

five days after their ascent.

No one even attempted Annapurna I. Only one team out of seven (a predominantly American group that included Ginette Harrison; see below) had any summiters on Dhaulagiri I. Everest had no summiters at all, and the same was true for Kangchenjunga, Lhotse and Makalu, which had only one team each, and for Manaslu with four parties.

On Everest, there were only four expeditions this autumn (one Spanish party for Nepal's Southeast Ridge route, one Spanish and one Italian group for the North Col in Tibet, though they were not there at the same time, and a South Korean group on the seldom-attempted 1983 American Route on the east face, also in Tibet). None were successful. The last previous autumn season in which only four teams came to Everest was in 1985.

There were surprisingly few fatal accidents in the Nepalese Himalaya this season despite the very dangerous snow conditions. But five climbers did die in Nepal, and all were killed by avalanches. The American climber Alex Lowe died with his teammate David Bridges on Xixabangma (Shishapangma), which is entirely in Tibet and covered accordingly later in this journal. The 41-year-old Briton, Mrs. Ginette Harrison, the only woman ever to summit Kangchenjunga, was caught in a danger zone around 6500 meters on Dhaulagiri I on October 24. She was highly experienced in Himalayan climbing and in organizing and conducting expeditions to these great peaks. In addition to Kangchenjunga via its difficult north face in May 1998, she had summited three other 8000ers, including Everest in October, 1993.

A Nepalese Sherpa who was climbing with a French expedition, Dawa Dorje, was also killed by the avalanche that struck Ginette Harrison. The others who died on Nepalese mountains were two South Koreans, Han Do-Kyu and Hyun Myeong-Kun, on the north side of Kangchenjunga and Sange Sherpa with a South Korean team on the normal Northwest route for Makalu.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Trekking Peaks of Nepal, Ascents and Attempts.* In an effort to climb all 18 trekking peaks in Nepal as catalogued by Bill O'Connor's book, *The Trekking Peaks of Nepal*, the British Army Nepal Expedition sent different teams to all the respective mountains with the objective of making "field observations" of the routes described in the book while climbing the routes. Changes were to be noted in updated descriptions that would be the basis for a new publication on the same topic. Fifteen out of the 18 peaks were summited. Those that defeated attempts were Hiunchuli, Singu Chuli and Ramdung. Further details are lacking.

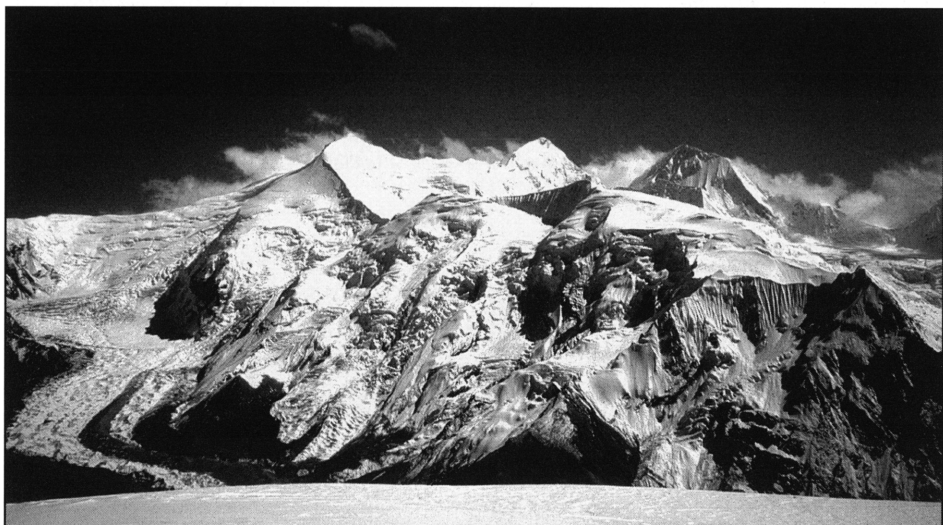
*Kanjiroba, Ascent.* It was reported that Britons Richard Bull, Neil Cooper, Andy Hawes, Mal Lewis, Andy Lind, Josie Poole, Ben Steele and Alison and Tom Wedgwood made the fifth ascent of Kanjiroba Main Summit (6883m). It was the first time in 20 years that the mountain had seen an ascent. The crux was the approach to the mountain. Taking the route pioneered in 1961 by John Tyson, the team proceeded up the Jagdula Gorge in a ten-day bushwhack that involved the building of four bridges, a number of rappels and Tyrolean traverses and construction of wooden ladders to navigate vertical rock walls. Base Camp was established at 4200 meters at the foot of the mountain. From an Advanced Base Camp at 5200 meters, Bull, Cooper, Hawes, Lewis and Steele, along with a climbing Sherpa and cook, Ringi, proceed to fix 200 meters of rope on a 45-degree snow slope to reach the southeast ridge at ca. 6000 meters. On September 26, they continued up the ridge in deep snow, led by Ringi, who broke trail for the team and fixed a 12-meter ice wall that would prove to be the

hardest section of the climb. Following Ringi, Bull and Cooper reached the summit, a feat repeated on September 28 by Lind, Pemba Sherpa and Tom Wedgwood. A helicopter rescue was initiated to save Lind, who back at BC found that he had developed frostbite in one foot. The journey back to Hurikot followed a route to the west of the Jagdula that crossed two high passes, including the last col in the ridge that runs southeast from Milch Berg (Palta Thumba, 6126m), and traversed a series of high plateaus well above the gorge before following a long gully down to the main valley. (*High Mountain Sports* 212)

*Kangtokla, First Official Ascent.* Kangtokla (6294m) was one of the ten peaks opened to foreign expeditions in 1998. Miguel Angel Videl led a four-member Spanish team that made the first official ascent of the peak via the southeast ridge. The summit was reached on October 11. (*High Mountain Sports* 212)

*Raksha Urai, Attempt.* Hubert Fitzwallner led an Austro-German expedition that on October 20 reached a high point of just under 6000 meters on one of the summits of Rakshi Urai. The team climbed the east ridge to the east face in their attempt. (*High Mountain Sports* 212)

*Himlung, Attempt.* The members of the expedition were Götz Wiegand (leader), Frank Meutzner, Olaf Zill, Matthias Braun, Tilo Bähr and myself. We started our expedition in September. Before starting out to attempt Himlung, we met Miss Elizabeth Hawley in Kathmandu. We have heard about the fact that Himlung was quite hard to find. It seemed that other expedition teams would possibly be there, too. But the information we received was very poor and conflicting. The biggest problem for us was that everything we heard about Himlung could possibly refer to Nemjung, located close to Himlung. So we collected all the available information and started for Base Camp at the foot of Himlung, Gyachikang and Nemjung. This BC was used by a Japanese expedition in 1992.



Left to right: Himlung, Gyachikang and Nemjung I as seen from the summit of the 5800-meter peak climbed by the German Himlung expedition. The team attempted the ridge on Himlung that runs up from right to left. ANGELA HAMPEL