

*Satopanth, South Face Attempt and Tragedy, 1983.* A Hungarian expedition of seven, led by Peter Dékány, made an attempt on the south face of Satopanth. After establishing Base Camp at Nandanban on October 4, 1983 and Camp I at 18,375 feet on October 9, they started an alpine-style attempt on October 18. They climbed the right side of the south face and, after a bivouac at 19,700 feet, reached the east ridge, fixing 500 feet of rope. They bivouacked on below the crest of the east ridge at 21,000 and 22,000 feet. On October 21 Dékány and Attila Oszváth traversed toward the center of the south face. This pair was trapped for three days in a crevasse at 22,300 feet by bad weather and eventually had to return because of avalanche danger. The other four descended from the 21,000-foot camp on October 22; Laszlo Jankovics was killed when he slipped descending the ice face. A photograph of the route appears on page 81 of *Iwa To Yuki* N° 103.

*Satopanth.* On April 27 an Austrian expedition set up Base Camp at 4400 meters. They transported their gear on skis without porters to Camp I and II at 5150 and 6100 meters. Camp II was at the foot of the northeast ridge, which merges into the face at 6500 meters. The first summit attempt on May 11 by Kurt Kirchner and Klaus Keller failed at 6950 meters in bad weather. On May 12 Gottfried Mayr and Dieter Blümel reached the summit (7075 meters, 23,212 feet), followed solo on May 16 by Kirchner, whose companion Rolf Wiederhofen had to turn back at 6800 meters.

*Satopanth.* Germans Viktor Stangassinger, Jürgen Grohall, leader Herbert Streibel, Sherpa Dorje and I reached the summit of Satopanth (7075 meters, 23,212 feet) by the northeast ridge on June 16.

ČESTMIR LUKEŠ, *Czechoslovakian living in Switzerland*

*Gangotri Region.* Our four-man team of Dave Cuthbertson, Pat Littlejohn, John Mothersele and me came to attempt the east face of Kedarnath Dome in late September. Unfortunately Cuthbertson developed pneumonia soon after arrival at Base Camp, necessitating his speedy evacuation to a hospital. Therefore we decided not to try the impressive 5000-foot-high rock wall which forms the central prow of the east face. Instead we undertook shorter climbs from an Advance Base on the Ganohim Bamak. Littlejohn and Mothersele attempted the west ridge of Kharchakund alpine-style by the German route but failed due to a lack of time and exhaustion less than 250 metres from the top. I teamed up with New Zealander Don French and between October 10 and 13 climbed the fine 600-metre-high rock spur which falls from the subsidiary ridge of Kedarnath Dome's east flank. It gave a magnificent 20-pitch route on perfect granite with a summit altitude of around 5800 metres or 19,000 feet. The pillar was approached by the side glacier of the Ganohim Glacier which flows close beneath the main east face. We bivouacked at the bottom of the pillar, in a notch at

two-thirds height and again at the bottom after an abseil descent. The climbing was all free with protection solely from wires and Friends, except for one piton which was left in place. The weather was dry and fine but very cold and windy at altitude. The cold prevented difficult free climbing except during hours of sunshine. After this Littlejohn and Mothersele made a major rock climb on the impressive granite walls of the Gangotri valley, several of which are 500 metres high. They ascended the northeast ridge of the clean granite dome which rises on the south side of the valley three kilometres upstream from Gangotri village. It gave 450 metres of good free climbing. The summit altitude was about 4000 metres or 13,125 feet. There is a vast potential as bad-weather options or for low-budget rock-climbing trips.

MARTIN MORAN, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Kedarnath Dome and Bhagirathi II.* Italian Renato Moro organized two successful commercial expeditions to the Gangotri region. In August Moro, F. Zurloni, P. Cappanetti, J. Summer and Henry Bizot climbed Kedarnath Dome (6830 meters, 22,408 feet). From October 6 to 9, A. Sarchi, V. Raveschietto and E. Bonapace climbed Bhagirathi II (6512 meters, 21,365 feet) by its west face, a new route. The first 2500 feet were of UIAA difficulty VI and A3 on rock, and the upper 2000 feet were of mixed terrain.

*Bhagirathi II.* A five-man Japanese expedition led by Mineo Kawai climbed Bhagirathi II (6512 meters, 21,365 feet) by its east face. Base Camp was set up on July 23. After reconnoitering the north face, they turned to the east face. Camps I and II were placed at 5200 and 5800 meters. Rope was then fixed from Camp II to 6100 meters. All five and porter Budhi Singh started out from Camp II planning to climb the 1983 Japanese route, but rockfall forced them onto the snow face. They all reached the summit at 12:15 P.M.

*Bhagirathi III, West Face.* Our team was formed by Juan C. Aldeguer, Sergio Martínez, José L. Moreno and me. On April 26 we arrived at Base Camp at 4300 meters. The following day we began to ferry loads to Advance Base at 5000 meters at the foot of the west face of Bhagirathi III. This took us ten days. On May 5 we started to fix rope on the wall. The route was on the pillar to the left of the Scottish route of 1982. The rock is a magnificent white granite and the climb was vertical and difficult. Since the leader could climb only in rock-climbing shoes, we could not start before hours of sunlight, which began at 11:30. In eight days we fixed 350 feet of rope. Two climbed while the other two hauled 330 pounds of food and equipment. A first summit attempt was frustrated by snowfall. On May 16 we began the final attempt in capsule style, bivouacking in hammocks. Removing the lower ropes, we spent four nights in the first bivouac site. We climbed the central dihedral and moved up our hammocks on May 20. In three days more, we overcame an overhanging section and reached