

lonely leader was preparing to leave Base Camp, fearing that his companions were lost.

MICHAEL CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

### India—Garhwal

*Nanda Devi.* On May 11 Eric Roberts, leader, Dr. Arnold Pines, and Stuart Jones, Jr. and Gil Harder, the two American members of the British Nanda Devi Expedition, arrived at Joshimath and joined Len Smith, Frank Eastwood and Robert Reid, who had been there for nine days. A day later came John Miller, who had accompanied the bulk of our equipment and food, which was transported overland by British Army lorry. On May 15 we left Lata for the Nanda Devi Base Camp with 35 porters to carry 55 loads. We were a climbing team of eight, accompanied by four members of the British Army as support, our liaison officer Babar Khan and Lav Kumar Khacher, an Indian conservation expert with the World Wildlife Foundation in India. We were delayed on our approach march by deep snows on Dharansi Pass and the lack of portage, necessitating the shuttling of loads. Base Camp, lower than in 1936, was reached on May 29 by an advance team, but it took another five days to shuttle all loads from Moraine Camp, where all but six porters insisted on dumping their loads. They could not be coaxed farther. This dump was about two hours below the 16,500-foot Base Camp. We began making carries to Camp I (18,600 feet) simultaneously with completing the carries to Base Camp and occupied it on June 4. Camp II (20,400 feet) was established on June 7. These were at the 1936 sites. At Camp II, in a recess, the Japanese had abandoned 1500 feet of mint 9-mm rope neatly coiled in 150-foot lengths. Elsewhere above Camp II, fixed ropes remained in place or under the snow in most necessary and some unnecessary places too. (Below Camp II there was no trace of anyone having been up before.) Our Camp III, established on June 13, was two-thirds of the way up the snow slope above the snow and ice ridge and Camp IV on the presumed 1936 site. Above, the route does not go left into the couloir, but uses the shale flank from which Tilman and Odell retreated. The couloir looks singularly unappealing. We fixed a fair bit of rope on the flank, as any old rope had been cut to shreds by the stonefall and weather. After an unsuccessful attempt on June 19, Gil Harder and Eric Roberts reached the summit on June 21. Len Smith and Stuart Jones made the top on June 22. In descent a minor injury to one member of the party caused some valuable gear to be abandoned at Camp III. Due to a misunderstanding, our two permanently retained porters from Manali, Kulu, cleared Camps I and II but did not go up to Camp III as instructed. We were all back in Base Camp on June 27.

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We left Base Camp on June 30 and were in Lata on July 4. On the walk out, the wild flowers were splendid and the transformation of the section between Dharansi and Lata Kharak incredible.

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*Nanda Devi Attempt.* A 17-man Indo-Japanese expedition attempted Nanda Devi in the post-monsoon season. The leader was Tokichiro Morita. Details are lacking but it is believed that they had hoped to repeat the American route of 1976 but had to quit some 3500 feet from the summit. On September 15 Morita and Naoto Haniu were evacuated by helicopter, being sick. On September 28 Toyokazu Muranishi was also evacuated by helicopter with a head injury.

*Nanda Ghunti.* Swapan Ghosh, Dawa Tsering and Phuba Tarkey reached the summit of Nanda Ghunti (20,700 feet) on October 2.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Mrigthuni.* This peak was climbed by two members of the ladies team from Giri Doot and two Sherpas.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Nar Parbat.* Peter Hillary, Murray Johns and Graeme Dingle of the Indo-New Zealand Ocean to Sky Expedition climbed Nar Parbat (19,200 feet) on October 17. Sir Edmund Hillary fell sick and could not make the climb. This concluded a 59-day adventure upstream from the mouth of the Ganges.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Kalanka, First Ascent, 1975.* (Somehow this important first ascent escaped the notice of much of the Western mountaineering press.) The Kamiichi Hoso-Kai Expedition was led by Ikuo Tanabe and composed of Noriaki Ikeda, Tsuneo Kouma and Kazumasa Inoue. They left Lata on May 5, crossed the Dharansi Pass on the 7th and established Base Camp at 15,425 feet on the Ramani Glacier. They placed Camp I at 17,725 feet on the western side of "Shipton's Pass." By May 30 all supplies had been ferried over the pass and Camp II was established on the far (Changabang Glacier) side of the pass at 18,375 feet. On June 1 Camp III was placed at 20,000 feet due south of the summit of Kalanka below the south face, protected by a huge sérac. On June 2 Ikeda, Kouma and T. Singh, one of the two high-altitude porters, traversed the south face to the Changabang-Kalanka col, while Inoue and Tanabe made Camp IV at 20,675 feet in the icefall of the south face. On June 3, 1975 the three on the col started up the west ridge.