

VARIOUS NOTES

where he left his rucksack and climbed on, turning the peak on the northern slope. At two o'clock he stood on the final ridge, a thousand feet from the summit. This ridge, which was alternately corniced snow and rather rotten rock gendarmes, at several places offered serious climbing difficulties. Feeling his strength failing him, Buhl took two Pervitin pills (apparently benzidine) and drank the last of his "tea" brewed from coca leaves. At seven o'clock he finally unfurled Tyrolean and Pakistani flags on the summit and took photographs, of which unfortunately only one came out. It was already sunset, and he had to start the long way back. Night overtook him struggling downward without his ice-axe, which he had left on the top with the Pakistani flag attached. One crampon kept falling off. He spent the night about 500 feet below the summit without food, drink, or extra clothing on a 45°-slope on a large rock that wobbled when he moved. He did not dare sleep and could hardly move although he realized that his feet were becoming frostbitten. Finally at dawn he again began the painful climb down, plagued by thirst, hunger, and fatigue. He was bothered by hallucinations, imagining that someone was with him. It was not until 5:30 P.M. that he reached the Silbersattel. He first picked out four climbers who were on the way down from Camp V to Camp IV. These turned out to be Kempter and three porters. Kempter had not been above Camp V all day. He then saw Frauenberger and Ertl at the Moor's Head, dedicating a tablet to the memory of those who died on the mountain in 1934. These two gave him a joyous reception when he staggered into Camp V.

Dhaulagiri. A very competent Swiss expedition of the Akademischer Alpen Club Zürich failed to reach the summit of Dhaulagiri (26,795 feet) in Nepal. The group under the leadership of Bernhard Lauterberg consisted of Dr. Ruedi Pfisterer, André Roch, Hannes Huss, Marc Eichelberg, Ruedi Schatz, and Peter Braun. They landed by plane at Pokhara, took a pack train to Beni, and forced their way up the difficult Mayangdi Khola Gorge and reached base camp on the northwestern side of the mountain at 11,600 feet on May 2nd. From Camp I in a glacial cirque at 14,850 feet they carried out an extended reconnaissance. The route chosen lay over a rock and ice buttress, into the north-

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face icefall, to a 5,000-foot steep snow face up which they hoped to climb to the west ridge at a point about 1500 feet from the summit. Camp II at 16,830 feet and Camp II at 18,150 feet were established on the buttress and at its top. Camp IV at 19,500 feet was at the foot of the snow face and Camp V at 21,450 was dug into the slope about half way up it. From this high camp Schatz and Braun set out with three sherpas, who carried oxygen equipment, to try for the summit. At 23,600 feet the latter turned back and on the descent slipped in a snow gully and fell more than 1500 feet. Miraculously they checked their fall unhurt at the very brink of an ice cliff. Meanwhile the climbers continued on, using oxygen, up a slope which threatened to avalanche. At about 25,200 feet the steep snow gave way to even steeper powder snow-covered slabs, almost devoid of holds and those few sloping the wrong way. They abandoned their try after climbing to within 200 feet of the crest of the western ridge, having reached about 25,400 feet. They realized that they could not make the top without another camp and could see no possible camp site. The expedition returned, having reconnoitred what they feel is the only route up the mountain and having mapped its northern and western sides. They also reached the northeast and southern cols, completing the reconnaissance of all sides of the mountain which was begun by the French in 1950.

Panch Chuli. P. W. Nikore, the leader of an Indian expedition on 27 May 1953 claims to have climbed Panch Chuli (22,255 ft.) in Garhwal in a two-day ascent from his high camp. The Scots had failed in 1950 and the Germans in 1951 on this mountain. Doubts that the summit was reached continue to be reported from Indian sources.

Abi Gamin. The Bengal Royal Engineers Kamet-Abi Gamin expedition under the leadership of Major N. D. Jayal made the second ascent of Abi Gamin (24,130 ft.) in Gahrwal. After getting to within 100 feet of the top on June 16th on the east ridge, a smaller party consisting of Jayal, Sherpa Pemba, and Garhwali Pooran Singh climbed to the summit by the south face. This is a different route from that taken by the Anglo-Swiss party in 1950 who climbed from the Tibetan side.

Kabru. J. W. R. Kempe and G. C. G. Lewis in May ascended