

1983. We made the climb in five days from Base Camp and back, though we only climbed to P 6214. We did not fix rope and rappelled down the same route.

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*Kusum Kanguru, North Face Solo.* Japanese Hiroshi Aota and Takao Kurosawa placed Advance Base below the north ridge of Kusum Kanguru on April 5 and started up the north ridge, bivouacking on April 6 and 7 at 5300 and 5600 meters, but Kurosawa found that he was not strong enough to continue. On the 14th Aota started up the north face alone and in 9½ hours reached the western summit, where he bivouacked. On April 15 he followed the knife-edged ridge to the summit (6367 meters, 20,889 feet).

*Kusum Kanguru.* Our original objective was the north face of Kusum Kanguru. Three days before our arrival at Base Camp, this 6000-foot-high wall was soloed by Hiroshi Aota. The bold Japanese persevered for two days through eight inches of heavy snow plastered to 75° ice. Not having Shinto ancestors to join if we failed, we attempted a rock route on the north ridge. Jim Traverso, Steve Ruoss and I began our alpine-style ascent on April 16. The rock was of poor quality and provided 5000 vertical feet of climbing up to 5.8 and short sections of A1. We were slowed by bad weather and having both our ropes chopped by rockfall. We reached the summit snow ridge on the fifth day, having used our last fuel cartridge that morning. In deteriorating weather, we turned back just short of the summit (6367 meters, 20,890 feet). With shortened ropes, we had an epic descent, reaching Base Camp thirty-six dehydrated hours later.

GEOFFREY TABIN

*Mera.* Although Mera is an easy trekking peak, a kind of high snow plateau with a small outcrop on its western side, it was ascended by Japanese on a new rock route on its west face. Kunihiro Kondo and Ms. Michiko Kiyoda placed Base Camp at 4400 meters at Tangnag Karka on March 9. They followed a couloir that ran diagonally from the center to the left side of the face. They set out alpine-style on March 11. By the 15th, they were on blue ice which led to an icy ridge. It is not clear to the Editor whether they reached the main summit (6654 meters, 21,830 feet) on March 17 or a slightly lower summit farther west. (More details and photos appear in *Iwa To Yuki*, N° 111.)

*Everest, West Ridge Winter Attempt, 1984-5.* [Details were missing when A.A.J., 1985 went to press.—*Editor.*] An expedition of the French including leader Eric Dossin, Bernard Francou, Vincent Fine, Benoît Chamoux and Dr. Olivier Callande, Italian Gian-Carlo Grassi and a Belgian started its attempt on the west ridge of Everest at the beginning of December 1984. They placed high camps at 6100, 6800 and 7100 meters. The highest point reached was 7500 meters, gained by Fine and Sherpas on January 16. It was the site for what was