

We achieved no summit, nor did we reach a ridge, so perhaps it is not relevant to give our climb a name. Our satisfaction was in climbing and returning in one piece. It was not a lengthy expedition but a major excursion. Furthermore, we can say to those who have already photographed this obvious line, "there is a way!" On the other hand, if we don't say anything, people will call the route the Spanish (or Catalan) 2001 attempt, whereas in fact we both come from the same state, in the Pyrenees, Rigagorca.

Ribagorca attempt: west (southwest) couloir to west col (6,240m) of 6,600m Triangle Peak (October 2001, 1300m, VII 5 M X). Triangle Peak is a summit on the wall between Pemthang Karpo Ri (aka Dome Blanc, 6,830m) and Pemthang Ri (6,842m) on the long wall that runs northwest from Lenpo Gang (Big White Peak) to Hagen's Col. There are many similar lines, all around 1,000-1,500m in height, leading to the ridge that forms the Nepal-Tibet border at ca 6,500m. Our line was chosen because it was only two hours across the Langtang Glacier and was not threatened by serac avalanche. However, it is important to emphasize that the stone fall was very serious.

XAVI FARRÉ, *Spain*

Historical note: Hagen's Col (mentioned above) was named for the Swiss mountain traveler Toni Hagen, who died in April 2003. Hagen worked as a geologist for the U.N. and from 1953 onward undertook the first geological survey of Nepal. He was the first foreigner to really trek the length and breadth of the country, making a total of 19 expeditions, visiting almost every valley and covering a distance of over 14,000km in around eight years. He took the first pictures of the south side of Xixabangma. Over the years many mountaineers gained great insight and inspiration from the books and photographs that he published.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *High Mountain INFO*

Gurkarpo Ri, another unsuccessful Korean attempt on this unclimbed peak. Koreans led by Kim Myung-Sin were back for another attempt on the unclimbed 6,891m Gurkarpo Ri, which is situated on the Tibetan border northwest of Lenpo Gang. It appears to be a very difficult peak that has thwarted at least three previous attempts: two by Koreans in the winters of 1993 and 2001, and an autumn 1999 attempt by Germans. Last year the Koreans were attempting the southeast face but got no further than 5,750m on September 25.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY, *Nepal*

MALAHANGUR HIMAL (KHUMBU)

Teng Kang Poche, first ascent of the northeast face to east ridge. During November 2003 Jules Cartwright and I made two attempts on the 1,600m northwest face of Teng Kang Poche (6,500m), the first of which also included Al Powell. An easy approach of one hour from the lodge at Thyongbo brought us to the start of the climb at 8 a.m. on the 14th. Finding good snow conditions, we climbed unroped up the initial snow cone and continued into a runnel/gully. The line chosen followed this gully system, which was 55-75° névé at Scottish II to IV. At one point a mixed corner had to be followed in order to bypass an overhang in the gully. This

proved quite difficult and had short sections of Scottish V, 6 until we rejoined the original line. Slightly above this point, we cut a tent ledge for the first night (ca 4,800m).

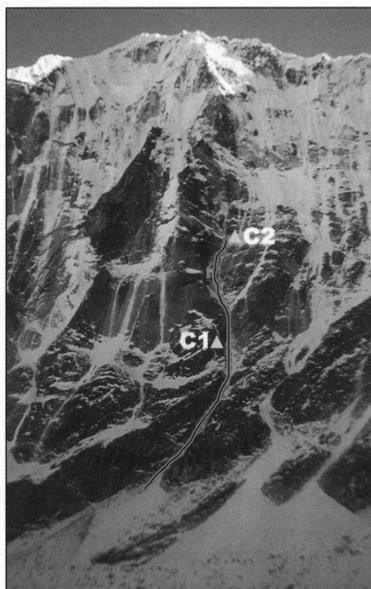
The second day continued in the same vein, although we started to pitch the climbing, because despite being more or less the same grade, it was more sustained. At approximately 5 p.m. we cut a tent ledge for the second night. The pitch above proved the hardest so far at V, 6. That evening I fell ill, and was vomiting and delirious for 40 minutes. We decided to descend, and the next day, the 16th, rappelled from our high point at 5,400m and reached Thame by 3:30 p.m.

I recovered quickly but Powell's time had now run out and he was forced to leave. On our second attempt Cartwright and I made an 11-hour ascent to our previous high point. No food or gas was taken as a stash had been left there. However, the conditions were serious with very high winds and constant spin-drift. In addition, a certain amount of stone and ice fall was encountered. Much of the ground we had previously climbed unroped now had to be pitched, as it was uncertain when the next lump of ice or rock would strike.

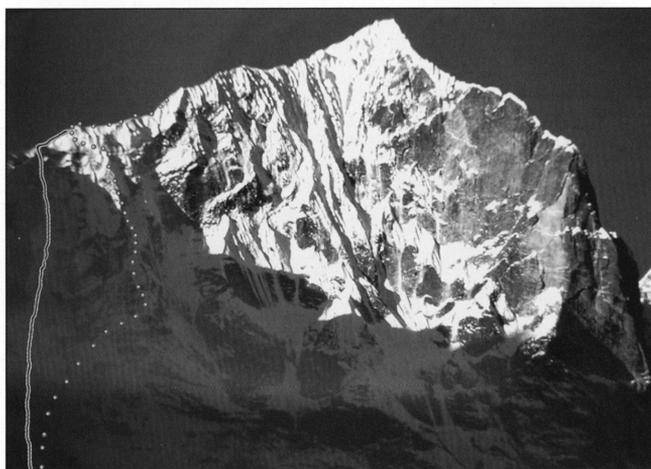
The night was a fraught affair. So was the following day sitting out the wind in hope of more favorable conditions. We spent a second night at our 5,400m camp but on the 24th we decided to abandon the attempt and escape in an early morning lull.

Well to the left of the prominent granite north pillar is a left-to-right ramp line, leading to the lowest point on the east ridge. I had stared at this line for two weeks and after our failure to climb a new route on the northwest face, decided it was time to have a look. I was now by myself as both Cartwright and Powell had returned to Britain. This line looked the most suitable for a solo attempt.

Starting at 1:30 a.m. on November 27, I climbed the lower slopes via a left-to-right path under the steep rock walls beneath the east ridge. Although the ground was not technical in the lower 600-800m, it was tiring due to deep unconsolidated snow and the laborious nature of traversing the undulating,



Teng Kang Poche, showing the attempt on the northwest face. *Nick Bullock*



Teng Kang Poche's north face showing Nick Bullock's route of ascent (right) and descent (left). *Nick Bullock*

fluted ground. Below the lowest point of the east ridge I decided to continue right, aiming for runnels that appeared to lead directly to the summit. The shortest line to the ridge above me appeared to finish up mixed ground, which looked difficult in the half-light of dawn. After two previously unsuccessful attempts on the northwest face, I craved success and so opted for a more certain line. Or so I thought.

As daylight approached and I gained height, it became apparent I would have to cross a deep couloir. An active band of seracs on the east ridge towered above and gave me cause for concern. Deciding that crossing below the seracs was too risky, I climbed a rib of mixed ground until directly beneath them (100m, Scottish V, 5). The terrain prior to this had gradually increased in angle, being 60-80°, at a grade of Scottish IV/V, and quite tenuous due to the unconsolidated nature of the snow.

Moving left, I climbed steep, hard ice to reach the crest of the east ridge. I continued up this until ca 200m below the summit, where I bivouacked in a large crevasse as my hands and feet needed re-warming. It was 2:30 p.m. and I had taken 13 hours to reach this ca 6,350m point on the ridge.

The following morning I attempted to reach the summit but found the way above very crevassed and far too dangerous for a solo climber. I decided to go down and followed the ridge to its lowest point, where I made two 30m rappels on the northeast face and then down-climbed directly to reach my traverse line followed on the ascent. By 1:30 p.m. I had reached my starting point in the valley at 4,300m and later decided to name my route to the east ridge, Love and Hate (Alpine D+/TD-).

NICK BULLOCK, U.K.

Editor's note: the east ridge of Teng Kang Poche has probably been climbed on several occasions from the Lumding Valley to the south, and was certainly climbed in 1984.

Pharilapcha-Machermo Peak (6,017 m), first official ascent. The first authorized ascent of this recently permitted trekking peak in the Khumbu valley was made from the west in spring 2003. The team comprised Isrofil Ashurly (Russia), Marcelo Rey Belo (Brazil), Juliana N. Bechara Belo (Brazil), Josko Bozic (Croatia), Stipe Bozic (Croatia), Valentine Grakovitch (Russia), Viktor Groselj (Slovenia), Vladimir Mesaric (Croatia), Vladimir Shataev (Russia), Rafael Vodisek (Slovenia), and a Sherpa team. Their route is said to follow the west ridge.

SEB CONSTANT, France

Pharilapcha-Machermo Peak (6,017 m), first ascent of north face (The Bonfire of the Vanities), and southwest side (The Bridge of Lost Desire). The north face of this peak, dominating Gokyo village, remained virgin. Climbing it had been a dream of mine for seven years, ever since the beauty of the lines running down that rocky, shady wall, like yogurt flowing over a dark surface, had impressed me during a trek in the Khumbu. Of course, I knew destiny would bring me there again, but when? Finally Jerome Mercader and I arrived in the autumn of 2003. Before our north face ascent we established The Bridge of Lost Desire on the southwest side during a reconnaissance of the peak. This showed us an easy descent for our north face attempt.

Because we are lazy boys we set up our base camp at a lodge in Machermo village, one