

THE AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL

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.

GILBERT V. HARDER, *A.A.C.* and ERIC ROBERTS, *Alpine Club*

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.

The two in Camp IV also set out and joined the advance party on the ridge at 2:30 P.M. All five members reached the summit (22,740 feet) at 4:40. On the descent they bivouacked at 22,300 feet.

TSUNEMICHI IKEDA, *Editor, Iwa To Yuki*

Kalanka from the North. Our expedition had 14 members: Jan Kulháněk, Dr. Bohumil Karásek, Jiří Strych Jaroslav Hons, Jiří Janiš, Ladislav Jón, Richard Kašák, Oldřich Kopal, Jaroslav Krňák, Gustav Pfannenstiel, Misoslav Polman, Josef Rakoncaj, Miroslav Uhlíř and I as leader. We traveled from Czechoslovakia by truck. In Delhi we were joined by our liaison officer, Pramed Deogirikar, who managed the porters well, keeping their demands reasonable. The approach to Kalanka's north face is possible by two routes. The northern one, leading from the Dhauli Ganga valley by way of the Dunagiri and Bagini Glaciers is much easier but was not allowed because of its closeness to the Tibetan border. The southern route is a hard-to-find path winding through passes, rocks and steep slopes high above the Rishi Ganga; the whole first part is the approach to Nanda Devi. The march to Base Camp took seven days. Base Camp was established on August 20 at 15,100 feet on a grassy field below the Ramani Glacier between the peaks of Rishikot and Hanuman, south of Kalanka. The expedition operated in the area for 35 days. Three days after establishing Base Camp, we set up Camp I, four miles away, on the upper part of the Ramani Glacier at 16,900 feet just below the Bagini Col, 18,375 feet, between Changabang and Dunagiri. We crossed the col and placed Camp II also at 18,375 feet. We fixed ropes on the col, which was exhausting and dangerous from rockfall. The north side of Kalanka and Changabang is a compact granite massif, covered with water ice and snow, some 6500 wide and 6000 feet high, scarred by rock and ice avalanches. We first tried a *direttissima* but were forced back by unfavorable weather. The second attempt was started some 350 feet to the right and headed for the Kalanka-Changabang saddle. After two days of climbing, Camp III was established at 19,525 feet. Above, there was a vertical rock pillar, the crux of the ascent which took three days to climb. On a small plateau below the col a place for a last bivouac was found. On September 18 we decided to stop fixing ropes and finish the climb alpine-style. The summit team was Rakoncaj and Jón with Janis, Hons and Uhlíř in support at Camp III. On September 19 the summit team ascended to the bivouac and the next day went for the top. At 11:30 A.M. they reached the Changabang-Kalanka ridge 500 feet above the saddle and ascended the last 1650 feet along the ridge which the Japanese had climbed in 1975. At three P.M. they reached the summit. They were back in Camp III late in the evening after numerous rappels. Because of the scarcity of porters, I had had