During August Chris Bonington and I were lucky enough to join a climbing course of the Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering. Base Camp was at the head of the Kibur Nallah, the southernmost valley of the Kishtwar area, where we arrived on August 15 after a leisurely five days of approach. After some bad weather, five days later, with some help from the Indians, we established an assault camp at 17,000 feet on the southeast ridge of Brammah. Though the weather for the next five days was not too good, we did make one unsuccessful attempt. On August 24, the day our food would have run out, the weather improved and we made the ascent. We stuck to the ridge all the way except when avoiding one or two of the gendarmes. The rock was a rather crumbly granite but there were some pitches up to UIAA V. The final snow slope was exposed and very alarming. We bivouacked on the descent at 20,000 feet. A local shepherd informed us that Brammah Peak was the highest mountain in the world! In fact at 21,057 feet, it is not even the highest in Kishtwar, but it is the most obvious and elegant.

Gangstang, Lahoul. An Indian expedition led by Nirmal Gopal Chatterjee climbed Gangstang, first ascended by Italians in 1945. After ascending the Biling Lampa stream, which flows into the Chandra River, they set up Base Camp on August 30. Other camps were at 16,000, 17,500 and 18,700 feet. On September 5 Kali Aditya and deputy leader Subhas Roy with porters Rinzing, Sonam and Lama reached the 20,218-foot summit. Sonam was drowned during the return trip.

Kalindi. An expedition of the Indian Himalayan Federation was led by Bibhas Das. They reached Uttarkashi on July 2 and set up Base Camp at Nandanban (14,230 feet), Advanced Base at Basukital (16,500 feet), I on the Suralaya Glacier (17,000 feet), II (18,000 feet), and III at the foot of the Kalindi Pass (18,700 feet) on July 8, 10, 12, 13 and 14 respectively. On July 15 Bibhas Das, Bijendra Singh Negi, Instructors Ujjagar Singh and Ratan Singh left camp III at 5:45 and reached the summit of Kalindi (20,020 feet) at nine A.M. The last 500 feet were snow-free and rocky. This was the third ascent.

Brammah, Southeast Ridge, Kishtwar Himal. During August Chris Bonington and I were lucky enough to join a climbing course of the Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering. Base Camp was at the head of the Kibur Nallah, the southernmost valley of the Kishtwar area, where we arrived on August 15 after a leisurely five days of approach. After some bad weather, five days later, with some help from the Indians, we established an assault camp at 17,000 feet on the southeast ridge of Brammah. Though the weather for the next five days was not too good, we did make one unsuccessful attempt. On August 24, the day our food would have run out, the weather improved and we made the ascent. We stuck to the ridge all the way except when avoiding one or two of the gendarmes. The rock was a rather crumbly granite but there were some pitches up to UIAA V. The final snow slope was exposed and very alarming. We bivouacked on the descent at 20,000 feet. A local shepherd informed us that Brammah Peak was the highest mountain in the world! In fact at 21,057 feet, it is not even the highest in Kishtwar, but it is the most obvious and elegant.

Saser Kangri. India’s highest previously unclimbed peak, Saser Kangri (25,170 feet) was ascended by an Indo-Tibetan Border Police expe-