across the steep face, we could see that the avalanche danger was rapidly increasing. We returned to the plateau below the Tête du Butoir, camped at 21,000 feet and listened to the blizzard. The morning of April 28 was sunny with signs of another storm forming. With supplies running out and the terrible weather, we gave up our try. We believe this was the second American attempt and the 18th attempt in all on the mountain.

HOOMAN APRIN

Kumbhakarna, North Face. Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition consisted of Ger Friele, Edmond Öfner, Ferry van Wilgenburg, Rudolf de Koning, Dr. Ingo Doornenbal and me as leader. With 55 porters we set out from Hille on September 5. Base Camp was at 4600 meters on the northern moraine of the Jannu Glacier, a beautiful spot with a small stream. After reconnaissance, we decided to repeat the route pioneered in 1975 by New Zealanders and finally climbed by Japanese in 1976. We abandoned the idea of climbing the very demanding pillar left of the route. From September 21 to 25, we fixed rope on the lower buttress to the snow plateau at 5500 meters. The weather was bad and the climbing up to UIAA V difficulty. Camp I was at the top of the buttress. After a few days of rest, we fixed rope on the "Wall of Shadows," 600 meters of technically very difficult climbing with three pitches of vertical ice couloirs. Camp II was at the top of this at 6100 meters. On October 9, Öfner and I started from Camp II for the summit alpine-style. The first part above Camp II had some difficult vertical rock and a vertical ice couloir. Afterwards we came onto the large snowfield and difficulties diminished. We bivouacked at 6700 meters and again a second night on the summit ridge at 7250 meters. There I discovered I had frostbitten feet. Öfner left the bivouac at midnight and reached the summit at 6:30. At 11:30 he was back and together we descended, still on October 11, to our third bivouac at 6600 meters. Meanwhile, Friele and de Koning had bivouacked at 6400 and 7100 meters. While Öfner and I descended to Base Camp on the 12th, they reached their third bivouac at 7250 meters. They got to the summit at 1:30 P.M. on October 13 and returned to 7250 meters. The next day they were returning to Camp II and at six P.M. made radio contact from 60 meters above camp. From then on, we heard nothing and could not see them. On the 15th, van Wilgenburg went to look for them and discovered their bodies at the foot of the "Wall of Shadows." They must have been struck by falling ice while descending the last 60 meters to Camp II. Van Hilgenburg buried the two bodies in a crevasse on the snow plateau.

GERARD C. VAN SPRANG, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

Kumbhakarna (Jannu) North Face. Erik Decamp, François Marsigny, Spaniard Juan Tomás and I arrived at Base Camp on September 23. Since Eric was coming from Mustagh Ata and I from Everest, we two were well acclimatized. We first had planned to climb the steep ramp between the

Japanese route and the huge rock wall. The first buttress was fixed by the Dutch with their ropes and ours. We placed Camp I at 5400 meters on the glacier below the big wall. From October 6 to 11 we climbed on the ramp, although threatening séracs at 6700 meters made us hesitate. At last, after two days searching for a passage, we climbed it and went on. After so much time we were short on food, gas and equipment. Cold was exhausting as the sun hit our route only one hour before dusk. We backed off, deciding to return to the face via the Japanese ramp. The Netherlanders were better off there. After the accident to them, Marsigny and Tomás left the expedition. On October 19 a terrible storm destroyed Base Camp, Deposit Camp and Camp I, and we lost much equipment. Then the weather turned clear, but windy and cold. From October 21 to 25, we climbed the face, using the Dutch ropes for the first 100 meters. Above that we went alpine-style. Bivouacs were at 6000, 6600 and 7200 meters. Luckily the wind stopped for the summit climb. The last ridge took us only four hours with incredible views. We were on the summit at 12:3O P.M. In two days we were in the valley and in five in Kathmandu.

PIERRE BEGHIN, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

Kumbhakarna (Jannu). Our team was made up of Elizabeth Julliard, Marion Gaillard, Gérard Auger, Jean-Robert Grasso, Mario Paffumi, Frédéric Vallet, Michel Vincent and me. We trekked for eleven days from Shidua to Ghunsa. After the storm, which left much snow up high, we went with yaks and porters from Ghunsa to Base Camp I at 4500 meters, the same site as that used by the French expedition in 1962. We set up Base Camp II in the middle of the Yamatari Glacier on October 23. On October 23 and 24, we established Camp I up the glacier at 5300 meters below the Eperon des Jeunes (Youngsters' Spur). A south-facing ice couloir rose above Camp I to the middle of the spur. It was some 45°, but in places up to 60°. On the 25th and 26th, Julliard, Vallet, Vincent and I climbed the couloir and went along the ridge on mixed terrain for several rope-lengths. The ridge above was so snow-covered and corniced that it would have taken many days to fix. On October 27, we continued up the glacier to place Camp II at 6000 meters. There was some danger in séracs and one vertical passage. We occupied Camp II on October 29. We climbed to the crest of the Eperon des Jeunes to a col above our previous high point and along the ridge to under the Tête du Butoir. After some rope was fixed, Camp III was installed there at 6400 meters. On November 3, Julliard, Vallet, Vincent and I left Camp II on our summit attempt. We slept at Camp III. On the 4th, we quickly crossed the Tête du Butoir and continued to the foot of the Arête de la Dentelle (Lace Ridge), where we bivouacked. On November 5, we climbed the Lace Ridge and crossed the Throne Glacier to 7000 meters, where we set up Camp IV. On November 6, we started directly for the summit, possibly a little late in the morning. We climbed the ice slope to where the 1962 French Camp VI had been. Above this, at 7400 meters on the very narrow ridge Julliard and I turned