

three P.M. I was back at my bivouac. The next day I got down to Base Camp with all the gear from the high camps.

RALF DUJMOVITS, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Everest and Lhotse.* An article on an American ascent of Everest and the first American ascent of Lhotse appears earlier in this volume.

*Everest Climbed by Nepalese.* A 24-man expedition of the Royal Nepalese Army was led by Lieutenant Colonel Chetra Bahadur Gurung. This was the first all-Nepalese expedition to succeed on Everest, making the 100th ascent of the mountain. Among the summiters was Ang Rita Sherpa, aged 41, making his sixth trip to the top of the world, the first person to do so. He has a most remarkable record, having also climbed Dhaulagiri four times, Cho Oyu twice and Kangchenjunga once. All of these climbs were done without supplementary oxygen. He and his three summit companions, plus four others who climbed with them on part of their summit day, set out from the South Col at two A.M. on April 23. They encountered deep snow and strong winds, and although all except Ang Rita were using bottled oxygen, they spent a total of 15 hours and 15 minutes to reach the summit. By the time they got there at 5:15 P.M., Ang Rita, Top Bahadur Khatri, Ang Kami Sherpa (on his second Everest ascent) and Pasang Norbu Sherpa had all been climbing for 45 minutes without any bottled oxygen, for their supplies had been used up. Now came the problem of the descent. Several were exhausted, they had no more artificial oxygen and night was falling. They had to bivouac just below the Hillary Step. As they waited out the night, two became seriously frostbitten. They survived and managed to continue a safe descent the next day, the two frostbitten men helped by teammates. These two were later sent to England for medical care. Climbers from other expeditions who were on Everest at the time consider them lucky to have come back at all. "That summit team should have perished," one of these other climbers said later. "If Ang Rita hadn't been one of them, they probably would have. That man is superhuman."

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest Attempt.* Belgian Karl Huyberegts attempted to climb the South Col route on Everest solo. He got to 8500 meters on May 8 but had to turn back from there because of problems with his oxygen equipment.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest, New Zealand International Ascent.* Our expedition was composed of New Zealanders Gary Ball, Peter Hillary and I as leader, Swedes Mickael Reuterswärd, Oscar Khilborg and Johan Lagne, Belgian Rudy Van Snik, American Karen Fellerhoff, Canadian Dr. John O'Brien and Sirdar Dorje

COLOR PLATE 9

*Photo by Ralf Dujmovits*

The Upper Part of the Southwest Face of NUPITSE. The route ascended the left side of the face and the ridge on the left.



Sherpa and Apa Sherpa. We followed the route through the Khumbu Icefall established by the Royal Nepalese Army and the American Everest-Lhotse expeditions. We established Base Camp on April 7 and Camps I, II, III and IV at 6100, 6400, 7300 and 7980 meters on the traditional South Col route. Six climbing Sherpas supported us as far as the South Col. On May 10, Ball, Hillary and I climbed to the summit, using oxygen. Hillary arrived at the summit 15 minutes ahead of Ball and me, who waited for one of the Americans to descend the Hillary Step. At nine A.M., we made a live broadcast to New Zealand via VHF radio and INMARSAT satellite at Base Camp. We spoke with the New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer and Hillary's father, Sir Edmund Hillary. Hall flew the New Zealand flag on the summit for the first time. (Neither Hillary in 1953 nor Michael Banks in 1979 had a New Zealand flag.) As we stood on the top, a lone Russian climber appeared behind us. He was one of fifteen climbers from five countries who stood on the top of the world that day, having climbed from the north. He said, "I Soviet," and handed Ball a postcard. He then asked him to take his picture. Ball hardly had time to reply, "I Kiwi," before the Russian turned and stomped down his ascent route. At ten A.M., Van Snik and Apa Sherpa made the summit; the former was the first Belgian to do so. Several of us suffered from snow blindness because of removing goggles when it was difficult to see in deteriorating weather. The worst affected was Van Snik, who was completely blind for 36 hours. I nursed him down off the mountain after spending two additional nights at the South Col. On May 11, Reuterswärd and Khilborg set out for the summit at half past midnight. Reuterswärd reached the summit at eleven A.M. and spoke directly to the King of Sweden; he was the first Swede to climb Everest. Three hours later, Khilborg got to the summit.

ROBERT HALL, *New Zealand Alpine Club*

*Everest, from Sea Level to the Summit.* My objective was to make the first real ascent of Everest from sea level, alone on the mountain, unassisted and without supplementary oxygen. The first preference for the final route to the summit was by the west ridge from the Lho La, but failing that, the normal route. The non-climbing members were Dr. Ann Ward, and film-makers Mike Dillon and Pip Macartney-Snape. On February 1, equipment for Base Camp was sent off from Kathmandu. On February 5, we departed on foot from sea level at Harwood Point on the Bay of Bengal. We got to the Nepalese border after travelling via Calcutta, Sahibganj, where the Ganges was crossed with a three-kilometer swim, and Jogbani, where the expedition was denied a border crossing and diverted an extra 300 kilometers via Kharkavitta. Base Camp was reached via Bhojpur, Bung and Lukla. After fixing ropes with the Swiss west-ridge party to the Lho La, on April 19 to 22 I climbed up the west shoulder to 24,500 feet, bivouacking twice. After one further night at my high point for acclimatization, I descended to the Western Cwm to the site of Camp II and then down the icefall to Base Camp. There followed two weeks of snowfall and the west shoulder became avalanche-prone. Permission was given by the Ministry