

We had one incident of cerebral and pulmonary oedema. Oxygen was taken but used only once, by Mal Duff at 8000 meters; however the supply tube froze, almost asphyxiating him.

NIKOLA KEKUS, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Everest.* Our Catalán expedition consisted of Conrad Blanch, leader, Joan Massons, Dr. Antoni Ricart, Nil Bohigas, Oscar Cadiach, Enric Lucas, Charles Vallés, Jordi Camprubí, Jordi Canals, Jordi Magrinyà, Miquel Sánchez, Lluís Gómez, Xavier Pérez Gil and me. We climbed the historic British route via the north col. We were the second expedition to climb the mountain during the monsoon, having been at Base Camp at 5150 meters from June 26 to September 5. We established Camps I, II, III or Advance Bases, IV, V and VI at 5500, 6000, 6500, 7000 on the North Col, 7750 and 8450 meters on July 2, 3, 4, 31, August 7 and 9 respectively. We were the first Western expedition to follow the route over the Second Step, as the Chinese and Japanese had done. We made five unsuccessful summit attempts which arrived at 8450, 8600, 8300, 7800 and 7900 meters, driven back by bad weather and deep snow, four before and one after the summit climb. The fifth attempt on August 28 succeeded when Cadiach, Vallés, Tombu Tamog, Narayan, Ang Karma and I got to the top at 6:20 P.M. Of the 14 Catalans and five Sherpas, 12 got to over 8000 meters at least twice and all got higher than 7000 meters. During July there were heavy snowfalls up high and bad weather generally. In August there was good weather in the monsoon break in the first half and variable weather in the second. Much snow made for avalanche danger. The route was technically not difficult, though we fixed ropes on the North Col slope and had avalanche danger above 7750 meters beside the crest and on the Yellow Band. The summit climbers had to spend three nights above 8450 meters and overcome the First and Second Steps, where there was deep snow on the rock. We did not use artificial oxygen.

ANTONI SORS, *Agrupació Científica-Excursionista de Mataró, Spain*

*Everest, North Face Attempt.* We tried to climb a new route on the north face of Everest to the left of the 1984 Australian route. I had intended to go solo but my wife Annie decided to accompany me and we were together on the wall. This route is very direct and good for a small team. The snow above 8000 meters was so deep that we two had no chance to reach the summit. After acclimatization climbs, from a camp at 6350 meters at the foot of the north face we climbed on August 9 to 7600 meters. On the second day, because of deep snow, we could only reach 8100 meters in the Great (Norton) Couloir, the site of the 1984 American Camp VI. On the next day we climbed to just below the Yellow Band but realized that it was impossible to reach the summit that day with the bad snow. We decided to retreat, thinking to come back later in August, but from August 15 to 25 the weather was bad and snowy. We made our last attempt, climbing to the North Col from the west, which was very dangerous because of windslabs. At 8000 meters, my wife was swept away by a windslab avalanche

but luckily did not fall down the north face. I wish to emphasize the garbage at Base Camp where jeeps and trucks can go. No rain or snow will wash away plastic and paper. There are no definite toilets and so the area is polluted. We collected tins, bottles and plastic in big bags to take them back with the truck. At the last minute our liaison officer opened all the bags and threw away the garbage. He tried to burn everything, but it was impossible because of the wind. There is a nice pool at Camp II on the East Rongbuk Glacier. Gas cartridges, plastic and other things float on the surface. It is now nearly impossible to collect drinking water from it. Our high Base Camp under the north face, the same as the Australian Base in 1984, is still perfectly clean.

PIERRE BEGHIN, *Club Alpin Français*

*Everest Attempt.* Ours was not a successful attempt. Indeed snow conditions were such that we didn't even get close. The members were Bruce Farmer, Dick Price, Mike Rheinberger, Peter Allan, Warwick Anderson, Mike Perry, Graeme Dingle, Shaun Norman, Rob Blackbourne, Hugh Van Noorden, Steve Bruce, Ross Cullen, Mike Andrews and I as leader. We arrived during the monsoon, establishing Base Camp on August 5. We made Camp I under Changtse and crossed the Rongbuk to fix rope on the spur leading to the west ridge. Things went well and by September 3 we had placed Camp III 300 meters below the crest of the spur. The weather changed and slab avalanches became prevalent, burying Camp III. Two buried members were luckily dug out. We decided not to continue on the west ridge because of avalanche danger and then tried the north face with a new approach to the Great Couloir. Again we established Camp III but again we were avalanched off. A final attempt was made on the north ridge. We climbed to the latter after an avalanche had swept the couloir to the North Col before it snowed again. However, it snowed the following day. After sitting out the storm, the team descended because of snow conditions and a lack of time. There was no calm post-monsoon period this year and very heavy snowfall.

AUSTIN BROOKES, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Everest Attempt and Tragedy.* We were Y. Miyaji, S. Ishii, M. Nagamachi, S. Shimada, T. Sasaki, K. Hoshino, K. Ohta, Ms. M. Hasegawa, Ms. Y. Tanaka and I as leader. Our initial plan was to reach the peak on October 1, Chinese Foundation Day, I solo by the north face and the others by the northeast ridge. We set up Base Camp at 5150 meters on August 9. Camps I, II, Advance Base, IV and V we established at 5500, 6020, 6500, 7000 and 8200 on August 21, 22, 23, September 2 and 9. Loads were carried to the North Col from September 11 to 16. On the 17th Ishii, Hoshino and Sasaki were returning from the North Col for a rest at Advance Base. Ishii, who was ahead, started a surface snow slide at about 6900 meters and was buried. We searched for him from September 18 to 24 and again from September 28 to October 3. Just below the