

exposure, as Irvine was, this terrain would be exhausting. The traversing forces one to move along a double fall line, which requires great concentration.

What would the rating be? As I climbed it, with the aid of the ladder, I would call it 5.10 A0—damn hard. To have basically “onsight” soloed this pitch with hobnail boots and no protection is beyond that of which I believe the early climbers were capable. No trace of their rappel setup was ever found on the block above the step, and for Mallory and Irvine to down-climb a tenuous fist crack would be even more demanding and unlikely.

My inability to make the moves reinforces my belief that Mallory and Irvine were not able to surmount this formidable obstacle.

CONRAD ANKER

*Gyachung Kang, North Face, New Route, and Other Ascents.* In the autumn, a Slovenian expedition led by Andrej Štremfelj made a number of first ascents in the Mahalangur Himal before climbing a new route on the north face of Gyachung Kang. A full account of the climbs appears in an article by Marko Prezelj earlier in this journal.

*Cho Oyu, Tichy Route, Self-Supported Women's Ascent.* We were a team of American women friends (Supy Bullard, leader, and Georgie Stanley, co-leader; Caroline Byrd, Kathryn Hess, Cara Liberatore, Liane Owen) with a goal to be the first American women's team to climb an 8000-meter peak without supplemental oxygen or Sherpa support. We left Kathmandu on April 1. Since we were “trucking” to Base Camp at 16,600 feet, we wanted to start acclimatizing on the approach. To this end, we spent two nights in Nyalam and two nights in Tingri. After spending three days at “Chinese” BC, we moved up to Advanced Base Camp at 18,600 feet and went to work on the mountain. The only glitch in our plans came early. A Norwegian team trying (later successfully) to climb Cho Oyu and Shishapangma in the same season had arrived early to Cho Oyu and their Sherpas had fixed the mountain. We thought it contrived to ignore these lines and fix our own set, so we used them, thereby compromising our goal of self-sufficiency.

We established Camp I at 21,000 feet, CII at 23,000 feet on April 20 and CIII at 24,500 feet. We climbed in two teams of three and on May 4, Supy, Kathryn and I reached the summit on a calm, clear day. On May 6, Cara, Caroline and Liane headed up but were turned back on their way to CIII by the first storm of the monsoon. We departed ABC on May 13. Thanks to the AAC and our friends and family for supporting our endeavor!

GEORGIE STANLEY, *unaffiliated*

*Menlungtse, Attempt, and Milarepa, Ascent.* We arrived at the upper meadows of the Menlung Valley beneath the north face of Menlungtse on September 3. We set up Base Camp (4900m) in the normal monsoon weather of clear mornings followed by rain in the afternoons and evenings. A few days later, Martin Zabaleta decided to return home. Mark Price, Andrew Brash, and I stayed on to attempt to climb both Menlungtse and several unclimbed and unnamed peaks just north of Menlungtse. Particularly interesting was point 6262 meters on the Chinese maps.

On September 14, we camped at 5420 meters on the compact west glacier of a small, unnamed peak northeast of our BC. On the morning of the 15th, after the normal snowfall during the night, I made what was probably the first ascent of this peak (ca. 5610m) by its



Point 6262m, a.k.a. Milarepa Peak. CARLOS BUHLER

short, exposed, granite west ridge. The climbing was not difficult, but several steep steps were tricky due to the newly fallen snow. I descended the east flank, a simple scree slope, and circled around the peak to the south. On September 23-24, all three of us hiked back up to the top of Pt. 5610m by the easy eastern scree slopes and spent the night a few meters under the summit for acclimatization. On September 26 and 28, following a line up an ice rib on the east end of the north face of Menlungtse, we fixed

about 600 meters of 7- and 9mm line to a small, safe bivouac spot at the base of a 20-meter rock wall. Working as a threesome, we were able to carry up food and gear to the bivouac spot for a planned seven- to ten-day alpine-style ascent of the remaining 1600 meters of the peak. A nine-day storm ensued. So much snow fell that huge crown fractures were visible all along the top slopes of the north face of Menlungtse. On October 8, we made the decision to abandon the climb. Much less snow had accumulated on the two mountains north of Menlungtse, and we changed our objective to the unclimbed point 6262 meters.

On October 12 at 5 a.m., we three set off up the east face of point 6262m from a col (5550m) between it and another smaller peak. It was an ice face with a short mixed section at the bottom and another just under the summit. Not far up the face, Andrew decided to withdraw from the route. The face was about 50 degrees in overall steepness, and the ice climbing was moderate. Only the last two mixed pitches to the top were time consuming. At 3:30 p.m. we stood on the exposed, corniced summit, the junction of three steep ice ridges. The descent went quickly with two 60-meter ropes. Due to the threatening weather front approaching, we had rigged rappel anchors all the way up the route. By 7:30 p.m., we were back at the col. The following day, we descended to BC without urgency. On October 16, we left BC for the two-day return hike to Tsambouche Village.

We named point 6262m "Milarepa Peak" after the well-known Tibetan yogi and saint who died about 900 years ago in the Rongshar Valley. Milarepa's last days were spent in the sacred caves at the base of point 6262m, only a few hundred feet from the renowned Chuar Monastery.

CARLOS BUHLER

*Chomo Lönzö, Attempt.* The object of the expedition was the first ascent of Chomo Lönzö's Middle Peak via the southwest face and northwest ridge. We were Eduard Birnbacher (leader, Germany), Walter Hölzler and Stefan Wiebel from Germany and Manfred Feil from Italy. Because of problems with the trekking agency, liaison officer and yak owners, we failed to reach the south side of Chomo Lönzö (a six- to seven-day approach). At Kharta (the start of the trekking), we had to deposit half of the climbing equipment and food because of the exorbitant costs for the yaks. We did not have enough animals for the approach. All these circumstances left us no opportunity to climb the peak.

After five days' trekking we reached our new goal: the north face. Because of inadequate climbing equipment or food for the face and bad weather, the expedition failed to climb our