

weather. Lucas then returned to Spain. Profit made a solo attempt on January 13 and 14, 1990, which reached 7150 meters, where his tent was destroyed by the wind. A final attempt from January 19 and 21, 1990 failed at 7600 meters.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Nuptse, Joint Attempt by the Left Buttress of the Central Part of the South Face.* Our expedition was composed of Italians Kurt Walde, Alberto Guelpa and me. On April 14, we placed Base Camp on the Lhotse Nup Glacier. The next day, four Canadians set up camp next to ours. We all had the same objective; the route attempted in 1986 by Jeff Lowe and Marc Twight. A few days later, our group headed for Camp II on the normal Everest route both for acclimatization and to scan the 1961 British route on Nuptse, which we hoped to use on the descent. The Canadians also spent some days acclimatizing. In early May, we were all back in Base Camp, but two Canadians and Guelpa had to withdraw for health reasons. That left Canadians Jim Elzinga, Peter Abril, Kurt Walde and me, who joined forces. Starting on May 7, it took us seven days of very difficult climbing to reach the top of the buttress at 6917 meters. The weather was clear and cold on the first four days and unstable during the last three. We bivouacked at 5600, 6100, 6300, 6550, 6750 and twice at 6900 meters. On the eighth day, we were holed up in an ice cave at 6900 meters. On the evening of May 15, Peter and Jim headed up for the summit of Nuptse. Kurt had a badly infected throat and possibly frostbitten feet. We two began the descent of the 1961 British route. The Canadians had meanwhile gained 200 meters more, but they too began the descent. With another bivouac at 6100 meters on the descent we got down. The Canadians returned the next day.

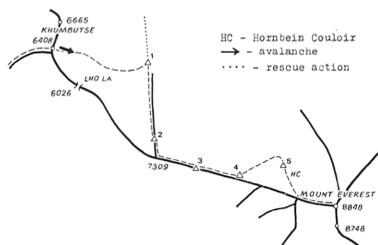
ENRICO ROSSO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Nuptse, Northwest Summit.* A five-person German expedition to Nuptse was led by Ralf Dujmovits. On November 2, they climbed the northwest ridge to the northwest summit (7742 meters, 25,400 feet), still about 400 feet short of the true summit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest, Polish Ascent and Tragedy.* An expedition led by Eugeniusz Chrobak climbed Mount Everest up the western side from Nepal. The 19-member team included 10 Poles, 4 Americans, 3 Mexicans, a Canadian and a Briton. They established five camps along the west ridge and Hornbein Couloir. Rather than to climb directly to the Lho La, they went over the south summit of Khumbutse (6408 meters), west of the pass, and dropped down to Camp I at 6000 meters at the head of the West Rongbuk Glacier. On May 22, nearly two months after reaching Base Camp, Mirosław Dąsal and Mirosław Gardzielewski reached the top of the Hornbein Couloir in an unsuccessful try for the summit. They retired to Camp IV to support the next summit team and help evacuate the camps. On May 24, Chrobak and Andrzej Marciniak left Camp IV at the foot of the Hornbein Couloir at one A.M. and reached the summit of

Everest late in the afternoon. In deteriorating weather during the descent the next day, they were supported by the two other Poles. On the Lho La (6026 meters),



a third pair, Zygmunt Andrzej Heinrich and Wacław Otręba, arrived from Base Camp. The weather worsened with heavy snowfall. After the night of May 26 at 6000-meter Camp I, they decided to continue the descent despite the avalanche danger. The descent route from the Lho La used the Lwow-Karolczak variation, described above, which goes via the south summit of Khumbutse. The rocky face of this peak was fixed with rope and seemed safe enough. On May 27, all six climbed via the steep slope using the fixed ropes. Fresh snow up to a meter deep made progress slow and arduous and they often changed the lead. At about one P.M. an avalanche hit them and dragged them downward. The fixed ropes broke and they fell 200 to 300 meters back to the Lho La. Only Marciniak escaped relatively unhurt. Dąsal, Gardzielewski and Otręba were dead. Heinrich died soon after. Chrobak was alive but not fully conscious; he expired during the night. Marciniak remained alone, fortunately with radio communication with Janusz Majer in Base Camp on the Khumbu Glacier. He decided to go back the kilometer and a half to Camp I. In the fall with the avalanche, he had lost his sun glasses and became snow-blind. On the way to the camp, he fell into a crevasse and injured himself. Thanks to radio communication between Base Camp and Kathmandu, a rescue operation could be organized by Artur Hajzer, who was on the way home from the Lhotse south-face expedition. Simultaneously from Warsaw, diplomatic contacts with China and other countries were arranged. A rescue operation from the Khumbu side was not possible because of snowfall and acute avalanche danger. An international team composed of Pole Hajzer, Sherpas Zangbu and Shiwa and New Zealanders Rob Hall and Gary Ball was brought to the north foot of Everest. Via the Rongbuk Glacier, they managed to reach Marciniak at Camp I on June 1. Marciniak related about the moment of rescue: "When I first heard shouts, I thought it was music. I was sure I was dreaming or hallucinating when I heard the voices, but soon I saw figures approaching through the mist and realized they were people." "It was a moving moment," Ball added. The effective rescue operation was possible because of perfect radio contact, helpful collaboration of the authorities of Nepal, China and other countries as well as by the international mountaineering fraternity. The Polish Alpine Association warmly thanks all who helped to save the life of the only survivor of the tragedy. All five victims were experienced Himalayan climbers. Chrobak and Heinrich had had 30 years of mountaineering experience and had made such first ascents as Kunyang Chhish, the southeast buttress of

Nanga Parbat and Kangchenjunga South and Middle. This was the greatest catastrophe in the 50-year-long history of Polish Himalayan climbing.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

*Everest Attempt and Rescue of Andrzej Marciniak.* We were Rob Hall, Apa Sherpa, Pincho Norbu Sherpa and I. We established Base Camp on March 17 and then spent 17 days along with McConnell's team opening the Khumbu Icefall before the arrival of the other expeditions. Camps I and II were set up on April 4 and 8. From Camp II we all returned to Base Camp with a severe viral infection. Upon our recovery, we returned to the south buttress but retreated when Hall and Pincho Norbu had a near miss during continuous rockfall. With Ministry permission, we made a brief foray onto the South Col route. Pincho Norbu returned to Base Camp with thrombosis and Hall retreated ill from 7500 meters. On May 17, our 62nd day on the mountain, Apa reached 8000 meters and I got to 8200 meters. On this last stretch, I accompanied Peter Hillary and Roddy McKenzie. Our return to the south buttress was abandoned because of illness and pulmonary edema. When we got back to Kathmandu, we were involved in the rescue of Pole Andrzej Marciniak; his five companions had been killed in an avalanche on the west ridge. He could not be reached from his own Base Camp on the Nepalese side because of avalanche danger. We hurried overland into Tibet, trucking to the Rongbuk Base Camp and racing up the West Rongbuk Glacier to the Lho La and a relieved Andrzej. We had reached him in 55 hours from Kathmandu. We all returned to Kathmandu the same way.

GARY BALL, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Everest Funeral Expedition.* As noted above, on May 26 five Polish mountaineers were killed in a tragic avalanche accident. In the late autumn, a special burial expedition was arranged by the Polski Związek Alpinizmu (Polish Alpine Association). On December 1, Professor Jan Serafin, Stefan Heinrich, Zenon Stoń (priest) Chuldim Dorje Sherpa and I crossed the Tibetan border at Kodari. On December 4, we climbed to the Lho La but found no trace of the five bodies or their Camp I. The priest said a funeral mass with the usual ceremonies and we descended to the Rongbuk monastery. Two commemorative tablets were fixed, one at the Khumbu Everest Base Camp and the other on the moraine of the Rongbuk Glacier.

ZIEMOWIT J. WIRSKI, *Polski Związek Alpinizmu*

*Everest, First Mexican Ascent and Tragedy.* Our expedition was made up of Americans Scott Fischer, Robert Reynolds, Wally Berg, Bill Butler, Pat Howard, Tim Thorne, Ken Frick, Scott Moore, Dick Moran, Sheri Henderson, Peter Jamieson and me as leader and Mexicans Sergio Watkins Fitch and Ricardo Torres Nava. Our route was the normal South-Col route. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, and IV at 17,500, 19,500, 21,000, 23,500 and 26,000 feet on March 11, April 4, 7, 15 and 24. It took 19 days to fix the icefall route due to hazardous conditions and one snowstorm. The traditional right-side