

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

Langshisa Ri - WNW Face

6427 m



climbing the north face to the north ridge. They pitched one high camp at 5400 meters and fixed 2000 meters of rope. Rocky in the lower half, they found some icy difficult sections up to 75° near the top. On May 1, leader Tamotsu Onishi, Toshisugi Irisawa, Satoshi Kimoto, Miss Keiko Nishihira, Shozoh Kai and Sherpas Ang Phurba, Mingma Nuru and Dawa Nuru reached the summit. Later, two members of the party unsuccessfully attempted to climb Ama Dablam by its normal route.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Langshisha Ri.* I made a solo, alpine-style, first ascent of the west-northwest face of Langshisha Ri (6427 meters, 21,086 feet) and the first traverse of the peak. I was accompanied to Base Camp by Dr. Matjaž Vrtovec, Chindi Phurba Sherpa and liaison officer Kesar Bahadur Saud. After acclimatization climbs, which included an ascent to a plateau at 5700 meters below the standard south-face route to become familiar with the descent, I set out up the previously unattempted west-northwest face from 4700 meters late on the morning of October 7. I found two large, dangerous séracs overhanging the route and so I climbed a rock ridge between them, which was in direct sunlight and therefore warm, though a bit complicated with some difficult pitches. I stayed on it to its top at 5360 meters. I then ascended a snow ramp (50° to 60°) leading left to a sérac at 5820 meters, where I bivouacked at 8:30 P.M. without a sleeping bag to save weight and to allow me to take two ropes for rappels on the descent of the south face. After a cold night, I resumed the ascent at 6:30 A.M., now on the steepest part of the route, which was never less than 60°. The crux was fifteen meters of 80° ice below a delicate 65° traverse to the right and another ten meters of 80° ice. Following a 65° to 70° couloir, I joined the southwest ridge about 100 meters from the top, where I arrived at eleven A.M. on the 8th, four hours after I had completed the “delicate traverse” and had begun the straightforward ascent of the couloir, which was “beautiful climbing.” I descended the ridge for 100 meters to where I had left my rucksack and traversed 100 meters to the south face and the normal route. I climbed down the upper 200 meters and then rappelled the next 500 meters. Due to bad conditions on the south face, the descent took all afternoon and I reached the foot at 5:20 P.M. As it was getting dark and I was tired, I bivouacked there at 5700 meters and reached Base Camp the next day.

VANJA FURLAN, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

*Langtang Lirung.* An expedition of four Spanish Catalans climbed Langtang Lirung (7234, 23,734 feet) by the southwest face. On October 7, the leader Carles González de Agustín, Manuel Miranda and Eduardo Sánchez got to the summit.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY