

Nepal

Kanchenjunga Attempt and Tragedy. The advance party of four members and one support member left Bombay on February 22. At Hille about 200 porters were hired to ferry the expeditions loads. The advance party established Base Camp on March 26 at 5500 meters at Pache's grave above the Yalung Glacier and opened the route to Camp I by the end of March. The whole team of 24 members assembled at Base Camp between April 3 and 6. Camps I, II, III, IV, V and VI were set up on the normal route at 5900, 6400, 6800, 7275, 7680 and 7725 meters. Intermittent spells of heavy snowfall often stopped movement temporarily. Under such conditions, taking advantage of comparatively good weather on May 11, Charuhas Joshi and two high-altitude porters went to Camp VI. On the morning of the 12th, heavy snowfall and high winds delayed the departure until nine A.M. They gained the Gangway up a steep incline and continued up, fixing rope. As they reached 8100 meters, the conditions worsened. Charuhas suffered frostnipped fingers and they decided to return. Because of the weather, a second summit party could leave Camp V for Camp VI only on May 14. While Charuhas and his team had taken four hours to make this journey, Uday Kolwankar and two porters needed eight because of the new snow on the Shelf. The next day dawned with snowfall and wind and they postponed their summit attempt for a day. After a 5:30 start on May 16, they proceeded without fixing rope and by 1:30 P.M. had reached 8440 meters. It started to snow. After an hour's wait, they decided to abandon the summit attempt. Radio contact was difficult. On the 17th, Base Camp finally communicated with Uday at two P.M. The expedition was called off and instructions were given to wind up all camps and return to Base Camp. On the 16th, deputy leader Sanjay Borole, who had been masterminding the second summit attempt, started for Base Camp with Anil Kumar. When they reached Camp III, he was tired and decided to stay there. On the 17th, he started for Camp II, accompanied by Anil and Jayant Kulkarni. By the time they approached the Plateau, he said he could not proceed further on his own. Despite the help of three porters sent from Camp II, Sanjay Borole died from hypothermia and exhaustion during the evacuation before he could be got to Camp II. His body was brought to Base Camp on the 20th. Respecting the local custom whereby cremation could not be carried out above a particular temple near Ramzer, the last rites were performed on May 23 on the banks of Simbua Khola, 60 kilometers and 11,000 feet below where he had died.

VASANT LIMAYE, *Girivihar, India*

Kangchenjunga North Face Attempt. Spanish Basques unsuccessfully attempted to climb Kangchenjunga from the north but were thwarted by bad weather. On May 20, leader Felipe Uriarte, Xabier Ansa, Juan Oiarzabal and José Luis Zuloaga reached 7800 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Kangchenjunga, Southwest Face. A Japanese expedition, led by Masaaki Fukushima, made the 26th ascent of Kangchenjunga, climbing the southwest face. They established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 5500, 6170, 6830, 7200, 7800 and 8200 meters on September 15, 26, 29, October 1, 11 and 12. On October 17, Masayuki Unno and Nima Temba Sherpa climbed to the summit from Camp V and returned to Camp III.

Yalung Kang. Our Basque expedition entirely from Azpeitia was composed of Pako Uriarte, José Urbieta, Benantxio Irureta, Pello Aranburu, Francisco Javier Maiz, Iosu Arrieta, Rosa María Segué and me as leader. We climbed Yalung Kang by the normal route from the southwest. We established Base Camp and Camps I, II, III and IV at 5400, 6100, 6800, 7200 and 7800 meters on September 14, 23, 26, October 2 and 4. After several summit attempts thwarted by bad weather, five climbers left Base Camp on October 8, followed the next day by two more. On October 11, Irureta and I set out for the summit from Camp IV, but I had to return for a short bit to warm my hands before leaving again with Arrieta and Sherpas Ang Furi and Purba Kitar. At 8200 meters a stone fell from above on my head, knocking me semiconscious. The attention of Arrieta and the Sherpas obviously had to be directed to getting me down. Meanwhile, Irureta continued on strongly and reached the summit at one P.M. We were all back in Base Camp on October 12.

JESÚS MARI BERECIARTÚA, *Lagun Onak de Azpeitia, Spain*

Makalu West Buttress, One-Day Solo Ascent. I spent from April 8 to 25 with Iman Gurung and Onggel Sherpa fixing rope on the west buttress of Makalu up to 7750 meters. I left my Base Camp at 4950 meters at two P.M. on April 26 for the final climb. I halted for an hour in the Base Camp of the Germans and Swiss at 5200 meters. Onggel Sherpa accompanied me to the dump at 5800 meters, where he waited in case I should return by the same route. I spent an hour there, from six to seven P.M., to equip myself and to eat. Having passed the snow cave, which was Camp I, at midnight I got to the second snow cave, Camp II at 7300 meters, where I slept for two hours. I left Camp II at 2:30 A.M. by the light of my headlamp; it failed just before dawn. I got to the summit at 9:45 A.M. on April 27. There I found set in the hard snow a yellow oxygen bottle left last year by the Americans. The descent was difficult because of wind-driven sleet. I returned on the standard route via Camps III and II (7400 and 6800 meters) of the other expeditions. I reached the latter at three P.M. on April 27 and slept there.

MARC BATARD, *Club Alpin Français*

Makalu Attempt. Our expedition consisted of Gino Baccanelli, Battistino Bonali, Giuseppe Buila, Giancarlo Domenighini, Giovanni Ducoli, Dr. Sandro Ghitti, Guiglielmo Guzza, Franco Solina and me as leader. We arrived at Base Camp at 5280 meters on April 7. Using the normal route, we established Camps I, II and III at 6100, 6800 and 7400 meters on April 12, 20 and 24. After a rest

PLATE 58

Photo by Jesus Mari Bercebarria

YALUNGKANG. The route diagonals
up the couloir to the summit.



at Base Camp, Ducoli, Bonali, Guzza and Sherpa Gyalzen Lhakpa left on a summit attempt. They planned to bivouac at 7800 meters, but on May 1, encouraged by good weather, they set out for the top. When they reached 8150 meters, the four decided to descend to Camp III. On May 2, returning to the original plan, they set up a tent at 7800 meters. Lhakpa descended again to Camp III and to Base Camp. On May 3, the other three reached 8300 meters, only a little more than 150 meters from the summit, when the weather turned bad. At eleven A.M., in a white-out they turned back. Ducoli stopped to spend the night at Camp IV, but the next day gave up the idea of a solo summit try.

SAVIO GIACOMELLI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Makalu Attempt. Our expedition consisted of Germans Michael Dacher, Ralf Dujmovits, Richard Koller, my wife Gaby and me as leader and Swiss Norbert Joos, Luis Deuber, Peter Weber and Fredy Graf. We were disappointed with our liaison officer, who did not even go to Base Camp with us and left the expedition early. After flying to Tumlingtar, we took eleven days to Base Camp at 5250 meters, which we reached on April 13. The next day, Koller had to leave with altitude problems and infected kidneys. Camps I, II and III were set up on April 16, 22 and 30 at 6050, 6800 and 7400 meters, the latter on Makalu Col. On May 6 the whole team set out on the first summit attempt and climbed to Camp II. The next day Deuber and Joos gave up because of the cold, but the rest of us ascended to Camp III with Sherpas Ang Chopal and Pemba. On May 8 we went to Camp IV at 7800 meters and the Sherpas descended to Camp III. That night the wind rose to hurricane force and the Swiss tent was destroyed. We all went back down to Base Camp with the greatest difficulty and effort. The Swiss left the expedition because of the bad weather the next day. We could not climb again until May 15. In their attempt to reach Camp II, Dacher and Dujmovits had to give up because of illness. On the 16th, my wife and I had to abandon our attempt to get to Camp III because of new snow and high winds. We decided to end the expedition.

SIGI HUPFAUER, *Mountain Guide, Deutscher Alpenverein*

Makalu Ascent and Tragedy and Kangchungtse. The Polish Makalu Expedition consisted of Krystyna Palmowska, Amalia Kapłoniak, Jolanta Patynowska, Dr. Ryszard Długołęcki, Tomasz Kopyś, Ryszard Kotakowski, Zbigniew Kacuga and Zbigniew Skierski and me as leader, all Polish, Basque Koldo Aldaz and Austrian Bernard Letz. We intended to climb the Kukuczka route but bad snow conditions shoved us onto the normal route. Base Camp was established on September 5 at 5400 meters. On the 7th, we placed Camp I at 6000 meters and on the 12th, a temporary camp at 6500 meters. On September 14 and 25, Camps II and III were made at 6900 and 7400 meters, the latter on Makalu Col. On September 28, Aldaz soloed Kangchungtse (Makalu II). On October 3, Palmowska, Kopyś, Kotakowski and I set up Camp IV at 7900 meters. On October

4, Kořakowski and Kopyř left Camp IV at eight A.M. Kopyř managed to get to the summit at four P.M. During the descent, he met Kořakowski ascending slowly; he refused to withdraw and continued the climb. He probably reached the summit because at about ten P.M. a headlamp was seen in the summit area, but he did not return to Camp IV, where Kopyř waited for him. A thorough search produced no sign of him.

ANNA CZERWIŃSKA, *Klub Wysokogórski Warszawa, Poland*

Makalu Attempt. We arrived at Base Camp on August 29. The team members were Australian Greg Child, Irishman Terry Mooney, Indians Sharu Phrabu and Praful Mistry and Britons Rick Allen, Andy Parkin, Mark Miller, Sean Smith, Simon Yates, Alan Hinkes and me. Advance Base was established at 5500 meters on September 1. The west face of Makalu was the main objective, but it was totally out of condition. A German-Swiss group had permission for the same route at the same time. They left it for another year. The Roger Baxter-Jones Couloir was our secondary objective, but after heavy snowfalls in mid-September, this was too prone to slab avalanches. Six of us reached the Makalu Col, but conditions were dangerous. On September 29, Rick Allen and Alan Hinkes left the 7000-meter camp and climbed straight up to the west of the Roger Baxter-Jones Couloir and slept on the north side of the divide. The next day, they went down and across to camp with the Spanish team at 7780 meters on the original route. The following morning, they followed the Spaniards, who had to retire because of frostbite. Alan and Rick continued to 8100 meters. Although Alan was dubious, Rick pushed on until he was avalanched past Alan who had a poor belay and let go of the rope. Rick fell 500 meters over rock and snow. His head was badly lacerated. Alan managed to get him down to Makalu Col, where Spanish and Polish climbers gave much assistance. Dr. Pepe Aced came up from 7000 meters with Sherpas and others and brought Rick down to 7000 meters. Greg Child and I came up from Advance Base and got him back down there the next day. On October 5, he reached Base Camp, where he received 30 stitches in his head. He was evacuated by helicopter on October 7 along with a frostbitten Spaniard. The government of Nepal now seems to allow any team to climb any route despite its already being booked. There were at one time this autumn 50 climbers from ten countries all climbing toward the Makalu La!

DOUGLAS SCOTT, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Makalu Attempt and Kangchungtse Ascent. Our expedition hoped to climb Makalu by the original French route. We were Jordi Agulló, Jordi Anglés, Serge Benet, Antoni Bros, Dr. Josep Canyellas, Adrià Font, Jaume Matas, Jordi Montané, Francesc Zamora, Francesc Zapater and I as leader. After 16 days of approach, we set up Base Camp on September 3 at 5200 meters at the junction of the Barun and lower Chago Glaciers. We established Camp III on the Makalu Col on September 23 at 7400 meters. On the 27th, Canyellas and Zamora

climbed Kangchungtse to study the route up to the summit of Makalu. On September 30, we placed Camp IV at 7850 meters on Makalu's north face. The first summit attempt took place on October 1, but Bros, Anglés and Matas had to withdraw from 8000 meters because of Bros' badly frostbitten hands. Severe winds foiled further attempts. On October 13, Zamora, Zapater and two Sherpas had to give up their attempt in order to help Mexican Carlos Carsolio down from 7300 meters. He was descending alone suffering from pulmonary edema.

JOSEP ACED, *Centre Excursionista de Terrassa, Spain*

Makalu. Jean Troillet and I twice headed for the west face of Makalu in 1988. In the spring, we had to call it off since Troillet broke his leg during the approach. During the autumn, we both returned joining Hans Eitel's expedition. Troillet and I arrived at Base Camp late, on October 7, where we worked together with Kurt Walde and Robert Patscheider. Because the west face was in bad condition, on October 11 and 12 Troillet and I climbed to 7200 meters on the west buttress for acclimatization. On October 17, we two climbed to 7000 meters along with Kurt Walde, but violent winds turned us back. The other part of the expedition was composed of Hans Eitel and Elsa and Carlos Carsolio. The latter climbed to the summit by the normal route solo on October 12, but he was so exhausted on the descent that he developed pulmonary edema and had to be given oxygen and helped down by Spaniards who came to his rescue.

ERHARD LORETAN, *Club Alpin Suisse*

Makalu Attempt. A Spanish expedition under the leadership of Miguel Gómez failed in their attempt to climb the southeast ridge of Makalu, reaching 7200 meters on October 16.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Baruntse, North Ridge Attempt. The north ridge of Baruntse has usually been attempted from the more accessible Khumbu region. Climbing to the ridge from this side can be very hazardous because of avalanche danger (*AAJ, 1981*, pages 249-251). Instead, we approached the ridge from the east, using a route reconnoitered by George Lowe's expedition in 1954. Tom Creighton, Lucy Loomis, their two-year-old daughter Susan, Howard Runyon, Lia Loomis, Sarah Elson and I trekked for 13 days from Hille up the Arun River and over Shipton Pass. We established Base Camp at the site of Hillary's Base Camp at the edge of the Barun Glacier at 5000 meters. Creighton, Sirdar Dendi Sherpa and I spent six days route-finding and ferrying loads on the rock-covered Barun Glacier. We made Camp III at 5500 meters at the base of the icefall that descends from the Barun-Imja col. After finding a route through the icefall, we established Camp IV on the col at 6150 meters on May 5. We reached our high point of 6500 meters on the north ridge after fixing 200 meters of rope on steep ice



PLATE 59

Photo by James Brugg

BARUNTSE. The route lies on left skyline.

mixed with loose rock and snow. A lack of equipment and time prevented our continuing up the remaining difficulties, which appeared to ease after another 200 to 300 meters. The north ridge from the east suffers from a long approach but offers a relatively straightforward route in classic surroundings.

JAMES BRUG, *Unaffiliated*

Baruntse Attempt. An international expedition failed to climb Baruntse by its southeast ridge. On May 10 and 13 Australians Kenneth Baldwin, leader John Finnigan, Theodore Hooy, Peter Land and Will Steffen, American Peter Hodge, and Nepalese Ongchu Lama and Bir Bahadur Tamang reached 7070 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Baruntse Attempt. Four West Germans under the leadership of Ulrich Weber were unable to climb Baruntse via the south ridge from the east col. They reached 6200 meters on October 17.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Baruntse Attempt. Our expedition hoped to climb Baruntse by the normal southeast ridge. We established Base Camp, Camps I and II at 5400, 6100 (on the west col) and 6500 meters. On October 25, Xavier Pignède, Françoise Bouchut, Françoise Goudet, Jean Duffort and I made a summit attempt which stopped at 6950 meters because of bad conditions on the final ridge. Also taking part were Isabelle Cazottes, Philippe Bouchut and Ariane Châtelet.

GILLES BUISSON, *Club Alpin Français*

Chamlang East. Our Netherlands women's expedition was composed of Dr. Annet Boom, Myra de Rooy, Janka van Leeuwen, Gerda de Groene, Marjolein Meere and me as leader. Two Sherpas helped us to carry loads to Camp I. Base Camp at 4850 meters was established on April 17. There being no water, the Sherpas carried it from the glacier some 100 meters below. We set up Advance Base on April 20 at 5465 meters at the foot of the Lower Barun Glacier. This was mainly a depot. Camp I was placed at 5750 meters on April 23. One tent in this windy camp was destroyed by rockfall. Camp II was set up at 6130 meters on April 29 on the north face just below the hardest pitch of the face. Camp III at 6720 meters had only one two-person tent; we all five slept in it on May 10. Doug Scott, who had made the first ascent in 1982, had told us about rockfall and ice avalanches between Base and Advance Base. Below the north face, there were no technical difficulties but many crevasses. On the face there was hard, steep ice up to 80° with little or no snow on it. We used 26 ice screws and left four of them with the fixed ropes. Apparently we had more difficulty on the face than Scott, but less on the southeast ridge. It took five or six hours to climb to the east

summit (7235 meters, 23,737 feet) and three to descend. We used one of Scott's slings and fixed two ropes on the steep, crumbly, icy snow on the ridge. On May 10, de Groene, Meere and van Leeuwen reached the summit and on May 11, de Rooy and I. Both days were fine but windy. After May 12, the weather turned so bad we could not have made it.

FREDERIKE BLOEMERS, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

Kangtega Attempt. Akemi Maeda, Hiroyuki Aoki and I left Lukla on April 1 for Base Camp at 4800 meters on the east side of Kangtega, where we arrived on the 4th. Maeda lost consciousness from mountain sickness and so we carried her down to Tangnag. Aoki and I were back in Base Camp on April 9. On the 10th, we headed for an ice wall on the south face alpine-style with five days of food. On April 11, we bivouacked at 5200 meters on the lower part of the Kangtega Glacier and on the 12th in the center of the ice wall at 5800 meters. When we reached 6100 meters on April 13, we were confronted with a 10-meter-wide crevasse and were distressed by falling ice blocks. We returned to our 5200-meter bivouac, where it stormed all day. Snowslides down the ice wall were frequent. When by April 18 the weather was still bad, we gave up the attempt.

KOJI MURAKAMI, *Orio Alpine Club, Japan*

Kusum Kanguru. A British expedition climbed Kusum Kanguru (6367 meters, 20,889 feet) via the east face, a new route. On October 23, Nicholas Mason, leader, John Diplock, Julian Holmes, and Sherpas Lhakpa Dorje, Dawa Nuru, Ang Jangbu and Kami Tshering reached the summit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mera Northeast Ridge. Our six-member expedition hoped to climb the north face of Mera. Base Camp was established on September 24 beside the Dig Glacier at 4580 meters. We were to climb alpine-style on whatever routes we saw fit. Briton Dave Hudson and I climbed the north face to the northeast ridge where we placed camps at 5700 meters on September 26 and at 6000 meters on the 30th before returning to Base Camp for a rest and to restock with food. We returned to our high camp via the north face and reached the summit (6654 meters, 21,830 feet) the following day. We descended to Base Camp via paraglider.

IAN STEVENS, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

Ama Dablam Attempt and Tragedy. Until April 8, everything was going perfectly. All six members, American Tom Dickey and Canadians Geoff Powter, Peter Roxburgh, Charlie Eckenfelder, Rory McIntosh and I, were fit and well in Camp II atop the Red Towers. We had enjoyed two weeks of perfect weather

and had moved up faster than planned. By March 26, our sirdar Kansha had gotten us to a good Base Camp at 16,000 feet, which gave access to the south ridge. One trip with yaks had established a cache at 18,100 feet, just before the 3rd-class section of the ridge. Camp I was occupied on March 29 at 18,900 feet. Situated just below the 4th-class climbing, we found ready-made tent platforms. We then fixed all the ridge to the small hanging glacier on the east side of the ridge, large enough to chop two tent platforms for Camp II at 19,500 feet. All climbing to there had been in rock shoes. As soon as the line was fixed, loads moved up quickly as team members could go at their own speed on their own schedule. It was possible to go from Base Camp to Camp II and back in a single day. Dickey and Powter led the crux pitches on the Yellow Tower, wearing Fires on a delightful 5.7. The top of the Red Towers had perfect tent platforms on dry ground and so we moved Camp II from the rapidly melting platforms. Dickey, Powter and I fixed the mixed pitches on the Second Step. Because of the exceptionally dry winter, much of what should have been ice was steep rubble. Powter put in a tense day leading the worst of this but was rewarded with fine, steep ice leading onto the Mushroom Ridge. By April 9, we had fixed halfway to Camp III and all were acclimatized and ready to go in Camp II. That day, Eckenfelder and I went to the top of the fixed ropes and fixed the Mushroom Ridge and the Ice Step. The latter was easier than expected, never exceeding 60° but the weather was changing and by the time we had finished, we were in an electrical snowstorm. But now only a 2000-foot 50° slog separated us from the summit. Eckenfelder started the 500-foot rappel while I waited for his signal to follow. After a long wait, I presumed the wind had prevented my hearing and I started down. Switching ropes three times, I suddenly found that the rope had been completely severed. Panic grabbed me as I looked 600 feet down and saw a shape in the snow. Powter and McIntosh took the difficult task of reaching the body. It was well past dark when they returned. Shock, apathy and the weather prevented us from moving the next day. On the 11th we all returned to Base Camp. Dickey and I returned to the mountain on the 13th. The snow was falling, but we had to try again. We gambled that by the time we were set up in Camp III, the weather would have cleared. The first night we made it to Camp II, but the storm gathered in strength. The next day the Ice Step was plastered with snow and we had to jumar the whole way to the Mushroom Ridge. The storm was still raging the next morning but with no food reserves, we decided to give it a go. After plowing our way past the only major crevasse system, Dickey started the pitch below the Dablam which would take us to the ice flutings leading to the top. The snow was still falling and avalanche conditions extreme. We wondered whether the summit was worth three lives. We abandoned our attempt at 21,700 feet.

STEPHEN LANGLEY, *Alpine Club of Canada*

Ama Dablam Attempt. Geoff Hewitt, Chris Bradshaw, Gareth Walker and I arrived at Base Camp near Mingbo on March 22. In the area was a Canadian

team of six, also with permission for the south ridge of Ama Dablam. They planned to fix the entire route and we were climbing alpine-style. While moving a load from an old Advance Base to a better site, I was caught in a rock avalanche and cracked two ribs. After a night at Advance Base, I managed to return to Base Camp, crawling the last kilometer; I stayed there for the duration of the expedition. Hewitt had to retire from the team with altitude problems, not being able to proceed above Camp I. His unselfish efforts at load carrying helped to establish the remaining pair at Camp I in a strong position on the ridge. The route was not in good condition. Following a very lean winter, there was a great deal of loose rock, with the gullies especially in a dangerous state. Because of the conditions, the Canadians took eight days to get from Camp II to Camp III. Soon thereafter, one of them was killed and later they withdrew. Our pair worried about the loose nature of the climbing and cleared the mountain after eleven days, having reached only 5770 meters.

PETER T. HILL, *Royal Geographical Society*

Ama Dablam, Danish Ascent. Our team of six Danes, led by Caspar Sutton, climbed Ama Dablam by the south ridge. We established Base Camp on October 1 at 4900 meters in the upper Mingbo valley. All members carried to Advance Base at 5700 meters. From there, Bo Christensen, Søren Smidt and I started alpine-style on October 8. We stayed two nights on top of the Red Tower at 6000 meters to become fitter before going to the ice shelf at 6350 meters. From this bivouac, Christensen and Smidt reached the summit on October 11. I had to turn back at 6450 meters for lack of acclimatization. On October 19, Henrik Jessen Hansen and Jan Mathorne got to the summit on their second attempt, having reached 6200 meters with Jan Nicolaisen a week before. Hansen's feet were frostbitten during the climb.

MICHAEL HJORTH, *Dansk Bjergklub*

Ama Dablam Attempts. Swiss Ivano Regazzoni, Athos Balestra and Franco Dellatorre attempted the north ridge of Ama Dablam but could get no higher than 5700 meters on October 14. South Koreans led by Lee Hun-Sang were also unsuccessful, attempting the west face to get to the northwest ridge. Their high point of 6000 meters was reached on September 27.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ama Dablam. Swiss Jakob Reichen, Daniel Oertli and Robert Bosch reached the summit of Ama Dablam on October 23 via the southwest ridge, the normal route.

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

Ama Dablam. A French commercial expedition climbed Ama Dablam by the normal southwest ridge. The summit was reached on December 4 by leader Marc Batard, Roger Laot, Jacques Buret, Michel Coutty, Daniel Filliol, Jean François Louys and Sherpas Kami Tenji, Phu Dorje and Ang Phurbu; on December 6 by Mme Reine Mouhat, Yves LeBissonnais, Claude Lebahy, Spaniard Antonio Rispoli and American Allan Hirsh (LeBissonnais has only one leg); on December 8 by Laot again and Sherpas Zimba Zangbu and Dawa Norbu. All were French except for those noted. Koreans also made a winter ascent by the same route. On December 17, leader Kim Young-Ju and Cha Dong-Han climbed to the summit, followed on the 17th by Bong Sun-Ki.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Shartse Attempt and Tragedy. Erick Bourdais, Jean-Marc Perrot and I had hoped to climb Shartse by its south col and ridge. We established Base Camp at the foot of Island Peak at 5300 meters on October 14 and Camp I at 5600 meters after crossing the Lhotse Shar Glacier on the 17th. On October 21, at 6000 meters Bourdais was swept down to his death by an avalanche after the fall of a sérac above the place where he was placing a piton. The attempt was abandoned.

JEAN-LOUIS LETRONG, *Club Alpin Français*

Lhotse Shar Attempt. Spaniards Josema Casimiro, Joaquín Goñi, Jorge Corominas and Mikel Otermin, led by Mari Abrego, failed to climb the southeast ridge of Lhotse Shar. From the time they established Base Camp in the last days of March, they were plagued by bad weather. They finally placed Camp II at 6250 meters on April 27 and on May 1 reached the site of their proposed Camp III at 6800 meters. Because of persisting bad weather, they started an attempt from Camp II only on May 11 and on the 12th reached 7400 meters. A second attempt on May 16 failed to get as high.

Lhotse Shar. Lhotse Shar, the east peak of Lhotse, is difficult. Out of 20 expeditions attempting it from 1970 to 1988, only five have succeeded and seven climbers have fallen to their deaths on its slopes. A 16-man Swiss expedition of the Zermatt Guides Association led by Bruno Jelk completed the fifth ascent. They placed five camps and fixed rope on the normal southeast-ridge route. An attempt by Jelk and Leo Brigger on October 20 was driven back from 7500 meters by wind. On October 28, Henry Willi and Viktor Imboden left Camp V at 7800 meters at four A.M. and got to the summit at 12:55 P.M. They used no bottled oxygen. They did not attempt to continue along unclimbed Lhotse Central to the main summit of Lhotse as had been planned.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Lhotse Shar Attempt. Three Germans led by Werner Hof tried to climb the southeast ridge of Lhotse Shar. They got to a high point of 6700 meters on October 29.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Nuptse West Summit. A Korean expedition led by Cho Hyung-Kyu made the first ascent of the west summit of Nuptse (7784 meters, 25,538 feet), climbing the northwest ridge. On December 22, Chun Bong-Gon, Bae Hyun-Jong, Kim Hwa-Gon, Oh Se-Cheul, Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa and Pasang Dawa Sherpa reached the summit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mount Everest. Our expedition on the south east ridge of Everest consisted of Brian Agnew, Peter Allen, Paul Bayng, Norm Crookston, Pat Cullinan, Chris Curry, Tony Delaney, Bruce Farmer, Charlie Hart, Peter Lambert, Terry McCullagh, Rick Moor, John Muir, Nick Pezzet, Phil Pitham, Michael Rheinberger, Andrew Smith, James Strohfeldt, Terry Tremble, Jill Trenham, James Truscott, James Van Gleder, Sorrel Voilby, Zac Zaharias, Carol Brand-Maher and me as leader. The advance party got to Base Camp on February 21. We did not use any high-altitude porters above Base Camp. It was a real team effort and many of the climbers had to forget trying for the summit to carry material to the South Col. The good weather did not come until the middle of May. The first summit attempt on May 15 reached 8580 meters but was thwarted by deep snow. On May 25, Bayng and Cullinan reached the summit after six days in Camp IV on the South Col. On May 28, John Muir got to the top in 52 hours from Base Camp. Curry turned back 150 meters from the top after the failure of his oxygen equipment, which had proved troublesome all the way from the South Col. Oxygen was used on all summit attempts and to carry loads from Camp III to Camp IV.

AUSTIN BROOKES, *Australian Alpine Climbing Club*

Everest and Lhotse. Our 19-member expedition was led by Choi Chang-Min. I was the climbing leader. We prepared the way to Camp II, advancing through the Khumbu Icefall in partnership with the Americans. After Camp II at 6400 meters was set up on September 7, the weather was so bad that we retired to Base Camp. Camp III at 7250 meters on the south-pillar route was carved into a 60° slope on September 16. On September 18, ropes were fixed to 7800 meters. The next day, Camp IV was established at 8060 meters. The first summit team, Kim Chang-Seon, Uhm Hong-Gil, Pema Dorje Sherpa and another Sherpa left Camp IV on September 26 ahead of seven Frenchmen and two Sherpas. From the South Summit, the French and Korean climbers alternated the lead. Finally at 2:30 P.M. Kim and Pema Dorje stood on the summit, followed by Uhm. The other

Sherpa turned back at the South Summit. On September 29, Jang Bong-Wan, Jang Byeong-Ho and Jeong Seung-Kwon got to the summit. American Stacy Allison and a Sherpa were on top on the same day. A third attempt on Everest and the ascent of Lhotse were planned for the closing of the Seoul Olympic Games. The Lhotse party, Jeong Ho-Jin, Ihm Hyeong-Chil, Park Kwae-Don and Park Hee-Dong, placed their Camp IV where the Slovaks had made their Lhotse Camp IV at 7950 meters. They left camp at four A.M. on October 2 and reached the summit of Lhotse at nine A.M. That same day, I had left at three A.M. from Everest Camp IV and climbed to the summit of Everest at the same time as Americans Peggy Luce, Geoff Tobin and three Sherpas.

NAM SEON-WOO, *Korean Alpine Federation*

Everest Ascent and Paraglider Descent. Our expedition had as members Jean-Marc Boivin, Jean-Pierre Frachon, Michel Metzger, André Georges (Swiss), Gérard Vionnet-Fuasset, René Robert, C. Aguilera, L. Coudeyre, P. Pallandre, Denis Colangettes and me as leader. We climbed the normal South-Col route. Although we arrived at Base Camp on September 1, our equipment had been delayed by the earthquake and so the route in the Khumbu Icefall was prepared by the Americans and Koreans. Camps I, II, III, and IV were at 6100, 6700, 7300 and 8000 meters. Our successful assault was our second attempt. It started from Base Camp on September 24 and left the South Col on the 26th. At 2:30 P.M. on September 26 Frachon, Vionnet-Fuasson, Georges, Metzger and Boivin reached the summit, Metzger without using oxygen. Boivin jumped off by paraglider at 4:30 and twelve minutes later landed at Camp II.

FRANÇOIS POISSONNIER, *Club Alpin Français*

Everest, Rapid Ascent. Frenchman Marc Batard announced that he would undertake climbing Everest in 24 hours round-trip from the south-side Base Camp via the South Col to the summit and back. After his acclimatization climb of Cho Oyu, he helicoptered into the Everest area, and on September 8, exactly one week after he had stood atop Cho Oyu, he was at the foot of Everest. Other teams had already been preparing the climbing route. In addition, eight Nepalese were there to help Batard to break trail above the other teams and otherwise assist him on his climb. He began his first attempt on the evening of September 11, but he turned back at 8000 meters the next afternoon when he and his two Nepalese companions found the snow too deep. It took him two more sorties to gain success. A second exhausting attempt on September 14 and 15 got him to within 30 meters of the summit. His third try began from Base Camp at five P.M. on September 25 and ended on the top of the world at 3:30 P.M. the next day in the footsteps of Frenchman, Koreans and Nepalese who had gone to the summit before him the very same day. Some of the French were still there when he arrived. He was back in Base Camp at noon on the 27th. Batard had not accomplished his 24-hour return-trip, but had managed in 22½ hours to achieve

the fastest ascent of Everest. When beginning his autumn climbing, Batard said that he also hoped to finish with the first ascent of the great unclimbed south face of Lhotse solo. After Everest, he returned briefly to France. When he came back to the Himalaya in October, he decided he was too tired and scarcely did any climbing on Lhotse.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest Ascent and Tragedy. A French expedition of Chamonix guides was led by Serge Koenig and composed of Denis Ducroz, Hervé Thivièrge, Alain Payot, Jean-Paul Chassagne, Marc Galy, Daniel Audibert and Jean-Paul Balmat. They had hoped to broadcast for television from the summit. On October 12, Koenig and Lhakpa Sherpa left the South Col and arrived on top at 1:30 P.M. Their television camera failed and so they left it on the summit for a second try later. On the descent they met Galy and Lhakpa's brother Pasang Temba. Some time later, Galy descended to the South Col, figuring it too risky to continue. Pasang Temba pushed on toward the summit alone. Lhakpa decided to wait for him at 8500 meters while Koenig descended to the South Col, where he was met by Ducroz. During the evening, two Sherpas carried more camera equipment up to the South Col to replace the malfunctioning equipment, arriving at ten P.M. At two A.M. on October 13, Ducroz and a Sherpa set off with the camera at the same time as four Catalans of Lluís Belvis' expedition and two of their Sherpas. At 3:30, Ducroz and his Sherpa returned, visibly shaken. They had come on the bodies of Pasang Temba and Lhakpa, apparently victims of a fall during the descent. They climbed to 8200 meters, dragged the bodies to the South Col and buried them in a crevasse lower down. Three of the Catalans and their Sherpas reached the summit, where they retrieved the camera equipment which had been left on the top. The fourth Spaniard did not make it, had gone blind and was badly frostbitten. It took them four days to regain Base Camp. (We are grateful to Serge Koenig for this information.)

Everest Ascent and Tragedy. A Spanish Catalan expedition led by Lluís Belvis was composed of 22 members, including a film crew, doctor and scientist. They hoped to climb the west ridge of Everest. Base Camp was established at 5320 meters on August 20 and Camp I on the Lho La at 6020 meters on August 28. Camps II, III and IV on the west ridge were placed at 6800, 7300 and 7600 meters on September 10, 13 and 30. On September 21, an avalanche hit Camp III, killing Nepali Narayan Shrestha. Mingma Sherpa and Juan Tomás survived. Due to route difficulty and strong winds, they retreated on October 7, having reached 7800 meters. They decided to join the French television expedition on the normal route. On October 8, Sergi Martínez, Nil Bohigas, Lluís Giner, Jerónimo López, Ang Nima Sherpa and Nima Rita Sherpa climbed from Base Camp to Camp II at 6400 meters, where they were pinned down for four days by strong winds. On October 12, they climbed directly to the

South Col. Another rest day was caused by stormy weather. On October 14, Giner, López, Bohigas, Ang Nima and Nima Rita reached the summit at 12:45 P.M. This was the third Spanish ascent of Everest. For Ang Nima this was his fifth ascent of Everest without supplementary oxygen. The descent, however, was an ordeal. Martínez had been suffering from the altitude and they had left him on the South Summit with all of their remaining oxygen. When they returned, he was blind and lapsing in and out of consciousness. They fashioned a kind of basket from rope, which they used to drag him to the South Col where the Americans gave permission to use their oxygen. The next day, they began to drag him toward Camp III. Americans Dr. Steve Ruoss and John Petroske were ascending, hoping to make a summit climb. They gave up and Martínez was carried down to Camp II, while all expeditions did everything possible to help. Aided by an experimental pressure bag, Dr. Ruoss and Petroske nursed him for 48 hours without sleeping at all. Finally 20 climbers from all expeditions carried him down the Khumbu Icefall to Base Camp. He and frostbitten Giner were evacuated by helicopter.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

Slovak Lhotse and Everest Ascents and Tragedy. Slovak and New Zealand climbers climbed under the same permission, but it seems that both groups acted quite independently of each other. The New Zealand group's activities are covered separately below. They had permission for Lhotse and the then still unrepeated British route on the southwest face of Everest. The Slovak team was composed of leader Ivan Fiala, Dušan Becík, Peter Božík, Jaroslav Jaško, Jozef Just, Jaroslav Oršula and Dr. Milan Skladaný. They used the route prepared by the South Koreans and French through the Khumbu Icefall and then established Camp III at 7250 meters. After a period of bad weather, the Slovaks left Base Camp on September 21. On September 27, Becík and Just set out from Camp III and after seven hours reached 8050 meters where they bivouacked for four hours. During the night and very early on September 28, they climbed by moonlight and reached the summit of Lhotse at daybreak. The ascent was completed without supplementary oxygen. They then turned to the southwest face of Everest, which they hoped to climb alpine-style in two or three days and descend via the South Col. The first attempt started on October 7 but failed at Camp II at 6400 meters in bad weather. On October 12, Becík, Božík, Just and Jaško left Base Camp and again reached Camp II. Strong winds prevented departure the next day, but on October 14, they started on the British route at three A.M., reaching 8100 meters that afternoon. On October 15, they had a nasty surprise. It took them the whole day to climb the chimney in the rock band, which was much more difficult than expected. They spent that night above the rock band at 8400 meters. On October 16, they completed the long, rising snow traverse to the right. Becík had lost his strength and progress was slow. The last bivouac was at 8600 meters below the South Summit. The team was so exhausted that on October 17 only Just went on to the summit, which he reached

at 1:40 P.M. They began the descent towards the South Col. At four o'clock, Just reported by radio that he had joined Becík and Jaško and that the latter was lethargic and did not want to descend. At 5:30, he reported that they were all together but still at 8300 meters. They were showing signs of altitude sickness and were having trouble with their eyesight. This was the last radio contact. Americans on the col an hour later could see the entire route, but they saw no one. Visibility was good. The wind became stronger and stronger. By eleven P.M., it was blowing between 120 and 150 kilometers per hour. The Slovaks were never seen again. This dramatic tragedy shows that oxygenless assaults on the world's highest mountains have their limits.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

New Zealanders on Everest. New Zealanders Rob Hall, Gary Ball, Bill Atkinson and Lydia Bradey were nominally part of the Slovak expedition mentioned above. They reached 8100 meters on the south buttress. Lydia Bradey split off from the expedition and made an illegal foray onto the South Col route. On October 14, Miss Bradey claims that she made the first ascent of Everest by a woman without artificial oxygen. She said she did not have a watch to tell her what time it was and her camera was frozen. Grave doubts have been expressed by her teammates, who left the mountain on October 14, and by Spanish climbers, who met her near the South Summit and later on the South Col. The Spaniards say they encountered Miss Bradey below the South Summit as she was moving up very slowly on her hands and knees. She says that she was on her feet and going reasonably well. The timing given by her and by the Spaniards are rather different. The Spanish timing, if correct, would mean that she could not have gotten all the way to the summit. "I was resting below the South Summit, day-dreaming," acknowledges Miss Bradey, "but then I realized I was losing a lot of time and moved on again." Her case is made more complicated by the fact that she was on a route for which she and her team had not received permission. She can be banned from entering Nepal for up to ten years. The leadership can also be punished in this way. Perhaps to lessen the length of the ban she fears she may receive, Miss Bradey gave a written statement to the Nepalese government in which she said she may have confused the South Summit with the main one.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest Attempt, Tragedy and Winter Ascent of Lhotse. Our joint Belgian-Polish expedition arrived in Nepal in October. We invited Polish climbers Andrzej Zawada, Krzysztof Wielicki and Leszek Cichy to accompany us as advisers. It took a couple of weeks to build up Base Camp and work a way through the dangerous Khumbu Icefall. Unfortunately I developed a persistent dry cough and rattle in the lungs and had to separate from the team. Dr. M. Vreugde took over the leadership. Several times the climbers had to postpone the

attempt for the summit because of bad weather. Finally, on December 22, Rudy Van Snick and Sherpas Ang Rita and Ang Lhakpa Dorje were near the South Summit when the weather turned bad. Ang Lhakpa Dorje was very tired. He made a false move, slipped and fell some 60 meters, stopping just before a 500-meter precipice. Though close to the top, Rudy Van Snick and Ang Rita did not hesitate to do all they could for their friend. The efforts to bring the injured man to lower levels took all their energy. Tragically, they could not save him and he died the next morning. The Belgian members ended their expedition. On December 31, Krzysztof Wielicki climbed without artificial oxygen to the summit of Lhotse by the west face. He and Cichy spent the previous night at Camp III at 7400 meters, but only Wielicki reached the top.

HERMAN DETIENNE, *Belgian Himalayan Club*

Everest Attempts, 1989. South Koreans led by Park Young-Bae tried to make a winter ascent of the southwest face of Everest but only reached a high point of 7800 meters on January 10, 1989.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Pumori Ascent and Tragedy. On April 18, Chris Leibundgut and I reached the summit of Pumori after an eight-day alpine-style ascent via the south ridge. Our expedition consisted of us two plus Doug White and Randy Kopal. We established Base Camp on April 3 at 17,400 feet near a small frozen lake at the base of Pumori's south face. We spent a week waiting for all of us to be simultaneously healthy. On April 11, we made our first camp at 18,700 feet on a rocky platform behind Kala Patar. The next day, we camped early at 19,700 feet, and after a difficult discussion, White and Kopal elected to return to Base Camp, doubtful that they could reach the summit and return with the six days of food and fuel we had started with. Leibundgut and I continued the next morning, crossing the long, rotten, horizontal ridge to the rocky south face of Pumori. We climbed easy but loose rock and occasional ice runnels to a ledge where we bivouacked. On the fourth day, we reached the snowy south ridge proper, which we followed to the summit. The climbing was straightforward except for some bottomless granular snow. Late on the afternoon of the eighth day, we reached the summit. Though we were out of food, fuel and water, we were not concerned since we felt we could descend the easier east ridge in a matter of hours. As soon as we began the descent, Leibundgut told me he wasn't feeling well. His mental condition degenerated quickly. Confused and disoriented, he soon became incapable of helping himself. As the sun set, the wind picked up and soon a storm was raging. I decided to dig in where we were on a snow shelf a few hundred feet below the summit. I worked on the cave alone. A half hour after starting, I popped up for a breather only to find myself alone. With no sign of

him anywhere, I assume that Leibundgut had walked off the mountain. The next day, I descended alone to Base Camp.

JOHN TUCKEY

Pumori. The leader of our Indonesian expedition was Gunawan and the members were Eddy Djuandi, Sukmoyo, Nandang Syamsudin, Trivoni Sugiarto Senapi, Djodjo Sunardjo and me, the only woman. We reached Base Camp at 5340 meters on April 6 after a seven-day march. We took the normal east-ridge route. Camps I and II were pitched at 6000 and 6500 meters on April 12 and 18. The first summit attempt, made by Djodjo and Trivoni, failed because of bad weather. On the second, I was accompanied by four Sherpas and reached 7000 meters, the first Indonesian female to get to that altitude. We were forced back by a shortage of rope and time. The third and successful attempt was made on April 26 by Gunawan, Djuandi, Syamsudin and Sherpas Pemba and Lhakpa Sona. They reached the summit at six P.M.

VERONICA MOELIONO, *Wanadri, Indonesia*

Pumori. Several expeditions successfully climbed Pumori in the post-monsoon season. Spaniards led by José Javier Quiñones placed Miguel Angel Serrano and Pedro Pablo González on the summit on October 7. Japanese leader Mitsuo Nomura and Takehiko Yangihara reached the summit on October 9. Both expeditions climbed the east face to the northeast ridge. These were the 35th and 36th ascents of Pumori.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Pumori. Our party consisted of American Scott Woolums, Australians Richard Howes, Armando Corvini, Matt Godbold, Ray Vran, Andrew Lock and me as leader. We climbed Pumori directly up the south ridge from Kala Pattar. We placed Advance Base, Camp I and II and a bivouac at 18,500, 20,300, 21,800 and 22,500 feet on September 27, 30, October 8 and 10. (The bivouac was made by the second summit group.) On October 10, Woolums and Vran got to the summit and on the 11th, Howes and Corvini.

JEFFERY WILLIAMS, *Australia*

Pumori Tragedy. Jon Giersson, Thorsteinn Gudjonsson, Kristinn Runarsson from Iceland and I from Scotland established Base Camp on October 2 at 5300 meters west of Kala Pattar. Our permit was for the south ridge of Pumori, but as an Australian team was already gaining the ridge from the southeast side, we decided to try a new route gaining the ridge via steep mixed ground on the west face, to the right of Rick Allen's and Sandy Allan's descent route of 1986. We placed a camp at 5800 meters on the upper Changri Shar Glacier and fixed 400

feet of rope on steep mixed ground during the next ten days. On October 4, Giersson had chest pains and left for home. We decided on a few days of rest before a lightweight push for the summit. I fell ill and descended to Pheriche. On October 17, Gudjonsson and Runarsson climbed to the high camp. At two P.M. on the 18th, they were seen from Base Camp climbing the ice above the fixed ropes and disappeared from view behind a sérac at 6400 meters. Neither the Base Camp staff nor I ever saw them again. I spent October 20 and 21 searching the glacier below the west face. Nor did a subsequent helicopter search reveal anything. However, Australian Jeffrey Williams reported that he saw the two missing climbers reaching the summit during the afternoon of October 19. Possibly they may have bivouacked near the sérac and continued by moonlight. How they might have climbed from the sérac to the summit unobserved remains a mystery.

STEPHEN AISTHORPE, *Scotland*

Tawoche Attempt. Mal Duff, Tony Brindle, Adrian Moore and I established Base Camp at 5000 meters at the foot of the east face of Tawoche on April 10. The original plan for our line on the east face had to be abandoned due to a lack of snow and ice; there was objective danger from rockfall. Instead, we made an attempt on the unclimbed east ridge to the left of the Seigneur route and the right of the "Japanese Couloir" route. On April 12 we made good progress to 5700 meters where Moore experienced altitude problems. He descended to Base Camp with Brindle without incident. Duff and I continued on loose ground to a good bivouac shelf at 5800 meters. It snowed heavily in the night. We progressed in threatening weather to a small bivouac ledge at 6100 meters. There remained 100 meters of difficult climbing to reach the summit plateau. It snowed heavily in the night again. On April 14, we traversed left, seeking to avoid awkward slab pitches covered with snow. As the weather was deteriorating, we abandoned the climb and abseiled off. Due to work commitments, we could not mount another attempt. The east face still provides a bold and challenging line of high technical difficulty.

ANDREW BLACK, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

Tawoche, East Face in Winter, 1989. Jeff Lowe and John Roskelley made a brilliant and difficult new route on the 4000-foot-high east face of Tawoche. There was comparatively little ice and snow this winter, which doubtless made the climb harder. It was bitter cold, with only two hours of sun in the morning. The lower 1500 feet were purely rock. Above, there was mixed climbing and finally an ice chimney. It was nearly impossible to haul loads because they kept catching under the overhangs. For the most part, they descended each pitch and jumared up with the loads. Consequently they dispensed with all except essential equipment. Lowe kept his hammock for bivouacs, but Roskelley threw away his portaledge; he had to find ice patches into which to hack a bivouac ledge. The

nights were uncomfortable. On February 15, 1989, they reached the summit of Tawoche (6501 meters, 21,327 feet) after climbing for 8½ days. They descended the French first-ascent route on the southeast face and ridge in another day and a half. They rated the climb as VII, 5.10, A3 with Class-6 ice.

Gyachung Kang Tragedy. Eight Japanese from Fukuoka University and three Nepalese, attempting to climb Gyachung Kang by its southwest buttress, were led by Mitsui Uematsu. On October 17, Shinichi Baba was returning from Camp IV at 6400 meters. He plunged 900 meters to his death. The expedition was called off.

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

Gyachung Kang. A Korean expedition was led by Yang Haw-Seok. On October 24, Shin Yeom-Bo, Yeon Hen-Mo, and Sherpas Ang Rinzi and Ang Dorje reached the summit (7952 meters, 26,089 feet) via the southwest face and southwest ridge.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu. Our six-man British team, after a long and arduous approach from Nepal succeeded in placing a man on the top of Cho Oyu on April 30 by the first-ascent route. Dave Walsh, with Wes Sterritt and Dave Morris, began the summit attempt on April 29 but they were repelled by high winds. A further attempt was made in more favorable weather the following day which resulted in Walsh reaching the top late in the afternoon. He spent the night in a bivouac just below 8000 meters and finally made it back to the high camp late the following evening where Sterritt, after descending from the final rock band, had remained to wait. Bad weather hampered the retreat and it was May 5 before all had returned to Base Camp. Assistance was lent to the retreating group by a Swiss team attempting the ascent from the Tibetan side. One of the Swiss, Stefan Wörner, tragically died after reaching the summit some days later.

ALAN HUNT, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*

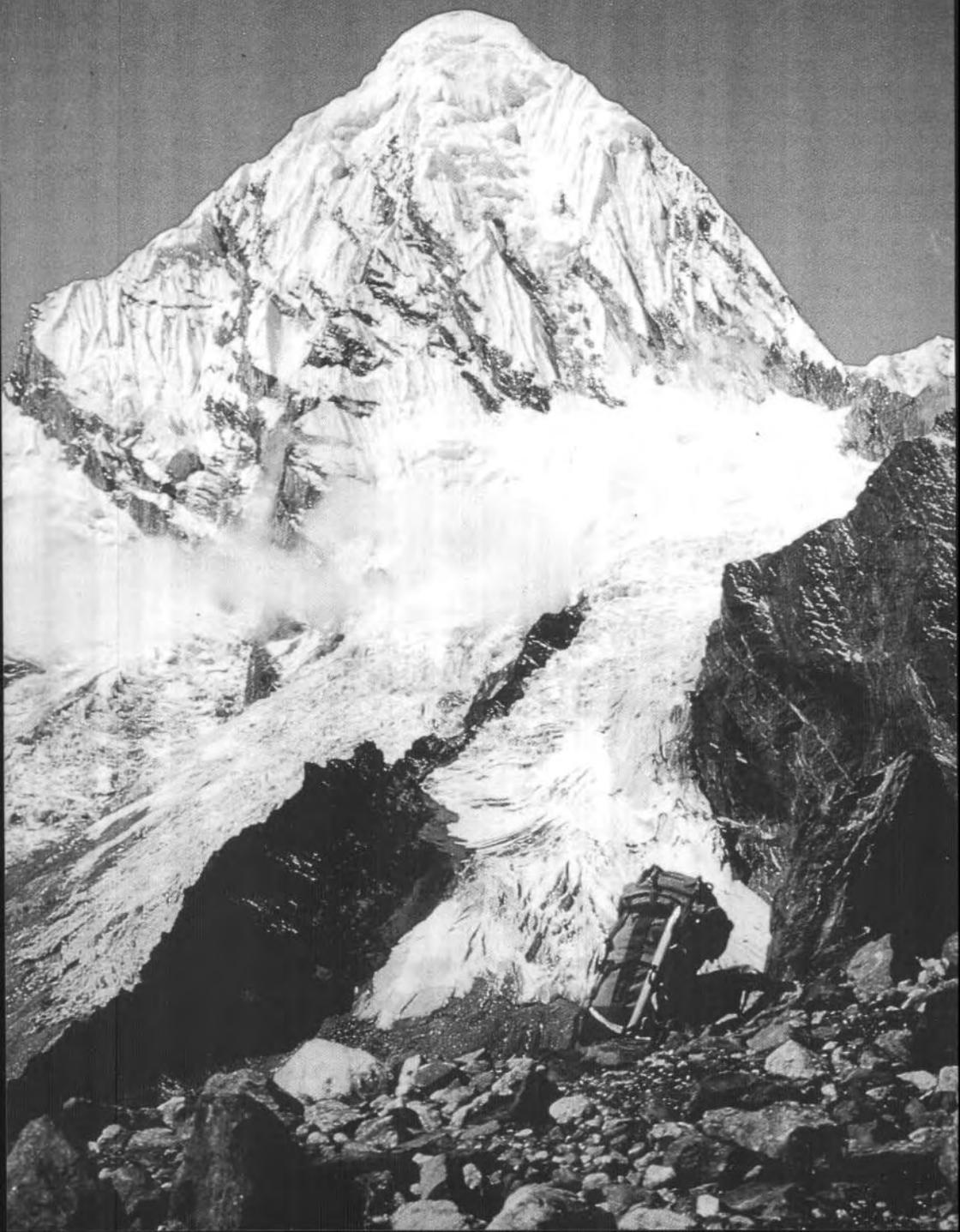
Cho Oyu Attempt. Swiss Michel Vogler, Norbert Duvoisin and John Kimber failed to climb Cho Oyu from Nepal up the normal route which crosses into Tibet. Base Camp at 5000 meters and a depot camp were made on April 7 and 14. Camp I was placed on the Nangpa La and Camp II at the foot of the face at 5730 and 5900 meters on April 17 and 21. Camps III and IV were established at 6500 and 7000 meters on April 23 and 28 with Sherpa help. Between these two camps, a 70-meter-high face was fixed with rope. Two summit attempts were made on April 29 and 30. Both stopped at 7600 meters.

JÓSEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

PLATE 60

Photo by Michael Davidson

KHATANG. Southeast Ridge on left;
Northeast Ridge on right.



Cho Oyu Attempt, 1989. A Japanese expedition led by Kiyoshi Ishii unsuccessfully attempted a winter ascent of the southeast face of Cho Oyu. The high point of 5700 meters was reached on January 16, 1989.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Khatang Attempt. Because of administrative difficulties, we were eight days late in arriving at Base Camp above Lumdung Khaka. Our original intention had been to climb the hitherto unclimbed southeast ridge of Khatang, but when we saw the difficulties, including a 300-meter-high rock step, we realized we would not have the time. Instead we spent the eleven days available to us in an alpine-style attempt on the northeast ridge, which had been climbed twice, most recently by Swiss in 1987. We placed Advance Base at 4800 meters. We had to climb a difficult icefall to reach the foot of the ridge at 5700 meters. The first group of three had to abort at the top of the icefall because one was suffering from the altitude. A group of four, including me, set out on a three- or four-day push and camped on the first day in the snow bowl below the ridge. The next morning, we ascended broken rock onto the col and followed the ridge on alternate rock steps and steep snow crests, finding fixed rope from the Swiss. There must have been another four feet of snow since their attempt. There were long sections of steep, firm snow. As we gained height, however, the snow conditions deteriorated until we were moving very slowly through thigh-deep snow. The lack of belays made the exposed slope very dangerous and prompted a retreat. The highest point reached was 6160 meters, depressingly far from the 6782-meter (22,250-foot) summit. The northeast ridge of Khatang is an impressively steep line, but the southeast ridge would present a considerable challenge.

MICHAEL DAVIDSON, *Alpine Club*

Numbur. Koreans led by Lee Yeong-Chul made the seventh ascent of Numbur, climbing the southwest ridge to the west ridge. On September 25, Shin In-Sik and Nima Ongchu Sherpa climbed to the summit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Langtang Lirung Attempt. An unsuccessful attempt on the south ridge of Langtang Lirung was made by eight Polish climbers led by Wactaw Dudek. On October 29, they reached 6800 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Langtang Lirung Winter Ascent. The summit of Langtang Lirung (7234 meters, 23,734 feet) was reached for the ninth time when Japanese leader Akitsugu Nishimura, Pang Nima Sherpa and Ang Kazi Sherpa got to the top via the southeast ridge on December 11.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ganesh III Attempt. Three Britons and an American hoped to climb Ganesh III or Salasungo (7110 meters, 23,326 feet) via the northeast face and the northeast buttress. They established Base Camp and Camps I and II at 4575, 5185 and 5875 meters on March 23, 28 and April 4. On April 8, leader Julian Mathias and Daniel Donovan reached 6100 meters on the northeast face but gave up because of heavy snowfalls and avalanche danger.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Corrections. In *AAJ 1985* on page 124, the names of Salasungo and Pabil were interchanged. Read Pabil (Ganesh III) 7110 meters for Salasungo (Ganesh IV) 7052 meters. On page 126, P 7139 is actually called Nemjun. On page 130, Mukut Himal is given as being 6086 meters when in actual fact it is 6639 meters.

Manaslu Attempt. Our Manaslu climb was planned for immediately after our failed Makalu winter attempt to take advantage of our excellent acclimatization for an alpine-style try. Pole Andrzej Machnik and I had permission for a direct variant of the original northeast-face route, a long ice-and-snow rib, a kilometer southeast of Naika Col, which ascends from the Manaslu Glacier directly to the snow slopes below the snow apron. While more technically demanding than the original route, this direct line avoids the major avalanche hazards that threaten the other where it traverses below Manaslu's north peak. Machnik and I left Kathmandu on February 24 and started the approach from Gorkha on the 26th with 15 porters. We arrived in Base Camp in eight days to find two feet of late winter snow at only 3650 meters. Spring had not come yet. On March 7 and 8, we two broke trail from Base Camp to the head of the Manaslu Glacier to establish a safe camp beneath Manaslu's northeast face. Despite a vertical gain of 1800 meters, we were barely at the elevation of the Everest Base Camp! Our huge loads included equipment for the camp and enough rope to fix the steep, icy rock band beneath the spur we had come to climb. Instead of starting up the delicate mixed section the next day, we retreated to Base Camp in a snowstorm that dumped two feet of powder overnight. Leaving all our gear in the tent before descending, we did not suspect that we would never see it again. The avalanche hazard was critical on the exposed slopes between 4600 and 4200 meters on the descent and we triggered at least three slab avalanches. It snowed nearly continually for the next ten days. Two attempts to cross dangerous slopes between 4200 and 4600 meters were thwarted by extreme avalanche danger. Four sections of our route below 4800 meters were obliterated by avalanche debris. The mountain was a death trap. On March 17, we regained Camp I after twelve hours of miserable post-holing and wading. Not only had all our wands been buried above 4500 meters, but so had the camp. Probing and trenching were in vain, for at least eight feet of snow had fallen in the previous ten days. We were caught by another blizzard as we searched! A gearless bivouac in a hastily dug cave preceded a nine-hour "swim" through the whiteout back to Base

Camp on March 18. Having lost most of our technical equipment plus a tent, two sleeping bags, medical kit, etc., and seeing that the mountain would not be safe for several more weeks, we abandoned the climb on March 29.

ANDREW EVANS

Manaslu, East Ridge. Ursula Huber, Beda Fuster, Richard Ott, Barbara Wille, Ueli Stahel, Pierre André Levet and I started our approach from Gorkha with 54 porters on March 25. We ascended to Base Camp at 4500 meters with 24 porters from Sama on April 3. We had no high-altitude porters. On April 6, we reconnoitered the route to the east ridge up to 5500 meters, putting in 250 meters of fixed rope in the upper section of the big couloir on snow and ice of 45° to 50°. We established Camp I at 5900 meters on the 8th. The east ridge began with exposed climbing at 6000 meters, where we placed another 80 meters of rope, after clearing old fixed rope. There followed a 60° traverse on the south face of the ridge, where we fixed 150 meters of rope. From there at 6000 meters to 6500 meters the slopes were so easy that we could have done them on skis. Fuster and Ott established Camp II at 6800 meters on April 13 but they were driven back by bad weather, which continued for some days and frustrated a number of attempts to get higher. On April 29 Huber, Fuster and Ott reached Camp II. From there they traversed to join the normal route on the northeast. They climbed to 7500 meters and bivouacked without a tent. On May 1, they started at five A.M. and reached the summit (8163 meters, 26,780 feet) at 1:20 P.M. Ursula Huber is the first Swiss woman to reach the summit of an 8000er! Bad weather came in soon and they had to descend in snowfall and fog. That same day, Levet, Stahel and I had got to Camp II, but bad weather drove us back. On May 10, after a stormy night, we three continued on from a more protected camp at 6500 meters in still stormy conditions. At 7500 meters we found the bivouac site of our friends but did not have enough snow to dig a snow cave. Eventually we turned back from 7600 meters. On May 11, we were back in Base Camp, which we left on the 13th.

TONI SPIRIG, *Schweizer Himalaya Stiftung*

Manaslu Attempt. An Italian expedition led by Roberto Pe failed to climb Manaslu by its northeast face. On May 1, Pe and Rinaldo Dell'Ava got to 7050 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu Attempt. Two Japanese climbers, including Hiroshi Hori, leader, failed to climb Manaslu by its northeast face. They got to 7500 meters on October 24.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Manaslu. Our expedition was composed of Quito Saler, Josep María Bley, Josep Albert, Josep María Molina, Josep Pujante, Joan Agulló, Manuel

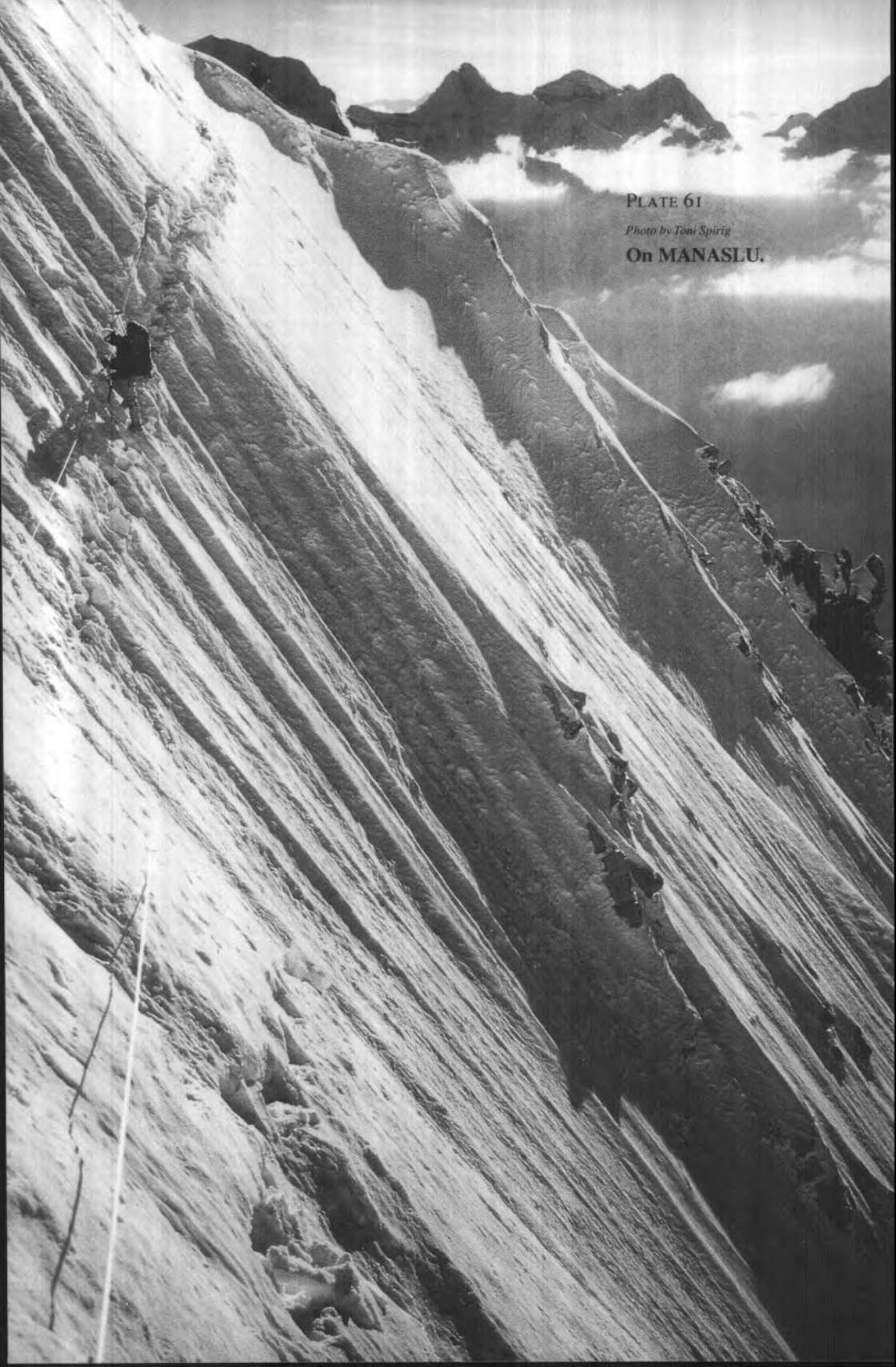


PLATE 61

Photo by Toni Spirig

On MANASLU.

Penalva, Monserrate Vázquez, José Manuel Rodríguez, Andrés Sánchez and me as leader. On September 1, we began to establish Base Camp at 3600 meters two hours above the village of Sama. By the 10th, we had reconnoitered the route to Camp I at 4800 meters in poor weather and the entire expedition had arrived. On September 14, Camp II was installed at 5500 meters on Nike Col. A big snowstorm halted progress. Finally on the 24th, we could dig Camp II out. On the 25th, we ascended the icefall between Camps II and III, the most dangerous part of the climb, and fixed 400 meters of rope. Camp III was set up at 6300 meters. An avalanche above Camp III carried away a climber and three Sherpas. Rinjing had to be evacuated. On October 3, Camp IV was set up on the north col at 7150 meters, but the next day hurricane winds prevented going higher. On the descent, we were caught in two avalanches but luckily could escape from them. After several unsuccessful attempts, several members had to return home to work. Finally, on October 19, Joan Agulló and Ang Lhakpa Sherpa set out on one last attempt. After changing from the Japanese route, by which the first ascent had been made in 1956, to the Korean route at 7100 meters, they bivouacked on the ridge and reached the summit on October 25.

ANTONI LÓPEZ DE HARO, *Centre Excursionista de Premiá de Mar, Spain*

Himlung Himal Attempt. A Japanese expedition led by Hiroyuki Baba attempted to make a winter ascent of Himlung Himal by its northwest ridge. The route turned out to be extremely difficult because of the snow conditions and on December 17, they had to give up at 6650 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Chulu West, South-Southwest Face. Italian Carlo Stratta and Dawa Lama Sherpa made two new routes (one to the summit) on the south-southwest face of Chulu West on October 7 and 8. They left Base Camp at 4300 meters at 10:30 P.M. and by the light of headlamps climbed a 450-meter-high icefall with some sections up to 90°. They then ascended for 1000 meters the very steep central rib of the left buttress of the face. At six A.M., they reached the top of the shoulder. After a short rest, they rappelled down the rocks that divide the left wall from the central couloir. Back at the foot of the face, they climbed the central couloir back up to the top of the shoulder. They continued on to the summit of Chulu West (6419 meters, 21,059 feet), which they reached at five P.M. They were back in Base Camp at 8:18 P.M.

LUCIANO GHIGO, *Centro Italiano Studio Documentazione
Alpinismo Extraeuropeo*

Tilitso Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition from Moravia, Czechoslovakia was led by Jiří Bobák and I was the climbing leader. The other climbers were Dr. Raimund Mikal, Petr Gřibek, Leoš Horka, Zdeněk Kráčmar, Ludvík Paleček

PLATE 62

Photo by Raymond Mital

North Face of TILITSO. Gríbek and Horka's bodies found at cross. French route on left.



and Dalibor Trpík. We were seriously delayed by baggage problems. We could finally begin our approach from Jomsom on October 2 and reached the western foot of the Tilitso West col. Because of snow, neither the porters nor donkeys could cross the col to the eastern side. Therefore, we had to set up Base Camp on the western side at 4600 meters on October 3. We had to climb the pass, descend to the other side and ascend to the foot of the north face to 5200 meters to Camp I. Despite deteriorating weather, Horka and Gříbek took turns with Paleček and me preparing the route and fixing rope on the northwest buttress. Paleček and I pitched Camp II at 5700 meters. After that it was the turn of Horka and Gříbek to continue on and set up Camp III at 6100 meters on the icy terrain above the rock buttress. We expected them to come down for a rest, but they started the final assault from there on October 18. They had an icy wall in front of them with a 1000-meter altitude gain. They climbed relatively slowly and just before sunset reached the summit where they had a hard night without bivouac equipment. Their unexpected assault caused a change in plans. Also on October 18, Paleček, together with Kráčmar, set out from Base Camp and spent the night in Camp I. The next morning, they made out two figures moving down from the summit. That was the last time they were seen alive. On the 19th Dr. Míkal and I left for Camp I while Paleček and Kráčmar ascended to Camp II. The next morning Paleček continued alone to Camp III as his companion was not well. He explored the area above Camp III and returned for the night. I had climbed alone to Camp II and on October 21 climbed to the area just below Camp III, looking for anything that was moving. That same morning Paleček left Camp III at four A.M. While it was still dark, he reached the place where the Japanese and French routes met. Not far above, he found equipment left by Horka and Gříbek. In fine weather he pressed on to the summit, where he found proof of the other two's success. On the descent he discovered their bodies about 300 meters from the route of ascent. They had fallen about 500 meters and probably were killed during the fall. He covered them with snow and marked the place with a broken ice axe before descending to Camp II to bring me the news of the terrible outcome of his search. We evacuated Camps II and I and sent a full report to the liaison officer, who spent the entire expedition, apart from a few days at the beginning, in a hotel in Jomsom.

VLASTIMIL ŠMÍDA, *Moravia, Czechoslovakia*

Annapurna III Attempt. A seven-man British expedition led by Mal Duff had great difficulties with the terrain on the approach up the Seti Khola. Their cook died of high-altitude pulmonary edema on September 12 before they reached Base Camp. After establishing Advance Base, they decided that the east ridge was the only suitable route on the south face of Annapurna III. The original objective, the southeast buttress, was rejected because of large avalanches that swept the lower half of the face. From the glacier a straightforward spur was followed to reach the ridge crest at about 6100 meters. A horizontal corniced ridge would then have led for a kilometer to the east face. This 1000-meter high

face has a band of séracs threatening the lower half, requiring a rightwards traverse. This would gain the northeast ridge of the face. Easier slopes would lead some three kilometers to the summit. On October 2, Duff, Dr. Ian Tattersall, Andy Cave and Andy Perkins set out on an alpine-style attempt. On the 3rd, first Tattersall and later Perkins felt unwell and turned back, but the other two continued. On October 4, Duff and Cave climbed five pitches on the south side of the ridge to bypass an area of steep unstable rock and two pitches on the crest to 6450 meters, where they bivouacked. High winds and snowfall persuaded them to descend in the morning and give up the attempt. (This information was kindly supplied by Mal Duff.)

Annapurna South Face. An international climbing team with French sponsorship, *L'Esprit d'Equipe*, has been assembled for six expeditions to seven 8000-meter peaks for a three-year period, 1988 to 1990. Several of the climbers were previously members of another international group, called Quota 8000. The goal for spring of 1988 was the south face of Annapurna with the team of French climbers Benoît Chamoux, leader, Nicolas Campredon and Yves Detry, Italians Agostino da Polenza, expedition manager, and Soro Dorotei, Czech Josef Rakoncaj and me, expedition doctor. We had four Tamang high-altitude porters: Tek, Tirtha, Saila and Dawa. We set up Base Camp at 4000 meters on the east moraine of the Annapurna Glacier on April 10 and Camp I on the *rognon* at 4800 meters on the 12th. On April 14, Dorotei and I reached the site of the British Camp III and set up Camp II at 6100 meters on a small col below the ice ridge. On the descent we fixed line in the two gullies below the col. Bad weather prevented progress until April 23 and 24, when the three French and Rakoncaj traversed far to the left to avoid an enormous leaning sérac; they fixed rope in a steep ice couloir to about 6500 meters. The next day Dorotei and I fixed line to the séracs at 6750 meters and set up Camp III in a large cave, the coldest spot on the mountain where temperatures descended to -25°C . The French-Czech team worked on the rock band on the 30th and on May 1 reached 7150 meters before bad weather halted progress. On May 6, with the French team a day behind, Dorotei, Rakoncaj and I returned to Camp II and the next day reached Camp III; the entrance of the cave had been filled by a small avalanche. The French team was a day behind. On the 8th, we finished fixing the rock band and snow ridge to Camp IV at 7350 meters. Having forgotten to bring a cook pot, we had to melt water in a fuel cannister. By evening we were terribly dehydrated and if I stood for several minutes, I became disoriented. In gale winds we had to tie all the vents and the door of the tent shut and we slept badly, lacking oxygen. With the weather not good enough for a summit attempt in the morning, we decided that one of us should descend to Camp III and the other two should fix line in the gully and sleep again at Camp IV. I descended to Camp III and late morning found me rehydrating with the French in the cave. After sleeping four hours, I started back up that same day at 10:30 P.M. The French left the cave at midnight. Breaking trail in new snow wherever ice ridges penetrated the rock band and jumaring occasional vertical rock in the dark, I reached the base of the ice ridge

below Camp IV at two A.M. in time to see Dorotei and Rakoncaj starting off for the summit. On the 9th, they had fixed most of the snow-and-rock gully to 7500 feet but now had to rebreak trail. Only two hours behind them, I also rebroke trail. After the other two had reached the summit plateau at 7600 meters, Dorotei broke trail for the last 500 meters and got to the top at 9:30. Rakoncaj arrived at ten o'clock, I at eleven and Chamoux and Campredon half an hour later. We met Detry at 7800 meters on his way up, but with storm clouds moving in, he decided to descend with us. We all reached Camp II by eight P.M. and Base Camp the next day. The 1970 British route on Annapurna was challenging with an average slope of 55°. The almost daily snowstorms contributed to the difficulty. Our work was made easier by the 1987 Japanese reconnaissance and occasional pieces of their fixed line and anchors. We used no supplementary oxygen.

STEVE BOYER, M.D.

Annapurna South Face Ascents and Tragedy. Our team was composed of Poles Jerzy Kukuczka, Artur Hajzer, Dr. Lech Korniszewski, Ryszard Warecki and me, Britons Phil Butler and Henry Todd, Germans Irene and Gerhard Schnass, Ecuadorians Ramiro Navarrete and Francisco Espinoza, American Steve Untch and Italian Alberto Soncini. On August 30, we set up Base Camp at 4200 meters on the moraine of the Annapurna Glacier. On September 2, Advance Base was established at 5200 meters and Camp I was placed at 6000 meters on the 4th in a small basin surrounded by Annapurna, Kangsar Kang (Roc Noir) and Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome). Between these two camps there was a dangerous icefall with risky corridors between the ice and a rock band. We fixed 400 meters of rope there. We had to replace or retie rope there often because of crumbling rock and collapsing ice. On September 12, Camp II was established at 6550 meters on the far east rib of Annapurna's south face. On October 8, after a period of bad weather, Hajzer and Kukuczka set out for the summit. After a night at Camp II on October 11, they climbed, belaying, 15 pitches of 60° ice gullies and bivouacked at 7100 meters. Climbing the next day was equally difficult, but they moved together to save time. At the end of the day, they reached the east ridge at 7500 meters and bivouacked there. On October 13 at four P.M., they got to the east summit of Annapurna. They spent that night at the same place as the night before. On October 14, they descended the slopes of Roc Noir and Glacier Dome. After bivouacking at 6800 meters, they reached Base Camp the next day. After ascending via the east-ridge route of descent of Kukuczka and Hajzer, on October 16 Navarrete, Espinoza and I set out for the summit from our Camp IV at 7500 meters. At two P.M., Navarrete climbed to the summit. I was stopped 100 meters from the top by strong winds and Espinoza had had to turn back 200 meters from the top with health problems. That night, we all returned to the tent at 7500 meters. The next day the weather was very bad. In the mist we descended the east-ridge route unroped. On the narrow corniced ridge of Roc Noir, Navarrete fell 1200 meters to his death when a cornice broke. After that, on the south slopes of Roc Noir, Espinoza rappelled



PLATE 63

Photo by Jerzy Kukuczka

**Far-East Rib on ANNAPURNA's
South Face. Camp II and Bivouac are
marked.**

off the end of his rope and fell 60 meters; he was hurt. We spent a frigid night on October 17 in snow holes without any tent. The next morning, we reached the tent of Camp III at 7200 meters. Miraculously, Todd, who was at the Camp II of our route heard our shouts. That same day he got to us, where we were nearly comatose and without fuel, and alerted the rest of the members by radio. At 3:30 P.M. Untch, Hajzer and Soncini started up from Base Camp and climbed through the night. In 24 hours Untch was at Camp II, having climbed some 2800 vertical meters. The others were at Camp I. The rescue was a frightful ordeal. On October 20, with the heroic and selfless help of Todd, Untch, Hajzer and Soncini, the whole group reached Base Camp.

JANUSZ MAJER, *Klub Wysokogórski Katowice, Poland*

Annapurna Attempt and Tragedy. An eight-man Japanese team on the normal route on Annapurna was led by Akihiko Mori. In September 29, after dumping loads at 5900 meters, Mori was returning to Camp I with Tsuyoshi Ono and Ang Dawa Sherpa. They were swept away by an avalanche only 20 minutes above camp. Ono had a providential escape and he bivouacked in the snow. The next day, he arrived at the camp of another expedition and informed them of the accident. Members and Sherpas searched for the two bodies in vain until October 1.

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

Annapurna Ascent and Tragedy. An expedition of 14 Czechoslovaks and an Italian led by Petr Schnabl climbed Annapurna via the northwest face. On October 1, Dr. Jiří Pelikan was returning from accompanying the summit pair to Camp VI at 8000 meters when he slipped to his death on the way back to Camp V at 7100 meters. His body was found October 3 at 5100 meters. On October 2, Jindrich Martis and Josef Nezerka left Camp V and reached the summit. This was the second ascent of this difficult route.

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

Annapurna. A seven-man Spanish expedition led by Joaquín Colorado made the 21st ascent of Annapurna by the Dutch Rib on the north face. On October 3, Pablo Aldai and Juan Fernando Azcona reached the summit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

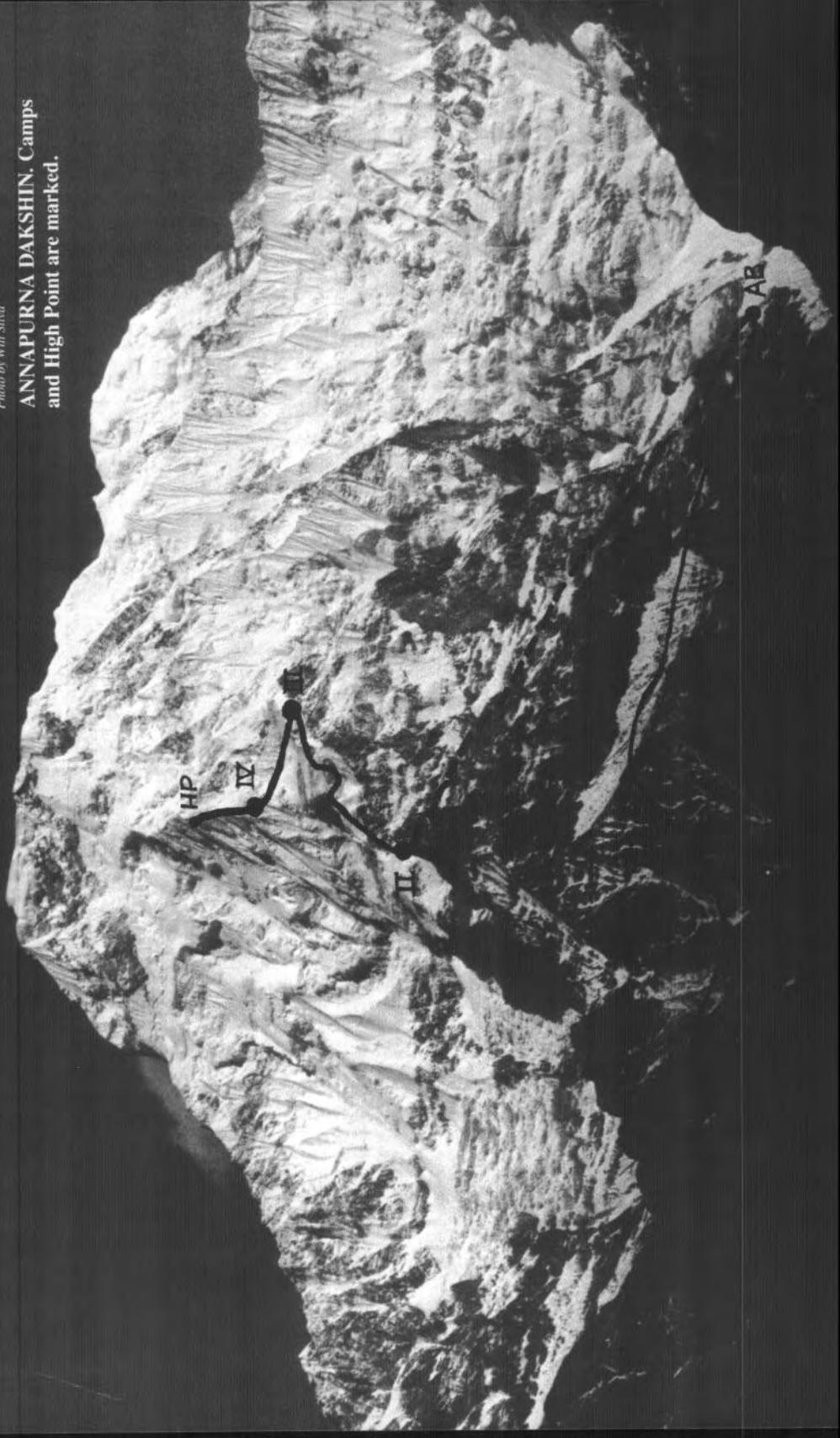
Annapurna Attempt. An expedition of four Spaniards and an Argentine led by Manuel González unsuccessfully attempted to climb Annapurna by the north face. On October 4, they reached 7700 meters, their high point.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

PLATE 64

Photo by Will Silva

ANNAPURNA DAKSHIN. Camps
and High Point are marked.



Annapurna Attempt. Bulgarians led by Metodi Savov tried to climb Annapurna by the south face but were unable to get above 6800 meters, which they reached on December 14.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Annapurna Dakshin Attempt, Ridge in South Face. Ken Andrasko, Jim Beall, Chris Bretherton and I as leader attempted the unclimbed ridge which splits the south face of Annapurna Dakshin (Annapurna South; 7219 meters, 23,683 feet). We climbed up the ridge above Chamrong village to reach Base Camp at 3775 meters on April 5. We found a route above the Chamrong Khola, which involved several hundred feet of fixed rope, and arrived on April 14 at our 3600-meter Advance Base on the west bank of the glacier between Annapurna Dakshin and Hiunchuli. Travel up the glacier was threatened from gullies on all sides of the cirque. We ascended one of these to reach Camp I at 4350 meters on April 18 and continued up the same gully to establish Camp II on April 30 on a 5180-meter col on the ridge. We fixed rope on two patches of ice to gain the prominent glacier visible from the south and west and climbed up deep, steep snow to reach Camp III at 5600 meters on May 5. We regained the ridge crest by ascending an ice-and-rock pitch above camp and on May 7 pitched Camp IV at 5850 meters on a broad dome. Beall and Bretherton continued up the knife-edge to 6100 meters that afternoon but were unable to climb the steep, loose rock. The next day, Andrasko and I traversed the pinnacle's base on the east in stormy weather. We reached a gully overhung by airy séracs, which led back to the crest. The following day, a violent storm confined us to camp. Running low on food, we abandoned the attempt. While the ridge above 5180 meters offers aesthetic, challenging climbing, the avalanche danger up to the col, the technical approach and the low altitude of the only suitable site for Advance Base make this route a difficult proposition.

WILL SILVA, M.D.

Annapurna Dakshin Southwest Face Solo. Italian Luca Tessorin climbed solo the 2000-meter-high southwest face of Annapurna Dakshin by a new route which was mostly 50° to 55° ice with two short vertical sections and 100 meters of UIAA Grade III to IV rock. The final push started on August 16 and the top was reached on the 18th.

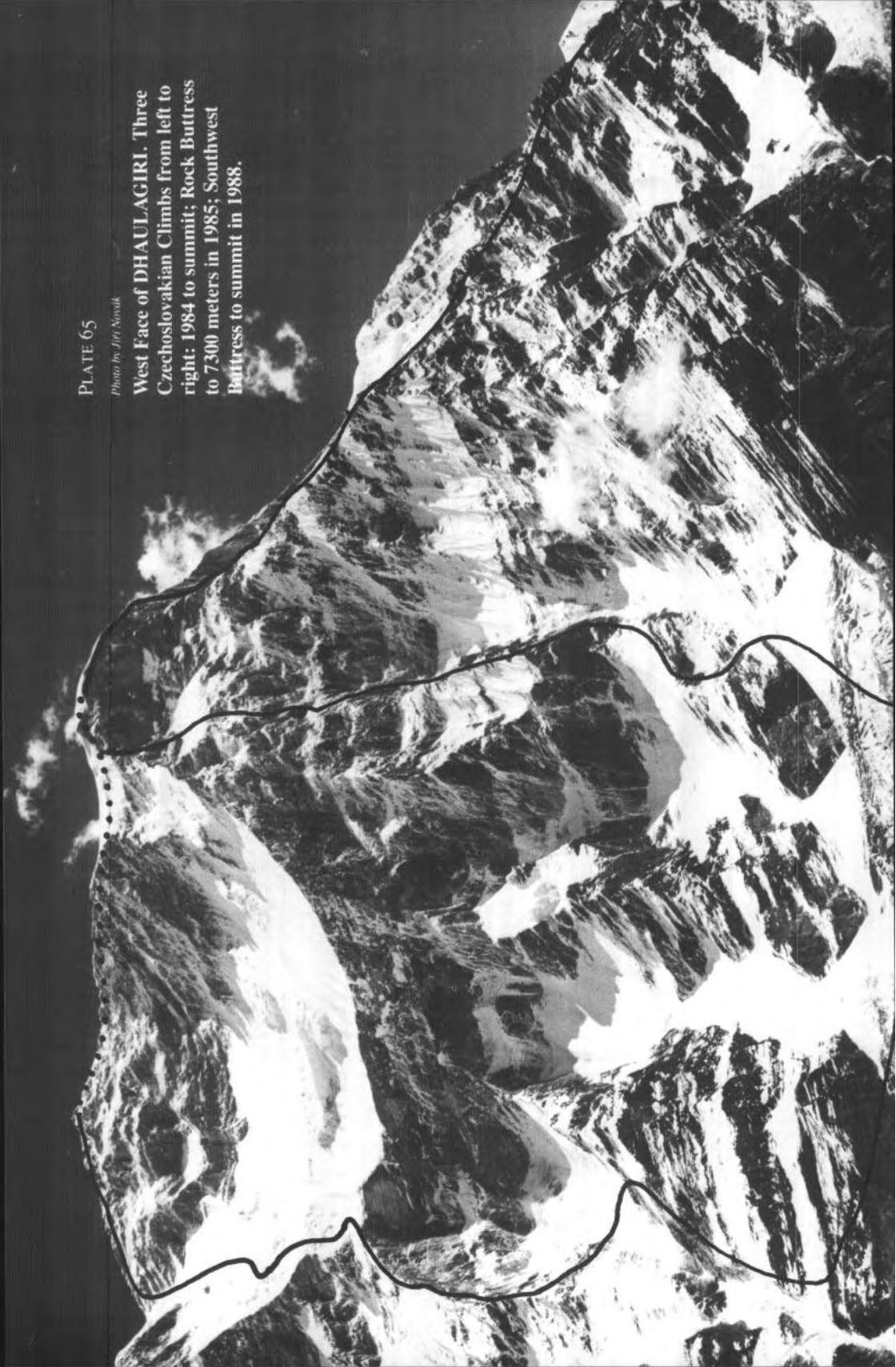
JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Dhaulagiri, Complete Southwest Buttress. Our international expedition hoped to make the first complete ascent alpine-style of the southwest buttress of Dhaulagiri, attempted by French in 1978 and 1980 up to 7500 meters and by Czechoslovaks in 1985 up to 7250 meters. The buttress itself is 2200 meters high and is topped by snow slopes 900 meters high. The French reported great

PLATE 65

Photo by Jeff Novak

West Face of DHAULAGIRI. Three Czechoslovakian Climbs from left to right: 1984 to summit; Rock Buttress to 7300 meters in 1985; Southwest Buttress to summit in 1988.



difficulties in three sections: a succession of rock towers from 5000 to 6000 meters, a narrow snow ridge with steps up to 60° and enormous rock-and-ice towers from 6000 to 6800 meters, and a vertical and partially overhanging step from 6800 to 7300 meters. A second group of the members wanted to repeat the Japanese route on the south face. The expedition members were from three countries: Igor Novák and I, co-leaders, Dr. Tomáš Skříčka, and Zoltán Demján, *Czechoslovaks*, Marco Fogliatti and Sergio Antoniazzi, *Italians*, Yuri Moiseev and Kazbek Valiev, *Soviets*. Base Camp was established at 3600 meters on September 16. Immediately bad weather with heavy snowfall followed. This complicated matters since the expedition was planned to last only until October 10 or 12. When the weather cleared on September 25, it became possible to move up to the southwest col at 5100 meters on the 26th. It was obvious that the Japanese route was out of the question for that group, which lacked acclimatization. However, the three southwest-buttress climbers, Demján, Moiseev and Valiev, had shortly before climbed in the Tien Shan and were acclimatized. They set out from the southwest col on September 29, alpine-style, with 15-kilogram packs. They bivouacked at 5650, 6100, 6500, 6700, 6900, again 6900, 7200, 7350 meters. They left their snow cave on October 6, the eleventh day above Base Camp, and climbed to the summit, despite a storm that began at 11:15 A.M., and returned that same night to that highest bivouac. The descent followed the ascent route, mostly rappelling, with bivouacs at 6900, 6500, 6100 and 5100 meters. They were back in Base Camp on October 10, having been climbing for 16 days. The most difficult part (UIAA VI, A2, 90°) was principally between 6750 and 7200 meters.

Jiří NOVÁK, *Československý Horolezecký Svaz*

Dhaulagiri Attempts. Two Japanese expeditions unsuccessfully attempted to climb Dhaulagiri by its northeast ridge. A three-man group led by Akihiro Yoshitani set up Base Camp and Camps I and II at 4720, 5700 and 6560 meters on September 2, 11 and October 2. They gave up on October 5 because of unfavorable weather, not having climbed higher than Camp II. A six-member expedition led by Kazufumi Watanabe also attempted the same route. They got to 6600 meters on October 7 and 15, but had to give up.

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

Dhaulagiri and Tukuhe Northwest. A 12-man Korean expedition led by Cho Chung-Sool made the 36th ascent of Dhaulagiri, climbing the northeast ridge. On November 14, Chol Tae-Sik and Sherpas Da Gombu and Wangyal got to the top. Expedition members also climbed to the northwest summit of Tukuhe by its northwest ridge.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri VI, Gurja Himal and Ghustang North. A nine-man expedition, led by Shin Young-Chul, climbed both Dhaulagiri VI and Gurja Himal. Camp

IV was placed at 6750 meters on the south ridge of Dhaulagiri VI on September 25 and the next day Shim Bong-Hyu and Ang Pasang Sherpa completed the fifth ascent of Dhaulagiri VI (7268 meters, 23,846 feet). On September 27, Lee Sang-Ho, Lee Seung-Hawn, Sohn Kyoung-Deug, Kook Hyeong-Jin and Pembalung Dorje Sherpa got to the summit. On September 26, Lee Sang-Ho, Lee Seung-Hawn and Maila Pemba Sherpa climbed the north ridge of Gurja Himal to the summit (7193 meters, 23,600 feet). On September 19, Lee Sang-Ho, Lee Seung-Hawn and Shin Young-Chul climbed Ghustang North 6529 meters, 21,419 feet) by its west face.

KIM YOUNG-DO, *Korean Alpine Institute*

Churen Himal East Ascent and Tragedy. A seven-man Korean expedition was led by Chi Hoon-Ku. They established Base Camp at 4750 meters on March 26 and began climbing the southeast face. On April 11, Kwon Dai-Shik fell 90 meters into a crevasse and was killed. They continued. On May 7, Shin Jang-Sup and Lee Hoong-Shik left Camp VI and after 5½ hours got to the summit (7371 meters, 24,184 feet).

KIM YOUNG-DO, *Korean Alpine Institute*

Putha Hiunchuli Attempt. Our expedition members were Kevin O'Meara, Jack Bennet, Madeleine Simmons, Barbara Pollyea, Celso Frazao, Steve Tripp, Peter Muller, Lyna Anderson and I as leader. On April 9, we placed Base Camp at 15,000 feet above the Karpe Glacier, southwest of the Dhaulagiri Himal. We hoped to provide expedition experience for newcomers to the Himalaya as well as to reach the summit. We attempted the south ridge. Two major shelves separated by an active icefall guarded the bottom two-thirds of the route. We avoided the icefall by a circuitous route that involved fixing 1000 feet of rope on mixed rock and ice. Due to a very dry winter, we encountered hundreds of feet of hard névé ice. During April, we established three camps. Camp III was at 19,400 feet below the final 1000-foot ice tower that led to the second shelf. We fixed rope up the ice wall to 20,000 feet. Daily afternoon snowstorms had not caused real delays, but at the end of April, a major storm pinned us in Camp II for four days. Muller and Anderson went back to Base Camp. The rest of us and Sonam Sherpa with difficulty reached Camp III on May 4. The next morning, O'Meara, Sonam and I climbed toward our high point on the ice. The wind-blown snow below the ice tower was a thick, avalanche-prone slab; the ground blizzard continued. Since we would have to go up and down this slope to establish Camp IV, we decided not to take a risk with the avalanche danger. Base Camp was evacuated on May 10.

HOOMAN APRIN

Dhampus Attempt. Hubert Blondeau, Guy Petermann, Alain Trouillet, Alain and Régine Roche, Claire and Jacques Libanet and I established Base Camp at

5400 meters on Dhampus in October. We made a try to 5650 meters, but very heavy snowfall and cerebral edema contracted by two of our members forced us to make a rapid descent. We gave up the attempt.

JACQUES BERNES, *Club Alpin Français*

Saipal Attempt. Six Swiss and two Frenchmen led by Denis Bertholet failed to climb Saipal. They reached 5200 meters on October 20 on the north face and 5800 meters on October 22 on the northeast ridge but had to give up because of deep snow and avalanche danger.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

India—Garhwal

Trisul Ascent and Tragedy. The members of our expedition were Tilo Dittrich, Roland Wankerl, Michael Hawlitschek, Dirck Naumann, my wife Martina and me. With 28 porters, two high-altitude porters, a liaison officer, we took five days from the roadhead at Gath to Base Camp at 4400 meters below the west face of Trisul. Porters were excellent, friendly and easy to find in Gath. From July 21 to 23, we organized Base Camp. After a build-up, we all occupied Camp I at 5200 meters on the 26th. On July 29, Naumann, Wankerl, Dittrich and Hawlitschek occupied Camp II at 6000 meters. Bad weather ensued and the first two descended. On August 1 Dittrich and Hawlitschek pressed another 600 meters higher in terrible weather. After a second night in the 6200-meter bivouac, they climbed in improving weather to the Trisul Saddle at 6700 meters. Hawlitschek was not well during the night there. On August 4, they got to the summit (7120 meters, 23,360 feet) despite the poor condition of Hawlitschek. On the 5th, they wanted to descend to Camp I. At 6600 meters Hawlitschek blacked out and fell to his death some 2000 meters down the north face. Dittrich descended to Base Camp. Attempts to find Hawlitschek's body were all in vain.

LUTZ HENKE, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Purbi Dunagiri Ascent and Tragedy. A 12-member team from Durgapur was led by Swapan Kumar Ghosh. After an approach from Manali, they set up Base Camp at 4400 meters on August 10. Debabrata Mukherjee and Nidhir Kumar Pal reached the summit (6489 meters, 21,290 feet) on August 25, but they were lost on the descent. One of the bodies has since been recovered.

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

Kamet and Abi Gamin. We established Base Camp at Vasundhara Tal on May 24 and followed the traditional East Kamet Glacier route. We set up six high camps. Govind Joshi, Sanjeev Arora and porter Karma climbed Abi Gamin from Camp V on June 8 and I soloed it on June 10. (Govind Joshi is only 17 years old.) On the 10th, Kamet was climbed by Rattan Singh Bisht, Jagdish Bisht and Lhakpa.

C.S. PANDEY, *Ramjas Old Students Adventure Association, India*