



Guenter Jung on the north face of Cho Polu. The summit above him is Kangchungtse (7640m), while to the left is Chomo Lönzö (7790m). MARKUS WALTER

Reaching BC on November 14, we completed our successful ascent of Cho Polu by all four team members. Before leaving BC on November 19, we celebrated Dieter Rüelker's 60th birthday on November 17 by making a short ascent of Island Peak in three hours from BC.

MARKUS WALTER, *Alpinclub Sachsen, Germany*

Cho Polu, First Ascent, Previously Unreported. Spanish mountaineer Nil Bohigas reports that he did very quick solo climbs to the summits of Cho Polu and of nearby Pethangtse in the autumn of 1984 and several days later also soloed Baruntse. However, he had no official permission for these ascents, and no one except a few of his friends knew about them until recently.

Bohigas says that he went up the north face to the northeast ridge of Cho Polo to the top on the same day, in late October or early November, on which he had just climbed Pethangtse (he does not remember the exact dates). He stayed at a bivouac at 6000 meters, left a cache of supplies there, went out

at night and summited Pethangtse (6710m) before sunrise in a very quick ascent and descent untroubled by any technical difficulties. He then moved south to Cho Polu. "I found the main difficulties on the north face's first section, especially on the descent. I reached the summit by the northeast ridge. I descended by the same route and I reached the glacier at night.... I did not take more than 16 hours in total. Three days later I soloed Baruntse."

He had already pioneered a new route on the difficult south face of Annapurna I with just one teammate, Enric Lucas (see 1985 AAJ, p. 285) and now "I felt perfectly acclimatized to the altitude." He also reports he found good snow conditions, which must have been significantly better than those the Germans encountered this autumn, and he does not mention any problems with the wind.

The Germans, without knowing the above exact details, found the claim by Bohigas to have summited Pethangtse and Cho Polu on the same day "unbelievable" because they were sure he would have had "just not enough time" to descend Pethangtse, cross an estimated five kilometers of plateau between these two mountains and scale the difficult north side of Cho Polu.

However, it is a truism that what one man cannot do another person can; skills, strengths and experience vary enormously. Also, one must consider the facts that the Germans had worse weather; they did not climb alpine style but pitched two fixed camps, which meant they

carried heavy loads in their ascent, whereas Bohigas carried nothing; and they were a team of two men aged 59 years, one 35 and one, Walters, 26, the same age as Bohigas in 1984.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Tangkongma, Southeast/Northeast Ridge. It was reported that Jamie McGuinness (New Zealand) led an international commercial expedition that made perhaps the third official ascent of Tangkogma (6215m) via a possible new route. The mountain, which sits above the last approach stage to Kangchengjunga's Pangpema Base Camp, is easily approached, and other unauthorized ascents may thus have been made.

McGuinness, with one Sherpa and one Danish, one French and two American clients, climbed a snow gully from a high camp (ca. 5000m) before moving right onto the southeast ridge. They then traversed across a glacier on the right to connect with the northeast ridge, which they followed to the summit on October 29. The route was climbed without ropes; the next day, McGuinness, with three American clients and another Sherpa, repeated the route to the summit. (*High Mountain Sports* 212)

Jannu, North Face, Attempt. We (Fyodorov, Grekov, Mariev, Chabaline, Tukhvatulin, Slepnyov and Raljabov) arrived in Kathmandu September 2 with the goal of climbing the north face of Jannu. By September 11, the first team members arrived at Base Camp (4500m). The 13th marked the official opening of the event as we reconnoissanced the one-and-a-half hours' approach, cached gear at the base of the route and started to fix ropes through the ice-fall. Bad weather and heavy snowfall characterized the next month as we continued to work higher on the route. On October 11th, Chabaline, Tukhvatulin, Slepnyov and Radjabov fixed rope to 6700 meters, where they put a tent and spent a night. The next day, Tukhvatulin and Slepnyov fixed three more pitches. It snowed for the next three days. On October 16, when the team of Grekov, Fyodorov and Mariev went up to 6700 meters, they found the tent torn by snow and decided to go down. The general worsening of weather, permit deadlines and winter closing in forced the expedition to wind up.

Despite our failure to get to the summit, we consider the overall results to be good. We made a test of our climbing and team skills, made an active reconnoissance of the route up to 6800 meters, gathered information about route conditions in different weather, tested our equipment and worked out route tactics. We hope to return next spring and go on.

ILYAS TUKHVATULIN, *Russia*

TIBET

Lapche Kang, Attempt, Previously Unreported. The Kyoto Alpine League team, led by Kazunari Aihara and comprised of six members, made an attempt on the northeast ridge of Lapche Kang (7100m) in September-October, 1998, but abandoned the attempt 160 meters below the summit. We placed Base Camp (4500m) near Lango Village on September 12 and carried our supplies up by yak to ABC (5400m) on September 15. We set up Camp I (5750m) on September 21 and CII (6100m) on September 28 on the Duyannu Glacier. At first, we made an attempt via the ice fall on Duyannu Glacier, reaching about 6450 meters near the hanging glacier. We next tried the neighboring small ridge on the ice fall, placing CIII