

*Ngozumba Kang Attempt.* A joint expedition of four Frenchmen, two Belgians and three Sherpas led by Guy Cousteix attempted the south face of Ngozumba Kang (7806 meters, 25,610 feet). After establishing three camps, they abandoned the climb because of deep snow, reaching 23,000 feet on October 13.

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

*Ngozumba Kang.* A South Korean-Nepalese expedition led by Park Dong-Gyo made the first ascent of Ngozumba Kang (7806 meters, 25,610 feet). They climbed the south face direct with four high camps. On November 2 Sherpas Ang Tsering and Dorje and South Korean Kim Yong-Han got to the summit.

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

*Cho Oyu, South Face Attempt.* Our expedition intended to climb the south face of Cho Oyu (8153 meters, 26,750 feet) which had first been climbed by Koblmüller's party in 1978. We had four members, the Austrians Wolfgang Nairz, leader, Rudi Mayr and me, and our German friend Reinhard Karl. We also had three Sherpa members and three high-altitude Sherpas. We flew to Lukla on April 12, and established Base Camp at 16,575 feet on April 18. On the following day I suffered from a slight form of pulmonary edema and tried an experimental treatment (nitroglycerin and positive end expiratory pressure). Subsequently my lungs cleared, but I fell into deep unconsciousness due to high-altitude cerebral edema. I was brought down by my friends and evacuated by helicopter to Kathmandu. Due to a subsequent pulmonary embolus I had to return to Europe. Between April 24 and May 6 Karl, Mayr and Nairz established Camp I at 19,350 feet and Camp II at 21,325 feet in the lower part of the face. It was very difficult to find a more-or-less secure route and the climbing involved long pitches of steep and sometimes vertical ice. Progress was slowed by repeated snowfall. The final summit attempt was started on May 17. Nairz and Karl spent the night of May 18 in Camp II, which was located underneath an almost vertical ice face with no séracs. The Sherpas occupied a tent 10 meters apart from my friends. On May 19 at five A.M. an ice avalanche, which originated roughly 2000 feet above the camp, buried the tent of Nairz and Karl. The Sherpas' tent was spared. The Sherpas started to dig immediately and found Reinhard Karl after 20 minutes. He was dead due to head injuries. Subsequently they found Nairz who was unconscious and had a broken leg. He regained consciousness within an hour and managed to climb down the face with the help of Rudi Mayr and the Sherpas. Reinhard Karl was an outstanding mountaineer (both physically and mentally) and a very close friend. He certainly was the most successful German all-round climber of recent years. He had climbed many of the most difficult routes in the Alps and he had done some big walls in Yosemite and elsewhere. We had climbed Mount Everest together in May 1978 and he had subsequently reached the

summit of Gasherbrum II. Just before our start to Cho Oyu he had climbed Cerro Fitz Roy.

OSWALD ÖLZ, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Cho Oyu, South Face Winter Attempt.* Reinhold Messner, Friedl Mutschlechner, Paul Hanny, Hans Kammerlander and Peter Eisendle, *South Tirolean Italians*, Wojciech Kurtyka, *Polish*, and I, *Austrian*, were accompanied to Base Camp by four women, a writer and a painter. We flew to Lukla on November 8 and acclimatized on trekking peaks. On November 27 we set up Base Camp at 16,750 feet above Gokyo. We had four experienced Sherpas. We started up Cho Oyu's south face on December 1, the official opening of the winter season. From 17,400 to 19,700 feet, we climbed the broken icefall on the right of the face. We were helped by the Korean fixed ropes, which they had used to climb Ngozumba Kang. We placed Camp I at 20,000 feet at the top of the icefall on December 2. Camp II was established on December 6 at 21,825 feet at the beginning of the second upswing. Between Camps I and II was a wind-swept, crevassed ice plateau. From December 10 to 18 we climbed the often dangerous and extremely difficult ice face, which rises from Camp II to 24,600 feet. The chief problem was a 70° to 80° ice buttress in the last 1000 feet. We found fixed ropes from the Koblmüller-Furtner first ascent of the face in 1978. The ice was extraordinarily hard, making the placement of ice screws difficult; it was covered by rotten snow. Messner, Kammerlander and Sherpa Ang Dorje on December 18 reached the top of this ice pillar. The plateau would have been easy up to the final 250 feet, but it was covered by hip- and chest-deep powder snow. They could not advance and also feared avalanches. By December 21 all climbers and equipment were back in Base Camp.

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*Khatang, Rolwaling Himal.* This mountain was opened to climbers only in 1981 and we were the first to try it. We climbed the northeast ridge. We established the following camps: Base Camp at 15,700 feet on October 8 and Camps I, II and III at 17,825, 19,325 and 20,700 feet on October 12, 26 and 30 respectively. The northeast ridge is very steep, knife-edged and with unstable snow. The most difficult climbing was between Camps II and III. The following reached the summit (6853 meters, 22,484 feet): Tastumi Kawamura, Yoshimi Kitayama, Dorje Sherpa on November 1; Koji Kimura, Hideaki Sato, Chiharu Watanabe on November 2; and Kenji Koyama, Shigenori Sawada, Takehiko Ono on November 2 from Camp II.

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