

bivouac, on October 21 Ryoichi Hamada, Michio Sugawara and Hiro-yuki Mizuguchi got to the summit (7145 meters, 23,442 feet).

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Thamserku, North Face.* In 1979 Japanese failed to climb the north face of Thamserku (6608 meters, 21,680 feet) when one member fell ill. In 1980 the leader Koji Okano and Katsuyuki Masunaga returned accompanied by Kimio Takehara and Dr. Keiichi Hayama. They established Base Camp on the Phunki Glacier at 12,800 feet on March 25 and Advanced Base at 16,250 feet under the central buttress on March 28. Repeating last year's route, bivouac snow caves were made at 18,700 and 20,000 feet. Only Okano and Masunaga climbed high since the other two suffered from the altitude. On August 20 they reached 21,325 feet but returned to Base Camp. They climbed on the 24th to 18,700 feet. They then climbed the rest of the north face and three very difficult pitches on the east ridge to reach the summit at four P.M. on April 25. A full account is in *Iwa To Yuki* 77 with photographs and a map.

*Gaurishankar Attempt.* An expedition led by Michio Yuasa in the pre-monsoon season was composed of 14 Japanese and three Nepalese. They established three high camps and reached 21,000 feet on the southeast ridge. The route was very long and required fixed rope all the way. They fixed 16,000 feet of rope. The climbers were too tired to continue and bad weather set in.

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*Tseringma Peak, Gaurishankar Group.* Our aim was to climb Gaurishankar via a five-kilometer traverse on the southeast ridge, climbing initially a subsidiary peak known locally as Tseringma (6333 meters, 20,778 feet). The team consisted of Paul Richards, Graham Brammer, John Remyne, Dr. Val Lishman, Barry Young, Chris Bennett, Mick Hardless, Wayne Carroll, Jim MacDonald and me as leader. We left Bahrabise on March 2 with 103 porters, took the route to Charikot, then followed the Bhote Kose to Simigaon and went into the Rolwaling valley, arriving eight days later at the village of Gyabrug (10,800 feet) near Beding. After reconnaissance, we took the track into a large cirque between the southeast and southwest ridges and established Base Camp at 15,400 feet on March 14. On March 15 the previously fine weather turned bad. In appalling weather we established Advanced Base below and adjacent to a large ramp at 16,600 feet. We then fixed ropes along the ramp and onto the ridge at 17,450 feet, where we established Camp I. The weather continued bad. Finally on March 24 we established Camp II

at 18,300 feet on the side of the south gully between the southeast and southwest ridges. We carved the single tentsite out of the solid ice. Two days later Camp III was established in the gully at 18,600 feet in a hazardous position but there was no alternative site. Jim MacDonald failed to acclimatize and returned to Australia. A fierce 48-hour snow-storm made the gully a death trap, burying Richards and Shambu Tamang for 24 hours at Camp III. The storm forced everyone off the mountain. We were running out of time. The gully was in a continual state of avalanche. On April 3 Barry Young, after detaching himself from the fixed line, caught one of his front points in the strap of his other crampon and fell 1200 feet down the gully, injuring both legs and suffering a mild concussion. Only the quick thinking of Anu Sherpa and the heavy snow-falls of the previous day saved his life. Anu saw a pack fly past, moved further into the gully and grabbed Barry as he came past. The pack travelled another 3500 feet over an ice cliff. He did not climb for the rest of the expedition. Camp IV was established at 19,800 feet on April 4. Richards, Shambu Tamang and Brammer on April 11, after some excellent technical work and vertical climbing, reached the high point called Tseringma by the locals. Looking along the ridge, they saw that we had neither the time nor the equipment to reach even the south summit. On April 13 Hardless, Remynse, Carroll and I ascended to the high point in fine weather. The point we reached, the culmination of the southeast and southwest ridges, is the highest point visible to the villagers of Gyabrug and is referred to by them as Tseringma. The whole Gaurishankar complex is called by them Jomo Tseringma or Kangri Tseringma.

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*Cho Oyu, 1979.* Mischa Saleki from Iran illegally soloed Cho Oyu. After crossing the border into Tibet over the Nangpa La (18,750 feet), he made his Base Camp on September 20. His high camp was at 23,300 feet on the Austrian 1954 route on the west ridge. He climbed to the top (26,750 feet) on October 10, 1979. After his descent he was taken into custody by the Chinese. (Noted in *Iwa To Yuki* N° 74.)

*Numbur Attempt.* A Japanese expedition, led by Senkichi Kitaoka, attempted in the pre-monsoon season to climb the northwest ridge of Numbur (6959 meters, 22,832 feet). They got to Camp III at 21,650 feet but found the ridge beyond too knife-edged to continue. This would have been a new route. The team doubts the claims of the 1963 Japanese expedition (as other Numbur climbers have before them); if their doubts are correct, Numbur has never been successfully climbed.

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