

Kedarnath to the western crest of the massif. We established Base Camp behind the southern lateral moraine of the Kedarnath Glacier and packed loads to a cache where the route begins at an avalanche-snow-laden couloir. From part way up the couloir, where one does not tarry, we traversed rightward onto a series of ledges, which by angling back and forth brought us to a spectacular campsite on the crest of the large lower rock buttress. A number of rock pitches, interspersed with heather scrambling, led to a second campsite, which proved to be our last. Three ropes were fixed on this long section. Pollari and Brown climbed moderately steep snow on slopes that again led to the buttress crest, but two weeks of poor weather followed. The high point was about 18,000 feet. Camps and equipment were cleared, a decision that tested us, for the new snow continued to fall daily.

FRED BECKEY

Kedarnath Dome, To the Top of the East Face. We believe that the east face of Kedarnath Dome had never before been successfully climbed. Our climbing members were Dr. Walter Kraft, Gábor Babcsán, Szabolcs Szebrő, János Singer, Gábor Berecz and I as leader. We fixed 850 meters of rope on the 1300-meter-high wall and also used ropes left in place by a previous English party. The latter amounted to 500 meters on the lower third, mostly on snow. We had two camps on the wall. The lower was in a snow cave at 5400 meters, in which we stored equipment and food. This was totally covered by a heavy snowfall; we had to search for it for two-and-a-half days and luckily found it. The rock face was beautiful. In October, the days were cold and short. We moved quickly to ascend rock of UIAA difficulty from V to VII—to place a camp at 5800 meters. Because of an accident and health problems, above there the climbing party was reduced to two people. My partner was Szendrő. When he was younger, he lost his left knee in an accident and now climbs with a prosthesis. At 43 years, he did a fantastic performance during our four-day final attack. Above Camp II, the rock was excellent. We climbed free 90% of the wall. At the top of the wall, at 6200 meters, we bivouacked on October 20 without sleeping bags or food in a temperature of -20° C. We did not follow the snow ridge to Kedarnath Dome's summit (6831 meters, 22,410 feet), which would have taken us a full day without technical difficulties.

ATTILA OZSVÁTH, *Hungary*

Satopanth Attempt and Near Tragedy. Our expedition was composed of Michel Chamot, Denis Favre, Guy Bartschi, Jean-Pierre Susini, Patrick Gavard, Henri Gay-Balmaz, Gabriel Dubuis, Philippe and Elizabeth Beguin, Christine Sherwood and me as leader. My objective was to make the first "extreme ski descent" of the direct north face of Satopanth. The way up was the northeast ridge. We placed Base Camp, Advanced Base and Camps I and II at Nandanban at 4300 meters, at Vasuki Tal at 4800 meters, at 5300 and 6000 meters on May 10, 13, 17 and 19 respectively. On May 21, I was pushing myself



PLATE 48

Photo by Attila Ozsváth

Kedarnath Dome, East Face.

PLATE 49

Photo by Szabolcs Szabó

**Ozsváth on the East Face of
KEDARNATH DOME.**

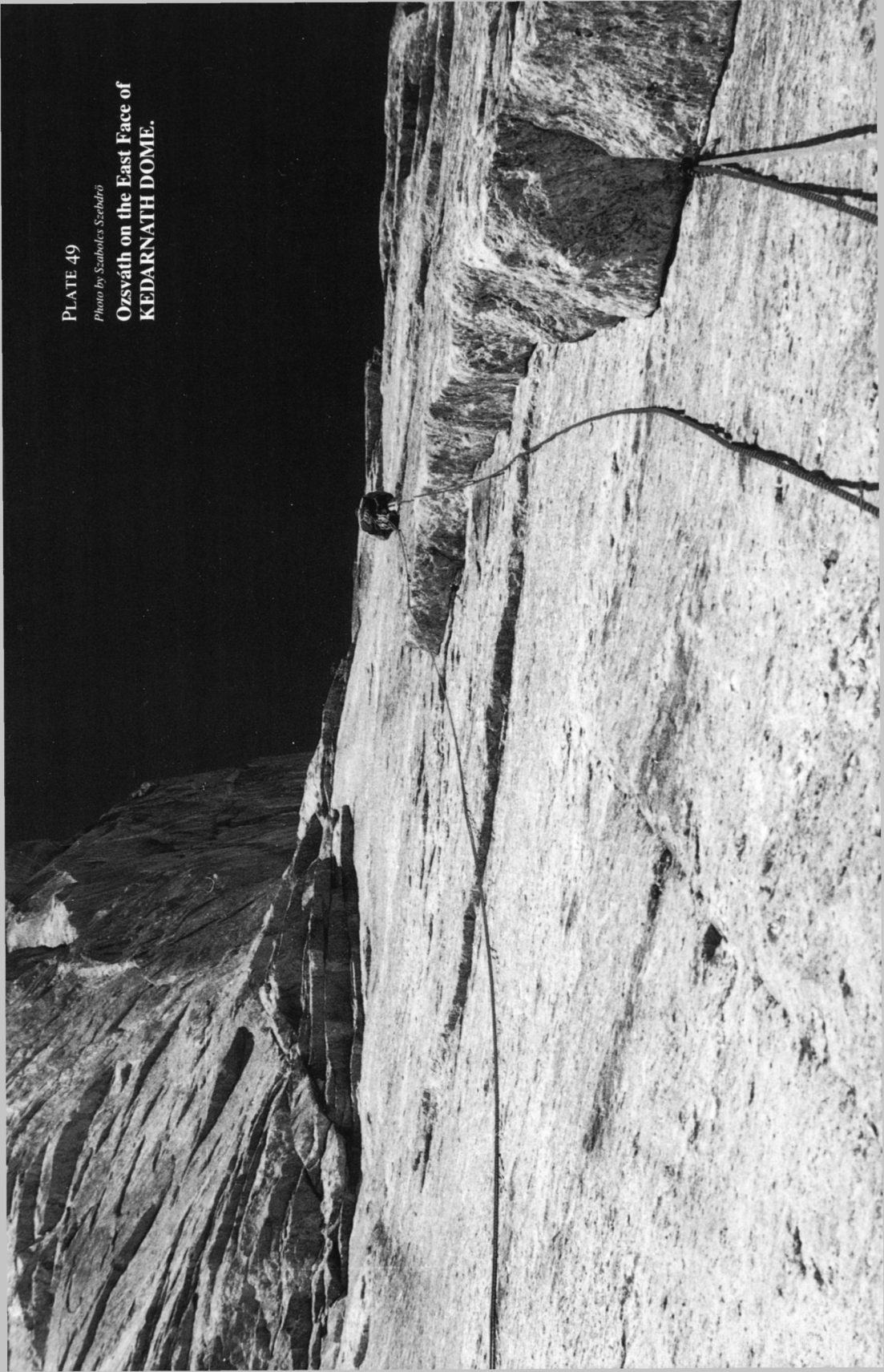




PLATE 50

Photo by Abha Ozavath

Camp on the East Face of
KEDARNATH DOME.

too much at 6500 meters, carrying my ski equipment, when I suddenly fell unconscious with an apparent heart arrest and pulmonary edema. Luckily I received immediate medical assistance. I was in a coma for four hours and semi-conscious for the next three days while I was being evacuated on an improvised litter made from my skis. I was helicoptered from Base Camp by an Indian Army helicopter.

DOMINIQUE NEUENSCHWANDER, *Club Alpin Suisse*

Satopanth Attempt. Koldo Aldaz, Juanito Cebriain and I set up Base Camp on Vasuki Tal at 4950 meters and Camp I at 5300 meters on July 31 and August 4. I fell sick and had to abandon the climb. Another of us had an accident and had to be evacuated. The remaining member could not occupy Camp II until August 26 after much snowfall. In continuing bad weather, he joined a Polish team that fixed the route to 6200 meters. On August 28, it was still snowing and an avalanche swept the whole north face and destroyed Camp I. He gave up.

ALFREDO TORREBLANCA, *Pamplona, Spain*

Satopanth. Our team was made up of Gabriel Denamur, Mirosław Bukowski, Tomasz Samson, Dr. Tomasz Juda, Jadwiga Skawińska, Kazimierz Wszotek, Mirosław Konewka, Emil Witos, Bogdan Remplakowski, Władysław Janik and me as leader. Our original objective had been a 2000-meter-high new route on the east of Satopanth from the Suralaya Bamak. However, delays of our baggage reaching New Delhi kept us from having enough food and equipment and we had to use the Swiss route from the Sundar Glacier on the north-northeast. We set up Base Camp at Vasuki Tal at 4900 meters, Advance Base on the Sundar Glacier at 5300 meters and Camp I at 6000 meters on the saddle on August 30, September 4 and 7. A first summit try on the 8th had to turn back because of the late hour some 50 meters below the top. On September 10, Wszotek, Remplakowski, Konewka and Janik reached the summit (7075 meters, 23,212 feet). On September 18, I made a solo ascent in a 10-hour round-trip.

MIECZYŚLAW JAROSZ, *Klub Wysokogórski Jastrzebie, Poland*

Satopanth. Our group of nine Austrians and a Swiss had first hoped to climb Satopanth (7075 meters, 23,212 feet) by its northwest ridge. We failed when five members fell sick at the beginning of the climbing period. On September 14, Klaus Reininger, Peter Burgstaller, Ivan Exnar and I started up the normal route, the north ridge, but we failed at 6700 meters because of insufficient acclimatization. Ernst Gritzner, Paul Alf, Oswald Pletschko, Heinz Zimmermann and Franz Mischka reached the summit on September 18, followed on September 22 by Exnar and me.

PETER SCHIER, *Österreichischer Alpenklub*