

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

the East Rongbuk Glacier and on May 20 climbed to the North Col some 300 meters to the left of the usual route among seracs, where we found fixed ropes. From a bivouac at 6990 meters just below the col, we followed the north ridge to 7500 meters to a point 100 meters below the usual Camp V on May 21. From there we traversed diagonally on a strip of snow to the Great Couloir at 8100 meters. Despite theoretical protection we should have had from the sides of the couloir, the violent wind raked us for two nights and a day as we waited in vain for an improvement in the weather. On May 24, we gave up the attempt because of the wind and descended.

MARI ABREGO, *Orhi Mendi, Federación Vasca de Montaña, Spain*

*Everest Tragedy.* On June 19 Roger Marshall set out with the hope of making a solo ascent of Mount Everest via the Japanese and Hornbein Couloirs. He made good progress and, at the end of the second day, he was at the foot of the Hornbein Couloir. However something must have been amiss since he was observed by his friend Ruth DeCew to begin on the morning of June 21 to descend. On very hard ice in the Japanese Couloir he slipped and fell to his death. Marshall was born in 1942 in England and moved to Canada in 1967. During the past few years he had lived in Boulder, Colorado. In 1984 he soloed Kangchenjunga. It had been his ambition to solo the five highest mountains of the world.

*Everest, Hornbein Couloir from the North Face Attempt.* Our expedition was composed of Luis Fraga, Luis Bárcenas, Juan Agustín Casillas, Iñigo Mauleon, Pedro Holst, Bicen Itxaso, Cristóbal Salas, Fernando Garrido and me, all from different regions of Spain. We were also joined in part by Frenchman Pierre Beghin. We crossed from Nepal to Tibet by way of Kodari on June 20. We established Base Camp on July 5 at 5150 meters, somewhat higher than usual. On July 8, we put Advance Base at 5500 meters in the splendid place the Australians had used. On July 14, Camp I was set up at the foot of the north face on a great plateau at 6050 meters. The weather turned bad for a long time and left the face in bad condition, but on August 6, we placed Camp II at 6900 meters. We used a route this far which was to the right of the Japanese route and to the left of the one used by Loretan and Troillet; we feel that this was safer from avalanches than the Japanese. Camp III was established on August 9 at 7350 meters on a rocky spur. Beyond Camp II we were also on new ground until we reached the Hornbein Couloir to the left of the route used by the Japanese and by the Swiss Loretan and Troillet. On August 25 Fraga and I made the first summit attempt from Camp IV at 7900 meters, but we were driven back by the weather from 8000 meters in the Hornbein Couloir. Our retreat was problematical in the deep snow that fell. On August 27, a second summit try failed due to Sherpa misunderstanding and bad weather. On September 2, Bárcenas, Fraga, Garrido and Beghin set up two