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 wintry 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.

on the mountain five camps, above which soft snow turned them back about 600 feet from the summit.

*Rubal Kang.* On June 26th K. E. Snelson and J. de V. Graaf of Cambridge University, with Pasang Dawa, who previously had climbed on K2, reached the summit of Rubal Kang, 20,300 feet. This peak lies at the head of one of the four glaciers explored by the party in the Dibibokri Basin.

*1953 Expeditions.* This year promises to be one of the most active ever in the Himalayas. A British expedition* under Col. John Hunt, consisting of 12 members with 4 in reserve, is leaving for Everest in February for another try at the southern route through Nepal. Meanwhile the Russians report that they are training hundreds of climbers in the Himalayas; so we may well see a race for the world's highest summit. The British have also received permission from the Nepalese government for an expedition to Dhaulagiri. Meanwhile the Germans are making their plans for an assault on Nanga Parbat. In Vienna, the Austrians announce the organization of an Austrian Himalayan Foundation, which hopes to send out a party this year to explore some of the lesser known regions. The Japanese Mountaineering Club made a good reconnaissance to prepare for an expedition to Manaslu in Nepal in 1953. The 16 members will leave for India in April.

Of greater interest to the members of the American Alpine Club are the American expedition to K2 in 1953 and the projected California Himalayan Expedition to Makalu or Dhaulagiri in 1954.

H. Adams Carter

**Miscellaneous**

*Letter to the Editor:*

Over recent years there has been an increasing public interest in high mountain climbing, as evident from the many accounts of climbs which rank as best sellers.

Among American-published books there is, unfortunately, a tendency to crop the margins of magnificent mountain illustrations,

*Word has just been received of the successful ascent of Mt. Everest by this expedition, 29 May 1953.*