

Base Camp. On the first day we ploughed through deep powder snow and reached a point just below the French Camp III. The next day proved to involve some very difficult and insecure climbing to reach the French Camp IV. On the third day we crossed the *Tête de Dentelle*. We felt very committed at this point because of the obvious difficulty of a retreat. The fourth day took us to near the site of the fifth French camp and below the summit headwall. On October 21 we left our bivouac site at 3:30 A.M. after a night plagued with constant spindrift. We reached the summit at 11:30 A.M. in very high winds after 2000 feet of fairly technical climbing. (Alpine T.D.) We descended to the bivouac site of the previous evening where we spent another night. We reached the Yamatari Glacier in a further two days of descending. The three days' walk back to our Base Camp via the Lapsong La proved very tiring as we had run out of food. We climbed the route without tents, oxygen or Sherpa assistance.

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Kanchenjunga, Attempt on the Middle Summit. A Spanish expedition, led by Josep Piera, was granted permission for Yalung Kang. Instead they followed up the Polish route on Kanchenjunga to Camp III on the Great Shelf, using the Polish fixed lines. From there at about 23,625 feet they climbed up to establish camp at 25,250 feet at the base of the central gully leading to the summit ridge between the main and middle summits. From that camp on May 18 Narcis Serrat and Phubi Sherpa made an attempt on the middle summit of Kanchenjunga. They reached the top of a rocky pinnacle, which the Poles state was not yet on the crest of the main ridge. They first stated that they had reached the top of Yalung Kang, but stopped claiming this when confronted by reports from the Poles. For this deception and for having changed their objective from the one for which they had received permission, the Spaniards have got into trouble with the Nepalese authorities. Unfortunately the Editor has not been able to get definite details from the Spaniards.

Makalu. On May 21 I succeeded in climbing Makalu* (27,825 feet) with Nawang Tenzing, one of our Sherpa expedition members. Our Austrian-German-Nepalese expedition had three Sherpas as full members but no high-altitude Sherpa porters. Already on May 1 our first rope reached the summit: Herman Warth, leader, and Ang Chopal, sirdar. The latter did not use oxygen and did not have his blood thinned. (On our expedition only the doctor, Karl Landvogt, experimented on himself and on the Sherpa Nga Temba; we do not know whether this blood dilution had any positive effects.) I was in support of this summit climb

* This was Diemberger's third 8000-meter peak, a remarkable feat for a man of 46 years. Later in the year he added a fourth, Mount Everest!—*Editor.*