

Kaoru Ueno and me as leader. We climbed the west ridge from the Ghanohim Glacier. There had been three unsuccessful Indian attempts on the mountain. We walked with 30 porters from Uttarkashi to Base Camp at Topoban at 14,100 feet. We began our climb on April 29. The mountain was so far away that we made Advanced Base on the Gangotri Glacier at 14,750 feet on May 13. Camp I was at 16,075 feet at the foot of the west ridge. We climbed a snow face to reach the west ridge and placed Camp II on the crest at 17,550 feet on May 17. A rock step prevented our continuing on the west ridge and we traversed steep snow toward the left and set up Camp III at 19,350 feet on a narrow snow ridge. There were many crevasses between Camp III and a col on the north ridge, where we established Camp IV at 20,500 feet on May 29. The north ridge was snow-covered hard ice. Also on May 29 Hashimoto and Tanimura left Camp III very early and reached the summit and eleven A.M. The following day Ueno and I left Camp IV and Yamanaka and Mizuno left Camp III and all of us got to the top at ten A.M.

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*Bhagirathi I, South Ridge Attempt.* An expedition from Tokyo failed to climb Bhagirathi by its south ridge. Base Camp was established at Nandanban at 14,450 feet on August 14; Camps I, II and III were at 15,250, 16,750 and 19,550 feet. On September 1 the leader Toshio Matsunaga, Takeshi Furihata, Yakitaka Kaneko and Masao Someya were turned back at 20,175 feet by rotten rock.

*Bhagirathi I, Southeast Ridge.* All thirteen men and two women of the Japanese Kanagawa Prefecture Expedition completed the first ascent of the southeast ridge of Bhagirathi (6856 meters, 22,494 feet). Base Camp was set up on September 7 at Nandanban at 14,500 feet. After Advanced Base Camp was established on the 11th at 15,425 feet, the route was worked up a glacier which led to the col between Bhagirathi I and P 6477. Camps I and II were placed at 18,550 and 20,850 feet on September 20 and 27 on the southeast ridge. On September 29 Ken Kanazawa and two others reached the top, followed on September 30 by Hideaki Naoi and three others, on October 1 by Takao Sato and three others and on October 2 by the leader Hisatoshi Takabayashi, two others and the liaison officer.

*Bhagirathi II and III, 1979.* We had little information about this part of Garhwal. The only clear fact was that Bhagirathi II had been climbed. We found out after the expedition that the first ascent of Bhagirathi III had been made from the west, from the Gangotri Glacier in 1933 by Dr.

Charles Warren and C.F. Kirkus, but they had mistakenly called it Central Satopanth, confusing it with the peak that lies to the east of it. We arrived at Uttarkashi on September 15, 1979, where the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering gave us good help. The transport up the last 100 kilometers of the Bhagirathi valley was extraordinarily complicated. After heavy monsoon rains, the road to Gangotri was cut at two places, the first of them 30 kilometers from Uttarkashi, where a big landslide backed the water up into a lake 12 kilometers long. Further transport to Gangotri was made both by bus and on foot. It took us two days to reach the Gaumukh at the tongue of the Gangotri Glacier at 12,625 feet. After another 14 kilometers on the glacier, we reached Base Camp at Nandanban at 14,230 feet on September 21. We had only 19 days left above Base Camp. Because of the shortage of time, we did not attempt the steep west faces of rotten rock above the Gangotri Glacier. We wanted to do all climbs alpine-style and so established Camp I at 19,000 feet in the huge cirque below the east face of Bhagirathi II. A four-man Japanese reconnaissance team was looking for a route to the summit of Bhagirathi I (22,494 feet, 6856 meters). We decided to try the northeast ridge of that peak over the "Double Peak" and began fixing ropes. To test our acclimatization, on October 1, 1979 Jan Stráský, Jiří Vitha and I ascended Bhagirathi II (21,365 feet, 6512 meters). We ascended the southeast face and descended an icefield on the east face. We returned to the attempt on Bhagirathi I. Leopold Páleníček and Karel Jerhot slept at Camp II on October 2. Thomáš Šantavý and I were to follow the next day, but he fell ill and I continued by moonlight to catch the others at a higher bivouac. We three continued on the difficult, sharp ridge leading to the "Double Peak." We reached the untrodden northern summit (21,510 feet, 6556 meters) at 4:30 P.M. on October 4, 1979. It was clear that we could not continue along the technically complicated ridge to the summit of Bhagirathi I. We descended along the ridge toward the col between the "Double Peak" and Bhagirathi III, bivouacked and climbed through the col and down the broken glacier to Camp I. On October 7 we three moved back up to a little higher than the Bhagirathi II bivouac. On the next morning we traversed an icefield with little altitude gain to the Bhagirathi II-Bhagirathi III col. From there Bhagirathi III's north ridge rose at about 50°. All three of us reached the summit (21,175 feet, 6454 meters) at 4:30 P.M. on October 8, 1979. Other members of the expedition were climbers Pavel Hilbert and Mrs. Božena Kuklová, TV photographer Mrs. Božena Kroupová, physician Dr. Karel Kašpar and biologist Dr. Ivan Brtička. (Translated by Vlastimil Šmída.)

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*Bhagirathi II.* Our all-women expedition was composed of Satuki Kobayashi, Takako Kubozuka, Kimiko Hurushima, Iseko Masuda, Mituyo