

Meru North and Shivling II. German Bahillo, Juan Carlos Bahillo, Simón Elias and I arrived at Base Camp at Tapovan at 4400 meters on September 4. Our first climb was a new route on the 1250-meter-high east face of Meru North (6450 meters, 21,162 feet). Climbing capsule-style, we were on the wall for ten days. Camp I was at the foot of the face at 4800 meters. We placed a camp at 5500 meters, a bivouac at 5800 meters and a second camp at 5950 meters on the wall. We rate the climb at 6b, A2+, 85°. On September 27, German Bahillo, Elias and I reached the summit. We descended the ascent route in 24 rappels. We then climbed alpine-style the Bonington-Fotheringham route on the southeast ridge of Shivling II (the southwest summit; 6501 meters, 21,330 feet) in a six-day climb from Base Camp to Base Camp. On October 10, both Bahillos and I reached the summit. We descended the normal route.

JORDI COROMINAS, *La Rioja, Spain*

Thalay Sagar Attempts. Five expeditions attempted unsuccessfully to climb Thalay Sagar (6904 meters, 22,650 feet) in 1994. The attempt of three *Italians* led by Giancarlo Ruffino is given below. Also unsuccessful were *South Koreans* led by Ha Chan-Soo, other *South Koreans* led by Chung Kap-Soo, *Americans* Steven E. House and Todd McDougall and other *Americans* led by Cecil E. Lohn. Ha Chan-Soo's four-man team attempted the north face. They established Camp II on July 22. The team was rather inexperienced and luckily survived the onslaught of falling stones before retiring. House and McDougall tried to climb the northeast pillar. They established Camp II at 6300 meters on October 11, but bad weather and extreme cold forced them to call off the attempt on the 16th. Kevin Starr, Will Benews and Chuck John of the other American party got to within 400 meters of the summit on September 19. In the face of bad weather, they had to abseil off the face.

HARISAH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

Thalay Sagar, North Face Attempt. From June 18 to 25, Enrico Rosso, Alessandro Vanetti and I climbed alpine-style the first 1000 meters of a new route on the buttress on the left side of the north face of Thalay Sagar (UIAA VII, 80° ice). We ascended the entire buttress from the northeast col, at the top of which we joined the 1983 Polish-Norwegian route just below the summit pyramid. We were stopped some 200 meters from the summit by the impossibility of belaying on the rotten rock and by bad weather. We had only 20 days for the whole climb, which left us, after acclimatization, only ten days for the ascent. From Advance Base at 4800 meters, we carried gear to the foot of the climb at 5300 meters. To begin the actual attempt, we bivouacked on June 18 at the base of the 50° couloir that leads to the northeast col at 5700 meters. The second bivouac was on the col. On the third day, we dropped our bivouac tent and had to descend to retrieve it. The third and fourth nights were on the col. On the fifth day, we climbed to an uncomfortable bivouac at 6300 meters.

MERU NORTH

6.450 M

400 M

45°

A1+ exposed V+

V+

V+

A2+

6a

6b

5b, A, dihedral

V

6a

5950 m Camp

100 m

85 mixed

10°

A., V

5800 biovuac

6b dihedral

6a overhang

IV

V, V+

V

dihedral

300 m

10°

N.V Mixed

Camp

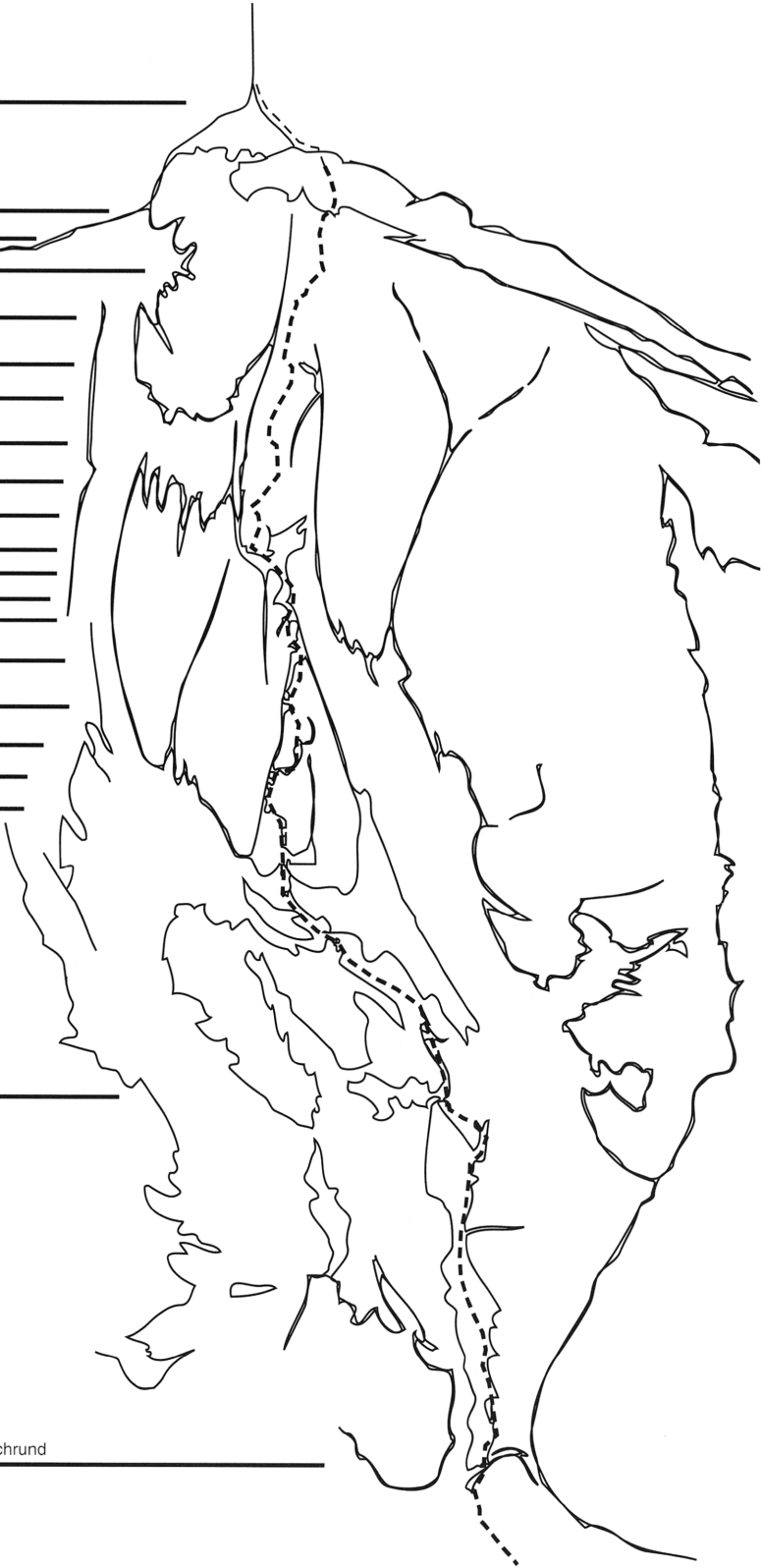
5,500 m

600 m

60° N.V Mixed

6200 m

Beraschrund



The next day, we continued in unsettled weather to a bivouac at 6500 meters. Despite threatening weather on June 25, we decided to leave our gear behind and try for the summit. Two pitches brought us to the base of the summit pyramid and two more toward the right headed us toward the easy snowy cap and brought us some 200 meters from the summit. There, the rotten rock and the weather drove us back to the bivouac. During the night, a furious snowstorm broke. Falling ice damaged the tent. In a lull, we descended a much changed wall plastered with snow. We were back at Advance Base by late that night.

GIANCARLO RUFFINO, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Thalay Sagar Attempt. Todd McDougall and I attempted the northeast buttress of Thalay Sagar alpine-style. After arriving at Kedar Tal Base Camp on October 1, we made a carry on the 5th to 17,300 feet below the north face over a difficult moraine. We camped at 17,300 feet on October 7 and for the next two days carried loads and then moved to camp at the saddle at 19,360 feet. The couloir from 18,000 feet to the saddle was hard ice and twice we encountered serious rockfall. We rested and acclimated for three days at 19,360 feet. On October 13, we began what we hoped would be a four-day summit push. We climbed seven pitches, primarily on ice, to the base of the pillar proper but retreated because of severe cold which made technical climbing too difficult. Having reached 20,350 feet, we descended to Base Camp. Not optimistic that it would warm up, we left Base Camp on October 16.

STEVEN E. HOUSE, *American Mountain Guides Association*

Jaonli. A joint Mongolian-Indian expedition was led by Radnabazarin Zorig and Mohindar Singh. There were 13 Mongolians. The team reached Jaonli in mid November via the Lod Gad and the Jaonli Glacier. Base Camp and Camps I, II and III were at 4300, 4700, 5450 and 5750 meters. On November 23, Subedar Mohan Singh, Havildar Sangay Sherpa, Havildar Wangchuk, all from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and former Everest summiters, and Mongolians D. Munkhgargal and B. Boldsai Khan reached the summit (6632 meters, 21,760 feet).

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

India—Himachal Pradesh

Rangrik Rang, Kinnaur. Little was known about the objective of our Indo-British expedition. No photographs were available, no eye-witness reports. We saw the mountain for the first time when we breasted a shoulder below the village of Charang, only a few miles short of the peak. P 6553 (21,500 feet), which has now been named Rangrik Rang after the Rangrik Tungma temple just