

The weather was good during the climb with daytime temperatures of 15°F and nighttime ones of -5° to -10°F. Moderately high winds and spindrift early in the climb made us feel like salmon swimming upstream.

JEFF LOWE

*Lhotse Shar Attempt.* In the pre-monsoon period Hans Berger led a Swiss expedition that attempted Lhotse Shar (8383 meters, 27,504 feet) by its south-east ridge, the Swiss route of the autumn of 1981. Only the four-man team carried loads above Camp II (21,825 feet) since the Sherpas were unwilling to carry higher. They could get only to Camp III (24,450 feet) because of continuous deep snow and avalanche danger.

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

*Lhotse Attempt.* Peter Hillary (New Zealand), Fred From (Australia), Paul Moores (U.K.) and I attempted Lhotse by the normal west-face route. We were sharing the route through the Khumbu Icefall with a large Canadian expedition intent on climbing the South Pillar of Everest. The Canadians fixed the route through the icefall and we were under contract not to enter this section until they had reached Camp I at 19,200 feet. On August 31 and September 2, two separate accidents took the lives of three Sherpas and one Canadian. This threw them into turmoil and they asked permission to change to the South-Col route. Our routes were to be common until 25,600 feet. Our light-weight expedition was to be swamped beneath fixed ropes and Sherpas. Continuing bad weather in early September prevented any progress. On September 16 Camp I was established and Camp II was placed in the Western Cwm at 21,500 feet on the 20th. Camp III was lower than normal at 23,300 feet but we used it rarely because we usually went from Camp II onto the Lhotse Face in order to fix rope. On October 7 we moved up to 26,000 feet and established Camp IV. Our summit try was on October 8. A long traverse rightwards led to the summit gully. At 27,000 feet we were hit by a sudden snowstorm and strong winds. The increasing bad weather forced us to stop and descend. Our expedition did not use oxygen and cost \$15,000.

ADRIAN BURGESS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Nuptse and Thamserku Attempts.* Three Scots led by Malcolm Duff attempted the west ridges of both of these peaks in the post-monsoon but reached only 20,175 feet on Thamserku and 22,000 feet on Nuptse. One climber failed to acclimatize and technical difficulties on both peaks meant slow progress for the other two.

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