the initial steep sections of the route. This was done under wet-snow conditions. The granitic rock was solid. The crux of the lower part was an overhang which I later rated 5.8 +, dry. We then took a couple of days for rest. At three A.M. on May 16 we left for the summit, reaching the last technical section just below the summit in the late afternoon. At this point, I was hit by bad stomach cramps. Wishing to give Pemba and Traverso a better chance at the summit, I unroped. Burhoe had stopped lower down due to dysentery and exhaustion. Pemba and Traverso reached the summit (5885 meters, 19,308 feet) at six P.M. They then descended as darkness fell, Pemba opting to continue down the fixed ropes solo, the rest of us by head lamp. We reached Advance Base at 7:30 A.M. on May 17, thirty hours after our departure. The next day, I soloed the fixed lines to get a better idea of the difficulty of the rock. I was joined by Pemba. We descended, down-climbing much of the route, leaving no rope and few rappel anchors. All trash was burned and buried.

ERIC BRAND