

Mikołajczyk, Marek Oreńczuk and Waldemar Zmurko reached the summit by the normal route. Much snow fell and avalanches twice buried Advance Base. From October 1 to 8 the same team attempted the left buttress of the east face of Kedar Dome, but continuous snowfall made them retreat not far from the summit. This face remains one of the great rock problems in the Gangotri area.

ZBIGNIEW KOWALEWSKI, *Klub Wysokogórski Warszawa, Poland*

*Shivling Tragedy and Ascent of Southwest Ridge.* After a three-day walk Australians Graeme Hill, Jon Muir, my sister Belgian Véronique Koch and I got to Base Camp on April 24. There was a lot of snow after the heaviest winter snowfall in ten years. We established Advance Base by May 5. While Jon fixed rope on the first 250 meters of our new route, the rest of us started up the normal west-ridge route on May 10 but descended after a day because of headaches. Our liaison officer Dr. Mohamed Vahanvati, an eye surgeon, was climbing with us. On May 13, he and Hill went back up. On the only rope we had fixed on the way up to our previous bivouac, the doctor died while jumaring, apparently from exhaustion and panic. Graeme's attempts to revive him were unfortunately unsuccessful. Graeme and I went down valley to report, a ten-day trip with bad weather and much new snow. A party of ten from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarkashi followed in our steps and evacuated the body. We were back in Base Camp on May 24. We then spent three days fixing rope on mixed ground on the face up to the southwest ridge. It was hard to get to the bottom of the face. Wherever we went, we had to tunnel along in trenches of deep snow. My husband Jon Muir had to dig around for a few days to recover gear buried in a bergschrund under six meters of snow avalanched from the face. Once we had the face fixed, Jon, Hill and I got up its 650 meters to the previously unclimbed southwest ridge, where we established our first camp. This was the last unclimbed ridge leading to Shivling's west summit. From there we fixed rope towards the buttress, spending three nights before moving up the ridge to spend another night on a small platform. A few pitches above Bivouac II, the climbing was only on rock. We climbed the shoulder to the very bottom of the prow. We then traversed one pitch to a snow ledge, where we spent four nights, cleaning the route behind us and fixing the prow to the summit ridge. The crux of the climb, led by Jon in eight hours over a period of two days, is the pitch above the ledge. Two more pitches took us to the summit ridge. There were six pitches along it. We got to the summit on June 15 and spent the night there. The next day we descended one pitch on the ridge before making seven abseils to the col between the two summits. From the col there were two more abseils down the sérac at the top of the west summit. We were back in Advance Base seven hours after leaving the summit.

BRIGITTE MUIR, *Australia*

*Shivling, Northeast Face.* Paolo Bernascone, Fabrizio Manoni and I as leader got to Base Camp on June 3. From June 4 to 12 we reconnoitered the

normal route and our objective, the unclimbed northeast face. After three rest days, we set out at eight in the evening of June 15 with four days' food and equipment to take advantage of the lower temperatures that made safer the great amounts of unstable snow on the face. We were slowed by more difficulties than we had foreseen, by the bad conditions and by several events. The loss of our stove kept us from drinking for the last three days and the loss of climbing gear forced us to climb much free without protection. Falling ice on the next-to-last day of the ascent injured my arm. We made the ascent in eight days and the descent in one. Since the face had no ledges, our bivouacs had to be on shelves carved out of the ice. The first 150-meter-high rock band was of UIAA V, VI and AI. The 350 meters of mixed climbing to 5500 meters had 85° ice and rock of V to VI. Higher, rising to 6000 meters, was an ice slope of 65° at the beginning and 70° to 75° in the second half. Finally mixed climbing led through a 85° to 90° couloir to the base of the 200-meter wall. Above that, 100 meters along the east ridge took us to the summit cap and the summit (6543 meters, 21,467 feet).

ENRICO ROSSO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Shivling.* A British Royal Air Force expedition made the second ascent of the southeast ridge of Shivling. The expedition, of which I was the leader, 22 strong and both climbers and trekkers, spent four weeks based on the Gangotri Glacier. The summit climbers were Nev Taylor, Nick Sharpe, Al McLeod, Andy Watkins, Jim Morning and Bill Batson. After finding a way through the cliffs guarding the southern flank of the mountain, we established a two-tent camp at the foot of the ridge at 5100 meters. The main obstacle on the lower part of the route, a huge gendarme, was turned on the right. The ridge became increasingly steep for 1000 meters on sound granite. A bivouac was made at 5600 meters and a second where the ridge abuts a steep, holdless headwall. A traverse left along a rising fault line provided a sensationally exposed pitch with good holds. This ended on the edge of the 50° snowfield that led to the main (northwest) summit of Shivling. The first pair reached the top on September 5, leaving ropes in place on the crux for the other four to follow the next day. They abseiled down the same route.

C. MICHAEL DAVIDSON, *Squadron Leader, Royal Air Force*

*Thalay Sagar Attempt.* Kitty Calhoun and I started up the north face of Thalay Sagar on September 18 with seven days' food, one rope and a portaledge. We hoped to climb the face's central couloir. Climbing on the lower apron was slowed by thin 60° to 75° ice; it was difficult to find anchors on thin ice or in slabby rock. Where the ice was thin, it required delicate hooking. After four days we had entered the couloir and gotten to nearly 21,000 feet, but the perfect weather changed to become unstable. Within a minute after snow began to fall, spindrift avalanches would funnel down the couloir, most strong enough to knock the leader off run-out pitches. Above was the crux ice of the climb,