members were Canadians Martyn Williams, leader, and Stuart Hamilton, Briton Mike Sharp, Chilean Alejo Contreras Staeding, Indian J.K. Bajaj, and Americans Victoria Murden, Jerry Corr, Sherly Metz, Ron Milnarek, Joseph E. Murphy Jr. and I.

## JAMES WILLIAMS

Tyree, Shinn and the Vinson Massif. Mugs Stump made an impressive solo first ascent of the 8000-foot-high west face of Mount Tyree. He feels that it is "perhaps the hardest route yet accomplished by man." This was the second ascent of Tyree. On the same day, New Zealander Rob Hall repeated the Chouinard route on Mount Shinn, adding a direct line to the summit, solo, in eleven hours. Mugs Stump, Ed Stump and New Zealanders Hall and Paul Fitzgerald also repeated the standard route on Vinson in December. Their group was independent of mine. Officially they were in Antarctica to carry out geological research. Mugs Stump returned to Antarctica in January 1990 and guided several clients up the normal route on Vinson. I went to Antarctica with Canadian Rob Mitchell, German Klaus Wengen, American Ken Kammler and Netherlander Peter Kinchen. On December 9, we all ascended an unnamed mountain of about 12,000 feet at the head of the valley north of the standard Base Camp. On December 14, Wengen, Kammler and I climbed to the summit of Vinson by a variant of the normal route. We avoided the icefall below the col between Vinson and Shinn by following the very prominent first ridge to the north. Future parties should consider this slightly more difficult but much safer alternative. Unfortunately, Kinchin developed frostbite in his right foot and all further climbing objectives had to be abandoned. I have now climbed to the highest point of all seven continents. If Carstenz Pyramid counts as the highest point in Australasia, I am now the only American to have done so.

## GEOFFREY TABIN, M.D.

## ASIA

#### Nepal

*Altitude Corrections.* Buddhi Shrestha, Surveyor General of Nepal, has been kind enough to make the following corrections in the altitudes which were given in *AAJ*, *1985* in the "Classification of the Himalaya." Nepal Peak is 7168 meters, 23,518 feet (not 6910 meters). Langtang Lirung is 7225 meters, 23,704 feet (not 7234 meters). Ganesh II is 7163 meters, 23,501 feet (not 7111 meters). Palta Thumba is 6157 meters, 20,200 feet (not 6126 meters).

Kangchenjunga Traverses. The second Soviet Himalayan expedition had 32 members, of whom 22 climbers spent two years of hard training and high-

altitude acclimatization in the Caucasus, Pamir and Tien Shan. The leader was Eduard Myslovsky, who in 1982 made a new route with Vladimir Balyberdin and others on the southwest face of Everest. The expedition left Moscow on February 8 and arrived with 600 porters at their 5350-meter Base Camp below the normal route on March 4. The Soviet climbers with the help of Sherpas established five camps on the slopes of the main, central, south summits of Kangchenjunga and of Yalung Kang, which is the westernmost top of Kangchenjunga. On April 9, Vasily Yelagin, Vladimir Korotaev, Eugeny Klinezky and Alexander Sheinov ascended to the main summit, making its 27th ascent. On April 15, Sergei Bershov, Viktor Pastuk, Mikhail Turkevich and Rinat Chaibullin made the third ascent of the south summit. That same day, Balyberdin, Sergei Arsentiev, Anatoly Bukreev and Valery Khrishchaty made the fourth ascent of the central summit. On April 16, Kazbek Valiev, Viktor Dedy, Grigory Lunjakov, Vladimir Suviga, Zijnur Khalitov, Alexander Glushkovsky. Yuri Moiseev and Leonid Troshchinenko reached the main summit. On April 18, Eugeny Vinogradsky, Korotaev, Mikhail Mozaev and Alexander Pogorelov again got to the south summit. On April 29, Pastuk, Mozaev, Korotaev, Chaibullin and Sergei Bogomolov reached the main summit and Pastuk, Mozaev and Korotaev continued on over the south summit. On April 30, the traverse of the entire ridge began. The first group traversed from Yalung Kang to the main, central and south summits mainly, but not entirely, along the summit ridges. Bershov, Bukreev, Vinogradsky, Pogorelov and Turkevich made the 15th ascent of Yalung Kang and traversed to Camp V below the main summit. On May 1, they left Camp V at eight A.M. and were on the main summit at 10:10. After an hour's rest in mild, windless weather, they continued on to reach the central summit at 12:40 and the south summit at three P.M. All five used supplementary oxygen. This first group was accompanied to the summit of Yalung Kang on April 30 by Arsentiev, Klinezky, Suviga, Khrishchaty, Dedy and Sheinov. On May 1, a second group of five attacked the south summit first. The leader of the group Elagin, Lunyakov and Khalitov with oxygen got to the south summit at 12:10 P.M. but were obliged to wait for Balyberdin and Korotaev, who were without oxygen. It was decided that all should continue on oxygen. At 3:40 they reached the central summit and traversed to Camp V between the main summit and Yalung Kang. On May 2, they climbed to the main summit and then reached Yalung Kang at 2:10 P.M. This completed the traverse by ten climbers in opposite directions. On May 3, the main summit was ascended by Soviets Nikolai Cherny and Sergei Yefimov and Ang Babu Sherpa. In most cases the Soviets used supplementary oxygen for safety sake. However, Kazbek Valiev's group on April 16 climbed without it. The next day, while the group was descending, Dr. Karpenko examined Valiev, who was not feeling well, and found that he was being threatened by edema. (The Editor is very grateful to Dr. Kolev, who was not part of the Soviet team, for this information.)

SVETOSLAV KOLEV, Bulgarian Mountaineering Federation

Kangchenjunga from the North. Our expedition consisted of Lou Whittaker, leader, George Dunn, Phil Ershler, Jim Hamilton, Robert Link, Larry Nielsen, Dr. Howard Putter, John Roskelley, Eric Simonson, Craig Van Hoy, Ed Viesturs, Jim Wickwire, Skip Yowell and me. We also were joined by Nawang Gombu and six Sherpas. Four Indonesian climbers traveled to Base Camp as training for a future Himalayan expedition of their own. Political trouble between India and Nepal delayed the arrival of our gear until long after we got to Base Camp at Pang Pema at 16,500 feet at the north foot of Kangchenjunga. Outfitted with little more than the hope that our equipment would join us soon, we established Camp I three days later at 17,000 feet on the gently sloping Kangchenjunga Glacier. On April 13, we sited Camp II just above a small icefall at the head of the glacier below the Twins and at the foot of the 3000-foot wall leading to the north col. When our gear finally did arrive, it was only 75% complete but it renewed our enthusiasm. Choosing a line between Scott's and Messner's up the west wall, we established Camp III in the bergschrund at 21,500 feet on April 20. Steep ice and rock complicated by bad weather slowed progress. Not until May 10 could we place 24,000-foot Camp IV above the north col and along the north ridge. Seven days later, Camp V was established and occupied by Phil Ershler, Craig Van Hoy and Ed Viesturs. May 18 dawned beautiful and the three joined Scott's route and traversed the north face to the summit, which they reached in 81/2 hours. Van Hoy and Viesturs climbed without oxygen. On May 21, Link, Nielsen and I repeated the ascent with Link leading strongly through deep snow deposited by the previous day's storm. Nielsen and I climbed without supplementary oxygen.

## GREG WILSON

*Kangchenjunga Solo Attempt*. I was accompanied to Base Camp at 5050 meters at Pang Pema, which we reached on October 10, by Jean-Yves Goutte, Mlle Monique Loscos and Jean-Louis Teyssier. I attempted the 1980 Japanese route, placing Camps I and II at 6000 and 6850 meters on October 18 and 23. I encountered the principal technical difficulty on October 24, a very steep mixed zone above 7000 meters, some 200 meters in height, where I fixed 50 meters of rope. I got to about 7100 meters. The first summit try got me to Camps I and II on October 29 and 30, but was stopped by a 40-cm fall of snow. On the second summit attempt I climbed from Base Camp to Camp II on November 3. That camp was destroyed by high winds and I returned to Base Camp on the 4th. I stayed there until November 9, but the wind continued and I gave up the attempt.

## ERIC MONIER, Club Alpin Français

Yalungkang Attempt, Winter, 1988-9. Our expedition was led by Józef Stepień of Wrocław and had as members Aleksander Lwow, Ewa Panejko-Pankiewicz, Bogdan Stefko, Zdzisław Jakubowski, Dr. Kazimierz Pichlak and me. We left Kathmandu on December 17, 1988 and ran into snow at 2000

meters. Further snowfall, especially above 4000 meters, slowed the approach and forced us on January 10 to make a Lower Base Camp, three days's march below actual Base Camp, which was established at 5600 meters finally on January 27. Only a few porters helped us carry from one Base Camp to the other. Above 5000 meters snow conditions were favorable but above 6500 meters was the zone of storms. We used the normal southeast-side route. Camps I and II were placed at 6200 and 6900 meters on February 1 and 7. We fixed 400 meters of rope. On February 12, the high point of 7150 meters was reached by Lwow and Jakubowski, who had to crawl on hands and knees in the high winds. More heavy snowfall in the next days forced abandoning the expedition.

#### WANDA RUTKIEWICZ, Klub Wysokogórski Warszawa, Poland

*Yalungkang*. Yalungkang was climbed via its southeast face by a Korean expedition led by Park Soo-Jo. On October 13, Sho Kang-Ho with Ang Dawa Tamang and Gombu Sherpa completed the 18th ascent of the peak.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Yalungkang Ascent and Tragedy. A Korean expedition led by Kim Teuk-Hee climbed the normal route on Yalungkang in winter but the summit climbers never returned. On December 20, Jin Kyo-Sup, Ang Dawa Sherpa and Tshering Tshemba Sherpa left Camp IV at 8100 meters on the southeast face at 4:30 A.M. At 2:30 P.M., Jin reported by walkie-talkie that it was cloudy and windy and they were worried about their ability to return safely to Camp IV after nightfall. It would have been dark even if they had turned back then, but they kept on for the top. They made radio contact again at 4:05 to say that they were on the summit (8501 meters, 27,891 feet) and were resting for a few minutes. At 4:14, one of the Sherpas with Jin tried to talk to a fellow Sherpa at Camp IV, who happened to be chatting to Base Camp. The two men who were talking to each other stopped their conversation and tried to speak with the summit, but now there was no reply. There was no reply all night. A search by the men in Camp IV the next day produced no trace of the summit party. The leader speculates that they probably fell down the mountain's great north face.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Kumbhakarna North Face.* The solo ascent of this face by Tomo Česen is presented in a full article in the first part of this volume.

*Kumbhakarna (Jannu) Attempt.* On September 25, Rob Mahoney, Kevin O'Meara and I established Base Camp at 15,000 feet on the Yamatari Glacier on the south side of Kumbhakarna. On October 1, we moved to Camp I at 17,000 feet. Camp II was established five days later at 18,500 feet. In another five days, we fixed 1500 feet of rope to Camp III at 20,500 feet. We found our way to the

hanging ice shelf above the Yamatari Icefall and Camp IV at 21,200 feet by October 25. On October 26, we placed an alpine-style bivouac at 23,125 feet, which proved to be our high point. We felt we were one day from the top. After waiting a full day for the very high winds to stop, we descended to another bivouac on October 28 and back to Base Camp on October 29. We left the mountain on the 30th.

# HOOMAN APRIN, Unaffiliated

*Kumbhakarna Attempt, 1990.* Our expedition consisted of Stanisław Dudek, Kazimierz Kieszka, Andrzej Samolewicz, Ryszard Papaj, Adam Potoczek, Ryszard Knapczyk, Dr. Piotr Wojciechowski, Bogdan Stefko and me as leader. We hoped to climb Kumbhakarna by the southwest buttress. We established Base Camp and Advance Base at 4450 and 4850 meters on November 24 and 30. The icefall was much more difficult and dangerous than we had expected and we fixed 700 meters of rope. Despite cold and wind, we set up Camps I, II and III at 5350, 5800 and 6450 meters on December 5, 12 and 20. After December 15, the weather was bad and windy. Snow had been blown off the hard ice. On January 2, 1990, we reached the edge of the "Throne" and pitched Temporary Camp IV. Very steep, hard ice on the "Throne" made us fix 1000 meters of rope. Camp IV was set up on January 8 at 7200 meters. Following the direct French variant on the summit cone, Kiszka and Samolewicz reached a high point of 7360 meters on January 9 but were turned back by high winds. We cleared Base Camp on January 14.

# JAN ORŁOWSKI, Klub Wysokogórski Kraków, Poland

Ohmi Kangri. The Nepalese-American Ohmi Kangri Expedition was the first American group to visit this area of northeastern Nepal on the Tibetan border. Our leaders were Rick Richards and Sangya Dorje. We left Basantipur on April 9. The first nine days of our trek to Base Camp went up the Tamur River past Yangma and continued north. Our first view of our mountain came only one hour below Base Camp at 5130 meters on April 21. It is easy to see why early maps confused Ohmi Kangri with Nupchu. Our original joint team comprised ten climbers: seven Americans and three Sherpas. Two weeks into the climb the strength was reduced to four, primarily due to illness. We ascended the west face to the southwest ridge. Between Camps I and II there was much more snow than the Swiss encountered when they climbed the peak previously and we fixed 300 feet of rope on a steep section approaching Camp II. From Camp II to III on a very difficult section with ice and rock faces, we placed 1500 feet of rope. On May 9, Dawa Nuru Sherpa, Jan Harris and Mingma Gyalzen Sherpa reached the summit. Dawa Nuru was also one of the first-ascent party in 1985; he reported that the route from Camp III to the summit this year was much more difficult than before with hard ice replacing what had been firm snow. The official altitude of 6829 meters or 22,405 has been controversial; our altimeter read 22,850 feet

(6964 meters). On May 13, the day after we removed the last gear from the mountain, the sunny weather we had been enjoying was replaced by blustery, snowy weather. It rained enough at lower altitudes during the trek back to wash out the road we had used in April. We walked an extra two days to Dhankuta, arriving there on May 28 and hired a bus for the first stage of our journey back to Kathmandu.

## KEN ZAFREN

*Makalu, West Buttress Attempt.* Our expedition, composed of Atxo Apellaniz, Juan Oiarzabal, Kike de Pablo and me as leader, began our approach march from Hille, which was made difficult because of snowstorms on the Barun La. We set up Base Camp and Camp I at 5400 and 5950 meters on April 2 and 7. Much wind and ice obliged us to fix 1200 meters of rope toward Camp II, which we established on April 20 at 6550 meters. On May 4, we got to Camp III at 7350 meters. Having fixed the route to 7650 meters, we set out from Camp III on May 17. It took us three hours to surmount a difficult wall at 7700 meters and at sundown we got to the top of the buttress at 7800 meters, where we rested for several hours. We had only a bivouac tent and no sleeping bags. At one A.M. on the 8th, we headed for the summit and got to the sunny southeast ridge at six A.M. A bit later, at 8350 meters, the dangerous conditions and the lack of technical gear forced us to give up our attempt. We came across the body of the Czech climber, Karel Schubert, who died in 1976. We were back in Base Camp on May 19.

# JOSÉ LUIS ZULOAGA, Euskal Espedizioa, Spain

Makalu Attempt. Belgian climbers led by Jos Dewint reached 7700 meters on the northwest side of Makalu on April 25 before having to give up the attempt.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Makalu West Face. Pierre Beghin's remarkable climb of the west face of Makalu is described in a full article starting on page 1 of this volume.

Makalu Traverse Attempt and Kangchungtse Attempt via West Face. Our expedition was composed of Mike Woolridge, leader, Rob Collister, Andy Fanshawe, Lindsay Griffin, Dr. Gill Irvine, Hamish Irvine and me, all British, and American Steve Sustad. We failed to complete our first objective: the traverse of Makalu. The southeast ridge was followed to 6800 meters and the normal northeast ridge to 7500 meters. The principal cause of failure was the short time between the end of the monsoon on September 29 and the onset of the high winds associated with winter, about three days later. These three days were the only window of opportunity on Makalu this autumn; the only person to take advantage, Pierre Beghin, had already committed himself irreversibly to the mountain. Our second objective was the previously unclimbed 1000-meter-high

west face of Kangchungtse. It has a central snowfield, a rim of summit cliffs and granite slabs seamed with ice gullies in the lower half. The left side of the face has big black and red cliffs from which stonefall emanated. The right flank was guarded by a large sérac. Sustad and I left our tent at 6500 meters during the night of September 25 to 26 and followed a line through difficult mixed ground with particularly steep sections at 7000 and 7500 meters. The weather deteriorated. At 9:30 P.M. on the 26th, we reached the summit ridge at P 7600, 40 meters below and 300 meters from the summit of Kangchungtse. We descended without going to the summit. It cannot be said that we lost our way coming down; we never knew it. The map showed Makalu La as being south, but it did not show the cliff bands we nearly fell over. The descent was through 7400-meter Makalu La and thence via the normal Makalu route back to our tent, which we reached on the evening of September 27.

#### VICTOR SAUNDERS, Alpine Climbing Group

*Makalu Attempt*. George Austiguy, Dick Jackson, Brad Johnson, Scott Thorburn, Dave Wright and I had hoped to climb the Japanese Ridge on the northwest face of Makalu. We established Base Camp on September 17 at 5400 meters and set a staging camp at 5800 meters where the real climbing would begin. On September 28, a major snowstorm forced a retreat to Base Camp. On October 2, we broke trail back up to our staging camp only to find the avalanche danger on the Japanese Ridge to be extreme. We decided to switch to the safer normal route. Climbing alpine-style, we reached 7000 meters on October 4 but returned to Base Camp to rest for a summit attempt. Jackson and I returned to 7000 meters on October 9 for a first summit try, but heavy wind and snow forced us to descend the following day. Austiguy and Thorburn reached Makalu Col (7400 meters) on October 13 but descended because of high winds. On the 15th, Jackson, Johnson and I climbed to 7000 meters, Johnson continued on to 7600 meters and the following morning soloed to 8100 meters, but turned around because of dangerous windslab avalanche conditions. We abandoned the climb on October 25.

#### JOE FRANK, Unaffiliated

*Makalu Post-Monsoon Attempts*. Aside from the international expedition led by Michael Woolridge and the American one led by Joe Frank, there were three unsuccessful ones on the northwest side of Makalu in the post-monsoon period. Swiss Bruno Zaugg led a group of three Austrians and a German which got to 8000 meters on September 27. Spaniard Señora Ana Sese was the leader of five Spaniards who reached 8000 meters on the 28th. On October 15, seven Spaniards under the leadership of Pere Giro got to a high point of 8100 meters.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Baruntse Attempts. There was an unsuccessful British attempt on the southeast ridge of Baruntse led by Andrew Wigley. They reached 6860 meters on May

3. Spaniards led by Luis Miguel Montero got to 7100 meters on the same route, apparently less than 30 meters from the summit!

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Baruntse Attempt. Our expedition had as members Gerd Krischer, Wolfgang Seul, Dr. Michael Hahn, Dr. Dieter Rebmann, Ingrid Weitzsch, Dieter and Hilde Müller, Wolfgang Grade, Wolf Wilfert, Werner Wilmes and me as leader. Our approach started on April 18 from Jiri, ascended the Khari Khola and Thuli Kharka, went over the Mera La into the uninhabited Hunku valley. Base Camp, high in that valley at 5350 meters on the easternmost of the Panch Pokhari, was reached on May 2. The approach was made more difficult for the porters by two snowstorms. Seul and I prepared the route to the west col up a 200-meter-high, 50° ice face south of the col. On May 6, we all occupied Camp I at 6135 meters on the west col. The next day we climbed to 6500 meters but could not pitch Camp II because of wind and so descended to Base Camp. On May 9, Wilfert, Wilmes and I and three Sherpas climbed to Camp I and the next day placed Camp II at 6500 meters. Wilmes and I reached 6900 meters on May 11, climbing in 6 inches of exhausting breakable crust. A high-altitude cough made me quit. On May 15 we crossed the Amphu Labtsa Pass. We erected a 300-meter lift to lower equipment into the Imja Dragka valley.

#### UDO SCHMIDT, Deutscher Alpenverein

*Baruntse*. A Swiss expedition of nine made the 21st ascent of Baruntse (7129 meters, 23,389 feet) when Michel Siegenthaler reached the top by the southeast ridge on October 23. The party was led by Jacques Grandjean.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Kusum Kanguru, East Face, 1988.* On October 23, 1988, British climbers John Diploch, Julian Holmes and I and Sherpas Ang Jangbo, Kami Tsering, Dawa Nuru and Lhakpa Dorje stood on the summit (6367 meters, 20,889 feet) of Kusum Kanguru, having just made the first ascent of the east face. It was a mixed route similar in complexity to that of the north face of the Eiger. The most serious problem was rockfall, which started around nine A.M. after the sun had been on the face for a couple of hours. One of the Sherpas was hit in the face by rock, but fortunately it only broke his goggles and caused a small cut by his right eye. Base Camp was in the Hinku valley at 14,000 feet. We established Camp I at 16,000 feet just below the Lungsamba Glacier on October 10. Between Camps I and II we crossed a large boulder field and an ice ramp with some rockfall. The Lungsamba Glacier was complex. We established Camp II at 19,000 feet on October 14, having fixed 500 feet of rope between these two camps. There were two principal features on the wall. One was a rock buttress; the other a large rock-and-ice ramp near the top of the face. We placed 2500 feet of rope between Camps II and III. On

the fifth day on the wall, we bivouacked at 20,000 feet rather than go back down the fixed rope to Camp II. The temperature dropped to  $-37^{\circ}$  and we had some minor frostbite. We established Camp III on a small col at 20,400 feet on October 22 and left there at five A.M. on the 23rd. The final 500 feet were on steep, soft snow and we reached the summit at 7:15 A.M. We had a new system of solar energy which supplied all power needs at Base Camp and all upper camps.

NICK MASON, Royal Geographical Society

Kusum Kanguru. Swiss climbers Ruedi and Urs Homberger and Christian Jaggi made a rapid ascent of Kusum Kanguru.

Thamserku Attempts, 1988 and 1989. In the winter of 1988, Dr. Ed Farrar, Canadian Dan Culver and I attempted the second ascent of the west ridge of Thamserku. Although previous sightings and photos had shown a frozen snow arête leading to the summit, we found very shattered and unstable rock gullies due to very dry conditions. After five days on dry, loose faces, we attempted the south ridge. Two days later, on December 7, 1988, we established Base Camp at 13,700 feet between the north face of Kusum Kanguru and the south ridge of Thamserku. Farrar left the expedition and Culver and I made a fast alpine attempt. From a small camp at 15,000 feet on the east ridge, we started up the east side of the south ridge with five days' supplies and minimal hardware. We bivouacked at 17,200 feet at the base of a 250-foot rock buttress on December 9. Medium-quality rock ended at a steep snow-and-ice face intercepted by bands of shattered rock. Above, good rock and three pitches of good snow led to our second bivy at 18,500 feet. Steep rock put us on a snow ridge which we climbed to bivouac for a third time at 19,500 feet. The great final tower would have required many more pitches of rock climbing. We had much more ice gear than rock anchors and barely enough to rappel down what we had already climbed. We ended our winter attempt at Bivouac III and descended on December 12 as a winter storm approached. Dan Culver and I returned in April of 1989. We fixed the lower section to Bivouac III (now Camp III) in ten days. We noticed that much more snow and ice had melted and the newly exposed rock was extremely dangerous. On April 13, we left Camp III, hoping to climb the rock tower alpine-style. To our surprise, the whole snow ridge leading to the tower had melted, leaving very bad rock. At midday, 200 feet up the tower we had run into so much loose rock that when a large flake that I was jamming behind broke off and shot down the west face, we decided that the route was too risky in these dry conditions. We returned to Base Camp on April 14.

HOOMAN APRIN, Unaffiliated

Kwangde Nup, North Buttress. In the pre-monsoon period, Alex Lowe and I climbed a new grade-VI route on Kwangde Nup to the right of the one done by

Jeff Lowe and David Breashears in 1982. Our route followed the north buttress, which is simply an extension of the ridge which divides the Hungo and Thame valleys. We took three days up and one day down. The first two days were mostly easy to moderate rock climbing with no pitch exceeding 5.9. The third day involved the steep upper headwall which had several difficult mixed pitches, although they were mostly rock. Lowe led one very hard pitch that he rated 5.10. We rappelled the route on the descent.

### STEVEN SWENSON

Kwangde Central Northeast Face. Alan Kearney's full article on this ascent appears earlier in this volume.

Ama Dablam Attempt. Our commercial group consisted of Americans Dwain Stranahan and Craig Selsman and Britons Alan Lees and me. Since the Nepalese give more than one permit for the same route at the same time and since there is not much room for tents, we opted to go early, in March rather than in April. Camp I was established at the usual site at 19,000 feet. We spent the next three days fixing rope along the south ridge, generally on good rock. Do not count on fixed ropes remaining below the Yellow Tower; Sherpas from Pangboche tend to remove them. The Yellow Tower offers the most technical rock climbing (5.8). Camp II was sited on the top of a second subsidiary tower. From there, we were forced to retreat by a storm and it was ten days before we could return. Our time was running low and a Colorado group was on its way to Base Camp. We spent two days climbing the true second tower, which was quite difficult. In the upper section leading to the Mushroom Ridge, the ice was fantastically hard and bottle green. We had much rockfall and two fixed ropes were chopped. At the foot of this tower, we found the body of Canadian Charles Eckenfelder, who was killed in 1988; we were unable to bury him. Our final dump was made at the end of the Mushroom Ridge on April 12. We had run out of time.

#### WILLIAM O'CONNOR, England

Ama Dablam Attempt. Our expedition was made up of Masashi Tatsuta, Mrs. Joshimi Tatsuta, Seisuke Kurokawa, Miss Harumi Ichimura, Miss Kyoko Horikawa and I as leader. After climbing Imjatse, we attempted the north ridge of Ama Dablam. Mr. and Mrs. Tatsuta established Base Camp at 4950 meters on April 12. We three men placed Camp I at 5600 meters on April 20. Rockfall cut a rope we had fixed at 5500 meters. On April 23 to 25 we pushed the route to 5900 meters and went down to Base Camp for a rest. In Base Camp we discovered the kerosene was gone and we were unwilling to face the rockfall; so we gave up the climb. On April 30 we retrieved our deposit from 5900 meters but left the fixed ropes in place.

TEIJIRO NAMBA, Hyogo Mountaineering Association, Japan

Ama Dablam Attempt. Our members were Edward Ramey, Austin Weiss, Chuck Hanaway, Fred Sralam, Clyde Soles and I as leader. We established Base Camp, Camps I and II on April 5, 14 and 16 at 16,000, 19,000 and 19,800 feet on the southwest ridge of Ama Dablam. The party progressed to 21,400 feet (6520 meters) on April 20 but was turned back by heavy, dangerous rockfall.

# WENDY L. OSTGAARD, D.V.M., Colorado Mountain Club

Ama Dablam Attempts. An Australian-New Zealand expedition of six climbers led by Michael Groom failed in two tries on Ama Dablam. They got to 5700 meters on the northeast spur on April 26 and to 6740 meters on May 11 on the southwest route.

### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ama Dablam, Post-Monsoon Ascents and Attempt. German Günther Härter led an expedition of six Germans, 4 Austrians and an Italian which climbed Ama Dablam by its southwest ridge. The summit was reached on October 22 by Härter, Austrian Peter Konzert and German Karl Dehn and on October 24 by Germans Lothar Reiser, Dieter Porsche, Austrians Klaus Gürtler, Wolf Dieter Jarisch and Italian Miss Hildegard Wolfsgruber. These were the 67th and 68th ascents of the peak. An American expedition placed all its members on the summit by the southwest ridge. On October 26, leader Gary Ruggera, James Nowack, Gilbert McCormick and Dr. John Woodland got to the top. An eight-member French party led by Jean-Pierre Frachon was also successful on the southwest ridge. The summit was reached on November 1 by Frachon and Wongel Sherpa, on November 6 by Frachon and Wongel again, Bernard Madeuf and Danu Sherpa and on November 8 by Vincent Protopopoff, Georges Favre and Kami Tenzing Sherpa. Slovenian Yugoslavs Bojan Počkar and Vanja Furlan were driven back on the north face and north ridge by bad weather. They got to 6030 meters on October 28.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Lhotse Shar*. A Korean expedition was composed of Han Gwang-Geol, leader, Cha Jae-Woo, Kim Young-Soo, Ma Jong-Ho, Kang Sung-Do, Chun Young-Ho, Ahn Seung-Ho, Kwon Chun-Sik, Lee Young-Hak, Park Jae-Wook and Jung Yuong-Jin. They climbed the normal southeast ridge. They reached Base Camp at 5200 meters on the Lhotse Shar Glacier east of Imjatse (Island Peak) on August 21. Camps I, II, III, IV and V were established at 5700, 6100, 7000, 7700 amd 8100 meters on September 4, 9, 17, 14 and October 3. On October 4, Kwon Chun-Sik and Sherpas Rinji and Dawa Wangchu reached the summit.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Lhotse South Face Attempt, Our expedition, led by Reinhold Messner, was international. The members were Italians Hans Kammerlander and Roland Losso, French Bruno Cormier, Christophe Profit, Sylvianne Tavernier, Michel Arizzi, Spaniard Enric Lucas, Swiss Fulvio Mariani and Poles Artur Haizer and I. We set up Base Camp a little too late, on April 9. The wall was in unusual condition. Due to some very dry months, there was less ice and snow and the wall seemed more dangerous. We decided to take the Austrian route on Lhotse Shar to 7100 meters and then to make a long traverse on the highest sérac barrier to the Czech-Polish line on the main face. We placed Camps I, II and III on April 11, 21 and 27 at 5800, 6700 and 7100 meters, the latter in the middle of the traverse. It was apparent that it was too late to extend the line of camps. After we were acclimatized up to 7100 meters, we decided to carry out different plans. Hajzer and I tried to climb alpine-style the Czech-Polish line, which we had already tried in 1985 and 1987. From May 11 to May 14, we climbed to 7100 meters, where bad weather stopped us. We spent three nights there and on May 17, having finished our food and fuel and with no improvement in the weather, we made a long traverse to the right to Camp III, from which we descended to Base Camp on May 18. Profit and Lucas were also thinking about the central couloir, but they again attempted the prepared route. Due to ever worsening weather, they abandoned too. On May 20, all members were back in Base Camp.

# KRZYSZTOF WIELICKI, Klub Wysokogórski Tychy, Poland

Lhotse Ascent and Everest Ascent and Tragedy. A Macedonian expedition led by Jovan Poposki was joined by Slovene Viktor Grošelj and Croat Stipe Božić on April 15. The Macedonians were already at Camp III at 7400 meters. While the latter continued to work on the South Col route, Grošelj and Božić left Camp III on April 30 for Lhotse. At the Yellow Band, Božić turned back fearing frostbitten feet, but after warming his feet at Camp III set out again. Grošelj kept on and reached the summit at 2:30 P.M. in very bad weather. He met Božić at 8200 meters and together they descended to Camp III. On May 7, the same pair left Base Camp and reached the Macedonian summit party. Dimitar Ilijevski, Borče Jovčevski and Sherpas Sonam Tsering and Agiwa. On May 8 and 9 they climbed to Camps III and IV. On May 10 at four A.M., Ilijevski, Božić, Grošeli and the two Sherpas left the South Col in good weather. All but Grošelj reached the summit at 5:30 P.M. This was the second time that Božić, Sonam Tsering and Agiwa had stood on Everest's summit; Božić had made the first ascent of the entire West Ridge 1979. On the way down, they met Grošelj on the Hillary Step. He reached the top at 7:30 P.M. in the dark; this was his ninth 8000er. On the way back to the South Col, they missed Ilijevski. Although Božić waited for him a full day, he did not appear and it is presumed that he is dead.

## FRANCI SAVENC, Planinska zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia

COLOR PLATE 6

AMA DABLAM from the Southwest.

Puton 13 Phone by Krzysztef Wielicki

10

South Face of LHOTSE. 1=Yugoslav attempt, 1981; 2=Czechoslovak accent of Lhotse Shar, 1983; 3=Polish attempts on Lhotse main peak, 1985, 1987; 4=French attempt, 1985; 5=Austrian ascent of Lhotse Shar, 1970; 6=Traverse from route on Lhotse Shar to Lhotse route, 1989.

Lhotse South Face Tragedy. Although two expeditions from Katowice, Poland had already tried this tremendous wall, both times they had lacked luck-one or two windless days when the attacking teams were high. This year we managed to organize a team strong enough to climb the face. Our expedition was composed of Jerzy Kukuczka, leader, Ryszard Pawłowski, Macij Pawlikowski, Przemysław Piasecki, Tomasz Kopyś, Michał Kulej, Elżbieta Piętak, Witold Oklek, Leszek Czech and me, Poles, Frenchman Yves Ballu, Swiss Fulvio Mariani and Italian Floriano Castelnuovo. Our plan was to fix rope to Camp II while climbers acclimatized on neighboring 6000ers and on the normal route on Lhotse. The climbers on Lhotse's normal route would also establish a camp at 7400 meters to protect the descent from the summit. However, nature changed our ambitious plans as the monsoon lasted until the first days of October. There was no alternative but to try only the Polish route on the south face of Lhotse. Luckily we had several kilometers of rope which were carefully fixed on the wall. Camps I, II, III, IV, V and VI were placed at 5800, 6200, 6800, 7100, 7450 and 7800 meters on September 13, 18, 28, October 5, 8 and 21. During the whole period while the rope was being fixed, the weather was bad and there was a great danger of avalanches. The climbers suffered from the high moisture and sharp cold, and most had painful coughs. Not until October 5 did the weather improve enough pitch the higher camps. As traditionally is the case, in the middle of October strong winds blew in from Tibet. On October 18 Kukuczka and Pawłowski set out from Base Camp hoping to reach the summit. The next day, the wind stopped blowing. Taking advantage of the good weather, they reached Camp VI on October 21. On the following day, they continued, bivouacking first at 8000 and then at 8300 meters. The weather was still excellent. Just after sunrise on the 23rd, Kukuczka began to climb toward the ridge crest which he could already see. Just as he was about to reach it on the final obstacle, he suddenly fell off. The rope could not hold the fall of more than 100 meters and broke and he fell the whole length of the face to his death. Pawłowski could not inform Base Camp about the accident because Kukuczka had the radio in his rucksack. He spent the night on a rock ledge at 8100 meters. The next day he met the support team of Kopys and Pawlikowski. All three returned to Base Camp on October 26.

#### RYSZARD WARECKI, Klub Wysokogórski Katowice, Poland

*Lhotse*. A two-man Korean expedition completed the 20th ascent of Lhotse. Leader Heo Young-Ho reached the summit via the west face on October 14.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Lhotse South Face, Solo Winter Attempts. There were two separate unsuccessful attempts made by Frenchmen to climb the south face of Lhotse in winter. On November 29, Marc Batard reached 7000 meters before giving up. Accompanied by Catalán Enric Lucas, Christophe Profit reached 6700 meters on December 18, but after two bivouacs there, the pair had to descend in bad

weather. Lucas then returned to Spain. Profit made a solo attempt on January 13 and 14, 1990, which reached 7150 meters, where his tent was destroyed by the wind. A final attempt from January 19 and 21, 1990 failed at 7600 meters.

# ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Nuptse, Joint Attempt by the Left Buttress of the Central Part of the South Face. Our expedition was composed of Italians Kurt Walde, Alberto Guelpa and me. On April 14, we placed Base Camp on the Lhotse Nup Glacier. The next day, four Canadians set up camp next to ours. We all had the same objective; the route attempted in 1986 by Jeff Lowe and Marc Twight. A few days later, our group headed for Camp II on the normal Everest route both for acclimatization and to scan the 1961 British route on Nuptse, which we hoped to use on the descent. The Canadians also spent some days acclimatizing. In early May, we were all back in Base Camp, but two Canadians and Guelpa had to withdraw for health reasons. That left Canadians Jim Elzinga, Peter Abril, Kurt Walde and me, who joined forces. Starting on May 7, it took us seven days of very difficult climbing to reach the top of the buttress at 6917 meters. The weather was clear and cold on the first four days and unstable during the last three. We bivouacked at 5600, 6100, 6300, 6550, 6750 and twice at 6900 meters. On the eighth day. we were holed up in an ice cave at 6900 meters. On the evening of May 15, Peter and Jim headed up for the summit of Nuptse. Kurt had a badly infected throat and possibly frostbitten feet. We two began the descent of the 1961 British route. The Canadians had meanwhile gained 200 meters more, but they too began the descent. With another bivouac at 6100 meters on the descent we got down. The Canadians returned the next day.

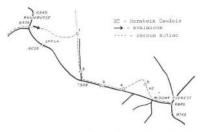
#### ENRICO ROSSO, Club Alpino Italiano

*Nuptse*, *Northwest Summit*. A five-person German expedition to Nuptse was led by Ralf Dujmovits. On November 2, they climbed the northwest ridge to the northwest summit (7742 meters, 25,400 feet), still about 400 feet short of the true summit.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest, Polish Ascent and Tragedy.* An expedition led by Eugeniusz Chrobak climbed Mount Everest up the western side from Nepal. The 19member team included 10 Poles, 4 Americans, 3 Mexicans, a Canadian and a Briton. They established five camps along the west ridge and Hornbein Couloir. Rather than to climb directly to the Lho La, they went over the south summit of Khumbutse (6408 meters), west of the pass, and dropped down to Camp I at 6000 meters at the head of the West Rongbuk Glacier. On May 22, nearly two months after reaching Base Camp, Mirosław Dąsal and Mirosław Gardz-ielewski reached the top of the Hornbein Couloir in an unsuccessful try for the summit. They retired to Camp IV to support the next summit team and help evacuate the camps. On May 24, Chrobak and Andrzej Marciniak left Camp IV at the foot of the Hornbein Couloir at one A.M. and reached the summit of

Everest late in the afternoon. In deteriorating weather during the descent the next day, they were supported by the two other Poles. On the Lho La (6026 meters),



a third pair, Zygmunt Andrzej Heinrich and Wacław Otręba, arrived from Base Camp. The weather worsened with heavy snowfall. After the night of May 26 at 6000-meter Camp I, they decided to continue the descent despite the avalanche danger. The descent route from the Lho La used the Lwow-Karolczak variation, described above, which goes via the south summit of Khumbutse. The rocky face of this peak was fixed with rope and seemed safe enough. On May 27, all six climbed via the steep slope using the fixed ropes. Fresh snow up to a meter deep made progress slow and arduous and they often changed the lead. At about one P.M. an avalanche hit them and dragged them downward. The fixed ropes broke and they fell 200 to 300 meters back to the Lho La. Only Marciniak escaped relatively unhurt. Dasal, Gardzielewski and Otręba were dead. Heinrich died soon after. Chrobak was alive but not fully conscious; he expired during the night. Marciniak remained alone, fortunately with radio communication with Janusz Majer in Base Camp on the Khumbu Glacier. He decided to go back the kilometer and a half to Camp I. In the fall with the avalanche, he had lost his sun glasses and became snow-blind. On the way to the camp, he fell into a crevasse and injured himself. Thanks to radio communication between Base Camp and Kathmandu, a rescue operation could be organized by Artur Hajzer, who was on the way home from the Lhotse south-face expedition. Simultaneously from Warsaw, diplomatic contacts with China and other countries were arranged. A rescue operation from the Khumbu side was not possible because of snowfall and acute avalanche danger. An international team composed of Pole Hajzer, Sherpas Zangbu and Shiwa and New Zealanders Rob Hall and Gary Ball was brought to the north foot of Everest. Via the Rongbuk Glacier, they managed to reach Marciniak at Camp I on June I. Marciniak related about the moment of rescue: "When I first heard shouts, I thought it was music. I was sure I was dreaming or hallucinating when I heard the voices, but soon I saw figures approaching through the mist and realized they were people." "It was a moving moment," Ball added. The effective rescue operation was possible because of perfect radio contact, helpful collaboration of the authorities of Nepal, China and other countries as well as by the international mountaineering fraternity. The Polish Alpine Association warmly thanks all who helped to save the life of the only survivor of the tragedy. All five victims were experienced Himalayan climbers. Chrobak and Heinrich had had 30 years of mountaineering experience and had made such first ascents as Kunyang Chhish, the southeast buttress of

Nanga Parbat and Kangchenjunga South and Middle. This was the greatest catastrophe in the 50-year-long history of Polish Himalayan climbing.

## JÓZEF NYKA, Editor, Taternik, Poland

Everest Attempt and Rescue of Andrzej Marciniak. We were Rob Hall, Apa Sherpa, Pincho Norbu Sherpa and I. We established Base Camp on March 17 and then spent 17 days along with McConnell's team opening the Khumbu Icefall before the arrival of the other expeditions. Camps I and II were set up on April 4 and 8. From Camp II we all returned to Base Camp with a severe viral infection. Upon our recovery, we returned to the south buttress but retreated when Hall and Pincho Norbu had a near miss during continuous rockfall. With Ministry permission, we made a brief foray onto the South Col route. Pincho Norbu returned to Base Camp with thrombosis and Hall retreated ill from 7500 meters. On May 17, our 62nd day on the mountain, Apa reached 8000 meters and I got to 8200 meters. On this last stretch, I accompanied Peter Hillary and Roddy McKenzie. Our return to the south buttress was abandoned because of illness and pulmonary edema. When we got back to Kathmandu, we were involved in the rescue of Pole Andrzej Marciniak; his five companions had been killed in an avalanche on the west ridge. He could not be reached from his own Base Camp on the Nepalese side because of avalanche danger. We hurried overland into Tibet, trucking to the Rongbuk Base Camp and racing up the West Rongbuk Glacier to the Lho La and a relieved Andrzej. We had reached him in 55 hours from Kathmandu. We all returned to Kathmandu the same way.

## GARY BALL, New Zealand Alpine Club

*Everest Funeral Expedition*. As noted above, on May 26 five Polish mountaineers were killed in a tragic avalanche accident. In the late autumn, a special burial expedition was arranged by the Polski Związek Alpinismu (Polish Alpine Association). On December 1, Professor Jan Serafin, Stefan Heinrich, Zenon Stoń (priest) Chuldim Dorje Sherpa and I crossed the Tibetan border at Kodari. On December 4, we climbed to the Lho La but found no trace of the five bodies or their Camp I. The priest said a funeral mass with the usual ceremonies and we descended to the Rongbuk monastery. Two commemorative tablets were fixed, one at the Khumbu Everest Base Camp and the other on the moraine of the Rongbuk Glacier.

#### ZIEMOWIT J. WIRSKI, Polski Związek Alpinismu

*Everest, First Mexican Ascent and Tragedy.* Our expedition was made up of Americans Scott Fischer, Robert Reynolds, Wally Berg, Bill Butler, Pat Howard, Tim Thorne, Ken Frick, Scott Moore, Dick Moran, Sheri Henderson, Peter Jamieson and me as leader and Mexicans Sergio Watkins Fitch and Ricardo Torres Nava. Our route was the normal South-Col route. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, and IV at 17,500, 19,500, 21,000, 23,500 and 26,000 feet on March 11, April 4, 7, 15 and 24. It took 19 days to fix the icefall route due to hazardous conditions and one snowstorm. The traditional right-side

approach was not feasible and the route was placed under the shoulder of the west ridge. We coordinated fixing the route with five other expeditions. We made three summit attempts: May 2 by Fischer, Berg and Jamieson to 28,000 feet thwarted by deep snow and exhaustion; May 13 by the same team turned back at 28,000 feet by storm; and May 16 to the summit by Torres, Phu Dorje Sherpa and Ang Danu Sherpa. I had to return from 27,000 feet. Oxygen was used above the South Col. Phu Dorje disappeared during the descent. His body was spotted several days later by other expedition members. Base Camp was a virtual city with considerable environmental impact and requiring expertise in international diplomacy.

## WALTER MCCONNELL, M.D., Unaffiliated

Everest. Our expedition had Karen Fellerhoff and Peter Athans as logistical leaders. The other members were Americans Jeff and Kellie Erwin Rhoads. Andy Lapkiss, Glenn Porzak and Tom Whittaker, Swedes Carl Johan Lager and Mikael Reuterswärd, New Zealander Peter Hillary, Belgians Rudy Van Snick and Nick Tettelin, Australian Roddy McKenzie, Britons Alan Burgess and I and 12 Sherpas. Porzak, Lapkiss, Al Burgess and I got to Base Camp on March 30, but most members did not arrive until April 12 because of supply problems in Kathmandu and illness in the Khumbu. On April 10, we established Camp I, a little higher than usual because of bad conditions in the icefall. Camp II was placed at 21,000 feet on April 17. Platforms for Camp III were dug at 23,500 feet on April 22 but the camp was not occupied until April 24. Porzak, the two Belgians, Reuterswärd and two Sherpas made the first summit attempt from Camp IV on the South Col on May 4. However, bad weather stopped this group as well as the next four summit attempts. The idea was that because of the considerable experience of the group we should all have the opportunity to make a summit bid. Actually twelve of the Westerners did go to Camp IV on the South Col without oxygen, spent the night there and either made a summit bid or descended, thwarted by bad weather. Finally on May 24 Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa, Sonam Dendu Sherpa, Roddy McKenzie and I left the South Col at midnight and reached the summit at seven A.M. We were back at the South Col at ten o'clock and at Camp II at two P.M. Two bottles of oxygen were carried by all four climbers. The snow conditions were very good, hard snow-ice. The weather was perfect until late afternoon when it quickly deteriorated. A final summit bid on May 25 was foiled by bad weather. There were two accidents and deaths on the South Col route this spring, involving other teams. The Nepalese government is now allowing a number of expeditions on this route at the same time. It would appear that the capability of teams ranges from very experienced to wildly incompetent. The main cause of accidents is because climbers are taking so long on the final day that they do not arrive at the summit until after four P.M. Then, tired from their efforts, they must descend in failing light and with failing strength. Teams should decide on a reasonably early turn-around time, such as two P.M., and then adhere to it.

ADRIAN BURGESS

*Everest Attempt*. The members of our expedition were French Annie Dubois, Jean François Rouys, Americans Alain Hirsch, Jay Sieger and I as leader. We tried the South Col route. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III and IV at 5400, 6000, 6450, 7200 and 7978 meters on April 11, 12, 14, 28 and 29. Wind aborted several summit attempts. On May 16, Annie Dubois, three Sherpas and I got to the South Col. On May 19, Jay Sieger got to 8500 meters with Austrian Kurt Stüwe.

#### KARL HUYBERECHTS, Club Alpin Belge

Everest Attempt by Austrians. Kurt Stüwe and Sepp Hassler were to have been members of an Austrian expedition to the Tibetan side of Mount Everest, but when the permission for that was withdrawn, they applied for the South Col route. They arrived at Base Camp only late in April to find many climbers on the mountain and a beaten path to the South Col. Apparently there were many difficulties between the two climbers and much of the time they operated separately. On April 30, Stüwe climbed the Khumbu Icefall to Camp I, followed the next day by Hassler. The latter fell into a crevasse, extricated himself and was escorted to Camp I. It took them ten days to get established at Camp II, where they say there was a small city with some 50 tents! Stüve joined two Americans and after two nights on the South Col made an unsuccessful try on May 14 to 8200 meters. When they descended, they found Hassler at Camp III. He had unsuccessfully tried to reach the South Col and had had to turn back at the Yellow Band. He descended to Base Camp and did not make any further attempts. Stüwe teamed up with American Jay Sieger; they reached the South Col again on May 18. There was deep new snow. They set out at midnight and almost immediately one of Stüwe's crampons broke. Nonetheless, he carried on. The pair got to 8500 meters at three P.M.on the 19th, but wisely gave up the attempt there.

*Everest Post-Monsoon Ascents by a Mexican, Japanese and Koreans.* On October 13, Mexican Carlos Carsolio, leader of a four-man team, reached the summit of Everest by the South Col route. That same day and by the same route, Japanese Toichiro Mitani, Hiroshi Ohnishi and Atsushi Yamamoto with Sherpas Chuldin Dorje and Tshering Thebe Lama also got to the top. The leader of this expedition was Ken Kanazawa. Also on the 13th, Cho Kwang-Je climbed to the summit via the south buttress and the southeast ridge. He was a member of a 16-person Korean expedition led by Kim In-Tae. On October 23, Chung Sang-Yong and Sherpas Nima Rita and Nuru Jangbu made the 99th successful ascent of Everest, climbing the west ridge from the Nepalese side. This expedition of 11 Koreans was led by Lee Suk-Woo.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Everest Post-Monsoon Attempt. The members of a French expedition to Everest were Jean-Franck Charlet, leader, René Ghilini, Jacques Fouques, Guy

Photo by Shari Kearney

Lucy Smith climbing through a tangle of abandoned fixed ropes between Camps II and III on PUMORI.

Abert, Michel Flouret and Bruno Gouvy. They attempted to climb the south buttress but could reach only a high point of 8450 meters on September 25.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest Winter Attempt and Tragedy.* A large Korean expedition led by Kim Ha-Kyung with 25 members attempted to climb Everest by the South Col route in winter. They apparently reached the South Col on December 29 but could go no higher. There was an unusual tragedy. One of their porters died from high-altitude sickness, an unusual cause of death among the Sherpas, who are born and live at altitudes well above sea level.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Pumori*. The members of our expedition were Masayoshi Utsumi, Toshiaki Kobayashi, Toshiyuki Hayakawa, Hisao Tatsukawa, Yongjong An, Mrs. Suzue Terasaki, Miss Ritsuko Sakai and I as leader. This was the second time I had climbed the mountain, having made the first ascent of this route in 1973. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II and III at 5320, 5800, 6120 and 6650 meters on the southwest ridge on April 9, 13, 18 and 20. On April 21, Utsumi, Kobayashi and I reached the summit.

#### TATSUJI SHIGENO, Japan

Pumori, Women's Expedition. We were seven women, Diane Taliaferro, Sue Giller, Lucy Smith, Carol Snetsinger, Kathy Phibbs, Lynne Wolfe and I, and one man, Steve Lawrence. We climbed the southwest ridge. Through a series of events, we ended at a Base Camp on the west side of Kala Patar, and so may have pioneered a new route on the first 2000 feet. From Base Camp we worked around the right of the triangular glacier and up a thousand vertical feet to the Kala Patar ridge through sections of rock and 60° to 70° ice. Camp I was placed on April 7 at 19,600 feet on the first bit of flat ground. The route was unusually dry this season. We encountered mostly loose rock and mushroom ice between Camps I and II. The latter was occupied on April 13 at 20,400 feet. We intersected the regular route there. We traversed under rock towers through very loose rock and along sun-cupped ice and water ice before moving vertically onto better rock back to the ridge. We placed Camp III at 21,500 feet on April 23. The route was littered with old fixed rope and hardware, some of which we cleaned. On April 25, Lucy Smith, Carol Snetsinger and Kathy Phibbs summited. Three days later, Diane Taliaferro and I also reached the summit.

## SHARI KEARNEY, National Outdoor Leadership School

Pumori Post-Monsoon Ascents and Attempt. Many climbers reached the summit of Pumori (7161 meters, 23,494 feet) in the post-monsoon period. All ascended

PLATE 45 Photo by Shari Rearney Lucy Smith in the abandoned fixed ropes on PUMOR1.

the normal southeast face and ridge route. On September 18, Italian Marino Giacometti, leader, Oswald Santin and Giampietro Verza got to the top. West Germans Sigi Hupfauer and his wife Gaby made the ascent on October 12. A large international expedition led by South Tyrolean Josef Holzer put 14 climbers onto the summit: Swiss Heinz Bosshard, Austrian Bruno Gruber, Germans Helmut Buntrock, Fräulein Ottilie Dörrich, Horst Gimbel, Wolfgang Pauer and Horst-Werner Riches on October 13; Austrians Gottfried Baier, Christian Haas, Frau Helga Heisler and Pemba Tharke Sherpa on October 15; and Germans Rolf Haas, Kurt Wildensinn and Ang Dawa Sherpa on October 15. Members of a four-person French group led by François Duthil joined with the previous party. On October 13, Etienne Bertrand, Michel Roy and Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa summited, followed on the 15th by Mlle Hélène Hardy. On October 16, Americans Randal Harrington, Evan Kaplan and Briton Callum MacKay got to the top. Canadian Jan Neuspiel, leader of a Canadian-Irish expedition, reached the summit solo. Michel Richard's Swiss-French expedition reached only 6400 meters on November 1.

# ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Pumori*. After acclimatizing on nearby Lobuche, Briton Callum MacKay, Americans Evan Kaplan and I reached the summit of Pumori on October 16 from Camp I at 20,500 feet on the southeast ridge, thus completing the 47th ascent of the mountain. The fourth member of the team, Jim Springer, was forced to descend from just below the summit because of cold feet.

# RANDAL R. HARRINGTON

*Pumori Tragedy*. Our 7-member expedition established Base Camp on September 16 at the foot of the southeast ridge of Pumori. From the 17th until October 3, we worked at placing camps on the mountain, having many difficulties because of the weather. Camps I and II were at 5750 and 6200 meters. The accident happened at 6400 meters on October 3, probably between 3:30 and 4:00 A.M., when an enormous avalanche swept down. I was in Camp I at the time and climbed up to look for them. The victims were Francisco Salgado, Antonio Luis Galea, Pablo de Miguel and Jóse de Miguel.

# ADOLFO GARCÍA, Spain

*Pumori Tragedy*. An expedition of eight Americans and Australians hoped to make the winter ascent of Pumori by its southeast face. Australian George Curry fell and was killed on the first day of the attempt, December 28, when he was still only at 5800 meters, some 400 meters above Base Camp. They gave up the attempt.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Pumori, Winter Attempt, 1990.* South Tiroleans led by Anton Stocker attempted to climb Pumori by the normal southeast face route but they could get no higher than 6750 meters, which they reached on January 22, 1990.

# ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Tawoche, Lobuje East and Pokalde, Winter Ascents. A four-man British-German expedition was led by David Etherington. Two unsuccessful attempts were made on Tawoche before it was climbed: the northeast buttress to 5500 meters on December 4 and the north face to 5350 meters on the 6th. On December 11, Etherington and German Jörg Schneider completed the seventh ascent of Tawoche (6501 meters, 21,329 feet) and the first winter ascent, climbing the east ridge. They descended the southeast face. On December 18, Britons Roger Chippendale and Richard Emerson climbed the southeast face to the summit. That same day, Etherington and Schneider climbed Lobuje East (6119 meters, 20,075 feet) via its east face. On December 22, Etherington soloed Pokalde (5806 meters, 19,040 feet) by its north ridge.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu. On March 5, Martín Zabaleta, a Spanish Basque living in the United States, Americans Alan Kearney and I, our staff and four "family" trekking members set off in a hired bus for Jiri, the beginning of our walk to the mountain. An approach on foot would increase our enjoyment and decrease the risk of altitude problems. In spite of our slow pace, Alan Kearney came down with a cough the day before arriving at Base Camp. He and his wife remained behind to recuperate while on March 19 the rest of us established Base Camp at a site at 5290 meters known as Kangshung. Unfortunately, Alan had to drop out, as he explains in his article on Kwangde. Martín and I proceeded with our acclimatization. We used the clear periods between storms to reconnoiter possible routes on Cho Oyu's south and southwest sides. Eventually we placed a tent at 5800 meters, about four hours' walk from the foot of the west ridge, first climbed by Poles in 1986. The ridge seemed both technically interesting and yet feasible for a quick ascent. Unfortunately, a heavy storm deposited a half a meter of snow on the glacier, even at Base Camp. After the skies cleared, we still could not move for two days. However, we believed that high winds might sweep the mountain clean of fresh snow by the time we reached high on the mountain eight or ten days later. We set off from Base Camp on April 2. We spent the nights of April 2 and 3 at 5800 and 6150 meters. I quote from my journal, "April 6: These last two days have involved some great climbing. From the beginning of the ridge at 6150 meters, it has never been too difficult but never has it allowed us to lose our concentration. We came up a much exposed, knife-edged ridge mixed with short 45° to 55° slopes of snow and ice. The 200-meter-high rock pyramid was a mystery until we got close to it. At first, I was sure we should have to find a way around it, but as we came nearer, we could see that it was not as steep as we thought. Nevertheless, it was a spectacular 200 meters with a ramp system leading around the steep upper wall. In the last hour of light, we emerged from the rock onto a knife-edged ridge which led us to the broad shoulder at 7000 meters. Luckily, the enormous snow slope above has been swept clean of fresh snow. Otherwise, we couldn't make it; it's a perfect angle for avalanches. April

7: The winds kept us pinned until midday. We climbed the broad slope in four hours and set up the tent at 7450 meters after another hour's climbing." We managed to get to the summit on April 8 despite very windy conditions. I had trouble keeping my toes warm. Martín found it difficult to keep food down. We found a sheltered spot on the lee of the ridge at 7800 meters and got a little warmer. Several times we were forced to find shelter on the southwest side of the ridge. Finally we swung back left to the northeast and braced ourselves with our ski poles. Once off the last rock steps, Martín began veering toward a snowy mound on our left. At the same time, I realized that the top must be far to the southeast side of this immense plateau. We pressed on over the nearly level plateau, gaining only a few meters for every hundred that we crossed. Though the winds were still high, the midday sun seemed to bring some decrease in their intensity. We were still gaining altitude. Suddenly, after three-quarters of an hour, we were rewarded with a view to the east of Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse and the entire Khumbu valley. The scenery was breath-taking. This is why I love to climb. Only two or three hundred meters remained until the plateau began to drop off to the south. There were jumbles of large ice blocks, wedged up from glacial pressure. As we reached this mound, we hugged each other roughly. We shot a few photos as Martín clung tightly to his Basque flag and I to my American one. This was our second high summit together. This forges bonds that will last a lifetime. Then we began descending the 700 meters back to our bivouac tent.

CARLOS BUHLER

*Cho Oyu Attempts*. Seven Swiss climbers led by Karl Kobler failed to climb Cho Oyu. They got to 6200 meters on the southwest ridge on April 28. Seven Koreans led by Chi Yoon-Soo reached 6600 meters on the same ridge on May 9 but could not complete the climb.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Cho Oyu*. A Korean expedition led by Park Sang-Yeol crossed to the west ridge and west face of Cho Oyu from the south. On September 2, Hong Kyung-Pyo, Lee Dong-Yeon and Wangel Sherpa reached the summit.

# ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Cho Oyu, Southeast Face Attempt and Assault. Our Belgian expedition, consisting of Louis Lange, Régis Maincent, Michel Brent and me as leader, attempted to make a winter ascent of the southeast face of Cho Oyu. We established Base Camp, Camps I and II at 5250, 6100 and 6800 meters on November 24, December 4 and 10. After two unsuccessful alpine-style attempts for the summit which reached 7200 meters, we gave up because of the constant

threat of falling séracs sweeping the upper part of the face. Twice we were nearly overwhelmed. The snow and ice conditions were very good. The wind was strong and it was cold, but the sérac danger was too great. There is a very grave matter to report. There was a Korean expedition with which we never succeeded in communicating which despite a permission only for the southwest ridge came to the southeast face. When we removed our fixed ropes, they attacked us with extreme violence. The liaison officers were four days' march below us. Except for the intervention of the Koreans' Sherpas, we would not have escaped with our lives, as attested to by our open wounds.

# ALAIN HUBERT, Club Alpin Belge

Cho Oyu Attempt, Tragedy and Assault. An expedition of seven Koreans apparently had permission for the southwest ridge of Cho Oyu but turned instead to the southeast face. They reached 7800 meters before abandoning their effort. Ang Lhakpa (also known as Lhakpa Nuru) had scaled Everest twice as well as two other 8000ers. He fell and was killed on this expedition. Tragically, he was one of five Sherpas who died as they accompanied climbers on winter expeditions this year. The Sherpa climber's death rate was three times that of the foreigners who perished this winter. Since the Koreans were on the same route as the Belgians, there happened what possibly was bound to happen sooner or later when more than one team is on the same route on the same mountain at the same time. They came to blows. Alain Hubert and Régis Maincent were attacked with fists and sticks, according to them, by three of the Korean party and six Sherpas. The Korean leader Lee Ho-Sang denies that any Koreans took part in the fracas, but he does agree that in the hour-long fight Maincent received a head wound that bled badly and that a rope was tied around Maincent's neck and his arms were pinned behind his back. The Europeans fled into the night, hobbling away with the aid of their ski poles.

# ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Dorje Lhakpa Attempt*. Our expedition consisted of M. Paolucci, D. Morandotti, F. Cella, L. Zarpellon, L. Lehner, Dr. M. Dell'Oca and me as leader. We approached from the south. We hoped to climb the ridge system used by the Germans for their descent in 1986. On October 5, we set up Base Camp at 4300 meters near the moraine of the glacier that comes down the south face of Dorje Lhakpa. We placed Camp I at 5300 meters on the lower part of the west ridge on October 8. On the 10th and 11th, Zarpellon, Morandotti, Cella and a Sherpa tried to climb to the site of Camp II but because of avalanche danger they gave up at 5650 meters.

#### EZIO GOGGI, Amici del Contrin, Italy

Langsisa Ri. Koreans Oh In-Hwan and Park Young-Seok and Nima Tamang composed this small expedition. They approached via the Langtang Khola and

set up Base Camp at 4300 meters on April 12. They put Advance Base at 4700 meters on the 13th and Camp I the next day at 5450 meters on the west face of the mountain's southwest peak. On April 16, Park and Nima Tamang stood atop the southwest peak (6154 meters, 20,190 feet), having thought they were headed for the highest summit. On April 18, the same pair were back in Camp I and the next day pitched Camp II at 5800 meters on the south face of the main peak (6327, 21,086 feet). On April 20, the two left at 3:30, were on top at 11:30 A.M and back in Base Camp at 11:30 P.M.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Langsisa Ri in Winter*. A Korean expedition led by Lee Dong-Myung made the sixth ascent of Langsisa Ri, climbing its south face. On December 14, Kim Bo-Youl and Dawa Tshering Sherpa reached the summit.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Langtang Ri Winter Ascent. An expedition of three Koreans made the sixth ascent of Langtang Ri (7205 meters, 23,638 feet). On December 9, leader Park Young-Seok, Youn Tae-Young and Nepali Bir Bahadur Tamang reached the summit via the southwest ridge.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Langtang Lirung Tragedy. An eight-member Japanese expedition from Hosei University in Tokyo attempting Langtang Lirung via the southeast ridge ended in tragedy. On March 29, four climbers ascending to Camp I at 5600 meters were struck by a huge avalanche at 4900 meters and carried down 600 meters. Noruo Matsumoto was miraculously able to free himself from the debris and was not even injured. The three others were killed. The survivors and two Sherpas seached for them, finding the bodies of Noriyuki Futami and Yasuhisa Kuwashina. The body of Masahiro Hisamoto could not be found.

Langtang Lirung, Swiss-West German and British-Irish Ascents. There were two successful expeditions on Langtang Lirung (7234 meters, 23,734 feet), both by the southeast ridge. On November 10, Swiss Markus Baumann, Frau Dorothee Landolt, Martin Lochstampfer and Fritz Mauer reached the summit, followed the next day by the Swiss leader Hans Berger, German Fräulein Barbara Leitz and Swiss Liselotte Schmidt. On November 12, Irishman Declan MacMahon got to the top, completing the 12th ascent of the peak. He was a member of the expedition led by Briton Andrew Creigh.

# ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Ganesh IV (Pabil) Attempt. Our expedition to Ganesh IV or Pabil (7052 meters, 23,136 feet) was composed of Dr. Pedro Rossi, Miguel A. Vidal, José

PLATE 46

Photo by Benoît Chamoux

Ladder on Buttress of MANASLU.

María Martín. Félix García, Javier Delgado, Luis Alberto Aguëro and me as leader. Our approach march was complicated by bad weather for the last three days where we had to open a path in the jungle and construct bridges. We set up Base Camp and Camp I at 4400 and 5000 meters on September 11 and 18. We fixed 800 meters of rope before getting to Camp II at 5600 meters. The weather was very bad. On October 2, we abandoned the normal route and turned to the 1980 French route on the southwest spur. We gave up our attempt at 6100 meters on October 7.

FAUSTINO GARCÍA, Avila, Spain

Manaslu. The Esprit d'Equipe expedition led by Benoît Chamoux hoped to carry out its program by climbing a new route on the south face of Manaslu. After an eight-day approach, we established temporary Base Camp on April 5 at the end of Thulagi Lake at 3800 meters. Three days later we were able to place our real Base Camp at 4250 meters up the Thulagi Glacier. To gain access to the glacial Butterfly Valley at the foot of the summit pyramid, we ascended a rocky, 800-meter-high buttress squeezed between two avalanche zones. Difficult walls, overhangs, chimneys made up the climbing on rock of good quality. It took several days to fix ropes and ladders. Because of the verticality of the route, we had to make a kind of aerial tramway to raise our gear. After the buttress, we continued on mixed terrain and then glacier to place Camp I at 5500 meters in the Butterfly Valley on April 18. Our progress was seriously hindered by violent winds and daily fresh snow. On April 23 we succeeded in setting up two tents in the bergschrund of the Pungen (South) Col at 6500 meters, but intensified bad weather forced us back to Base Camp for a relatively long time. On May 2, after several unsuccessful tries to move up the south ridge beyond 7000 meters, we changed our strategy and route, heading for the west ridge, the route pioneered by Messner in 1972. The gale winds and windslabs gave us no hope to complete the still unclimbed ridge. For that reason, we established a new Camp II on the Butterfly Col at 6300 meters on May 3. The next day Italian Soro Dorotei and Czech Josef Rakoncaj placed a tent at 7400 meters before descending. A new start from Base Camp on May 6 allowed the installation of a second tent at 7400 meters. After waiting there for two days and nights, Chamoux and Pierre Royer managed to struggle against the wind and cold and get to the summit of Manaslu (8163 meters, 16,780 feet) on May 9. They were followed on May 10 by Dorotei and Rakoncaj, on May 11 by Frenchmen Yves Detry and me, and on May 12 by Italian Mauro Rossi, Briton Alan Hinkes and Tamang Tirta.

FRÉDÉRIC VALET, l'Esprit d'Equipe

Manaslu Attempt. A six-man Italian expedition led by Oscar Piazza got up to 7300 meters on the east ridge of Manaslu on May 1 but had to give up there.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Emerging at 6900 meters from the Rock Pyramid on CHO OYU. Photo by Carlos Buhler

COLOR PLATE 7

*Manaslu Attempt and Tragedy.* In March, China cancelled my Shisha Pangma permission and I obtained a permit for the northeast face of Manaslu. We were Jim Sutton and I from the United States and Spaniards Javier Iraola, Albino Quinteiro, José Melón and Santiago Suárez. Having departed on April 4 from the roadhead town of Gurkha, we arrived on April 10 at Base Camp at 3850 meters. Camp I was established on April 14 at 5000 meters on the glacial snowfield below Manaslu's northeast face and the north peak. Camp II was placed on April 17 at 5500 meters on the lower north peak slopes and Camp III on May 1 just past the avalanche-prone traverse of the mid-height north-peak slopes. On May 6 and 7, Camps IV and V were set up at 6300 and 7280 meters just above Naike Col and at the lower edge of the great summit plateau. On May 7, Iraola, Quinteiro and Suárez were traversing under the plateau at 7100 meters when Suárez fell to his death. After locating and burying the body at 6400 meters, the surviving Spaniards and I descended to Base Camp. No further summit attempts were made.

#### KEITH BROWN

Manaslu Attempt. We were Americans Andy Lapkass, Peter Nichols, Chris Treese, Jim McEachern, Ken Thorp, Steve and Ron Matous and Pete Athans, Britons Paul Moores, Alan Burgess and I, although I live in the United States, and Sherpas Dawa Nuru and Pinzo. We climbed in small independent groups of two or three at the speed and rate of ascent which suited the particular individuals. On September 30, we set up Base Camp at 14,300 feet. This is a low Base Camp; Spaniards, Austrians and Japanese all had theirs at 16,300 feet, where we erected a large tent for a storage dump on the way to Camp I on Naike Col at 18,300 feet. There is no real climbing to this point, just a straightforward glacier; it took between 31/2 to 4 hours from Base Camp. The route above the col steepens and then crosses a 600-foot-wide open gully, which, although threatened from above by crumbling ice cliffs, only avalanched once in any proportions. The route then follows a series of four step-like bumps up to Camp II at 20,500 feet. One step involved 250 feet of steep snow-and-ice climbing, but the Spaniards had already fixed rope on it. There was a 15-foot aluminum ladder spanning a small crevasse, which opened at an alarming rate of eight inches per day. By the end of the expedition, it spanned a 16-foot hole. The weather during the whole of September had been horrible. We were told it snowed for 23 out of 26 days, building up a dangerous windslab above Camp II. We approached it warily-but not warily enough. Three Sherpas working for the Austrians, tailed by Andy Lapkass, broke a deep trough to 22,000 feet. Andy returned a little in advance of the others and saw them cut a 500-foot-wide slab which carried them 1000 feet. Luckily the threesome came to rest on top of the debris and were only shaken. Andy then went back up and effected a rescue back down to Camp II. Although the weather had cleared, we had very high winds above 22,000 feet. During the third week of October, Paul Moores, Lapkass, my twin Alan and I went up to Camp III at 23,150 feet, sandwiched above and below ice cliffs. After

a foul, windy night, we were forced to descend. A few days later, Dawa, Nichols and Treese went to Camp III but given the ferocity of the wind, they decided not to sleep there. Nobody went back to that height again. After another week of waiting in Camp II, we abandoned the attempt. We left Base Camp on November 6.

#### ADRIAN BURGESS

Manaslu Attempts via the Northeast Face in the Post-Monsoon. Two Austrians, a Swiss and a German led by Austrian Horst Frankhauser reached 7300 meters on October 10 with bad weather and threatening avalanches. Spaniards Carles Gel, Víctor Marín, Joan Colet and Ong Chu Sherpa were also unsuccessful. They established Base Camp at 4750 meters on September 5. Between September 19 and 29, they made three alpine-style attempts, but their high point was 6000 meters. Bad weather and avalanche danger kept them from climbing higher. On October 4, four Japanese led by Masaaki Fukushima turned back in high winds at 7350 meters.

# ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Manaslu Attempt*. A six-man British team led by Mark Dixon attempted the southwest face of Manaslu. They gave up on October 20, after reaching 7000 meters.

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

Himalchuli West. Ours was a commercial expedition operated jointly by Himalayan Kingdoms Limited (England) and High Country Expeditions (New Zealand). It comprised nine clients, British Mark Vallance, Graham Hoyland, Bill Bennett, Norwegians Jon Gangdal, Bjarne Schmidt, Australians Philip Segal, Campbell Mercer, New Zealander Chas Turner and from Hong Kong K.K. Woo, and guides Australian Paul Bayne, New Zealander Russell Brice and me. Himalchuli West (7540 meters, 24,738 feet) was booked at very short notice following the closure of the Tibetan border, which prevented access to Changtse, our original objective. It was selected on account of its comparable height with Changtse and its supposedly low technical difficulty. The latter was incorrect and we encountered considerable difficulties both on rock and ice on a long and arduous route. We were also hindered by a good deal of bad weather. We succeeded in climbing the whole southwest ridge and making the second ascent of Himalchuli West. Base Camp was established at Meme Pokhari at 4600 meters on May 9. Two or so hours above Base Camp we reached the ridge crest at 5400 meters. The ridge runs for three kilometers until it abuts the main mass of Himalchuli. Along its length lay eleven pinnacles of varying size and difficulty. Camp I was placed on the ridge at 5500 meters on May 16 and Camp II at its end at 5700 meters on May 25. The climbing proved increasingly

difficult as we proceeded along the ridge. Much rope was fixed. On May 27, Brice, Vallance and Hoyland fixed most of the route above Camp III, a long, winding route between steep ice cliffs and gaping crevasses. The next day, they established Camp III at 6400 meters below a huge ice cliff. On May 29, Brice made a superb 300-foot lead up the cliff. The three were joined by Bayne and Gangdal from Camp II. The first three returned to Camp III from 7000 meters, but Bayne and Gangdal found a crevasse and sat in it without sleeping bags for the first part of the night. At 1:30 A.M. on May 30, they left for the summit, which they reached eight hours later. Brice and Mercer left Camp III shortly after midnight on May 31, jümared up the ropes and plodded briskly to the summit, getting to it in a biting wind at 7:30.

# STEPHEN BELL, Himalayan Kingdoms Limited, England

*Himalchuli Attempt*. A nine-man Korean expedition attempted to climb Himalchuli by the southwest ridge but got only to 6250 meters, which was reached on September 9. The leader Chung Chai-Hong died of illness and his place was taken by Han Seung-Kwon.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Chulu East, South Buttress, 1988.* On November 25, 1988, Sara Ballantyne, Nuru Wangchu and I stood on the summit of Chulu East. We believe we had made the first ascent of the triangular-shaped south buttress, 2000 feet of 60° ice. Approach camps were at 13,000 feet, where a yak was killed by a snow leopard one evening, Base Camp at 15,000 feet and High Camp at 17,200 feet at the col between Chulu Far East and Chulu East. This appears to be the most direct and classic line on the mountain.

#### CHRIS HAALAND

*Tilitso.* Our expedition consisted of Max Jeanpierre, Michel Laurent, Roger Laot, Denis Jeanvoine, Dominique Moutel and me as leader. I give a word on our approach and return. We followed the classic route to Manang in seven days. It takes a couple of difficult days from Manang to the eastern end of Tilitso Lake at 4800 meters. On the second day it was dangerous for the porters for whom we had to cut steps in the "rock pudding." We finally needed another day to Base Camp at 4900 meters at the northern end of the lake, but we wasted a week in that section, first trying to skirt the lake on the western side, which is subject to avalanches. At last we went around the lake on the northeastern side and over a rock barrier. We also had to send to Manang for new porters with good footgear because of the snow. We finally got to Base Camp on April 15. On the return, we crossed the Mesokanto, a 5100-meter-high col in two days, which gave access to the Kali Gandaki. We did fix rope on a 40° snow slope for the porters, but this was much easier, safer and not longer. We placed Camp I dug into a 50° slope at

5850 meters on the east spur on April 18. On April 20, we set up Camp II at 6250 meters where the spur meets the slopes north of the summit. There was a 50-meter-high section of 80° ice below Camp II. On the 21st, Jeanpierre, Jeanvoine, Laurent and one of two Sherpas were driven back by the wind at 6300 meters. That same night, Laot left Camp I and got to 6800 meters, where he bivouacked before returning to Camp II. On April 23, Laot, our other Sherpa and I set out from Camp II. Ongel and I turned back in the summit rocks at 6920 meters in bad weather, but Laot reached the summit (7134 meters, 23,405 feet) at ten A.M. The storm made the descent for us three to Base Camp difficult and we were glad for the fixed ropes.

## CHRISTIAN BAILLET, Club Alpin Français

*Tilitso, Winter Attempt.* J.C. Laverne, Don Adamson, Chris Macknie, Martin Lurtz and I as leader started our trek from Dumre on November 15. From Manang we cut across in four days to the Tilitso Base Camp on the shore of the lake at 5000 meters. Continuing cold and bad weather forced us to wait out even another storm. On December 1, four climbers and the Sherpas reached the foot of the northeast ridge. Laverne, one Sherpa and I kept on to Camp I at 5500 meters, which we hacked out of ice on the ridge. The Sherpa was forced back the next morning by the cold. We two kept on to 6100 meters at which point we decided to abort the climb. Because of the cold, the new snow was so dry that it provided no secure base for footing. Under the snow was loose rock.

## STEVE ADAMSON, Alpine Club of Canada

*Lamjung Attempt*. Eight Japanese climbers led by Yoshiaki Sugiyama failed to climb 6983-meter (22,910-foot) Lamjung via the southeast ridge. On April 22, they reached their high point of 5950 meters.

# ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Annapurna, Bulgarian Attempt on South Face, Winter 1988-9. A Bulgarian expedition was led by Metodi Savov and composed of Ivan Vlchev, Arso Arsov, Dino Tomov, Dimitr Nachev, Kostas Kandidis and Liubomir Ilyev. After a difficult approach complicated by snowfalls, Base Camp was established from November 6 to 10, 1988. They acclimatized on lower summits. Advance Base was at 5100 meters. Between December 1 and 12, three camps were placed along the 1981 Polish route on Annapurna's south face, the highest at 6500 meters. The leading team reached a high point of 6800 meters. Ang Kami Sherpa was injured in a crevasse fall between Camps II and III. Heavy snowfalls between December 16 and 27 interrupted climbing. On December 30, a new attempt was made. However, it began to snow heavily again and on January 6, they decided to abandon the climb. This was the second unsuccessful Bulgarian winter attempt. In 1985-6, they got to 7000 meters.

JÓZEF NYKA, Editor, Taternik, Poland

Annapurna and Everest Solo Attempts. I made an unsuccessful attempt on the south face of Annapurna, which reached 5800 meters on April 6, but there was too much snow, which hid dangerous crevasses, and falling séracs. I then got to 7800 meters on the Bonington route on Everest on April 20. I put in eleven hours non-stop from Base Camp to reach that point at three A.M. but had to halt my ascent because of very strong winds and clouds on the summits of Lhotse and Everest. I was also experiencing severe pain in my left knee, for which it has been necessary to return to France for an operation.

## MARC BATARD, Club Alpin Français

Annapurna Solo Attempt. South Tyrolean Reinhard Patscheider hoped to make a solo ascent of Annapurna by the northwest face, which he knew from having been a member of Messner's successful expedition on it in the spring of 1985; Patscheider did not get to the summit that year either. This year he got only to the foot of the face, where he placed a tent at 5200 meters on April 22. Heavy snowfall, winds and avalanching prevented him from ever sleeping in this tent. When he went back to it a week later, he found it ruined by an avalanche. He retreated immediately. His retreat was by paraglider, but after he had been airborne for only about a minute, the wind sent him to a crash landing at 5000 meters and gave him a dislocated shoulder. When he went back up after another snowstorm to retrieve his gear, a piton came loose on a short roped traverse and he fell 15 meters and bruised his back. (These were not his first accidents on the route; in 1985, he fell 600 meters and was lucky not to have been killed.) He says he will return sometime for another solo attempt on the same face.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Annapurna Attempt. Three Austrians led by Peter Wörgötter failed at 5800 meters on May 4 to climb the north side of Annapurna.

### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Annapurna Attempt. A 14-member Korean expedition led by Jang Bong-Wan attempted to climb the north face of Annapurna. On December 19, they reached 7300 meters before abandoning the attempt.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Annapurna Ascent and Tragedy in Autumn and Winter Attempt. A 19-man Bulgarian expedition led jointly by Todor Grigorov and Ivan Vylchev intended to climb Annapurna by the Messner route but switched to the Dutch route. They set up Base Camp at 4200 meters on September 21. On October 1, three climbers

were swept down by an avalanche at 6200 meters. After a 600-meters fall, Vylchev and Veselin Chaushev suffered hand and rib fractures while porter Dawa Tamang was unhurt. They set up Camps II, III and IV at 5900, 6700 and 7400 meters. On October 26, Vylchev, Liubomir Iliev and Dimitr Nachev climbed to within 40 vertical meters of the top but were driven back by bad weather. On October 28, Milan Metkov, Ognian Stoykov, Liudmil Yanakiev and Petr Panayotov left Camp IV at 2:30 A.M. Three of them reached the summit at 11:30. During the descent, they met Metkov, still climbing uphill despite high, cold winds. Stoykov stopped and persuaded him to withdraw. Both thus dropped behind. The weather suddenly turned bad and they descended in mist and snowfall. The first pair took refuge in Camp IV. At 3:15 P.M., Metkov contacted Base Camp by radio, saying that he and Stoykov could not find Camp IV. Shortly thereafter, teams climbing to Camps II and III below the cloud cover saw "something falling." Apart from pieces of their equipment, no sign of the two climbers could be found despite searches in terrible weather. On October 30, three frostbitten members were evacuated by helicopter. Another Bulgarian party led by Metodi Savov attempted to climb Annapurna by the Polish route on the south face. They were unsuccessful, reaching 6600 meters on December 16.

## JÓZEF NYKA, Editor, Taternik, Poland

Gangapurna North Face. A small Slovene team reached the summit of Gangapurna (7455 meters, 24,457 feet) in the Annapurna Himal by the previously unclimbed north face. Rok Kolar and Stanko Mihev completed a three-day push on October 1. The other members of the expedition were Andrei Gradišnik, Edi Krebs and I as leader. Base Camp was established at 5200 meters on September 8 and an equipment dump was made at the foot of the face. Although without great technical difficulties, bad weather was the main problem. Since the monsoon lasted so long this year, there were only five good days out of the 30 spent at Base Camp. Because of avalanche danger, the lower 800 meters of the 1600-meter-high face were fixed with rope. On September 24, four members climbed to bivouac 950 meters up the face at 6800 meters. We were driven back by deteriorating weather. The final push started on September 29. After a bivouac at 6800 meters, Kolar and Mihev spent the next day in the tent waiting for better weather. On October 1, they ascended the 400-meter crux, the ramp, with passages of 65° to 75°. Difficult snow and ice led them to the ridge and the summit. They descended the same route, rappelling down the ramp.

## FRANC PUŠNIK, Planinska zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia

*Tarke Kang.* A German expedition led by Adi Welsch failed to climb Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome; 7193 meters, 23,599 feet) by its south ridge. They reached 5400 meters on October 18 and 21.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY



Annapurna IV Ascent, Possible Ascent and Tragedy on Annapurna II. Our expedition had as members Park Duk-Woo, Chang Byung-Ho, Jeong Jae-Ho, Kim Yong-Kyu, Jeong Kab-Yong, Jeong Joon-Mo, Lee Su-Jin, Cho Won-Bae and me as leader. We set up Base Camp at 3600 meters north of the peaks on August 20 and Advance Base and Camps I, II and III at 5300, 6300, 7300 and 7400 meters on August 23, September 3, 11 and 20. Camp III was for Annapurna II only. On September 20, Cho Won-Bae, Jeong Joon-Mo and Dawa Gyalzen Sherpa climbed to the summit of Annapurna IV (7525 meters, 24,688 feet) via the east ridge. This was the 22nd ascent. On September 21, Kim Yong-Kyu and Jeong Kab-Yong were contacted by radio just below the rock face under the summit on the west ridge. They expected to complete the ascent of Annapurna II (7937 meters, 26,041 feet,) in a short time and bivouac high on the mountain that night. The other members waited for a radio call from them with the good news, but it never came. A search team ascended to Camp III but they could find no trace of them.

## LEE DONG-MYUNG, Yeungnam University Alpine Club, South Korea

Annapurna Dakshin Attempt. Our expedition, composed of Martin Doyle, Lindsay Griffin, Dave Harries, Mike Woolridge, Katherine Slevin and me as leader, attempted the very difficult. unclimbed east buttress of Annapurna Dakshin (7919 meters, 23,683 feet). Base Camp was established on April 12 at 4180 meters in the Annapurna Sanctuary. Two or three meters of winter snow still lay at that altitude. Almost continuously bad weather hindered us for the next six weeks. Griffin and Tinker had the novel experience of clipping into a bolt left behind by Japanese on the only previous attempt on the buttress when all three Japanese died. On May 10, Doyle and Harries reached 6000 meters. Ropes were left in place, but further attempts were thwarted by illness. With little time left and the main difficulties still above, the route was abandoned. Griffin and Tinker made an unsuccessful attempt on the original east face-southeast ridge route but persistent snowfall dictated prudence.

#### JONATHAN GARRATT, Captain, Grenadier Guards, British Army

*Dhampus.* On October 15, Japanese Shigeyuki Baba, leader, and Kenichiro Kawaguchi and Gaja Bahadur Gurung climbed to the summit of Dhampus (6012 meters, 19,724 feet) by its southwest face and west ridge.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri Attempt. Our group was composed of Italo Valle, Gino Casassa, Rodrigo Mújica, Giorgio Cattoni and me as doctor and leader. The permission for our original objective, Shisha Pangma, was cancelled. After a period of acclimatization near Everest, Mújica had to withdraw because of a recurrence of mononucleosis. The rest of us headed for Dhaulagiri. From Marpha, we crossed

Dampus and French Passes, despite difficulties for the porters caused by excessive snow on the passes. We got to Base Camp at 4700 meters on April 22, below the northeast ridge, also being attempted by other expeditions. The intense snowstorms increased the danger of avalanches between Base Camp and Camp II at 5700 meters, which we occupied on April 27. On April 30, Casassa and I headed for the southwest summit of Tukuche (6690 meters, 21,949 feet) and camped at 6300 meters. On May 1, we climbed to the summit in poor weather and returned that same day to Camp II on the northeast col of Dhaulagiri. Meanwhile, Valle and Ang Phurba Sherpa had established Camp III at 6600 meters, but they were trapped there by weather until they could descend to Camp II on May 4. Casassa and I ascended to Camp III on the 5th, but bad weather prevented further progress. Up till then we had had only two good days in 14. On May 10, Valle and Casassa established Camp IV at 7200 meters and descended to Camp II on the 11th. On May 14, they had hoped to climb to Camp IV and make a summit try, but the wind was so strong that they gave up the attempt.

# MAURICIO PURTO, M.D., AAC and Chilean Section of the Club Alpino Italiano

*Dhaulagiri*. Our expedition was composed of Graziano Bianchi, Dr. Elisabetta Castellaro, Fausto Destefani, Aristide Galbusera, Silvio Mondinelli, Claudio Schranz, Maurizio Simonetto, Lino Zani, Sergio Martini and me as leader. Our original plan of climbing the southwest side was impossible because of slides. On April 25, we moved to Base Camp at 4600 meters below the northeast ridge, having been allowed by the Chileans to try that route. After reconnaissance in bad weather, we all started for Camp I at 5700 meters on the northeast col on April 30. Zani fell into a crevasse halfway up and had to be helped back to Base Camp. He was evacuated by helicopter on May 3 at which time several members left. Camps II and III were established at 6400 and 7000 meters on May 2 and 3. The weather was very unstable. On May 10, Destefani and Martini placed Camp IV at 7500 meters and on the 11th reached the summit at 11:45 after a six-hour climb. This was the eighth 8000er for both. News that Tibet had been reopened reached us on May 12 and bad weather returned. For that reason, we quit to head for Everest, our previous objective.

## ORESTE FORNO, Club Alpino Italiano

*Dhaulagiri*. On April 23, Peter Rohrmoser, Erwin Reinthaler and I left Pokhara with our liaison officer and eight porters to cross the Ghorapani Pass to Tukuche and the Dhapa Pass to Hidden Valley. We had to wait there for some days because five of the porters were not prepared to go on to the Dhaulagiri Base Camp. Finally, on May 7, with three porters, we continued to Base Camp at 4600 meters. We reconnoitered and made a dump on the northeast col at 5750 meters on May 9. On the 12th, we climbed past the col to 6500 meters, where we set up a tent. After some bad weather, on May 15 we climbed to 6500 meters,

where Reinthaler had to turn back and return to the col alone. Rohrmoser and I kept on to camp at 7000 meters. On the 16th, Rohrmoser had to return to the col because of stomach trouble. I spent the day in the tent. On May 17, I climbed alone to bivouac at 7500 meters. After a stormy night, I climbed to the summit, reaching it at 11:30 A.M.

# SEPP INHÖGER, Österreichischer Alpenverein

*Dhaulagiri Attempts.* Argentines led by Raúl Uranga failed to climb Dhaulagiri by the northeast ridge, getting to 7100 meters on April 10. Catalans Carles Galàn, Jaume Ganges and Luis Giner also attempted to climb Dhaulagiri by the same ridge. Their high point was 7200 meters, reached on May 1. After their unsuccessful try on Makalu, the 10-member Belgian team led by Jos Dewint were turned back by high winds on the northeast ridge at 7600 meters on May 17.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Dhaulagiri Autumn Attempts*. Five expeditions attempted to climb the northeast ridge of Dhaulagiri. None of them was successful. Six Spaniards led by Ignacio Olaizola reached 6500 meters on September 21. Three Frenchmen and a Spaniard led by Alain Bigey got to 6500 meters on September 25. A French military group failed; they lost two Sherpas in an avalanche. (See below.) Spaniard Jordi Magriñà and a companion had to give up at 6750 meters on September 26. French climber Christophe Profit and Spaniard Enric Lucas, accompanied by Sylvianne Tavernier, Ana Masip and Pierre-Louis Olland, were forced back by bad weather at 7800 meters on November 14.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri Attempt and Tragedy. After our success on Indrasan in April, the Groupe Militaire de Haute Montagne hoped to climb Dhaulagiri in September and October, one group by the east face and the other by the normal route. In the second week of this climb, two members had to be evacuated, one with pulmonary edema and the other because of excessive fatigue. We decided to give up the east face try. Still present were Lieutenant Hubert Giot, Sergeants Bruno Prom, Eric Gramond, Dominique Gleizes and Philippe Renard, Adjutant Lionel Mailly, Captain Doctor Pierre Lavier and I as leader. We set up Camps I and II at 5700 and 6450 meters on September 14 and 18. The weather got worse and worse. On September 25, Giot, Gleizes and Sherpas Ajiba and Kami Sarki left Camp II for Camp III while it snowed lightly. When the weather worsened, they dropped their loads at 7100 meters at the base of the "Pear." They were overwhelmed by an avalanche. Giot and Gleizes were saved, being attached to a fixed rope. The Sherpas, 50 meters behind, disappeared over the north face, carried away by the avalanche. A long period of bad weather followed. On October 3, a team ascended to find Camp I completely

destroyed. On October 11, climbers went up to Camp II but there was too much avalanche danger. On the 15th, it was decided to abandon the expedition.

#### ALAIN ESTÈVE, Captain, Groupe Militaire de Haute Montagne

Dhaulagiri Tragedy. Two Catalans, Andorran Francesc Dalmases and Spaniard Jordi Cañameras, hoped to climb the west face of Dhaulagiri in the post-monsoon season. This route is technically difficult and was particularly so in the bad weather. In late September, at about 7000 meters, Cañameras decided to descend and returned to Base Camp with badly frozen feet. Dalmases insisted on keeping on and since he did not return from the mountain, it must be assumed that he has perished.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Dhaulagiri Attempt. On September 16, Oscar Cardiach and I arrived at Base Camp at 4700 meters below the northeast ridge of Dhaulagiri after crossing Dhampus and French Passes. There we met two French expeditions, one civilian and one military, and a Basque one. We also talked with ill-fated Quicu Dalmases and Jordi Cañameras, who were to attempt the west face. On September 19, Cardiach and I set out for Camp I at 5650 meters on the northeast col. The first part is easy but exposed to avalanches and rockfall from the Eiger. The second part took us through a very broken sérac barrier, where we fixed some rope. We spent two nights there before returning to Base Camp. We were back on the 23rd with worsening weather. Finally on the 26th, we set up Camp II at 6750 meters. This stretch should have been easy but snow and windslabs made it dangerous and we descended to Base Camp. The French military lost two Sherpas in an avalanche on the 27th. Much more snow fell. On October 2, we reascended to Camp I but were forced back the next day. After much snowfall, we plowed our way back up to Camp I on the 9th. We tried unsuccessfully to get back to Camp II on the 10th. We left Base Camp on October 13.

## JORDI MAGRIÑÁ, AAEET de Valls, Spain

*Dhaulagiri Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Olivier Besson, Philippe Michaud, Guy Cousleix, Michel Beulné and me. We tried to climb the normal northeast ridge of Dhaulagiri. After an approach via the Mayagdi Khola we got to Base Camp on November 24. Six days of bad weather followed by sun still did not let us get to the north col despite four tries. The snow was belly-deep. We quit at 5200 meters. Then, Besson, Beulné and I climbed Tukuche Peak by the northeast ridge. When we returned to Base Camp, we learned that one of our approach porters, a lad of 17, had died in an avalanche. We called the attempt off on December 17.

LAURENT LUKIE, CLUB ALPIN FRANÇAIS

Dhaulagiri Tragedy. In December, three men disappeared on Dhaulagiri who were attempting a winter ascent by the normal northeast ridge. Four Americans and two Canadians, whose leader Timothy Brill did not even reach Base Camp, were apparently more a collection of people interested in scaling Dhaulagiri than a team. The climbing leader Jim Yoder left after some days of climbing. He went back to Kathmandu, not having been able to acclimatize. The rest pushed on to Camp II at 5800 meters. Three descended from there while three more presumably climbed to Camp III at 6400 meters. After those that descended had reached Base Camp, the two Canadians departed for home. While Joseph Cain staved there, the two Americans still on the peak, Gregory Barber and Scott McGrath, and their only climbing Sherpa Nuru Wangchuk remained at Camp III at 6400 meters, determined to continue the climb. There followed a nine-day snowstorm. Cain waited out the snowstorm at Base Camp and then scanned the mountain for signs of the men above. Before the prolonged snowfall, he thought he had been able to see Camp III and the cache of equipment above it, but now he could see neither the camp, the cache nor any indication that there was anyone anywhere on the mountain. They had taken no radios with them and so could not communicate. Cain had to return home and when he left, only a Sherpa cook and helper remained there. They dismantled the camp a few days later and when Yoder and one of the Canadians came back from Kathmandu, they found absolutely no one.

#### ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Churen Himal, Central Summit. Our team consisted of Christopher Burt, Henry Chaplin and Roger Pyves and me as leader, as well as Sherpas Ang Jangbo and Lkakpa Gyalu. We completed the third ascent of the central summit of Churen Himal. There are three summits, all of which are given as having an altitude of 7371 meters (24,184 feet). Our 12-day walk to Base Camp started from Pokhara. We followed the Kali Gandaki north to Beni, where we branched off up the Myagdi Khola through Darbang. We proceeded through Sibang and Lulang over an 11,000-foot pass to Gurjakhani and finally up the Kaphe Khola to Base Camp, which we reached on October 1. From there we followed the Japanese first-ascent route on the southeast face. We established Advance Base on the Kaphe Glacier at 15,600 feet and Camp I at 16,700 feet. It took several days to fix rope up the wall above, but by October 10 we had Camp II at 19,200 feet on a spur of Ghustang North. Camp III was placed at 20,300 feet on the airy crest of a small ridge in front of the south face of Dhaulagiri VI. From Camp III we crossed a heavily crevassed bowl under the long ridge joining Churen's east peak to Dhaulagiri VI. A lower ramp led to a broad ridge and the central peak. Camps IV and V were established at 21,600 and 22,400 feet on October 19 and 25. On October 26, Burt and Sherpas Ang Jangbo and Lhakpa Gyalu were on the summit at 12:25 P.M. After an eternity of breaking through the crust and a delicate 50-yard traverse, Chaplin, Pyves and I got there a little later.

#### CHUCK EVANS, England

*Gurja Himal Attempt*. On October 7, my wife Danielle Fioggiaroli-Gendey, Dr. Dominique Ollier, Jacques Henry, Patrick Huard, Jean-Luc Le Floch and I left Pokhara with 60 porters, hoping to climb the 1969 Japanese route on Gurja Himal (7193 meters, 23,600 feet). After having gone around the Dhaulagiri massif, we got to Base Camp at 4100 meters on the Kaphe Glacier on October 18. We placed Camps I and II at 4700 and 5000 meters on October 20 and 23. A thousand meters of steep but easy rock led to the hanging plateau of the Kaphe Glacier. This part of the route was entirely fixed with rope by Chuck Evans' expedition to Churen Himal and by us. We placed Camp III at 5950 meters on the 28th. A big snowfall prevented placing Camp IV on the far side of the plateau until the 30th. The next day, Le Floch, Pemba Norbu Sherpa and Sonam Sherpa bivouacked on the ramp that leads to the shoulder at 6300 meters. On November 1, they made a summit try but had to give up because of high winds and avalanche danger.

## PATRICK GENDEY, Club Alpin Français

*Kande Hiunchuli*. Eight British climbers led by Garry Kennard attempted the north ridge of Kande Hiunchuli (6627 meters, 21,742 feet), but they could not proceed beyond 5900 meters due to fresh snow. The expedition was abandoned on October 29.

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

*P6380, Kanjeralwa Group.* Four French climbers were led by Michel Thodoroff. They climbed the north face to the north ridge. On September 30, Michel Thodoroff, Vincent Dalmais and three Gurung porters Iman, Man Bahadur and Dunbar completed the first ascent of the peak (20,932 feet). On October 1, Cyril Thodoroff, Marc Bioret and for a second time Michel Thodoroff, Dalmais, Man Bahadur and Dunbar also reached the summit.

## ELIZABETH HAWLEY

# India-Kumaon

*Chaudhara.* On June 8, leader S.N. Dhar, Rabin Paul and Lhakpa Tsering Sherpa reached the summit of Chaudhara (6510 meters, 21,360 feet). This was probably the second ascent. We had set up three higher camps. We climbed the west face. The other members were R.S. Bhowmick, M. Bose, C. Chakraborty, P. Bej, Achintya Mukherjee, B.M. Bhattacharjee, S. Mukherjee, U. Sarkar, Tarchen Sherpa and I as deputy leader.

J.K. PAUL, Diganta, Calcutta, India