

rock where they reached 23,000 feet. A blizzard forced them to cling to the rocks throughout the night. They turned back, convinced that there is a route but a hazardous one. The other group, led by Captain B.B. Thapa, set up Base Camp at Vasundhara Tal at 15,500 feet and Advance Base at 16,800 feet. Camps I and II were on the East Kamet Glacier. There was a steep gully between Camps III and IV and the route was dangerous there. Camp V at 23,500 feet was close to Abi Gamin. Captain Thapa, Lieutenants R.S. Bakshi and R.K. Singh, Havildar-Major Rajpal, Havildar Lalit Mohan and Recruit Khem Singh, climbed the east face and reached the summit of Kamet (7756 meters, 25,447 feet) on July 1. Rajpal and Lalit Mohan skied down to Base Camp. A week later Abi Gamin (7355 meters, 24,130 feet) was climbed by Kaviraj Singh and Lieutenant Bakshi.

NARINDAR KUMAR, *Colonel, Indian Army*

*Mana Peak Attempt.* The Indian Mountaineering Foundation selected 18 women and 18 men with me as leader to try out the climbers and their gear for next year's Everest expedition on Mana Peak (7272 meters, 23,858 feet). Mana Peak was first climbed by Frank Smythe and Peter Oliver in 1937 by the northwest ridge. Two Indian parties have also climbed the mountain by the same route. We went up the east bank of the Saraswati River and the Nagthuni Gad to Base Camp at 14,875 feet. We reconnoitered routes along the Dakhani and Uttari Nagthuni Glaciers. The Uttari Nagthuni offered a speedier route and Camp I was made in a snowfield at the head of the east spur of the glacier at 18,050 feet on September 9. The route to Camp II went over the Guptkhal (Zaskar Pass) and then into the south icefall, in which we placed Camp II at 20,350 feet. The route wound through séracs and it escaped the last of them by going up a 50-foot ice wall. It angled steeply to a snowfield and to Camp III at 22,000 feet below the northwest ridge of Mana Peak. The first summit attempt by Prem Chand and 12 climbers on September 21 was defeated by high winds. Lhatoo Dorjee and 14 climbers were hit by a very severe snowstorm and all the camps were abandoned. On September 30 a party of 14 climbers with Prem Chand, Lhatoo and Rattan Singh made a third attempt and got to within 250 feet of the summit but execrable snow conditions turned them back.

BALWANT S. SINGH, *Director, Nehru Mountaineering Institute*

*Chaukhamba.* The third ascent of Chaukhamba (7138 meters, 23,120 feet) was made by Ajit Kumar Kalita, Rejen Gautom, Pallev Deka and Sherpa Kami on September 9. They had three high camps.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Himalayan Club*

*Satopanth, Second Ascent 1981.* Beautiful and difficult Satopanth (7075 meters, 23,212 feet) was first climbed by Swiss in 1947 by the north ridge. It was not till 34 years later that the second ascent followed. It was made by the