

We set off a small avalanche when we were within 200 feet of the summit and decided to retreat. We arrived back at Base Camp on September 19 after five days of continuous snowfall to find our tents collapsed under wet snow. Hopes for an attempt on Shivling were abandoned.

ANGELA HAWSE*

P 6038, Gangotri Area. A 19-member Bulgarian party was led by Vasil Gurev. Three camps were made on unclimbed P 6038 (19,810 feet). On October 13, three women: Petia Kolcheva, Svetla Anachkova and Svetlana Toshevskia and five men: Kamen Kolchev, Valentin Bondarenko, Petko Totev, Bogdan Todorov and leader Gurev got to the summit.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Shivling Attempt. Micael Sundberg had climbed before in Tibet and I, in India and Nepal. Mikael Eriksson, Bogi Palfay and Mats Almlöf had had no earlier Himalayan experience. We did not try the intended steep rocky northeast face because of much snow and difficulties. We turned to the first-ascent route instead. After establishing Base Camp at Topovan at 4300 meters on April 17, we carried equipment to the start of the south ridge, where on April 24 we placed a high camp at 5600 meters. From that point, the route looked straight-forward and not too hard technically. It looked more dangerous than hard with a huge sérac halfway up. A few days later Sundberg and I were lucky to survive a big ice avalanche when parts of the sérac broke off. The tiny tent was covered with snow, but the masses of ice passed the camp by a few meters. On April 27, Sundberg and I climbed to 5900 meters, fixing rope before we descended to bring up more gear. However, at this stage some of the members were losing interest in the climb. I set out on my own and spent two lonely nights in the high camp. None of the others arrived and so I descended and the climb was abandoned.

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Bhagirathi II Tragedy. Dariusz Kubik, Marek Raganowicz, Jan Nowak, Mirosław Dasal and I as leader hoped to ascend alpine-style the still unclimbed 1200-high west face of Bhagirathi II (6512 meters, 21,364 feet) in ten or twelve days. The lower part of the face was not difficult, but beginning with the third day we made each day no more than 80 to 100 meters (UIAA V+, A2). On August 31, the fifth day of the climb, we were about halfway and some 600 meters above the foot of the face when rockfall struck the team. Jan Nowak was killed, while I was seriously injured. The next day, we managed to complete the descent after abseiling for 24 hours.

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