

at ten A.M., we climbed to the left of the route taken by previous parties, on excellent snow and weaving in and out of rock bands. We camped just below the black rock in an exposed but good campsite. On the morning of October 6, it was not until 9:45 that wind dropped enough to start climbing. Above the black rock, we followed the corniced ridge on mostly good snow to a second snow plateau, where the wind was very strong. Above, we climbed mixed ground with three difficult 25-meter pitches. The ridge was climbed on poor snow to a big boulder that blocked the ridge, which we bypassed on the east. The absence of snow on the final summit wall meant a diagonal line for two 25-meter pitches on rotten slabs on the Sanctuary side. Above the slabs, we followed the crest to the last rock outcrop and the summit (7434 meters, 24,390 feet) at five P.M. The descent required care on unstable snow sections. Three abseils were necessary before reaching our tent at 7000 meters after nine P.M. The descent continued on the 7th and we reached the third pinnacle at sunset. Advance Base was finally reached after midnight and Base Camp at 3:30 A.M., just four hours before the porters arrived for the walk out.

JULIE-ANN CLYMA AND ROGER PAYNE, *Alpine Climbing Group*

*Nanda Devi East.* Our Catalan expedition was composed of Xavier Laporta, Manel Lobe, Salvador Angles, Josep Antón Alarcón, Ricard Miquel, Marc Martínez, Marc Cercós, Antón Rañé, Anna Rodríguez and me as leader. The route we followed was the only one yet climbed to the summit of Nanda Devi East (7434 meters, 24,390 feet), the south ridge. We gained access to the ridge after climbing a 50° couloir to Longstaff's Col at 5995 meters. In contrast to previous expeditions that placed three or four camps on the ridge, we established only two. The ridge had 300-meter-high sections of UIAA III to IV rock and mixed climbing. We got to Base Camp on June 10 and placed Advance Base first on June 11 at 4630 meters but later moved it to 4995 meters. Camps I and II were placed on Longstaff's Col and at 6500 meters on June 16 and 24. It took three days of hard work to prepare the route from the col to Camp II. From there, Miquel and Martínez climbed to the summit on June 27.

FERRAN GARCÍA I CREIX, *Unió Eursionista de Catalunya, Spain*

*Trisul.* Our four-man expedition ascended the Nandakini River to establish Base Camp at 4300 meters on September 17. We placed Camps I and II at 5150 and 5850 meters on September 19 and 24, despite the illness of two of our members. Between Camps I and II we ascended the heavily crevassed Ronti Glacier to reach the west ridge, first climbed by Slovenes in 1976. The ridge rises from between 50° to 60° and we originally wanted to fix rope, but time was too short. Leader Markus Schnitzler and I climbed this crux and placed Camp III at 6420 meters where the ridge flattened. The next day, September 27, we climbed the endless corniced ridge to the summit (7120 meters, 23,360 feet).

MARKUS RANDLER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*