

poor condition; Franz Seeberger and Paul Geyer volunteered to help him descend. The other six, Härter, Hubert Wehrs, Herbert Streibl, South Tirolean Hermann Tauber and Sherpas Ang Dorje and Nima Rita climbed to the summit. To their amazement, they met there the Korean Huh Yong-Ho, who had climbed solo the normal route from the north. (More details and photographs appear in *Der Bergsteiger*, February 1984, pages 24 to 28.)

*Manaslu Solo.* I spent a couple of weeks on the Manaslu plateau at Advance Base (17,050 feet) to acclimatize before attempting the normal northeast-face route of Manaslu. On October 19 I left Base Camp all alone and got to Camp I at 21,000 feet at 3:30 P.M., taking all my stamina to get there up icefalls and over crevasses. I left Camp I at 7:30 A.M. on October 20, carrying my mini-tent, and got to Camp II despite wind and deep snow. On the 21st, strong winds kept me in my tent all day. In spite of the gale, I left Camp II at 3:30 A.M. on October 22. Above the plateau I caught sight of the Germans moving up below me. I finally reached the summit (8463 meters, 27,766 feet) at 3:30 P.M. After a few photographs, I descended a little and met the Germans. After talking to them a short while, I hurried back to Camp II. I was back in Base Camp (15,750 feet) on October 23, not eating, and drinking only hot water on the descent.

HUH YONG-HO, *Korea*

*Manaslu, East Ridge Attempt.* Five Austrians led by Wilfried Studer attempted to climb the unascended east ridge of Manaslu from the north. They established three high camps. Studer and Manfred Kessler reached 24,275 feet on October 7. Very deep snow, avalanche danger, unstable séracs, tents destroyed in fierce winds at Camp III and limited time available put an end to the climb.

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

*Manaslu, Northeast Face Attempt in Winter.* A little after midday on December 22 my brother Alan and I were climbing carefully upwards at 23,000 feet on the northeast slope of Manaslu. Winds of more than 80 mph kept throwing us sideways into the waist-high pinnacles of eroded snow. We would hide behind them, waiting for a lull and then quickly move upward into the shelter of another. Caught out in the open, we would occasionally finish on our knees, while coffee-table-sized slabs of snow flew overhead. The beginnings of frostbite in our three Sherpa companions had forced them back to our top ice cave. At 23,300 feet we too realized that placing a final camp would have to wait for a calmer day. That evening we sadly discovered that two of our team who were below were sick and would not be able to help any more. We decided to abandon our attempt to make the first winter ascent of Makalu. Our group consisted of my brother Alan, Gordon Smith, Trevor Jones, Carl Hannigan, Sherpas Pema Dorje, Tenzing Tashi, Lakpa Tsering, Sawa Nuru, Gyaltsen, Pinsu and me. Our

Base Camp was at 13,500 feet and Camps I and II were at 18,300 and 21,500 feet.

ADRIAN BURGESS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Himalayan Winter Climbing.* The strongest winds generally come from the west and south. Route selection should consider this because jet-stream winds can stop movement altogether. The height of the mountain is more critical in winter because winds are worst above 21,000 feet. [See also Dr. West's article in this issue which explains that in winter there is less barometric pressure and therefore less oxygen.—*Editor.*] Routes passing through or near cols are much more windy and can funnel winds onto slopes which would normally be considered to be in the lee. When the wind direction changes from southwest to north, there is often one day of good, calm weather, but northerly winds never seem to last for many days. Although occasional snowstorms can occur in early December, they are rarely heavy and the first three weeks of December are normally the best for climbing. However, if there is an early snowstorm, it can hinder (and put up the price of) getting to Base Camp. November weather is normally sunny and dry and the Nepalese government does not seem to mind expeditions preparing Camp I (the higher the better) before December 1, provided no one occupies it, and even this may depend on the liaison officer, who may be looking forward to the New Year in Kathmandu. When hiring porters to go to Base Camp, beware the Tihar Festival around the beginning of November. It is like trying to coax a Westerner to work at Christmas. Because expeditions are better completed by December 24, there is little time to acclimatize on the mountain and previous acclimatization is advisable, possibly on a nearby trekking peak. When getting porters for the return trip, consider that a heavy snowfall might trap the expedition behind a high pass, such as on Makalu. Snow caves are best as camps on the mountain. Only very strong tents will resist the winds above 21,000 feet; living in them is worse than miserable. One-piece down suits are the best outer clothing in very windy conditions. The short cold days of winter seem to make climbing more tiring than at other times of the year. Since Christmas is when people like to be with their families, climbers have to be very highly motivated. Climbing Sherpas dislike high winds and are better below the windy zones. Frostbite may lead to amputation and so they are hesitant to commit themselves to long days in the cold.

ADRIAN BURGESS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Manaslu, Winter Ascent and Tragedy, 1984.* Our expedition consisted of Maciej Berbeka, Marek Danielak, Ryszard Gajewski, Stanisław Jaworski, Andrzej Machnik, Zbigniew Młynarczyk, Andrzej Osika, Maciej Pawlikowski, Bogusław Probulski, Włodzimierz Stoiński and me as leader. We planned to make a winter ascent of the Messner route from the south. Our approach via the Marsyandi and Dona Khola valleys took eight days. We reached Base Camp at