

the 4000-foot eastern pillar which was tried several years ago by the French. Yesterday I met Armando Aste, Mariano Frizzera, Sergio Martini and Angelo Miorandi here in Buenos Aires, who told me that they had climbed about one-third of the pillar and had lost all their technical gear in a cave below the face after 20 days of continual snow-storm. A Buenos Aires expedition unsuccessfully attempted the Aguja Mermoz, north of and attached to Fitz Roy. After our attempt, an expedition from Tucumán tried our route but without success.

PETER SKVARČA, *Centro Andino Buenos Aires*

Chile — Tierra del Fuego

Monte Sarmiento, Attempt on Unclimbed West Summit, Tierra del Fuego. November 16 was the only stormless day in the 42 we spent on the expedition. At seven A.M. it stopped raining and the wind dropped at Base Camp on the Canal Magdalena at the northwest base of Sarmiento. We left our tents and climbed through tangled forest, then grass slopes and finally into the zone of rock and snow. From Camp I at 2350 feet we picked up our climbing gear and food and staggered on under heavy loads along a snow and ice ridge and then along the glacier to Vittore Col (3050 feet). Before us lay the Conway Glacier and the north col (4250 feet) where Camp II was set up inside a crevasse. For us the north col up till then had meant two things: wind and storm. But now, at two P.M., in the calm we could see the twin summits of Sarmiento (7710 and 7050 feet) like giant cauliflowers. The col between the two peaks was accessible by climbing a steep ice slope; from there the higher east peak rose above a ridge with apparently impossible ice steps. The western summit seemed more possible except for one 135-foot vertical ice step which barred the ridge. In cloudy but not threatening weather we set out for the col in deep new snow through crevasses and séracs to the foot of the steep slope below the col where at 6000 feet we were only 1000 feet below the summit. Because of high temperatures we waited for a freeze to lessen avalanche danger. At eight o'clock it had frozen enough to proceed, but almost immediately lead-colored clouds spewed over us. We descended to Camp II where we waited for four days before we staggered down to Base Camp, still battered by the storm. Our group was composed of Ezio La Boria, Aldo Bonino, Giuseppe Ferrari and I plus Lieutenant Fernando Martínez and Sergeant Víctor Sáez of the Chilean Army.

GIUSEPPE AGNOLOTTI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

ASIA

Nepal

Makalu, West Ridge. On February 16 the French expedition to the west ridge of Makalu headed for Nepal. It was composed of Lucien

Bérardini, François Guillot, Robert Jacob, Claude Jager, Bernard Mellet, Jean-Claude Mosca, Jean-Paul Paris, Georges Payot, Yannick Seigneur, Dr. Jacques Marchal and I as leader. The west ridge, straight as a die, rising nearly 10,000 feet, is the most beautiful structure imaginable. Conditions were bad from the beginning and even the approach march was made difficult because of deep snow. It took nearly a month to get to Base Camp (16,000 feet). Camp II (17,400 feet) was set up on March 27 as Advanced Base. It was at the start of the magnificent Twins arête, which led to the foot of the west ridge, where we placed Camp III (21,500 feet). The beginning of the ridge was a severe mixed climb, very steep, rising 3000 feet to the base of the big step, where we established Camp IV. The step, the key to our route, was a vertical barrier from 24,125 to 25,275 feet (UIAA V+, A2). Three-quarters of the way up the step, prepared to here mostly by Seigneur and Mellet, was a providential shelf, which let us place Camp V (25,100 feet) after days of effort. On May 19 Mosca and Payot prepared the rest of the route on the step and pitched a single tent, Camp VI, at 25,275 feet. Oxygen was used only from there on. On May 20 they headed toward the summit but were stopped by malfunctioning oxygen outfits. An attempt by Guillot and Paris was ruined by a miserable night at Camp VI but they prepared several rope-lengths higher. On May 23, in beautiful weather at last, Seigneur and Mellet left Camp VI at two A.M. and reached the 27,825-foot summit at 4:15 P.M. They were back at Camp VI at 9:30.

ROBERT PARAGOT, *Club Alpin Français*

Makalu II (Kangchungtse). The Chiba University expedition to Makalu II or Kangchungtse (25,066 feet) was led by Dr. Makoto Numata. After the planned west ridge route was abandoned, they turned to the south ridge via Makalu col. The highest camp was Camp IV at 23,625 feet. On October 15 Kunio Takagi and Tendi Sherpa reached 24,000 feet. On the morning of October 16, Takagi was ill. Attempts to get him down from Camp IV were hindered by bad weather and heavy snow fall. He died on October 20 and the expedition was abandoned.

MICHAEL CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

Argentine Attempt on Mount Everest. Our expedition had government support and therefore included eight military: Lieutenant Colonel H. Cativa Tolosa, Captain N. Azuaga, Lieutenants J. M. Llavar and M. Serrano and Sergeants E. Burgos, G. Robles, A. Martínez and A. Barrientos as well as eight civilians: J. Peterek, J. Skvarca, J. Aikes, A. Rosasco, Dr. J. M. Iglesias, U. Vitale, S. Fernández, O. Pellegrini, G. Vieiro, J. Vitón and me. There were two leaders: Cativa Tolosa in the logistical phase as far as Base Camp and on the return, and I on the