

Pierre Demolombe and Margaine remained in the high camp. They may have made summit attempts but no one has seen them since November 2. The last surviving members left Base Camp on November 9, leaving the cook, kitchen-boy and two porters to continue the search. They found nothing. A helicopter flight around the mountain gave no clues as to their fate.

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

*Baruntse*. I joined the German Alpine Club expedition led by Hermann Tauber, which climbed Baruntse by the southeast ridge. On November 1 South Tiroleans Tauber, Hansjörg Beikirchner, Robert Gasser, German Gerwald Wittmann and Sherpas Nawang Tenzing and Gamal reached the summit, followed the next day by Germans Klaus Cramer, Hans-Jürgen Daum, Herta Og, Ulrich Schmidt-Riese, Klaus Zimmermann and me.

ČESTMÍR LUKEŠ, *Czechoslovak living in Switzerland*

*Ama Dablam, North Ridge*. Our expedition was composed of Casimiro Ferrari, *leader*, Bruno Lambardini, Giuliano Maresi, Mario Panzeri, Daniele Valsecchi, Dr. Sandro Giati and me. Having left Italy on March 24, we were at Base Camp at 5100 meters three weeks later. After organizing material and shooting some of our documentary film, on April 15 we attacked the north ridge of Ama Dablam by the 1979 route of the French. All except the doctor reached the summit on April 23 in nine days of alpine-style climbing. The bottom 600-meter-high rock triangle of IV to V UIAA difficulty was followed by a narrow ice-and-mixed crest. At 6300 meters was a second difficult rock step of 300 meters. From the top of that buttress we climbed a nearly vertical couloir to the summit ridge. In this last part we had to pay attention to enormous séracs on the crest which we had to climb over or bypass on the side. Although we climbed alpine-style, we found in places fixed rope left by the Swiss in 1983. Our weather was excellent except for one day when we were storm-bound. This let us film the whole of this beautiful and impressive ridge.

CARLO ALDÈ, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Cholatse, Tawoche, Ama Dablam and Tragedy on Ama Dablam*. A Japanese expedition led by Naoe Sakashita had a very ambitious schedule. Masayuki Ariaki, Makoto Ishibashi and Hideaki Shibuya reached the summit of Cholatse (6440 meters, 21,128 feet) on April 19 via the south ridge. Sakashita, Kazuhiro Onomura, Haruo Toyoda and Kazuo Yagi meanwhile were on Tawoche. On April 24 they reached the summit (6501 meters, 21,327 feet) via the southeast face, the southeast ridge and the north face. Shibuya had become ill from cerebral edema and returned to Japan with Onomura, who had to be back on his job. On Ama Dablam, Sakashita and Ariaki made a new route on the west face, taking four days to reach the summit (6812 meters, 22,350 feet) on May 2. Yagi dropped out of the climb of the normal southwest ridge, leaving

Ishibashi and Toyoda to complete the route, which they did in five days. They got to the top on May 3. During the descent, for unknown reasons, Ishibashi fell and was killed. They gave up the idea of continuing on to Cho Oyu.

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

*Tawoche Winter Ascent and Tragedy, 1986.* This joint expedition was led by Korean Oh In-Hwan. They climbed the southeast face to the southeast ridge, the same route as that of the Japanese in the spring of 1985. They were really two separate teams. The Japanese arrived in Nepal first and began climbing while the leader awaited his members in Kathmandu. The Koreans had hardly arrived at Base Camp, on January 3, 1986, when Japanese Atsuyoshi Kakomoto was killed in a fall. The Japanese withdrew, having got no higher than 5800 meters. The Koreans persevered. Heo Young-Ho and Ang Phurba Sherpa went to the summit (6501 meters, 21,327 feet) on January 12, 1986. Heo had previously also climbed Makalu and Manaslu.

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

*Ama Dablam, Southwest Ridge.* An international expedition was led by Renato Moro with the help of two guides Franco Girodo and me, who fixed rope on the route. In October the first climbers could not succeed because of very bad weather. Fortunately a second group, in late October and November, was successful, the summit being reached by 14 climbers: on October 30, the Italian guides Mauro Bernardi, Stefan Kehrer and Franz Stuflesser; on October 31, a group of five climbers led by Austrian Wolfgang Nairz; on May 2 Erik Decamp, André Levêque and American Peter Athens; on November 3, Italian guides Hermann Comploy and Vinzenz Runggaldier; and on November 4 Canadian Roger Marshall.

ERIK DECAMP, *Club Alpin Français*

*Ama Dablam, Winter Attempt.* A five-man team from New Zealand led by Geoffrey Gabites, set up Base Camp and Camp I at 4575 and 5430 meters on November 27 and December 1. They climbed up to 6100 meters via the southwest ridge, but on December 14 called off the attempt due to strong winds and bad health of the members.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta*

*Ama Dablam Northeast Face.* In early December Carlos Buhler and I made the first ascent of the northeast face of Ama Dablam. Flanked by the east and north ridges, this face is hidden from view until one walks beyond the village of Chukung, and is best seen from the upper slopes of Island Peak. After walking in from Jiri, accompanied by Carlos' mother Julie and brother Roman, and my wife Julie, we made a side trip to Kala Pattar (5500 meters) to acclimatize.