

was straightforward, steep ridge-work. We were then forced onto the south face, where the snow is always bad in the Andes, climbed a hard 60-foot ice wall and joined the summit ridge about 400 feet from the top. The ridge was heavily corniced and very complicated by towers as well. Before the summit we abseiled into a 40-foot gap, made the top, and then had to climb laboriously back up the rope. It is just as well that the ice buttress and final ridge were not any harder, but it was an enjoyable and difficult peak and well worth getting the whole party to the top. On July 23, Mike Gravina and Clark reached the highest point. On the 25th Harry Carslake and I climbed to the summit, followed the next day by Kim Meldrum, Colin Darbyshire, and Ronnie Wathen. We also climbed three 5000-meter peaks (above 16,400 feet) north and west of Pumasillo and mapped some of the west side of the range.

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HIMALAYA

India

Nanda Devi. An eleven-man Indian expedition, organized by the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and under the leadership of Major Narendra D. Jayal, failed to climb Nanda Devi in July, 1957. They followed the route of the British-American Himalayan Expedition, which made the first ascent of the 25,645-foot peak in 1936. The Indians, including three Sherpa instructors—Da Namgyal, Ang Temba, and Nawang Gompu—reached Camp IV at 23,500 feet, where they were stormbound for three days and had to retreat. In 1951 a French expedition lost Duplat and Vigne on an unsuccessful attempt on the peak.

Parbati Valley. Snow lay so deep last spring that the Yorkshire Himalayan Expedition on April 26 established its base camp only at Pulga. Thence they attempted to penetrate the upper Parbati, Tos, and Tichu valleys, but deep snow and bad weather thwarted them. They finally ascended the Parbati to the Dibibokri on May 15. Nearby, D. Hunter and A. MacLean ascended a difficult 15,874-foot peak. W. Cowley (leader), R. Hirst, D. Laughton, and A. E. Evennett climbed the east peak (17,500 feet) of Basunag (17,690 feet). In mid June part of the group crossed the still snow-choked Rohtang Pass to the Chandra valley and eventually penetrated the Sissu glacier basin but without making ascents. Mr. Cowley reports the following of this region, which is interesting for a modest expedition where political permission is not difficult: "The whole area south of the Parbati, practically untouched by climbers,