

Mitani reconnoitered the route. On May 18, the sky was clear but it was windy and very cold. They found that two oxygen bottles leaked. Shigehiro, the team leader, was obliged to go with a half bottle of oxygen. The four started at seven o'clock and reached the summit of Kangchenjunga South (8476 meters, 27,809 feet) at 8:30 A.M. From this point, Nima Temba returned to Camp III. The other three traversed the untrodden ridge from the South to the Central Peak. They reached the col at eleven o'clock, where their way was obstructed by a rock wall which took two hours to climb. At 4:30 P.M. they reached the Central Peak and descended to Central-Camp V at seven P.M., guided by the route made by Isono's group on the previous day. Two new support members, Masashi Teramoto and Mitsugu Kitamura, were waiting at Central-Camp V. That same day Takashi Ozaki and Ang Tsering occupied Main-Camp V, supported by Munihiko Yamamoto and me and four porters. On May 19 Wada, Mitani and Teramoto—Teramoto substituted for Shigehiro, who was exhausted from lack of oxygen—left at 7:30 A.M. for the Main Peak. They had seen from the Central Peak that the rocky ridge to the Main Peak would be very difficult. The traverse team tried to climb to the Main Peak directly by a snow couloir, but they did not find a good route. Finally, they decided to descend to Central-Camp IV, traverse to Main-Camp IV and ascend to Main-Camp V. Teramoto could not reach Main-Camp V and returned to Main-Camp IV, accompanied by Yamamoto. Wada and Mitani reached Main-Camp V at 6:30, where I received them. That same day Takashi Ozaki and Ang Tsering had started at eight A.M. from Main-Camp V and reached the summit of Kangchenjunga (8586 meters, 28,168 feet) at one P.M., fixing ropes for the traverse party. They descended directly to Camp III. On May 20, Wada and Mitani started at eight A.M. and reached the summit of the Main Peak at 12:20. They had climbed three peaks of Kangchenjunga and had spent four days above 8000 meters. Although reconnaissance to Yalung Kang was necessary to complete our goal of traversing the whole massif, we could not send a team out that day. Wada, Mitani and two support members spent the night at Main-Camp V, but leader Kano, considering the danger and difficulty, decided to abandon further climbing. All descended to Base Camp on May 22. In summary: Kangchenjunga South was climbed on May 18 by Tsuneo Shigehiro, Seishi Wada, Toichiro Mitani and Nima Temba; Kangchenjunga Central was climbed on May 17 by Gouta Isono, Ryo Otani and Nawang Yonden and on May 18 by Shigehiro, Wada and Mitani; Kangchenjunga Main Peak was climbed on May 19 by Takashi Ozaki and Ang Tsering and on May 20 by Wada and Mitani.

TETSURO MATSUZAWA, *Japanese Alpine Club*

*Kangchenjunga North Face Attempt.* Nick Banks, Russell Brice, Bill King and I attempted the Japanese direct line on the north face without oxygen or Sherpa support on the mountain. After an 18-day approach, we established Base Camp at 16,500 feet on a moraine wall above the Kangchenjunga Glacier on March 27. On April 7 Brice and I established Camp I at 19,500 feet above the

icefall and below the face proper. The first obstacle was the 1000-foot *Ice Building*, a set of ice cliffs stepped one atop the other. Brice and I fixed two-thirds of it before a storm drove us down. After returning through deep snow that would dog us for the rest of the climb, Brice slipped in the icefall and broke his ankle, necessitating an exhausting rescue. Banks, King and I completed the *Ice Building* before Banks came down with altitude problems. King and I pushed loads to Camp II at 23,000 feet before another storm and dangerous retreat. All four, with Brice's ankle tightly strapped, returned to Camp I but Banks retreated with recurring lung trouble. We suffered a near miss when rockfall and an ensuing avalanche fell from the Twins onto Camp I. King, Bruce and I occupied Camp II in a schrund below the 1000-foot rock band on May 1 after digging out the *Ice Building* ropes and ploughing through deep snow. Over the next three days I led the rock band variously accompanied by King and Brice. Camp III was pitched on a ledge cut from the snow at 25,000 feet. We three attempted the summit on May 8 via the exit gully and across the great scree terrace before being halted by storm over 26,000 feet. On May 10 Brice and I made another summit attempt but ground to a halt in the exit gully in deep, unstable snow. On May 14 Brice and I made one last desperate effort, climbing from Camp II flattened by an avalanche. We made a rudimentary shelter, had a very cold night and retreated in the morning.

GARY BALL, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Kangchenjunga, Solo.* I reached the top of Kangchenjunga solo without supplementary oxygen on October 18 after 33 days on the mountain. I shared the route to Camp I at 20,400 feet on the "Hump" with Polish and French expeditions, both climbing Yalung Kang. I took a similar route to the French to Camp II at 23,300 feet on the Great Shelf. Separating from the French, I set up Camp III at 25,420 feet at the foot of the "Sickle." My first attempt for the summit on October 12 ended in bad weather at 26,900 feet with frostbitten toes and fingers. Conditions improved and I climbed for fifteen hours on October 18 to reach the top at 7:30 P.M. I fell 30 feet while descending in the dark, injuring a leg, but reached Camp III at ten P.M. and descended to Camp I the next day. The injured leg and a failed gas stove, which kept me from having food or water after two A.M. on the 18th, made the descent difficult. From Base Camp I walked ten days with the aid of ski sticks to the nearest road. In Vancouver a piece of cartilage was removed from my knee joint. I was accompanied to Base Camp by Cindy Cannell, who climbed to Camp I and assisted me afterwards to reach the road.

ROGER MARSHALL, *Colorado*

*Kangchenjunga Tragedy.* Cherie Bremer-Kemp, her husband Dr. Chris Chandler and Nepalese porter Mangal Singh Tamang climbed from 24,000 feet on the north face of Kangchenjunga to 26,000 feet on January 14, 1985. They