

India—Kumaon and Garhwal

Panch Chuli II. An Indian army expedition from the Gorkha Rifles made the second ascent of the peak, 18 years after the first ascent. I led the 20-man team. We approached from the Darma valley in the east. Base Camp was at 3720 meters at Nyulpa and Camps I and II were at 5000 and 5740 meters on the Sona Glacier. Camp III at 6450 meters was on the north col. From there, on August 21, a first group composed of Riflemen Ram Bahadur Gurung, Kim Bahadur Puri, Krishna Bahadur Thapa and Lance Naik Ram Bahadur Bura and a second group comprising Majors A.K. Saxena and A.B. Goth, Subedar N.D. Sherpa and me headed along the northeast ridge toward the top. The first group reached the summit (6904 meters, 22,650 feet). When still 50 meters from the top, the second group was swept away by a massive avalanche. We were hurled down 80 meters but luckily could arrest our fall before plunging 1000 meters. W.H. Murray had intended to climb this route in 1950, but it took 41 years before it was done. The first ascent in 1973 was via the south ridge.

N.B. GURUNG, *Captain, Gorkha Rifles, Indian Army*

Panch Chuli II. A 24-man expedition of the Indian Army Kumaon and Naga Regiments was led by Lieutenant Suraj Bhan Dalal. In the post-monsoon, they climbed Panch Chuli II (6904 meters, 22,650 feet) from the east, which is said to be more difficult than the western approach. From a high camp on the east ridge, Dan Singh, Chandar Singh, Ranoder Singh and Captain Ganesh Pathak reached the summit on September 17.

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*

Bamba Dhura. An Indo-Tibetan Border Police team led by Assistant Commandant Mahendra Singh climbed Bamba Dhura (6334 meters, 20,780 feet) in early September. It is situated at the head of the Kalabaland Glacier in eastern Kumaon.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Himalayan Club*

Hardeol and Tirsuli. A 43-member team from the Indian Border Security Force was led by S.C. Negi. On September 24, T.R. Angdoo, Jumma Khan, Jamuna Prasad, Naresh Singh and S.D. Thomas climbed over a 22,500-foot foresummit and reached the summit (7151 meters, 23,460 feet) of Hardeol. The following day, Angdoo, S. Gombu, Raymond Jacob, Jumma Khan and Nandan Singh climbed Tirsuli (7074 meters, 23,460 feet). [Though no routes were given, it is probable that since two men made the ascents in successive days, they must have climbed from the col between the two peaks. —*Editor.*]

KAMAL K. GUHA, *Editor, Himavanta, India*