

*Mount Everest.* A huge post-monsoon Nepalese-Italian expedition led by Francesco Santon did not reach the summit of Mount Everest. There were 32 Italians, 15 Nepalese, one Austrian (Kurt Diemberger), two Czechoslovakians and two Thais, as well as 25 high-altitude Sherpas. They reached the south summit. They made four camps, the highest on the South Col and had a depot at 27,900 feet. There were three summit attempts. Two men died, Sherpa Nawang Kersang and Italian Mario Piama, one in the Khumbu Icefall and one higher.

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*Mount Everest, Winter Attempt, 1981.* Six Japanese climbers and five scientists and reporters, led by Naomi Uemura, failed to make the second winter ascent of Mount Everest by the South Col. They climbed the Khumbu Icefall and made Camp I at 19,850 feet on December 9. Camp II was established at 21,150 feet on December 17. On the day when Camp III was placed on the Lhotse Face on January 12, 1981, Noboru Takenaka was killed as he slipped from a fixed rope. Evacuating his body and bad weather stopped things for a week. On January 27, Ken'ichi Matsuda, Toichi Mitani, Uemura and three Sherpas set out for the South Col in high winds. Mitani and a Sherpa got there, but they could not camp. The expedition was given up. (See *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 80, page 107.)

*Lhotse Attempt.* Our expedition of 14 Spaniards and 14 Sherpas began reconnaissance of the Khumbu Icefall on March 22. We were there at the same time as the Polish and Basque expeditions. Our objective was Lhotse by the northwest couloir. We were Jaime Badrenas, Jaime Barnils, Dr. Salvador Cabré, Enric Bonastre, Ramón Majó, Joan Frontera, Franz Ludwig, Jaime Llasera, Xavier Pérez, Fredi Puig, Jordi Selga, Joan and Jordi Vinyoldi and I as leader. We established Camp I on March 30 at 20,000 feet and Camp II on April 4 at 21,325 feet. By April 15 we had Camp III on the Lhotse Face at 24,125 feet and on April 26 the first team to try for the summit spent the night at Camp IV at 25,600 feet. On the 27th high winds and bare ice in the couloir forced them to quit at three P.M. Until then the weather had been excellent, but it changed, piling up snow every afternoon. We were prevented until May 15 from making another try on the couloir. One Sherpa had to retire at the foot of the couloir and a Spaniard had to quit with oxygen-equipment trouble. The other two continued to 27,550 feet until they had exhausted their oxygen at eight P.M., often burrowing waist-deep in the snow. While the four were descending the Yellow Band the next day, an enormous avalanche falling from the couloir swept over them, broke fixed ropes and hurtled Pasang Nima to the bottom of the

Lhotse Face. Although he was attended to medically and evacuated to Camp I, he died in the evening of May 17. Camp IV had already been swept away by the avalanche. Two days after Camp III was dismantled, another huge avalanche completely covered the whole area where it had been.

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*Lhotse Tragedy.* Nicolas Jaeger, the French climber who had such a remarkable record, particularly of solo ascents, disappeared on Lhotse on April 27. His original plan had been to make the first ascent of the 10,000-foot-high direct south face of Lhotse, supported by two friends, and then to climb the west ridge of Mount Everest solo. Jaeger set off from a bivouac he had made at the foot of the face of Lhotse with Georges Bettembourg and Nicholas Bérardini. He climbed the direct route to about 20,000 feet but returned because of bad conditions and avalanche danger. He then turned to the southeast ridge of Lhotse Shar, by which in 1970 Sepp Mayerl and Rolf Walter had climbed that lower summit of Lhotse. It was his intention to climb Lhotse Shar, continue over the unclimbed middle summit and reach the main summit before descending the normal route. He set out on this route on April 26 and was seen the next day at about 26,500 feet, having climbed with amazing speed to a point some 1000 feet below the summit of Lhotse Shar. Bad weather closed in for the next six days and he was never seen again. A helicopter search turned up no signs of him.

*Lhotse, Solo Attempt.* In the second week of October Reinhold Messner climbed through the Khumbu Icefall and the Western Cwm to 24,275 feet along the route of the 80-man Italo-Nepalese Everest expedition accompanied by its Sherpas. He went from the 17,700-foot Base Camp to 24,275 feet in two mornings' climbing. On the third morning he climbed up to 25,600 feet, where bad weather defeated him, and descended back down to Base Camp.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Pumori Attempt.* Five Italians led by Toni Klingendrath hoped to climb Pumori alpine-style. They first tried the southeast face direct and in mid-October placed a camp at 19,200 feet. Then three members left for home. Klingendrath and Roberto Giberna attempted a spur on the east face. On October 25 they were hit by an avalanche at 21,650 feet in which Giberna was hurt, putting an end to their climbing.

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*Pumori.* A Japanese expedition led by Yasuo Iwazoe successfully climbed the normal, south ridge of Pumori. From Camp III, after a