

on May 15, Xavier Lamas, Francesc Martínez and Jul Monserrat on May 17 and Juan Berens, Carles Bravo and Francesc Martínez (again) on May 22. All skied down from 6750 meters. Eleven *Indian* cadets of the Rashtriya Indian Military Academy, all between the ages of 15 and 17, were led by Lieutenant Colonel M.P. Yadav, Principal of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. They also climbed the southwest ridge. On May 15, Yadav, Captain Y.S. Meitei and four cadets, Sourav Datta, Gourav Hamal, Sourav Naik and Gourav Saini climbed to the summit. Other *Indian* expeditions, led by Biswadeb Ghosh, Biplab Chatterjee, Ashutosh Kumar Sharma and Miss Suman Kutiyal, reached the top. Miss Kutiyal's 12-member party put six climbers on the top on August 26 but they were caught in an avalanche. Miss Sunita Jhanki was buried in the snow and died. A helicopter search revealed no trace of her. A 12-member expedition led by Rajesh Mukherjee helped in the rescue. Mukherjee, Subhas Chandra Dey, Phoni Bhusan Mondal, Shravan Kumar and Pradhan got to the summit on August 31. John Cleare led a 4-man *British* party, whose attempt is described below. *4 Poles* led by Jacek Fluder attempted the difficult 1800-meter-high east face in October. They climbed and fixed with rope the lower 350 meters. The leader fell sick at 5300 meters and the climb was given up. However, Janusz Gołab climbed the normal route solo.

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

*Kedar Dome Ski Attempt; A Female Liaison Officer:* I led a four-man party from the Alpine Ski Club, all of us over 50 except for our doctor. Our objective was a ski ascent, up and down, of Kedar Dome (6831 meters, 22,410 feet) and so we set out in late April. Our Base Camp at Tapoban was under ten feet of snow when we arrived. The route around to the Kirti Bamak (glacier) below the south face of Shivling where we placed Advance Base gains little altitude. Our porters didn't ski and we all wallowed in deep, soft snow with high temperatures. We placed Camp I below the shallow northwest ridge on the right side of Kadarnath Dome's northern flank, planning to place our top camp just above 6000 meters where the ridge blends into the final "roof" of Kedar. Cliffs fall abruptly on either side of the broad, flat-topped ridge but skiing up the crest was easy. With the sun shining, we were nearly at our campsite. Then within five minutes, it was snowing hard with visibility down to ten feet. Lightning began and we were engulfed in the worst electrical storm I have ever experienced in 19 Himalayan trips—indeed anywhere. Skis buzzed and hair stood on end. Swiftly we abandoned loads and started down. Our tracks were already obliterated and on several occasions one or another of us all but made a final ski jump over the ridge edge. We only reached the tent because on each marker wand we'd placed a compass bearing to the next. And then it snowed continuously for six days. Expedition *finito*. What was really interesting about our trip was the liaison officer. We were the first male expedition in India to be assigned a *female* liaison officer—on an experimental basis. She was magnificent, a young, recently-qualified MD who proved to be extremely helpful and

brilliant company, raising the entire tone of the party. She was given to none of the unpleasant posturing that seems to bedevil the typical male liaison officer. She didn't ski and, at the end, she insisted in handing back *all* the gear which we had to provide her and which when kept is such a resented and unnecessary drain on the resources of a small informal expedition as ours.

JOHN CLEARE, *Alpine Ski Club and Alpine Club*

*Kedarnath.* A 9-member team from Switzerland led by Christophe Peretti failed to climb Kedarnath (6940 meters, 22,770 feet) at the end of July. They were stopped at 6300 meters by soft snow and rain.

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

*Shivling Ascent and Attempts.* A 6-member *Indian* expedition led by H.C. Chokshi climbed Shivling (6543 meters, 21,467 feet) in early June. The summiters included Rajesh Rana and several high-altitude porters. Unsuccessful were 3 *Frenchmen* led by Michel Pelle on the west ridge. After establishing Camp II, one member fell sick and returned. The climb was given up on August 9 at 5450 meters. A *South Korean* expedition led by In Hwan-Son established Camp II at 5300 meters on the north ridge on August 28. Very bad weather near the rock band stopped them in late August. Another *South Korean* team led by T.P. Cheong tried the west ridge. They established Camp II at 5400 meters in mid July. However, the monsoon caught up with them and they gave up at 5800 meters. An *Italo-Spanish* expedition to Shivling and Bhagirathi III and a *Spanish* expedition to both Meru North and Shivling II are covered below.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

*Shivling and Bhagirathi III Attempts.* Fabrizio Defrancesco, Stefano Nicolussi and I hoped to climb the Indo-Tibetan Border Police route on the west ridge of Shivling and the southwest buttress of Bhagirathi III. We got to Base Camp at the foot of Bhagirathi III on August 27. The weather was unsettled and it snowed every night. On September 8, we decided to attempt Shivling alpine-style and climbed to bivouac at 5050 meters. In beautiful weather, we climbed the next day to 5450 meters. We set out at four A.M. on the 10th, passed the usual Camp III and got to the base of the great sérac, the key to the route. We climbed 70 meters of very difficult ice which varied from 50° to 90° and had only ten meters left. However, the condition of the ice became terrible and sloughed off dangerously. After some attempts, we gave up and returned to Base Camp. On September 14, we started up the Scottish route on Bhagirathi III. On the morning of the 15th, as we were preparing breakfast, the stove exploded, burning the tent and destroying equipment. With morale at a low point, we descended and abandoned the expedition.

MARIO MANICÀ, *Club Alpino Italiano*