

Deep snow over ice complicated the climbing. On May 17, Juez, Exposito, Eduardo Fernández and Mora completed the first Spanish ascent of the peak (7075 meters, 23,212 feet). On the summit day, it snowed and blew.

ANTONIO ANGEL CIPRÉS, *Grupo Militar de Alta Montaña, Jaca, Spain*

*Bhagirathi II.* A 26-member team from the Indian Special Frontier Force was led by Colonel H.B.S. Phokela. They set up Base Camp at Nandandan on May 11 and Advance Base in a bowl below Vasuki Parbat on May 17. Six members set out from there on May 20 and gained the summit. Another group, including a girl, summited on May 23.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*

*Bhagirathi II.* A Spanish expedition of eight was led by Conrad López. On June 12, López, Josep Lluís Sasot and Angel Casals reached the summit.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

*Kedarnath, North Face Ascent and Tragedy.* A joint Indo-Australian military expedition climbed Kedarnath (6940 meters, 22,770 feet) by a new route on the north face. It consisted of Australians Bob Killip, Nevin Agnew, Captain Brian Morrissey, Lieutenant Mike Kilcullen, Corporal Lance Einam and me as leader and Indians Captain M.S. Dhami, Subedars N.D. Sherpa, Binod Kumar, S.N. Singh, Naik Subedar Gurjant Singh, Havalders Chetram, Mohan Lal Kajuria, Shital Singh, Yadev, Major Arwind Shukla as doctor and Major Krishnan Kumar as co-leader. We set up Base Camp at Tapovan, Advance Base near the junction of the Gangotri and Kirti Glaciers and Camp I at the foot of Kedarnath's north face at 4460, 4750 and 5000 meters on September 25, 28 and October 3. We followed the glacier to a line of ice cliffs at 5800 meters, where Camp II was located. From Camp II, the only access to the broad upper slopes was a steep, avalanche-prone gully. A party of eight set out on a summit bid on October 7. Deep, loose snow made progress difficult. N.D. Sherpa achieved the summit in nine hours, the others reaching 6800 meters. On the descent N.D. Sherpa triggered a slab avalanche which carried him 300 meters down a steep gully. Luckily, both he and the avalanche stopped two meters short of Camp II. He was shaken but had only minor injuries. Yadev, Gurjant Singh and Kilcullen reached the summit on October 10 from their high camp at 6400 meters. After arriving at the summit at 5:20 P.M., they hurried down in the dark. They could not locate their camp. Singh and Kilcullen settled into a snow cave for the night, but Yadev continued on alone. He was never seen again and a search failed to find him. The other two in the morning crawled into their tent barely 100 meters away. Both Singh and Kilcullen suffered frozen hands and feet and it wasn't until the 12th that a ground party reached them to assist them down. They were eventually

evacuated by helicopter along with Morrissey, who had also suffered during the first attempt.

ZAC ZAHARIAS, *Major, Australian Army Alpine Association*

*Kedar Dome.* A 13-member Indian team was led by Babban Prasad Singh. On September 7, four members and three high-altitude porters set out from Camp II at 6250 meters. Three of the members gave up but Sudhir Kumar Mahto and the porters continued on to the summit (6831 meters, 22,410 feet).

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*

*Dudh Ganga, 1989.* From Kedarnath village, Dave Pollari and I carried heavy loads over a high pass to Vasuni Tal to make the first ascent of Dudh Ganga (5462 meters, 17,920 feet), which straddles the drainage to the north of the village. The peak rises prominently in the region. On September 30, 1989, we ascended tedious moraines and then a steep, frozen snow gully to rock. We climbed 5.7 in double boots. Fortunately we could protect with pitons and for the descent could set up a proper rappel. Pollari completed the final portion of the climb on ramps and moderate snow, while I waited a few hundred feet below the summit.

FRED BECKEY

*Shivling.* A three-man Norwegian expedition was led by Ole Haltvik. On September 12, the leader and Jore Keokk completed the ascent by the west ridge.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

*Bhrigupath Attempt and Bhrigu Pathar.* Britons Kevin O'Neale, Martin Welch, Ian Drigg and I were active in the Gangotri region in mid-September. The Bhagirathi Glacier and its encircling mountain faces had remained unexplored until our visit. Only two previous expeditions had recorded being in the area and they were restricted to the lower part of the glacier by the icefall. Neale and Welch climbed the 1000-meter-high, snow-and-ice, northeast face of Bhrigupanth (6772 meters, 22,220 feet) and reached the summit ridge some 150 meters below the summit, but they were stopped by poor snow conditions. Drigg and I started up a prow left of the blank white wall above the Bhrigupanth Glacier where we found an excellent free climb with sustained pitches of UIAA V, VI and VII with only short stretches of A1 to negotiate moss-choked cracks. The prow gave access to easier upper slabs and a shale-and-snow ridge leading to the summit of Bhrigu Pathar (6038 meters, 19,810 feet). We climbed the 26 pitches in capsule style over seven days, from September 8 to 14.

MARTIN MORAN, *Scottish Mountaineering Club*