

back, while Tensing continued with the sahibs. On May 27th the attack continued along mixed rock and snow above the South Col. By three in the afternoon they reached the summit ridge of Everest at 27,550 feet. It was decided that Tensing and Lambert would spend the night there in a bivouac tent but without sleeping bags or stoves. They were equipped with oxygen. Flory and Aubert descended to Camp 6 to wait in support.

The night was miserable. The climbers had little food and it was very cold. The only water they could get was by melting snow over a candle. At 6 A.M. they left for the summit attempt, carrying oxygen equipment and a little food. The climbing was not difficult on the snow and easy rocks, but the weather was unsettled. They climbed over two bumps on the ridge and then reached a corniced portion where the snow was knee deep. They struggled on until they were nearly at the base of the summit rocks, only about 800 feet away, but they realized they could not make it and wisely started back. The descent was nearly as slow as the ascent, but by 3 P.M. they reached Camp 6. The next day the climbers were replaced by a second team who spent two days on the South Col without trying to go higher because of the wind and their own bad physical condition. Thus ended the pre-monsoon attempt.

*Cho Oyu.* A strong British party failed in its pre-monsoon attempt on Cho Oyu, 26,750 feet, in Nepal, only about eighteen miles from Mt. Everest. Under the leadership of Eric Shipton, the group consisted of the Canadian Campbell Secord, three New Zealanders, E. Hillary, H. E. Riddleford, and G. Lowe, and the Englishmen R. C. Evans, A. Gregory, R. G. Colledge and T. Bourdillon. Reconnaissance showed that there was no hope of climbing the peak from the south as they had hoped to do. They turned to the west and established a depot at 19,400 feet. Above this rose a series of ice cliffs. After the first ice cliff was surmounted, a camp for six Britishers and six Sherpas was placed at 21,000 feet. The main ice barriers above were obviously impossible and the attempt was abandoned. The members of the expedition continued to climb and reconnoitre the region, ascending 11 peaks that ranged from 20,000 to 22,600 feet and explored the Nup La to the West Rongbuk Glacier on Mount Everest.

*Chaukhamba.* There were several expeditions to the Garhwal Himalayas in 1952. The most notable was the French party which

climbed Chaukhamba, 23,420 feet, in the Gangotri group. The mountain had previously been attempted unsuccessfully by the Austrians in 1938 and the Swiss in 1939, who miraculously escaped from an avalanche that swept the party down from their camp on the northeast ridge and killed two Sherpas. Following the Swiss route from a base camp on the Bhagirath-Kharak Glacier, the expedition placed an advance base camp at the foot of the peak on June 8th. Camp 1 at 15,800 and Camp 2 at 17,700 feet were established in the next two days. From Camp 3 at 19,500 feet Lucien George and Victor Russenberger, the only Swiss members of the party, made the climb to the summit on June 13th. Edouard Frendo had to turn back less than 500 feet from the summit. A second ascent was unsuccessfully tried by Gérard Géry with two Sherpas the next day. They reported that the chief difficulties were caused by the threats of avalanches between Camps 1 and 2 and the deep snow that lay on the northeast face. Other members of the expeditions were M. Lecam, P. Repiton, and Mlle. Marie Louise Plovier.

An English party consisting of T. H. Tilly, D. C. Bryson, J. A. Jackson, K. Kempe, and R. K. Misra were also climbing in this region at more or less the same time. After exploring the Bhagirath-Kharak and Satopanth Glaciers, they gave up all hope for Chaukhamba because of the wintery conditions and reconnoitred the Bagneu Glacier where they attempted a 20,260-foot peak, which they named "Avalanche Mountain." After being caught in a rather serious snow slide, they gave up the ascent for the time being and turned to Nilkanta, 21,640 feet. Later, Jackson and Bryson returned to Avalanche Mountain and climbed it. Their second attempt on Nilkanta, which they made along with Russenberger and George, was stopped by the beginning of the monsoon high on the mountain.

*Kamet.* An admirable expedition to Kamet, 25,431 feet, was organized by Maj. Gen. H. Williams, Chief of the Royal Engineers of the Indian Army, to acquaint young Indian officers with the high Himalayas. The Indians who took part were Maj. Narendra D. Jayal, Maj. Mark Valladares, Lt. K. C. Johorey, Lt. P. P. S. Bhaghat, Lt. Manohor Lal, all Royal Engineers, Flight Lt. Nalni D. Jayal, and Gurdial Singh. With five Sherpas they established