

EASTERN GARHWAL

Lampak I and II, ascents. A 10-member team from the Punjab Police, led by PM Das, climbed both Lampak peaks, which lie south of the Girthi Ganga in the Eastern Garhwal. The expedition established base camp at 4,700m in the Kala Kharak to the west of the mountains, and then a higher camp at 5,127m, from which both peaks could be attempted. Further camps were then on both Lampak I and II. On June 7 Lampak II (6,181m) was climbed by the leader and seven other members (Nari Dhami, Inder Kumar, Kulvinder Kumar, Mohan Lal, Anand Singh, Palvinder Singh, and Sangram Singh), whereas on the 13th the more southerly Lampak I (6,325m) was climbed by the leader and three other members (Nari Dhami, Inder Kumar, and Sangram Singh). The latter was a major technical ascent by an Indian team on a peak above 6,000m. PM Das has made a full study of peaks and their nomenclature in this region and recorded the results in Volume 60 of the Himalayan Journal.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Editor's note: The Lampak Group rises between the Siruanch and Kalla Glaciers above the road head at Malari (northeast of Joshimath) and is very rarely visited. The history of ascents in this group is rather confused, as originally Lampak was the name awarded to the sharp northerly peak of 6,181m, while 6,325m was designated Lampak South. The higher peak was first attempted by the 1950 Scottish Expedition (Tom MacKinnon, Bill Murray, Douglas Scott, and Tom Weir), via the east ridge from the Siruanch Valley. It was reported as being first climbed in 1969 by an Indian expedition from the Mountain Lovers' Association, which after failing to reach the col between (the then) Lampak South and 6,504m Gorur Parbat, climbed the southwest ridge to the summit. One year previously the 6,181m peak had been climbed by a team from Calcutta under Nemai Bose. Both peaks were climbed again on September 20, 1978 by a 12-member team from the Indian Military. The third ascent of 6,181m occurred in September 2001 via the southeast ridge.

Kalanka, north face, attempt. Kalanka is 6,931 meters and is joined to Changabang bordering the massive Nanda Devi Sanctuary. There is only one confirmed line on the north side of Kalanka, climbed by a Czech team. We set up base camp on May 1, and throughout the next week we continued to carry loads and get our fitness back.

On May 12 John Varco and I finally got a good work day in on the mountain, ascending the first 2,000' up a snow slope. We left a cache of food and gear at 18,500' and headed back down in bad weather. May 17 was our first night on the big wall portion of the mountain. We dug out a great bivy. The next 800 feet was 80-degree mixed climbing on extremely loose rock. We fixed all of this to what we called "The Meat," a rock structure where the route turns into a 90°-overhanging wall.

The weather continued to suck. May 27 was our 10th day on the mountain, and although we were making headway we were completely out of food. So we headed down to advanced base camp. Our remaining food consisted of 6 freeze-dried dinners, 20 GU packets, 10 energy bars, 1 package of Kool Aid, and 2 cough drops.

We returned to the ledge exhausted but happy to at least be back on the mountain. Our health was deteriorating from being up so high so long. John had lost about 15 pounds and had a chest infection producing a lot of green phlegm. Finally after nine days we reached the top of the north buttress.

We were both totally worked and had been completely out of food for four days. After much deliberation and weighing every possibility we decided to forgo the summit. We put all the gear together in two huge loads and headed down.

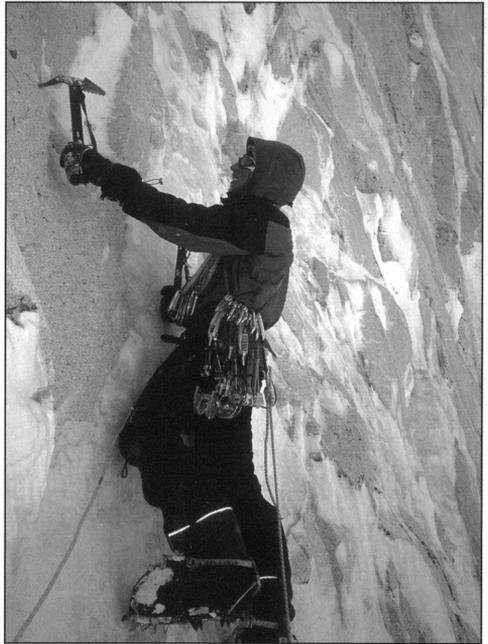
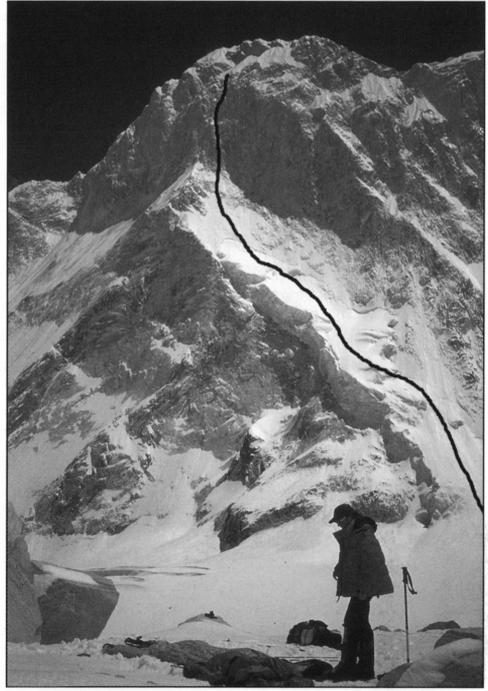
Depender surprised me with an amazing birthday cake he had made the day before. He had written my name in white icing and we celebrated a fantastic climb and adventure consuming the delicious cake under the stars with a circle of snowcapped peaks surrounding us. I looked over at John and smiled; he gave me a big hug, and all was right in my little alpine world.

SUE NOTT

KUMAON

Panch Chuli II (6,904m), ascents and tragedies. In one of the worst avalanche tragedies in the history of Himalayan mountaineering nine members of an Indo-Tibet Border Police team to Panch Chuli II (the highest of the Panch Chuli Group at 6,904m) in the Kumaon region of the Indian Himalaya were killed while descending the mountain on September 20 after a successful summit attempt. While exact details are not known, the team appears to have climbed the southwest ridge, the route of the 1973 first ascent by 18 climbers from another ITBP expedition led by Mahindra Singh and repeated in 1992 by three Indian members of an Indo-British expedition jointly led by Chris Bonington and Harish Kapadia. The 1992 party found the approach through the icefall to the upper Balati Plateau below the ridge objectively dangerous.

The 2003 ITBP team was attempting the mountain before the end of the monsoon, reported to be comparatively heavy last year. The members reached the top early in the morning of the 20th and were involved in



The north side of Kalanka, with the Nott-Varco attempt shown. *John Varco*
John Varco, high on the route. *Sue Nott*