

Jourjon, Jean-Noël Roche, Pascal Sombardier and me as leader. The approach from Dhankuta through Ghunsa took 14 days. From Ghunsa we made our way to Base Camp on March 29 by sometimes snow-covered paths with a few yaks in addition to the porters. Base Camp at 4500 meters was on the right bank of the Yamatari Glacier. Camp I was set up on the Yamatari Glacier on March 31. On April 1 we reached the foot of the dangerous icefall. From the 2nd to the 6th we reconnoitered. We had to climb a rock corner groove leading to a 70° ice chimney. This led to a gully which got us to a glacial shelf. At first this shelf was bounded at the top by a 10- to 12-meter ice wall, which had to be climbed. On April 12 much of the wall collapsed, leaving a chaos of ice blocks. The route then went eastward. After traversing a crevassed area, we reached snow slopes. We proceeded to Camp II at 5500 meters on the left of the lower part of the ridge. From Camp II, a traverse led to a snow gully which ended at a rock chimney which overhung for a few meters. The chimney led to a secondary ridge which petered out on the west face. A traverse right allowed us to get to the crest of the southwest spur which we followed to a gully and a chimney and finally steep snow and Camp III. It took until April 17 to establish this camp at 6000 meters. Above Camp III the spur is rock and then snow and ice. Though easy at the beginning, the slope became steep and the ice very hard. We reached an overhanging sérac with a 30-meter-high, 65° ice slope. Above, there were easier but steep passages which led to the big glacial formations of Camp IV, which we established at 6500 meters on April 20. Roche, Jourjon and Fillon fixed ropes above Camp IV on April 26. On the 27th they set up Camp V at 7000 meters. Unlike the Slovaks who went up the edge of the buttress, we headed up the right of the spur on wide slopes which ended in a couloir which led to the Throne Glacier and Camp V. On April 28 we moved Camp V up the Throne Glacier to 7300 meters. On the 29th the three climbers climbed steep snow to the bergschrund under the summit tower. On the rocks they found frayed Slovak ropes. The route followed a system of cracks and a dihedral on the right which allowed access to the snow above. This was the Slovak high point. Above the snow, a climb of some 80 meters, they got to a chimney which took them to the snow slopes of the summit. They got to the summit (7710 meters, 25,296 feet) at three P.M. Elisabeth Julliard and I had been at Camp IV for two days. We got to the entry of the final chimney of the southwest spur, but a lack of equipment forced us to turn around.

HENRI SIGAYRET, *Club Alpin Français*

*Makalu, Southeast Ridge Attempt.* Our light-weight expedition attempted the southeast ridge of Makalu without resorting to artificial oxygen or high-altitude porters. We were Renny Jackson, Scott Thorburn, Chas Macquarie, Peter Hollis, Peter Athans and me as leader. On March 11 our advance party flew to Tumlingtar and began making arrangements for the 53 local porters. The rest of us and our gear flew on March 13 and the next day we began our 14-day walk to Base Camp. We reached Tashigo, the last permanent habitation at 9000

feet in six days. We were in the snow for the next six days. It took three days to cross the Kongma La (Shipton Col) in deep fresh snow with freezing temperatures at night. The higher we went in the Barun valley, the less snow there was until at our 16,000-foot Base Camp there was none. Base Camp was just below the Barun Pokhari about two miles from the bottom of our route. Our first job was to find a route through the lower icefall. We traversed in from the left and located Camp I at 18,000 feet. The route from Camp I to Camp II was circuitous but not technical. We placed Camp II at 20,000 feet on April 8. Camp III at 22,000 feet on the col overlooking the Tibetan side of the mountain was occupied on April 19. To here the route was one of the safest possible. Crevasses were exposed to view and no ice cliffs or avalanches threatened the glacier. The more difficult climbing between 22,000 and 25,000 feet was largely on a ridge and objectively safe. We placed 2250 feet of fixed rope to a large flat area on the crest of the ridge at 24,000 feet, which on April 30 became Camp IV. On May 1 Camp IV began receiving daily snowfalls that accumulated as much as six inches each afternoon. On May 2, I continued up the ridge to the "drop-off point," where we planned to leave the ridge and descend into the eastern cwm. Our plan was to put Camp V in the bottom of the cwm and Camp VI at 26,250 feet within reach of the summit. We needed four or five consecutive good days. We waited until May 6 for a change in the weather and decided to go ahead anyhow. From the "drop-off point" we descended 500 feet into the cwm to establish Camp V at 24,500 feet. On May 7 it was again snowing heavily, but Chas Macquarie and Scott Thorburn made an attempt to establish Camp VI. Because of poor visibility and knee-deep snow they gave up at 25,400 feet. On May 8 the four at Camp V decided to descend. There was a short break in the weather on May 11 and 12, but in general the mountain became more and more snowy. We brought down as much gear as possible and began the hike out on May 15.

RONALD A. MATOUS

*Makalu Attempt.* A group of nine Belgians led by Wounter Panis attempted to climb the normal northwest route on Makalu (8463 meters, 27,786 feet). They had five camps above Base Camp, including two Camps IV, one at 25,425 feet and the other, after the first was destroyed in a storm, at 26,400 feet. Willem Verhaeghe and two Sherpas reached 25,425 feet on May 16. They called off the expedition because of deep snow and wind as time and energy were running out.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Makalu, West Buttress Attempt and Tragedy.* New Zealanders Peter Hillary and Bill Denz and Australians Mark Moorhead and Fred From attempted to climb the west buttress of Makalu. They pitched three camps above Base Camp. The death of two of the four put an end to the climb. On October 3 Denz was killed in a windslab avalanche. The other three returned to the attack but on