

*Mount Everest, Kanshung Face.* Mrs. Santosh Yadav led an Indian expedition that largely repeated the line up Everest's east face pioneered by a small British-American-Canadian team (Anderson-Webster-Teare-Venables) in the spring of 1988. Kusang Dorjee Sherpa and Sange Sherpa, both Indian citizens, one a mountaineering instructor and the other a member of the Indo-Tibet Border Police, on May 28 ascended the east face out of Tibet, a feature rarely attempted and even more rarely climbed successfully (of only six previous attempts starting in 1981, three had succeeded). Mrs. Yadav and the other female on her climbing team, Miss Nari Dhami, reached the exit at the top of their face route onto the 7900-meter South Col and thereby became the first women to gain the Col from this side. They themselves were unable to proceed up from the Col, where they had placed their highest camp, to the top with Kusang Dorjee, Sange and a third team member, Amar Prakash, because they discovered that their oxygen masks were not functioning properly.

The Indians had a lucky escape from an avalanche of large ice blocks that struck their camp on the east face 450 meters below the Col not very long after they had begun their ascent from there on the 27th. Two of the four tents in the camp were completely buried and the other two were swept 200 meters down the mountainside; "if we had left camp a little later, eleven people would have died," Mrs. Yadav said.

After the three summitters returned to the Col late in the morning, all members then descended straight down, over and around the avalanche rubble, to the first camp they had pitched on the face, which was at 6450 meters, and arrived there after dark (at 8:30 p.m.) at the end of a very long day.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Mount Everest, Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition.* The 1999 Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition was conducted to search for evidence of the 1924 British attempt on Mt. Everest and to recover information about the high point reached by George Leigh Mallory and Andrew Comyn Irvine during their ill-fated summit bid. Our predominantly American team consisted of climbers Conrad Anker, Dave Hahn, Graham Hoyland (UK), Jake Norton, Andy Politz, Tap Richards and Eric Simonson, expedition leader. In addition, we were joined by historians Jochen Hemmleb (Germany) and Larry Johnson, along with film crew members Liesl Clark, Peter Firstbrook (UK), Ned Johnston, Thom Pollard and Jyoti Rana (Nepal). Assisting us were 12 Sherpas led by Sirdar Dawa Nuru.

The team left Kathmandu on March 23, traveling overland to Rongbuk Base Camp (Tibet), which was established on March 30. For the next month, the entire team worked steadily on the North Ridge/Northeast Ridge route to establish the Advance Base Camp (6460m), Camp IV (7070m) and Camp V (7800m), eventually fixing this part of the route with 2500 meters of rope. During this period, the weather was quite good, and the upper mountain remained remarkably snow-free.

The first search team (Anker, Hahn, Norton, Politz, Richards) reached CV on April 30 and located the 1975 Chinese Camp VI the following day. That camp site was where Chinese climber Wang Hongbao started his famous "short walk" in 1975, during which he had reportedly come across an "English dead." After finding the Chinese campsite, they began searching to the west. Several hours later, Anker found the body of George Mallory at 8160 meters (see accompanying note by Anker below). The team spent three hours on site and buried Mallory's remains under stones before descending to CV. That night the weather worsened, with several feet of snow accumulating over the next two weeks. This effectively ended further searching.