

*Mount Everest.* A huge post-monsoon Nepalese-Italian expedition led by Francesco Santon did not reach the summit of Mount Everest. There were 32 Italians, 15 Nepalese, one Austrian (Kurt Diemberger), two Czechoslovakians and two Thais, as well as 25 high-altitude Sherpas. They reached the south summit. They made four camps, the highest on the South Col and had a depot at 27,900 feet. There were three summit attempts. Two men died, Sherpa Nawang Kersang and Italian Mario Piama, one in the Khumbu Icefall and one higher.

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*Mount Everest, Winter Attempt, 1981.* Six Japanese climbers and five scientists and reporters, led by Naomi Uemura, failed to make the second winter ascent of Mount Everest by the South Col. They climbed the Khumbu Icefall and made Camp I at 19,850 feet on December 9. Camp II was established at 21,150 feet on December 17. On the day when Camp III was placed on the Lhotse Face on January 12, 1981, Noboru Takenaka was killed as he slipped from a fixed rope. Evacuating his body and bad weather stopped things for a week. On January 27, Ken'ichi Matsuda, Toichi Mitani, Uemura and three Sherpas set out for the South Col in high winds. Mitani and a Sherpa got there, but they could not camp. The expedition was given up. (See *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 80, page 107.)

*Lhotse Attempt.* Our expedition of 14 Spaniards and 14 Sherpas began reconnaissance of the Khumbu Icefall on March 22. We were there at the same time as the Polish and Basque expeditions. Our objective was Lhotse by the northwest couloir. We were Jaime Badrenas, Jaime Barnils, Dr. Salvador Cabré, Enric Bonastre, Ramón Majó, Joan Frontera, Franz Ludwig, Jaime Llasera, Xavier Pérez, Fredi Puig, Jordi Selga, Joan and Jordi Vinyoldi and I as leader. We established Camp I on March 30 at 20,000 feet and Camp II on April 4 at 21,325 feet. By April 15 we had Camp III on the Lhotse Face at 24,125 feet and on April 26 the first team to try for the summit spent the night at Camp IV at 25,600 feet. On the 27th high winds and bare ice in the couloir forced them to quit at three P.M. Until then the weather had been excellent, but it changed, piling up snow every afternoon. We were prevented until May 15 from making another try on the couloir. One Sherpa had to retire at the foot of the couloir and a Spaniard had to quit with oxygen-equipment trouble. The other two continued to 27,550 feet until they had exhausted their oxygen at eight P.M., often burrowing waist-deep in the snow. While the four were descending the Yellow Band the next day, an enormous avalanche falling from the couloir swept over them, broke fixed ropes and hurtled Pasang Nima to the bottom of the