

*Lhotse Attempt.* A 16-member Polish expedition, led by Andrzej Zawada, attempted Lhotse (27,890 feet) by its northwest face from the Western Cwm of Everest. They reached 27,000 feet on Christmas Day from Camp IV which had been established at 25,600 feet on December 12. On December 17 Stanislaw Latalow, the expedition photographer, died of exposure and exhaustion while descending from Camp III (23,450 feet) in a severe storm. This is the first expedition to come to the Nepal Himalaya with the express intention of climbing the highest peaks during the winter. They requested permission to climb Mount Everest after climbing Lhotse, but His Majesty's Government was unable to grant the extension and instructed them to return at the end of December. The main reason for the expedition's failure was constant, very high, very cold wind. They were not hampered by heavy snowfalls. Although December was exceptionally cold, with heavy snowfalls in central Nepal, Khumbu did not seem to suffer exceptionally bad weather, except that winds were worse than usual down to 13,000 and 14,000 feet. Whether the winds at higher altitudes, winds that made movement impossible at times, were average for the time of year, or worse, is hard to say. The expedition reported that the icefall was difficult and in bad condition in December.

MICHAEL CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Mount Everest, Spanish Attempt.* The Expedición Tximist was composed of Juan Ignacio Lorente, leader, Angel Landa, Luis Abalde, Alfonso Alonso, Juan Cortazar, Luis I. Domingo, Juan C. Fernández, Ricardo Gallardo, Rodolfo Kirch, Francisco Lusarreta, Luis M. Sáenz de Olazagoita, Felipe Uriarte, Angel A. Rosen, Fernando Larruquert, Angel Lerma and Julio Villar. After almost a two-week delay waiting for baggage, they began to fly from Kathmandu to Lukla on February 26, but were not at Base Camp below the Khumbu Icefall at 17,800 feet until March 25. They attacked the icefall at once, finding it rather more difficult than usual. After setting up an intermediate camp at 19,000 feet in the icefall, they occupied Camp I at 20,000 feet on April 5, Advanced Base at 21,125 feet on April 12, Camp III at 22,800 feet on April 18 and Camp IV at 24,450 feet on April 26. Throughout they had problems with the Sherpas and several narrow escapes from avalanches. The following entries have been selected by the Editor from the diary kindly provided by Señor Lorente. "April 30: Abalde and I set out from Camp IV without porters heavily loaded with rope to fix, pitons, oxygen, etc. and got to the Yellow Band. The Sherpas in Camp IV were to have accompanied us but declared themselves sick and descended. May 4: Landa, Villar and four Sherpas climbed to the South Col, fixing ropes above the Yellow Band. May 9: Rosen and Uriarte are leaving Camp II for III to gain successive camps and attempt the summit. May 11: The same pair are climbing from Camp IV to

the South Col (26,200 feet) with seven Sherpas. *May 12:* We suppose that Rosen and Uriarte have established Camp VI but we have no radio contact. *May 13:* At 6:15 P.M. we got news from Camp II. After sleeping at Camp VI (28,000 feet), Rosen and Uriarte were ready at dawn and tried repeatedly to set out but were driven back by high winds. They waited until ten, when they descended, without oxygen to save it for the next attack. *May 14:* More news: they spent the night without sleeping bags on the South Col. Today they will descend to Camp IV without oxygen but we fear there are no sleeping bags there either. Felipe (Uriarte) has a frozen hand. Last night an avalanche fell into Camp III and partially destroyed a tent with five Sherpas in it. They escaped unharmed, but have descended to Advanced Base, hysterical." A second summit attempt failed because of very high winds. Gallardo waited on the South Col from May 22 to the 26th, hoping to climb with various partners, but finally, on his birthday, had to quit. (Information from Juan Ignacio Lorente, *Federación Española de Montañismo.*)

*Mount Everest, French Tragedy.* On September 9 at 7:30 P.M. an avalanche swept over and destroyed Camps I and II, killing the expedition leader, Gerard Devouassoux and five Sherpas. The expedition was abandoned after the accident. Base Camp had been established on August 25, Camp I at 19,000 feet (date unknown), Camp II at 21,000 feet on September 4 and Camp III at 22,650 feet on September 8. The French expedition, composed of Chamonix guides, was attempting a new route, heading directly to the west ridge from the shoulder above the Lho La, thus avoiding the Khumbu Icefall. Camps I and II were on the flanks of the shoulder and Camp III on the crest of the shoulder. Normal monsoon weather prevailed while the expedition was on the mountain. There was a fine period for three or four days before the accident, but for six days before that fine spell, from August 29 to September 3, there was continuous rain, snow and cloud across central and east Nepal. Since in central Nepal there was rain on September 10 and 11, this rainy period (and snow above 15,000 feet) may well have affected eastern Nepal on the 9th. This is normal monsoon weather. The monsoon normally does not finish until the end of September, unlike what the French seem to have thought. The International Himalayan Expedition to Everest in 1971 also considered a route to the west ridge via the shoulder, but it was immediately rejected when the very dangerous conditions from two prominent avalanche channels were realized.

MICHAEL CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Pumori, West Face.* The Alpine Club Unpo expedition was made up of Junji Matsuda, Minoru Takagi, Ko Hattori, Yoshinobu Mizuta, Fumiaki Sakoda, Kiyoshi Ikawa, Motoichi Ohgoshi, Keiji Nomura,