

north ridge. Camps I, II, III and IV were established at 14,100, 17,225, 20,000 and 23,000 feet on April 8, 21, 29 and May 8 respectively. On May 9 Yokoyama, Takamatsu and Sirdar Ang Phuri Lama reached the summit (7525 meters, 24,688 feet).

YASUMITSU YAMANO, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Annapurna IV.* A guided expedition led by Austrian Adolf Weissensteiner had eight Swiss, five Austrians, one German and one Frenchman. After establishing three camps on the northwest ridge, on October 7 Austrian Franz Breitenbauer, Swiss Anton Karl Spring, Ueli Stahel and Pierre André Levet and Sherpa Pa Nima reached the summit (7525 meters, 24,688 feet).

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Annapurna III, Southeast Pillar Attempt and Tragedy.* Our team of Jon Tinker, Rob Uttley, Trevor Pilling and me reached Base Camp on September 5. The walk-in to the upper Seti Khola was awkward and in places dangerous. We were only the second expedition to venture so far. Base Camp was at 10,500 feet near the Seti Glacier. From September 6 to 12 we carried loads to Advance Base at 13,775 feet on the plateau just below the southeast pillar. Monsoon conditions prevailed until September 27. On the 28th we made our first acclimatization climb on the east ridge of Annapurna III. We made a snow hole at 20,000 feet and the next day continued to make a gear dump halfway along the lower part of the ridge. The weather deteriorated. On October 6 we returned to the dump and continued along the almost Peruvian-type corniced ridge to make another snow hole at 20,175 feet at the foot of the 3500-foot-high face of the east ridge. In view of the shortage of time, Pilling and Uttley decided to make an attempt on the summit via the east ridge, much less technical but more dangerous than the southeast pillar. On October 8 Tinker and I descended to prepare for an attempt on the pillar. As the weather turned worse that evening, Pilling and Uttley continued on to a bivouac at 20,675 feet. It started snowing and strong winds picked up. It continued thus without relenting for five days. Tinker and I retreated to Base Camp, calling off our attempt. On October 10 the east-ridge pair attempted to retreat and managed to descend 350 feet, finding a natural ice cave. It was obvious to Pilling that Uttley was not well and had chest pains and a bad cough, possibly oedema. His condition rapidly deteriorated. On October 12 Pilling tried in vain to prepare Uttley for descent, but the latter was too weak and at times delirious. Again on the 13th he tried to no avail. Pilling realized that the only way to get Uttley down was with the aid of other people. He descended to Advance Base on the 14th in very dangerous conditions and had to spend another night out before he met us. He was too fatigued to take part in the rescue. Tinker and I tried to climb a direct line to Uttley. It was a dangerous route but meant that Uttley could be lowered more easily. The weather continued bad and

many avalanches swept the proposed line of ascent. On October 18 we realized that the situation was hopeless and returned to Base Camp.

NIKOLA KEKUS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Annapurna III.* Five Australians led by Jonathan Chester failed to climb a route on the southwest face of Annapurna III to the west ridge. They had four high camps above Base Camp. On October 22 Chester and three others reached the top of the face at 24,000 feet. Chester and two members bivouacked there, hoping to climb the remaining 800 feet to the summit the next day. On October 23 the winds were so strong that they prevented any upward progress. A severe snowstorm came. The other two were frostbitten during the descent.

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

*Gangapurna Attempt.* Four Austrians led by Reinhold Amann failed in the pre-monsoon period to climb the east ridge of Gangapurna (7455 meters, 24,458 feet), which they hoped to reach from the south. They originally hoped to climb the west ridge but even from Base Camp conditions looked too dangerous. Heavy snowfall caused a powder-snow avalanche to destroy Camp III, though the two occupants of the camp escaped unharmed. Continuing snowfall led the expedition to give up two days later.

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

*Gangapurna Attempt.* We had the last of the monsoon rains on the first day of our march in, followed by a long stretch of good weather. During this time we set up and stocked Advance Base at 14,500 feet and placed two camps on the mountain. We and Australians attempting Annapurna III from the same side originally had our first camps at the same site at 15,800 feet. However, we moved our camp to 16,500 feet atop the first step of a large rock buttress which lies in the center of the cirque formed by the southern sides of Gangapurna and Annapurna III. On October 10 this camp was occupied by five people. A storm hit that day and on the morning of the 11th an avalanche buried them. Luckily, all were able to get out. The last man to be found was nearly unconscious and turning blue. After finding what gear they could, these five descended to the unoccupied Australian Camp and spent the next two nights there. This incident destroyed the morale of a couple of the climbers, as well as all but one of our remaining high-altitude tents. After a day of discussion, we elected to quit. The members were Susan Coons, Brian Cox, Henry Hazebrouck, John Herb, Frank King, William Robinson, Erik Simpson, Hal Tompkins and I.

CHARLES K. SINCLAIR, *Unaffiliated*