

AFRICA

Kilimanjaro, Western Breach. On September 16, Harold Knutson and I ascended and descended this route next to the Arrow Glacier. Beginning at the rarely used 12,500-foot roadhead on the Shira Plateau (only four parties signed in at the national park gate in the previous six months), we reached the main summit of the mountain, 19,340-foot Uhuru Point, in seven hours, then regained the roadhead in four-and-a-half hours. Local climbers later told us that this was the first one-day round-trip up and down Kilimanjaro. A major contributing factor was our footgear. The use of new Nike trail shoes enabled us to wear the same footgear for crossing glaciers up high and for running trails down low. Also, neither of us had the slightest sign of headache or altitude sickness, which we attribute to rapid descent and minimal time up high. We left Moshe at 3500 feet one afternoon, slept at 12,500 feet, and returned to 3500 feet just 15 hours after the start of the climb.

GALEN A. ROWELL

Batian, Mount Kenya. Our group consisted of Juan Carlos Robla, Pilar Fernández, Teresa Marchán, Luis Suárez, Nando Marné, Luisa Alonso, César de Prado, Angeles García, Angeles Navarro, Paco Gómiz and me. After several ascents of Lenana by the normal route and Point Peter by the difficult east face, on July 12 Suárez, de Prado, Marné and I made a new route on Batian on the north face. Our route was between the west ridge and the north glacier. On July 14 Marné, de Prado, Gómiz and I climbed the Firmin-Hicks route on Batian.

ISIDRO RODRÍGUEZ CUBILLAS, *León, Spain*

ASIA

India-Sikkim

Kabru Dome, Sikkim. The Indian Mountaineering Foundation sponsored an expedition to Kabru Dome (6600 meters, 21,654 feet) through the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute of Darjeeling. It was one of the selection camps for the members, both men and women, to be chosen for the Indian Everest Expedition in 1984. Kabru Dome had been attempted three times in the past: by two British expeditions, the first led by N.A. Tombazi in 1925 from the Alukthang Glacier and the second led by C.R. Cooke in 1935; and by an Indian expedition led by B. Biswas in 1964 whose claim of ascent is not accepted as valid. The 30-member IMF expedition, under the leadership of Colonel D.K. Khullar, Principal of the HMI, set up Base Camp near the snout of the East Rathong Glacier on September 14 at 14,500 feet. Advance Base was established on the true left medial moraine, where the Kabru Dome icefall meets the glacier at 15,800 feet. The icefall was the biggest obstacle. Up to Camp I at 18,000 feet, we skirted the icefall mostly via a rock gully to the true right of

it. Three days were spent finding a route through the upper icefall above Camp I. We were finally divided into three groups. The first group worked on the route while the other two stocked Advance Base and Camp I. The first group occupied Camp II at 20,000 feet above the icefall on September 20. Unfortunately due to whiteout and weather, they were unable the following day to make the summit. The second group occupied Camp II on September 23. Climbing on the southwestern flanks and finally gaining the south ridge, Mahabir Thakur, T. Lobsang, K.N. Singh, Gautam Dutta, Umeshwari Devi (the only woman) and P. Bhotia reached the summit at 12:30 on September 24. The third summit party managed to put Captains R.S. Sandhu and B.S. Rai, Manik Banerjee, P.P. Gautam and Ki Kami Sherpa on the peak on September 26.

YOUSUF ZAHEER, *St. Stephen's College, Delhi, India*

Nepal

Kanchenjunga. Reinhold Messner, Friedl Mutschlechner and Sherpa Ang Dorje reached the summit of Kanchenjunga on May 6 without the use of artificial oxygen. They climbed the north face and north ridge, partially on the Japanese route, partially new. They had two camps and above them, two bivouacs. In making this ascent, Messner reached the summit on his seventh different 8000er. On the descent, Mutschlechner suffered a frozen right hand and left foot and had to be flown back to Austria for treatment.

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

Kanchenjunga, Normal Route. Our expedition was composed of Franco Garda, climbing leader, Lelio Granier, Oscar Tayola, Riccardo Borney, Abele Blanc, Giuliano Sciandra, Oreste and Arturo Squinobal, Pietro Ferraris, Vittorio Mangili, Sergio Mezzanzanica, Giuliano Trucco, Luigi Pession, Innocenzo Menabreaz, Eliseo Cheney and me as expedition leader. We had hoped to climb the main peak by the previously unattempted southwest face, along the center buttress starting at the end of the great sickle. Unfortunately heavy snowfall and bad weather during the first part of the ascent prevented this. We therefore decided to repeat the normal route, first climbed by the English in 1955. We left Dharan with 300 porters on March 10 for the 17-day approach march to Ramser. After some days in Ramser because of heavy snowfalls, we started up to the Yalung Glacier, placing three intermediate camps: Glacier Camp at 15,750 feet, Kuna Camp at 15,825 feet and Intermediate Base Camp at 17,050 feet. We set up Base Camp on April 2 at the foot of Kanchenjunga's south face. For the first few days we explored the area and then followed the route of previous expeditions. Camp I was installed at 20,850 feet at the top of the first ridge on April 8. The approach to Camp II was more complicated; we had to descend for 650 feet into a very steep and dangerous gully, then