

We had one incident of cerebral and pulmonary oedema. Oxygen was taken but used only once, by Mal Duff at 8000 meters; however the supply tube froze, almost asphyxiating him.

NIKOLA KEKUS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Everest.* Our Catalán expedition consisted of Conrad Blanch, leader, Joan Massons, Dr. Antoni Ricart, Nil Bohigas, Oscar Cadiach, Enric Lucas, Charles Vallés, Jordi Camprubí, Jordi Canals, Jordi Magrinyá, Miquel Sánchez, Lluís Gómez, Xavier Pérez Gil and me. We climbed the historic British route via the north col. We were the second expedition to climb the mountain during the monsoon, having been at Base Camp at 5150 meters from June 26 to September 5. We established Camps I, II, III or Advance Bases, IV, V and VI at 5500, 6000, 6500, 7000 on the North Col, 7750 and 8450 meters on July 2, 3, 4, 31, August 7 and 9 respectively. We were the first Western expedition to follow the route over the Second Step, as the Chinese and Japanese had done. We made five unsuccessful summit attempts which arrived at 8450, 8600, 8300, 7800 and 7900 meters, driven back by bad weather and deep snow, four before and one after the summit climb. The fifth attempt on August 28 succeeded when Cadiach, Vallés, Tombu Tamog, Narayan, Ang Karma and I got to the top at 6:20 P.M. Of the 14 Catalans and five Sherpas, 12 got to over 8000 meters at least twice and all got higher than 7000 meters. During July there were heavy snowfalls up high and bad weather generally. In August there was good weather in the monsoon break in the first half and variable weather in the second. Much snow made for avalanche danger. The route was technically not difficult, though we fixed ropes on the North Col slope and had avalanche danger above 7750 meters beside the crest and on the Yellow Band. The summit climbers had to spend three nights above 8450 meters and overcome the First and Second Steps, where there was deep snow on the rock. We did not use artificial oxygen.

ANTONI SORS, *Agrupació Científica-Excursionista de Mataró, Spain*

*Everest, North Face Attempt.* We tried to climb a new route on the north face of Everest to the left of the 1984 Australian route. I had intended to go solo but my wife Annie decided to accompany me and we were together on the wall. This route is very direct and good for a small team. The snow above 8000 meters was so deep that we two had no chance to reach the summit. After acclimatization climbs, from a camp at 6350 meters at the foot of the north face we climbed on August 9 to 7600 meters. On the second day, because of deep snow, we could only reach 8100 meters in the Great (Norton) Couloir, the site of the 1984 American Camp VI. On the next day we climbed to just below the Yellow Band but realized that it was impossible to reach the summit that day with the bad snow. We decided to retreat, thinking to come back later in August, but from August 15 to 25 the weather was bad and snowy. We made our last attempt, climbing to the North Col from the west, which was very dangerous because of windslabs. At 8000 meters, my wife was swept away by a windslab avalanche