

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

PLATE 81

*Photo by H. Adams Carter*

**MITRE's West Face.** The route ascended the snow couloir in the center left to the col and up the skyline.



ridge. There were no climbers there, but I managed to contact them by walkie-talkie. They descended from their upper camps that day and the next. Avalanches and bad weather prevented us from reaching the injured climbers until July 21. They were still alive but in desperate shape after four waterless days. During the time I had been away, they had been hit by two further avalanches, the first wiping out their tent. Our other tent was at Camp III, some 200 yards distant. They crawled to this tent on July 20, only to be mauled by the air blast of the largest avalanche that night. We found them on the 21st in the remains of this second tent. On July 23 the rescue party of seven Japanese, three Japanese high-altitude porters and me began evacuating Wittmayer by stretcher. Weaver could walk with assistance. Helped by the low-altitude porters, we reached the jeep road and the Indus River on July 29. Wittmayer is now (September) in a Vancouver, B.C. hospital in good spirits but worried about having trouble walking for the rest of his life. Weaver has completely recovered.

DOUGLAS CANNALTE

*Chogolisa Attempt, South Ridge of Southwest Peak and Rescue.* The members of our expedition were Kiyō Saito, Soichi Funai, Shoichi Yamada, Toshihito Kobayashi, Sizuya Tanaka, Tetsuro Hatano, Yoshio Ota and I as leader. We hired 82 porters at Skardu and Khapalu. We left Sulmo on May 28. On June 5 we placed Base Camp on the Kaberi Glacier. Camp III was located at 16,000 feet at the foot of the unclimbed south ridge of the southwest peak of Chogolisa. From this time on the weather became worse. It snowed every other day, making the ridge difficult. Camp IV was at 18,200 feet. It was difficult to get to Camp V because of the new snow and avalanches. Finally we established Camp V at 21,325 feet on July 15. After making Camp V, we retired to Camp IV to acclimatize. On July 19 five of us were heading back up to Camp V on the summit attack. When we got to 20,675 feet, we had an emergency radio call from Camp IV, informing us that the American party had met with an avalanche accident on the Austrian route. We decided immediately to go down to help save the Americans, though two would keep on going up to Camp V to bring down food. The next day we reached Camp III where two of our members and Cannalte were waiting. He had climbed to Camp III to ask for the rescue. Because it was snowing we could not advance further but got to the accident spot at two P.M. the next day. Fortunately the two injured climbers were alive, though they had almost had nothing to eat or drink for five days. Our doctor tended them. After one day's rest we carried the injured down through the icefall and to our Camp III. By that time our food did not let us make a second attempt.

SHUNSUKE TAMURA, *Osaka Gaikokugo University, Japan*