

*Khatang Attempt.* Our 6-man, 3-woman expedition, which I led, attempted to ascend Khatang's (6782 meters, 22,250 feet) northeast ridge, by which Japanese in 1982 and Swiss in 1987 had climbed the peak. We established Base Camp in the Lumding Kharka and Advance Base (Camp I) below the glacier lake at 4050 and 4800 meters on October 1 and 3. The ascent to Camp II at 5600 meters, which we reached on October 6, was up the side of the icefall that descended from the northeast ridge, where we fixed four ropes. In the next days, we fixed rope on the steep rock step nearly to the col. The sharp ridge offered mixed climbing, where we fixed rope to 6350 meters. On October 18, Rudolf Laier, Alfred Leitenstorfer and Frau Marion Emmert set up Camp III in a crevasse at 6350 meters. On October 19, Leitenstorfer climbed to 6400 meters. There were still several steep steps on the ice ridge covered with snow mushrooms to overcome. Although the ridge from 6600 meters appeared to be broader, we decided with such snow conditions that we did not have enough time to complete the climb and gave up.

PETER RIPPLINGER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Dorje Lhakpa.* A 3-man Japanese expedition to Dorje Lhakpa (6966 meters, 22,854 feet) completed the 9th ascent of the peak on October 13 when leader Sachi Takano, Masayuki Harada and Pasang Sherpa reached the top via the west ridge.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Dorje Lhakpa, Winter Attempt and Tragedy.* Before this season, all climbs on Dorje Lhakpa (6966 meters, 22,854 feet) had been made on its west ridge, and seven of the ten previous ascents had been successful. Greg Collum and I planned to make an attempt alpine-style by its northwest face to the northwest ridge. In Kathmandu, Kurt Schmierer and German Marcus Breitfeld joined us. By November 30, we had made our way around the icefall to camp at 20,000 feet at the base of the ridge. The season seemed unusually cold, and the other three all got some minor frostbite that day. On December 1, we gained the ridge and camped near 21,000 feet. That night, high wind blew Greg's pack away. We decided that Marcus and Greg would retreat while Kurt and I would continue up. Schmierer and I reached a high point of 21,800 feet (6645 meters) on the 3rd, but because of the cold and difficult rock, we decided to retreat also. On the 5th, Kurt had just finished the last rappel off the ridge when I looked down and saw him sliding backwards down the low-angle but icy slope and into a large crevasse. He must have fallen either from a crampon popping off or from losing consciousness on the easy slope. I immediately went down to him, but I could find no pulse or breathing. The next day, I descended without incident.

ANDREW SELTERS

*Urkinmang, Jugal Himat.* An expedition of five Japanese and three Sherpas made a new route and fifth ascent of Urkinmang (6151 meters, 20,180 feet)