

*Gimmegela, Third Ascent.* It was reported that a 14-man British Services expedition made the third ascent of Gimmegela (7350m) via the southwest ridge. The team (Pat Parsons, leader, Rob Magowan, Tug Wilson, Huan Davies, Nigel Lane Neil Peacock, Bob Ewen, Larry Foden, Marty Hallet, Callum Weeks, Dave Sheridan, Andy Gibson, Paul Hart, Ted Atkins) set up base camp at Pangpema, the traditional base-camp site for Kangchenjunga ascents on the north side, and set up ABC six kilometers to the northeast at the foot of Gimmegela's southwest ridge. The climbing from CI (5580m) to CII (6400m) proved difficult, involving 800 meters of hard mixed climbing (HS/Scottish 3) up shattered blocks and loose slate. Inobvious route-finding higher up led to a number of dead-ends before an ice gully (Scottish IV) was climbed to where the ridge eased off in angle. From there the team followed the ridge crest, finding good climbing and increasing winds, a gust of which blew Hart completely off the crest (he was held by his partner). After two more camps, the summit was reached on May 10 by Lane and Peacock. On the 12th, Aktins, Foden, Magowan and Wilson followed. The team stripped all ropes and departed base camp on May 18. (*High Mountain Sports* 179)

*Kangchenjunga, North Face.* Kangchenjunga, located in remote eastern Nepal, lies on the border with India's autonomous state of Sikkim and is the world's third highest peak at 8586 meters, after Everest and K2. On Kangchenjunga, six expeditions, representing Great Britain, our mixed international team, Korea, the Slovak republic, Spain, and Switzerland attempted to reach the summit by various routes. But only our team was able to attain the top, on May 24, placing Scott McKee from Montana on the summit after 51 days. Scott thus was able to make the first ascent of the north face of Kangchenjunga by an American. One of our main goals was to place the first woman on the summit, and Heidi Howkins (Oregon) very nearly reached the top on May 14. Our expedition was conducted in lightweight style with no high altitude Sherpas and no bottled oxygen.

DANIEL MAZUR

*Kangchenjunga, Attempt.* The main goal of an 11-member Slovak expedition was to climb Kangchenjunga by the 1981 Czechoslovak Route. The leader of this expedition was Jaryk Stejskal, who in the 1980s summited Lhotse Shar, Dhaulagiri and Cho Oyu. The weather was very poor the entire time. The first attempt was made by three climbers: Juraj Kardhordo (Cho Oyu, 1995), and two novices to the Himalayas, Vladimir Plulik and Jaroslav Vondercik. On May 5, they reached 7700 meters, where they decided to retreat because of deep snow and strong winds. The second attempt was made from the Camp III (6800m) by the next three climbers: Jindro Martis (45), Martin Gablik (43) and Stanislav Glejdura (39). By 11 a.m. on May 8, they were at 8300 meters. There was a lot of new, waist-deep snow, and their progress was very slow, forcing them to descend. The third attempt was made by Kardhordo and Vondercik. On May 13, at 5 p.m., they reached 8500 meters, very near the summit. They climbed the whole day in a very strong wind, continually thinking about retreat options. Kardhordo and Vondercik climbed 40 meters above the col, where a very strong wind was blowing. They realized that they would be not able to reach the summit until dusk, and that they had no chance to bivvy there. They decided to descend because they did not want to take such a high risk. The Slovak Expedition came very close to the summit of Kangchenjunga, missing its goal by a lack of good fortune.

VLADIMIR LINEK, *Jamesak*