

Paolo Monte, Ugo Vallardi, Giovanni Boggio and Piero Masseroni, on the 9th by Calcagno and Giustino Crescimbeni and on the 10th by Elio Fontanive, Franco Cattaneo, Mario Zadra, Sergio Magrassi and Tullio Vidoni. On their return to Camp II at 6300 meters, Fontanive suddenly died from a heart attack. They gave up any further climbing plans.

China

Anyemaqen I and IV. Canadians C. Hrkac, H. Smit, J. Herrero, B. White, M. Ledwidge, B. Helgason, P. Holbek and I successfully completed an eight-week cultural and climbing visit to the People's Republic of China. After visiting the Chengdu College of Geology, we travelled to Anyemaqen in the Burhan Budai Range in Qinghai province. We ascended Anyemaqen I (6272 meters, 20,577 feet) and IV (6070 meters, 19,915 feet), reaching the summits on May 2 and April 27 respectively. As the maps and details of the area are inaccurate, confused or lacking, further abstracted details would only add to the confusion. Lack of such detail should in no way hinder a party from enjoying the area. The glaciers at that time of year are dangerous as the crevasses are unexposed and the snow bridges very weak. An understanding of the Chinese way of doing business will make negotiating a successful contract much easier.

J. KNIGHT, *Unaffiliated, Canada*

Anyemaqen. After leaving Italy on June 23, we got to Base Camp at 4300 meters on July 6. Following the north-northeast spur, on July 13 Ermanno Pollet, Rolando Menardi, Filippo Sala and Attilio Bianchetti reached the summit. The beginning of the route was new but when they got to the ridge, they continued along the American route. On July 16 Sala, Daniele Consolini, Maria Cresci, Fosco Masini, Fabrizio Desco and I climbed a 5400-meter peak by its eastern slope. We had much bad weather. The best weather seems to be in May and June and from September to November.

ARTURO BERGAMASCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Everest Tragedy. On March 13 José Manuel Casimiro, Juanjo Navarro, Antxón Zamarbide and I reached Base Camp at 5200 meters on the Rongbuk Glacier. On March 20 we carried gear with the help of six yaks to 6500 meters. We spent the next days supplying this Advance Base and exploring in very poor weather. On April 6 we first reached the North Col, finding fixed ropes and a three-meter aluminum ladder on a short vertical section. We continued acclimatizing but to get above 7000 meters, we returned to the North Col on April 19 and climbed to 7500 meters the next day. We then returned to Base Camp to wait for suitable weather. We left Base Camp on May 4 and spent two days at Advance Base. On May 8 we bivouacked on the North Col and on the 9th at 7600 meters. The wind picked up strength that night. We continued waiting for



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Photo by Bob Barron

**North-Northeast Ridge of EVEREST.
The Pinnacles appear on the right
and the summit on the far right.**

more suitable weather until May 12 when it seemed better to descend to try for the summit later. Casimiro and I had descended to 7400 meters when we saw Navarro and Zamarbide hurtling toward us. The snow was hard and in places ice. It seemed impossible for them not to crash against us; all four of us would tumble down the slope. They did roll close past us and disappeared from view. They were headed for the precipitous western side of the North Col and a long fall to the West Rongbuk Glacier. We hurried down and suddenly saw their bodies on the edge of the abyss. Navarro had been killed in the fall and Zamarbide was seriously hurt. The Austrian Kurt Diemberger and Englishwoman Julie Tullis had been on the North Col and they hurried up to help get Zamarbide down to the North Col, where we spent a sad night. The fall had started at 7500 meters and stopped at 7250 meters. On May 26 all three of us climbed back to 7250 meters where the body of our friend still lay, but we had no desire to continue to the summit.

MARI ABREGO, *Orhi Mendi, Federación Vasca de Montaña, Spain*

Mount Everest, North-Northeast Ridge Attempt. After six months of hectic planning, our 18-person team flew to China with permission for the north-northeast ridge of Everest. We were a mixed bunch of English and Scots with a Swiss and an Austrian: Mal Duff, leader, Sandy Allan, Rick Allen, Bob Barton, David Bricknell, Tony Brindle, Terry Dailey, Kurt Diemberger, Liz Duff, Alan Fyffe, Andy Greig, Danny Lewis, Andy Nesbet, Sarah Squibb, Jon Tinker, Julie Tullis, Chris Watts, Dr. Urs Wiget and I. Base Camp, near the snout of the Central Rongbuk Glacier, was reached on March 18 after a delay in Lhasa, our baggage having been held up in a Chengdu warehouse necessitating a charter flight to recover it. Basque mountaineers were already established in their Base Camp at the pre-war campsite. We spent seven days in and around Base Camp, acclimatizing, preparing food and equipment and visiting the Rongbuk monastery. We established Advance Base at 6400 meters on March 25 on the right bank of the upper East Rongbuk. The weather was fair but the winds extremely strong. Initial movement on the route was slow as we acclimatized and placed fixed rope to P 7090. At 6900 meters we found the first snow cave of Bonington's 1982 expedition, intact and usable. During the next weeks we moved loads up the ridge, establishing snow caves, Camps II and III at 7090 and 7300 meters below the first and second buttresses. Heavy snowfalls interrupted progress and it was late April before the buttresses were fixed. After further snowfalls throughout May, a cave was finally made at 7850 meters, below the first pinnacle. Unstable weather and cumulative exhaustion prevented successive parties from tackling the pinnacles. On May 21 a general retreat from the ridge was called after a severe snowfall. While most had decided to abandon further attempts, Rick Allen made a bold solo effort and got to 8170 meters on May 27. Having climbed unstable snow overlying rock, he elected to retreat. Rick's solo was estimated to be to the same point that Boardman and Tasker had reached prior to their final attempt. Few medical problems were encountered.