

the ranges to the north of Lha Shamma meets the main Jagdula stream. We felt this route was not practicable for laden coolies beyond this point. At this stage I had to leave the party, and returned by way of Jajarkot and Sallyana. The others moved round to the northwest of the group, travelling through Maharigaon and Wangri to the village of Dalphu which lies to the north of the River Langu. From Dalphu the highest mountain visible is Bhulu Lhasa and after penetrating the Langu Gorge eastwards from Dalphu and then striking southwards up a very steep tributary gorge they succeeded in climbing this peak on October 31. Its height has not yet been computed. From this summit, range upon range of "new" mountains were visible, including the highest mountain in the Kanjiroba Himal, which appeared practicable as a climbing proposition. Further mapping was done in this area before the party began the return journey, reaching Nepalganj at the end of November.

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Ratong. This 21,911-foot peak, which lies on the Nepal-Sikkim frontier in the Kangchenjunga group, was climbed by an Indian expedition, led by Colonel B. S. Jaswal, principal of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute of Darjeeling. Nawang Gombu, Captain Ahluwalia and the Sherpas, Dorje Lhatoo and Ang Kami, reached the summit on October 29 and Tashi, Sonam Wangyal, Sonam Gyatso, Captains Bahuguna, Cheema and Joshi and Harish Rawat the next day. We approached from Darjeeling and crossed the Ratong La into Nepal and the Yalung Glacier. Base Camp was at 15,500 feet, Camp I at 17,000 feet and Camp II at 20,000 feet. There were 28 members of this "Pre-Everest Selection Expedition."

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India

Kulu Pumori, Punjab. Gwynn Stephenson and Harold Mellor of J.P.O.'F. Lynam's Bari Shigri expedition of 1961 attempted this lovely 21,500-foot peak. They reached 19,000 feet on the formidable northwest ridge but were forced by illness to retire. The first ascent of this mountain, now named Kulu Pumori, was made on June 6 by a party consisting of Dr. Franz Mohling, A.A.C., myself and the Ladakhis Wangyal and Ang Chook of Manali. Twelve valley porters helped us to cross the Rohtang La and to ascend the Chandra for 25 miles and left us on May 17 near the snout of the Bari Shigri Glacier in the valley of the Chandra River of Lahul. Thereafter, the work of ferrying stores and equipment was borne equally between the four climbers. Despite prolonged bad weather, Base Camp at Concordia, the junction of several glaciers, was finally established on May 28 with food supplies for 21 days. Two days were spent in re-

connaissance after which the northwest ridge and the eastern approaches were both ruled out. We decided to seek a route on the southwest ridge, the foot of which seemed accessible from a small névé draining the south face. Accordingly, Advanced Base Camp was sited on the main southern tributary of the Bara Shigri, near the junction of the névé icefall which descended from the south face of the mountain and beneath the impressive rock spire of Lal Qila (Red Fort) (20,830 feet). We set camps on the crest of the southwest ridge at 19,000 and 20,000 feet. From the latter, at six A.M. on June 6 Wangyal and I left for the summit. We made a diversion onto the steep snowfield of the south face to avoid a rock step a few hundred feet above Camp II and regained the ridge just short of the summit. We reached this, a perfect snow cone, at nine A.M. after climbing the rest of the spectacular, corniced snow ridge. Three days later, Mohling and Ang Chook repeated the ascent.

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Nanda Devi, Second Ascent. American climbers will be particularly interested in the second ascent of Nanda Devi (25,645 feet), since it was first climbed in 1936 by a joint British and American expedition. They will also be happy to note that one of the summit team of this all Indian expedition was Nawang Gombu, who accompanied Jim Whittaker to the summit of Mount Everest. Nawang Gombu, Da Norbu and C. P. Vohra left Camp V at 24,500 feet early on June 20. Vohra had to stop 700 feet from the summit but the two Sherpas continued, reaching the top at 11:30. The expedition was led by Captain N. Kumar.

Tharkot, Kumaon and Hathi Parbat, Garhwal. Indians made several ascents in 1963, which were not reported in the *A.A.J.*, 1964. On June 1 Tharkot (20,010 feet) was climbed by K. P. Sharma, B. B. Ambastha, K. S. Thapa and the Sherpas Lhakpa and Hisse. On June 6 and 7 Sonam Gyatso, Lt. Kaushal, H. C. Rawat, Thondup Tsering, Lakpa Tensing, D. S. Sisodia, Dawa Norbu and Sonam Wangyal made the first ascent of Hathi Parbat (27,070 feet). Doubt has been cast about whether two peaks claimed by Indian expeditions were actually climbed or not. These are Nilkantha (*A.A.J.*, 1962, 13:1, p. 272) and Matri (*A.A.J.*, 1964, 14:1, p. 231.) It appears that the girls, Gira Shah, Kokila Mehta and Nandini Patel, with the photographer Rashmi Painter and three Sherpas probably ascended the Thelu Bamak (glacier) and climbed P. 19,690 feet rather than Matri.

Attempts on Tirsuli and Nanda Devi East, Garhwal. Our seven-man team left Delhi on April 15, and with seven Sherpas and over 100 porters reached the Tirsuli Base Camp, at Rugus, whence the Poles had