

miles below Nako village on June 9 and continued to Base Camp in two easy stages. The sites of this and other camps as well as routes to them, were identical to those of the previous year's expedition led by Suman Dubey. (See *A.A.J.*, 1967, 15:2, pp. 407-8.) Camp I was established on June 14 and Camp II, thanks to Pan Singh, Thondup and other local porters, on June 18. The 19th dawned clear, and Chhinze, Khullar, Chandola, Nima Dorje, Nair and Bhagat left camp at 7:30 and shortly after ten were a mere 500 feet from the summit. The last lap of 500 feet took twice as long as the first 1500 feet on the northwest face. They used 400 feet of fixed rope on the snow arête. Another 2½ hours of steady step-chopping by the indefatigable Chhinze saw them on the summit at three P.M. On June 20 the ascent was repeated by Nima Dorje again, who was accompanied by Kumar and Vermi.

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India — Himachal Pradesh (Punjab)

Papsura, Kulu. Nearly thirty years ago Colonel J. O. M. Roberts made one of his characteristic sallies to the head of the Tos Nullah, a tributary valley of the great Parbati system, and made the first ascent, among others, of White Sail on the northwest end of the Kulu-Lahul-Spiti divide. Its immediate shapely neighbor to the northwest, named by Roberts Papsura (21,165 feet), remained unreconnoitered until in 1965 our expedition explored its western approaches. (*A.A.J.*, 1966, 15:1, pp. 195-6). The 1967 British Parbati (Kulu) Expedition consisted of J. E. Ashburner, C. J. Henty, G. Hill, M. J. Payne, C. Pritchard and myself as leader. High-altitude porters were Ladakhi Wangyal and Sherpa Pasang Lakpha. Coolies from Malana and Manali assisted us to establish and strike Base Camp and to evacuate me. The direct approach to our objective via the Parbati and Tos *nullahs* was ruled out by political restrictions. The alternative route meant a long haul up the precipitous Malana Nullah, eventually crossing into the upper Tos Nullah by the arduous Pass of the Animals (15,025 feet). Commenced on May 3, this diversion was costly both in time and energy. By the middle of May we were encamped at 14,000 feet near the junction of the East Tos Glacier with its tributary, the Papsura Glacier, but a severe period of bad weather delayed ferrying operations for ten days and frequently buried the tents. The first assault by the eastern couloir of the south face, starting at midnight on May 30, reached the summit ridge at over 20,000 feet, but further progress to the southwest was denied by an overhanging ice boss on the prominent

gendarme between the top of the couloir and the summit. During the descent, at midday, my rope of three lost its footing and slid down 1500 feet at high speed. Our fall terminated abruptly in the bergschrund. I had sustained a dislocation of the left hip but the other two were unhurt. I was carried on an improvised stretcher to the Assault Camp at 17,000 feet. Since further evacuation was beyond the strength of the party Ashburner and Pasang Lakpha were dispatched with all speed to Manali to recruit additional manpower. A stretcher party of *pabaris* (hillmen) was organized by Deana Pettigrew, equipped by Sirdar Wonghi of the Sherpa Institute, and set off from Manali within 24 hours of the call-out. Meanwhile, on June 3, Hill and Pritchard made the first ascent of Papsura by the western couloir of the south face and the long summit ridge from the northeast to emerge on a mountain top as broad as a cricket pitch. The climb was made hazardous by the sudden onset of bad weather during the descent. My evacuation began seven days after the accident and was of eight days' duration.

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Climbs by Indian Expeditions. Three persons lost their lives in an attempt to climb Mukerbey (19,910 feet). The group left Manali on October 13. On the 20th the fourth member, Hoshang Pavri found it difficult to go beyond 14,000 feet and returned to Manali with the Sherpa Bemba. Bemba rejoined Australian Geoffrey Leonard Hill and Suresh Kumar on the 24th. When the three failed to return on the 31st as scheduled, first a Gurkha porter and then two instructors from the Himachal Mountaineering School, Manali, were sent to look for them. They found the climbers bodies in full mountaineering kit in a tent buried under the snow at the height of 15,500 feet above Beas Kund. They apparently reached that height on October 23 but were held up by bad weather. They decided to come down on the morning of the 26th if the weather did not improve, but tragedy struck during the night, when the tent was submerged by snow. Four students of the Himachal Mountaineering Institute, Manali, climbed Hanuman Tibba (19,250 feet) on October 3. Seven students climbed in July and August in the central Lahoul Valley. They climbed in seven days Kulu Pumori (21,000 feet), Neel Dome (19,500 feet), Namgyal Peak (18,700 feet) and Rocky Challenge (18,500 feet) and attempted unsuccessfully two unnamed peaks of 20,000 and 20,500 feet. The students were Lakashmi Narayan, V. J. Pinto, M. C. Mohan, B. Singh, U. Ganguly, G. Dave and R. J. Gupta.

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