

ous icefall on the north face but avalanches stopped their progress. They then attempted the west ridge but only reached the col at the start. One member was sick and they finally called off the expedition.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Kamet (7756m), attempts and ascent. Jerzy Tillak's eight-member Polish expedition attempted the unrepeated west ridge. This team of strong climbers reached 7390m on August 26 having approached the peak from Gamsali and Niti. Camp 4 was placed at 6600m and Camp 5 at 7120m. The Poles encountered very high winds and loose powder snow, which forced them to give up the climb. An Indian expedition comprising senior citizens from retired police and other officers attempted the standard route in the autumn. The 67-year-old leader, Ashwini Kumar, is reported to have died on reaching the lower slopes. Debasashi Kanji's West Bengal team also failed on the same route. However, in early September an Indo-Tibet Border Police expedition was successful. The summiteers included Sange Sherpa, the only man to have climbed Everest from all three sides—south, north, and east (Kangshung).

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

EASTERN GARHWAL

Dunagiri, local access problems and an ascent. A Korean expedition had full clearance from Delhi to climb this famous 7066m peak west of Changabang and the Nanda Devi Inner Sanctuary rim. Arriving in the area during August the Uttaranchal Forest Authorities denied them access on the grounds that the peak lay in the prohibited Nanda Devi Sanctuary. After much delay and failed negotiations, the team eventually had to accept Nilkanth instead (see above) but now much time had been lost. The Indian Army expedition that climbed Nanda Devi had no such trouble and were able to make a successful ascent of Dunagiri.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Kalanka, attempt. We arrived in India on August 24 with permission to visit and climb the remote north side of this 6931m peak during the months of September and October. Although we had official permission from the Indian Mountaineering Foundation for the true north face, once in the region we came up against numerous and lengthy bureaucratic difficulties and delays instigated by the newly formed Uttaranchal State (particularly their Forestry Department). Kalanka lies on the border of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary and is thus a sensitive, environmentally protected mountain. There were some ongoing political power struggles between the federal and state governments in the administration of these lands. The delays cost us about four days in lost time waiting in the village of Joshimath. Given the situation in the region, our agents in New Delhi (Shikhar Travels) did everything they could to facilitate our expedition and succeeded in obtaining a safe passage for our small group. Our base camp was located at 4500m in the same place as the Russian-American 1998 north face of Changabang Expedition BC. Once situated at the foot of the face at our well-stocked advanced base camp (5100m), Jack experienced altitude-related health problems resulting in our only being able to

make a detailed reconnaissance of our intended route and the north face. The site of our first planned camp on the face, a small bergshrund above the lower seracs, was at 5660m and stocked with climbing equipment and food. During our stay in the region we experienced exceptionally good weather. We left base camp on October 9 with high hopes of someday returning to our chosen objective. Our base camp cooks from Shikhar Travels, liaison officer, and porters could not have been more helpful and friendly.

JACK ROBERTS AND CARLOS BUHLER, AAC

Lampak II (6181m), ascent. All seven members of an Indian expedition led by Swaraj Ghosh made the probable third ascent of this peak between the Siruanch and Kalla Glaciers above the road head at Malari. Base camp was established on August 29 at 4500m and the summit reached via the southeast ridge on September 5. Apart from the leader the other summiteers, all from West Bengal, were Sibrata Banerjee, B. Biswas, Gautam Chatterjee, Anal Das, B. Jetty, and N. P. Rao.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

Siruanch Glacier, Shambhu Ka Qilla, first ascent. On May 16 six members of a British expedition, Roland Arnison, Angela Benham, Chris Drinkwater, Titch Kavanagh, Andy Phillips, and myself (leader) made the first ascent of a previously unnamed peak approximately five kilometers north of Tirsuli on the eastern boundary of the Siruanch Glacier. In doing so we became the first mountaineers, and most probably the first humans, to visit the upper glacier regions below the north side of Tirsuli West. Despite full IMF permission, we were still forced to spend four days in Joshimath before the civil authorities there sanctioned an Inner Line Permit. Then, from the normal road head at Malari (ca 3000m) we spent over a week exploring a suitable route into the Siruanch Gad before eventually setting up base camp on May 2 quite low down in the valley at an area called Chilkuan (ca 3600m). We were almost certainly the first non-Indian mountaineering group to enter this valley since the 1950 Scottish expedition.

Our expedition had a permit for the then-unclimbed Tirsuli West (7035m). The north side of this peak is a 2500-meter high very broad snow/ice face almost entirely composed of a jumble of seracs, hanging glaciers, and steep rock buttresses. These are capped by large cornices on the long summit ridge. It was soon concluded that an objectively safe line did not exist and we turned our attention to a side glacier to the north, which at its head held an attractive peak on the watershed ridge south of Uja Tirche.

After clearing permission for the climb with our liaison officer, a camp was established at ca 5400m in the upper glacier basin below the south face of the unnamed peak, and a potential line was identified linking a series of couloirs. Six climbers left at 9 p.m. on the 15th, and by dawn the following morning, after relatively straightforward climbing, we were grouped below the steep summit tower. The latter was climbed via a groove system in two pitches, the first being good Scottish 4. The descent went without incident until the last steep snow couloir leading down to the glacier. Here, Angela Benham slipped and fell 300 meters, hitting rocks and sustaining whip-lash injuries to neck and shoulder. We managed to get her back to camp that night and the following morning she was able to walk unladen down to Base. The ca 6160m peak was christened Shambhu Ka Qilla—the Fortress of Shiva—and the 700-meter route on the south face graded an Alpine D+. Photographs taken during the ascent seem to suggest that existing map-