

last below the summit of Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome). On October 6, Joos and I made an igloo just beyond Khangsar Kang (Roc Noir) at 7490 meters. The next day we descended to Base Camp. From October 9 to 16 the weather was bad. On October 18, 19 and 20 Bühler and Durrer climbed to Camps I, II and III. On October 21 the other four of us left directly for Camp II. The pair in Camp III were tent-bound that day because of the wind. On October 22, Joos and I left early for Camp III and continued on from there with Bühler and Durrer towards the igloo. The latter two descended from Khangsar Kang. On the 23rd, Joos and I left at 5:30 A.M., reached the east summit (8047 meters, 26,400 feet) at two P.M. and continued to the col between the east and middle summits. In violent winds we bivouacked in an igloo at 8020 meters. At 8:30 A.M. on October 24 we left, passed over the central summit at ten A.M. and reached the main summit (8091 meters, 26,545 feet) at 1:30 P.M. That same day we descended the Dutch Spur with one 50-meter rope and one ice screw. This buttress is rather difficult and had no left-over fixed ropes on it. We descended to bivouac again at 5000 meters, before reaching the northern Base Camp on the 26th. Our friends on the other side of the mountain had no news of us until we all met in Kathmandu on November 4.

ERHARD LORETAN, *Club Alpin Suisse*

*Annapurna Attempt.* Swiss Jean Troillet and Pierre-Alain Steiner attempted a new route on the northwest face of Annapurna to the left of the attempted French route of the pre-monsoon and on the face itself. They made an alpine-style attempt without camps, fixed ropes, porters or artificial oxygen. They left Base Camp on October 6 and reached 7600 meters on the west face at the shoulder of the northwest ridge. They saw bad weather coming from the west and with only one gas bottle left, they descended. During their descent down the north face, they fell 200 meters and Steiner lost his pack. They later attempted to go up to retrieve the pack, but by now Steiner's fingers were frostbitten and they abandoned the attempt. They said that their main problem was fierce wind, plus some nearly nil visibility. The route was up steep ice of 55° to 90°.

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

*Annapurna, Winter Attempt.* After our success on Yalung Kang, Laurence de la Ferrière and I wanted to climb Annapurna by the 1950 French route on the north face. Knowing the dangers, we hoped to climb alpine-style, taking advantage of our acclimatization from Yalung Kang. We were accompanied to Base Camp by a support team. This camp was placed at 4350 meters on November 27. Camps I and II were established at 5100 and 6000 meters on December 1 and 2, before we returned to Base Camp. We set out for the summit on December 8 but a serious accident to the Korean expedition which was climbing a route parallel to ours happened when two of their Sherpas fell 1000 meters. We gave

help. We set out again on December 10 but had bad weather on the 11th. We left Base Camp on December 13 on a last try. The wind high up was too violent. The mountain was becoming dangerous. We gave up. It seems to us that the north face of Annapurna is extremely dangerous.

BERNARD MULLER, *Groupe de Haute Montagne*

*Annapurna, Two Winter Attempts.* Japanese led by Kuniaki Yagihara on the south face of Annapurna got to 7200 meters before too much heavy snowfall sent them back. On the north face Koreans led by An Chang-Yeul attempted the Dutch route. They claim to have reached the summit on December 7, but there are serious doubts about this. The leader of the French expedition, Bernard Muller, told me that they saw the Koreans' summit team of one Korean woman and four Sherpas too far from the summit to have reached it at the time claimed. The Sherpas with the French were told by the Koreans' Sherpas that no one got to the top.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Varah Shikhar (Fang), West Ridge Attempt.* On September 13 Scott Fischer, Joe Hladick and I were in Pokhara, ready for our nine-day trek to Base Camp. The monsoon broke the day before we arrived there, giving us for the first time a full view of our proposed route on the west ridge of Varah Shikhar. We were pleased with the overall technical difficulty of the ridge but concerned with its length. As an alpine-style team of three climbers—soon altitude problems reduced us to two—we planned to carry everything necessary for the duration of the climb from Base Camp. Three miles of climbing to the summit after gaining the ridge itself had us quite worried. We left Base Camp at 11,500 feet on September 26. Beside all the normal necessities, we had 1200 feet of rope and 14 days of food and fuel. We moved to Camps I, II and III at 16,000, 17,500 and 20,000 feet on September 26, 28 and 30 respectively. It was from Camp III that Hladick had to turn back. Fischer and I made Camp IV at 21,000 feet on October 3 and Camp V at 22,500 feet on October 6. Here bad weather pinned us in our tent. Four days later, with supplies running short, our choices were cut to two: to push through the storm to a higher camp where a summit bid could be made if and when the storm broke or to sit and retreat when it broke. We chose the former. On this last push we reached a high point of 24,000 feet but with weather conditions worsening and high winds persisting, we were unable to establish a camp. We were forced to retreat to our Camp V site. It wasn't until October 15, supplies exhausted, that we finally started the descent, bad weather still hanging on. We reached Base Camp on the 16th, having spent 21 days on the route.

WESLEY KRAUSE, *Mountain Madness*