

Panamik and from there carried on two reconnaissances to the Phukpoche and Panamik Glaciers. The routes from the west are such that no expedition could reasonably expect to reach the summit: a difficult gorge, a closed cirque, a 2000-meter-high face continually swept by ice avalanches that fall from the edge of the plateau and finally a 6-kilometer ridge above 7000 meters which leads to the summit. Blocked as we were by the military, we had no choice but to give up.

BERNARD PUJO, *Club Alpin Français*

*Saser Kangri III.* I was the leader of the 25-man Indo-Tibetan Border Police expedition. We left Leh on April 16 and approached up the Shyok valley along the old "Silk Route" toward Sinkiang. The Shyok had to be forded 17 times before we got on April 26 to Base Camp at 15,300 feet at the snout of the North Shukpa Kanchang Glacier. We approached the peak up that glacier. We established Camps I, II, III, IV and V at 16,300, 17,000, 18,700, 20,000 and 21,700 feet. We had to climb steep ice and rock, especially above Camp III and fixed 2000 meters of rope. We were lucky that on May 15 the weather was untypically fine when we got the chance to make the first summit climb. Dawa Tsering, Rubgias, Suddi Man, Magan Singh, Sharap Shalden and Tsering Sherpa left Camp V at four A.M. and reached the summit (7495 meters, 24,590 feet) at 11:45 A.M. A second summit party, Phurba Sherpa, Bihari Lal, Neem Dorjee, Tejwar Singh, Tsering Somla and Sher Singh, climbed to the summit the next day. A third summit attempt had to be called off when R.S. Negi suddenly developed pulmony edema while climbing to Camp IV and had to be evacuated, first by being carried down and then by helicopter. After the completion of the climb, we rafted down the turbulent, icy-cold Shyok to get back to habitation.

S.P. CHAMOLI, *Indo-Tibetan Border Police*

*Sia Kangri.* We have returned from traversing the entire Siachen Glacier and an ascent of Sia Kangri (7422 meters, 24,350 feet). There was a war going on, right in the heart of the mountains of central Asia, a war mostly unknown to the outside world. An international team of Americans, Canadians, a Briton and Indians was pinned down by Pakistani heavy artillery at 17,000 feet below the Sia La. On June 20 my co-leader, Major Cherian, our liaison officer Major Sethi and I decided to cancel the ascent of Sia Kangri by our American team. The Indians continued. There was shelling of the south face at 22,500 feet on June 22 while the climbers were on their way up. The Pakistani forces at Conway Saddle (20,670 feet) were only 600 yards away from the Indians. Indians Shafi, Paljor, Amar, Angchuck, Des Raj and Cham Charma did reach the summit of Sia Kangri. Jerry Corr, Jim Caruthers, Walt Hotchkiss, Dr. Paul Kustra and Briton Mark Jennings got to Indira Col and Turkestan La.

LEO LE BON