

ing 21,000 feet before turning back on the 15th in bad weather with much new snow. Then, on June 20, we went back to our original objective, the west face. The face rises 6000 feet above the glacier, with 1000 feet of easy glacier walking, another 2000 feet of moderate snow-and-ice and mixed climbing and a rock headwall the rest of the way. We were to attempt the prominent buttress in the center of the face. We spent five hours on June 21 reaching a good bivouac in a bergschrund at 20,000 feet. On the 22nd we continued up moderate snow-and-ice slopes with several mixed pitches at the end. We bivouacked at the start of the upper buttress at 21,700 feet. My gut feeling of dread continued and I felt compelled to retreat, which we did after a single pitch on June 23. In retrospect, we still disagree about the feasibility of the climb. The limestone rock, contrary to our expectations, was very soft, crumbly and crackless. We returned to the mountain on July 2 and attempted the south buttress, starting at 19,000 feet. We bivouacked on the night of July 3 in hammocks at 20,000 feet, having climbed a number of easy snow-and-ice pitches interspersed with harder mixed ones on the lower third of the buttress. On July 4 we continued through the major difficulties of the route, a 1000-foot rock band between 20,500 and 21,500 feet, bivouacking again in hammocks. The hard pitches had been F8 and F9. Late that night it began to storm. Having completed the greatest difficulties, we decided to continue to the crest of the east ridge, climbing through knee- and sometimes waist-deep snow. We reached the final rocky outcrops and again bivouacked in hammocks at about 23,200 feet. Jeff felt nausea and we rested for the day in our hammocks, hoping for an improvement in Jeff's condition and in the weather. He, however, developed altitude sickness, with signs of pulmonary edema and so we had to retreat again. Jeff was so weak that he felt unable to climb the few hundred feet to the east ridge. We had to rappel diagonally into a large gully that bounds the right side of the south face and then along easier, but very avalanche-prone slopes toward the "Cat's Ears." We spent the night of the 7th in a crevasse, the 8th at the Cat's Ears and returned to Advanced Base on the 9th. I had been without food for two days, but Jeff had been unable to eat for close to five. We returned to Base Camp on July 10, where Jeff made a rapid recovery.

MICHAEL KENNEDY

*Broad Peak Attempt.* We were at Base Camp on July 9 but were held up by five days of bad weather. Shortly after that Georges Bettembourg, Patrick Vallençant, Jean Louis Estienne and Denis Conte placed Camps I and II at 17,725 and 20,675 feet and headed up toward Camp III but were driven by the weather down to Base Camp for five more days of storm. They reascended and placed Camp III at 23,000 feet. More tries were made in doubtful weather. Bettembourg and Vallençant got to

25,000 feet in deep snow, skied and filmed the descent. Later the same pair and I ascended to 23,000 feet and again were driven down by storms. We were also accompanied by the American movie-photographer Howard Ingle.

FREDERIC LABAEYE, *Club Alpin Français*

*Mitre Peak.* My wife Marie Jeanne Ghirardini, liaison officer Noveed Rahman and I started on our approach march on April 28 and got to Base Camp on May 26 after two weeks of acclimatization at Hotto and Rdokas. I left Base Camp on May 30 to bivouac alone on the Baltoro Glacier at the foot of the west face of Mitre Peak. On May 31 I climbed the couloir which leads to the crescent ridge and on June 1 ascended the ridge to bivouac 200 feet from the top. I went to the top on June 2 and started the descent, returning on June 4 to Base Camp. I made this solo ascent in bad weather and snow fell on June 1, 2 and 3. The rock was very bad and there was great danger from avalanches and cornices. The ice and snow were 65°. (UIAA V+).

IVAN GHIRARDINI, *Club Alpin Français*

*Chogolisa Attempt.* Our Chogolisa crew met with an accident on July 18. We were descending the ice face of the 1975 Austrian route on the south face of the southwest summit in bad weather after reaching 6850 meters (22,474 feet). The night before we had a nasty bivouac at 22,000 feet, hanging off ice screws on a 55° slope and unable to light our MSR stoves. On July 18 we reached the top of the ice face on the left (wrong) side only to find a knife-edged ridge and an approaching storm. We had chosen the left side because of windslab-avalanche danger on the right. The three of us had descended to 21,800 feet by 4:30 P.M. The snow was softer here and we hoped to build a terrace for the night and light our stoves. Without warning, Canadian John Wittmayer was avalanched off, dragging our leader, Howard Weaver, with him. I was unroped at the moment, standing next to Howard when he went. They fell the length of the ice face and over a large schrund at the bottom, rolling to a stop at 19,000 feet. I climbed down alone, reaching them at six P.M. John was the worst off with a dislocated knee, cracked ribs and sprained fingers. Howard had wrenched both knees and had a severe concussion. Both were badly bruised; their faces blackened from frostbite sustained by lying on the ice. But both had, miraculously, survived their 2700-foot fall. The avalanche which carried them down also buried most of our gear, including our stoves for which I searched much of the night. Fortunately I had the tent and medical kit with me and could give them shelter and first aid. The next morning I climbed down to a Japanese tent for help. A large Japanese party was fixing its way up the southwest