

## VARIOUS NOTES

difficult section they called the "Pear," and here it was that the Argentines put to good use a part of the 15 tons of equipment they had brought. At 23,000 feet Sergeant Godoy of the Argentine Army blasted with explosives a tent site for Camp 6. From there the climbers and five sherpas completed the ascent of the "Pear" and established Camp 7 at 24,600 feet, just under the crest of the west ridge. Alfredo Magnani and Austrian-born Gerhard Watzl with Pasang Dawa Lama (who climbed with Fritz Wiessner in 1939 to the highest point reached on K2) and his brother Ang Nyma set out on June 1, 1954, up the final ridge which they found most difficult rock climbing. A particularly hard section had to be turned on small ledges on the face itself. Finally at 5 P.M., they stood again on the summit snow ridge at 26,250 feet. Without food or tent, they dug a snow cave for a bivouac. During the night it snowed. Only 550 feet below the peak, with no apparent climbing difficulties left, possibly two or three hours below the summit, they were tempted to press onward. Reason prevailed, however, and the exhausted men wisely began their retreat. Well it was, too, since they did not arrive back at Camp 7 until nine o'clock that night. There they found the expedition leader, Francisco Ibáñez, who had badly frozen feet and had lost his crampons. In his condition, he felt he could not descend safely without crampons, so next day they descended without him. The doctor, Antonio Ruiz Berramendi, and the Chilean, Roberto Busquets, climbed up from Camp 6 and brought the injured leader down. Despite the monsoon, the expedition carried him in record time to Kathmandu, but tragically he died there in the hospital on June 30th from infected frozen feet and pneumonia. A German-Swiss expedition hopes to attack the mountain again in 1955.

*Api.* The veteran 71-year-old climber, Piero Ghiglione organized a very small Italian expedition which climbed Api (23,399 feet) in northwestern Nepal. However, the expedition ended in tragedy. After the four climbers had established their base camp at 13,000 feet, in the Chambia Valley, discouraged by bad weather and the difficulties of the mountain, they began their journey home. While crossing a crude bridge, Dr. Roberto Big-nami fell into a mountain torrent and was drowned. The weather

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improved and the climbers returned to the mountain. On June 14th, Giuseppe Barenghi, Giorgio Rosenkrantz, and the sherpa, Gyalgen, left Camp 3 at 20,175 feet for the summit, along with Ghiglione, who stopped at 21,650 feet. Clouds covered the peak as the leader returned to Camp 3. It stormed all night. Rescue attempts by Ghiglione and porters on June 15th and 16th failed, and all descended to the base camp. On the 17th, Gyalgen staggered into camp, nearly snowblind and badly frostbitten. He told how at the end of the morning of the 14th, they had reached the eastern summit of Api, which is lower than the main peak. Since Rosenkrantz was exhausted, Gyalgen stayed with him while Barenghi continued alone. After the wind had risen and he did not return, Gyalgen set out to find him. He did not climb very far because he saw one set of tracks that led to the summit and another set coming back that ended at the edge of a crevasse. Gyalgen did his best to help Rosenkrantz, but the latter's condition was so bad that they made little progress before they had to bivouac for the night in a crevasse. The next day, in the continuing storm, Gyalgen carried his sahib, who had badly frozen feet, over a third of a mile before bivouacking again in a crevasse. Rosenkrantz died during the night. Gyalgen struggled on to the high camp which had been evacuated a short time before. He then staggered on through the whole night to the base camp.

*Saipal.* A seven-man Austrian expedition, under the leadership of Dr. Rudolf Jonas, left Tanakpur for Northwestern Nepal in April, 1954. Their route lay through Chainpur, where they were received by the Maharaja of Bajang, who later visited them at their base camp. From Chainpur, they had to cross three 9000 to 10,000-foot ridges before reaching the Ghat Khola, which they followed to its source on the slopes of Saipal (23,096 feet). From their base camp at 13,700 feet in the cirque at the foot of the 10,000-foot south face, they immediately began their reconnaissance. The view from a 17,700-foot peak, which had the shape of the Matterhorn, showed them that the steep ice slopes and the wrongly tipped strata would preclude any attempt on the south face. The eastern and western sides of the mountain were next examined. The east ridge was ruled out because of the