

*Pumori, South Face Solo Winter Ascent.* Earl Wiggins and I had hoped to climb the south face of Pumori in winter, doing it for the first time alpine-style. We established Base Camp at 17,500 feet below the face. During the second night in camp, Wiggins developed a life-threatening case of high-altitude pulmonary and cerebral edema, which dictated evacuation to a lower altitude. After escorting him to the lower villages, I returned to Base Camp on December 12, determined to make the climb alone. On December 15, I bivouacked at 18,000 feet at the beginning of the route. The next day, I climbed in six hours to a hanging bivouac at 20,500 feet in a Bat Tent. A difficult 300-foot-high rock band required several hours to climb on the morning of December 17. I climbed another 800 feet of steep ice that day to bivouac in a natural ice cave at 21,600 feet. On December 18 I encountered another vertical rock-and-ice band above 22,000 feet. From there to the summit (7161 meters, 23,494 feet) there were moderately steep slopes of wind-packed snow. I arrived on top at 4:30 P.M. A nearly full moon lit my way back to the ice cave, which I got to at midnight. I finished the arduous descent the next day.

JEFF LOWE

*Kwangde, Winter Ascent.* A Japanese expedition led by Shin'ya Ikuta climbed Kwangde's northeast ridge. In the last week of December 1982 and first week of January, they placed two camps and fixed rope on a headwall. Yasuki Nishimoto, Kenji Fujita and Yozo Yokoyama left Base Camp on January 7 and bivouacked at 19,000 feet while Ikuta and Masaru Mizukami spent the night at Camp II. On January 8 they all reached the summit.

*Kusum Kanguru East, Northeast Ridge.* Guy Neithardt, *Swiss*, and Andrew Wielochowski, *British*, made the first ascent of the northeast ridge of Kusum Kanguru East and the fifth ascent of the summit on September 16. The two other members, Richard Backus, *Canadian*, and I, *Welsh*, twice reached 20,000 feet at the base of the summit pyramid of the northeast ridge. The climb was completed alpine-style in a one-week absence from Base Camp. Base Camp was established on September 5 at 14,050 feet at the snout of the Kyashar Glacier. It was reached in two days from Monjo, a small village two-hour's walk north of Namche Bazar. The route had six distinct sections. First, we followed the southeast moraine of the Kyashar Glacier to a steep ascent toward the col between Kusum Kanguru and Charpati. We bivouacked on September 12 at 17,000 feet. Second, we climbed the small but complex glacier descending from the col to a flat basin below the col. Third, we ascended an 800-foot 45° snow rib to the col with 650 feet of fixed rope. We camped in the col at 18,550 feet. Fourth, the northeast ridge presented rock-and-ice difficulties where we first followed ledges on the southeast and then in the centre of the ridge. Fifth, the steep face leading to the top of the northeast buttress (20,400 feet) provided more difficulties and complex route-finding on loose rock and variable snow.