

others traversed toward Roc Noir, making a provisional camp beyond a steep ice tower. On the 13th we moved camp to 23,800 feet, below the steep snow flank of Roc Noir. Cronlund and Lindblad reconnoitered the snow flank all the way to the east ridge of Annapurna. On May 14 we had been for two exhausting weeks above Camp III without oxygen and Annapurna's summits were more than four kilometers away, but Cronlund and Lindblad were determined to have a try and I helped carrying equipment to the east ridge. We had to traverse a very steep ice slope to avoid the Roc Noir summit, for which we had no permit, and reached the east ridge at 24,550 feet. While I returned, Cronlund and Lindblad continued another 500 meters along the ridge and camped. The next day they attempted to reach Annapurna's east summit but they gave up 200 meters from the summit slope. On May 18 we were all back in Base Camp.

TOMMY SANDBERG, *Svenska Fjällklubben*

*Annapurna Tragedy.* A French expedition led by Jean-Paul Vion attempted the unclimbed northwest buttress of Annapurna. On September 26 André Durieux and Roland Girod-Roux reached 24,275 feet, above Camp IV at 23,450 feet. The expedition was abandoned after avalanches completely swept away Camps I and II, taking the lives of Durieux, Yves Favre and Sherpas Pemba Tsering and Ang Nima.

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, *Himalayan Club*, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna Ascent and Tragedy.* A Japanese expedition pioneered a new route between the 1970 British and the 1981 Polish routes on the south face of Annapurna. They established Base Camp at 13,400 feet in the upper Modi Khola on August 28. They had prepared the route to 21,000 feet by October 5 but the Sherpas could not climb the rock band above. They placed Camp V at 24,950 feet on October 20. Yukihiro Yanagisawa and Hiroshi Aota reached the summit on October 29. On the 31st Haruyuki Endo and Yasuji Kato were heading for the summit when Kato fell to his death. Endo did not continue the summit attempt. More details and pictures are found in *Iwa To Yuki* N° 86 and 87.

*Annapurna II Tragedy.* Our expedition, Kozo Sakai, Norio Nakanishi, Nobuhiko Arita, Tuneo Kondo, Hiroshi Okazoe, Takayuki Asada, Kyoeichi Ichikawa, Dr. Yoshiyasu Sawai and I as leader, hoped to climb a new route on the south face of Annapurna II. We set up camps as follows: Base Camp, Deposit Camp, Advanced Base Camp, Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 8500, 11,150, 13,125, 15,425, 17,400, 19,000, 21,000, and 23,250 feet on September 4, 8, 11, 16, 20, 23, October 1 and 9 respectively. On October 10 Arita and Okazoe prepared the route to 24,125 feet and descended to Camp IV. On the 11th Asada, Kondo and Ichi-