

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

place. We felt they could make it but feared windslabs. On November 3 they set out at 6:30 and by ten o'clock were above the highest fixed ropes. They took an hour and a half to cross the 150 feet of the rocky barrier. They were on the summit (23,442 feet) at noon in brilliant but windy weather. The second team, Blanc, Renaud, Sirdar Ang Temba and I, were at Camp III as they descended. There was room for only four people at the campsite, which previously had taken us two days to carve out of the steep ice. We four were at the summit on November 4 in bright, still weather. We used 170 pitons, 15 ice screws, 70 pickets and 10,000 feet of fixed rope.

MAURICE GICQUEL, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

*Lhotse Attempt.* Germans Gerhard Lenser and Michael Holz hoped to try Lhotse (27,923 feet) from the east but failed to find approach routes to the mountain. In early April they found their way barred by a formidable ice wall. They rested briefly at Kunde, which they left on April 9 for another approach via Mingbo Pass. At 17,000 feet they were confronted by another ice wall, 500 feet high and completely smooth, which their load-carrying Sherpas could not handle.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Kangchungtse or Makalu II.* A four-man Japanese group from Denki-Tsushin University led by Tadashige Nishiyama from Base Camp on the Barun Glacier reconnoitered Kangchungtse (25,066 feet), which was first climbed by French in 1954. They established their highest camp, Camp IV, on the northwest ridge at 22,000 feet on May 4. Yusuke Ito and a Sherpa got to 23,000 feet on May 6, but they had no supplies for a summit bid.

*Makalu.* The Mountaineering Union of Yugoslavia expedition was led by Ales Kunaver and comprised ten climbers, three scientists and one journalist. They attempted the unclimbed south face, placing Camp V at 25,750 feet on 27,825-foot Makalu. In early November Miya Malezie and Janko Azman reached the top of the south face at 26,575 feet but could not get to the summit.

*Kongde-Ri, East Peak.* A German Alpine Club five-man expedition from the Allgäu-Kempton section made the first ascent of Kongde-Ri's eastern (lower) summit (19,991 feet), 21 miles southwest of Mount Everest. The climb was made from the Lumding Khola, which lies south of the peak. Franz Dürschmidt made a solo ascent of 19,000-foot Kanarmu, which is south of Kongde-Ri's east peak.

*Rolwaling.* Franz Ludwig Klement, his wife Annelie, Max Leonhard, Florian Maurer, Ferdinand and Max Pfordte and Harro Storck from