

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,