

*Everest Attempt and Tragedy.* Our expedition was composed of Austrians Wastl Wörgötter, Dr. Andreas Paul, Ingeborg Aufschneider, Harald Benzl, Johann Pree, Josef Inhöger, Martin Hornegger, Johann-Georg Bachmair, and me as leader, Germans Dr. Karl Wimmer, Reinhilde Natterer, Georg Wischmann, Peter Kowalzig, Otto Huber and Rüdiger Lang, Swiss Georges Piemontesi, Italian Teresa Zanol and Czechoslovak Dr. Margita Štěrbová. We hoped to climb Everest by the North Col without supplementary oxygen or high-altitude porters. We approached overland from Kathmandu. On April 7, Base Camp was set up at 5100 meters below the Rongbuk Glacier. Advance Base was established by mid-April on the East Rongbuk at 6400 meters. Strong winds destroyed numerous tents on the North Col and camps on the north ridge. On May 15, Hornegger, Kowalzik and Inhöger set out from Camp III at 8400 meters with a temperature of  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$ . At 8570 meters they decided to turn back because of the excessive cold, luckily in time to avoid frostbite. Other groups were no more successful because of wind and cold. Rüdiger Lang, who in January had climbed a variant on the Vinson Massif in Antarctica, wanted to ascend a new route in the north face of the highest point of the north ridge. On May 1, he set out. He bivouacked at 7300 and 7700 meters. From May 3 to 7, the face was whipped by snow squalls and cloud. On May 8, he was found in an emergency bivouac at 7850 meters, where he had doubtless perished on the night of the 3rd. Saddened by the loss of a comrade, our group withdrew into Nepal on May 19.

MARCUS SCHMUCK, *Österreichischer Alpenverein*

*Everest, Japanese and Hornbein Couloirs.* A Swedish expedition led by Jack Berg made the ascent of Everest via the Japanese and Hornbein Couloirs. On May 15, two Sherpas, Mingma Norbu and Galbyu got to the top. They were followed on May 20 by Lars Cronlund, who was reported to have suffered quite severe frostbite. Other expeditions have spoken highly of medical care they received from the expedition's medical team.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Everest, Great Couloir.* Our expedition was composed of Italians Graziano Bianchi, Battistino Bonali, Dr. Giuliano De Marchi, Fausto De Stefani, Sergio Salini, Wolfgang Thomaseth and me as leader and Czechoslovak Leopold Sulovsky. We set up Base Camp at Rongbuk on April 4 and, with the aid of yaks, Advance Base on the Central Rongbuk Glacier at 5500 meters on April 12. Salini left the expedition on the 14th. Camps I, II and III were at 6100, 6195 and 7600 meters. Much of our route was to the left of the Australian one. Camps II and III had only one tent each and room for two climbers. The first summit attempt was begun from Advance Base by De Marchi and De Stefani on April 30. They took three days to reach Camp III, where they were held up for a day by bad weather. On May 4, they bivouacked at 8000 meters and the next day at 8350 meters,

below the rock barrier in the Great Couloir. They had hoped to climb to the summit on the 6th, but De Stefani was struck by cerebral edema. On the 7th a very difficult rescue began with the whole team involved. This lasted five days and De Stefani was sent back, by jeep, to Kathmandu on May 11. Thomaseth went with him. On May 14, De Marchi, who had suffered frostbite, was taken to Base Camp by Bianchi and me and also sent to Kathmandu. That same day, Bonali and Sulovsky started from Advance Base and got to Camp II. They reached Camps III and IV on the next two days. They climbed to the summit on May 17 at 3:30 P.M. and were back in Advance Base on the 19th. Our route reached the Great Couloir by climbing on the left of the big icefall, entered the couloir and followed it to the rock barrier of about 80 meters at 8400 meters. It took the summiters two hours to climb the barrier and was of Grade V difficulty. The Australians in 1984 avoided the barrier by climbing to the right before it begins. The last part of our route coincided with that of Messner. We used no supplementary oxygen. We had no porters. The only rope we fixed was on 70 meters of the rock barrier.

ORESTE FORNO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

*Everest.* Our expedition members consisted of Americans George Dunn, Larry Huntington, Charles Peck, Steven Potter, Scott Frantz, Dave Hahn, Curtis Fawley, Brent Okita, Paul Maier, Bob Sloezen, Andy Politz, Jason Edwards, Craig Van Hoy, Greg Wilson, medical researcher Jonas Pologe, Dr. Jean Ellis, video cameraman Markus Hutnak, geologist Dan Mann and me as leader, New Zealanders Michael Perry and Mark Whetu and Australian Michael Rheinberger. We reached Xegar on March 10 in two groups. Ten members traveled via Lhasa and accompanied the six tons of food and equipment that had been shipped to China in November, 1990. The rest came from Kathmandu with the 13 Nepalese (two cooks and 11 Sherpa porters). Propane fuel, oxygen and additional food was also brought from Nepal. Base Camp was established on March 13 at 16,900 feet at the roadhead. Camp III (Advance Base) was established with 50 yak-loads a week later at 21,400 feet. Eventually, 130 yak loads reached Advance Base. Severe weather and heavy snow made it impossible to establish Camp IV on the North Col at 23,000 feet until March 30. The route to the col was fixed. Camp IV consisted of eight tents, walled in and held down by nets. Extreme winds prevented Camp V at 25,600 feet from being established until April 21. Without the fixed ropes we put in on this part of the route, there would have been many days when we could not have climbed due to the extreme wind across the north ridge. Camp V was again an extremely windy site. Only four tents were able to withstand the beating here. Camp VI at 27,000 feet was established on May 7 after a long hard push that forced Wilson, Whetu, Okita, Edwards and Van Hoy all to spend the night in a tiny two-person tent. Every member who was healthy got a summit bid, as we had planned from the beginning. On May 15, the top was reached by Dunn, Politz, Sloezen, Lhakpa Dorje, Ang Dawa and me. On the 16th, Hahn, Rheinberger, Perry, Huntington,