

but that same day Radio Nepal transmitted an erroneous warning that the monsoon was approaching. We recalled all remaining parties from the mountain. (We are grateful to Oto Chudý for the translation from Slovak.)

IVAN GÁLFY, *Horska Slusba, Czechoslovakia*

Kanchenjunga and Yalungkang. Our 22-man expedition reached Base Camp on the Yalung Glacier at 18,000 feet on March 16. We started up the British first-ascent route of 1955 and established Camps I, II and III (Advance Base) at 20,175, 21,150 and 23,960 feet on March 22, 25 and 31 respectively. The latter was on the Great Shelf. The Kanchenjunga party continued up the British route and established Camp IV at 25,750 feet on April 23 and Camp V at 27,225 feet on April 29. The Yalungkang party placed Camps IV and V at 25,750 and 27,050 feet on April 20 and 29 on the Austrian route of 1975. The original plan had been for the Kanchenjunga party to traverse to Yalungkang while the Yalungkang party climbed the ridge to the main peak of Kanchenjunga. On May 9 Noburo Yamada, Kazumi Fujikura, Shigeru Suzuki, Akinori Hosaka, Kunio Kataoka and Sherpa Nima Temba reached the main summit of Kanchenjunga (8598 meters, 28,208 feet) at 12:30 after 8½ hours of climbing. Meanwhile Yoshio Ogata, Hiroshi Yashima, Fuji Tsunoda, Kuniaki Yagihara and Kazuo Tobita climbed with nearly identical times to the summit of Yalungkang (8420 meters, 27,625 feet). Deep snow had made the ascent very arduous and it was decided not to try the 2½-km traverse between the peaks in either direction. We set poles on each peak for surveying, one seven meters to the left of the true summit of Kanchenjunga and the other on the very peak of Yalungkang. Other members of the expedition were vice-leader Kaoru Kikuchi, Makihiko Wakao, Takashi Sakuma, Ya Watanabe, Shin Komatsu, Jisaburo Suzuki, Toshimasa Tanioka, Shigeru Fukuyama, Yoshiharu Nikai, Yasuji Kato, Dr. Ryoko Kato and I as leader.

KIN'ICHI YAMAMORI, *Himalayan Association of Japan*

Kanchenjunga Ascent and Tragedy. We were Gilles Gaby, Michel Parmentier, Michel Pellé, Jean-Jacques Ricouard and I as leader. There are two approach routes to the Yalung side. We left Ilam and went through Sukepohari, Phidam, Gopetar, Tungrumba and Mamanke to the last village of Yamphuting, where we had to take on porters at double wages. On the return we went through Taplejung, Dankhuta and Daran, a preferable route with wide paths and more inhabitants from whom to recruit porters. Only on September 9 did we get to Base Camp at 17,725 feet, a magnificent rocky isle, sheltered from avalanches

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Photo by Oto Chudý

JANNU. The Slovak route diagonals
up from the left.



and with grass and running water. We could see the stone tomb of Pache, buried by an avalanche in 1905, the inscription in memory of the Mexicans who left their high camp never to return, and the piles of garbage and refuse of 18 Japanese and 22 Sherpas of last spring. We began reconnaissance right away. We found Japanese fixed ropes and German ladders up to Camp I. Above, the monsoon had swept all away. Between September 9 and October 9 we five Frenchmen and two Sherpas established Camp I at 20,000 feet in the cwm between the two sérac areas, Camp II at 22,950 feet on the second step and Camp III at 24,950 feet at the foot of the couloir that leads to the summit ridge. In contrast to the weather in western Nepal, we had constant good weather except for a five-day snowstorm at the end of September. The later the season, the more the wind blew. We decided that Pamentier and Ricouard were best acclimatized, and on October 15 they left Camp III just after midnight and reached the summit at three P.M. They found a Japanese flag and an oxygen bottle there. (We did not use oxygen.) They were not roped on the descent. Less fatigued, Ricouard went ahead and out of sight. At sunset Pamentier got back to Camp III and thought his companion must have gone on to join Pellé, the two Sherpas and me at Camp II. At 4:30 P.M., while descending from Camp II to Camp I, Gaby saw something fall in the great couloir. He tried to think it was a pack, considering the speed of the fall and the lack of steepness, but he was nervous all night. On the morning of the 16th, we sent the Sherpas up to congratulate the pair, but they found Ricouard's body at the turn of the great couloir. Our friend must have slipped. We buried him in the nearest crevasse. We decided to give up the expedition and left Base Camp on October 21.

MICHEL BERRUX, *Club Alpin Français*

Jannu, Southwest Ridge. Our expedition, Dr. Laurenc Dívald, Daniel Bakoš, Robert Gálfy (son of the leader of our joint Kanchenjunga expedition), Oto Chudý, Ľudovít Chrenka, Jidro Martiš, Ján Špánik, Ivan Vozárik and I as leader, made a new route on Jannu. Two years ago we unsuccessfully attempted the southwest ridge, failing some 500 feet below the summit. On April 19 we all left Base Camp on Dudh Pohari at 14,450 feet for Camp I with 45-pound loads, walking up the Yamatari Glacier to the base of the 6500-foot-high buttress, the foot of our ridge. Hard work began on the 21st in the icefall, the first real difficulty and surely the most difficult section of our route. In two days of doubtful weather, we reached the side basin to the left of the ridge and the site of Camp II at 17,725 feet. On April 24 work began in the 350-foot-high V+ chimney, leading us back to the ridge, where we found fixed ropes from our 1979 expedition. Parties of two climbed from Camp II, fixed ropes and the same day descended to Base Camp to rest. Camp III