

summit of Kangchenjunga. The top was reached on May 14 at six P.M. from Camp V at 26,250 feet by Takeo Matsuda and Yutaka Ageta. They bivouacked some 650 feet lower in a snow cave. In the morning Matsuda was in such bad shape that Ageta started down for help alone. They could be watched from Base Camp with binoculars. They saw Matsuda fall, apparently struck by a rock. Only the broken shaft of his ice axe was found.

*Makalu Attempt.* A Czech expedition led by Ivan Gálffy attempted to make a new route on Makalu on the southwest ridge between the French and Japanese routes. Members were Dr. Jarmir Wolf, deputy leader, Fiala, Orolin, Červinka, Brabec, Psotka, Záhoranský, Procházka, Páleníček, Křišák, Jan Kounický, Neumann and Wojcik. While on May 21 the assault team was climbing from Camp V at 25,750 feet to establish Camp VI, Jan Kounický's oxygen failed at 26,300 feet. He removed his mask and fell some 350 feet down a snow slope. Seriously injured, he died five days later at Camp V. The expedition was abandoned.

*Lhotse, South Face Attempt.* The nine-man Japanese Kanagawa Mountaineering Federation Expedition was led by Ryohei Uchida, supported by Mitsuo Hiroshima and Maruhisa Sunagawa. They failed to climb the steep rock south face of Lhotse. The highest point was the site of Camp IV (24,000 feet), reached on May 8 by two Japanese. The leader explained that the failure was due to the expedition's being too small and inexperienced for such a difficult route on a high mountain. They had only five Sherpas, none of whom could be used on the face.

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*Italian Everest Expedition.* A colossal 64-man Italian expedition, 56 of whom belonged to the armed forces, invaded Mount Everest by the South Col route. Ninety climbers and Sherpas took part in the actual climb and 44 more were at Base Camp! The leader was Guido Monzino and deputy leader was Piero Nava. Base Camp was established on March 21. Two helicopters were used to lift food and equipment over the icefall from Base Camp to Camp II in the Western Cwm. When one crashed on April 17 in the cwm, another was immediately sent from Italy. Officially the expedition had permission to use the helicopters only for rescue missions, but the restriction was openly ignored. It was reported that fresh vegetables were regularly flown to Camp II via Lukla from Kathmandu. With such aid and numbers it is not surprising that Camp V on the South Col and Camp VI at 28,000 feet were established in record time. On May 5 the Italians Mirko Minuzzo and Rinaldo Carrel, Sherpa Lakpa Tenzing and Nepali Sambhu Tamang reached the

summit. This is the first non-Sherpa Nepali to have reached the top of a major Himalayan peak. On May 7, Police Captain Fabrizio Innamorati, Warrant Officer Virginio Epis, Sergeant Major Claudio Benedetti and Sherpa Sonam Gyaltzen also reached the summit.

*Mount Everest, Japanese Post-Monsoon Expedition.* For the first time ever Mount Everest was climbed in the post-monsoon period when the Japanese Hiachi Ishiguro and Yazuo Kato reached the summit on October 26. They were members of a 48-man expedition of the Rock Climbing Club led by Michio Yuasa. Base Camp was established on August 25, Camp I in the icefall on September 4 and Advanced Base in the Western Cwm at 22,000 feet on September 9. During the course of a frightful storm which hit them on October 12, Sherpa Jangbu lost his life in an avalanche between Camps II and III. Two Japanese and three other Sherpas escaped. The attempt on the southwest face failed at about the same height reached by Whillans and Haston in 1971. Camp V at 27,250 feet on the face was established on October 10, but the storm caused withdrawal until October 26. In three days they advanced only another 250 feet and had to give up. Meanwhile Camp III on the South Col route was established at 24,750 feet on October 16 and Camp IV on the South Col not until October 25 because of difficult weather. For the first time without an intermediate camp, on October 26 Ishiguro and Kato set out for the summit. Sherpas Ang Tsering and Lhat Tsering accompanied them very high. The two Japanese reached the summit at 4:30 P.M. They had to bivouac on the descent at about 28,200 feet and suffered frostbite.

*Pumori.* The expedition of the Tohan Club was composed of Tadashi Mochizuki, Tadashi Mizuno, Tadashi Nakamura, Tatsuji Shigeno, Yoshinori Kanoh, Kazuo Yamamoto, Katsuichi Kataoka, Satoshi Kimura, Kazufumi Nagura, Nabuo Shimosaka, Hiroo Imanishi, Etsuo Watanabe, Maseru Terada and me as leader. On April 7 we began the ascent from Base Camp at 17,400 feet just under the south face and made Camp I the next day at 19,000 feet on the glacier that continues up to the col of the south ridge. After fixing 1150 feet of rope on the ice face, we placed Camp II on the col at 20,350 feet on April 13. Camp III was established on April 25 at 21,400 feet. We used 2000 feet of fixed rope on the difficult rock ridge. Above Camp III we placed 1000 feet of fixed rope to climb from the junction of the extreme right buttress of the three buttresses that face the Khumbu Glacier. On April 30 Shimosaka and Shigeno bivouacked at 23,150 feet and reached the summit (23,422 feet) at 7:33 A.M. on May 1. The summit climbers had bad weather on the descent and had to bivouac but returned to Camp III on May 2 and to Base Camp on May 3. We climbed smoothly because of