

below the rock barrier in the Great Couloir. They had hoped to climb to the summit on the 6th, but De Stefani was struck by cerebral edema. On the 7th a very difficult rescue began with the whole team involved. This lasted five days and De Stefani was sent back, by jeep, to Kathmandu on May 11. Thomaseth went with him. On May 14, De Marchi, who had suffered frostbite, was taken to Base Camp by Bianchi and me and also sent to Kathmandu. That same day, Bonali and Sulovsky started from Advance Base and got to Camp II. They reached Camps III and IV on the next two days. They climbed to the summit on May 17 at 3:30 P.M. and were back in Advance Base on the 19th. Our route reached the Great Couloir by climbing on the left of the big icefall, entered the couloir and followed it to the rock barrier of about 80 meters at 8400 meters. It took the summiters two hours to climb the barrier and was of Grade V difficulty. The Australians in 1984 avoided the barrier by climbing to the right before it begins. The last part of our route coincided with that of Messner. We used no supplementary oxygen. We had no porters. The only rope we fixed was on 70 meters of the rock barrier.

ORESTE FORNO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Everest. Our expedition members consisted of Americans George Dunn, Larry Huntington, Charles Peck, Steven Potter, Scott Frantz, Dave Hahn, Curtis Fawley, Brent Okita, Paul Maier, Bob Sloezen, Andy Politz, Jason Edwards, Craig Van Hoy, Greg Wilson, medical researcher Jonas Pologe, Dr. Jean Ellis, video cameraman Markus Hutnak, geologist Dan Mann and me as leader, New Zealanders Michael Perry and Mark Whetu and Australian Michael Rheinberger. We reached Xegar on March 10 in two groups. Ten members traveled via Lhasa and accompanied the six tons of food and equipment that had been shipped to China in November, 1990. The rest came from Kathmandu with the 13 Nepalese (two cooks and 11 Sherpa porters). Propane fuel, oxygen and additional food was also brought from Nepal. Base Camp was established on March 13 at 16,900 feet at the roadhead. Camp III (Advance Base) was established with 50 yak-loads a week later at 21,400 feet. Eventually, 130 yak loads reached Advance Base. Severe weather and heavy snow made it impossible to establish Camp IV on the North Col at 23,000 feet until March 30. The route to the col was fixed. Camp IV consisted of eight tents, walled in and held down by nets. Extreme winds prevented Camp V at 25,600 feet from being established until April 21. Without the fixed ropes we put in on this part of the route, there would have been many days when we could not have climbed due to the extreme wind across the north ridge. Camp V was again an extremely windy site. Only four tents were able to withstand the beating here. Camp VI at 27,000 feet was established on May 7 after a long hard push that forced Wilson, Whetu, Okita, Edwards and Van Hoy all to spend the night in a tiny two-person tent. Every member who was healthy got a summit bid, as we had planned from the beginning. On May 15, the top was reached by Dunn, Politz, Sloezen, Lhakpa Dorje, Ang Dawa and me. On the 16th, Hahn, Rheinberger, Perry, Huntington,



COLOR PLATE 13

Photo by Kurt Diemberger

BROAD PEAK from North
Gasherbrum Glacier in China.
Penitentes rise to a height of 100 feet.

Ang Jangbo and Pasang Kami were turned back by wind. Perry stayed at Camp VI while the rest descended and made the summit solo on May 17. An attempt on May 21 by Wilson, Edwards, Van Hoy, Frantz, Whetu and Okita was partially stopped by the wind. Only Whetu and Okita were able to push on and reach the summit. Okita was forced to bivouac on the descent when he could not find the fixed ropes in the Yellow Band in the dark. Fortunately, he suffered no ill effects. Wilson remained at Camp VI for three more days and was joined by Mann for another attempt on May 24. Mann was forced to turn back, but Wilson reached the summit. All summiters used oxygen. After the climb, we removed all garbage from Advance Base to Base Camp. We sent approximately 8000 pounds of garbage to Xegar and left Base Camp spotless. The team left Base Camp on May 28 and all members returned home via Kathmandu.

ERIC SIMONSON

Everest, Northeast Ridge Attempt and North Ridge Ascent. Our co-leaders were Briton Harry Taylor and New Zealander Russell Brice. The other members were Britons Alan Hinkes, Bill Barker, Andy Parkin, Len Atkinson, Base Camp Manager Sam Roberts, Dr. John English, Norwegian Olav Ulvum, Australian Mark Lemare, Frenchman Xavier Remond and I from the United States. We entered Tibet flying from Kathmandu to Lhasa and overland to the Rongbuk Base Camp, where we arrived on April 6. Already there were Americans, an elaborate Swedish expedition, a small but elite Italian group, a guided Austrian expedition and later two Japanese with Sherpa help. Yaks came, we bargained with greedy Chinese and in a three-day push got to Advance Base at the usual spot at 21,000 feet below the east side of the North Col. As usual, we went up too fast, and half our group went back down after the tents were erected. There were high winds on the mountain and even in Advance Base the temperatures were 0° F. We carried loads to Camp I on the North Col starting on April 12. Poor weather stymied us in our push for Camp II at 7800 meters for a long time and let us catch up to the Americans. More bad weather and fear of frostbite slowed our getting to Camp III at 8300 meters. The Americans were able to push on due to their use of oxygen. The Americans fixed most potentially dangerous spots and made retreats easy. Bill Barker established Camp III with a couple of Sherpas and kept on to 8400 meters on May 8 without supplementary oxygen. Two days later, I got to just below this height solo and decided it was too dangerous to continue; temperatures were about -40° and wind around 30 miles per hour. I had moved up from 7800 meters in three hours and a quarter. Sherpas Babu Tshering and Chuldin got to the summit on May 22. Taylor and Brice started up the northeast ridge on May 5 and bailed out on the north-ridge connection at Camp III on May 16 because of bad weather. Lemare suffered frostbitten toes and fingers. On May 25, we packed up for Base Camp, where the Swedes hosted one of the best parties ever given at 17,000 feet. Base Camp and Advance Base are free of garbage except for poor sanitary habits by most. We dug proper pit toilets. Most others are the behind-the-rock gang. All the expeditions did proper