

*Ama Dablam.* A French commercial expedition climbed Ama Dablam by the normal southwest ridge. The summit was reached on December 4 by leader Marc Batard, Roger Laot, Jacques Buret, Michel Coutty, Daniel Filliol, Jean François Louys and Sherpas Kami Tenji, Phu Dorje and Ang Phurbi; on December 6 by Mme Reine Mouhat, Yves LeBissonnais, Claude Lebahy, Spaniard Antonio Rispoli and American Allan Hirsh (LeBissonnais has only one leg); on December 8 by Laot again and Sherpas Zimba Zangbu and Dawa Norbu. All were French except for those noted. Koreans also made a winter ascent by the same route. On December 17, leader Kim Young-Ju and Cha Dong-Han climbed to the summit, followed on the 17th by Bong Sun-Ki.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Shartse Attempt and Tragedy.* Erick Bourdais, Jean-Marc Perrot and I had hoped to climb Shartse by its south col and ridge. We established Base Camp at the foot of Island Peak at 5300 meters on October 14 and Camp I at 5600 meters after crossing the Lhotse Shar Glacier on the 17th. On October 21, at 6000 meters Bourdais was swept down to his death by an avalanche after the fall of a sérac above the place where he was placing a piton. The attempt was abandoned.

JEAN-LOUIS LETRONG, *Club Alpin Français*

*Lhotse Shar Attempt.* Spaniards Josema Casimiro, Joaquín Goñi, Jorge Corominas and Mikel Otermin, led by Mari Abrego, failed to climb the south-east ridge of Lhotse Shar. From the time they established Base Camp in the last days of March, they were plagued by bad weather. They finally placed Camp II at 6250 meters on April 27 and on May 1 reached the site of their proposed Camp III at 6800 meters. Because of persisting bad weather, they started an attempt from Camp II only on May 11 and on the 12th reached 7400 meters. A second attempt on May 16 failed to get as high.

*Lhotse Shar.* Lhotse Shar, the east peak of Lhotse, is difficult. Out of 20 expeditions attempting it from 1970 to 1988, only five have succeeded and seven climbers have fallen to their deaths on its slopes. A 16-man Swiss expedition of the Zermatt Guides Association led by Bruno Jelk completed the fifth ascent. They placed five camps and fixed rope on the normal southeast-ridge route. An attempt by Jelk and Leo Brigger on October 20 was driven back from 7500 meters by wind. On October 28, Henry Willi and Viktor Imboden left Camp V at 7800 meters at four A.M. and got to the summit at 12:55 P.M. They used no bottled oxygen. They did not attempt to continue along unclimbed Lhotse Central to the main summit of Lhotse as had been planned.

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