

of food, tents and clothing. Their equipment included a special light platform for their highest camp, 6000 meters of rope for fixing the route in the Khumbu Icefall and up much of the face and 96 bottles of oxygen, of which they used 65. Having struggled in the winter of 1991–2 in their first attempt to climb the face, they knew the route, which was the same line taken in the autumn of 1975 in the first successful ascent of the face by the British led by Chris Bonington and the one they had tried two years before. In the last half of November, the Sherpa's had made the route through the Khumbu Icefall with 50 ladders and 2000 meters of fixed rope. They had carried loads to the top of it to the site of Camp I. The Japanese made a quick climb of Pokalde (5806 meters, 19,049 feet). Well acclimatized and fit, on December 1, the first official day of the winter season, seven re-acclimatized members and a number of Sherpas moved through the icefall. By that afternoon, six Japanese were established at Camp II at 6500 meters at the foot of the face. Little snow falls in the winter and there was only one day when new snow fell all day long. However, on the face there was falling rock, blown loose by strong winds, and several climbers' headlamps and goggles were damaged, but no one was hurt. The problems were the wind and cold. At Base Camp, the temperature fell to  $-16^{\circ}$  C. One day at the highest camp, Camp IV at 8350 meters, it was  $-36^{\circ}$  C. The wind above the south summit was so fierce that the summiters could not see Makalu, not far away to the east. Between Camp II and the south summit, they fixed 3635 meters of rope. After joining the normal southeast-ridge route, on the Hillary Step they had no need for fixed rope as plenty had been left there by previous expeditions. The successful summiters were Hideji Nazuka and Fumiaki Goto on December 18, Osamu Tanabe and Sinsuke Exuka on the 20th and Yoshio Ogata and Ryushi Hoshino on the 22nd. The seventh climbing member had developed chest pains on arriving at Camp IV on December 13 and was forced to abandon the climb. With the use of bottled oxygen while sleeping and climbing at and above their two highest camps, they suffered no serious frostbite.

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*Ama Dablam, Solo Winter Ascent of West Face, 1992.* Yasushi Yamanoi's solo winter ascent of a new route on the west face of Ama Dablam on December 6 and 7, 1992 was mentioned in *AAJ, 1993*. There are more details and photographs of this remarkable climb in *Iwa To Yuki* of April, 1993.

*Ama Dablam, Pre-Monsoon Ascent and Attempt.* An expedition of 11 Americans and a Briton to Ama Dablam's southeast ridge was led by Scott Fischer. On April 24, Americans Fischer and Stephen Shrader reached the summit. Slovenes Bojan Počkar and Štefan Mlinarič attempted a route on the northwest face of Ama Dablam where Počkar and Vanja Furlan had failed in 1989. On May 3, the Slovenes got to 5600 meters, but they found the ice in such bad condition that they quit.

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