

Penalva, Monserrate Vázquez, José Manuel Rodríguez, Andrés Sánchez and me as leader. On September 1, we began to establish Base Camp at 3600 meters two hours above the village of Sama. By the 10th, we had reconnoitered the route to Camp I at 4800 meters in poor weather and the entire expedition had arrived. On September 14, Camp II was installed at 5500 meters on Nike Col. A big snowstorm halted progress. Finally on the 24th, we could dig Camp II out. On the 25th, we ascended the icefall between Camps II and III, the most dangerous part of the climb, and fixed 400 meters of rope. Camp III was set up at 6300 meters. An avalanche above Camp III carried away a climber and three Sherpas. Rinjing had to be evacuated. On October 3, Camp IV was set up on the north col at 7150 meters, but the next day hurricane winds prevented going higher. On the descent, we were caught in two avalanches but luckily could escape from them. After several unsuccessful attempts, several members had to return home to work. Finally, on October 19, Joan Agulló and Ang Lhakpa Sherpa set out on one last attempt. After changing from the Japanese route, by which the first ascent had been made in 1956, to the Korean route at 7100 meters, they bivouacked on the ridge and reached the summit on October 25.

ANTONI LÓPEZ DE HARO, *Centre Excursionista de Premiá de Mar, Spain*

Himlung Himal Attempt. A Japanese expedition led by Hiroyuki Baba attempted to make a winter ascent of Himlung Himal by its northwest ridge. The route turned out to be extremely difficult because of the snow conditions and on December 17, they had to give up at 6650 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Chulu West, South-Southwest Face. Italian Carlo Stratta and Dawa Lama Sherpa made two new routes (one to the summit) on the south-southwest face of Chulu West on October 7 and 8. They left Base Camp at 4300 meters at 10:30 P.M. and by the light of headlamps climbed a 450-meter-high icefall with some sections up to 90°. They then ascended for 1000 meters the very steep central rib of the left buttress of the face. At six A.M., they reached the top of the shoulder. After a short rest, they rappelled down the rocks that divide the left wall from the central couloir. Back at the foot of the face, they climbed the central couloir back up to the top of the shoulder. They continued on to the summit of Chulu West (6419 meters, 21,059 feet), which they reached at five P.M. They were back in Base Camp at 8:18 P.M.

LUCIANO GHIGO, *Centro Italiano Studio Documentazione
Alpinismo Extraeuropeo*

Tilitso Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition from Moravia, Czechoslovakia was led by Jiří Bobák and I was the climbing leader. The other climbers were Dr. Raimund Mikal, Petr Gřfbek, Leoš Horka, Zdeněk Kráčmar, Ludvík Paleček

PLATE 62

Photo by Raymond Miskal

North Face of TILITSO. Grifbek and Horka's bodies found at cross. French route on left.



and Dalibor Trpík. We were seriously delayed by baggage problems. We could finally begin our approach from Jomsom on October 2 and reached the western foot of the Tilitso West col. Because of snow, neither the porters nor donkeys could cross the col to the eastern side. Therefore, we had to set up Base Camp on the western side at 4600 meters on October 3. We had to climb the pass, descend to the other side and ascend to the foot of the north face to 5200 meters to Camp I. Despite deteriorating weather, Horka and Gříbek took turns with Paleček and me preparing the route and fixing rope on the northwest buttress. Paleček and I pitched Camp II at 5700 meters. After that it was the turn of Horka and Gříbek to continue on and set up Camp III at 6100 meters on the icy terrain above the rock buttress. We expected them to come down for a rest, but they started the final assault from there on October 18. They had an icy wall in front of them with a 1000-meter altitude gain. They climbed relatively slowly and just before sunset reached the summit where they had a hard night without bivouac equipment. Their unexpected assault caused a change in plans. Also on October 18, Paleček, together with Kráčmar, set out from Base Camp and spent the night in Camp I. The next morning, they made out two figures moving down from the summit. That was the last time they were seen alive. On the 19th Dr. Mikal and I left for Camp I while Paleček and Kráčmar ascended to Camp II. The next morning Paleček continued alone to Camp III as his companion was not well. He explored the area above Camp III and returned for the night. I had climbed alone to Camp II and on October 21 climbed to the area just below Camp III, looking for anything that was moving. That same morning Paleček left Camp III at four A.M. While it was still dark, he reached the place where the Japanese and French routes met. Not far above, he found equipment left by Horka and Gříbek. In fine weather he pressed on to the summit, where he found proof of the other two's success. On the descent he discovered their bodies about 300 meters from the route of ascent. They had fallen about 500 meters and probably were killed during the fall. He covered them with snow and marked the place with a broken ice axe before descending to Camp II to bring me the news of the terrible outcome of his search. We evacuated Camps II and I and sent a full report to the liaison officer, who spent the entire expedition, apart from a few days at the beginning, in a hotel in Jomsom.

VLASTIMIL ŠMÍDA, *Moravia, Czechoslovakia*

Annapurna III Attempt. A seven-man British expedition led by Mal Duff had great difficulties with the terrain on the approach up the Seti Khola. Their cook died of high-altitude pulmonary edema on September 12 before they reached Base Camp. After establishing Advance Base, they decided that the east ridge was the only suitable route on the south face of Annapurna III. The original objective, the southeast buttress, was rejected because of large avalanches that swept the lower half of the face. From the glacier a straightforward spur was followed to reach the ridge crest at about 6100 meters. A horizontal corniced ridge would then have led for a kilometer to the east face. This 1000-meter high