

Fauquet survived without serious injury a ride on a wind-slab avalanche while fixing rope. High winds prevented immediate advance and the team regrouped for summit bids starting from Base on October 18. On October 19, a large unseasonal storm struck, halting all activity in the region. Base Camp was buried by four feet of snow, and Camp II was demolished by nine feet of snow and wind-slab avalanches. Camp III could not be revisited because of extreme avalanche danger. Fortunately, Camps II and III were unoccupied during the storm. Crossett escaped from Camp I with snow shovels strapped to his feet the following day. After a week of attempting to rescue gear, we descended. Morale, esprit and friendship were strong features of the expedition.

JAMES F. FRIES

Makalu Winter Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Poles Andrzej Machnik, leader, Grzegorz Fliegel, Julian Kobowicz, Wojciech Jedlinski, Zbigniew Terlikowski and Dr. Krzysztof Witkowski, Thomaz Brandolin of Brazil and me from the United States. Our objective was the winter ascent of Makalu via a variation of the northwest ridge. We arrived at Base Camp at 4850 meters on December 8, having left Kathmandu on November 24. Jedlinski, Machnik, Terlikowski and I established Advance Base on December 10 at the mouth of the Chago Glacier at 5200 meters. We then placed Camps I, II and III at 5820, 6430 and 6850 meters on December 16, 20 and 31, the latter two being snow caves. Then attrition and illness took their toll, leaving only Machnik, Terlikowski and me to stock the higher camps and fix the route to Makalu La. Brandolin was the only other climber to reach Camp III in January. Dangerously high winds kept us below Makalu La until January 19, 1988, when I alone reached 7500 meters while trying to site Camp IV. I recorded -15° F with winds in excess of 60 mph. The consistently severe weather and fatigue led us to abandon our attempt on January 21, after 44 days. Machnik, Terlikowski and I cleaned the mountain to Advance Base unassisted by January 25.

ANDREW EVANS

Kangchungtse (Makalu II) Attempt. Swiss climbers Wilma Simonetta and Claudio Righeschi intended to climb the normal route on Kangchungtse. They established two camps and reached Makalu La at 7400 meters on April 29 before retreating to Base Camp for a rest. They never got to this point again. Righeschi reached Camp II at 6800 meters on May 4 while Simonetta, weak from intestinal illness, turned back at 6000 meters. On May 5 there was heavy snowfall and they decided to abandon the attempt. The other two members of the party made no real effort to climb.

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

Kangchungtse (Makalu II) Attempt and Tragedy. A ten-member French expedition led by Louis Dollo attempted Kangchungtse by the normal

south-ridge route. The big snowstorm put an end to this team's climb as it did to many others this season. The highest point reached was 6800 meters on October 13 by the leader's brother Pierre Dollo, François Duthil, Mlle Hélène Hardy and Mlle Aline Paneboeuf. A second summit bid to 6550 meters turned back on the 18th when the storm loomed. Two members left Base Camp on October 15 because one was ill and Jacques Saint-Martin was exhausted. They were trekking from Base Camp when the storm hit. They became separated. Two porters and Saint-Martin died of exposure and exhaustion.

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

Chamlang East Attempt. Jon Deak and I, one of four regular members and founder and life president respectively of the Juilliard Mountain Club (and both professional double bass players), set up "Bass" Camp near the lower Barun Glacier in mid May. To reach our high camp was wild and dangerous with two major avalanche tracks to cross and falling rocks to dodge. Easy scrambling turned into gripping, exposed free climbing when wet gloppy snow fell in the afternoon as it invariably did after we had left the ropes in the cache above. We had all our stuff at 18,500 feet after a week and set out on April 30 up the north face. We think we were to the left of Doug Scott's route as we went up a snow gully that topped out with a few pitches of vertical, snow-covered, frozen rock and a little steep ice. We gained the ridge well to the left of the saddle. After bivouacking in a small crevasse at 22,000 feet for 36 hours, we headed for the summit on May 2. At dawn a major storm appeared when we were level with the saddle at 22,500 feet but on the east side of the horn. We retreated to Camp I in the storm. After waiting a couple of days there, we went back to Bass Camp. Jon's toes, frostbitten in the bivouac, became terribly painful. We gave up thoughts of another summit attempt, retrieved our high camp and walked out to Tumlingtar despite the intense pain Jon was suffering. After this stimulating sight-reading, we shall probably go back to try for a complete performance on this spectacular mountain.

RICHARD (DOBBS) HARTSHORNE

Baruntse Attempt. A French expedition led by André Mathis failed to climb the northeast face and north ridge of Baruntse. Still short of the ridge, on October 17 all four members got to 6000 meters, where they had placed Camp II. Then came the big blizzard of October 19 and 20. During the night of the 19th, the two still in Camp II took down the tents that were being buried in continuing snowfall and cleared Camp II. Climbing was finished.

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

Ama Dablam. Nelson Max, Bruce Cox, Dave Karl, Ron Norton, Chip Kamin and I arrived at 15,000 feet at the normal Ama Dablam Base Camp