

due mostly to poor leadership and dissent among the climbers. The leader, German Dr. Karl Maria Herrligkoffer, was with the expedition for only three weeks of its three months' duration. Shortly after arrival at Base Camp, he had to return to Germany for more clothing and equipment for the Sherpas. Later he was evacuated for medical reasons, stemming probably from his return to 16,000 feet by helicopter. The climbers were Michel Anderl, deputy leader; Fritz Kuen, leader on the face; Adolf Huber, Adolf Weissensteiner, Werner Haim, Horst Schneider, Adolf Sager, Sepp Maag, Peter Perner, *Austrians*; Leo Breitenberger, *Italian*; Don Whillans, Doug Scott, Hamish MacInnis, *British*; Peter Bednar, *naturalized German of Czech origin*; Hans Berger, *Swiss*; and Misha Saleki, *Iranian*. The weather was generally excellent but there were early delays in the Khumbu Icefall because of insufficient Sherpa clothing. Details vary in different reports but it would seem that certain Austrians stayed rather constantly in the lead, fearing that if the British reached that position, they would never relinquish it. They also accused the British of laziness and of wasting oxygen, while the British felt there was no overall planning and that they were kept from doing what they were capable of. In any case, morale was terrible. Finally after establishing Camp VI at the same point as on the International Expedition in 1971, Kuen and Huber made a half-hearted summit attempt on May 21, from which they returned because of the cold. They reached 27,000 feet, about the same point as Whillans and Haston the year before. The attempt was given up at that time; the three British had quit in disgust five days earlier.

*Mount Everest Post-Monsoon Attempt.* The British expedition which attempted the southwest face of Everest in the post-monsoon period was fighting from the beginning against time. It was led by Christian Bonington with Lieutenant Colonel James Roberts as deputy. They reached Base Camp on September 14 and in five days had a route worked through the Khumbu Icefall. Camp II (Advanced Base) at the foot of the southwest face was established on October 1 by Nick Estcourt and Dave Bathgate, who put in the route to Camp III at 23,000 feet the next day. Doug Scott and Mick Burke pioneered the route to Camp IV at 24,500 feet on October 10. Hamish MacInnes and Dougal Haston finished preparing the route to Camp V at 26,000 feet on October 14. Since the face had considerable snow cover, no fixed ropes from previous expeditions were usable, but conditions were generally good. Two snowstorms had delayed the team and as Chris Bonington and Sherpas moved up, the terribly strong post-monsoon winds began to slow down their effort. A bad four-day storm hit at the end of October and all but Graham Tiso were forced back down off the face. On November 6 they started fixing ropes towards Camp VI. By November 14 there were finally enough supplies at Camp VI for Haston, MacInnes, Scott and Burke to move up, hoping to establish two men there. Their plan had been to climb the rock band by starting

up a snow gully in which Haston had climbed some 250 feet in 1971. The gully was now nearly 1000-feet of very difficult rock! This was out of the question. Haston then looked around the corner to the "Escape Route" to the south ridge, but continual 100-mph winds ruled this out. They had no choice but to give up the attempt. On the way down, an Australian who had been helping in Base Camp, Tony Tighe, came up to meet the party and was tragically killed by a collapsing ice wall in the icefall. Kelvin Kent and Dr. Barney Rosedale also were members of the expedition. (We are grateful to Doug Scott for supplying this information.)

*Pumori.* Our expedition was composed of teacher-guides in the Ecole Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme at Chamonix: Yves Pollet-Villard, leader; Pierre Blanc, Jean Coudray, Yvon Masino, Georges Payot, Raymond Renaud and me as deputy-leader. From Kathmandu we flew to Lukla on September 17 and left Lukla on September 19 with eight Sherpas and 148 porters. Base Camp was established at 17,000 feet at Gorakshep, two hours below the Everest Base Camp. Camp I was placed on September 29 at 17,900 feet on the moraine that descends from Kala Pattar. We attacked the south face at 18,375 feet, choosing the spur which comes lowest and ascends to the summit of Pumori. It has four rocky steps, separated by ice or snow and very steep corniced ridges. The buttress is separated from the summit slope by a final 150-foot rocky barrier. The crux sections were the second (20,650 feet) and fourth (22,000 feet) steps. The first step was above the bergschrund and was cut on the left by a 75° verglas-covered, difficult ice couloir which we abandoned in favor of the more exposed but easier right side. The Sherpas failed to climb this. Some 70° snow led to Camp II on the buttress crest 350 feet below the second step, which started with 250 feet of very difficult mixed climbing. We escaped into a 500-foot-high amphitheater to avoid a part of the step. The top of the amphitheater being overhanging, we climbed to the right over a 100-foot slab with direct aid and onto the ice plaque which covered the upper part of the slab; up this we front-pointed for 65 feet on 80° ice. We emerged at the top of this second step on fifty feet of rock to reach the 65° fluted snow slopes that led to the third step at 21,300 feet. We climbed this step on UIAA IV+ rock and got back to the corniced, broken ridge where we had to ascend vertical walls of rotten snow. The 650-foot ridge took us three days and led to the fourth step, which for some time we feared unclimbable. Fortunately, extremely difficult and in part artificial climbing brought us to a 65° ridge under the rocky barrier below the summit slopes. At the top of this ridge we were pinned for four days, October 26 to 29, by a storm which dropped over three feet of snow. We had fixed some 10,000 feet of rope and wondered if we could find it in the deep snow. It was however the very steepness that saved us since the snow sloughed off as it fell; then a violent wind blew off what remained. Polet-Villard, Masino, Payot and Coudray re-ascended in two days to Camp III, surprised to find all the fixed ropes in