

tried unsuccessfully to climb Kang Karpo. In May of 1988 Nick Clinch, Tom Hornbein, Peter Schoening, Lisa Schoening, Robert (Brownie) Schoene, Woodward Kingman and Richard Wilsey, supported by Bob Bates and me and wives, also attempted the peak. The monsoon arrived three weeks ahead of its usual time and the Americans were not able to get much above 5000 meters.

H. ADAMS CARTER

*Haizi, Sichuan.* The name for this peak was given as Haizi by the Chinese and as Genie by the Japanese. The editor is not sure of its exact location. The leader of a Japanese expedition was Kazuo Tobita. They established Base Camp at 4350 meters on May 30 and attacked the south ridge. Camps I and II were placed at 5150 and 5750 on May 31 and June 3 before bad weather halted operations. On June 11, Tobita, Tetsuro Ito and Osamu Takita went to the summit (6240 meters, 20,473 feet), followed the next day by Kasuhiko Amagi, Ms. Reiko Terasawa, Kuniharu Ohno and Ms. Kyoko Endo.

## Tibet

*Mount Everest Winter Attempt, 1987-1988.* Our expedition consisted of Masayoshi Utsumi, Kiyotaka Hoshino, my wife Masami Hasegawa and me. As reported in *AAJ, 1988* on page 272, we were prevented from getting to the mountain earlier by the big snowstorm in October. We were given permission to continue during the winter. The route we attempted was a new one, which began east of the North Col. We climbed the northeast couloir and would have joined the northeast ridge below the northeast shoulder at about 7800 meters. We established Advance Base (Camp II) at 6450 meters on November 24, 1987. From there we climbed to 7000, 7200, 7450 and 7500 meters on December 11, 19, 24 and 27, 1987 respectively. We established Camp III at 7350 meters on January 20 and occupied it on February 7. On February 9, we climbed to 7700 meters. We removed Advance Base on February 23 and Base Camp on the 26th. During the mountaineering activity, the wind blew steadily from 150 to 200 kph. The tent at Camp III was damaged by falling rock and ice many times, since there was no safe tent site in the couloir.

TSUNEO HASEGAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Everest Traverse.* The Chinese Mountaineering Association, the Japanese Alpine Club and the Nepal Mountaineering Association cooperated to organize a joint expedition to traverse Mount Everest from both north to south and from south to north. Shi Zhan Chun was the general leader of the Chinese, Toshio Imanishi of the Japanese and Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah of the Nepalese. The headquarters of the 283-member expedition was in Beijing. The 152-member north team, led by Tsuneo Shigehiro, planned to climb the East Rongbuk Glacier, the North Col and the northeast ridge. They set up Base Camp at 5155

meters on March 10. Advance Base at 6500 meters was established on March 18 with three large tents and 30 small ones to house seven tons of material. Ten members set up Camp V at 7790 meters and on April 7, Camp VI at 8100 meters. The 127-member south team, led by Kunga Sherpa, set up Base Camp at 5350 meters on March 28 to climb the South Col route. Setting up camps was seriously hampered by bad weather, but the route to the South Col was prepared by April 23 with ropes fixed on the rock band. Yet the establishment of Camp IV on the col was delayed until April 30. On May 3, Camp V was established at 8500 meters and occupied the next day by Ang Phurba Sherpa and Top Bahadur Khatri of Nepal, Mitsugi Kitamura and Gota Isono of Japan and Ringen Puncq and Da Cering of China. There was a live TV broadcast on May 4 from the highest camp on the north that afternoon. Six men set out up the northeast ridge at five A.M. on May 5. Ang Lhakpa Sherpa of Nepal, Norburu Yamada of Japan and Cerin Doje of Tibet reached the top at 9:25 A.M. The team from the south had had high winds in the night. Ang Phurba ran out of oxygen two hours before reaching the summit and had to slow down. Ang Phurba, Ringen Puncq and Da Cering gained the top an hour after the north team. It is not clear whether the other three did not attempt the climb or gave up. The six summitters shook hands and planted their respective national flags. Ang Phurba, who was without supplementary oxygen, hurried to the north after 20 minutes. Ang Lhakpa traversed to the south after 90 minutes. The Japanese TV crew, Susuma Nakamura, Syoji Nakamura and Saigusa Teruo, reached their summit "location" at 12:55. The TV transmitter was strapped to Susuma Nakamura's helmet. They soon started beaming the summit rendez-vous to the world. Three others, Lhakpa Sona Sherpa of Nepal, Nunehiko Yamamoto of Japan and Li Zhixin of China, came up from the Tibetan side, but they did not traverse and descended to the north. The first group of three north-side summitters reached Camp IV on the South Col at 7:45 P.M. They were in Base Camp at four the next afternoon. Ang Phurba had a little difficulty descending via the north because of the "unfamiliar route." He stopped at Camp VII. The other two south-side summitters went down to Camp VI. On the following day, Ang Phurba reached Camp III while the other two stopped at Camp IV. All were in Base Camp on May 7. Two other attempts planned for May 8 and 12 were called off. However, Sundare Sherpa, Padma Bahadur Tamang, Ang Rita Sherpa, Narayan Shrestha and Ang Karma Sherpa left Camp IV at 2:50 A.M. on May 10. The last three dropped out after two hours, but Sundare and Padma Bahadur pressed on to reach the summit at 10:45 A.M. They were back in Base Camp on May 12. This was the third time that Yamoto had climbed Everest. Sundare has made five ascents of the mountain.

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

*Everest West Ridge Attempt.* The British Services Everest Expedition attempted to climb Mount Everest from Tibet via the west ridge in the pre-monsoon period. The members were 17 soldiers, ten sailors and Royal Marines, nine airmen and a TV crew. Fifty-two expedition members and 17 tons of stores

arrived at Base Camp by March 13. To get to Advance Base, a mixture of yaks and human porters from expedition members was used. An intermediate camp was set up. Advance Base was finished at 19,600 feet by March 22. The next phase involved forcing the route up the 4000-foot spur that leads onto the west ridge. Merv Middleton's group fixed 2800 feet of rope, the first 300 feet of which were up 70° ice. They got Camp III in by March 27. Then a group led by David Nicholls fixed more of the route up potential avalanche slopes and got in Camp IV at the top of the spur on April 7. On April 12, Henry Day, deputy leader, and a group involving Nigel Williams pressed the route to Camp V, a highly exposed traverse for 1½ kilometers along the west ridge over some difficult snow slopes. The camp was fixed on April 15 at 25,600 feet on the only available flat area which unfortunately acted as a wind tunnel. The first summit bid was set for April 29. Nicholls, Middleton, Maxwell, Garratt, Moore and McLeod failed in their bid because their support group were unable to establish the top assault camp high enough in the Hornbein Couloir. They reached 27,500 feet. Another assault was mounted for May 9. They reached Camp V on May 6. Much snow had fallen and when they got to the huge snowfield leading to the Hornbein Couloir, they found dangerous, unstable conditions and had to withdraw. The last and final attempt was planned for May 17. Nicholls, McLeod, Day and Hughes and their support party reached Camp V on May 15 but a further day had to be spent stocking, delaying the summit bid for a crucial 24 hours. Day had to drop out. The other three spent an uncomfortable night on May 17 in the top camp. Unexpectedly, that night the weather turned bad and a huge storm developed. The next morning, things were worse, but Nicholls and McLeod set out in the storm and forced their way up and over the crux to arrive on the summit snowfield at 28,200 feet. In a fierce blizzard they had an anxious radio conversation with me. With much sadness and disappointment, they withdrew.

DOUGLAS KEELAN, *Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Marines*

*Everest, Northeast Ridge.* Our expedition consisted of climbers Brummie Stokes, leader, Dr. Philip Horniblow, Harry Taylor, Joe Brown, Mo Anthoine, Dr. John English, Pete Long, Ali Kellas, Davy Jones, Ian Nicholson, Trevor Williams, Sam Roberts, Bill Barker, Russell Brice and me as deputy leader. In the course of the expedition, Stokes was struck by three separate attacks of cerebral edema and had to depart from the mountain on August 1, leaving me in charge. Although the plan had been to move by road to the Rongbuk Base Camp, on June 7 we were refused entry into Tibet by the Chinese border guards at Kodari. The whole expedition and its equipment had to be flown to Lhasa, mostly on June 18, and then trucked to Base Camp, at considerable expense and loss of time. From there we had masses of gear to organize into loads for yaks to carry to Advance Base, 14 miles away. After a 19,000-foot intermediate camp had been set up on June 25, by June 29 Mo Anthoine, Pete Long, Harry Taylor, Russell Brice and I had located and set up Advance Base at 21,000 feet on the site of the four previous northeast-ridge expeditions. Despite poor weather, Camp I at 23,200 feet was established on July 5. The long traverse over suspect

avalanche-prone ground up to the Ruphu La was avoided by ascending the right edge of a rock buttress some 1525 feet high. This removed two sides of a large triangle and saved many hours of load carrying. Camp II seemed to be miles away because of the deep snow. Several teams worked on this section, but progress was slow. Many avalanches and high winds made life difficult. Eventually on July 10, Taylor and Brice reached Camp II at 24,000 feet just below the First Buttress, having waded all day in chest-deep snow, with four Sherpas carrying loads behind. Two weeks, interspersed by bad weather, were needed to stock the camp and fix ropes to the top of the Second Buttress. Eventually on August 1, Taylor and Brice left Camp II with small loads, reascended the ropes to the high point at 25,400 feet and continued to fix a small amount of rope to 26,000 feet, where they established Camp III, before returning to Camp II. Lhakpa Gelo and Norbu Sherpa moved up to Camp II to assist them and on the following day they moved up to Camp III. Brice and Taylor were off by 5:30 the following morning. Forty-five minutes of steady plodding took them to the start of the First Pinnacle. Taylor describes the traverse of the ridge thus. "Progress was slow but methodical and soon the 700 feet of 8mm polyprop was in situ. Near the top of the First Pinnacle the ridge started to sharpen but Russell made good progress, leaving his ice axe behind to secure the descent. We arrived back at Camp III just after five P.M. after eleven hours of climbing above 8000 meters. We spent an almost sleepless night even though we were on oxygen. It was six o'clock before we got away laden with sacks weighing 30 kilos. We carried bivy kit, no sleeping bags or tent, a small oxygen bottle and masks to sleep on and the Sony video along with the Racal radio. Our climbing gear was minimal: one length of 8mm polyprop to climb on, one ice tool each and one deadman between us. By eight o'clock we were at our high point. The ridge was truly knife-like with cornices blown to either side and difficult mushrooms. After four hours of tightrope walking, a 55° ramp led off right to the Second Pinnacle. The snow was bottomless and the weather was looking decidedly ominous. The top of the ramp brought us behind the Second Pinnacle. The difficulties remained constant for another two hours up to a subsidiary ridge from the north. It was our first opportunity to sit down without having to cheval. Only two hours of daylight remained as we set off again. Just before the Third Pinnacle, we cut down into a gully and then a small arête where our bivy would have to be. Our plans to leave at midnight to push to the summit were dashed when the snow began. We set off at five in the morning in a virtual white-out. It took two hours to reach the Last Pinnacle, where we descended into a large gully at its foot and traversed around it to the north. Over 18 inches of snow had fallen in the night. We were below and to the left of the First Step at 27,600 feet. Our only option was to descend the north ridge. The weather and conditions were atrocious and our time had run out. The descent was torturous and with both of us extremely tired, we had to rest frequently." Although the summit was not reached, the expedition had succeeded in its aim of climbing the only remaining unclimbed part of the ridge, the Pinnacles.

PAUL MOORES, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Everest Attempt via Hornbein Couloir and Tragedy.* L'Esprit d'Equipe had post-monsoon permits for the Great and Hornbein Couloirs on the north face of Everest. We concentrated on the Hornbein Couloir so that Benoît Chamoux might try a ski descent from the summit and one or more of us an "express" ascent. The same route was climbed in 1986 by Swiss Loretan and Troillet in 40½ hours from a camp at 5800 meters. We arrived at Base Camp at 5200 meters on the main Rongbuk Glacier on August 14 and two days later set up Advance Base near a lake at 5500 meters, a beautiful setting but perhaps a little too high for complete recovery between stints on the north face. I lost more weight than on any previous Himalayan trip. On the morning of August 21, we were awakened in Advance Base by an earthquake which lasted about 30 seconds. In the Everest region the quake caused avalanches everywhere, stripping couloirs on the north face down to ice. An avalanche from Changtse blew gravel through a cache camp we had at 5800 meters and destroyed a tent. On the 23rd we set up Camp I in the middle of the glacier between Changtse and Everest at 6150 meters. We fixed line to 7000 meters and by September 1 had set up Camp II at 7300 meters under a large rock where we found remains of a Spanish camp. After a night there for acclimatization, we descended to Advance Base to prepare for the first summit attempt. On the 6th we had five climbers, Benoît Chamoux, Nicolas Compredon, Georges Sichap, Mauro Russi and me, photographer Pascal Tournaire and filmer Michel Parmentier back in Camp II and Soro Dorotei and Josef Rokoncaj in a makeshift Camp III at 7750 meters. In a similar manner to our Annapurna climb, Russi and I started from Camp II at 10:30 P.M. setting a track for the five Frenchmen behind, while Dorotei and Rakoncaj began at one A.M. to break trail to the Hornbein Couloir. By 3:30 A.M. Russi and I caught the other two at 8000 meters. At 8200 meters we were much less than 24 hours into the climb from the base of the face and a 36-hour ascent was still well within our reach. We had acclimatized above 5000 meters for only three weeks, but we were feeling strong and still climbing, without oxygen, at 100 meters per hour above 8000 meters. The surroundings began to look less and less like a couloir and so we stamped out a ledge in the snow to wait for better light. By five A.M., it was clear we had missed the couloir. Chamoux, Russi, Parmentier and I descended to Camp II and the others all the way to Base. The next morning, the four of us reascended to move Camp III near the base of the Hornbein Couloir. We hoped to go on the next day, but the weather changed and on the 8th we had to descend in a white-out. By the 15th we were all back in Camp III at 8000 meters ready to try in the morning. It had been  $-27^{\circ}$  C in Camp II the night before and we were unwilling to set off from Camp III before six A.M. On the 16th it was clear and windless but the couloir is deep enough not to get sun before noon. Dorotei turned back from 8300 meters with cold hands and feet. Exhausted by three continuous days of trail-breaking on the previous attempt, I realized early that the summit was not within my reach and gave up at 8450 meters. Russi and Chamoux were still climbing strongly and reached 8650 meters by three P.M. They waited there until four P.M. for Rakoncaj and Compedon who had the line for fixing the exit from the couloir onto the west

ridge. With Tournaire and Parmentier still moving up, Chamoux made the cautious decision to bring the entire team down. We agreed that this would be the last attempt, but Parmentier insisted on staying in Camp III to try again. The last radio contact with him was on the 20th. He was at 8400 meters. Efforts to reach him on the 22nd were thwarted by a storm. At the end of September, the Spanish west-ridge party found his body at 7700 meters on the north face. Parmentier had a very small aerobic capacity (VO<sub>2</sub> of 37) and climbed slowly if he did not have anyone to break trail for him. However, he was taking a respiratory stimulant (Almitrine), which enabled him to stay at 8000 meters without deteriorating as fast as most climbers. On K2 in 1986, he spent six continuous days near or above 8000 meters and made it back down. On Everest he had already been at 8000 meters for six continuous days at the time of the last radio contact. Perhaps his supply of Almitrine ran out. The team did not use artificial oxygen anywhere on the mountain. I avoided pulmonary edema (previous episodes in 1981 and 1987) by using dexamethasone above 6000 meters.

STEVE BOYER, M.D.

*Everest Attempt.* Climbing the historic route which claimed the lives of Mallory and Irvine in 1924, the Wyoming Centennial Everest Expedition, commonly called "Cowboys on Everest," led by Courtney Skinner, fought against weather conditions resulting from the heaviest monsoon in years according to Tibetan locals. On the approach, rains caused landslides, vanished roads and washed-out bridges and delayed the arrival at Base Camp until August 25 after nearly 25 days of travel and waiting. From Base Camp at 17,000 feet, we set up three camps to Advance Base at 21,325 feet at the foot of the North Col. It took twelve days to fix the route up the col. A safe line was used up the center of the sérac field. Camp IV was set up on the col on September 21 and a few days later a group reached Camp V at 25,000 feet. Winds destroyed tents at Camps IV and V and, after several more tries, the expedition was called off on October 14. The team returned to Base Camp after 57 days on the mountain. The members were leader Courtney Skinner's brother Orion and his father Bob Skinner, Quint Barney, Bob Bohus, Peter Breslow, Doug Burbank, Jim Burnett, Julie Cheney, Sue Cobb, Carl Coy, Rick Dare, Matt Ellenthal, Mack Ellerby, Dave Frawley, Ethan Goldings, Ross Greenlee, Ted Handwerk, Sibylle Hechtel, Alexandra Hildebrandt, Sherri King, Steve Marts, Brian McLean, Dave McNally, Dave Padwa, Mark Pilon, Fred Riedman, Jim Robinson, Jeb Schenck, Anne Stroock, Brad Wertz and I.

STEPHEN GARDINER, *Unaffiliated*

*Scientific Programs on the Wyoming Everest Expedition.* Expedition members participated in valuable scientific programs including atmospheric chemistry sampling; geological research pertaining to the uplift history of the Everest region; demonstrating a weather forecasting model of the meteorology depart-



ment of Penn State University through the daily use of electronic mail via our laptop computer and a suitcase-sized satellite phone provided by COMSAT; and the testing of a high-altitude pressure bag for the emergency treatment of acute mountain sickness. This last device, first thought of by Dr. Charles Houston in the 1930s, is both simple and obvious. It weighs only seven pounds. The flexible fabric bag needs no artificial oxygen. It is pressurized with a foot pump to simulate a lower altitude. It was employed to good effect by expedition MDs to treat a number of serious cases of pulmonary and cerebral edema and it seems likely that at least one fatality was prevented by its use. Tragically, a French expedition to Cho Oyu on an acclimatization walk to our base area suffered the death of an experienced climber from pulmonary edema. Having left Paris eight days earlier, his ascent to 5180 meters was extremely rapid. He perished overnight quite near our simple apparatus which might have saved his life if its presence had been known.

DAVID PADWA

*Everest, Kangshung Face Attempt.* In the post-monsoon season, we were a small team with no support personnel or porters, although we had 43 yaks and a small group of family and friends who accompanied us to the Kharta and then the Kama valleys as far as Pethange and some as far as Base Camp before returning to civilization. The seven climbers were Andy Politz, Ed Viesturs, Dr. Gary Troyer, Jan Schwartzberg, Donnie Mims, Joe Dinnen and me. We chose a line up the left side of the buttress directly below the South Col because the right side, done brilliantly a few months before by Ed Webster and his team, was no longer an option due to daily and sometimes twice-daily avalanches. The route on the left offered an only slightly more protected line up a gully, with a traverse out onto the face itself. The climbing was steep but quite straightforward. Lying at the junction of Everest and Lhotse, one was in the path whenever either mountain avalanched. After fixing ropes and placing most of the necessary food and equipment at Camp I at 19,500 feet, we experienced a large avalanche, which carried away much of the equipment and food. Fortunately, no one was hurt. It was by then too late to try another route and time and supplies were running out. We decided reluctantly to turn back. A word to save others some of the headaches we encountered. The Chinese Mountaineering Association liaison officer spoke only Chinese. Our interpreter spoke Chinese and English and so it was not possible to speak with the Tibetans. Neither man actually went farther than the roadhead at Kharta. Also, take precautions that nothing is stolen. The yak drivers seem to have developed a help-yourself attitude toward gear, clothing, food and fuel.

RICHARD W. TYRRELL

*Everest Attempt by a New Route.* Canadian Barry Blanchard and I attempted a new route on the north side of Everest without fixed rope, camps or supple-

mentary oxygen. We followed the spur between the two large couloirs that go up into the pinnacles on the northeast ridge. Starting on October 4 we made three attempts on this route. The first try ended at 23,000 feet with me descending to get overboots and Blanchard trading his ski pole for a second ice tool as the route was harder than we had expected. On October 5 we reached 24,500 feet and Blanchard got pulmonary edema. On the third try on October 12, we left Advance Base at ten P.M., bivouacked at 25,000 feet at seven A.M. and continued up to 26,400 feet, where Blanchard had to turn back with cerebral edema; he had a headache and loss of vision. To retreat, we traversed to the north ridge since we thought it too difficult to down-climb our route. At the North Col, the Wyoming team gave us a bottle of oxygen, which I suspect saved Blanchard's life. We descended to Base Camp at 17,000 feet. Two days later, we gave up on the new route and tried Messner's North Face-Great Couloir line. We went from 17,000 to 27,500 feet in 50 hours. I did not sleep or eat anything and threw up almost everything I drank. At the high point I could not keep my hands and feet warm and often fell asleep while climbing. Blanchard climbed 100 feet higher and retreated too.

MARC FRANCIS TWIGHT

*Everest Winter Attempt.* A Japanese expedition led by Tsuneo Hasegawa attempted to make a winter ascent of Mount Everest by a route on the eastern end of the north face. It reached 8000 meters on December 26 but had to give up.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Changtse.* I was the leader of a 16-person Italian expedition to Changtse in July and August. We got to Base Camp at 5100 meters late in July. Camps I, II and III were at 5850, 6250 and 6900 meters, the latter on the ridge of Changtse. Because of much snow on the long ridge, we climbed to 6900 meters by a new route on the southeast face. On August 9, Zefferino Moreschini, Filippo Sala and Franco Vivarelli reached the summit of Changtse (7583 meters, 24,879 feet). On August 12, Stefano Mazzoli, Ermanno Boccolari, Duzzi Loris and Soci Roberto also got to the top.

ARTURO BERGAMASCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Changtse, South Face Attempt.* On September 3, Dan Langmade, Stan Mish, Guy and Yvette Toombs and I crossed the Nepalese border into Tibet and arrived at the Everest Base Camp on the 6th. On September 9 we made our Base Camp on the East Rongbuk Glacier at 6100 meters just under the northeast ridge of Changtse. After acclimatization, we made camp at 6550 meters at the traditional Everest camp site below the North Col. On September 21, all but Yvette Toombs began to climb the south face of Changtse, following a snow route close to a prominent buttress. We reached the top of the buttress at 7050 meters at 12:30



P.M. and Langmade headed down because of illness. We continued up the south face, but at 4:30 P.M. from 7300 meters we descended due to bad weather. On September 24, I tried the route solo, starting at ten P.M. At eleven o'clock A.M. on the 25th I stopped at 7490 meters, just short of the summit, at the base of the final summit pyramid, feeling that a windslab would slide if I continued. Finding no way around the windslab, I descended to Base Camp.

KEITH BROWN

*Changtse, Northeast Ridge Attempt.* We arrived at Everest Base Camp after a five-day motorcade adventure from Lhasa. Initially blessed with good weather, we were able to establish Camp I and Advance Base at 18,000 and 20,000 feet on September 13 and 16. Deteriorating weather delayed placing Camp III at 21,000 feet until the 19th. High winds and snowfall prevented establishment of Camp IV at 23,000 feet until September 25. We installed Camp IIIA at 22,000 feet on the 26th just below 600 feet of fixed line in the couloir leading to Changtse's upper plateau for logistical support above. While Mike Meyer, Ziggy Muhlhauser and I ferried loads from Camps IIIA to IV on September 28, Terry McNeil and David Tollakson made a summit bid from Camp IV. Waist-deep snow, hazardous winds and avalanche conditions on the long, knife-edged northeast ridge forced them to retreat from 23,750 feet, a mile from and 1000 feet below the summit. Further deteriorating weather caused our withdrawal.

PAUL PFAU

*Changtse Attempt.* New Zealand guides Shaun Norman and Mike Perry with clients Dave Massam, Gordon Hassell and Barry Bridgeman attempted the Japanese route on the north face of Changtse in the pre-monsoon period. They reached a high point of 7100 meters.

COLIN MONTEATH, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Cho Oyu Ascent and Tragedy.* Our expedition consisted of Swiss Stefan Wörner and Germans Hans Engl, Heinz Zemsch and me. We crossed into Tibet from Nepal via Kodari/Zhangmu, went to Tingri for a few days of acclimatization and continued by truck to Kyetrak. Although we set out with yaks on April 16, because of the drivers' strikes we got to Base Camp at 5400 meters only on the 20th. We climbed the standard route on the west face and northwest ridge. We set up Camps I, II and III at 6300, 6700 and 7350 meters on April 25, May 2 and 9. On May 10 at eight A.M., Engl and I started for the summit, Zemsch a half hour later and Wörner a half hour after him. Soon Zemsch turned back with frozen fingers. Wörner went on to the Yellow Band at 7500 meters but also turned back as he was not feeling well. At two o'clock, Engl and I got to the summit and at six P.M. were back in Camp III. It stormed in the night. Nevertheless, Wörner wanted to try it again. Zemsch declined to accompany

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1988 North Face Yugoslav Route on Cho Oyu

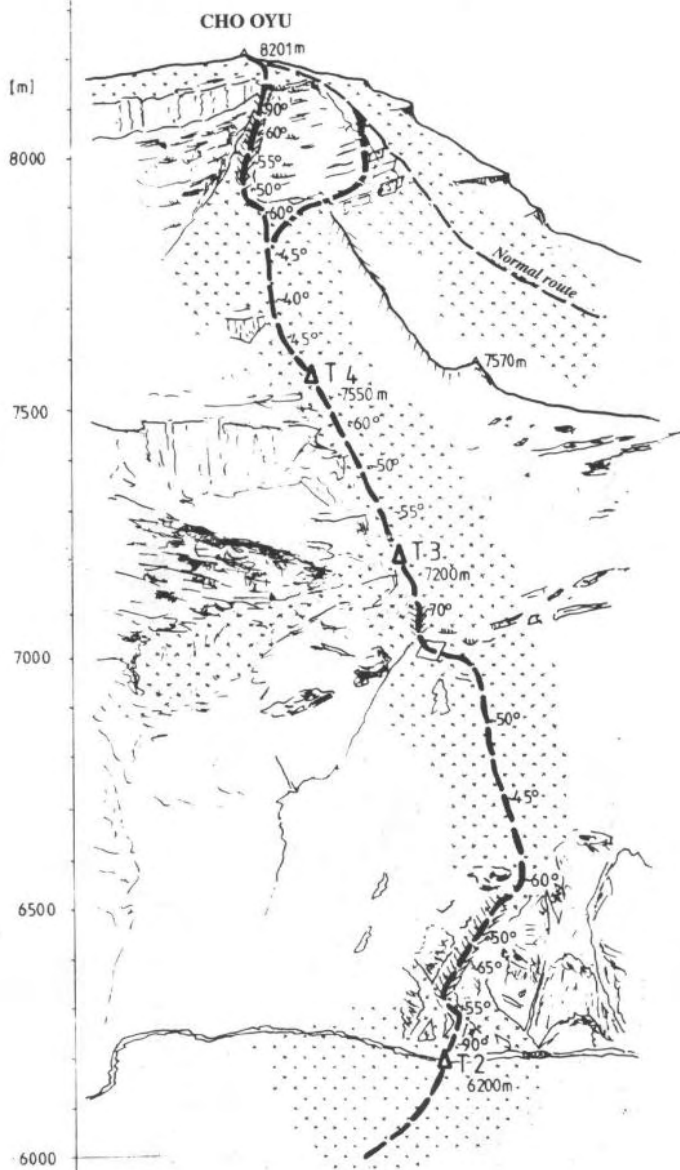
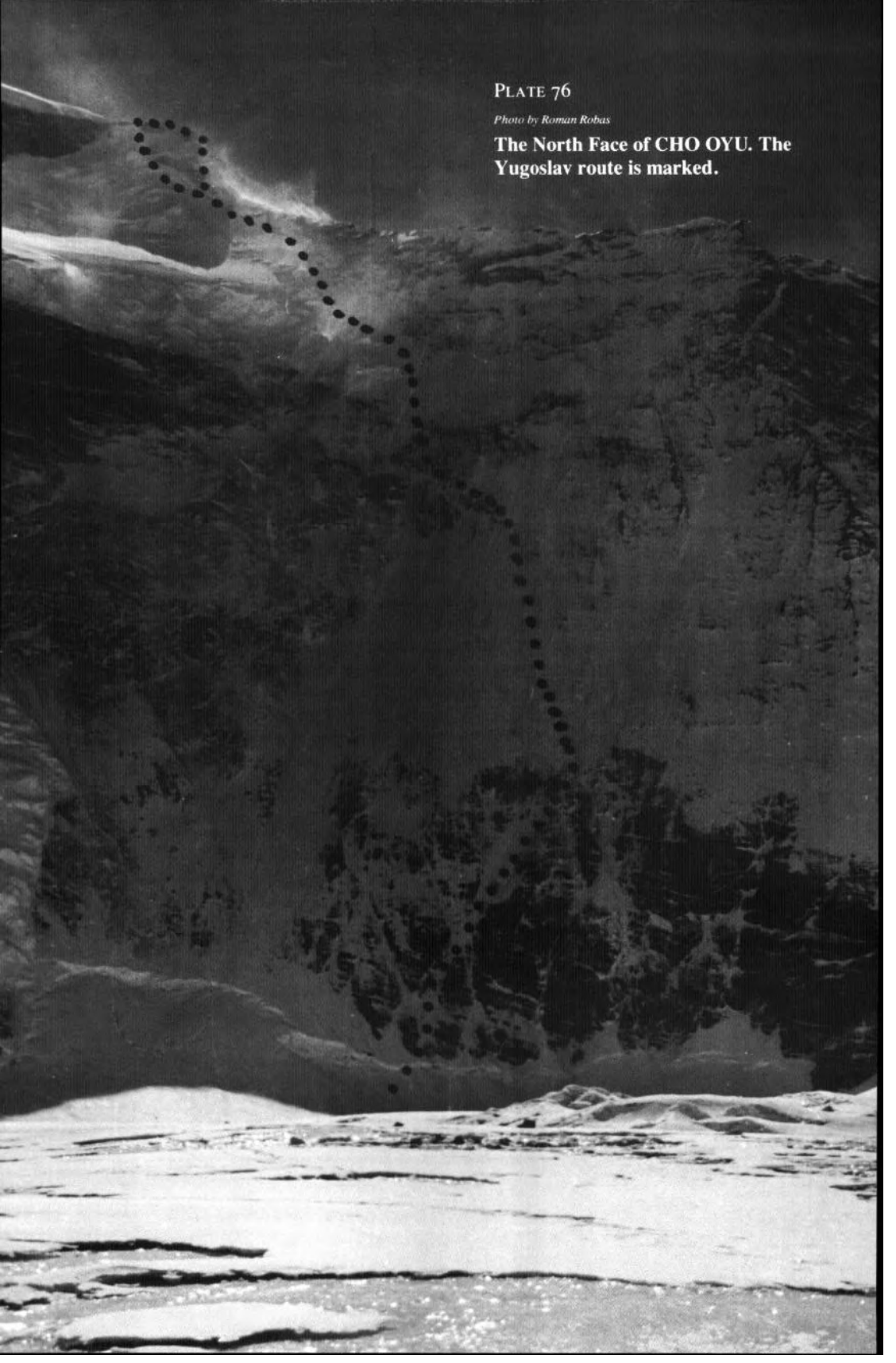


PLATE 76

*Photo by Roman Robas*

**The North Face of CHO OYU. The Yugoslav route is marked.**



him but agreed to wait in Camp III for him. Engl and I started the descent around noon and got to Base Camp the next day, May 12. The following night at eleven P.M., Zembsch joined us in Base Camp with the following report. Wörner had reached the summit on May 11 at six P.M. and got back to Camp III at 10:30. The next morning he was in no condition to descend and Zembsch could not persuade him to try. Apparently Wörner was suffering from cerebral edema, from which he doubtless subsequently died. In the afternoon Zembsch decided to descend because he too was not in good shape, having spent three nights at 7350 meters. That night he bivouacked at 6700 meters and arrived on the following night at Base Camp. Futile efforts were made on May 14 and 17 to get up to Wörner's tent but heavy snowfall and avalanche danger prevented this. An American, Keith Brown, tried to ascend at the same time, but he had to give up in an attempt to rescue Wörner.

GERHARD SCHMATZ, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Cho Oyu Attempt.* On April 9, Australian Bill Harkin and I arrived at Tingri. Difficulties with yak drivers and moraine snow drifts prevented our establishing Base Camp at 5700 meters until the 27th. We attempted the northwest-face route with camps at 6850, 7200 and 7580 meters. Our route differed from the standard one from 7200 meters on as we tried to gain the summit snowfield from the extreme western edge of the face. Our first summit attempt failed in high winds and with a broken crampon. I made a second solo summit try from May 10 to 13 but ended it to try to rescue Stefan Wörner. (See above.)

KEITH BROWN

*Cho Oyu.* Our expedition, Ugo and Gerolamo Gianola, Erma Pomoni, Flavio Spazzadeschi, Sandro Benzoni, Dr. Giuliano De Marchi, Lino Zani and I as leader, climbed Cho Oyu by the normal northwest side. We reached Tingri on April 10, where we spent four days acclimatizing. On April 14 Ugo and Gerolamo Gianola had to go back temporarily to the border village of Khasa with altitude problems. Dr. De Marchi accompanied them. The rest of us reached Base Camp at 4860 meters by truck that same day. On the 16th, supported by yak transport, we left for Advance Base, which was installed on April 20 at 5350 meters. After Gerolamo Gianola's return on April 19, on the 24th he had to descend to Base Camp with retinal hemorrhages. Benzoni also had to withdraw because of altitude problems. We established Camp I at 6000 meters just at the base of the mountain on April 21 and Camp II at 6500 meters just below the icefall on the ridge on the 25th. On April 30, De Marchi, Zani and Spazzadeschi ascended with one tent to 7000 meters at the top of the icefall. I stayed one more day at Camp II, hoping to ascend the next day to a proposed camp at 7400 meters with Pomoni and Ugo Gianola. On May 1, instead of raising the camp, the other three left early for the summit, which they reached between four and six P.M. I ascended solo to 7000 meters, where I waited for my

friends to return from the summit; they were back at midnight. At one A.M. on May 2, I left for the summit in the moonlight. It was extremely cold and windy, but I was on top at nine A.M. and back in Camp III at noon, where my friends were waiting for me. I decided to spend one more night at Camp III but was caught for 36 hours in a bad storm. I was not back in Base Camp until May 5. No more summit attempts were made.

ORESTE FORNO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Cho Oyu in the Post-Monsoon Season.* A large number of expeditions were on the Tibetan side of Cho Oyu climbing the standard route. Before his speed climb on Everest, Marc Batard made a remarkable ascent of Cho Oyu in company with Sundare Sherpa. Without tracks left by anyone high on the mountain, these two set out from Base Camp at 5700 meters, climbed to the summit of Cho Oyu in 21 hours, reaching the top on September 1, and were back in Base Camp 29 hours after they had started. Other than climbs mentioned separately, there were the following. A large commercial group led by Michel Vincent was composed of 15 French, a Spaniard, a Swiss and a Belgian. French guide Daniel Bovéro died of pulmonary edema during a preliminary excursion to the Everest Base Camp, which was to have provided acclimatization. On September 12, Bruno Cormier, Erik Decamp, Raymond Eyenard-Machet, Bruno Gouvy, Mlle Véronique Perillat, Vincent, Ang Dorje Sherpa and Da Gombu Sherpa got to the summit. They were followed on September 14 by Belgian Jean-Michel Hoeffelman, Spaniard José Luis Sesma, Vincent and Da Gombu again and Lhakpa Gyalu Sherpa. On September 13, an Italian group led by Fabio Agostinis placed Elvio Ferigo and Alberto Busettini on top. On September 17, Italians Sergio Martini and Fausto De Stefani made the ascent. Another Italian expedition first unsuccessfully tried the north ridge, getting to 6800 meters on September 12, before the leader Mario Conti, Mario Panzeri, Floriano Castelnuovo and Lorenzo Mazzoleni got to the summit on September 27 by the normal route. On October 16, Pole Piotr Henschke was successful. On November 6, Noboru Yamada and three other Japanese made the ascent.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Cho Oyu, North Face.* Our expedition scouted the previously almost unknown north face of Cho Oyu and climbed a fine direct route. The face is impressive: four kilometers wide and more than 2000 meters high. It is hidden by smaller peaks in front of it. All seven members reached the summit. On November 2, Dr. Iztok Tomazin made a solo push to the summit from Camp III at 7200 meters. He descended the normal route, completing the trip back down to Base Camp 29 hours after he had left Camp III. Two days later, Camp IV was established at 7550 meters. From there, on November 5, Viki Grošelj and Jože Rozman made a variant slightly to the right and climbed to the summit. Marko Prezelj and Rado Nadvešnik on November 8 and Blaž Jereb and I on November

9 climbed to the top. The hardest part of this difficult route was the exit from the last pitch of the couloir at 8140 meters. The weather was good except for very low temperatures. Almost all members suffered some frostbite.

ROMAN ROBAS, *Planinska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*Cho Oyu Attempt.* On October 13, Dan Langmade and I arrived at the Cho Oyu Base Camp at 5700 meters to attempt the standard route. We set up Camps I, II and III at 6850, 7200 and 7650 meters on October 14, 15 and 16. On October 17 we climbed to 7800 meters but turned back because of high winds and cold. We hoped for another attempt on the 18th, but high winds destroyed our tent in the night and we retreated to Base Camp. There was no time for a second attempt.

KEITH BROWN

*Menlungtse Western Summit.* Menlungtse (7181 meters, 23,560 feet) is one of the most beautiful and difficult peaks in the Himalaya. It has two summits and the higher one to the east remains unclimbed. The local Tibetan name is Jobo Garu, but Eric Shipton named it Menlungtse when he and Michael Ward were the first Europeans to enter the Menlung valley in 1951. Our Norwegian-British expedition of 1987 did not succeed in climbing the peak by the south buttress. In 1988, the entire team assembled in Kathmandu on March 31 planning to cross the border at the Friendship Bridge on April 5 only to receive a telex from the Chinese Mountaineering Association that it was not convenient for us to climb Menlungtse. After a week of frantic telexes to Beijing, we at last received permission to cross the border. We had been pawns in a wrangle between the CMA and the Tibetan authorities over who had the right to give permission for Menlungtse. We finally crossed the border on April 12 to be met by Fan Xiachan, our competent and friendly interpreter, who told us that our Tibetan liaison officer had been forbidden to join us. We set out from the roadhead a few miles short of the Tibetan side of the Nangpa La on April 18 with 89 yaks for the Fushi La and the Rongshar valley. We reached the village of Chang Bu Jiang on April 21 and changed yaks there to reach Base Camp on April 27 at 4585 meters at the yak herders' camp at Palbugthang, near Advance Base of 1987. The most attractive route seemed to be the east ridge, which leads straight to the main summit. On the 28th Americans David Breashears and Steve Shea and I walked up the valley but the east ridge looked formidable, being very long, bristling with cornices and steep on either side. We decided to attempt the west ridge, though it did entail crossing the west summit and making a high, but seemingly easy, traverse of a mile to the east summit. On May 1, Breashears, Shea, Andy Fanshawe and I climbed P 5753 (18,875 feet) to the immediate south of Base Camp to acclimatize and get good views of the west ridge. After fixing 180 meters of rope on mixed ground on the bottom of the ridge, we set out on May 7 and reached 5800 meters after climbing a steep open ice gully to the crest of the



PLATE 77

*Photo by Christian Bonington*

**MENLUNG TSE.**



west ridge and a good camp site. The following morning, a long easy traverse across the hanging glacier that covers the center of the west face took us to a wide scoop leading into the center of the face. Above some hard green ice, we made another good camp at 6250 meters in a wide, filled crevasse below a huge bergschrund. That night, I led a rope-length up 50° ice and the following morning we set off, hoping to reach and climb the headwall. A storm seemed to threaten and since we had reached another bergschrund with a perfect camp site, we stopped there at 6600 meters. As we enjoyed the afternoon's rest, Breashears ran out our two ropes towards the gully that appeared to lead through the headwall. On May 10, a diagonal traverse of five pitches, at first on névé and then on green ice, took us to the foot of the headwall. Since it didn't look as if we could get through that day, we retreated. After four days, we had another look at the east ridge, this time going onto the glacier on its east flank, but this aspect looked even worse. Breashears and Shea felt they didn't want to go back to the west ridge but they gallantly carried gear for Britons Andy Fanshawe and Alan Hinkes up our fixed ropes on the west ridge on May 18. The latter two reached Camp I on May 19 but were tired enough to have a rest day. On May 21, they had a long day, moving to Camp III at 6600 meters. A severe thunderstorm that night covered their tent and forced them to shift it to a safer place. The next morning, their ropes had been buried and it took them four hours to dig them out. By that time, it was too late to start and they had another rest day. The morning of May 23 dawned cloudy and threatening. They delayed setting out until nine A.M., travelling light. Instead of traversing to the gully as on the first attempt, they climbed straight up towards the headwall, reaching it around midday. The rock on the wall was loose and difficult with mixed climbing on thin slabs alternating with icy runnels. The top was the crux and ascended a frighteningly loose overhanging chimney. Once on the ridge, their troubles were not over, with powder snow covering smooth slabs for forty meters until they reached firm snow. They kept on in the dark by the light of a headlamp to reach the west summit (7023 meters, 23,042 feet) at 10:30 Beijing time. Before dark, they had superb views of Cho Oyu, Gyachung Kang and the east summit of Menlungtse, a mile away across a broad, easy saddle that led to the knife-edged summit ridge of green ice. Having been on the go for 13½ hours, they decided to satisfy themselves with the west summit. After a precarious descent in the dark, they got back to Camp III at two A.M. to find a hole in the tent from one of the rocks they had dislodged on the headwall. They returned to the bottom the following day.

CHRISTIAN BONINGTON, A.A.C and Alpine Climbing Group

*Shisha Pangma and Cho Oyu.* Both peaks were climbed by the standard routes, by which the first ascents had been made. Shisha Pangma was climbed in classic style from Base Camp at 5100 meters but without high-altitude porters. Camps were at 5700, 6300, 6900 and 7350 meters. Shisha Pangma was climbed by the following: Austrians Klaus Gürtler and Peter Konzert and German

Tillmann Fischbach on May 15 (Netherlander Edward Becker got to the central summit); Germans Bernd Kullmann, Adolf Metzger, Klaus Schuhmann and Austrian Herta Og on May 14; Germans Jürgen Schütz, Thomas Hochholzer, Wolfgang Kunzendorf, Dieter Thomann and Austrian Hans Bärnthaler on May 17. Germans Walter Hölzler and Peter Kuge got to the central summit on May 15. (This summit has previously often been referred to as the western summit.) Cho Oyu was climbed alpine-style from Base Camp at 4900 meters. Bivouacs were at 5500, 6000, 6500 and 7300 meters. The summit of Cho Oyu was reached on May 30 by Gürtler, Konzert and Fischbach and on June 3 by Bärnthaler, Kunzendorf and Thomann. This expedition, of which I was the leader, approached and left by way of Kathmandu and Nepal.

GÜNTER HÄRTER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Shisha Pangma and Unique Training Method.* On September 5, I reached the summit of Shisha Pangma with Italians Fausto De Stefani and Sergio Martini by the normal route. We had Base Camp, Camps I, II and III at 5550, 6400, 6900 and 7300 meters. We had no particular problems aside from deep snow, which made trail-breaking arduous and caused avalanche danger in the leftwards traverse of the summit slopes. On September 6, Italians Giorgio Daidola and Pino Negri and Frenchman Didier Givois also reached the summit. Daidola and Givois descended on nordic skis. For me, the originality of the expedition was in my preparation: acclimatization at home. With the aid of a pump, I placed myself in a huge plastic sack, which held some 2000 liters, in which a mixture of air was present which corresponds to the air that would be breathed at one or another altitude. Then with the help of a tube and mask, I breathed this mixture while riding an ergometric bicycle. I began at a simulated altitude of 4000 meters and ended at 5800 meters. This preparation lasted for 20 days. It gave positive results as tested in the hospital before my training, before my departure and after my return from Shisha Pangma. Although I had not been at altitude for three years, I climbed to the summit ten days after arriving in Base Camp. The work was done in collaboration with Dr. Corinne Cristol of the Centre Pilote d'Escalade et d'Alpinisme in Vaulx en Velin, Professor André Geysant of the GIP Exercice of the St. Etienne Hospital and me. The study continues.

PATRICK BERHAULT, *Club Alpin Français*

*Kanggado.* Our 15-member Doshisha University party, with me as climbing leader, left Lhasa on February 13 and established Base Camp at 4700 meters at the right edge of Nyarun. Advance Base was at 5300 meters. Camp I was established on February 15 on the northeast ridge at 5900 meters. There was very steep ice on a step at 6200 meters, which required much fixed rope. Camp II was placed at 6450 meters on February 22. The summit was reached on February 24 by T. Miiyazaki and A. Takano and on February 26 by T. Iwata, T. Kokuhsa and a high-altitude porter Sonnamu Tselin. The high point (7055

meters, 23,146 feet) is the south peak, but this lies 800 meters beyond the 7037-meter north peak, which we had to climb over. The drop beyond was 70 meters and this traverse was very long and tiring.

SHINICHI NAITO, *Doshisha University, Japan*

*Gurla Mandhata (Naimona'nyi), 1987.* The Sino-Japanese Joint Friendship Expedition had as its chief leader (A.A.C. honorary member) Shi Zhan Chun, as deputy leaders Chinese Liu Dayi and Japanese Atsuo Saito and as climbing leader Japanese Katsutoshi Hirabayashi. After leaving Kashi on April 13 and 14, 1987, we gathered at Base Camp at 4700 meters at Sekang on the northwest side of Gurla Mandhata (Naimona'nyi) on April 25. Advance Base was established on May 2 at the tongue of the Zalongmalongba Glacier. We ascended the lateral moraine and established Camp I on May 7. Camps II and III were placed on the glacier at 6720 and 7260 meters on May 11 and 16. We decided to put Camp IV on the large plateau at the top of the glacier and reconnoitered the route to the summit on May 19. After that, snow fell for three days. On May 25, the weather improved and we established Camp IV at 7420 meters. On May 26, 1987, Chinese Jing Junxi, Jiabu, Song Zhiyi and Ciren Dorje and Japanese Yoshiharu Suita, Kozo Matsubayashi, Toyoji Wada, and Keiichiro Suita climbed to the ridge up the largest gully closest to the summit and reached the top (7694 meters, 25,243 feet) at 11:45 A.M. The next day, Chinese Yang Jinhui, Qimi, Chen Jianjun, Liu Chusheng and Bao Doqing stood on the summit, too. One Japanese member had collapsed from pulmonary edema at Camp IV and so the other members worked hard to rescue him, giving up the opportunity to get to the summit. On June 1, all members were back in Base Camp and well.

TSUNAHIDE SHIDEI, *Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto, Japan*

### Western China

*K2 North Ridge Attempt.* We started from Rawalpindi in Pakistan on May 11, crossed the Khunjerab Pass and reached Kashgar on May 16. We were six climbers: Gérard Bretin, François Marsigny, Pierre Royer, Frédéric Valet, my wife Annie and I. Jacques Valet was the doctor. We left Mazar, the last military post in the Kunlun mountains, on May 20. It took six days to arrive at "Base Camp" at Sughet Jungal at 3800 meters with our 60 camels, 20 camel drivers, donkeys and sheep! As we were far from the real Base Camp at the foot of K2 at 4900 meters, we were helped by four Sherpas, who had joined us in Rawalpindi and had come from Kathmandu, to carry between the two camps. This took six to eight hours of harsh walking. Despite poor weather and very hard ice on the first slopes, we made good progress. Camps I and II had been established at 5600 and 6600 meters by June 20. Ropes were fixed up to 6000 meters. The first part of the ridge was quite dangerous because of rockfall and avalanches. By the end of June we dismantled Camp I, although the trip from Base Camp to Camp II was long: 1700 meters and 7 to 10 hours. Early in July we made the first summit