

VARIOUS NOTES

Makalu. The French expedition to Makalu left Jogbani on August 21st and encountered the most trying conditions on their approach to the Barun Valley because of the severe monsoon. During a very difficult river crossing over the Dubi, where a bridge had been carried away, two Nepalese porters were drowned. Base camp was finally established on September 15th at 15,900 feet on the right bank of the Barun Glacier. The transport officer, Dilli Bahadur Werma, fell sick with pneumonia there and died after a week's illness. Despite the most unfavorable weather, which prevented their attacking the main peak (27,790 feet), Jean Franco, the expedition leader, Lionel Terray, and two Sherpas reached the summit of Makalu II (25,460 feet). Other members of the group were J. Bouvier, J. Couzy, P. Leroux, G. Magnone, Dr. Jean Rivolier, and l'Abbé Bordet, geologist.

Barun Valley. In 1952 Shipton, Evans, Hillary, and I reached the Barun Glacier and descended it. Makalu was then unexplored and the lower Barun was of great beauty. We planned to return. The New Zealand Alpine Club was fired by our descriptions and gained permission and funds to send a party to the Barun Glacier in 1954. Led by Sir Edmund Hillary, it included Charles Evans and me, who had had Himalayan experience, six climbers from New Zealand, Bill Beaver, Norman Hardie, Jim McFarlane, Colin Todd, Geoff Harrow, and Brian Wilkins and a doctor, Michael Ball, from England. Three of the party were competent surveyors and completed a detailed survey of the area with three photo-theodolites.

The party approached the Makalu area by following the Arun River, then split into three groups and penetrated, mapped, and climbed in or around the Chayang, Iswa, and Barun valleys. Twenty-three peaks were ascended, nineteen of them over 20,000 feet, including Baruntse (23,570 ft.), Unnamed (22,560 ft.), Petangthtse (22,080 ft.), Nau Lekh (21,445 ft.), and three others of 22,000 feet at the head of the Barun Glacier. Makalu was reconnoitered on the north side to a height of 23,000 feet, when the illness of Hillary forced a retreat.

Early in the expedition a crevasse accident occurred in which McFarlane and Wilkins were involved. McFarlane was hurt