

feet on April 17. We were careful to avoid avalanche zones in the lower section. The 800-foot section of rock bands between Camps II and III had tremendous difficulties. Even with wire ladders, only three out of 14 Sherpas could climb this part. A 135-foot rappel was 12 feet away from the wall. On April 21 Katsumi Naganuma was on reconnaissance but he became very weak, tried to climb back to Camp III but died before the doctor could reach him. The climbing was of such great difficulty that his body could not be carried down. We continued and Camp IV was pitched at 23,450 feet on May 3 and Camp V at 24,600 feet on May 5. The final stage of the wall above Camp IV was a vast slab of nearly vertical rock, which was much more difficult than we had thought from distant observation. The first summit party reached the top on May 10. On May 11 Seiji Shimuzu, Yasuji Kato, Hiroshi Yoshino and Sherpa Ang Kami repeated the climb to the summit. The latter used no oxygen. Other members of the party were Takuo Hirai, Yasunori Hirahara, Koichi Mikami, Yoshimasa Sasaki, Dr. Matsuhisa Maeda, Yoshiko Kato and I as leader.

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*Dhaulagiri, South Buttress Attempt.* Our expedition of guide-teachers of the ENSA was composed of Anselme Baud, Pierre Blanc, Jean Coudray, Maurice Cretton, Charles Daubas, Yvon Masino, Georges Payot, Raymond Renaud, Jean-Paul Vion and me as leader. We attempted the south buttress of Dhaulagiri. The 7600-foot-high buttress lies to the west of the south ridge climbed by the Japanese in the spring of 1978. It rises from a snow plateau at 17,000 feet which forms the South Col up to the height of 24,600 feet where it meets the southwest low-point of the summit snow slopes. The buttress has four distinct sections. From 17,000 to 18,700 feet it resembles the Hörnli Ridge on the Matterhorn. From 18,700 to 20,000 feet it is mixed climbing like certain Alpine north faces. From 20,000 to 22,650 feet it is a long snow ridge cut by vertical rock steps and ending in three rock towers of severe difficulty. The fourth section, from 22,650 to 24,600 feet, was essentially a rock buttress of extreme difficulty. We left Pokhara on September 8 and took two weeks to get to Base Camp at 12,000 feet, at times under torrential late monsoon rains. After reconnaissance and fixing 1300 feet of rope, on September 25 we established Camp I on the South Col plateau at 17,000 feet. Camp II at 18,500 feet and Camp III at 20,000 feet were established on October 9 and 20. Camp IV was established on October 29 at the foot of the final buttress. Before November 4 several attempts were made on the buttress, but the conditions had become wintry after October 20 and the attempt had to be given up. A high point of 23,625 feet had been reached.

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