

IV. The wind destroyed tents in various camps and in Camp IV blew away several loads which had been tied down on a platform. Rivas had to quit as he could not acclimatize. We kept on trying to get higher until June 2. Several climbers spent a month and a half above 6500 meters and even 18 days above 7000 meters. We were well acclimatized and hoped to make the summit until the end, but we were prevented by the wind. We made a film and carried out geomorphological and geological studies.

JERÓNIMO LÓPEZ, *Federación Española de Montañismo*

*Everest Tragedy, North-Col Route.* A Chilean expedition was composed of Claudio Lucero, leader, Rodrigo Jordan, Andrés Marambio, Pedro Bralić, Marcelo Gifferos, Fernando and Cristián Garcia-Huidobro, Pablo Straub and Victor Hugo Trujillo. They were attempting the traditional North-Col route. Tragedy struck on August 16 when the corniced lip of a crevasse on the North Col gave way, triggering an avalanche. Trujillo was buried and died.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*Everest Attempt.* During the post-monsoon season, a large climbing and filming party attempted the north ridge of Qomolangma (Everest) via the traditional Rongbuk-East Rongbuk-North Col route. Our objectives were to climb and film the route. We were also to search for traces of Mallory and Irvine. The party reached the Rongbuk Base Camp in two groups; half the team travelled across China and Tibet via Chengdu and Lhasa, while the other half, with the bulk of the supplies, reached Rongbuk via Kathmandu and the Friendship Highway. Climbing above Base Camp began in the last week of August. The East Rongbuk approach has traditionally been accomplished in three stages above Base Camp. Recent expeditions, however, have reduced this part of the route to two stages, with a single camp between Base and the established Advance Base site at 21,500 feet below the North Col. Advance Base was established on September 21, and the Col (23,200 feet) was reached a day later. At this point the good weather of late summer began to deteriorate, and the next two months gave us a cycle of increasingly unstable weather. September was marked by intermittent storms with significant snowfall, and in October the storms increased, temperatures dropped, and by the third week the high winds characteristic of winter had set in. Climbing was possible during periods of good weather which became shorter and less frequent as the season wore on. The unstable weather increased the instability of the snow on the slopes below the Col, making much greater the avalanche danger which is always present on that section of the route, and further reducing the number of climbing days available to us. Camp V at 25,500 feet was established on September 28 during a break in the weather, and this remained our high point a month later when, on October 23, I made the decision to abandon the attempt. The team left Base Camp on October 29. On October 17, Dawa Nuru Sherpa, of Thame, was struck by a small slab avalanche at about 22,000 feet while descending from the North Col

to Advance Base. He was swept a short distance and died of injuries sustained in the fall. Rescuers reached the body approximately 40 minutes after the accident occurred, and carried his body down to Rongbuk for cremation, which was done three days later in the ruins of the nunnery under the direction of lamas from the monastery. While we were prevented by the weather from reaching the summit, we substantially accomplished our filming objectives, producing footage for a U.S. film featuring the efforts of the women members of the team (Mutual of Omaha's *Spirit of Adventure*, shown as an ABC sports special on February 15, 1987) and footage for an historical film on the early attempts on Everest (Arcturus Motion Pictures; co-produced by BBC — to be shown in the autumn of 1987). Exploration of the early routes on the mountain was hampered by the heavy snow cover and, ultimately, our inability to reach the upper portion of the north face. The expedition team included: David Breashears (deputy leader), Ken Bailey, George Bell, Mary Kay Brewster, Catherine Cullinane, Donna de Varona, Sue Giller, Eric Green, Tom Holzel, Al Read, Steve Shea, David Swanson, Mike Weis, Jed Williamson, Mike Yager (Americans); Dave Cheesmond, Roger Vernon (Canadians); Alistair MacDonald, Audrey Salkeld (Britons); Sirdar Nawang Yongden and fifteen Sherpas (Nepalese); and me as leader. During our time on the mountain we benefited from close cooperation with the British Northeast Ridge team (Brummie Stokes, leader) with whom we shared the Base, East Rongbuk and Advance Base Camp areas. In Kathmandu, Lhasa, Beijing and on Everest, members of the team represented UNICEF, His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the governments of the Tibetan Autonomous Region and the People's Republic of China, through participation in the "First Earth Run"; a worldwide UNICEF project for children celebrating the International Year of Peace.

ANDREW C. HARVARD

*Everest, Northeast-Ridge Attempt.* Base Camp at 17,000 feet was reached on August 7 after a seven-hour drive from Xigar along the Friendship Highway and a subsequent dirt track which winds its way past the Rongbuk Monastery. Two weeks were needed before an interim camp at 19,000 feet was established and the yak drivers arrived to start ferrying our three tons of food and equipment up the mountain. Twenty-one yaks were engaged for this movement, which was completed in 21 days. The yak herders were very reliable and unlike other expeditions, we never had a single item stolen or lost. Mo Anthoine, Joe Brown, Paddy Freaney and Bill Barker set up Advance Base at 21,500 feet on the site of two previous northeast-ridge expeditions. We were appalled at the mess we found there and spent two days cleaning it up. Despite poor weather, Camp I at 23,200 feet was established a week ahead of schedule. The long traverse over suspect avalanche-prone ground up to the Ruphu La was avoided by ascending the right edge of a rock buttress some 1525 feet high. This removed two sides of a large triangle and saved many hours of load-carrying. Avalanches and high winds along the ridge forced the team twice to beat a hasty retreat to Base Camp