

Dhaulagiri, North Face ("Pear" Route) Attempt. Our expedition consisted of climbers Mark Hesse, Del Pletcher, Todd Bibler, Catherine Freer and me and support personnel Julie Hesse and Johnna Pletcher. We left Pokhara on March 9 via the Myangdi Khola and arrived at Base Camp on April 5 with a general feeling that, for many reasons, this approach to routes on the north side of the mountain should be avoided. Over the next 37 days the expedition managed to reach an altitude of approximately 7000 meters on the "Pear" route on the north face without the use of high-altitude porters, fixed ropes or oxygen. Deep snow, traditionally poor Dhaulagiri weather, and illness made further progress impossible. Most significant was the performance of Del Pletcher, who recovered from a total hip dislocation and fractured wrist suffered on the fifth day of the approach, to reach the expedition's high point, along with Catherine Freer, on April 24, in thigh-deep snow.

ROBERT HARWOOD

Dhaulagiri, East Face in Winter. Swiss climbers Erhard Loretan, Jean Troillet, Pierre-Alain Steiner and Pierre Morand began activity on November 21 when they left their Base Camp to begin carries to the foot of the east face. They wanted to do the 1980 route of Kurtyka, Wilczyński, MacIntyre and Ghilini. Morand had altitude problems and had to withdraw. The other three set out on December 7 at one A.M. To lighten their loads Loretan and Steiner left their sleeping bags behind. The first of the route was up a nearly perpendicular gully. Then a slope of organ pipes seemed interminable. However they had climbed 2000 meters by five P.M. The night at 7700 meters was particularly frigid for the two without sleeping bags. They set out on the morning of December 8 at nine-o'clock and got to the summit at two P.M. This was the ninth 8000er for Loretan.

Dhaulagiri Attempt. Austrian Peter Habeler and German Michael Dacher hoped to climb Dhaulagiri. Due to a heavy snowfall, they abandoned the expedition at only 5400 meters on September 24.

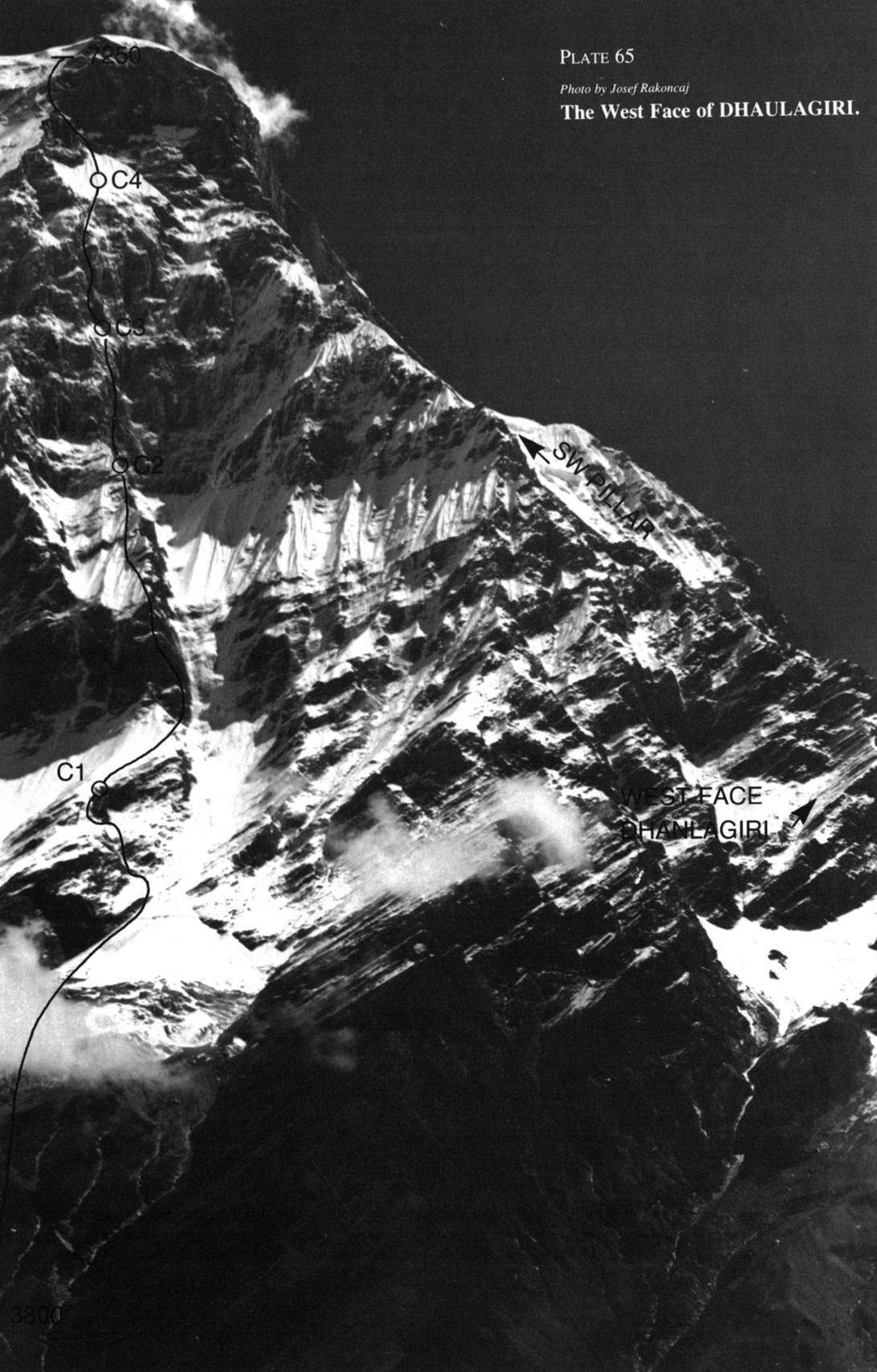
KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta*

Dhaulagiri, West Face and Southwest Buttress Attempts. Our Czechoslovakian expedition had two objectives: to climb a new route on the extremely difficult right side of the west face in expedition style without porters or artificial oxygen and to complete the route on the southwest buttress attempted by the French in 1980 in alpine style. We were Dr. Pavel Cívárek, Karel Benedikt, Peter Božík, Zdislav Drlík, Livia Klembárová, Zoltán Demján, František Korl, Anton and Jaroslav Krížo, Ladislav Kyrč, Antonín Procházka, Josef Rakoncaj, Josef Rybyčka, Miroslav Štěpánek, Josef Nežerka, Ervín Velič, Italian Rolando Nicco and I as leader. After setting up Base Camp at 3700 meters on September 8, it began to rain and snow. The autumn good weather did not come in 1985.

PLATE 65

Photo by Josef Rakoncaj

The West Face of DHAULAGIRI.



7250

OC4

OC3

OC2

C1

SW PILLAR

WEST FACE
DHAULAGIRI

This influenced us. On September 24 our alpine-style team members, Rakoncaj, Božík and Demján, fell 400 meters in a windslab avalanche but luckily were not completely buried. That same day Anton Krížo fell 50 meters on the steep pillar between Camps I and II. All helped to carry out his three-day rescue. Three lovely days in early October raised hopes. The alpine-style team advanced to 6700 meters and the face climbers set up Camps II and III at 5900 and 6300 meters before the weather turned bad. Though food and time were running low, when the weather improved on October 14, we kept on with ten climbers on the face route. Drlík, Božík and Rakoncaj established Camp IV on the steep snowfield at 6900 meters. The greatest difficulties were below us. On October 25 Nežerka and Nicco climbed to 7250 meters and returned to Camp IV. That night Božík and Rakoncaj bivouacked in a snow cave at 7100 meters. The latter two climbed on the 26th to 7250 meters but furious winds drove them back. The same wind destroyed the tents in all the camps. All had to descend to survive. On the rock pillar between Camps I and II there were six rope-lengths of UIAA Grade V to VI+; between Camps II and III there were eight rope-lengths between V and VI+; and between Camps III and IV there were 14 rope-lengths between IV and VI+ and two of VII and ice up to 90°.

JIRI NOVÁK, *Československy Horolezecky Svaz*

Dhaulagiri Attempt and New Route up the East Face. Marjan Kregar, Andrej Štremfelj, Dr. Iztok Tomazin and I planned to climb a new route to the right of the Kurtyka-MacIntyre route on Dhaulagiri's 3500-meter-high east face alpine-style, reaching the standard northeast-ridge route at 7500 meters. We managed to complete our aim only partly because extremely bad weather gave us no more than three good days, October 2 to 4, during the 45 days we were on the mountain. We reached Base Camp at 4000 meters with 32 porters on September 18. The lower part is a 1800-meter-high rock-and-ice face on P 6014 to the right of the east glacier. An ice plateau at 5900 meters separates this slope from the 1700-meter-high 45° to 65° ice and snow face. We completed the ascent of the east face but were driven from the northeast ridge by cold and wind at 7600 meters. Despite variable weather, we managed to find a way across the east glacier to the foot of the wall but could not start seriously until October 1, when Tomazin and Štremfelj were able to climb a difficult rock section between 4900 and 5100 meters. On October 2 Kregar and I left Base Camp and climbed to the plateau at 5900 meters in 16 hours. We pitched a tent and descended the next day to Base Camp. The other two reached the plateau on October 4 and pitched another tent, returning to Base Camp on the 5th. The weather became a catastrophe; it snowed for 16 days. Štremfelj was ill in Base Camp and could not set out with us in bad weather on October 16. We other three did manage to reach the plateau in 18 hours and dug out one tent. After the tent was blown away, we dug a snow cave but were pinned down by winds. On October 19 we managed to find the other tent buried under three meters of snow and repaired it. On October 20 we descended to the lower glacier. Štremfelj came up from Base