

his business on track. Skinner and company went off to East Germany and the USSR, leaving just Alan Bartlett and me. We went to the Elbsandsteingebirge and climbed for one day and watched it rain for three. A memorable climb was a Bernd Arnold route, called "Big Wall." Obviously there is more than one conception of big wall. This had its first bolt 70 feet up a 5.9 corner! The next stop was the High Tatras. After a 10-hour overnight train ride, we hauled ourselves up a three-hour slog to a beautiful hut at the head of a lovely valley surrounded by horrendous rock. We each did one route that day. Alan summed it up by declaring it "the *worst* route in the Universe." The next morning he headed back for the sandstone towers, while I stayed on the granite to find something worthwhile, which I did. With my friend Roman Kamler, I did the *best* route of my life, a five-pitch finger crack at 7500 feet. Roman put it all in perspective when he said, "Paul, now we are friends for the life. We have done together the climb." Agreed! We later did another fantastic climb, Sračka Wall, which was the first free ascent of a Bernd Arnold route, protected entirely by ancient fixed pins. The Czechs will be coming to the United States this summer. If you get the chance, climb with them.

PAUL KALLMES

## ASIA

### Bhutan

*Kankar Pünzum Attempt.* Our expedition consisted of Albert Fellingner, Dr. Wolfgang Trost, Gerhard Berger, Toni Ponholzer, Helmut Ortner, Sebastian Ruckensteiner and me as leader. We left Bumtang on July 28 and took ten days, two of them inactively, on the approach. Base Camp and Advance Base were at 5000 and 5400 meters. We tried the same route as the Japanese in 1985 on the south ridge. We placed Camp I at 6300 meters at the foot of the ice dome, a prominent summit in the ice ridge. We continued along the sawtooth ice ridge without gaining altitude to the place where the summit ridge shoots sharply up. There, at 6600 meters, we gave up on August 26. There were only two days out of the 21 we were on the mountain without snowfall. Daily snowfall was up to 50cms. We would have had to traverse off the summit ridge left in many places. The avalanche danger there would have been great.

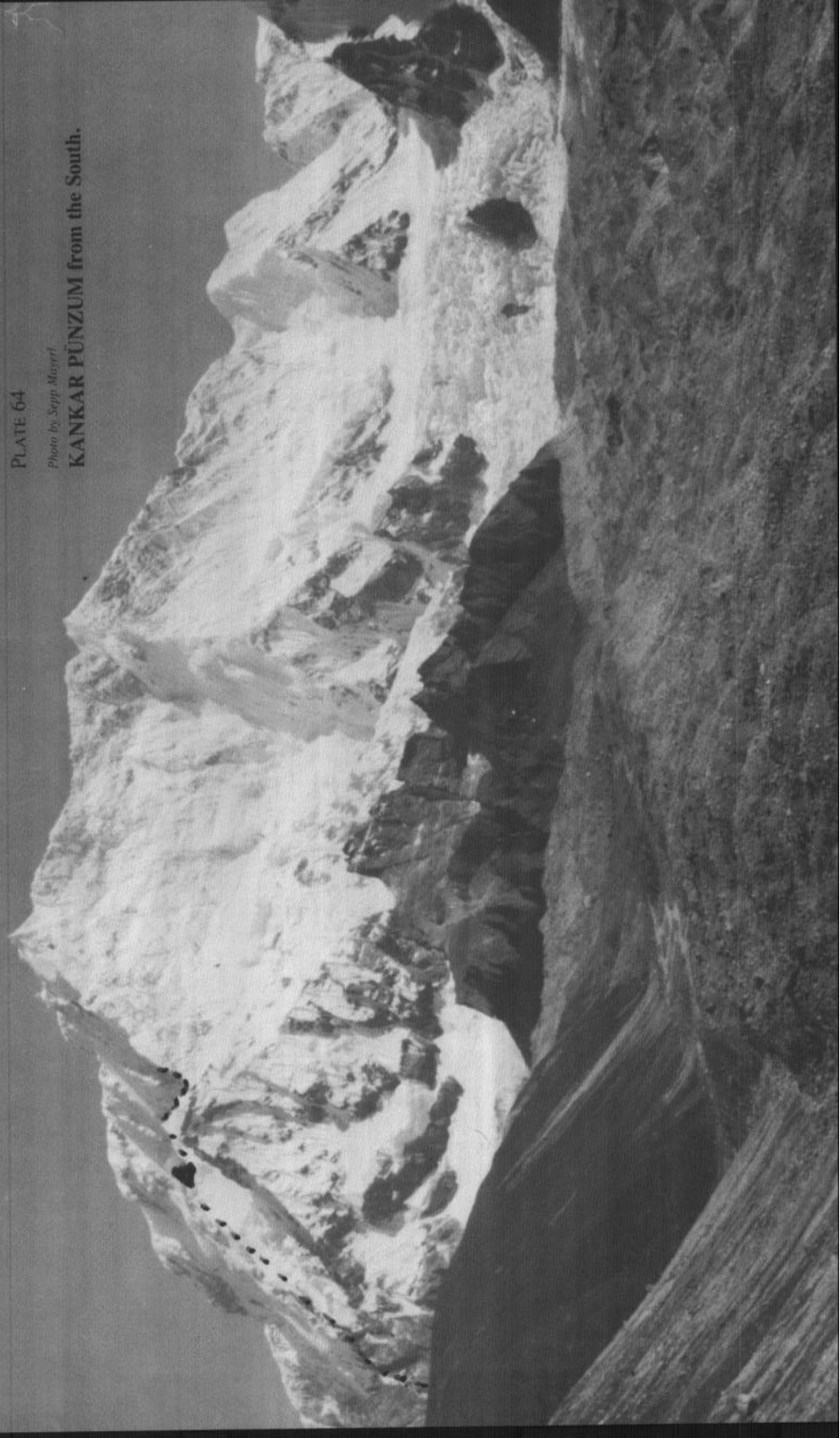
SEPP MAYERL, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Masa Gang, 1985.* More information has been received on the first ascent of Masa Gang or Masang Kang than was reported on page 211 of *A.A.J.*, 1986. The Kyoto University Alpine Club was led by Ryohei Hori. The main group of the expedition left Thimpu on August 30, 1985 and on September 13 got to Base Camp at 5025 meters on a yak pasture called Dreteng three kilometers southeast of the Toma La. Advance Base was established on September 16 two kilometers west at 5400 meters. From there the route up the mountain went south. On

PLATE 64

*Photo by Sepp Mayerl*

**KANKAR PÜNZUM from the South.**



September 23 they set up Camp I at 6075 meters below the foresummit. There was steep snow-and-ice climbing before they set up Camp II on the top of the foresummit at 6417 meters on October 8. Camp III was established on October 12 between the foresummit and the main summit. They measured altitudes which seem to differ from those previously given and believe the summit was about 6800 meters (22,310 feet). On October 13, 1985 the summit was reached by Goro Hitomi, Toshihiro Tsukihara, Kotaro Yokoyama and Shigeki Nakayama, on October 14 by Dr. Kozo Matsubayashi, Hironori Ito, Shinya Takeda and Masanaru Takai and on October 15 by Yasuhiko Kamizono, Hironori Ito, Koichi Nanno and Tadao Okada.

### Nepal

*Kangchenjunga Attempt.* An Australian expedition of five tried to climb Kangchenjunga by the normal route on the southwest face. Leader Michael Groom reached the expedition's highest point alone on May 13 in a bid to see how high he could get above Camp IV, where two others gave up the summit push which the three were making. Groom got to 8400 meters and turned back when the wind came up and it clouded over. He rejoined Shane Chemello and James van Gelder at Camp IV at 7600 meters. Thus ended the first Australian attempt on Kangchenjunga.

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

*Kangchenjunga.* Our expedition climbed Kangchenjunga by the southwest face, the normal route. We left Kathmandu on August 22 and got to Ramze, the last camp before the glacier, in 12 days. There, we lost our fifth Sherpa, Lhakpa Nuru, who mysteriously disappeared, never to be seen again. We then had the usual porter problems and bad weather, which made us take nine days to get the rest of the way to Base Camp, which should have taken us two; we and the Sherpas had to ferry to Base Camp, which we placed at 5000 meters on September 15. We established Camps I, II and III at 6100 meters on the intermediate ridge, at 6700 meters and at 7200 meters on the upper "plateau" on September 22, 25 and 27. On October 6 we returned to Camp III. By then, all camps were stocked and 1200 meters of rope had been fixed. Heavy snowfall prevented our establishing Camp IV and forced us back to Base Camp. Finally on October 16 we placed Camp IV at 7800 meters, having had to dig out Camp II and replace Camp III, which was destroyed by avalanches that fell from Yalung Kang. The next day a summit attempt in bad weather failed when one member had superficial frostbite. The constant bad weather changed on the 20th, but it was cold and windy. We started a last try on October 21, getting to Camp IV on the 23rd. At two A.M. on October 24 Josep Parmañé, Ang Rita Sherpa and I set out. At 8400 meters the intense cold forced me back. My companions reached the summit at one P.M. and were back in Camp IV at five P.M. This was Ang Rita's fourth 8000er. He has climbed Dhaulagiri four times, Everest three times, Cho

Oyu and Kangchenjunga each once. Our Catalán expedition was composed of Josep Permañé, Ramón Estiu, Francesc Casas, Joan Cardona, Xabier Erro, Santi Carrillo, Salvador Coll, Kim Bover, Dr. Jordi Terrades and me as leader.

JOAN HUGAS, *Girona, Spain*

*Nepal Peak Attempt.* Our French-Nepalese expedition had six French members, M. and Mme Ansart, S. Lazizi, Dr. F. Tanery, my wife and me, and three Nepalese, Chewang Rinzee Sherpa, Lhakpa Sherpa and Jambia Sherpa. We hoped to climb the virgin south face of Nepal Peak (6910 meters, 22,670 feet). At the end of September we established Base Camp at 5000 meters at Pengpema and Advance Base at 5200 meters at the base of the south face. Despite snowfall, Camp I was set at 5700 meters in a small cwm at the right side of Nepal Gap. Snow conditions and weather were very poor. There were frequent avalanches on the south face. We chose a safe and direct route to the south ridge up a steep 300-meter-high gully. My tent was destroyed by the wind at our 6200-meter Camp II on the ridge. Lazizi, Chewang, Lhakpa and Jambia made three summit attempts. The first two were stopped by lack of visibility. The third on October 16 was conducted in better weather, but it was windy and cold. We had to stop at 6600 meters where our route met a very steep part of the ridge covered with brittle ice. We lacked equipment for this section. When I reached Advance Base, I had eight fingers and a foot badly frozen.

DOMINIQUE HEMBISE, *Club Alpin Français*

*Kumbhakarna (Jannu) Attempt and Tragedy.* A three-man Australian expedition was led by Terry Tremble. All three reached 7550 meters on October 31 in their alpine-style push on the south ridge from Base Camp. This was the fourth day of ascent. That night it was planned to set out at midnight for the summit, but Keith Eggerton became ill and as his health deteriorated, it grew clear to the other two that they must get him down. His symptoms were those of high-altitude sickness, although he was believed to have acclimatized well to altitude. He collapsed and died at 7400 meters on November 1. The other two continued the descent and left the mountain.

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

*Makalu Attempt.* Our 4-man attempt on the regular route on Makalu failed. On May 20 Chris Dube and John Bouchard left; Chris had early signs of cerebral edema. Rick Wilcox and I started up on a third assault, but he got severe diarrhea and vomiting at Camp III at 7040 meters. He staggered off down. That left me with three Sherpas. We went up to Camp IV at 7440 meters. After a day of high winds, I set off with the Sherpas on May 26. We could see the top from 7530 meters. We had a nasty surprise. It was all steep rock for the last 380 meters with no snow couloir which used to lead to the east summit ridge. The Sherpas did not

want to go any further. I went alone to 8100 meters and then turned back at the foot of the rock.

NED GILLETTE

*Makalu Attempt.* A French expedition of ten was led by Raymond Renaud to Makalu's northwest side. Sherpas Sirdar Lhakpa Norbu and Pasang Dawa reached the expedition's high point of 8300 meters on October 13 and were turned back by strong, cold winds. The winds continued for the next several days and the expedition was abandoned. A Gurung wood-cutter and kitchen helper died during the expedition.

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

*Makalu Ascent and Tragedy.* On September 10, Marcel Rüedi and I flew from Kathmandu to 2800 meters in the Barun valley. Three days later we got to Base Camp at 5400 meters below Makalu. We, with four other Swiss and Austrians, were members of a six-man and three-woman Polish expedition led by Krzysztof Pankiewicz. On September 17, Krzysztof Wielicki, Rüedi and I climbed the Kukuczka ridge to 6900 meters where we bivouacked. The next day Rüedi and Wielicki reached the Makalu Col before we all returned to Base Camp. On the 21st the same two left Base Camp and climbed to 6900 meters. The day after, they got to Makalu Col and on the 23rd to 7900 meters on the normal route. Wielicki thus describes the climb: "We began at 7:45 climbing toward the top. I led all the way. The first 100 meters were very difficult in the deep snow, until we joined the tracks of Ducroz and De Marchi. When we reached the snowfield below the summit at about 8200 meters, we had to decide which route to choose. I took a new variant because the French couloir and the Kukuczka ridge seemed too long and I feared deep snow. I climbed directly for the summit by a rock-and-snow couloir. It was 45° to 50°. I left 20 meters of fixed rope on the rocky part. The snow was very deep and soft. Marcel was 40 to 50 meters behind me. The couloir joined the last 15 meters of the Kukuczka ridge, which was very windy and steep. After that, I had 60 meters of snow to the summit, which I reached at 3:45. I descended fast to the top of the couloir where I met Marcel. He looked well. I gave him all the liter of tea and chocolate. I told him, 'I'm going down to the tent and will prepare hot drinks for us.' He answered, 'O.K. I'm going to the top.' I didn't see him again as the couloir was hidden. It was four P.M. When I reached the tent at seven o'clock, it was nearly dark. I prepared drinks, but Marcel didn't come. It was a horrible night. Our only headlamp had been damaged on Makalu Col. I thought he would come after midnight when the moon rose. I don't remember the night too well. I feared he had fallen on the steep traverse or in the couloir. He had no ice axe. Sunrise came at six o'clock and I waited until 9:15 when I decided to go down to Makalu Col for help, thinking that Messner and company were climbing up. In the tent I left a full thermos of hot water mixed with chocolate, the gas stove and all the down equipment. On Makalu Col, before eleven A.M., I met Messner,

Kammerlander, Mutschlechner and four Sherpas, who had come up from Camp I. Kammerlander took binoculars and said, 'I see Marcel. He is at 8000 meters coming to Camp III.' After a meal they all seven went up to their Camp III. I remained on Makalu Col. I can't understand why Marcel suddenly lost his strength. At four P.M. two Sherpas came down with the tragic news that Marcel had died. When they reached their Camp III, which was 100 meters below ours, Reinhold sent two Sherpas up with medicine. Marcel was sitting 30 meters below our tent, but it was too late. He had died. The Sherpas said that our tent wasn't open. I couldn't go back to Marcel that same day and went down to Base Camp. I had known Marcel only a few days, but I felt he was an old friend. I can't forget him and his optimistic face. Maybe it was my fault, but I couldn't tell him, 'Stop! Come back!' He was for me one of the biggest Himalayan tigers. It is difficult to tell what I felt and what I feel. I lost Marcel!" Messner, Kammerlander and Mutschlechner found that Rüedi had bivouacked at 8100 meters after reaching the summit. Marcel Rüedi, along with Erhard Loretan, was the most successful high mountain Swiss climber. Makalu was his tenth 8000er. Although he had pulmonary edema on Dhaulagiri in 1980 when he climbed his first 8000er, after that he was incredibly strong at high altitudes. The success of his lightning-fast ascents of K2, Shisha Pangma and Cho Oyu misled this amateur climber, who had to be careful of his spare time, and so he climbed his last 8000er "too fast, too high!" He was doubtless a victim of pulmonary and cerebral edema. [The Poles continued with their efforts until October 21. On October 15 Wanda Rutkiewicz and companions got to Camp III, but the wind was so strong that they had to give up the attempt.—*Editor.*]

OSWALD OELZ, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

*Makalu and Lhotse, the Last of Messner's 8000ers.* Our expedition was composed of Reinhold Messner, Hans Kammerlander, Friedl Mutschlechner, Giuseppe Enzo, Fernando Bernascone, Wolfgang Tomaset, Denis Ducroz, Giuliano De Marchi, Sabine Stehle, Brigitte Oberhollenzer and me as leader. De Marchi and Enzo did not go on to Lhotse. We were flown to Tumlingtar on August 18 and on August 29 got to Base Camp at 5400 meters at the place called French Base Camp. On September 3 we placed Camp I at 6800 meters at the foot of the couloir that leads to the Makalu La. We followed the normal (French) route. On September 9, Camp II was set up on the col at 7400 meters and the next day Messner, Kammerlander and Mutschlechner established Camp III at 7800 meters. On September 11 they started for the summit, but Mutschlechner had kidney pains and all gave up at 8000 meters. The next week was stormy and snowy. On September 23 De Marchi and Ducroz left Camp III and nearly reached the summit, stopped 30 meters below it by an impossible cornice. The two had climbed the French route up to the shoulder left of the summit. Very late, they reached their highest point and returned in the dark to Camp III. On the 24th the Pole Krzysztof Wielicki and the Swiss Marcel Rüedi, members of a Polish expedition, went to the summit. Wielicki got to the top between three and four

P.M. and Rüedi much later. The next morning Wielicki descended, having waited all night in Camp III for Rüedi. In Camp II he met Messner, Kammerlander and Mutschlechner, who were climbing directly from Camp I to Camp III. They saw Rüedi descending very slowly. When they got to Camp III, they saw him 100 meters from camp, dead, seated in the snow. He had left Zürich only two weeks before. Messner and his companions left Camp III at six A.M. and following the tracks of Rüedi and Wielicki, reached the summit of Makalu at 11:30, going up the ridge that divides the west from the north face. This much more direct variant is more difficult and has a very steep section around 8000 meters. They found the place where Rüedi had bivouacked at 8100 meters. They returned to Base Camp the next day. A snowstorm on September 28 prevented any further ascents. We returned on foot to Sedoa and were helicoptered to Lukla. On October 10 we were at Everest Base Camp. We had an agreement with Eiselin's expedition for access through the Khumbu Icefall. The bad weather kept them from success on their Everest attempts. On October 14 Messner, Kammerlander, Mutschlechner and Thomaset left Base Camp with . . . Sherpas for Camp II at 6400 meters. The next day the climbers were kept . . . nt-bound by wind until noon. Mutschlechner had to descend with a toothache. The other three and the Sherpas climbed to Camp III at 7450 meters. Despite a strong wind on October 16, Messner and Kammerlander set out and climbed the final couloir not without difficulty, but there the wind actually helped them, shoving them upwards; in an hour they ascended 250 meters. They were on the summit of Lhotse at 1:45. Thus, Messner completed his ascents of all 8000ers. The pair descended that night to Camp II and the next day to Base Camp.

RENATO MORO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Makalu Attempt.* An expedition led by Cesare Cesa Bianchi and composed of Cristina Moneta and Stefano De Benedetti established Base Camp at 4700 meters on September 14. They used the camps we left set up for them from our expedition. Because of bad weather, they placed a camp at 6200 meters and got to the 6800-meter camp on October 1. On October 10 the three reached camp at 7400 meters. Only Cesa Bianchi continued on to Camp III but without hope of the summit because of the terrible snow conditions.

RENATO MORO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Makalu Winter Attempt.* The two-man team of Noboru Yamada and Yasuhira Saito took one look at the south face of Makalu and decided it was impossible for only two to scale such a steep route in winter when there is little snow cover. They turned to the southeast ridge. Their alpine-style ascent came to a halt at 7500 meters when they twice reached that point from a bivouac at 7400 meters. The wind and low clouds prevented their seeing where they were going. They reached their high point on December 9 and 11. They waited a week in Base Camp for the weather to improve. It did not and with their food running out, they quit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Kangchungtse, Northwest Ridge Attempt and Tragedy.* The seven climbers were Wally Berg, Bruce Hunter, Jerry Longbons, Edwin Terrell, Ken Madden, Dr. Gary Ruggera and I. We began the long approach from Hille on March 18 with our Nepalese staff of eight and 70 porters. By the time we arrived at Makalu Base Camp at 16,100 feet on March 31, most of us had suffered one type of intestinal disorder or another. Advance Base at 18,100 feet was established on April 4 and Camp I at 19,560 feet on April 9. On April 11, after carrying to the site of Camp II at 21,400 feet, Edwin Terrell returned to Camp I looking more exhausted than was expected of him. Dr. Ruggera monitored him closely and at midnight, after hearing faint rales in his chest for the first time, mobilized the camp to escort him down to Advance Base in the night. With the help of Madden, Longbons and Ruggera, Terrell arrived at Advance Base six hours later. In the afternoon he suddenly became worse and a second tedious descent toward Makalu Base began. By nightfall, Ruggera, kitchen boy Kamie and I had managed to descend another 1000 feet with Terrell when we were forced to bivouac, sending Kamie ahead to Base Camp for more help. He had been carried another half-mile the next morning when he died of pulmonary edema, perhaps complicated by a virus contracted during the approach. Our high point of 22,000 feet was reached by Longbons and Ruggera on April 20 and the attempt was abandoned on April 21.

GLENN FORTNER

*Kangchungtse.* A nine-man Korean expedition climbed Kangchungtse (Makalu II) by its northwest ridge, the same route as the Japanese in 1976. Leader Lee Dong-Yeon, Park Tae-Gyu and Shim Jae-Young reached the summit on September 27. They were only the second expedition to succeed on the northwest-ridge route. They found some old Japanese rope on the ridge.

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

*Kangchungtse (Makalu II) Attempt.* A 7-man Israeli team was led by Doron Erel. They got to 7400 meters at Makalu La via the normal route on October 13 a month after they had started. Strong winds drove them down and the climbers were too tired to mount another push for the summit. Three of the four who had gone to Makalu La had mild frostbite. The four who got to the high point were leader Erel, Dan Bolotin, Itzhak Siegler and Tony Zamir.

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

*Chamlang.* A joint Korean-Nepalese expedition of five was led by Woo Jong-Duk. After establishing four camps and bivouacking, Woo, Bae Hyo-Soon and Huh Gung-Yeal, Ang Dawa Wangchuk Sherpa and Azuwa Sherpa got to the summit on October 10. They climbed the south ridge.

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

*Chamlang, West Ridge.* We got to Base Camp on September 22 with 13 Japanese and three Sherpa members. The approach was difficult in the unpopulated area and because of rain. The unclimbed west ridge looked deceptively easy. On September 26 we established Camp I at 5600 meters despite rockfall danger. On October 3 we placed Camp II at 6100 meters on a ridge covered with sugar snow. Above Camp II the route was particularly difficult on the knife-edged ridge because of unconsolidated granular snow. We fixed 4000 meters of rope. On October 11 we established Camp III at 6500 meters as our final camp. On October 16 Osamu Kushimi and Wangar Sherpa started out at five A.M. and climbed a steep snow corner. After seven hours they reached the summit (7319 meters, 24,012 feet). Four members supported them to 7000 meters.

AKIO SHINYA, *Japan Dairy College*

*Mera, Southwest Buttress.* Our expedition, consisting of George Davidson, Mal Duff, Lesley Shipway, Ian Tattersall and me as leader, reached Base Camp on March 20, having trekked to Lukla and crossed the Hinku valley via the Zatre Wala Pass. Over the next three days we moved equipment up to Advance Base on the banks of the Dudh Kund. Duff and Tattersall remained at this camp to reconnoiter the final approach and were joined by Shipway and me for the attempt on March 26. However, we two descended the next day because Shipway, who was suffering from bronchitis, was going very slowly and the approach was seriously threatened by séracs from the eastern and western icefalls. Duff and Tattersall made good progress through the western icefall before making a rising traverse to reach the crest of the southwest buttress. They followed the buttress crest except for occasional excursions onto the flanks to avoid overhangs. They reached the summit (6654 meters, 21,830 feet) on March 30. The route was graded E.D. inf. because of the seriousness of the approach, hard ice and bad rock with poor protection.

RAY DELANEY, *England*

*Ama Dablam Attempt.* Iain Allen, and Ian Howell of Kenya, Alastair Stevenson of Australia, Americans Bruce Kleppinger and I attempted Ama Dablam's south ridge in April. Stevenson and I established Base Camp at 15,000 feet on March 31 and Advanced Base at 16,500 feet on April 4. The others arrived on April 7. On April 8 Stevenson and I occupied Camp I at 19,000 feet, to be joined there by Allen and Howell on April 10 and Kleppinger on April 11. The latter was suffering from an unspecified Patagonian parasite and never went above Camp I. The rest of us occupied Camp II on April 15, which is only 500 feet higher than Camp I, but to reach it requires more than a dozen pitches of tricky and exposed traversing. Altitude is gained more quickly above Camp II, and the four of us occupied Camp III at 20,500 feet on April 19. This was the first camp that showed no sign of previous expeditions. Up until now each camp had sported pre-carved tent-sites with the inevitable bits of trash, and the route had been made painfully obvious by residual fixed ropes rendered untrustworthy

by the effects of ultra-violet light and ice- and rockfall. Above Camp III, the only glacier camp, the ice became very shallow, hollow and brittle, and would not accept any protection. After a second attempt to climb the upper ice slopes, and in the face of deteriorating weather, on April 20 we opted for descent, reaching Advanced Base the following day.

SKIP HORNER

*Ama Dablam West Face.* Our expedition was composed of Swiss Ruedi Homberger, Christian Jäggi, Willi Kuhn and Franco Giorgetta and Czechoslovaks Josef Rybička, Michal Brunner, Jiří Havel, Miroslav Mžourek, Karel Jerhot, Günter Koch and me as leader. It was my idea to climb the line on the west face attempted in 1979 by Peter Hillary. After a couple of days of reconnaissance, from October 9 to 11, I climbed the route solo, with bivouacs at 5300 and 6500 meters. I reached the summit (6812 meters, 22,350 feet) at 11:10 P.M. on October 11 and bivouacked there. On the next two days I made a very exciting descent via the southwest ridge to 6400 meters and then down the south face. Without such equipment as a rope and pitons, it was very difficult. The ascent was of UIAA difficulty IV + (80°) and the descent IV (70°). A week later, Homberger and Jäggi also climbed the west face. They followed my route to a point where they could traverse right to the top of the comparatively flat section of the southwest ridge, which they followed to the top. They reached the summit on October 18.

MIROSLAV ŠMID, *Czechoslovakia*

*Ama Dablam.* This Swiss expedition climbed Ama Dablam by the normal south-ridge route. All six members reached the summit. On October 22 leader Pierre-Antoine Hiroz, the only French member Pierre Dutrievoz and Yves Rausis went to the top. Four days later the other three did so too. They were the leader's sister Marie Hiroz, Guy Formaz and Stéphane Borgeaud. The first group had two camps above Base and the second had three.

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

*Ama Dablam, Winter Attempt.* Roger Massardier, the leader of this French expedition, broke both his legs very early in the climb while on moraine just above Base Camp and so there were only three members with no climbing Sherpas attempting an unclimbed route on the south face directly to the summit. This would have been to the right of the Yugoslavian route of last autumn. They regret that they did not make a fast alpine-style ascent, for the weather in early December was excellent, but by the time they were looking for the site of Camp II, the winds were very strong. The wind twice broke their tent at Camp I, and on December 13 they gave up. Their highest point was 6100 meters, reached on December 10 by Bruno Guibert and Bruno Rebelle.

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

PLATE 65

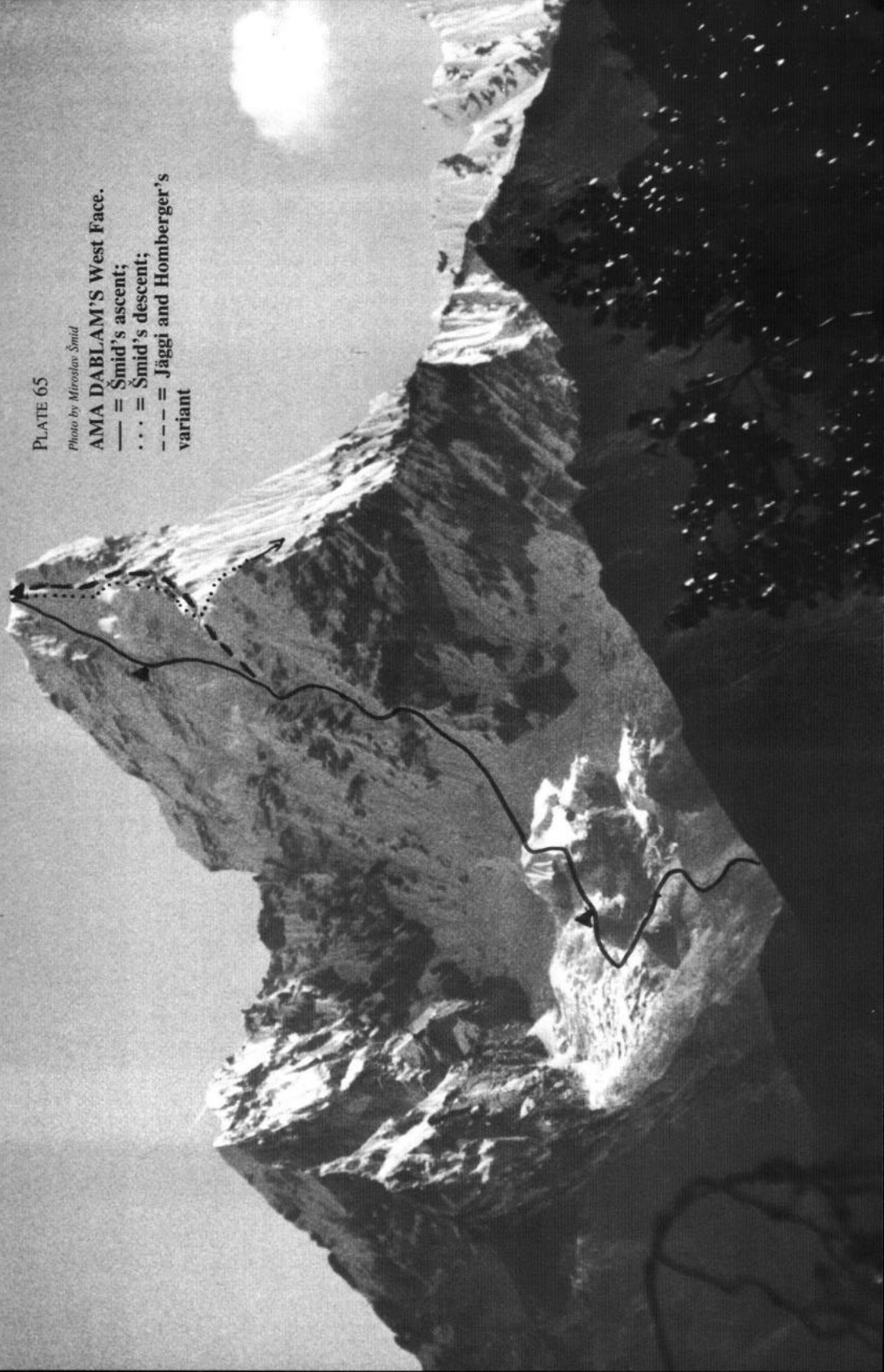
*Photo by Mitroslav Šmid*

**AMA DABLAM'S West Face.**

— = Šmid's ascent;

... = Šmid's descent;

--- = Jäggi and Homberger's  
variant



*Thamserku Attempt.* A Spanish expedition was led by José Luis Fernández. The three other members, José Manuel González, Srta Azucena López and Miguel Angel Rodríguez, got to 6300 meters on the new route they were attempting, the west face, on October 27. They descended the next morning because their stove at their highest bivouac was broken. They could not climb again because of their fixed date to leave Nepal.

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

*Kangtega Attempt and Ama Dablam Ascent.* German Hans Eitel led a group of ten from Germany, Austria, the United States and the South Tirol. Eight first attempted Kangtega by its southeast face while two went directly to Ama Dablam. Six and a Sherpa reached a high point of 6000 meters on Kangtega on April 8 and then withdrew from the mountain two days later when dangerous avalanching continued. They then went to Ama Dablam, where the other two had already pitched two camps, to try the west face. The Kangtega party did little climbing there. The summit was reached in nine hours on April 15 by South Tiroleans Alois Brugger and Kurt Walde who began their summit push from Camp II at the bottom of the west face early that morning. They climbed the central couloir, a new route to the right of the 1985 Japanese route. They descended the normal south-ridge route and were back in Base Camp on the morning of the 16th.

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

*Kangtega and Lobuje East Ascents and Nuptse Attempt.* English-woman Alison Hargreaves, Americans Henry Kendall, Marc Twight, Tom Frost and I were active in the Khumbu region near Everest during the pre-monsoon season, climbing two new routes and attempting a third. All were done pure alpine-style. Kendall and I climbed a new route on Lobuje East (6119 meters, 20,075 feet), following a steep snow-and-ice gully on the left side of the east face. Hargreaves and Twight repeated it shortly afterward. Hargreaves, Twight, Frost and I moved on to Kangtega (6779 meters, 22,241 feet). In a ten-day round trip from Base Camp, we climbed a difficult new route on the right side of the northwest ridge, encountering very technical ice and mixed climbing on the ice tongue right of the ridge proper. On May 1, Frost and I reached the slightly lower northwest peak, while Hargreaves and Twight continued on to the main peak via a steep final ice face. We descended the northeast couloir, first climbed by the Japanese in 1979. After moving Base Camp to 5200 meters on the Lhotse Nup Glacier, Twight and I attempted the southeast buttress of Nuptse. We followed the prominent buttress between the original British route and the Cassin-Messner ramp. After 1300 meters of very technical climbing on the buttress, the angle of the route recedes to more moderate snow and ice until the final 400 meters, when it reverts to rock for a difficult finish at very high altitude. Bad weather delayed our start until May 19. Encountering very difficult climbing (5.10, A4) during a single eight-day push, we reached a high point of 6700

PLATE 66

*Photo by Jeff Lowe*

**NUPTSE'S Southeast Buttress. Part  
climbed is solid line; projected route  
is dashed.**



meters on May 26. However, bad weather had moved in and with the possibility of an extended wait with little food, we retreated, reaching Base Camp on May 27. The route is one of the finest I have been on and has just the combination of features I am looking for: steep, technical mixed ground, and altitude. Above all, it's a safe line. There is nothing hanging over you, so you can just relax and enjoy the outrageous climbing.

JEFF LOWE

*Lobuje West Winter Ascent, 1987.* Seldom-attempted Lobuje West was scaled so quickly by a Korean expedition's advance party that when the team leader Lee Hee-Bong and other climbers arrived at their base, they learned that the mountain had already been climbed and all tents and other gear brought down. In this first winter attempt and first Korean attempt on Lobuje West, five men, Deputy Leader Park Jae-Hong, Choi Sang-Hyun, Dim Hang-II, Rinji Sherpa and Mingma Nuru Sherpa, had gained the summit on January 30, only the third day after they had pitched Base Camp.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Nuptse, Southeast Buttress Winter Attempt.* Americans Jeff Lowe and Marc Twight did not get quite as high on their buttress in the winter as they had last spring. This winter they abandoned their climb after reaching 6700 meters on December 31. They reported they had "insufficient strength." Lack of strength was due to gastro-intestinal illness. This winter attempt, like last spring's, was done without fixed camps, fixed rope or Sherpas.

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

*Lhotse Shar Attempt.* We were Beda Fuster, Werner Steininger and I as leader. We got to Base Camp on September 21 at 5350 meters on the moraine between Lhotse Shar and Imjatse (Island Peak). We carried loads up the rocky spur to 5750 meters for three days and established Advance Base on September 24. On the 25th Fuster and I reconnoitered to 6100 meters, left a dump there and fixed rope over the first step, but the weather went bad. A second attempt from October 2 to 5 failed after rope had been fixed over the second step and the night spent at Camp I at 6750 meters, but again bad weather drove us back. After a third attempt failed in bad weather, Fuster and I went back up and on the second day, October 19, got to Camp I which was badly damaged by avalanche snow. On the third day we climbed to 7250 meters and established Camp II in clear but very windy weather. On October 21, I was sick and stayed in Camp II. Fuster set out at 4:30 A.M. alone for the summit. At eleven A.M. he reached the snow dome at 8050 meters but the wind gusts were too strong for him to continue over the narrow ridge to the summit slopes. He had to turn back 350 meters below the summit. After one more night in Camp II, we descended to Base Camp.

TONI SPIRIG, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

*Lhotse Shar Tragedy.* The ten-man Spanish team's attempt on the south face of Lhotse Shar ended abruptly when on October 30 Pedro Alonso fell 2400 meters to the bottom of the face from ten meters below the site for Camp IV at 7400 meters. He and the expedition's doctor Javier Sánchez intended to occupy Camp IV and go for the summit from there with one more camp or bivouac at 8000 meters. On October 28 Manuel Aparicio and Ramón Rodríguez had reached the site for Camp IV and dumped loads there. After the fall, Dr. Sánchez descended to search for him and had to bivouac. He was severely frost-bitten in nine fingers. Neither Sánchez nor the other members were able to find the body. The climb was abandoned after Alonso's death.

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

*Lhotse Shar Attempt.* Scots Mal Duff and Sandy Allan hoped to make a two-man, alpine-style ascent of the south face of Lhotse Shar in early May. This quick ascent was never achieved. They were climbing on the southeast face for acclimatization when, on May 9 at 7000 meters, Duff was hit on the head by a falling sérac and only just managed to descend safely to Base Camp. He left for medical treatment. The climb appeared over until Miss Alison Hargreaves, who had just scaled Kangtega with Jeff Lowe's American expedition, joined Allan in another bid on Lhotse Shar by the southeast face. They had been on the mountain together a very few days when they were forced at 6500 meters to abandon the effort because of slab avalanches. The highest point reached on the mountain was 7000 meters on May 9.

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

*Lhotse.* A four-man Japanese expedition, led by Masaaki Fukushima, climbed Lhotse by the normal route. They had three climbing Sherpas. On May 4 leader Fukushima, Toshihide Haruki and Sherpas Nima Temba and Nima Dorje reached the summit. They used artificial oxygen while sleeping in Camps III and IV and while climbing to the summit.

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

*Japanese Everest Attempt.* A Japanese expedition failed to climb Everest. The leader, Haruyuki Endo, who had successfully scaled Everest in October 1983, came again to the mountain with the hope of getting Miss Takeo Nagao to the summit as the first woman atop Everest without the use of artificial oxygen. But no one got to the top this time. They climbed on the normal South Col route. When it was time for the final push, Takeo Nagao was ill and had to return to Camp III on the Lhotse Face. Endo, Tadanori Matsunaga and Pemba Tshering Sherpa managed to reach 8600 meters on May 10 before extremely cold winds finally drove them back. The four-person expedition had no strength left to mount another summit attempt.

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

*Polish-Austrian Everest Attempt.* Poles Tadeusz Karolczak and Aleksander Lwow and Austrian Helmut Putz originally wanted to climb the south pillar of Everest, but the Japanese set unacceptable conditions for making the Khumbu Icefall accessible to them. (They also apparently had permission for the west ridge.) The Japanese finally agreed that this small team could go up the route after May 1. After climbing on the west ridge up to 7100 meters, the three descended to Base Camp on April 30. Putz had a problem with an old back injury and stopped climbing. The two Poles started up the normal route through the Western Cwm and reached 7800 meters on the Geneva Spur on May 13. They descended, intending to go for the west ridge. But now Karolczak became ill. Lwow, now entirely alone since the Japanese had gone home, went up the icefall to 6700 meters in the Cwm on May 24, but he was halted there by a two-day heavy snowfall. He descended to Base Camp through a greatly changed icefall on May 27 and the climb was finished.

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

*Everest Attempt.* Xavier Murillo, Pierre and Annie Beghin and I were helicoptered to Namche Bazar on September 21. We were at Base Camp on the 24th. The weather was beautiful. The rest of the international expedition led by Swiss Fredy Graf had made the route through the icefall and was trying for the summit. I left alone for 7400 meters on September 26. I rested there until 1:30 A.M. before leaving for the South Col, which I reached at four A.M. I spent two hours resting and drinking. I caught up to three Swiss making their summit bid at 8500 meters at eleven o'clock. At twelve noon we were at 8600 meters. The wind was very strong and it was snowing. The Swiss descended and I kept on for 50 meters more. I then descended to 7400 meters to sleep. I was back in Base Camp the next day. Then it was bad weather for the whole month of October. I stayed on till October 24. [He must be the first person to have reached 8600 meters on this route without having slept on the South Col.—*Editor.*]

ERIC ESCOFFIER, *Club Alpin Français*

*Everest Attempt and Tragedy.* I led an international group of 25 to try the normal route on Mount Everest. Aside from our climbing objectives, we had three physicians who carried out high-altitude medical research. Because the weather was so good at the beginning, we got to Base Camp before September 1, when we could start to set up high camps. The fine weather continued so that by September 9 we had already established Camp III on the Lhotse Face at 7400 meters. Then the weather turned sour. It was hard work to fix rope and break trail to the South Col. On September 25 at 4:30 P.M., French guide Serge Koenig, Chuldim Dorje Sherpa and I reached the south summit from Camp IV on the South Col. There was deep new snow and above it was double-corniced. We had to turn back. Two days later, three Swiss, Dr. Simon Burkhard, Raymond Monnerat and Peter Weber were stopped by bad weather at 8600 meters. They

spent a stormy night on the South Col, hoping for good enough weather to make another attempt but had to start down the next morning. Dr. Burkhard was killed on the Lhotse Face in an avalanche as they descended. On October 4, Gayalu Sherpa was buried under falling séracs in the Khumbu Icefall. Although there were further carries to the South Col, we had to abandon the expedition on October 14.

FREDY GRAF, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

*Everest Winter Attempt.* The six-man Korean expedition which attempted the South Col route on Everest was led by On In-Hwan. They set up Base Camp, Camps I, II, III and IV at 5300, 5500, 6500, 7400 and 8000 meters during December. Neo Young-Ho and four Sherpas reached the South Col twice, on December 17 and 22. There they were pinned down by fierce winds. They called off the expedition on December 24.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*

*Everest Winter Attempt by Koreans, 1987.* Another South Korean expedition, led by Park Young-Bae, was attempting a winter ascent of the British route on the southwest face of Mount Everest. On January 30, 1987, Tsuttin Dorje Sherpa fell to his death while carrying a load up the face. The climb was given up. The expedition reached a high point of 8300 meters on January 25 and again was as high on some of the subsequent days.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*A New Map of Mount Everest.* For nearly 50 years I have dreamt of making a very detailed map of the Mount Everest area, using all the most modern tools of photogrammetry. As time went by, aerial cameras, lenses and aircraft continually improved and so it was lucky that my responsibilities as Director of Boston's Museum of Science kept me from undertaking this project until after my retirement in 1980. It has turned out to be an eight-year project, beginning in 1980 to 1983 when Barbara and I made three trips to China and Nepal to secure permission for the high-altitude flights over the Nepalese-Chinese border. This work has been financed jointly by the Museum of Science and the National Geographic Society. When completed, the first edition of the map will be published in the National Geographic Magazine, probably in 1988. I have directed the project from the start, ably assisted by my wife Barbara, Dr. Barry Bishop of the National Geographic and Werner Altherr, Vice President of Swissair Photo Surveys Ltd. and now, in the reproduction phase, by Dr. John Garver, Chief Cartographer of the National Geographic and Francis Jeanrichard, Director of the Swiss Federal Institute of Topography. This work is also being coordinated with His Majesty's Government of Nepal under the chief of its Survey Department, Arjun B. Basnyat. Overall ground control has been developed from the British, Chinese and Austrian maps of the area, evaluated

and adjusted by West German vertical photography taken from the US Space Shuttle in December 1983, flying at an altitude of 243 km (152 miles) under perfect weather conditions. The area was rephotographed by our team on December 20, 1984 from an altitude of 12,000 meters (39,400 feet) with a Swissair Wild RC-10 aerial camera from a Learjet 35 of Swedair/Stockholm. Contouring of the 380-square-mile area on a scale of 1:10,000 has been completed by Swissair Photo in Zürich. Relief-shading, cliff-drawing, nomenclature and all cartographic artwork preparatory to printing are now being done at the laboratories of the Swiss Federal Institute of Topography (Landestopographie) in Wabern. Printing will be done by the National Geographic in the USA. This National Geographic map will be on a scale of 1:50,000 with 50-meter contours. The ten 1:10,000 sheets covering the same area will be available on special request for research purposes. They promise to be a remarkably detailed base for future work in the geology and glaciology of this complex and remote region. They will also yield a wealth of information for mountaineers. An extremely large-scale map of Everest above 7000 meters is now being prepared in Zürich as a research project of the Science Museum. The whole area goes southward from the terminus of the Rongbuk Glacier to Pheriche and eastward from Pumori to the center of the Kangchung Basin. For all of us involved, this has been a unique and exciting experience in international science and camaraderie: the US Space Shuttle, a US Learjet, owned by Swedair and flown by a Swedish aircrew, a Swiss camera, aerial photographer and laboratory expert, West German space photography, computer analysis of control by Zürich's ETH, photogrammetry by Swissair—and close collaboration from the start between Boston's Museum of Science, the National Geographic, Swissair Photo Surveys, the Landestopographie, His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the People's Republic of China.

BRADFORD WASHBURN

*Pumori East-Ridge Attempt.* This two-man Japanese expedition came to an abrupt end on October 6 when the leader, Mikio Mitsuhashi, was searching for the site of Camp II at 6000 meters. He was struck by a snow avalanche and fell 40 meters, fracturing his left leg. The east-ridge route, which they were trying, they think would have been a new route.

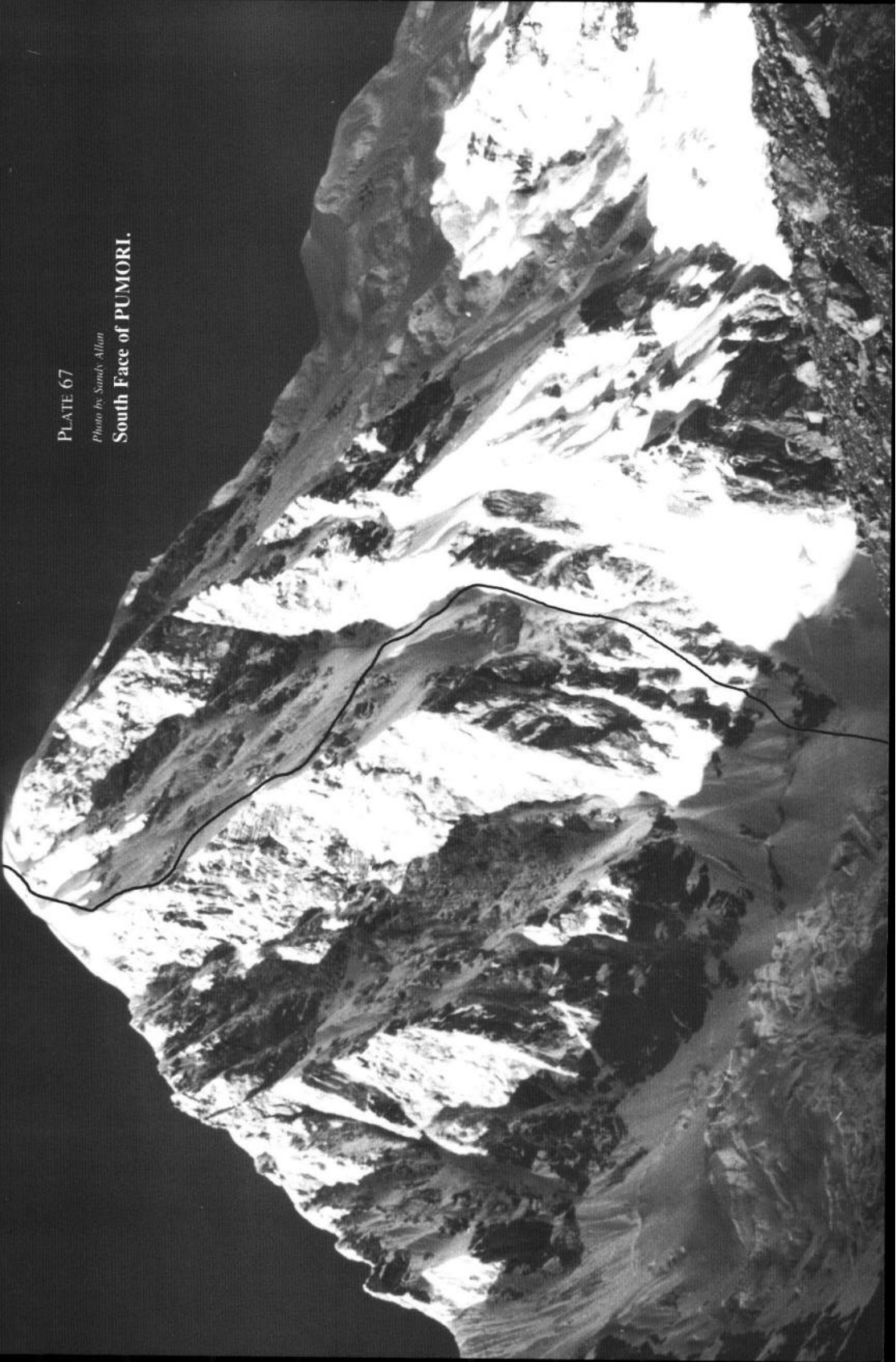
MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Pumori, South Face.* Base Camp was established on October 7 on the eastern flanks of Kala Pattar. On October 10 we pitched a tent at 5500 meters on Kala Pattar where Rick Allen and I acclimatized. The U.S. members, Morris Kittleman and Dave Saiget, arrived at Base on the 11th and decided to spend several days acclimatizing. On the 14th we two Scots began to climb the south face and bivouacked at 5600 meters. The following day took us up mixed ground where we were forced to abseil into the main couloir. We climbed this for several difficult pitches and bivouacked at 5850 meters. We ascended the

PLATE 67

*Photo by Sandy Allan*

**South Face of PUMORI.**



rest of the couloir on the 16th and bivouacked in a cave at 6100 meters. We moved together over the next two days, bivouacking at 6600 and 7000 meters. On the morning of the 19th at ten A.M. we stood on the summit. We descended the southwest ridge for several hundred meters and then climbed down the large couloir on the west face, arriving at a safe site on the Changri Shar at ten P.M. at 5400 meters. The next day we returned to Base Camp. The Americans later made an attempt but retreated from 6000 meters because of high winds. We believe this was a previously unclimbed route.

SANDY ALLAN, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

*Pumori Southwest-Ridge Attempt.* One member became seriously ill from high altitude and never reached Base Camp. The other four, New Zealanders John Roberts, leader, and Kevin Conaglen, Australian Stephen Macdonald and American Keith Swenson all reached their high point, 6550 meters, between October 24 and 26. They then abandoned the climb because they were exhausted. Viewing the climb with hindsight, they feel they should have done a rapid alpine-style ascent instead of fixing 900 meters of rope on their route.

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

*Pumori, South Face.* The members of the expedition were Edin Alikalfić, Mario Bago, Janez Benkovič, Željko Gobec, Branko Pusak and I as leader. We established Base Camp and Advance Base at 4620 and 5240 meters on October 6 and 10. In spite of bad weather in the next four days, we climbed up the face to 5740 meters on the 14th and up to the crest of the southwest ridge at 6250 meters on the 15th. On October 16 Benkovič climbed to the summit and the same day returned to Advance Base. Two days later Alikalfić reached the top followed the next day by Pusak. Pusak and Bago cleaned the face the next day and Base Camp was evacuated on October 21. The route is to the left of the 1979 Jeff Lowe route and in the last part follows the southwest ridge. A tent was pitched at 6100 meters. We fixed 450 meters of rope. The lower part of the slope averages 45° and the upper part 50° to 60° with places up to 80°.

DARKO BERLJAK, *Mountaineering Association of Zagreb, Yugoslavia*

*Pumori Winter Ascent via East Face.* A Japanese expedition climbed a new route on the east face of Pumori. Hiroshi Aota and Yoshiki Sasahara made a quick alpine-style ascent that took them to the summit on the third day, December 3. The leader Kazuyuki Takahashi caught cold on a trekking peak before the climb and did not even go to Base Camp.

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

*Pumori Winter Ascent.* On November 25 Michael Dimitri and I made Base Camp at Gorak Shep in order to climb Pumori. On December 1, we climbed directly from Kala Patar to 6000 meters on the southwest ridge, but Dimitri had

an intestinal illness and so we descended the next day. The weather was windless and mild and snow conditions were excellent. On the 3rd we watched two Japanese reach the summit after a three-day climb of the east face. Michael was still sick and so the next day I climbed to 6000 meters on the east face, meeting the Japanese on their descent. Leaving camp at seven A.M. on December 5, I reached the summit at 11:15 and was back in Gorak Shep at 3:30 P.M. I believe I followed the 1985 Catalán route. After a rest day, I climbed back to 6000 meters on the southwest ridge to retrieve our gear and also to remove the abandoned food and gear left by the post-monsoon expeditions.

TODD BIBLER

*Gyachungkang, South Face.* Our expedition of ten French and three Nepalese military men climbed Gyachungkang's previously unclimbed south face. The peak itself had been climbed only once, by Japanese in 1964. We approached from Jiri in two weeks and set up Base Camp on April 22 at 5020 meters on the moraine of the true right bank of the Ngojumba Glacier. To figure a route through the icefalls defending access to the south face took ten days of effort and reconnaissance. On April 28 we set up Camp I at 5800 meters on a snowy spur after we had climbed a rocky ridge that let us bypass the first icefall. On April 30 we placed Camp II at 6200 meters after winding in a complex route through the glacier where we were often exposed to falling ice. There the ascent of the south face really began. An 800-meter-high ice slope, which in places was very steep, led to Camp III, installed on May 4 and 5 at 7200 meters on a platform hacked into a narrow snow ridge. The dry, cold weather at the end of April gave way to unstable weather. Preparing the route was difficult, especially in the rock barrier between 7300 and 7500 meters, where we climbed a series of chimneys. On May 11, R. Flamatti and Pierre-Alain Royer set out for the summit but were driven back by storm at 7850 meters, suffering frost-bitten hands and feet. On May 12, Eric Gramont and Frédéric Maurel succeeded in climbing an overhanging dihedral just below the easier snowy summit slopes and reached the summit (7952 meters, 26,089 feet). On May 13, Gérald Trésallet and I and on May 15, Alain Estève and Hubert Giot got to the top.

JEAN-CLAUDE MARMIER, *Lieutenant Colonel,*  
*Ecole Militaire de Haute Montagne*

*Gyachungkang, South Face Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Basques Antxon Zamabide, F. Garatea, Martín Zebaleta, Kike de Pablo and me and Americans Hooman Aprin, Ron Matous, Dr. Robin Houston, Edward Farrar and Michael Ruckhouse. In Kathmandu we found out that the route we had hoped to climb had been done by the French in the spring. On September 26 Matous, Aprin, de Pablo and I set up Base Camp at 5100 meters in the same spot as that used for the south face of Cho Oyu. On October 1 after we tried to pass across the icefall that gives access to the Nup La, we set up Camp I more to the west at 5700 meters, near the ridge that leads to Ngojumba Kang. The weather

was bad and it snowed every day until October 15. Matous fell sick, while Aprin, de Pablo and I waited for 12 days before making the route in deep snow through the second icefall. On October 19 we set up Camp II at 6250 meters and on the 20th broke trail to the bergschrund at the foot of the southwest spur of Gyachungkang at 6500 meters. As we descended to rest at Base Camp, we found at Camp I the rest of the expedition, which had arrived at Base Camp on October 14. On October 26 we attacked the face: Aprin, de Pablo and I on one rope and Zabaleta and Matous on the other. The last two descended from 6700 meters. We three bivouacked at 6800 and 7100 meters but descended on October 28 after fighting all night not to be blown away by a furious wind.

JOSÉ LUIS ZULOAGA, *Orhi Mendi, Federación Vasca Montaña, Spain*

*Cho Oyu, Southwest Buttress.* A noteworthy accomplishment was a new route on Cho Oyu climbed by Polish climbers from Zakopane led by Ryszard Gajewski. Base Camp was established on April 5 at 5300 meters. They hoped to prepare the Messner variation for descent and established two camps on this route up to 6800 meters. Unfortunately they were turned back by the American expedition which informed against them in Kathmandu. They then moved to their Advance Base to 6000 meters at the foot of the nearly 2000-meters-high southwest buttress and concentrated their efforts on the new route. This ascends the prominent buttress 1.5 kilometers to the right of the Messner route. It is on ice and snow with a 150- to 200-meter-high rock face at 7000 meters, which they climbed directly with UIAA grade III. Three camps were established above Advance Base at 6600, 7100 and 7600 meters. The steeper sections were fixed with 500 meters of rope to facilitate the descent. The new route joins the old Tichy route at 7750 meters. It is not very difficult and relatively safe. In the future it may well become the "normal" route from the southwest. On April 29, starting from Camp III at 7600 meters, Gajewski and Maciej Pawlikowski climbed to the summit. On May 1 Piotr Konopka completed a solo ascent. On May 3 Marek Danielak and Andrzej Osika stood on the highest point. During the descent Danielak fell seriously ill but the rapid efforts of Dr. Lech Korniszewski saved his life. For Pawlikowski this was his second ascent of Cho Oyu, each time by a new route; he was also on the winter ascent of the southeast face.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Cho Oyu.* An international expedition was led by the Swiss Stefan Wörner. They followed close after the Poles on the new route up the southwest face of Cho Oyu. The expedition had originally been given a permit to attempt Cho Oyu via its east ridge from the south face of Ngojumba Kang, but their attempt was stopped at 6400 meters in a very dangerous chaos of séracs and crevasses. Wörner states that the east-ridge approach to Cho Oyu appears as difficult as a traverse from Lhotse Shar to Lhotse's main summit. [This route was attempted by British in 1984 and Poles and Americans in 1985. Americans Mark Richey and Rick Wilcox got to about 7950 meters.—*Editor.*] They then turned to the

southwest face. Seven members reached the summit, a route which is more direct, shorter and safer than the Tichy route. On May 3 Austrian Peter Habeler and the late Swiss Marcel Rüedi left a bivouac at 6000 meters and climbed to another bivouac at 7600 meters. After being held stormbound there for a day, they reached the summit on May 5. On May 9 American Jan Smith and German Rüdiger Schleypen got to the top, followed by three soloists: German Jörg Daum on May 10, Deputy leader Yugoslav Bogdan Brakas on May 11 and Austrian Manfred Lorenz on May 16. None used oxygen and all climbed semi-alpine-style.

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

*Cho Oyu.* Cowboys on Cho Oyu consisted of Americans Michael Bacon, Alan Jennings, Charlie Schertz, Ed Yoshida and me as leader, Michael Clarke, who is an Englishman who has acquired American citizenship, British David Hambly and Canadian David McClung. We flew to Lukla on March 21, but our baggage came overland through Jiri. We spent ten days acclimatizing in the Khumbu while waiting for our baggage to arrive. We took the standard approach to Base Camp through Thame, Marlung and Lunak. The weather was poor with heavy snows. One yak died in the deep drifts; we compensated the owner. On April 7 we established Base Camp at 5200 meters at Kangchung, wrongly marked on the Schneider map as Dzasampa; Dzasampa is located further up the Nangpa Glacier at the base of the icefall. During the next ten days, we used a dozen porters to help transport baggage to the site of Camp I with temporary camps at Dzasampa and at a place above the icefall. On April 17 we all occupied Camp I on the moraine of the Gyabrag Glacier at 5920 meters. This camp served as Advance Base. On April 20 Schertz and I occupied Camp II at 6350 meters on the northwest ridge. On April 23 Hambly and Bacon occupied Camp III at 6720 meters on the ridge at the base of the icefall. We all returned to Base Camp for our only rest period. On May 7 a four-man party tried to establish Camp IV at 7500 meters. High winds and intense cold turned us back a few yards above Camp III. On May 10 we again attempted to establish our high camp and make a summit attempt. Using lines we had previously fixed in the icefall, which had ice up to 80°, we broke new ground and reached the base of the first rock band on the western face of Cho Oyu. Bacon and Schertz dropped their loads and Hambly and I established Camp IV 100 meters higher at 7500 meters. The next morning we left at 6:30 and started through the first rock band. We bore to the right, joined the west ridge at 7800 meters and progressed up the ridge, a series of moderate ice pitches, to the flat snow area below the second rock band. We took a direct line through this, exiting on the right side into the broad, long summit area. We reached the summit at 2:30 P.M. on May 11. During the half-hour we stayed on the summit, we took photos and displayed the flags of Nepal, the United States and Great Britain. The thermometer read  $-20^{\circ}$  C and the wind was estimated at 30 kph with gusts up to 60 kph. At the summit was a metal flag pole with a metal Chinese flag attached. The true summit should not

be confused with the lower false summit, which is closer to the second rock band. On the false summit is a pole with odd bits of prayer flags. Comparison of summit photos seems to indicate that it was there that Jan Smith got. No other summit attempts were made. Supplementary oxygen and high-altitude porters were not used.

JAMES FRUSH

*Cho Oyu.* Our team consisted of Etsuro Hino, Tateo Yamashita, Miss Taeko Noda, Takayushi Kawada, Mrs. Mutsuko Okuma, Tsuyoshi Murakai, Miss Masae Okamoto and me as leader. We pitched three camps on the south face of Ngozumba Kang, hoping to climb Cho Oyu by the east ridge. On September 29 Hino, Miss Noda and Miss Okamoto were at Camp III at 7500 meters, but we gave up the route because of deep snow. From October 5 to 9 we moved over the Nangpa La to Base Camp on the normal route. We set up Camps I, II, III, and IV at 5600, 6300, 6750 and 7200 meters on October 10, 11, 12, and 13. Because of strong wind we stayed at Camp IV on October 14 and 15. On October 16 Hino climbed to the summit.

NOBUO SHIRAISHI, *Kitakyushi Alpine Club, Japan*

*Cho Oyu Tragedy.* The expedition to Cho Oyu which I led was composed of three Swiss: Pierre-Alain Steiner, Christian Dupré and me. After having arrived on October 8 at Base Camp at 5300 meters near the Nangpa La, we climbed to 6300 meters for acclimatization. We left on October 19 for an Advance Base at the foot of the west face at 6000 meters. That same day we started up a new route on the face and joined the Polish route at 7300 meters. The wind was so strong that we stopped for several hours. On the morning of the 20th the wind was the same and we decided to descend to wait for several days. Unfortunately, while descending, Steiner fell some 600 meters, which put an end to his life and the expedition.

ERHARD LORETAN, *Club Alpin Suisse*

*Gaurishankar Attempt.* After two weeks of bureaucracy in Kathmandu, Iñaki Alvarez, Koldo Tapia, Txema Cámara and I were finally able to take the bus to Charikot, arriving there on September 11. The approach was very difficult because of the monsoon rains, the stream crossings, the bamboo forests and the leeches. [Other reports say they also had difficulties with the local police. — *Editor.*] We got to Base Camp at 4800 meters on September 16, the 5400-meter col on the 17th and Advance Base at 4300 meters on the glacier on the 18th. The route to be attempted was on the southwest face left of the Roskelley route. On September 20 and 21 we bivouacked at 5500 and 6000 meters and climbed to 6100 meters on the 22nd. The weather was continuously bad with avalanches sweeping the face. We descended to Base Camp. Despite the weather we did climb two virgin peaks: Tsirigma Ikuspegi (5430 meters, 17,815

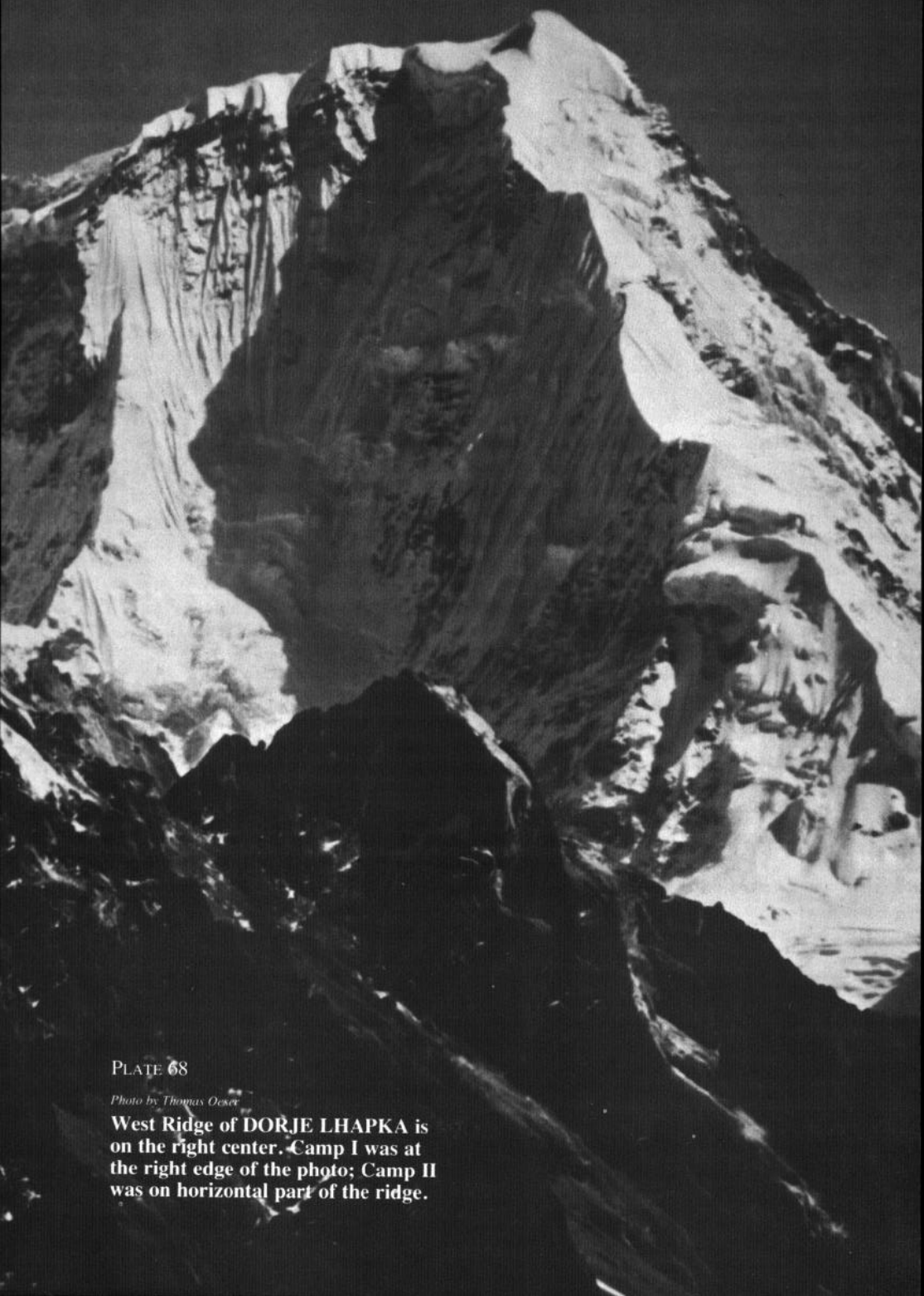


PLATE 68

*Photo by Thomas Oeser*

**West Ridge of DORJE LHAPKA is on the right center. Camp I was at the right edge of the photo; Camp II was on horizontal part of the ridge.**

feet) and P 4830 (15,847 feet). In the first week of October, we tried another attack, getting to our supply depot. On October 6 we left the mountain.

JAIME ALONSO. *Alpino Tabira Mendizale Taldea, Spain*

*Dorje Lhakpa.* Our joint expedition was composed of Germans Klaus Stark, leader, Mathias Rau, Helmut Müller, Dr. Bernd Meyer and me and Nepalese Ang Pasang and Pemba Tarke. We used a new approach from the south through the Balephi Khola. Three Japanese expeditions had climbed Dorje Lhakpa before, all by the west ridge. Their approach was by the Langtang valley and their Base Camps were on the Langshisa Glacier. Our Base Camp at 4500 meters was on the moraine of a glacier coming from the southwest face. Camp I at 5500 meters was at the foot of the west ridge, about five hours from Base Camp. Camp II at 6000 meters was just beyond a horizontal section of the ridge. Meyer, Müller, Rau and Stark established Camp II on November 5. The next day they set out for the summit but got to only 6700 meters, as the distance was too great. On November 7 Meyer and Müller tried it again, setting out earlier. Meyer reached the summit (6966 meters, 22,845 feet) at three P.M. and Müller at 7:30. Meyer got down to Camp II at eight P.M. but Müller was forced to spend the night at 6700 meters and reached Camp II the next day.

THOMAS OESER. *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Langsisha Ri.* Simon Cox, John Goulstone, Steve Upton, Kirsten Sorenson and I left Kathmandu on March 29 and after seven anxious days and one heavy snowstorm reached Base Camp at 4500 meters at the edge of the Langsisha Glacier. From there we carried equipment and food up the south face to the site of Camp I at 5700 meters. We moved up to Camp I on April 12. The route between these two camps was relatively straightforward but somewhat dangerous because the mountain was holding a lot of snow. The route to Camp I ascended 1000 meters of snow slope to gain a small col and another 200 meters to a large plateau below the final 725-meter face. The face above the plateau is spectacular. Four hundred meters of steep snow gully brought us to the final summit icefield. It was from 45° to 60° and in perfect condition. Nine pitches of superb climbing on good ice led to the summit (6427 meters, 21,086 feet). We had left Camp I at three A.M. and got to the summit at midday on April 14, being considerably slowed by deep snow in the gully. After spending two hours on the top, enjoying the views, especially into Tibet and across the Dorje Lhakpa group, we descended. Five 50-meter abseils brought us to the top of the snow gully and then an unroped descent took us back to the plateau. Kirsten Sorenson had remained at Camp I as she had intended, while the rest of us went to the summit.

MARTIN HUNTER. *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Langtang Lirung.* Our expedition climbed Langtang Lirung by the southeast ridge, previously ascended by Japanese in 1980 and 1981. We were Fukashi

Suzuki, Takashi Miyazaki, Toshiyuki Fukui, Toshiaki Jinnai, Takayoshi Taga, Takashi Takeuchi, Tomoharu Tada, Dr. Naoto Toma and I as leader. On March 23 we reached Base Camp beside the Langtang Glacier at 4200 meters. Camp I was placed at 4800 meters on March 28. The route to Camp II ascended a gully and was placed in the col at the foot of the southeast ridge at 5600 meters on April 5 after four days of storm. The most difficult part of the climb was between Camps II and III on the ridge, where we fixed rope and wire ladders on steep rock and ice. Camps III and IV were established at 6100 and 6500 meters on April 19 and 29. On May 3 Fukui, Taga, Tada and Takeuchi reached the summit (7234 meters, 23,734 feet).

KENRYO NUMA, *Himalayan Alpine Club of Ohtani, Japan*

*Langtang Lirung Southwest Ridge.* The eight-man expedition which I led established Base Camp at 4250 meters on September 18 below the previously unclimbed southwest ridge. We placed Camps I, II and III at 5100, 5500 and 6000 meters on September 22 and 27 and October 1. Our progress was slowed by bad weather. On October 4 we tried to get to Camp IV but could get to only 6500 meters. On October 8, Yoon Kye-Jung, Song Suk-Hee, Sin Chang-Jin, Jon Weon-Sik, Ang Rinzing Sherpa and I left Camp III for the summit at four A.M. but did not reach until ten P.M. a snow wall of 80°, where we bivouacked. The next day we climbed the wall and got to the last pitch of the southwest ridge, where at 7000 meters we set up Camp IV. On October 10 we six left Camp IV at six A.M. and got to the summit at ten.

YOON DEONG-JUNG, *South Korea*

*Langtang Lirung Attempt.* A Spanish expedition of five led by Miguel Angel Puertas attempted to climb Langtang Lirung by its southeast ridge, successfully ascended by Japanese in the spring of 1986. Strong winds prevented the climb. The highest point reached was 6300 meters, gained by Javier Valero on October 13.

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

*Ganesh I Attempt.* Our expedition consisted of Micheline Matile, Christian Meier, André Kohler, Michel and Marie-Rose Geissbuhler, Laurent and Christine Paillard, Patricia Mercier and me. We placed Base Camp on April 20 at 3800 meters on the Song Jung Glacier, southeast of Ganesh I. We had three high camps at 4500, 5100 and 5600 meters on the southeast ridge, established on April 23, May 1 and 2. We had hoped to climb the south ridge higher up. Two members got to 5800 meters on May 3, but we had to abandon the climb on May 6 because of bad weather, heavy snowfall and wind. Above 5700 meters there was a 600-meter-high steep slope with dangerous snow.

OLIVIER MATILE, *Club Alpin Suisse*

*Ganesh II Attempt.* A six-man Korean expedition led by Park Jong-Tae hoped to climb Ganesh II by its west ridge from the south face of Ganesh IV, the same route attempted unsuccessfully by Swiss in the autumn of 1984. The high point of 6600 meters was reached on May 10 by deputy leader Park Chung-Sang and Choi Ok-Rim. The climb was then abandoned. By now Park had injured his leg, one of their two climbing Sherpas had broken his leg and two other members were out of action from injuries received from falling séracs. For most of their climbing period, the weather was bad with low clouds obscuring the route and frequent snowfall.

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

*Manaslu Attempt and Tragedy.* A 16-person German-Austrian expedition led by Michael Dacher hoped to climb Manaslu by the normal northeast-face route. On May 3, three members established Camp IV at 7400 meters. Then disaster struck and Camp IV was never reached again. A party of five had set out that day from Camp III, but two of them realized they could not make it all the way to Camp IV and turned back. One of these two, German Wilhelm Klaiber, apparently fell while descending the fixed ropes going back to Camp III. No one saw him fall. He simply disappeared and was never seen again. During that night there was heavy snowfall. The three in Camp III, Germans Fred Bässler and Arthur Wirthensohn and Austrian Dieter Oberbichler, the deputy leader, descended on May 4. Oberbichler now fell; again no one saw him fall, but the other two suddenly came upon his body as they were moving down. He must have shot past them, for he had been behind them. Oberbichler was already dead; the two tried to bring his body down with them, but while doing so, Bässler broke his ankle and got mild frostbite and Wirthensohn got badly frostbitten fingers on both hands. A final summit push was attempted with six members moving up from Base Camp on May 9, but they got no higher than Camp III because of heavy snowfall. The climb was abandoned on May 11.

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

*Manaslu Northeast-Face Attempt.* A Colombian expedition of nine was led by Carlos Eduardo Gómez. They attempted the normal route. The maximum altitude reached was 7250 meters, where Camp IV was established. It was reached by Manuel Arturo Barrios and Juan Pablo Ruiz on October 31 and again by Barrios and Marcelo Arbeláez the next day. On November 2 it was decided to abandon the climb because of strong winds and cold. Two members had already been mildly frostbitten and it was feared that more serious frostbite might be in store if they continued.

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

*Manaslu Southeast-Face Attempt.* A 10-man expedition from Macedonia, Yugoslavia was led by Jovan Poposki. They attempted the southeast face, the

route of the Poles in the autumn of 1984. Frequent heavy snowfall in September and the first half of October and then fierce winds in the latter half of October meant defeat. The highest point of 7400 meters was reached on October 29 by Dimitar Ilievski, Solbodan Jovanoski and Borce Jovcevski.

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

*Manaslu Northeast Face.* A light-weight expedition of six Poles and two Mexicans was led by Jerzy Kukuczka. They established Base Camp on September 8 at 4400 meters. From September 17 to October 26 in very bad weather they climbed the difficult and complicated east ridge to the lower plateau. They then changed their route. From November 5 to 10 they made the first ascent of the northeast face from the Manaslu Glacier in pure alpine-style. The three men bivouacked at 5500, 6300, 7300, 7600 and 8000 meters. There were several pitches of hard, mixed climbing between 7300 and 7500 meters and on the slopes of the virgin eastern summit (7992 meters). On November 9, they reached the summit plateau where they made their fifth bivouac. The next day Carlos Carsolio, who was suffering from frostbite, stayed at the bivouac while Kukuczka and Artur Hajzer went to the summit. It was frigidly cold. "Though the effort was enormous, I shivered the whole time," said Kukuczka. Poor weather and complicated terrain made it necessary to take 62 days to reach the summit. This is the first 8000er to be climbed in November. It was Kukuczka's 12th 8000er.

JÓSEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Himalchuli North Tragedy.* Germans Dr. Wolfgang Weinzierl and Peter Wauer and South Tirolean Günther Einsendle set out for Camp I on October 15, hoping to pitch Camp II on the southwest ridge at 6500 meters. The only survivor, Siegfried Reiter, does not know where they actually pitched Camp II, where they obviously were struck by one of the avalanches that came down the mountain during and following a bad snowstorm from the night of the 15th to the morning of the 17th. Reiter was in Camp I during the storm.

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

*Himalchuli.* Our expedition was composed of Hizuru Nakamura, Noriyuki Muraguti, Hiroyuki Suzuki, Kiyoshi Furuno, Itarou Isakawa, Sigeki Imoto and me as leader. We climbed Himal Chuli by the south ridge and the southwest face, a new route. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 4950, 5550, 5920, 6370, 6950 and 7250 meters on September 6, 16, 20, 25, October 7 and 13. The summit (7893 meters, 25,895 feet) was reached on October 26 by Nakamura, Furuno, Imoto and Nima Dorje Sherpa.

SADAO OKADA, *Nikon University Alpine Club, Japan*

PLATE 69

*Photo by Sadan Okada*

**HIMAL CHULI.** Ascent was up South Ridge on right and then up the Southwest Face.



*Himalchuli Winter Attempt and Tragedy.* A Polish expedition led by Józef Stepien hoped to climb the main peak of Himalchuli by its southwest ridge. Although there were seven members, only two were really high climbers. Deputy leader Wiesław Panejko and Jacek Klineciewicz got to 6200 meters on December 29. The next day Klineciewicz unaccountably lost his footing and plunged some 1000 meters to his death. The expedition was given up.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Bhrikuti Attempt.* An expedition of nine French, a Nepali, a Sherpa and a Tamang were climbing on the Japanese route of the spring of 1982, the west ridge. On April 30, Jean-Yves Ferrand, Pierre Gaillot and Bruno Kriner got to 6250 meters but Ferrand fell into a crevasse. Too much time was consumed getting the injured man out for the other two to continue the one-hour climb to the summit that day. Their tight schedule required them to leave the mountain immediately.

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

*Tilitso Tragedy.* A 16-member German expedition led by Hans Huhn had hoped to climb Tilitso. During the approach to Base Camp, a huge snow avalanche on the west side of the Mesokanta La caught ten climbers. Rudolf Springmann and Hermann Ebert were killed. The survivors decided not to continue on to Base Camp and the expedition was abandoned.

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

*Annapurna, South Face Attempt.* [The Bulgarian expedition failed to climb Annapurna's south face by the Polish route in the winter, as described briefly in *A.A.J.*, 1986 on p. 293.] Their ambitious plan for climbing both Annapurna and Dhaulagiri in the spring soon fell through. Frequent heavy snowfall meant lengthy periods of unfavorable climbing conditions. The team, now reduced to nine Bulgarians including their Base Camp-bound leader, Boian Atanasov, and three Sherpas reoccupied Base Camp at 4300 meters only on March 25. Camps I, II, III and IV were established at 5400, 6100, 6500 and 6850 meters on April 5, 17, 19 and 23. New ropes were fixed. Their high point was 7550 meters, to which deputy leader Ivan Valtchev and Vesseldev Tschaushev climbed on May 9. During that day's ascent, Valtchev counted ten places where the ropes had been seriously damaged by falling stones. He therefore called off the entire effort.

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

*Annapurna Attempt.* A five-man Italian expedition led by Giacomo Stefani had hoped to climb a new route on Annapurna, the northwest buttress and north face. Early on they decided against the route because it was all exposed rock rather than snow-covered for which they were equipped. They followed the

1950 French route but got no higher than 6200 meters, the site for Camp III, which Pierino Maccarinelli, Severangelo Battaini and Alberto Stefani reached on April 25. After that, snow conditions became dangerous. The climbers were hit but uninjured by a slab avalanche on May 1. With no signs of improving weather, they abandoned the climb on May 4.

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

*Annapurna.* After our ascent of Nanga Parbat, Fausto De Stefani, Almo Giambisi and I headed for Nepal, to climb the normal route on the north side of Annapurna. Well acclimatized from Nanga Parbat, we quickly established Camp I at 5000 meters and made a carry to 5500 meters. Then the weather turned bad and the avalanche danger was great. As we waited in Base Camp, a large French expedition appeared, including the legendary Maurice Herzog, who had made the first ascent of an 8000er by the very route we were trying. After another week of waiting, we decided on a rapid ascent from Camp I. We set out from a 5500-meter bivouac and climbed in a single day to 7000 meters, where we bivouacked. The next day, September 21, we ascended to the summit and descended to bivouac again at 7000 meters. We were back in Base Camp in two more days. Our joy lasted very little time since the very strong French climber, Benoît Grison, fell on the unclimbed northwest ridge and died.

SERGIO MARTINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Annapurna Northwest Ridge Attempt and Tragedy.* Our expedition was composed of Jean-Paul Vion, Georges Payot, Godefroy Perroux, François Marigny, Benoît Grison, Jacques Latarjet and me as leader. Our expedition was the excuse for Maurice Herzog's return to his Base Camp of 1950; despite his age and amputations of hands and feet, he came back on foot to the foot of the north face of Annapurna. We headed for the unclimbed northwest ridge up a 600-meter couloir. After arriving at the normal Base Camp at 4000 meters on September 13, we left on the 17th for Camp I at 5000 meters on the main north-face glacier. On September 21 we placed Camp II at the foot of the couloir which joins the northwest ridge at 6000 meters. Rope was fixed the whole length of the couloir. On September 23, Grison ascended to fix the upper third. He fell to his death probably as he descended. We gave up the expedition after getting this terrible news. We had hoped to place Camp III at the top of the couloir, Camp IV at 7500 and go for the summit from there, possibly with a bivouac.

JÉRÔME GREGGORY, *Club Alpine Français*

*Annapurna, Attempt by the Northwest Spur of "Nameless Peak."* Between Annapurna I and Varah Shikhar (Fang) lies a peak which must be over 7700 meters, which has been called the "Nameless Peak." A distinct spur descends to the valley of the Miristhi Khola. Dr. Hervé Bouvard, Patrick Gabarrou, Pemba Norbu Sherpa and I hoped to climb this spur and then carry on up the west ridge

to the summit of Annapurna. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II and III at 4000, 4600, 5500 and 6700 meters on September 16, 18, 20 and 22. Base Camp was at the bottom of the northwest spur of Annapurna, in the same place as that of Messner in 1984 when he ascended the northwest face. Our route this year was to the left of our 1984 attempt and ascended the left side of the spur. It lay partially to the right of Messner's route, which we followed more or less from Base Camp to Camp II. From Camp I to II, at Camp II and somewhat above, the route is very exposed to avalanches. Camp III was placed at the same place as our 1984 Camp IV. We climbed above Camp III until we rejoined the Messner route at about 7000 meters. We suggest that the still unclimbed "Nameless Peak" be called "Namaste."

HENRI SIGAYRET, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

*Annapurna via Khangsar Kang (Roc Noir) Attempt.* Eight French and three Nepalese climbers were led by Marc Batard. They hoped to climb over Singu Chuli (Fluted Peak) and Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome) to reach the east ridge of Khangsar Kang and thence the east ridge of Annapurna. They took much time on the route above Base Camp southwest of Singu Chuli (6501 meters, 21,330 feet), which they climbed by a new route, the south ridge. Not until November 7 did Batard, Kami Rinji Sherpa and Kami Tenzi Sherpa climb Tarke Kang (7193 meters, 23,600 feet) where they found such bad snow conditions that they gave up the climb. The other French climbers were Louis Audoubert, Bernard Douay, Terry Faure, Michel Frisque, Marc Gratalon, Michel Metzger and Anne Genevey.

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

*Annapurna Winter Ascent: Kukuczka's 13th 8000er, 1987.* Jerzy Kukuczka and his fellow Pole Artur Hajzer got to the summit of Annapurna on February 3, 1987 on the first winter ascent of the peak and the first Polish ascent. Wanda Rutkiewicz and Krzysztof Wielicki, the other summit pair, were unfortunately unsuccessful, getting only to 6800 meters. Their expedition was basically on the 1950 French route on the north face. No Sherpas went above Base Camp. They used no artificial oxygen at any time.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna II Attempt.* Our expedition to the west ridge of Annapurna II was composed of Lucy Smith and me, co-leaders, Sue Giller, George Vansickle, Julie Brugger, John Trainor, Devin McGowan, Polly Fabian and Craig Sea-sholes. We met with many frustrations. Deep winter snows and high winds seemed to be the rule this spring. This long route (6 miles and 14,000 feet gain from Base Camp) begins by following the northwest buttress of Annapurna IV to the west ridge. Once on the west ridge, it traverses nearly 1½ miles at 24,000 feet to a final 2000-foot summit day. The mountain has now been attempted 28

times, successfully only four times: 1960 British-Nepalese-Indian and 1969 Yugoslav via the west ridge, 1973 Japanese via the north face and 1983 Australian via the south face. The 1973 Japanese ascent has been reported incorrectly as being on the northeast ridge. We encountered six feet of snow at 12,400 feet and thus were forced to place Base Camp 3000 feet short of our intended site. We fought through deep, and sometimes unstable, snow to 20,000 feet where we topped out on the Dome. This sits on the Himalayan crest separating Mustang from the Indian plains; predictably there were high winds. Camps were established as follows: Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 12,400, 15,500, 17,200, 19,300, 21,200 and 22,200 feet on March 24, 28, April 7, 18, 24 and May 3. After a month and a half of effort we abandoned the climb. Vansickle and Trainor reached a height of 24,000 feet on the west ridge. We requested permission from the ministry via radio and through our liaison officer to climb Annapurna IV when it became clear that we could not reach the summit of Annapurna II. Our request was denied five days later. Historically, expeditions have climbed both peaks or at least Annapurna IV when turned back from Annapurna II. The two peaks are best described as separate high points of the same mountain. The Ministry of Tourism now gives permission for them separately and imposes severe penalties for illegal ascents. In addition, expeditions to Annapurna II via the west ridge may find themselves sharing the route with an Annapurna IV expedition, as we did with the Nepalese Police team. A Spanish Basque expedition of six also was climbing the route with us due to a misunderstanding during the permit process.

SHARI KEARNEY

*Annapurna II Attempt.* An expedition of six Spanish Basques led by Jesús Bereciartua tried to climb Annapurna II up the north face and along the west ridge from Annapurna IV. They set up Camps I, II and III at 4800, 5500 and 6300 meters on March 28, April 8 and 13. On April 30 Francisco Javier Maiz and Francisco Javier San Sebastián reached 7000 meters but then the expedition was given up because of bad weather.

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

*Gangapurna.* Our expedition was made up of two women, Nam Nan-Hee and Jeoung Young-Hee, both of whom went to the summit, and six men, Kim Ki-Chul, leader, Uhm Gae-Sung, Shim Gun-Shik, Nam Young-Hyun, Min Kyeong-Young and me. We climbed the east ridge from the south, roughly the Polish route in the autumn of 1985. We got to Base Camp at the source of the Modi Khola at 4200 meters on March 26. It was a long way to Camp I and so we had an intermediate dump. We traversed the lower slopes of Annapurna III to avoid avalanches and established Camp I at 4800 meters under a cliff just below the Gangapurna Icefall. Bad weather then held us up. We climbed a rock buttress to the right of the icefall, fixing some rope. We went up a sharp snow ridge and placed Camp II at 5600 meters on April 8. After climbing the knife-

edge, we got to the normal Gangapurna route, which ascended crevassed snow to the col. We placed Camp III at 6300 meters on April 14 just below the col. Blue ice and snow ice at 60° were climbed to reach the col. Camp IV at 6800 meters was an hour above the col. On April 18, Uhm, Nam and Ang Kami Sherpa started at 4:30 A.M. but returned because of the wind; they set out again at 7:45 and got to the summit (7455 meters, 24,457 feet) at 1:45 P.M. On April 20 Jeong, I and Godre Magar also went to the summit.

SEOK CHAE-UHN, *Korean Alpine Club*

*Gangapurna and Annapurna III Attempts.* A six-man Korean team led by Kim Jung hoped to ascend Gangapurna's north face, traverse Annapurna III's northeast ridge and descend Annapurna III's north ridge. Neither summit was reached and no traverse was made. The expedition split into two teams and attacked the two peaks simultaneously, but after several weeks of heavy snow-fall and unexpected demands on equipment such as fixed rope, it was decided to give up the Annapurna III bid and try for Gangapurna and descend via Annapurna III if possible. This strategy also failed as the members were very tired and the Sherpas were no longer interested in the climb. The highest points reached were 5300 meters on September 21 by Han Ik-Heui and Dawa Norbu Sherpa on Annapurna III and 7150 meters on September 27 by Cho Chung-Ho and sirdar Ang Kami Sherpa on Gangapurna. They were on the north face of Annapurna III and the northwest ridge of Gangapurna.

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

*Annapurna III Attempt and Tragedy.* An Italian expedition led by Maurizio Maggi was called off immediately after the death of Massimo Caslino, who was struck by a falling sérac on September 26. He fell about 350 meters and his body was found the next morning. The team's highest point was 6500 meters, the proposed site for their third and last camp. This was reached on September 25 by Battista Scanebessi. They were on the southwest ridge, a route not previously attempted.

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

*Annapurna IV.* A 24-person Nepalese Police expedition led by Mrs. Basundhara Lama climbed Annapurna IV by its normal route, the northwest ridge. The climbing leader was Inspector Gupta Bahadur Rana. Much of the route-making had been done by the much smaller Basque and American expeditions. The summit was reached on May 2 by Sub-Inspector Kamal Bhandari, Head-Constable Ngwang Yonden Sherpa, Constables Indra Bahadur Ghale, Nuru Sherpa, Pasang Tshering Sherpa and Phurba Tshering Sherpa.

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

*Annapurna IV.* We climbed the normal route, the north face and northwest ridge of Annapurna IV. From our 4800-meter Base Camp we placed three

camps 5200, 5800 and 6360 meters. We two guides, Jean Frank Charlet and I, seven clients and Sherpas Mingma and Sundare were, after three weeks of fine weather, just a day from the summit when we were struck by a storm that obliged us to descend. The day after, again with lovely weather, Sundare, Charlet, Patrick Bouchet and I started back up and got to Camp III on the second day. Three of us reached the summit on November 7. Charlet had to turn back an hour from the summit, fearing frostbitten feet. The first part of the route is more difficult; we placed 500 meters of rope. If much snow fell there, one would risk being trapped high up because of avalanche danger. The route follows a very aesthetic spur which descends at right angles to the face. The second part is along the long ridge, easy if the snow is hard. This part is often wind-swept and subject to windslabs.

MICHEL VINCENT, *Club Alpin Français*

*Varaha Shikhar (Fang) Attempt.* Six Koreans led by Kim Jong-Duk hoped to climb a new route, the east face, on Varaha Shikhar. The highest point reached was 5450 meters, where Choi Young-Dae, Kim Sung-Mo and Ang Kami Sherpa pitched Camp II on September 15. Several days of heavy snowfall buried or avalanched away a substantial part of the expedition's fixed rope and climbing hardware. With this loss of gear, the expedition was given up.

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

*Annapurna Dakshin Attempt.* The first Yugoslavian women's Himalayan expedition hoped to climb the southwest ridge of Annapurna Dakshin (Annapurna South; 7219 meters, 23,683 feet), the 1982 Japanese route. Marija Frantar, leader, Nives Boršič, Maja Dolenc, Irena Komprej, Ana Mažar, Danica Mlinar, Mira Uršič, Sanja Vranac and I got to Base Camp at 4000 meters on April 16. It was 800 meters too low because the porters refused to carry higher. On April 18 we established Advance Base at 4800 meters. We then followed a big couloir leading to a snow plateau. From there on we did not follow the original route but used a couloir further left, which we considered safer. Camp I at 5700 meters was placed on April 24. We then climbed 2½ kilometers along the ridge, going up and down on some hard ice-and-rock climbing. Camp II was set up at 5800 meters on May 9. From there we climbed to 6100 meters, where we decided to abandon the attempt. The ridge was narrow and long. We had very bad weather with much lightning. Of the 45 days we were on the mountain, only four were without snowfall. The bad weather came at least by nine or ten o'clock.

VLASTA KUNAVER, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*Dhaulagiri.* We climbed Dhaulagiri by the normal northeast ridge. We got to Base Camp at 4650 meters on April 5. There were many crevasses in the glacier going to Camp I at 5700 meters, which we established on April 10.

Camps II and III were set up at 6600 and 7150 meters on April 20 and 22. We fixed 800 meters of rope between Camps II and III. On May 3, five of us set out from Camp III with a tent which we left at the site of Camp IV at 7500 meters. Sepp Hirtreiter and I got to the summit at noon. Heinz Schauer, Dr. Kurt Dehn and Ang Phurba Sherpa could not make the last 50 meters to the top because of a severe thunder storm. Five of us bivouacked without sleeping bags in a two-man tent at Camp IV. On May 5, Walter Larcher, Willi Odenthal and Dr. Lutz Pflægung climbed to the summit from Camp IV. Larcher is Austrian and the others German.

GÜNTHER HÄRTER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Dhaulagiri Attempt.* Slovene climbers, Stane Belak and Marjan Kregar, were anxious to complete the route unsuccessfully attempted by them and two others in the autumn. Actually these two Yugoslavs in the pre-monsoon season of 1986 did not climb the east face but crossed over at about 6500 meters to the normal northeast-ridge route. Their high point was 7650 meters, which they reached on May 9. They abandoned their effort on May 30 when it was apparent that constant heavy snowfall made the climb impossible for a two-man, semi-alpine ascent.

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

*Dhaulagiri Attempt and Tragedy.* An Austrian expedition led by Edi Lindenthaler and composed of Josef Inhöger, Erich Unterberger, Hans and Hans-jörg Linderthaler, Franz Müllender, Hans Gapp and Martin Hornegger had hoped to climb the northwest ridge of Dhaulagiri. After reaching their 4700-meter Base Camp on September 17, Müllender felt the altitude enough to descend to the 3700-meter Italian Base Camp. He reascended on the 20th as he was feeling better, while the others pushed forward to the northwest col. The next morning, Müllender was worse again and was taken back down to the Italian Base Camp. There he appeared better, but during the evening his condition worsened and he died at about eight P.M. from pulmonary edema. [We are grateful to Robert Renzler for this report.]

*Dhaulagiri South Face Attempt.* Our 16-member team had 12 Poles, two Canadians and a Pole from both France and Australia. Our objective was the 4000-meter-high south face of Dhaulagiri. We established Base Camp at 3800 meters on September 16 and Advance Base at 4300 meters three days later. On September 21, Camp I was set on the lower part of the prominent buttress just to the left of the center of the face. The first part of the buttress forms a 1200-meter-high rock wall. We placed Camp II on its upper part at 5800 meters on October 4. The rock was of continuous difficulty up to UIAA Grade VI-. Part of it was so friable that a bolt hole could be made with a few blows. Above the rock wall the route ascended a 60° to 70° ice rib with passages of 85°. Camps III and IV were set up at 6100 and 7100 meters on October 20 and 26. We fixed

3200 meters of rope. The upper part of the buttress, climbed by Maciej Pawlikowski and me, had mixed pitches of UIAA V. Camp V at 7500 meters was established on October 30 by Maciej Berbeka and Mikołaj Czyżewski. The wind tore their tent apart that night. The next morning Berbeka climbed alone over easy snow to reach the southwest ridge, joining the Japanese route of 1978. Although the way to the summit was now without difficulties, the weather was bad and time had run out. We gave up and descended the same route. Base Camp was cleared on November 2.

EUGENIUSZ CHROBAK, *Klub Wysokogórski Kraków, Poland*

*Dhaulagiri Attempt.* Five French climbers led by James Merel climbed only to 6100 meters on Dhaulagiri's normal northeast-ridge route. They had frequent heavy snowfall. All five members and one Sherpa reached the high point on October 5 and then abandoned the climb since they felt they had no chance to reach the summit.

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

*Dhaulagiri Winter Attempt by Spaniards.* The Koreans agreed to share the normal northeast-ridge route with the Spanish Catalans. The highest point reached by this expedition was 7000 meters, where leader Enric Lucas and Joan Carlos Griso bivouacked on December 22. The next day they descended because Griso was developing high-altitude sickness. They had had bad weather and now a bad spell returned. By the time the weather turned fine, their food was running out and they decided on December 26 to quit.

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

*Dhaulagiri Winter Attempt by Koreans.* A Korean expedition led by Cho Jung-Sol ended its attempt on the normal northeast ridge on December 25 at 8025 meters, only 42 vertical meters below the summit. Strong wind and cold forced the summit-attack team back. They were Chung Sang-Kiun and sirdar Ang Dorje, both of whom got frostbitten toes and fingers. Another member, Kim Jin-Goun, had a seriously frostbitten toe from earlier climbing and so with two members and one Sherpa out of action, the climb was called off.

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

*Dhaulagiri II, Ascent and Tragedy.* A four-man Korean expedition to the south face and east ridge of Dhaulagiri II was led by Lee Don-Yong. They established an Advance Base at 4900 meters and Camps I, II and III at 5400, 5800 and 6900 meters. Camp IV was destroyed by a snow avalanche almost immediately after it was set up and it was not re-established. On May 12 Kim Sung-Kyu and Sherpas Dorje and Dakipa reached the summit (7751 meters, 25,429 feet) in a nearly 12-hour climb from Camp III at 6900 meters. During the

descent to Camp III Kim disappeared and was never seen again. No one knows what happened to him, but it is believed that he probably fell from the difficult, steep ice section at 7300 meters. This was the first Korean ascent of Dhaulagiri II. Cho Myung-Ho and Kim Ki-Tae also participated.

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*Tukche*. A huge Royal Nepalese Army expedition led by Lieutenant Colonel Bhagrinath Narsingh Rana had 71 members of whom 50 went above Base Camp. They climbed the northwest face, possibly a new route, and placed one camp above Base Camp. On October 22, Nir Bahadur Rayamajhi, Surya Gurung and Phurtenzing Sherpa reached the summit. Seven more climbed to the top on October 23 and another seven on October 25.

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*Tripura Tumba (Hanging Glacier Peak)*. On September 12 Katashi Tokimoto, Shunsuke Kobayakawa, Hiroaki Ioka and I as leader set out from Jumla with 50 porters. We went up the Jagdura valley north of Hurikot village. The approach was difficult. At times we had to retrace our steps because we could not get up the valley on one side or the other. We sometimes had to cross the river with a rubber boat. Base Camp at 4500 meters was placed on September 24 at the head of the Hanging Glacier valley on the north side of Tripura Tumba. We started to make the route on the 26th and placed Camp I at 5500 meters on the northwest ridge on September 29. On October 6 we reached the 5700-meter col but could not find a campsite. The northwest ridge above the col was knife-edged mixed snow and rock. On October 14 we established Camp II at 6300 meters, cutting into the steep snow slope. On the 15th we extended fixed ropes for 400 meters but were storm-bound the next day. On October 17 Tokimoto, Sirdar Ang Phuri Lama and I set out at six A.M. and reached the summit (6563 meters, 21,500 feet) at 10:15 A.M. in windy but fine weather. This was the first ascent of the peak.

NORIYUKI HATA, *Okayama University Alpine Club, Japan*

### India—Kumaon

*Suli Top, Eastern Kumaon*. An Indian expedition led by Rama Kant Mahadik successfully climbed Suli Top (6300 meters, 20,670 feet). They ascended an icefall which had three steps to reach the north col. After a four-day storm they completed this first ascent on July 3 via the north ridge.

### India—Garhwal

*Nandakhat and Bauljuri*. After an approach march complicated by heavy rains which had washed out a bridge over the Pindari River, Dr. Deepak Kulkarni, Milind Pathak, Dr. Suhas Mate, Dr. Deepak Rokade, Vishwas Kunte, Anil Chavas, Vishwas Dixit, Ulhas Kelkar, Shyam Jambotkar and I as