

Unnamed Peak (6,193m). A two-member Polish team comprising Robert Sieklucki and Marcin Wernik attempted this unnamed peak near to Nandanvan. They reached the base of the mountain on April 19 and, not surprisingly considering that they had arrived so early in the season, found large quantities of snow. The route proved hard going and the pair were forced to give up at 5,450m.

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Bhagirathi enchainment attempt. Americans Jonathan Copp and Dylan Taylor were attempting the ambitious project of an enchainment from Bhagirathi III (6,454m) to Bhagirathi II (6,512m) over the smaller unclimbed summit of Bhagirathi IV. They planned to first reach the summit of Bhagirathi III via the quasi-classic Scottish Route on the south west pillar. Their best attempt reached ca 5,800m just below the shale band. To this point they had climbed for two-and-a-half days carrying just a single-skin Goretex tent, one sleeping bag and minimal food and fuel to complete the traverse. A storm moved in and pinned them down for three days, after which they had no option but to retreat. Subsequent attempts failed to regain their high point.

The ca 1,350m Scottish Route (Bob Barton and Alan Fyffe, October 1982) was also attempted by Spanish, Joan Belmonte, Jordi Bonet, Joan Jover and Frederic Puig. They made two attempts in Alpine Style but only reached half-height on the pillar.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

Bhagirathi III, west face, ascent of Spanish (Catalan) Route. Three Swiss, Simon Anthamatten, Urs Stocker and Reiner Treppte, made the third ascent to the summit of the ca 1,350m Spanish Route, Impossible Star (Juan Aldeguer, Sergio Martinez, Jose Moreno, and Juan Thomas; May 1984) on the west face of 6,454m Bhagirathi III. The Swiss initially thought the Spanish Route lay more to the left and therefore hoped to climb a new route on the pillar. However, they soon realized their "new" line was the 1984 route and decided to attempt this anyway, free climbing as much as possible.

The three fixed about 600m (the first two pillars) of the route and established a camp at the top of their ropes. Due to the prevailing weather, they were only able to free climb the first third of the route (at 6c), after which it turned extremely cold (-10° to -20°C), ice remained in the cracks and the team was forced to use aid (A3+). The climbers felt that in warm and dry conditions the second pillar would be relatively easy (around 6a) but the third pillar involved quite hard aid climbing and they were somewhat doubtful if it could ever be climbed completely free. Certainly, in their opinion, it would be at least 7c/8a. However, in this section there is a well-featured overhang, where the rock is quite loose, ca 10m to the left of the established line. Also, to the right of the line is a gully system, where avalanches, originating from the top of the wall, tend to fall. However, as this gully is overhanging, any avalanche would tend to pass well out from the wall, leaving climbers relatively sheltered from objective danger. The rock here is also poor but both these adjacent lines offer technically rather easier climbing. From their high camp the three Swiss climbed to the summit in four days. As the upper third of the wall is overhanging, there was no snow and therefore no water. This forced the team to spend the first couple of days fixing ropes above the portaledge, before climbing to the top with an open bivouac at 6,000m. Here the temperature was around -20°C and the wind gusted to 60km/hour.

In 1984 the Catalan team fixed some rope on the base of the pillar and then climbed the route in capsule style, making hammock bivouacs. Although they left a considerable amount of

equipment on the route (ropes in the upper section, many pegs, rubbish on the ledges and an unnecessary bolt), the line was completed more or less using natural gear throughout. On the second overall and first alpine-style ascent, which took place later the same year, Americans Scott Flavelle and David Lane cleaned most of the route. Despite this, the Swiss found considerable amounts of old fixed rope (which they didn't use and some of which they cleaned) but took the liberty of carrying a battery-powered drill to place a single 8mm bolt anchor at the end of each 60m pitch to facilitate constructing a better line for their fixed ropes. They spent a total of 18 days (out of 40 at or above base camp) climbing the route and feel that their style was acceptable given the conditions, which had already sent most other teams in the Gangotri packing for home. For a topo illustration of the routes on Bhagirathi III, see *AAJ* 1999, page 97.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

CENTRAL GARHWAL

Kamet (7,756m), new route via the northwest ridge. An eight-member Indian Navy expedition, employing Sherpas and High Altitude Porters, climbed both Kamet and neighboring Abi Gamin in the pre-monsoon period. We reached the road head at Ghamsali on May 18, and on the 23rd established base camp at 4,650m beside the frozen Vasundara Tal. We followed the Normal Route for both Kamet and Abi Gamin all the way to Meade's Col (7,100m), which separates the two mountains. Camp 1 was established at 4,960m, Camp 2 at 5,360m, 3 at 6,050m, 4 at 6,650m and 5, which was first occupied on June 10, on the Col. The route thus far had some avalanche danger and the weather had not proved favorable. Camp 5 was cold and windy, with average daytime temperatures hovering around -15°C and winds gusting to 100 knots. To our south the massive northeast face of Kamet rose like a gigantic column of ice, snaking away beyond our vision into the azure. To our north, the south face of Abi Gamin looked a nice and easy proposition. However, on the col a severe blizzard continued unabated.

At 4 a.m. on the morning of the 11th visibility cleared and the wind dropped. Surg Lt Viking Bhanoo, LMA Rakesh Kumar, and Sherpa Sange Puri set out for the Normal Route up Abi Gamin (7,354m) and reached the summit around 7:30 a.m. After they returned to C4, I followed their tracks, alone, to the summit, reaching it around 12:30 p.m.

A little after midnight of June 12, Sherpas Ang Tashi and Purva left with me for Kamet. Purva had to descend soon due to mountain sickness. Ang Tashi and I traversed to the northwest ridge and summited after 14 hours of climbing, descending back to Camp 5 in the dark. This was the first ascent of the ridge. A day later, having started out at 3 a.m., Lt Cdr Abishek Kankan, Sange Puri, Mchera Rajkumar, and Samgyal reached the summit at 11:30 a.m. via the Normal Route up the northeast ridge. Everyone was back in base camp on the 15th, returning over a glacier that had now completely altered its appearance since we first arrived.

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Pt 6,175m, AAJ 2003, p370-371, correction. In the account of the first ascent of this peak in 2002 by an Irish expedition, it appears that the summit, subsequently christened Draiocht Parvat, was reached on May 13 and not April as stated. Also, it is now believed the summit that Shipton reached in 1934 was 6,075m Shri Parvat.