

“Mount Duff” while Novak and I attempted the steep south ice face at Scottish grade 4 or 5 but were driven back by weather which threatened to drive the pack-ice onto the boat. After a return north to Anvers Island, the boat was nearly lost in violent katabatic winds which were driving it ashore. After sitting out five days of storm, Ducroz, Mauduit, Errel, Matt Dickinson, Frank McDermott, Novak and I made the probable first ascent of c.1530-meter Mount Williams via the east face in 24 hours round-trip. On the descent, we were avalanched and were lucky to get away without fatalities. The island also holds the highest peak on the Antarctic Peninsula, c.2900-meter-high Mont Français, which has been climbed only once subsequent to its first ascent in the early 1980s.

JULIAN FREEMAN-ATTWOOD, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Monte Parry. Chileans Aldo Boitano, Guillermo Mascaró, Mauricio Rojas, Renzo Uccelli and José Vélez were taken by the navy icebreaker *Piloto Pardo* from Punta Arenas to a Chilean base on Deception Island and thence by military helicopter for a 15-day stay on Brabant Island. Bad weather prevented activity most of the time. After six days in a high camp, they set out for the summit of Monte Parry (2522 meters, 8274 feet), which they reached in the late afternoon of February 23. Some days later, the icebreaker collected the group.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

EUROPE

Arch Wall, Trollveggen, Winter Ascent. Janusz Golab, Stanisław Piecuch and I made the first winter ascent of the Arch Wall on Trollveggen. We fixed the first three pitches on February 26 and then from February 28 to March 11 stayed continuously on the wall, first in good weather but with strong wind and temperatures down to -12°C, but then on five days it snowed. We couldn't climb at all one day. We spent eleven nights on the wall, with a comfortable bivouac only on the Great Flake Ledges. The last bivouac was very cold since we had thrown our bivouac equipment down. On the last day, March 11, we climbed in heavy snowfall to reach the top at three P.M. The Norwegians said it is the most difficult route in Norway.

JACEK FLUDER, *Klub Wysokogórski Katowice, Poland*

ASIA

India—Arunachal Pradesh

Gorichen II and Gorichen East. Our expedition hoped to climb Kangto (7090 meters, 23,262 feet) in order to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling. There was

no ascent recorded of Kangto from the Indian side. Beyond Chokersum, we explored the west and south ridges of Kangto, but neither approach seemed feasible. West of the main peak and on the ridge descending from it, Jagat Thakur, Bivujit Mukhoty, Amit Chowdhary, Lhakpa Sherpa, Sangay Sherpa and Major Upadhyay made the first ascent of P 6020 (19,751 feet). We felt that the mountain could be approached only across the international boundary, the McMahon Line. Not wanting to risk any international dispute, we turned to the Gorichen group to the west and set up an Advance Base at 18,300 feet on the moraine of the glacier flowing down to the east from the headwall of the Gorichen group. After some rock climbing, we established Camp I at 19,300 feet in the basin at the foot of the ridges connecting Gorichen II (6488 meters, 21,287 feet; the highest in the group), Gorichen East (6222 meters, 20,413 feet) and Gorichen South (6247 meters, 20,496 feet). On October 28, N. Norbu, C. Norbu and Lalit Negi made the first ascent of Gorichen East by its north face, followed on the 30th by P.M. Das and Nima Dorje. Also on the 30th, Lalit Negi, Kusang, N. Norbu, C. Norbu, Anita Devi, Kunga Bhutia, Baiju and Major Anil Goth completed a new route, the east ridge, to the summit of Gorichen II, also known as Gorichen Main.

AJIT K. DUTT, *Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling*

India—Sikkim

Siniolchu. Siniolchu (6887 meters, 22,595 feet) is probably the most beautiful peak in Sikkim. It was first climbed by Germans in 1936 and again in 1937. In 1979, about 20 Indians from the Sonam Gyatso Mountaineering Institute, climbing on three different days, reached the summit, with four high camps and much fixed rope. Our Slovene expedition was composed of Marko Čar, Vanja Furlan, Luka Karničar, Uroš Rupar and me as leader. Approaching via Lachen, we established Base Camp at 4570 meters on May 17. Fog and low visibility kept us there for two days. On May 19, we established Camp I at 5350 meters at the bottom of the north face, just below the big plateau at the foot of the face. On May 21 Rupar and Furlan climbed the broken icefall at the western end of the plateau. This icefall forms the lower part of the glacier which descends from the col between Siniolchu and Little Siniolchu. High temperatures made this objectively the most dangerous part of the route. It was difficult to find a way through. Karničar and Čar established Camp II on the Siniolchu side of the col at 6250 meters on May 22. Furlan and Rupar left Base Camp on May 25 and spent two nights at Camp I. They reached Camp II on May 27 and left it at eleven P.M. that same night. Climbing all night, they reached the summit on May 28 at 4:30 P.M. During these 17½ hours, they belayed 26 pitches, but they went unroped wherever they could on this long, exposed ridge. They descended until seven P.M. and bivouacked at 6450 meters. They resumed the descent at 6:30 A.M. and after getting to Camp II at noon, they rested there