

on October 15 they got to 21,325 feet. After being camp-bound from October 16 to 18, on the 19th the Sherpas declined to continue climbing and left the expedition. The reason given was that the heavy snowfall had made conditions too dangerous. One tent at Camp III had been crushed by a snow avalanche. The Sherpa decision was largely influenced by news of the death of their comrades on Gangapurna, close by. The expedition was abandoned on the departure of the Sherpas.

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*Hiunchuli, Annapurna Group.* The first ascent of Hiunchuli (21,135 feet), east of Annapurna South or Moditse was made on October 10 by U.S. Peace Corps volunteers, led by Craig Anderson and Peter Cross. These two with Lane Smith, James Richards and John Skow climbed to the top via a route on the east face.

*Annapurna II.* The Shinshu University Alpine Club's expedition was led by Mitsuaki Nishigori, seconded by Kako Katsuka. They placed Camp V at 24,275 feet on the previously untried northeast ridge of Annapurna II (26,041 feet). On May 4 Masatoshi Sato and Sherpa Sardar Girme Dorje reached 25,600 feet, but Sato was so fatigued he had to quit. On the descent Sato was so exhausted that he slipped twice but was held by Girme Dorje. At nine P.M. he could go no farther and so Girme Dorje cut him a platform and anchored him to an ice axe. The Sherpa descended to Camp V for help arriving at 9:30. At this time a light was seen from Camp V at the spot where Sato had been left. When climbers got there, he had disappeared, probably having fallen down the south side of the ridge. Apparently he had recovered slightly and tried to make his way back to camp. His body was not found, it being impossible to descend the south face.

*Gangapurna.* The pre-monsoon Japanese Hachioji expedition had Katsuhiko Miyoshi as leader and Mistuu Hirashima as deputy plus five others. Villagers from Manangbhot threatened them and seized all their cash, some 4000 rupees. Base Camp was at 17,500 feet. They attempted the north ridge, which would have been a new route, since the Germans made the first ascent from the south. Camp was at 23,000 feet, but they got no higher.

*Gangapurna.* A second Japanese expedition to Gangapurna was from the Nagano Mountaineering Association and led by Kiyoshi Shimizu. They came from the south via the Kodi Khola and Sanctuary and climbed the west ridge. On October 15, Shimizu, Takeshi Akahane and the Sherpa Girme Dorje reached the summit (24,457 feet) from Camp IV at 23,300 feet. On October 16 at six P.M. the higher camps failed to make radio contact with Camp II. On October 17 Girme Dorje and Pemba Norbu went down to Camp II to investigate. On October 18

at eight A.M. Girme Dorje reported by radio to Camp III from the site of Camp II that Camp II had completely disappeared, presumably swept away by an avalanche on the afternoon of October 16. Six people were in Camp II and presumably killed: Japanese Iwao Ogiso, Dr. Hiroataka Sasakawa and Masano Nakoyama and Sherpas Ang Pemba, Ang Gyalzen and Nawang Chottar. After making his report, Girme Dorje said that he and Pemba Norbu would return to Camp III. The Japanese in Camp III told him not to do so since the route between Camps II and III was liable to be swept by avalanches. Girme Dorje and Pemba Norbu were not seen or heard of again. It is presumed that they were swept away by an avalanche between Camps II and III or that they fell into a crevasse.

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*Dhaulagiri IV.* The leader of this Japanese expedition was Mitsuhiro Hattori. From Base Camp at 11,150 feet on the Konaba Glacier, they continued presumably along the route attempted by the Austrians. They found the climb beyond Camp II difficult and dangerous but did on May 10 set up Camp III at 19,150 feet, where they found supplies left by the Austrians before they were killed. They are reported to have reached 20,675 feet on May 22. Aside from the difficulties of the route, they were seriously handicapped when 55 Sherpas, including the Sardar, abandoned them in early May, saying that the Japanese expected them to lead and that the route was too dangerous.

*Churen Himal, Dhaul Group.* (This account is included since the account in *A.A.J.*, 1971 was very brief. — *Editor.*) We first hoped to climb Churen Himal (24,183 feet) in 1963 but could not get permission until August, 1970. Colonel J.O.M. Roberts approached close to Churen Himal from the north in 1954 in the Kaya Khola. A Japanese expedition got to 18,850 feet from there in 1962. Roberts also pioneered routes to the base of Churen Himal from the south via the Kaphe Glacier in 1962 and 1965. In 1969 Italians led by Paolo Consiglio made an unsuccessful attempt along the south spur and west ridge to 21,600 feet. A Korean party was on the east peak in April, 1970. Our Academic Alpine Club of Shizuoka party consisted of Ryoza Yamamoto, climbing leader, Atsushi Oishi, Masayoshi Fukui, Kozo Hasegawa, Eiji Doma and me as leader. We left Pokhara on September 12, 1970, traveling through Beni and Muna and arriving at Gurjakhani on September 21. We set up Base Camp on the 24th at 13,450 feet on the site of the Italian Base Camp of 1969. Camp I was placed the following day at 15,600 feet on the Kaphe Glacier. (The route swung upward above the southern edge of the glacier and traversed in a semi-circle around its head back north to the Churen Himal. — *Editor.*) We decided on the small rock ridge to Gustang North up to 18,700 feet. The route ascended séracs and a not steep rock ridge to 17,400 feet, where Camp II was