

Maurizio Maggi, Angelo Rocca and Vittorio Tamagni. The summit climb was made in frightful weather: heavy snowfall and fog nearly stopped the climbers on the way back. One of them actually slipped and fell 200 feet, but was immediately rescued by the others. The team reached Camp III only very late at night. On October 20 we left Base Camp.

RENATO MORO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Jetiboburani, Nampa Group. A seven-man Japanese expedition from Shinshu University made the first ascent of Jetiboburani (22,470 feet), which lies south of Nampa. The leader was Kazuhiko Yamada. They climbed the east ridge. The summit was reached on April 27 by Kazuo Mitsui, Hideaki Yoshida and Nobuo Morota.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

India-Garhwal

Nanda Devi, South Ridge. On June 21 David Hambly, David McClung, William Fryberger, Bruce Byers, Steve Casebold and Glenn Brindeiro of the 1978 Seattle-Garhwal Himalaya Expedition made the seventh recorded ascent of Nanda Devi (25,645 feet) by the normal route. The above, Jan Balut, Dr. Gerald Casebold, David Seman and I left the bridge at Reni on May 13 with 48 porters and over 100 goats and came up the lower gorge which made an interesting and practical variation from the usual Dharansi Pass route since it avoided the winter snow on the latter. On the second day we had to spend about seven hours rebuilding a bridge across the Rishi Ganga. We had trouble with our porters in spite of the best efforts of our excellent liaison officer, Captain S. S. Dhillon. However, Base Camp (16,200 feet) was reached in about 11 days of trekking in superb weather. Soon after reaching Base Camp a storm hit with snow and high winds. Great banners of snow were blown off the peak. Apart from this storm, and a two day storm while at Camp I, we had good weather. Since we had no porters above Base Camp, we spent an arduous eight or nine days carrying loads to Camp I which was established at 19,000 feet. Camp II was at 20,200 feet and the fixed rope from previous expeditions proved useful. Unfortunately, a tragedy hit us when Captain Dhillon fell to his death while descending from Camp II after taking up a load. It was found that the fixed rope was nearly continuous from Camp I all the way to Camp V at 24,100 feet, although, in several areas, it was buried in the snow and had to be refixed or replaced. Camp III was established on June 12 at 21,600 feet on the snow slope above the snow arête. The remains of the 1977 British-American camp and equipment was found buried in the snow. Camp IV was placed just at the top of the steep rock face above the snow slope. Some harder climbing above this camp led to a 40-foot vertical rock wall, which had

to be surmounted before the site of Camp V was reached on June 20. The summit was attained on June 21 via easy snow slopes although there was one tricky pitch where belaying was welcome. Clouds prevented a good view from the summit. We took four days to return to Reni, including a very long day from Sarson Patal down the upper gorge to the Trisul Nala in monsoon weather. After returning to Joshimath we spent three days at an Indian army inquiry into the death of our liaison officer.

MICHAEL D. CLARKE

Ecological Impact on the Nanda Devi Area. It appears that many expeditions that enter the Garhwal leave the campsites, both on the march in and on the mountains, in a mess. There is no reason why a campsite on the march in should not be left clean. We burned a large quantity of litter and cans with Japanese and Czech labels on them. Burned cans soon rust away. Expeditions going to the Garhwal (and other places too!) should give real thought to the garbage and sanitation problems they cause by their presence. Large camp fires are causing destruction in many areas. The porters seem to be the main culprits. I was shocked at the number of trees that had been felled at Deodi since 1975. 1978 was apparently the first year that goats and sheep have entered the Sanctuary which is supposed to be a wild-life sanctuary. Having seen the damage done by sheep in the Valley of Flowers, I am apprehensive for the future of the Sanctuary. I hope that pressure can be brought to bear on this latter problem by the Indian authorities. Large expeditions should be discouraged since they are disruptive in terms of the number of porters required and in general impact on the area.

MICHAEL D. CLARKE

Nanda Devi, North Ridge Attempt. Our expedition comprised Vladimír Starcala, leader, Dr. Jan Charousek, Kamil Karafa, Ludek Záhoranský, Ceslav Wojcik, Bretislav Husicka, Petr Hapala, Jan Marek, Josef Zeitler, Josef Kývala, Leos Horka, Petr Gribek, Josef Kulhavý, Otokar Srovnal, Milan Martaus, Augustin Milata and me as climbing leader. Our arrival in India was delayed by the revolution in Afghanistan, where we lost four days, and then we lost ten days in customs. The approach march began on May 17 from the village of Reni. We faced heavy troubles with hiring porters because of other expeditions, there being only 28 available. We divided into several groups; the last one with 80 porters arrived on May 28 at Base Camp on the lake Haaj Kund in the center of the northern branch of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary. Because of a lack of fixed rope and the time delay, we finally decided on the north ridge of Nanda Devi. The access route was along the left edge of the triangular wall seen from Haaj Kund. The buttress starts with rotten black rock. In the middle, rotten rock is replaced by steep ice and firn.