

is heavily glaciated and where the rock is exposed, rotten. Bad weather is the rule. The fifth expedition to attempt this peak was French, led by Jean Rivolier. The group was helicoptered from their ship halfway to the mountain some four miles from the summit on the eastern side. They ran a camp up onto the southeastern side. On January 5 Jean Afanassieff and Patrick Cordier made the difficult climb to the summit in eight hours. On January 12 Patrice Bodin, Denis Ducroz and Georges Polian also climbed to the top. On the ridge running north from the main summit lies Petit Ross (5646 feet). This was climbed on January 16 by the five mentioned above and Jacques Regnard.

ASIA

Nepal

Yalungkang. A very strong team of the German and Austrian Alpine Clubs made a new route and the second ascent of Yalungkang or Kangchenjunga West (27,625 feet). The first ascent had been by the Japanese via the west ridge in 1973. (See *A.A.J.*, 1974, 19:1, pages 202-3.) The members were Siegfried Aeberli, leader, Günter Sturm, deputy, Gerhard Baur, Michael Dacher, Erich Lackner, Sepp Mayerl, Peter Vogler, Helmut Wagner, Rolf Walter, Dr. Roman Zink and Fritz Zintl. After some porter troubles during the 3½-week approach, they established Base Camp at 18,000 feet on the Yalung Glacier on April 11. They followed the route the British had used on the main peak of Kangchenjunga up to Camp III at 23,500 feet. Camp I was at 20,350 feet and Camp II at 21,650 feet. Just below Camp III there was the most difficult spot on the climb, a 50-foot vertical section of ice. Camp IV was at 25,600 feet at the foot of a 2000-foot, 45° couloir that led nearly to the summit up the south face. Although they were worried about windslab conditions, it did not avalanche with them. They used oxygen only above Camp IV. On May 9 Dacher, Lackner and Walter reached the top, on May 12 Baur, Wagner and Vogler and on May 13 Mayerl, Sturm and Zintl. Of the nine who got to the top, five were Germans and four Austrians.

Jannu. A New Zealand expedition led by Peter Farrell made an unsuccessful attempt on Jannu (25,294 feet) by a new route on the north face. On October 22 Farrell and Brian Pooley reached 24,000 feet.

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Makalu, South Face. The sixth Yugoslav Himalayan Expedition left Dharan on August 19 and traveled through Dhankuta, Hile, Tumlingther, Khandberi, Sedus, the Kiki La to reach Base Camp at 16,250 feet on September 5. Camp I was pitched on the 7th at 19,200 feet. On the 9th we

placed Camp II at 20,675 feet at the foot of the south face, first with tents and then, due to avalanche danger, in snow caves. On the 13th bad weather and avalanche danger stopped the work of fixing ropes but on the 14th we pitched the Bivouac at 21,650 feet. On September 16 Camp III was installed at 23,000 feet. When the camps were consolidated, we started to fix ropes towards Camp IV, which we established at 24,600 feet on September 23. On September 25 heavy snowfall blocked all progress. Avalanches tore Camp IV apart. All members returned to Base Camp. Camp III was reoccupied and rebuilt on October 1 and Camp IV on the 2nd. More rope was fixed and on the 4th Camp V was reached at 26,400 feet; the assault team had enough material to fix ropes to the top of the face and to proceed to the top. They completed the rock climbing and fixing of ropes on October 5. Malfunctioning oxygen apparatus forced them to continue without it. October 6 was fair. Stane Belak and Marjan Manfreda reached the top of the south face at 11:15 and proceeded along the summit ridge to reach the top at four P.M. Three more assault teams were ready. On the 8th four more set out. Cedilnik was hit on the left knee by falling ice and Robas had difficulty breathing and so they returned. Nejo Zaplotnik and Janko Ažman reached the top. While preparing for the third assault, Boris Erjavec was hit by a falling rock. He was saved from serious injury by his helmet but fell unconscious onto the fixed rope. He had to be escorted back to Base Camp. His companions, Ivč Kotnik and Viki Grošelj proceeded to the summit on October 10 in strong wind and snow. On the 11th Janez Dovžan and Zoran Brešlin started for the top. Dovžan reached the summit and returned safely, but Breslin had troubles and got only to within 35 feet. He had to spend the night out and returned to Camp V the next day.

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Nuptse Tragedy. The aim of the Joint British Army-Royal Nepalese Army Nuptse Expedition was to climb that mountain as a final work-up and testing ground for our next spring's expedition to Mount Everest. Nuptse was our second choice, the first being Cho Oyu, but this was denied us for political reasons. Nuptse (25,850 feet) had been climbed once before, by a British party in 1961 which used the central ridge of the south face. No party has attempted it since. The main difficulties had been reported to be low down. The ridge, which is narrow, steep, very rotten and exposed, is the key to the upper reaches of the peak. Above this a vertical band of rock, 1000 feet high, barred the way to the upper icefield, along which we would have to traverse for over a half-mile before climbing a 2000-foot couloir to the summit ridge. By March 28 the whole team was at the Acclimatisation Camp at Dingboche at 14,350 feet, having walked in from Kathmandu. We spent a week at