

route and two more for the rappel. They experienced serious weather on the wall, including a storm on the descent that killed three Indian rangers in a neighboring valley and destroyed 25 kilometers of the road, which they later passed on foot. A full account of their route appears earlier in this journal.

*Bhagirathi III, South Face, Les Temps Sauvages, and Other Activity.* The expedition members had various goals. Alain Bruzy (leader), Christian Ravier, Frederic Salles, and Alain Miquel wanted to climb the Scottish Route, but altitude problems and dissension in the group prohibited them from doing so. Jerome Thinidres and Stephane Benoist wanted to put up a new route on the west face between the Slovenian and the Scottish routes. Instead, they climbed the Scottish Route from May 16 to 20, finding difficult mixed climbing.

Arnaud Guillaume and I wanted to climb the Spanish (Catalan) Route. On May 7, we were ready to start, but a big snow storm that lasted until the 11th deposited one meter of snow at Base Camp. When good weather returned on the 12th, we realized we didn't have enough time to climb the route. Furthermore, part of our gear had been lost when the Advanced Base Camp was destroyed by avalanches. We decided to have a look at the south face, which we thought would be drier, sunnier and quicker to climb.

We started climbing on May 15 at 1 a.m. up a 800-meter couloir (40°) before reaching a ridge that we followed for five pitches (V/V+). We installed our first bivy at 5400 meters. On the second day, we climbed a very nice, steep dihedral with beautiful wide cracks for five more pitches (V+/6a). The second bivouac was set up at 5260 meters.

The central pillar we climbed on day three was the nicest part of the route: long slabs with thin cracks protected by nuts and cams. We had to aid a few meters. The third bivouac was at 5900 meters. It snowed all night and we had to wait until noon before leaving. We then joined the Czech Route for five more pitches of wonderful granite, which led us to the summit snow slopes. It took us about four hours to climb them and we reached the summit at 9 p.m. on May 18. We had a hard time reaching the last bivouac in the dark, sometimes down climbing, sometimes rappelling. The next day, we rappelled the rest of the route to the access couloir.

Our route, *Les Temps Sauvages*, is a beautiful climb, not too hard on perfect granite. The sun reaches the face at 9 a.m. and stays until 7 p.m. To climb the route, you will need about two sets of cams, one set of nuts and 15 pitons. No equipment was left on the pitches. All rappels (45 to 50 meters) except for two are equipped with two pitons (the other two use a single bolt). From the second bivy, rappels are equipped straight down and don't follow the route. All bivouacs are comfortable on good ledges.

The weather was rather capricious. During our climb, mornings were sunny and afternoons cloudy with some snow. We departed Base Camp May 24.

REMI THIVEL, *France*

*Meru East Face, Attempt.* The original aim of the expedition was to make the first ascent of the north face of the highest summit in Himachel Pradesh, Reo Purgyil (6816m), which straddles the border between India and Tibet. Unfortunately, two days before the expedition was due to depart for India, permission was revoked by the Indian Government. This action came at the end of a week in which India conducted nuclear weapon tests. Despite the setback, we

were still committed to flights and other arrangements, so the team traveled out to Delhi, and with the support of the IMF managed to obtain an alternative permit for Meru (6660m) in the Gangotri region.

The expedition was comprised of climbers Julie-Ann Clyma and Roger Payne. The new aim was to make an alpine-style ascent of the unclimbed east face of Meru. They were joined for the walk-in to Base Camp by Nicholas Clyma (N.Z.) and Tony Martin (U.S.).

The expedition set up Base Camp at Tapovan (4480m) on May 24. The weather in the pre-monsoon period was excellent at the end of May, but extremely unsettled during June. The first attempt on the mountain began on May 31, with Payne and Clyma reaching a highpoint of ca. 6300 meters on June 3. Progress was stopped here because of bad weather and avalanche danger. Two more attempts were made, but the poor conditions did not allow progress beyond 5100 meters. The expedition departed from Base Camp on June 14 and arrived back in Delhi two days later.

ROGER PAYNE, *British Mountaineering Council*

*Gorur Dome, First Ascent.* Prasanta Roy led an expedition that made the first ascent of an unnamed peak (known locally as Gorur Dome, 6268m) in May and June. The summit was reached on June 9 after about eight to nine hours of climbing from CII by Arnab Banerjee, Arka Ghosh, Avijit Das and HAP Surinder Singh Rawat.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

*Chaturangi Glacier, First Ascents.* From June to July, Amitabha Roy led a Rocks & Snow Expedition that succeeded in climbing two unnamed peaks in the Chaturangi Glacier area. Base Camp was established at 5030 meters on June 25, CI (5180m) on July 26, CII (5460m) July 27. The summit of a 6166-meter peak was reached by Mainak Das, Raghubir Singh and two HAPs, Balbir Singh and Lachman Singh, on July 29. The four then climbed an unnamed 6035-meter peak the same day.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

*Jaonli, Attempt, and Various Ascents.* A British expedition to Jaonli (6632m) failed to climb the peak due to a six-day spell of heavy rain from September 20 to 25. Deep fresh snow prevented any advance beyond 5400 meters on the normal Northwest Flank route. The team also had considerable difficulty in reaching Base Camp up the Lod Gad Valley. The route had not been visited for two years and has been abandoned by local shepherds. The Bhagirathi River was crossed by a wire bridge three kilometers north of Dabrani, then a difficult crossing was made of the Lod Gad side stream. From there, the first six kilometers of the route up the south bank of the Lod Gad was badly overgrown and took three days. For compensation, the team climbed three 5000-meter peaks on the south side of the Jaonli Glacier: Pt. 5447m by its northeast face (PD), Pt. 5349m by its north ridge (PD), and an unnamed peak two kilometers west of Pt. 5447, which was climbed by its west face and traversed (AD). This summit was reckoned to be ca. 5480 meters, making it the highest in this attractive group of training peaks. The name Trimulti has been suggested.

Three members also crossed a new col linking the Jaonli and Din Gad valleys at 5120 meters to the west of Pt. 5447. The route then crossed a small glacier at the head of the Kola