

*Anye Maqin IX.* On September 5, Martin Hampar, Michael and Catherine Pettipher, Ben Williams and I established Base Camp at 4200 meters in the main valley about a quarter mile beyond the large stream descending from the east face of Anye Maqin I. On the 7th, we placed Camp I at 4800 meters on the highest end of the north moraine of the Harlon II Glacier. Our attempt to find a route up the right bay, recommended by the Chinese, was halted by a series of complex icefalls. A reconnaissance of the Japanese route of 1981 via a spur between the two bays revealed why they had fixed 1000 feet of rope. Having neither the resources nor the time for this, we switched our attention to the relatively straightforward unclimbed summit of Anye Maqin III (6090 meters). Williams and I reached 5200 meters on the east ridge before running out of steam. On September 18, Williams and Mike Pettipher established a camp at 4700 meters on the east side of the northern glacier of Anye Maqin IX, the prominent southern outlier of the range clearly seen from Snow Mountain Commune. On September 20, after having been turned back the previous day by snow squalls, they made the first ascent of this peak (5690 meters, 18,668 feet) by the northern glacier and the col on its west side. Like the Australians in 1981, we deplore the environmental damage left by the 1981 Japanese Joetsu expedition.

JOHN TOWER, *Alpine Club*

## Tibet

*Everest, Hornbein Couloir, Winter Attempt, 1985-6.* An expedition to Mount Everest in the winter of 1985-6 was not reported in the *A.A.J.* Under the leadership of Mrs. Michiko Takahashi, Japanese attempted to climb the mountain via the Hornbein Couloir. Despite a good team of Sherpas led by Sirdar Lhakpa Tenzing, fierce wind and cold drove them back. On December 15, 1985, two members got to the head of the couloir at 8450 meters before having to retreat.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilbao, Spain*

*Everest Attempt via the Great Couloir.* Our expedition was composed of Jack Allsup, leader, Ann Smith, Bob East, Bob Allison, George Dunn, Greg Wilson, Craig Van Hoy, Ed Viesturs, Bonnie Nobori, Dr. John Baumeister, Travis Cannon and me as climbing leader. Four went via Beijing and Lhasa. The rest traveled via Kathmandu, where we were joined by five Nepalese Sherpas and a cook. We met at Xigare, Tibet, and reached the Rongbuk Base Camp at 16,800 feet on March 17. Very good weather prevailed for the next few weeks. Advance Base was established on the Central Rongbuk Glacier at 18,300 feet on March 23. Yaks carried 90 loads there in nine days. At this point Allison and Dr. Baumeister became ill and returned to the United States. The remaining Americans and the Sherpas made rapid progress, establishing Camp I at 20,400 feet at the base of the north face on March 26 and Camp II

at 22,000 feet at the foot of the technical climbing on March 31. Instead of a direct approach up the face, we continued eastward between the flanks of Changtse and the north face to 23,000 feet. On April 17 Camp III was placed at 25,000 feet at the bottom of the Great Couloir. Storms, high winds and illness prevented Camp IV from being established at 26,800 feet until May 14. Between Camps II and IV we fixed 9500 feet of rope because of icy spring conditions. Camp IV was stocked for four summit attempts. On May 17 Dunn and Wilson made the first try, using oxygen, but were slowed by difficult rock in the Yellow Band, where they fixed 500 feet of rope. While descending from their high point of 27,500 feet, Wilson fell 40 feet when his rappel piton pulled out but was held by Dunn. On May 21 Viesturs and I ascended rapidly through the Yellow Band on the previous team's rope and then fixed 500 more feet in the Grey Band above on 50° to 60° ice and mixed ground. We climbed straight out of the top of the Great Couloir rather than traversing right above the Yellow Band, the route followed by the Australians and Ershler in the post-monsoon period of 1984, when there was more snow. Upon reaching the final summit snowfield, we traversed to the west ridge. Using oxygen, I reached 28,700 feet stopping below a steep rock step. Without a rope and unsure of getting down without a rappel, I turned back. Viesturs, who was climbing without oxygen, descended with me from 28,600 feet. That same day, a Swede, who had traversed across from the northeast ridge, turned back below the Grey Band, and Roger Marshall fell to his death from the Japanese Couloir during his solo attempt. The third summit attempt was to take place on May 27, but after spending the night at Camp IV, they did not leave because Dunn was not feeling well. A fourth attempt on May 29 by Allsup, Smith and Sherpas Nuru and Pasang Tsering failed to get higher than 25,500 feet.

ERIC SIMONSON

*Swedish Everest Attempt.* We are still waiting for details about a large Swedish expedition led by Ebbe Wahlund that attempted the North-Col route on Everest. They established Camp IV on the North Col late in April and Camp V at 7500 meters. We do have a few details about their summit attempt. On May 20, Lasse Cronlund and Daniel Bindner crossed to the Great Couloir to establish Camp VI at 8000 meters. That night Bindner did not feel well and descended the next morning, May 21. Cronlund set out at 4:30 and after passing through the American camp, caught up with Ed Viesturs and Eric Simonson on the Yellow Band. Cronlund led much of this. Above was a snowfield where the Americans had left a fixed rope on a previous attempt. All three climbed separately. Simonson and Cronlund were climbing with oxygen, but Cronlund used up his supply at about 8650 meters. He felt he would not be strong enough to continue on without it and still be able to descend. For that reason he turned back. What the Americans did is covered in their report.

*Everest Attempt.* Josema Casimiro and I shared the route on the north side of Everest with a large Swedish expedition. We followed the classic route on