

but found huge mushrooms of unstable snow, underlain with crumbling ice. Our progress was cut to a pace that made continuing unjustifiable. We simply did not have the resources to cope with the conditions we encountered. Upon our return to Base Camp, we found both our liaison officers there in company with a detachment of soldiers from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, a colonel, a wireless station and operators. We learned that we were suspected of some kind of espionage and they had come to escort us from the sanctuary. At Joshimath all our films were taken from us. The situation was never resolved, no allegations were actually made against us but we were asked to pay £800 towards the expense of their "rescuing" us. I still believe that the route could be done by a small team such as ours, given better conditions.

TERRY A. KING *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Nanda Devi East Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of two women, Taeko Noda and Mitsuko Araki, and six men, Toyomichi Atsui, Akiyoshi Saito, Minoru Tsumori, Kiyoshi Sakamaki, Nenichi Itakura and me as leader. Owing to the nuclear battery, allegedly left on Nanda Devi by the CIA, our arrival at Base Camp at 16,000 feet was delayed by the authorities until May 18. Camp I was placed on Longstaff's Col on May 22. The route to Camp II had very rotten rock and frequent rockfall. This camp was established on May 31 at 21,000 feet. The weather became cloudy and windy. The death of the liaison officer with the Americans and illnesses of members of our party delayed our operations. One member and two Sherpas attempted to reach the summit from Camp III at 23,100 feet but they were forced back by bad weather and lack of time on June 14 at 23,950 feet, still some 500 feet below the top. A second summit attempt on June 16 was equally unsuccessful.

MITSU HARU NISHIMOTO, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Nanda Devi East Attempt and Tragedy.* The British Garhwal Himalayan Expedition to Nanda Devi comprised Alan Kimber, David Challis, William (Ben) Beattie, Andrew Wielochowski, David Nottidge and me as leader. We suffered three major set-backs: (1) severe difficulties due to the last-minute withdrawal for a time of permission by the Indian government, apparently as a result of the public disclosure of the American nuclear device placed on Nanda Devi; (2) an abnormally severe and late monsoon; (3) the death of Ben Beattie. We originally had hoped to attempt a new route on the southwest face of Nanda Devi East, to traverse alpine-style from the east to the main summit and to descend the south face of the main peak. An advance party of Beattie and Kimber established Base Camp in the Nanda Devi Sanctuary on the site of the Indo-Japanese Base Camp on September 1. Though hampered by heavy snow-