

31 after a week's approach from the roadhead at Besi Sahar. Weather was bad throughout the climb. Advance Base was established on April 3 at 4800 meters after a concerted effort by the team and four porters. We followed the prominent ridge to the dome between Annapurna III and IV. This gained the main shoulder of Annapurna IV. Features on the mountain had changed significantly in the past ten years. Large cliffs and sizable crevasse-fields had formed as large chunks of the mountain had given way. This may account for the high failure rate during the previous decade. Camps I and II were established on April 7 and 10 at 5100 and 5400 meters. Then began the main difficulties of the climb. It took ten days to force the route to Camp III at 6100 meters. A heavy snowfall on April 23 forced the team off the mountain for three days. On April 29, we placed Camp IV at 6450 meters on the main shoulder. On May 3, three pairs set off and established an assault camp at 7000 meters, but they were stormbound for 48 hours. However, a fine spell followed and Tilley, Samuels, Dunn, Willson and Sheperd reached the summit (7525 meters, 24,688 feet) on May 5. Base Camp was evacuated on May 10.

MICHAEL TRUEMAN, Major, 10th Gurkha Rifles, British Army

*Annapurna IV, Post-Monsoon Ascents and Attempt.* There were three successful ascents of Annapurna IV (7525 meters, 24,688 feet) and one unsuccessful one, all by the northwest ridge. An expedition of six South Koreans under the leadership of Goo Hwa-Sub completed the climb when on September 21 Lee Dai-Haeng, Kim Jong-Sub and Bir Bahadur Tamang reached the top. On September 23, the only member of another Korean expedition, Rim Jong-Bum, with Nepalese Dagumbu Sherpa, Jambyang Lama and Nanda Prasad Magar, climbed to the summit. [This was a remarkable ascent, as Rim is a Buddhist monk who was on a special pilgrimage. He wrote the following to the Editor, "Throughout history, the Himalaya has been a source to understand and practice Buddhism. When I reached the summit, I had in my mind a sense of happiness and a deep respect for the noble ideas the monks before me possessed. I hope to find out how strong the human will is through nature. I want to challenge myself through challenging nature."] On September 24, Spanish Basques Asier Eizagirre, leader, Angel Navas, Patxi Navas and José María Sarasola also completed the ascent. A six-member Japanese expedition led by Satoshi Ikenuma reached a high point of 6400 meters on October 3.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna South Face Tragedy.* One of France's foremost climbers, Pierre Beghin, and I had hoped to climb a new, difficult route on the south face of Annapurna between the 1970 British route and the 1981 Japanese one. Starting on September 29, we first made an acclimatization climb on our route to 6500 meters and the next day fixed rope 150 meters higher before descending. Pierre was suffering from a bad sore throat. On October 7, we left Base Camp at one



PLATE 64

*Photo by Tom Skoog*

South Face of ANNAPURNA. Slovens  
Attempt on left. Route attempted by  
Beghin and Lafaille on right.  
X = accident.

A.M. for Advance Base at 5300 meters, where we spent the daylight hours. Rockfall forced us to climb primarily in the dark. The next day, we again made a pre-dawn start and climbed the lower part of the wall to bivouac in a safe and comfortable spot at 6500 meters. On October 9, we made a third night start and climbed to bivouac at 7000 meters. It was obvious that the next section was of extreme technical difficulty and so we climbed the next day only in the daylight, reaching 7300 meters, where we had a miserable hanging bivouac carved from the 70° ice. The weather began to be unsettled. However, on October 11, we set out in poor weather and reached 7500 meters at nine A.M. before deciding to descend. At 7200 meters, Beghin rigged a rappel from a Friend and urged me to remove the back-up piton, since we would need them all lower down. We exchanged packs; he took the one with the technical gear and I put on the bulkier one with the tent, stove and a bit of food. He also handed me his ice axe. The pack and the axe doubtless later saved my life. He had descended 25 meters when the anchor pulled out and he plunged to his death. I sat stunned for half an hour, not able to convince myself that he had not been able to catch himself below the overhang. I had to descend terribly difficult 75° to 80° terrain, unable to give myself any protection or to rappel. Not until nine P.M. did I reach the 7000-meter bivouac. The next day I did not move. Finally, on October 13, I started down, having found there 20 meters of 6mm rope. Tent pegs had to serve as anchors. I descended ice slopes and mixed terrain averaging 55° to 60°. Rockfall continued and avalanches of very heavy new snow sloughed off. I dropped one crampon and found it lower down two hours later. At four P.M., as I was approaching the tent luckily on the rope we had fixed, a stone crashed down on me and broke my right arm. (I am right-handed.) On October 14, it took me half an hour to light the stove. I hoped to have help, having shouted to Slovenes on the British route the day before. Having splinted my arm, I finally started on down, rigging 10-meter rappels with my sound arm and my teeth. It was not until early on the morning of October 15 that I got to Advance Base. The tent there was so covered with snow that I could extract nothing. There was no one in the Slovene Advance Base. I staggered down to the Slovene Base Camp, where two Slovene doctors tended to my compound fracture and medicated me. They had a radio and a helicopter was summoned to evacuate me to Kathmandu.

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE LAFAILLE, *Fédération Française  
de la Montagne et de l'Escalade*

*Annapurna, South Face Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Slovenes Viktor Grošelj, Dr. Igor Tekavčič, Filip Bence, Vanja Furlan, Matjaž Jamnik, Miha Kajzelj, Benjamin Ravnik, Slavko Rožič, Uroš Rupar, Robert Supin, Iztok Tomazin, Janez Hrovat and me as leader and Croat Stipe Božić. We established Base Camp and Camps I and II at 4050, 5050 and 5900 meters on the British route on September 29, 30 and October 4, according to plan. We moved along the ridge from October 6 to 10, avoiding a gully threatened by falling ice. We had instead to climb difficult snow-and-ice cauliflower along the sharp ridge.