

*Annapurna, Second Ascent.* The British Nepalese Army Annapurna Expedition assembled in Kathmandu on March 16, personnel and stores having been air-freighted from the United Kingdom by the RAF. We were Major Bruce M. Niven, overall leader, Lieutenant Richard Summerton, Captain Douglas Keelan, Corporal John Anderson, Captain Gerry F. Owens, Captain Tim Taylor, Dr. David Jones, and I, as climbing leader. We flew to Pokhara and there repeated the French approach. The "Pass of April 27" of the French was reached a month before that date but deep snow and unenthusiastic coolies meant we did not reach Base Camp at 14,750 feet until April 5. It took a further three weeks to carry the final loads there. The approach was difficult due to heavy winter snowfalls lying late. Tim Taylor was evacuated by helicopter from Shepherds Camp (12,500 feet) to the British Military Hospital at Dharan with pneumonia. Advance Base, Camp II (19,600 feet) was first reached on April 16 but blown out by avalanches off the Sickle on April 24. Owens and Summerton survived, bruised! We attempted to bypass the Sickle for the next week, but were finally turned back on the northeast buttress at 21,000 feet by an isolated ice tower. While evacuating stores, Summerton was avalanched off the fixed ropes as he was filming. He sustained two broken ribs. Turning back to the French route, four of us finished the climb with limited Sherpa support between May 11 and 20. The back-up pair was Doug Keelan and Andy Anderson and the summit pair Gerry Owens and I. The only technical difficulty was climbing into and out of the Sickle bowl, where ropes were left. We used oxygen overnight and during the summit climb on May 20, climbing the final 2250 feet to 26,545 feet in only three hours. The final gully and icefield were steep, but the rest was at an easy angle. The dates on which the sites of camps were first reached (and occupied in parentheses) follow: Camp I, April 8 (April 15); Camp II, April 16 (April 19); Camp IIa on Northeast Buttress route, April 30 (May 3); Camp III, May 5 (May 12); Camp IV at 23,300 feet, May 16 (May 18); Camp V at 24,300 feet, May 19 (May 19). In general we followed the French route except for the Sickle.

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*Annapurna III, Second Ascent, Ladies Expedition.* Our expedition consisted of the following ladies: Mrs. Junko Tabei, *deputy leader*, Misses Eiko Hirano, Chieko Urushibara, Hiroko Hirakawa, Reiko Sato, Michiko Manita, Morie Yamazaki, Kyoko Ohno, *doctor*, and me, *leader*. We made a new route and the second ascent of Annapurna III (24,787 feet) which we climbed from the south via the Modi Khola. (First ascent by Indians M. S.

Kohli and Sonam Gyatso with Sherpa Sonam Girmi, May 6, 1961 from northeast from Marsyandi valley. *A.A.J.*, 1962, 13:1, pp. 268-9). On March 23 our caravan started from Pokhara. After eight days' march we reached Khildhung (12,000 feet). Due to snow the route to Base Camp was too difficult for the 144 porters and all returned from Khildhung. Therefore we were based there for 16 days, carrying the baggage ourselves to Base Camp. During this time we set up Camps I at 14,275 feet on April 8 and II at 15,750 feet on April 11. On April 16 the members who were reconnoitering the route to Camp III descended to Base Camp, where we gathered for a Base Camp ceremony. The next day all the members and all the Sherpas went to the upper camps. We established Camp III at 17,400 feet on April 24, Camp IV at 19,350 feet on April 28 and Camp V at 22,300 feet on May 18. The most difficult climbing was between Camps IV and V, where there was a 2300-foot snow wall. We fixed 3000 feet of rope there. Then, at last, we sent two members, Mrs. Tabei and Miss Hirakawa, and two Sherpas, Tenzing Girmi and Pasang Nima, to the summit on May 19. They left Camp V at eight and ten o'clock and stood on the summit at 2:45. They spent only 30 minutes there, owing to bad weather. The temperature was 3°F and therefore the film in the camera cracked. They returned to Camp V at 5:20. All members were back at Base Camp on May 26.

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*Baudha.* An expedition from Keio University of seven members was led by Yasuhiko Iso. After establishing Base Camp at 12,500 feet in the Churen Khola, they set up high camps, Camp III being at 20,200 feet. During the first summit attempt on April 23, a three-man team slipped and fell 500 feet, suffering injuries. After a bivouac they were attempting to return to Camp III when Yasuo Itaya fell again and was killed. On May 2 Yoshiyuki Kobayashi and Kiyoyasu Shibata completed the first ascent of Baudha (21,890 feet).

*Annapurna IV.* Led by Masahiro Kawakita, the eight-man Kansai University expedition made the sixth ascent by the traditional route of Annapurna IV (24,688 feet) when Deputy Leader Munekazo Takeo and Kazuhiko Furuya reached the summit on April 25 from Camp IV at 21,150 feet and a bivouac at 21,650 feet. Other members were Megumu Nishijima, Masaru Shikada and Takayoshi Yokoyama.

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