

and reached Base Camp above Bharton at 12,450 feet on April 5. Camp I was established on April 9 at 15,250 feet below a branch of the north ridge. We followed this spur onto the 17,400-foot peak on the north ridge, fixing nine pitches. Camp II was established on April 14 at 17,225 feet. From Camp II there was first a sharp ice ridge, then easy rock and finally a gentle snow ridge to the snow plateau. We fixed 12 pitches. On April 17 Ueno was hit by an avalanche, swept off the ridge near the plateau and though he was held, he broke his leg. He climbed back into the ridge where he and three companions spent the night in a snow cave. By the 21st he had been brought down to Base Camp. Camp III was placed at 19,000 feet on the plateau on April 26. The section to Camp IV was the most difficult part. At first we climbed a snow wall to avoid a hanging glacier. Then we ascended the narrow, corniced north ridge. On this part we fixed 22 pitches. On May 10 we broke through the big cornice and stood on the great snowfield, where Camp IV was established on May 12 at 21,325 feet. On May 13 Kazusa, Nishimura and Norbu Jambu Sherpa completed this new route up the flat, broad snow slope to the summit (6983 meters, 22,911 feet).

HITOSHI HAGIWARA, *Hosei University Alpine Club, Japan*

*Annapurna I.* Our expedition was composed of Gustav Harder, leader, Dr. Werner Müller-Esterl, Wolfgang Brög, Erika Heimrath, Klaus Harder, Thomas Hummler, Konrad Staltmayr and me. We left Pokhara on March 24 with 185 porters. After the difficult crossing into the upper Miristi Khola we set up Base Camp on April 6 on Annapurna's northern moraines at 14,275 feet. We chose the Dutch Spur, where there was difficult ice climbing. Camps I, II, III, IV, V and VI were established at 16,750, 19,200, 20,675, 22,150, 23,625 and 24,925 feet on April 9, 10, 14, 21, 28 and 29 respectively. Five Sherpas helped us. Avalanches threatened, thundering down on both sides of the spur and several times reaching Camp II. We had intestinal and respiratory problems. Erika Heimrath had to be evacuated by helicopter on May 6 with pneumonia. On May 1 Harder, Sherpa Ang Dorje and Staltmayr got to the top (8091 meters, 26,545 feet) in ten hours. They had carried skis to 26,100 feet, but it was too late for a ski descent. On May 3 Brög, Sherpas Maila Pemba and Ang Sanghi and I climbed to the top, but again it was too late for a ski descent. On the 4th and 5th Brög and I again tried to descend on skis but in vain. On May 11 we left Base Camp. We descended the whole Miristi Khola Gorge, which we recommend against.

KARL SCHRAG, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Annapurna Middle Peak Ascent and Tragedy.* Expedition leader Ludwig Greissl, Udo Böning and Heinz Oberrauch on October 3 took ten

hours to climb from their 23,300-foot Camp V to the untrodden middle peak of Annapurna (8064 meters, 26,457 feet). Oberrauch descended that night to Camp V but Greissl and Böning bivouacked at 24,600 feet. On the morning of the 4th Klemens Wildemann and Winfried Trinkle climbed up some 20 minutes above Camp V to help the descending climbers. As they were traversing a 30° snow slope back towards Camp V, Trinkle slipped and fell 1300 feet to his death. Avalanche danger prevented the recovery of his body. Böning and Greissl had frozen hands and feet and were flown back from Base Camp to Kathmandu and Germany. Their route had been left of the Dutch Rib on the north face. A second group attempted the Dutch Rib but reached only 21,325 feet.

GÜNTER HAUSER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Annapurna II Tragedy.* A six-man Japanese expedition was attempting to climb the north face of Annapurna II. While descending on April 26 from 22,650-foot Camp IV, the leader Ikuo Tanabe slipped and fell some 50 feet, severely injuring himself. Although another member bivouacked beside him, he died during the night. The expedition was abandoned.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Annapurna II Attempt.* A Polish expedition led by Jerzy Michalski unsuccessfully attempted a new route, the west ridge from the south, on Annapurna II. They were delayed by the late arrival of their equipment in Nepal. They established four high camps and on May 8 reached 23,800 feet. Climbing was halted after two members were injured in an avalanche. The southern approaches to Annapurna II are very dangerous because of avalanches.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*

*Annapurna III Tragedy.* Our Australian team was Colin Monteath, *climbing leader*, Jack Higgs, Steve Colman, Nick Reeves, Adrian Blake, John Chester, Steve McDowell, Geof Bartram, Stafford Morse, Faye Kerr, Dr. Brian Fearnley, Dr. Ken Bowes, Ray Johnston, *Base Camp Manager*, and I, *leader*. Our one climbing Sherpa was Pasang Ongchuk. We set off on March 6, trekked up the Marsyandi Kholo to Braga and on March 16 established Base Camp on a ridge above Braga at 12,500 feet, below the north face of Annapurna III. From here to the establishment of Camp I via a dump and an intermediary camp took until March 27, during which time members acclimatized both on the peak and on nearby peaks. Camp I lay at 15,600 feet across a small glacier reached by the ridge to the south of Base Camp. On March 29 Morse, Bowes, Blake, Reeves,