

descent Eschmann broke the sharp edge of the ridge and plunged down the north face to his death. We gave up thoughts of a further ascent. The weather had a nearly daily pattern. Each morning thick clouds rose from the lower parts of Sichuan up the valleys until they formed a sea of clouds with an upper level from 11,000 to 16,500 feet. While Base Camp was under heavy clouds and for days in heavy rain, lovely sunny weather reigned above. In the afternoon the clouds rose and the weather deteriorated in the evening, often with snowfall, but by morning the weather up high was lovely again.

ERWIN HERREN, *Schweizer Alpen Club*

Gongga Shan Attempt. Canadians led by Roger Griffiths attempted the first-ascent route on Gongga Shan in the spring. They were plagued by bad weather, avalanches and an accident and did not reach the ridge. Details are lacking.

Anyemaqen, First Ascent by Japanese, 1981. Details previously lacking of the first ascent of Anyemaqen have appeared in *Iwa To Yuki* N° 88. An expedition of eleven men and two women was led by Yuzo Tada. From Base Camp at 14,750 feet east of the mountain, Camp I was placed at 17,000 feet on May 7, 1981 and Camp II was established at 18,700 feet May 19 after a week of heavy snowfall. On May 22 Giichiro Watanabe, Yoshio Yamamoto and Katsumi Miyake reached the summit. Five others got to the top on May 25.

Anyemaqen, 1981, Third Ascent. [On page 285 of *A.A.J.*, 1982, details were lacking about two ascents of Anyemaqen. We are grateful for further details sent us by Herr Hupfauer, which arrived too late to be published last year.—*Editor.*] Our Austro-German party of seven took two days from Shie San Shang to get to Base Camp at 14,750 feet on the Quheershaoma Glacier on June 2, 1981. We were held up by bad weather until June 7 when we established Camp I at 16,250 feet. Camp II was placed at 18,600 feet on June 9. That day we watched the American group reach the summit! We followed the route of the Japanese first-ascent party, which definitely climbed the peak in May 22, 1981. This led over the Quheershaoma Glacier and the east-northeast ridge to the summit of P 6000, over P 6090 and P 6127 to the main summit (6282 meters, 20,610 feet). We found some 3000 feet of Japanese fixed rope. On June 10, 1981 Hans Gaschbauer, Franz Lämmerhofer, Dr. Gerhard Schmatz, Peter Vogler and I climbed to the summit for the third ascent and the second by our route.

SIEGFRIED HUPFAUER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Mount Everest Attempt. Our expedition had as members Jan van Banning, Willem ten Barge, Eelco Dijk, Geert Geuskens, Gerard Jansen, Ronald Naar, Mathieu van Rijswijk, Gerard van Sprang, Johan Taks, Han Timmers, Bart Vos, Robert Weijdert and me as leader. Local transport and all further arrange-

ments were in the hands of the Chinese Mountaineering Association. Their fees are stiff in comparison with those in other countries such as Nepal and also some of their services will have to improve, but their spirit of cooperation was excellent and we were, on the whole, very satisfied. We planned to climb the traditional route of the pre-World War II expeditions. We made the following Camps: Base Camp (4 miles south of the Rongbuk Monastery), I, II, III, IV (on the North Col) and V at 17,000, 18,375, 19,700, 21,325, 23,000 and 24,950 feet on August 16, 18, 22, 25 September 16 and October 5 respectively. The delay in establishing Camp V was due to a serious avalanche accident on September 29. One member escaped with bruised ribs, but Dijk broke eight ribs, suffered a punctured lung and was dramatically saved after a bivouac at 22,300 feet, thanks to all expedition members available and the strong support of Tibetan "high-altitude assistant climbers." He has now recovered. Our high point of 25,750 feet was reached on October 7. In August the mountain was whiter than we had seen in any photograph published before. The conditions leading to the North Col were correspondingly dangerous and led to the accident and a number of narrow escapes later. The traditional approach lines were rejected and a moderately steep (45° to 55°) line was fixed to the left of the sérac zone of the normal way. In the middle of September the monsoon ended, but instead of the usual northerly circulation, fierce southwest winds established themselves. The snow was blown off the mountain in less than a week, leaving no scope for alternative routes. When the winds and temperature of -35°C continued, the expedition was broken off on October 10. The mountain was absolutely free of cloud most of the time and looked harmless from Base Camp, but above the North Col the wind made life downright dangerous.

ALEXANDER VERRIJN STUART, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen-Vereniging*

Mallory and Irvine Second-Step Clues. When honorary member, Shi Zhan Chun, of the Chinese Mountaineering Association spoke at the Annual Meeting of the American Alpine Club in Los Angeles in December 1981, he revealed that the Chinese Everest Expedition of 1960 had discovered much evidence of the British pre-World War II north-face attempts. During an interview of Mr. Shi, many people in the audience understood his interpreter to say that a hank of manila rope and a short pole were discovered *above* the Second Step (28,480 feet). This evidence would prove that Mallory and Irvine had indeed surmounted this severe obstacle. If true, it advances dramatically the possibility that the pair actually reached the summit in 1924. Yet, Mr. Shi gave altitudes of those 1960 discoveries and they were all below the First Step near or at the site of the 1933 Camp VI. Many attempts to ascertain the exact location of the find were made. Finally Chris Bonington met with Mr. Shi. He writes that he asked Mr. Shi about this find and had its location pointed out to him on a photograph. The location was *below* the First Step in line with the altitudes Mr. Shi originally gave. The working oxygen system the Chinese found with 20