

*Annapurna and Everest Solo Attempts.* I made an unsuccessful attempt on the south face of Annapurna, which reached 5800 meters on April 6, but there was too much snow, which hid dangerous crevasses, and falling séracs. I then got to 7800 meters on the Bonington route on Everest on April 20. I put in eleven hours non-stop from Base Camp to reach that point at three A.M. but had to halt my ascent because of very strong winds and clouds on the summits of Lhotse and Everest. I was also experiencing severe pain in my left knee, for which it has been necessary to return to France for an operation.

MARC BATARD, *Club Alpin Français*

*Annapurna Solo Attempt.* South Tyrolean Reinhard Patscheider hoped to make a solo ascent of Annapurna by the northwest face, which he knew from having been a member of Messner's successful expedition on it in the spring of 1985; Patscheider did not get to the summit that year either. This year he got only to the foot of the face, where he placed a tent at 5200 meters on April 22. Heavy snowfall, winds and avalanching prevented him from ever sleeping in this tent. When he went back to it a week later, he found it ruined by an avalanche. He retreated immediately. His retreat was by paraglider, but after he had been airborne for only about a minute, the wind sent him to a crash landing at 5000 meters and gave him a dislocated shoulder. When he went back up after another snowstorm to retrieve his gear, a piton came loose on a short roped traverse and he fell 15 meters and bruised his back. (These were not his first accidents on the route; in 1985, he fell 600 meters and was lucky not to have been killed.) He says he will return sometime for another solo attempt on the same face.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Annapurna Attempt.* Three Austrians led by Peter Wörgötter failed at 5800 meters on May 4 to climb the north side of Annapurna.

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*Annapurna Attempt.* A 14-member Korean expedition led by Jang Bong-Wan attempted to climb the north face of Annapurna. On December 19, they reached 7300 meters before abandoning the attempt.

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*Annapurna Ascent and Tragedy in Autumn and Winter Attempt.* A 19-man Bulgarian expedition led jointly by Todor Grigorov and Ivan Vylchev intended to climb Annapurna by the Messner route but switched to the Dutch route. They set up Base Camp at 4200 meters on September 21. On October 1, three climbers

were swept down by an avalanche at 6200 meters. After a 600-meters fall, Vylchev and Veselin Chaushev suffered hand and rib fractures while porter Dawa Tamang was unhurt. They set up Camps II, III and IV at 5900, 6700 and 7400 meters. On October 26, Vylchev, Liubomir Iliev and Dimitr Nachev climbed to within 40 vertical meters of the top but were driven back by bad weather. On October 28, Milan Metkov, Ognian Stoykov, Liudmil Yanakiev and Petr Panayotov left Camp IV at 2:30 A.M. Three of them reached the summit at 11:30. During the descent, they met Metkov, still climbing uphill despite high, cold winds. Stoykov stopped and persuaded him to withdraw. Both thus dropped behind. The weather suddenly turned bad and they descended in mist and snowfall. The first pair took refuge in Camp IV. At 3:15 P.M., Metkov contacted Base Camp by radio, saying that he and Stoykov could not find Camp IV. Shortly thereafter, teams climbing to Camps II and III below the cloud cover saw "something falling." Apart from pieces of their equipment, no sign of the two climbers could be found despite searches in terrible weather. On October 30, three frostbitten members were evacuated by helicopter. Another Bulgarian party led by Metodi Savov attempted to climb Annapurna by the Polish route on the south face. They were unsuccessful, reaching 6600 meters on December 16.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Gangapurna North Face.* A small Slovene team reached the summit of Gangapurna (7455 meters, 24,457 feet) in the Annapurna Himal by the previously unclimbed north face. Rok Kolar and Stanko Mihev completed a three-day push on October 1. The other members of the expedition were Andrej Gradišnik, Edi Krebs and I as leader. Base Camp was established at 5200 meters on September 8 and an equipment dump was made at the foot of the face. Although without great technical difficulties, bad weather was the main problem. Since the monsoon lasted so long this year, there were only five good days out of the 30 spent at Base Camp. Because of avalanche danger, the lower 800 meters of the 1600-meter-high face were fixed with rope. On September 24, four members climbed to bivouac 950 meters up the face at 6800 meters. We were driven back by deteriorating weather. The final push started on September 29. After a bivouac at 6800 meters, Kolar and Mihev spent the next day in the tent waiting for better weather. On October 1, they ascended the 400-meter crux, the ramp, with passages of 65° to 75°. Difficult snow and ice led them to the ridge and the summit. They descended the same route, rappelling down the ramp.

FRANC PUŠNIK, *Planinska zveza Slovenije, Yugoslavia*

*Tarke Kang.* A German expedition led by Adi Welsch failed to climb Tarke Kang (Glacier Dome; 7193 meters, 23,599 feet) by its south ridge. They reached 5400 meters on October 18 and 21.

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