

the first four days. The weather was terrible. It rained every day on the approach and snowed on all but three or four days on the climb. We established Base Camp below the southeast ridge at 14,300 feet on October 6 and Camp I at 17,500 feet on October 8. We started to stock that camp but had to abandon it on the 10th because of heavy snowfall. When we returned on October 17, we found it buried by two avalanches. We placed Camp IA 500 feet higher. Camp II was made on the 19th on an ice formation, the "Ship's Prow." On October 21 Kent, Seibel, Ganesh Gurung and Nawang Sherpa planned to climb the ice and rock rib above the prow, ascend the icefall above the rib, bivouac at 22,000 feet and go for the summit. It took them six hours to climb the rib because of the snow and ice conditions. At 21,000 feet at the top of the rib, where the Koreans had exited last year over a large sérac, they found that the sérac had pitched over at least 45° and stopped any exit from the rib. All exits were barred by overhanging ice, crevasses or required climbing avalanche chutes. Because of the obvious danger and continued bad weather, we gave up the attempt.

RICHARD RANSON, *Unaffiliated*

*Chamar Attempt and Tragedy, Sringsi Himal.* A joint expedition of seven Japanese and three Nepalese led by Yoshiharu Miyashiro attempted the east or northeast ridge of Chamar (7177 meters, 23,580 feet), the route successfully climbed by New Zealanders in 1953. They established three high camps. The site for Camp IV at 22,300 feet had been reached before the summit attempt and although loads had been dumped there, the camp was never made. The summit assault party, Koichi Akao, Mitsuzu Harada, Mingma Tshering Sherpa and Dorje Sherpa, reached a high point of about 23,000 feet on May 23 and then turned back because the route to the top was too long and the snow too deep. The leader called off the expedition. The next day, May 24, it was discovered that the two tents of Camp II and one of the members had disappeared. The tents were dug out of the deep snow and Koichi Ikari was found dead, apparently the victim of an avalanche.

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

*Himal Chuli Attempt.* A six-man Polish expedition led by Tadeusz Piotrowski attempted Himal Chuli (7893 meters, 25,895 feet) by its unclimbed south ridge. The porters quit on April 12 and so the march-in took three weeks. Base Camp was established at 13,375 feet on April 30. The route started up a 6500-foot-high ice wall, which faces the west. On May 3 and 6 the team placed Camps I and II at 17,225 and 20,350 feet. Above Camp II the face became difficult; the crux pitches were over 60° and some 1000 meters of rope were fixed. On May 13 Camp III was set up at 23,450 feet near the crest of the south ridge. From May 18 to 21 Piotrowski and Andrzej Bieluń made a summit attempt. They reached 25,100 feet but were turned back by the difficulty and bad

weather. Generally the weather was poor, cloudy and windy and it snowed every day.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Himalchuli Tragedy.* A nine-man Japanese expedition, led by Hisatoshi Takabayashi, hoped to make a new route on Himalchuli, the south face to the west ridge. Shunji Nishida and two Sherpas reached 21,325 feet on the west face on September 30 where Camp III was to be pitched. Bad weather intervened. On October 6 four men were going up to this site when one Japanese slipped and pulled the other three down with him. They fell 650 feet and Masayuki Fujita and Nobuhiro Hase were killed. This ended the attempt.

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

*Manaslu Tragedy.* A heavy blow struck the Croatian Manaslu expedition from Yugoslavia led by Vinko Mareveć when on April 24 Nejc (Jernej) Zaplotnik and Ante Bučan were killed in an avalanche of rock and ice. Their companion, Srečko Gregov was badly injured. They were only 100 meters above Camp I at 14,450 feet on the Manaslu Glacier. The team was hoping to make a new route, via the dangerous south face and then the south ridge. They already had established four high camps and had reached a high point of 23,300 feet. The attempt was given up after the accident. Zaplotnik, a Slovene, was one of the foremost Himalayan climbers. He had made new routes on three 8000ers: Makalu's south face, Hidden Peak's southwest ridge and Mount Everest's entire west ridge.

FRANCI SAVENC, *Planiska Zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*Manaslu, South Face.* An expedition of guides of the German Alpine Club (DAV) Mountain and Ski School had hoped to climb the unascended south ridge of Manaslu. They had Base Camp at 13,125 feet. They climbed a rock buttress to establish Camp I at 17,050 feet. Camp II was at 18,700 feet at the point where they would leave the south-face route climbed by Messner in 1972 for their new route. They continued up the south ridge, placing Camps III and IV at 21,650 and 24,275 feet. In the first week of October, a dump of gear was covered and lost in a three-day snowstorm. When leader Günther Härter, Uwe Schelhas and Sherpa Ang Dorje set out from Camp IV on October 18, they had only five rock pitons, two ice screws and one rope, hardly enough for the very difficult climbing above. At 24,600 feet they gave up, realizing that they lacked equipment and time. They descended to Camp II from which they would make the second ascent of Messner's south-face route. They set out on October 20, each climber carrying a 45-pound pack. They climbed unroped since belaying would have taken too much time. They bivouacked at 21,650 and 24,275 feet. This last bivouac was in a snow-filled crevasse that gave some protection from the wind, which was generally violent. In the morning of October 22, Peter Popall was in