

*Thamserku Attempt.* A Spanish expedition was led by José Luis Fernández. The three other members, José Manuel González, Srta Azucena López and Miguel Angel Rodríguez, got to 6300 meters on the new route they were attempting, the west face, on October 27. They descended the next morning because their stove at their highest bivouac was broken. They could not climb again because of their fixed date to leave Nepal.

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

*Kangtega Attempt and Ama Dablam Ascent.* German Hans Eitel led a group of ten from Germany, Austria, the United States and the South Tirol. Eight first attempted Kangtega by its southeast face while two went directly to Ama Dablam. Six and a Sherpa reached a high point of 6000 meters on Kangtega on April 8 and then withdrew from the mountain two days later when dangerous avalanching continued. They then went to Ama Dablam, where the other two had already pitched two camps, to try the west face. The Kangtega party did little climbing there. The summit was reached in nine hours on April 15 by South Tiroleans Alois Brugger and Kurt Walde who began their summit push from Camp II at the bottom of the west face early that morning. They climbed the central couloir, a new route to the right of the 1985 Japanese route. They descended the normal south-ridge route and were back in Base Camp on the morning of the 16th.

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

*Kangtega and Lobuje East Ascents and Nuptse Attempt.* English-woman Alison Hargreaves, Americans Henry Kendall, Marc Twight, Tom Frost and I were active in the Khumbu region near Everest during the pre-monsoon season, climbing two new routes and attempting a third. All were done pure alpine-style. Kendall and I climbed a new route on Lobuje East (6119 meters, 20,075 feet), following a steep snow-and-ice gully on the left side of the east face. Hargreaves and Twight repeated it shortly afterward. Hargreaves, Twight, Frost and I moved on to Kangtega (6779 meters, 22,241 feet). In a ten-day round trip from Base Camp, we climbed a difficult new route on the right side of the northwest ridge, encountering very technical ice and mixed climbing on the ice tongue right of the ridge proper. On May 1, Frost and I reached the slightly lower northwest peak, while Hargreaves and Twight continued on to the main peak via a steep final ice face. We descended the northeast couloir, first climbed by the Japanese in 1979. After moving Base Camp to 5200 meters on the Lhotse Nup Glacier, Twight and I attempted the southeast buttress of Nuptse. We followed the prominent buttress between the original British route and the Cassin-Messner ramp. After 1300 meters of very technical climbing on the buttress, the angle of the route recedes to more moderate snow and ice until the final 400 meters, when it reverts to rock for a difficult finish at very high altitude. Bad weather delayed our start until May 19. Encountering very difficult climbing (5.10, A4) during a single eight-day push, we reached a high point of 6700

PLATE 66

*Photo by Jeff Lowe*

**NUPTSE'S Southeast Buttress. Part  
climbed is solid line; projected route  
is dashed.**



meters on May 26. However, bad weather had moved in and with the possibility of an extended wait with little food, we retreated, reaching Base Camp on May 27. The route is one of the finest I have been on and has just the combination of features I am looking for: steep, technical mixed ground, and altitude. Above all, it's a safe line. There is nothing hanging over you, so you can just relax and enjoy the outrageous climbing.

JEFF LOWE

*Lobuje West Winter Ascent, 1987.* Seldom-attempted Lobuje West was scaled so quickly by a Korean expedition's advance party that when the team leader Lee Hee-Bong and other climbers arrived at their base, they learned that the mountain had already been climbed and all tents and other gear brought down. In this first winter attempt and first Korean attempt on Lobuje West, five men, Deputy Leader Park Jae-Hong, Choi Sang-Hyun, Dim Hang-Il, Rinji Sherpa and Mingma Nuru Sherpa, had gained the summit on January 30, only the third day after they had pitched Base Camp.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Nuptse, Southeast Buttress Winter Attempt.* Americans Jeff Lowe and Marc Twight did not get quite as high on their buttress in the winter as they had last spring. This winter they abandoned their climb after reaching 6700 meters on December 31. They reported they had "insufficient strength." Lack of strength was due to gastro-intestinal illness. This winter attempt, like last spring's, was done without fixed camps, fixed rope or Sherpas.

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

*Lhotse Shar Attempt.* We were Beda Fuster, Werner Steininger and I as leader. We got to Base Camp on September 21 at 5350 meters on the moraine between Lhotse Shar and Imjatse (Island Peak). We carried loads up the rocky spur to 5750 meters for three days and established Advance Base on September 24. On the 25th Fuster and I reconnoitered to 6100 meters, left a dump there and fixed rope over the first step, but the weather went bad. A second attempt from October 2 to 5 failed after rope had been fixed over the second step and the night spent at Camp I at 6750 meters, but again bad weather drove us back. After a third attempt failed in bad weather, Fuster and I went back up and on the second day, October 19, got to Camp I which was badly damaged by avalanche snow. On the third day we climbed to 7250 meters and established Camp II in clear but very windy weather. On October 21, I was sick and stayed in Camp II. Fuster set out at 4:30 A.M. alone for the summit. At eleven A.M. he reached the snow dome at 8050 meters but the wind gusts were too strong for him to continue over the narrow ridge to the summit slopes. He had to turn back 350 meters below the summit. After one more night in Camp II, we descended to Base Camp.

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