

meters on March 25. We had problems with the lower wall on the 1983 Warth route because of blank ice and the high bergschrund. Vertical pitches had to be jumared. On April 5, Koch fell on the last rope-length below the glacial plateau. Despite a broken ankle, he descended under his own power to Base Camp, but he had to be helicoptered out. We placed Camp II at 6600 meters on April 7. We abandoned the Warth route on April 17 and Schrag and Dr. Reif climbed the Messner route almost to the north ridge at 7000 meters. We fixed rope between 6100 and 6600 meters and above 6700 meters. On April 23, sirdar Ang Phurba fell unconscious while cooking in a closed tent but was revived with oxygen. On the 25th, Grimm, Hadersdorfer, Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa and Ang Dorje Sherpa climbed to Camp II, hoping to establish Camps III and IV. At eleven P.M. Grimm and Hadersdorfer found the Sherpas unconscious and failed to revive them with oxygen. Despite strict warnings, the Sherpas cooked in closed tents. Their bodies were buried in a crevasse. We gave up the expedition. It is our opinion that the Warth route is the safest on the north face but it has very difficult rock and ice climbing. The Scott route is threatened by falling ice and rock and has avalanche danger.

WOLFGANG SINNWELL, *Akademischer Alpenverein, Munich, Germany*

Kumbhakarna. A team of six Canadians led by Ken Legg climbed the south ridge of Kumbhakarna (Jannu; 7710 meters, 25,294 feet), making the 20th ascent of the peak. Robert Driscoll and Michael White reached the summit on April 15.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Kumbhakarna Attempt. Four Swiss led by Hans Rauner attempted to climb Kumbhakarna (Jannu) by the south ridge. They reached 6500 meters on October 25.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Kumbhakarna East, East Face Attempts. Vanja Furlan and I again attempted to climb the east face of Kumbhakarna East (7468 meters, 24,502 feet), which we had tried in 1991. (*AAJ, 1992, page 4.*) After an approach march of ten days, we got to Base Camp at 5100 meters on April 28. We made two acclimatization climbs to 5800 and 6500 meters on Kabru in the first week of May. At 5:30 A.M. on May 12, we started from a tent at the foot of the face. We crossed the East Kumbhakarna Glacier and at 7:15 began the climb at 5500 meters. We climbed until midnight and bivouacked 800 meters up the wall in an ice cave in the central sérac. We had belayed 11 pitches (1 of UIAA VII, 2 of VII-, 2 of VI+ and 6 of VI). We left the bivouac at one P.M. and by nine P.M. had climbed another 600 meters. We bivouacked in a crevasse. We belayed 8 pitches (1 of VI+ and the

PLATE 60

Photo by Vanja Furlan

East Face of KUMBHAKARNA.

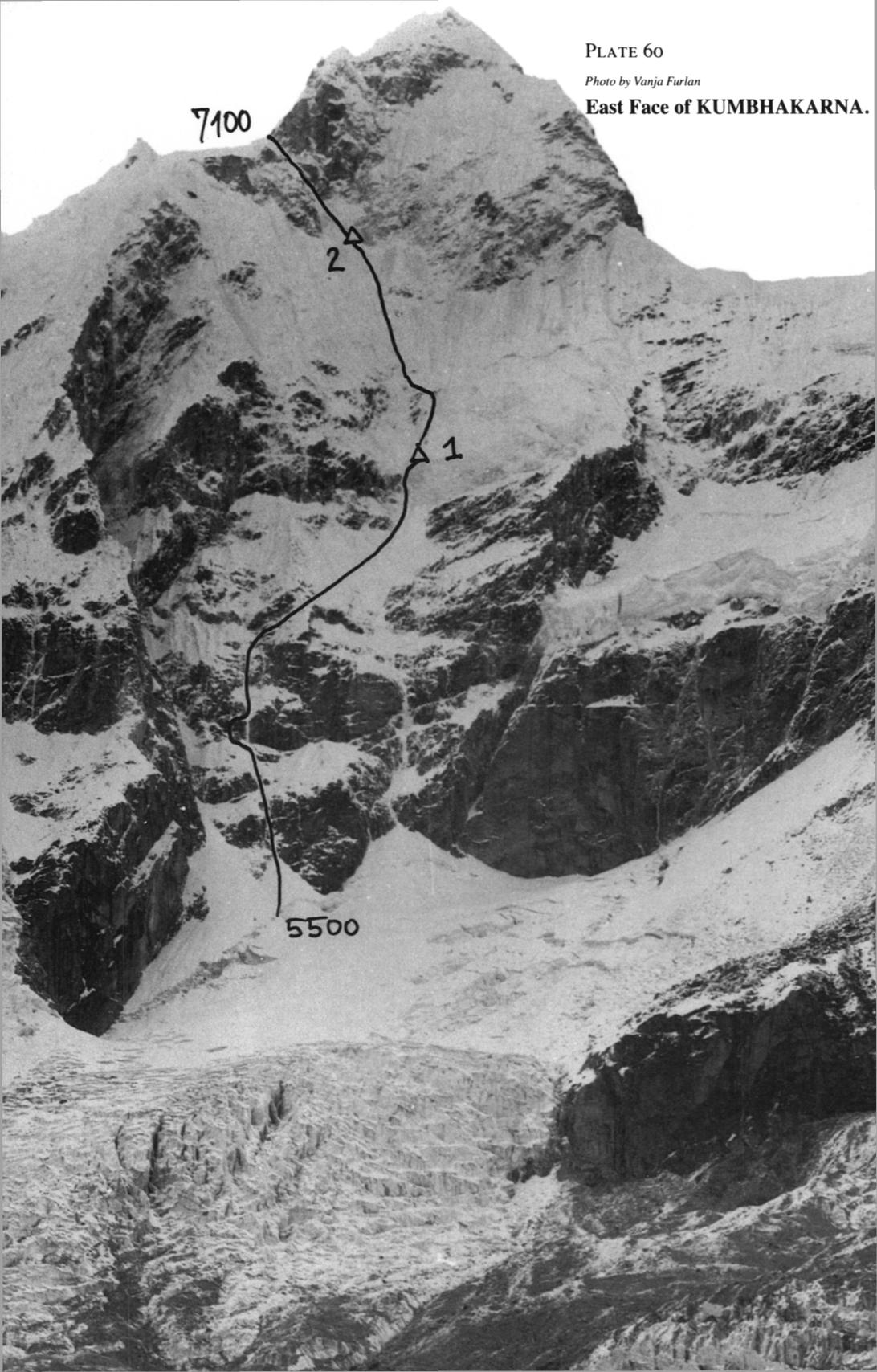




PLATE 61

Photo by Bojan Počkar

**Steep ice at 7000 meters on
KUMBHAKARNA.**

others of V to VI). On May 14, we were forced by a snowstorm to remain in the bivouac. Finally, at 6:30 A.M. on May 15, we proceeded in spite of unsettled weather. We decided to end the climb at noon at 7100 meters when we emerged from the face onto the southeast ridge. We had belayed seven pitches (1 of VII, 1 of VI+ and 5 of VI). At once we began the descent by rappelling the ascent route. At six P.M. we were back at the ice cave where we had had the first bivouac. We rested until eleven P.M. and continued the descent during the night. At six A.M. we were at the foot of the face. Dr. Matjaž Vrtovec was in support. A third Slovene attempt on the face, led by Dušan Debelak, was to have taken place after the monsoon. On September 20 during the approach, Damjan Vidmar drowned while bathing in the monsoon-swollen Kabela Khola. The expedition was abandoned.

BOJAN POČKAR, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

Makalu Attempt. The great west face of Makalu had defeated top-class alpinists with its extreme difficulty at very high altitude. This season, a well-publicized, massively financed group of eight British members and one Australian under the leadership of Nick Mason did not make a fast alpine-style attempt but rather adopted the traditional siege tactics of Himalayan climbing. A British climber who was on another Makalu expedition commented, "Nick Mason's expedition was well organized, but they just didn't have the necessary Himalayan experience. Yet, they weren't *kamikaze*; they admitted the face was too much for them, and they got off it without anyone getting hurt." They reached no higher than 7000 meters on the face, then tried to scale the normal route from the northwest and managed to get to 8250 meters before newly falling snow and weariness caused them on May 14 to turn back.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Makalu Attempt. Our members included Americans Peter Getzels, Brad Johnson, Peter Carse, Dr. James States, Brian Cox and me as leader and Britons Adrian and Alan Burgess. Our objective was a light-weight ascent of the northwest-ridge first-ascent route without supplementary oxygen nor high-altitude Sherpas. We established Base Camp on April 6 at 17,500 feet just 20 minutes below the British Advance Base for the west face and next to a small painted mani wall. Camp I was placed at 21,500 feet on April 16, with a temporary acclimatization camp at 18,500 feet. Due to the new peak fees in Nepal, we were the only expedition on our route, which necessitated our fixing the entire route up to the Makalu La. Therefore, Camp II was not established on the col at 24,500 feet until May 13. It was our hope to reach the summit from this camp. On the evening of May 13, however, two or more feet of snow fell, making trailbreaking difficult. Most members withdrew by June 15. Brad Johnson made one final attempt on the 16th with the British west-face expedition, which a week before had switched to our route. This attempt also failed at