

lightweight assault tents in a mule bag, but when I looked for them after reaching Base Camp, I could find no sign of them and realized with horror that we must have left them behind.

We set out from BC on May 3. Unfortunately, Rupert had gone down with pleurisy, but James was going so well I was able to ask him to take Rupert's place. We not only used our porters to carry some of our base tents but had Pemba and Himal, our kitchen boys, with us as well to cook supper and breakfast.

We set out for the climb at 3:30 a.m., May 4. The first 300 meters were up a dry glacier with a dusting of snow. There was the odd steep little step and narrow crevasse, but we could see them and therefore climbed unroped to where the glacier opened up into a wide snow-covered basin. Time to rope up on a single rope. I led off up firm *névé*, picking my way around some big crevasses. This led us onto the upper part of the icefall, where a series of snow-clad ice shelves led out onto an easy slope leading up toward the col between the true Danga and our own peak. It was only 7 a.m. and we had reached the col. It was easy going, but I was very aware of just how hard it would be to find our way down in a white out.

Furtenjee and I took turns breaking trail and we steadily gained height, crossing a dodgy snow bridge over a huge, very deep crevasse and heading for what appeared to be the summit, a huge fin of ice jutting out of the rounded ridge. Unfortunately, we had been so confident we had left our spare rope and all the ice screws by the col and now it looked as if we were going to need them. I tried a direct ascent but, without protection, chickened out. A narrow ice canyon led under a snow bridge to a steep ramp reaching up toward the top. I pulled up over a cornice to find myself on a knife-edge, unstable snow ridge with no room for the rest of our team. It was with some relief that I realized we were on a false summit and the true top was a rounded mound about half a mile away.

I retreated, and we resumed our plod to the top of Danga II, which we reached at around 1 p.m. It was an emotional moment: four Boningtons and our good friend Furtenjee on top of an unclimbed peak with a magnificent vista of peaks around us. In the immediate foreground to the west was the shapely spire of Danga, an exciting but feasible prospect. To the north was the steep dome of Pandra (6796m); to the east was the complex summits of Dromo climbed by Doug Scott and Roger Mear by a new route the previous year, while farther to the southeast was the huge sprawling mass of Kangchenjunga and the shapely summit of Jannu with its huge north face. In the distance to the west were Makalu and Everest.

We had been incredibly lucky, having the best and clearest day of the entire expedition for our summit bid. We set off down in the afternoon, still with perfect visibility, to get back to ABC at around 4:30 p.m.

CHRIS BONINGTON, *United Kingdom*

Jannu, Wall of Shadows, Ascent. Athol Whimp and Andrew Lindblade made a rare alpine-style ascent of the north face of Jannu (a.k.a. Kumbhakarna, 7710m) in the Nepal Himalaya during the spring. The pair went to Jannu to attempt its stunning unclimbed north face direct. They were forced to abandon the route when, during their second attempt, their portaledge (and nearly them) was destroyed by a rockfall.

Still determined to climb the mountain, the pair turned their attention to the *Wall of Shadows*, the left-hand icefields and rock bands of the 2200-meter north face. This face was first climbed by a big, fixed-rope Japanese expedition in 1976. The only alpine-style ascents were made in 1987 by a Dutch team (of which two men died during the descent), and by the two-man team of Erik DeCamp and the late great Pierre Beghin. Despite many attempts,



Andrew Lindblade on Jannu's summit ridge. ATHOL WHIMP

Jannu had not been climbed since 1992—and the north face not since 1987. Tomo Česen's claim to having soloed a new route on the north face in 1989 is highly dubious, and strong international doubt exists about this claimed ascent.

Athol and Andrew departed their Camp II (5450m) on May 12 at 3:30 a.m. and climbed through the severely ice-avalanche-swept lower icefields to 6100 meters by early afternoon in clear weather. The next day they climbed through the hard ice and rock bands to 6500 meters, battling through many spindrift avalanches. On May 14 they reached 6750 meters and rested under a 'schrund through more snowfall. Leaving their tent and sleeping bags here, the pair left for the summit at 1:30 a.m. on May 15. By 9:30 a.m. they gained the summit ridge, and immediately knew they were going to have one, maybe two, nights out in order to reach the summit. At dusk, after spending the day climbing the intricate summit ridge in sporadically windy and stormy conditions, they were caught in a strong electrical storm. Both came alive with electricity.

The night was spent in a small ice cave on the edge of the north face at 7600 meters. It reached -20°C that night, and the pair fought off frostbite and exposure.

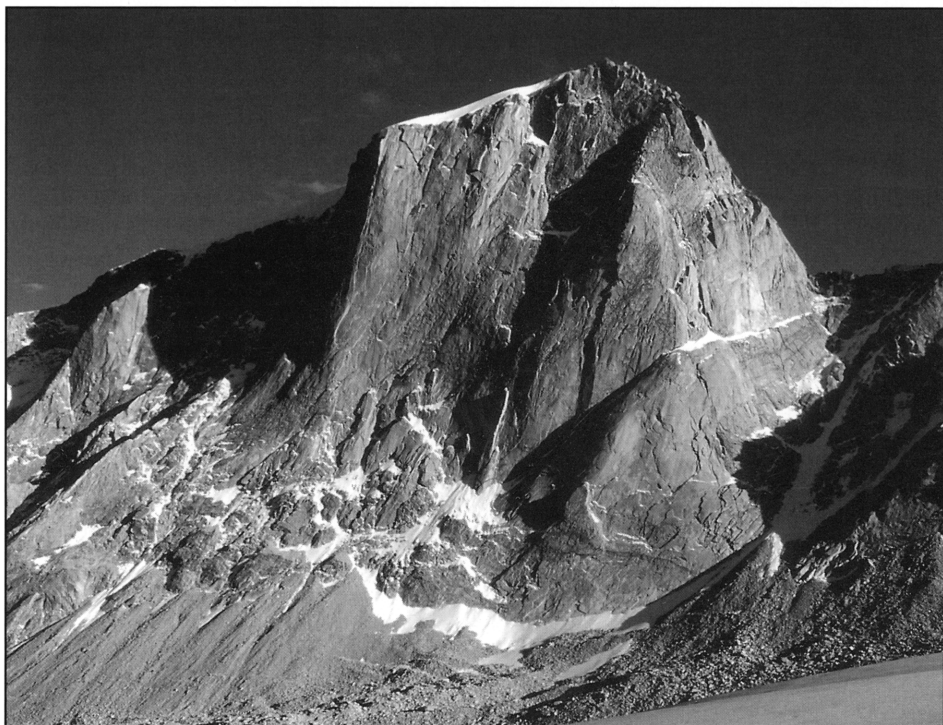
Athol and Andrew reached the summit at 10 a.m. the following morning, four hours after leaving the cave. Then, in a long and debilitating effort, they continued down to their tent at 6750 meters, arriving at 9:30 p.m., nearly 48 hours after leaving. They rested on May 17, and downclimbed and abseiled the face to the Camp II névé on May 18.

With the continued commercial nature of Himalayan mountaineering, their lightweight, two-person expedition was in stark contrast to the estimated crowd of 700 people at Everest Base Camp, and 300 people at Kangchenjunga South Base Camp.

ANDREW LINDBLADE, *Australia*

TIBET

Traverse of the Trans-Himalaya and Various Ascents, Previously Unreported. Over seven weeks in the summer of 1996, Irene Oehninger and I traveled by jeep, foot, yak and truck (for a short distance) as we made our traverse of the Trans-Himalaya from the town of Sangsang. The mountain region where we climbed is called the Lungma Ri Massif. We made base camp near Luxikegongba, a small settlement of Tibetan nomads and a small gompa about 30 kilometers from Lake Ombu. We then made an Advanced Base Camp above a small lake at 5100 meters. From there we climbed five unclimbed summits between 6200 and 6600 meters high from August 20-25. (We had expected to find a peak at least 7000 meters high indicated on some of the available maps, but the highest unnamed peak turned out to be 6600 meters.) It was possible to use skis to get to the foot of the walls and ridges. There are nice ice climbs here, as well as a lot of impressive granite walls (we had no rock climbing equipment with us). To reach the main summit of the 6600-meter peak, we climbed the north face via ice (up



A 650- to 700-meter wall on an unnamed peak at the southernmost end of the Lungma Ri massif. This formation is probably the most impressive possibility for a big wall climb in the Lungma Ri group, which runs from north to south for a length of about 20 kilometers. CESTMIR LUKEŠ