

of the west face of Makalu. Our route was to the Makalu La and up the northwest face, the normal route. From April 13 to 17 we placed Camp I at 6200 meters and Camp II at the foot of the couloir at 6850 meters. After a rest at Base Camp, from April 20 to 23 we ferried loads to Makalu Col at 7400 meters. Narbaud had to return to France. The other three of us made a first summit attempt from April 27 to May 3 and reached 8050 meters. On May 2 the weather turned bad and we had to descend. Beaud had frozen toes and had to return to France. We two set out again on May 6. On the 11th we got to the summit ridge at 8430 meters, about 100 feet from the summit, but the wind was so strong that we could not even stand. We bivouacked at 8050 meters and tried again on May 12 but were driven back at 8400 meters. We gave up the attempt.

LILIANE and MAURICE BARRARD, *Club Alpin Français*

*Makalu.* Our members were Fausto De Stefani, Fabio Stedile, Almo Giambisi, Spaniard Juanju José San Sebastián and I as leader. We got to Base Camp at 5400 meters on August 30. We reconnoitered the south spur of Makalu but there was too much snow and we turned to the west face. We placed Camp I at 5850 meters still on rock and on September 8 Camp II at 6750 meters. After several tries hindered by deep snow, on September 22 we placed Camp III on Makalu La at 7400 meters before returning to Base Camp. On September 28 we went straight up to Camp II and on the 29th to Camp III. We set up Camp IV at 7850 meters on the 30th, having followed a part of the Polish Kukuczka route. We left Camp IV early on October 1 in deep snow. We fixed some rope to safeguard the descent. It was not till six P.M. that we got to the summit. The descent was in the moonlight. We were the first Italian group to climb Makalu.

SERGIO MARTINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Makalu Winter Attempt.* Our expedition was made up of Keizo Nakano, Akitsugu Nishimura, Toyuru Akimoto, Osamu Nagashima, Hiroshi Takagi, Michiko Sonoda and me as leader. We established Base Camp on November 22 at 4800 meters at the end of the Barun Glacier. After placing a temporary camp at the end of the Chago Glacier on November 28, we established Camp I at 5900 meters on December 2. Camp II at 6600 meters was set on the Kukuczka ridge on December 11. Camp III was placed on December 15 at 7140 meters directly below the rock wall of the northwest buttress. From there Nishimura and I reached 7520 meters. On December 23 the second and last summit try was given up because of fierce winds which destroyed four tents.

HIROYUKI BABA, *Den Den Mountaineering Club, Japan*

*Makalu Winter Attempt.* Reinhold Messner and Hans Kammerlander tried to make the first winter ascent of the world's fifth highest mountain but failed. They made three attempts on the northwest ridge, the Kukuczka route, reaching 7500 meters on the third try. "Storms and poor visibility forced us to retreat,"

said Messner at a press conference in Kathmandu on February 12, 1986. They had flown to Kathmandu from Base Camp by helicopter. The two South Tiroleanes made a sad discovery, finding on the slopes of Kangchungtse (Makalu II) the bodies of the French climbers, Pierre Demolombe and Marcel Margaine, missing since November 2. Their bodies were found at 7100 and 7450 meters. According to Messner, the lower man had obviously fallen. "He had his rucksack on his back, his fingers were frostbitten and the body had some color." Makalu and Lhotse are the last two 8000ers not yet ascended by Messner.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Taternik, Poland*

*Kangchungtse (Makalu II).* A French expedition climbed the normal route, the west face to the south ridge, with four high camps. On April 22 leader Richard Jessup, Pierre de Montgolfier and Jean-François Porret reached the summit (7678 meters, 25,190 feet).

MICHAEL J. CHENEY, Himalayan Club, and ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Kangchungtse Ascent and Tragedy.* The autumn of 1985 was characterized by long spells of very bad weather. During the approach march we had only one sunny day. We got to Base Camp at 5400 meters on September 24. The first week there was reasonably all right, but the next ten days were terrible: hard winds, mist, snowfall. During this time we established the lower camps so that we could have an "all-or-nothing" summit push starting on October 6. With snowstorms and sometimes complete white-outs, we succeeded in reoccupying Camp III on October 10. One of the two tents there had disappeared in high winds and the other one was almost completely destroyed. After a night in this small tent, on October 11 Wim Teeuwisse, Evert Wesker, Nawang Tille Sherpa and I had enough clear weather to orient ourselves and find the right way to the summit, which we reached in a white-out. We had climbed the normal route over Makalu Col. On October 13 Frank Merjenberg and Ang Pasang had fine weather. On the same day as they reached the summit, the high camps were dismantled and the next day we left Base Camp. Merjenberg and Walter Roos decided to return via Sherpani Col and Amphu Labtsa to Lukla. After one day they were surprised by the start of three days of heavy snowfall in which 2½ meters of snow fell. There has been no trace of them found since. This accident placed our successful expedition under a dark and bitter shadow.

RONALD NAAR, *Koninklijke Nederlandse Alpen Vereniging*

*Kangchungtse Tragedy.* Nobody knows if this French expedition put anyone on the summit of Kangchungtse or Makalu II or not. Four climbing members made a bid for the summit on November 1 but they turned back late in the afternoon when Denis Jeanvoine and Marcel Margaine had reached the Makalu La and the other two were about 100 meters below it. They returned to Camp III at 6700 meters for the night. The next morning two descended while leader