

Oyu and Kangchenjunga each once. Our Catalán expedition was composed of Josep Permañé, Ramón Estiu, Francesc Casas, Joan Cardona, Xabier Erro, Santi Carrillo, Salvador Coll, Kim Bover, Dr. Jordi Terrades and me as leader.

JOAN HUGAS, *Girona, Spain*

*Nepal Peak Attempt.* Our French-Nepalese expedition had six French members, M. and Mme Ansart, S. Lazizi, Dr. F. Tanery, my wife and me, and three Nepalese, Chewang Rinzee Sherpa, Lhakpa Sherpa and Jambia Sherpa. We hoped to climb the virgin south face of Nepal Peak (6910 meters, 22,670 feet). At the end of September we established Base Camp at 5000 meters at Pengpema and Advance Base at 5200 meters at the base of the south face. Despite snowfall, Camp I was set at 5700 meters in a small cwm at the right side of Nepal Gap. Snow conditions and weather were very poor. There were frequent avalanches on the south face. We chose a safe and direct route to the south ridge up a steep 300-meter-high gully. My tent was destroyed by the wind at our 6200-meter Camp II on the ridge. Lazizi, Chewang, Lhakpa and Jambia made three summit attempts. The first two were stopped by lack of visibility. The third on October 16 was conducted in better weather, but it was windy and cold. We had to stop at 6600 meters where our route met a very steep part of the ridge covered with brittle ice. We lacked equipment for this section. When I reached Advance Base, I had eight fingers and a foot badly frozen.

DOMINIQUE HEMBISE, *Club Alpin Français*

*Kumbhakarna (Jannu) Attempt and Tragedy.* A three-man Australian expedition was led by Terry Tremble. All three reached 7550 meters on October 31 in their alpine-style push on the south ridge from Base Camp. This was the fourth day of ascent. That night it was planned to set out at midnight for the summit, but Keith Eggerton became ill and as his health deteriorated, it grew clear to the other two that they must get him down. His symptoms were those of high-altitude sickness, although he was believed to have acclimatized well to altitude. He collapsed and died at 7400 meters on November 1. The other two continued the descent and left the mountain.

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

*Makalu Attempt.* Our 4-man attempt on the regular route on Makalu failed. On May 20 Chris Dube and John Bouchard left; Chris had early signs of cerebral edema. Rick Wilcox and I started up on a third assault, but he got severe diarrhea and vomiting at Camp III at 7040 meters. He staggered off down. That left me with three Sherpas. We went up to Camp IV at 7440 meters. After a day of high winds, I set off with the Sherpas on May 26. We could see the top from 7530 meters. We had a nasty surprise. It was all steep rock for the last 380 meters with no snow couloir which used to lead to the east summit ridge. The Sherpas did not

want to go any further. I went alone to 8100 meters and then turned back at the foot of the rock.

NED GILLETTE

*Makalu Attempt.* A French expedition of ten was led by Raymond Renaud to Makalu's northwest side. Sherpas Sirdar Lhakpa Norbu and Pasang Dawa reached the expedition's high point of 8300 meters on October 13 and were turned back by strong, cold winds. The winds continued for the next several days and the expedition was abandoned. A Gurung wood-cutter and kitchen helper died during the expedition.

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

*Makalu Ascent and Tragedy.* On September 10, Marcel Rüedi and I flew from Kathmandu to 2800 meters in the Barun valley. Three days later we got to Base Camp at 5400 meters below Makalu. We, with four other Swiss and Austrians, were members of a six-man and three-woman Polish expedition led by Krzysztof Pankiewicz. On September 17, Krzysztof Wielicki, Rüedi and I climbed the Kukuczka ridge to 6900 meters where we bivouacked. The next day Rüedi and Wielicki reached the Makalu Col before we all returned to Base Camp. On the 21st the same two left Base Camp and climbed to 6900 meters. The day after, they got to Makalu Col and on the 23rd to 7900 meters on the normal route. Wielicki thus describes the climb: "We began at 7:45 climbing toward the top. I led all the way. The first 100 meters were very difficult in the deep snow, until we joined the tracks of Ducroz and De Marchi. When we reached the snowfield below the summit at about 8200 meters, we had to decide which route to choose. I took a new variant because the French couloir and the Kukuczka ridge seemed too long and I feared deep snow. I climbed directly for the summit by a rock-and-snow couloir. It was 45° to 50°. I left 20 meters of fixed rope on the rocky part. The snow was very deep and soft. Marcel was 40 to 50 meters behind me. The couloir joined the last 15 meters of the Kukuczka ridge, which was very windy and steep. After that, I had 60 meters of snow to the summit, which I reached at 3:45. I descended fast to the top of the couloir where I met Marcel. He looked well. I gave him all the liter of tea and chocolate. I told him, 'I'm going down to the tent and will prepare hot drinks for us.' He answered, 'O.K. I'm going to the top.' I didn't see him again as the couloir was hidden. It was four P.M. When I reached the tent at seven o'clock, it was nearly dark. I prepared drinks, but Marcel didn't come. It was a horrible night. Our only headlamp had been damaged on Makalu Col. I thought he would come after midnight when the moon rose. I don't remember the night too well. I feared he had fallen on the steep traverse or in the couloir. He had no ice axe. Sunrise came at six o'clock and I waited until 9:15 when I decided to go down to Makalu Col for help, thinking that Messner and company were climbing up. In the tent I left a full thermos of hot water mixed with chocolate, the gas stove and all the down equipment. On Makalu Col, before eleven A.M., I met Messner,