

*Manaslu, Ascent.* After her Pumori and Lhotse ascents (*see below*), Chantal Mauduit flew by helicopter to the foot of Manaslu and with one Sherpa, Ang Tshering, attacked her third Himalayan mountain of the season, here too following the standard route. On Manaslu she again went to the top alone: Ang Tshering became very tired on their final push to the summit on May 24 because he had been breaking trail for hours in deep snow, and he stopped an hour and a half below the very top to rest and wait for her. Like the Carsolio brothers, Mauduit reported finding prayer flags on the summit. She was the first Frenchwoman, and only the sixth woman of any nationality, to succeed on Manaslu. After completing her hat trick, she had summited her fifth 8000er and was keen for more.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Manaslu, First Tibetan Ascent.* On May 3 and 4 a band of eight strong Tibetans (led by Samdruk) who spend their lives on the high Tibetan Plateau needed no artificial oxygen at all to succeed in the first attempt on Manaslu by Tibetans or any other Chinese citizens. This team is waging a campaign to "conquer" all the 8000ers, and most of them have now reached the tops of six, including Manaslu.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Manaslu, Ascent.* Italian Sergio Martini on September 27 summited Manaslu, at 8,163 meters the world's eighth highest mountain, via its standard northeast-face route, thereby gaining his twelfth 8000-meter summit. He now has just two more of these giants to "conquer," Everest and Lhotse, and is only the seventh person ever to reach at least twelve 8,000-meter summits.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Manaslu, Ascent and Tragedy.* Japanese Masatsugu Konishi gained the summit of Manaslu on September 30 with two teammates from their party of five Japanese climbers and five climbing Sherpas. They had made a late start for the summit because of strong winds, and their descent was late and very slow because of exhaustion. Well after nightfall, after having gone down to an altitude of 7900 meters, Konishi stopped and bivouacked for a few hours, far above their highest camp at 7650 meters, and then in a confused state because of the high altitude, he moved briefly upward and later finally disappeared completely. His body was not found.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Dorje Lhakpa, West Ridge, Attempt.* It was our objective to climb Dorje Lhakpa (6966 m) by the west ridge. Ours was the first British attempt. We approached from the Jugalrnal side in the south. Dorje Lhakpa can only be climbed as a joint Nepalese venture; permits and permission had to be obtained from the Nepalese authorities. Alan Kay, Club Treasurer and nominated Expedition Coordinator for the YRC, took care of the formalities. Rimo Expeditions acted as our agents in Nepal. We arrived in Kathmandu on October 1. On October 4 we left Kathmandu for Chatura, 60 kilometers north of the city. Porters were organized there. We approached the higher ranges of the Jugal Himal by a series of ridge systems high above and to the west of the Balephi Valley. From Chatura our caravan took us through the village of Gangland up to the Rhododendron Forests and leech-infested scrub of the Kamicharka Danda to Panch Pokhari ("Five Lakes"). From the sacred lakes of Panch Pokhari we left our trekking team members and traveled the so-called "five combs" high above the impenetrable gorges of

the Balephi River to the eventual Confluence of the Balephi and Lingshing Rivers below the mouth of the Lingshing Glacier.

At the "Confluence Camp" on October 11, we made a comprehensive exploration of both west and east sides of the Lingshing Glacier. The west appeared absent of avalanche threat from the slopes of Dorje Lhakpa II above. Unfortunately, access to the Glacier was impossible. The Ablation Valley on the east side however hosted a very promising site and access to the glacier proved relatively simple. Tins and other artifacts were evidences of a previous camp.

Base Camp was established at 4500 meters on Friday October 13 with marvelous views of Dorje Lhakpa from the crest of the lateral moraine of the Lingshing Glacier.

From Base Camp, the Ablation Valley was followed to an eventual descent to the Lingshing Glacier. Our Advanced Base Camp up the Lingshing Glacier was established October 15. Camp I was established on October 16 at 5300 meters just below Tilman's East Col that marks the start of Dorje Lhakpa's west ridge. From Camp I we ascended the gradual snow slope to the right of the ridge. Access to the ridge proper was gained via a 45° slope initially christened the "Scottish Grade II." From the top of this, the ridge rose broadly and then crested with large cornices overhanging the Lang Tang side of the mountain. We were mostly forced on to the southern side of the crest on steep ice- and snow-covered ground. Ropes were fixed on the steeper sections and by October 24 Camp II was established on the section of the ridge at 6100 meters where the ridge levels out before rising sharply again.

On October 24 and 25, exploration began on the ridge above Camp II. Snow conditions began to deteriorate substantially. There appeared to be no reasonable way forward. On October 25, the decision was made not to go on. On October 28, the expedition left Base Camp. The entire journey to Kathmandu took six days. The expedition flew home to England on November 10.

GED CAMPION, *Yorkshire Rambler's Club*

*Dorje Lhakpa, West Ridge.* It was reported that the west ridge of this peak was climbed on March 15 by a Japanese team led by Yuji Ishikawa from Hokkaigakeun University. Summitters were Ishikawa, Naomune Ogura and Masataka Shiraishi, all from Sapporo. (*High Mountain Sports* 167)

*Pasang Lhamu Chuli, West Ridge.* Pasang Lhamu Chuli (7351 m), also known as Josamba I and Nangpai Gosum I, was one of five new peaks opened for foreign expeditions in June, 1995. Its location is about five kilometers west-southwest of Cho Oyu. It was not easy for us to identify. Soon we learned it is nothing but a peak that has been known as Cho Aui and had already been climbed from the Tibetan side in 1986 by a Himalayan Association of Japan expedition. In the post-monsoon season of 1995, a Korean expedition tried from Nepalese side but was forced to retreat from a height of 6900 meters.

Our 1996 expedition, sponsored by the Osaka Alpine Club, aimed to climb this peak from the south or via the east ridge. On September 6, after irritated waiting in Kathmandu due to the prolonged monsoon weather of this year, the first flight brought us to Shangboche, and we stayed for three days at the Everest View Hotel. Then we proceeded to Thame village, where we spent seven more days at our sirdar Ang Phurba's lodge for rest and acclimatization. We started for Chhule on September 16, and established our Base Camp (5400 m) on the central moraine of Nampa La Glacier. About one and a half tons of climbing gear and food had already been carried up to BC by a few Sherpas and local porters prior to our arrival. As the nearest couloir, which leads directly to