

like being on the north face of the Matterhorn. The rock was probably worse, though, and I became seriously worried in a few of the dry-tooling sections. A few blobs of frozen turf saved the day, and my life. There was no problem keeping warm as I crabbed along tilted ledges wishing I was anywhere but here.

I kept chanting "Om Mani Padme Hum," calming my flailing spirit but not my tiring arms. There was high-angled snow on really bad rock, and the nearer I got to the top, the worse it became, like a bad dream. Twenty meters from salvation—the very top—I had to overcome a sort of "dry stone wall," over which I did a vaulting mantelshelf, like a fish out of its element. The summit was a couple of perfectly dry, eroded towers. And below, down in the land of the living, Gokyo village was being swallowed by the shadow of my mountain. It was 4 p.m. and time to look for a home for the night. Tomorrow's another day, as they say, and I would get off this hill, one way or another.

ANDY PARKIN, *Alpine Club*

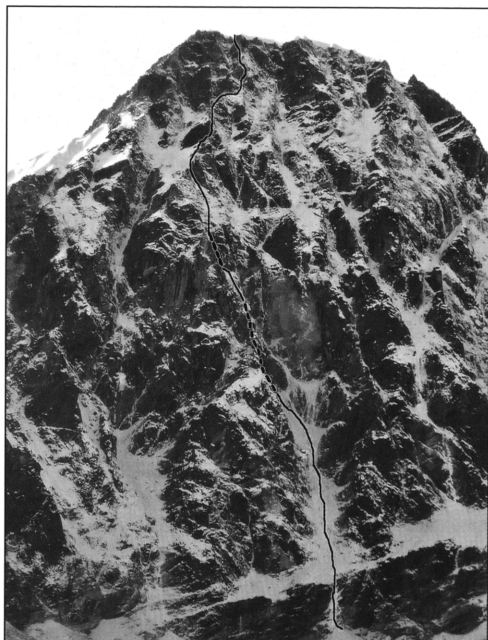
*Phari Lapcha (6,017m), northeast face, attempt; Dawa Peak (5,920m), Snotty's Gully, third ascent.* Andy Turner and I attempted a new line up the left side of the northeast face of Phari Lapcha. However, we were repelled by difficult mixed ground, compact granite, and unconsolidated snow at the start of the obvious rock band halfway up the face. Forced to switch objectives, we opted for Snotty's Gully (700m, ED1 WI 5 M5+, Bracey-Bullock, 2006) on the northeast face of Phari Lapcha's western outlier, Dawa Peak. Leaving Gokyo at 5 a.m. on November 17, we climbed

to two-thirds height, meeting difficulties of WI5 and M5+. After we made an open bivouac, the final water-ice pitches led to the top and a subsequent descent to the Upper Machermo Glacier. We reached the comfort of Machermo Village the same evening. We congratulate Jon Bracey and Nick Bullock on their excellent line, which may become a Khumbu classic. We acknowledge the generous support of the Mark Clifford Award, the British Mountaineering Council, the Mount Everest Foundation, and the Alpine Club.

JAMES THACKER, *Alpine Club*

*Phari Lapcha (6,017m), northeast face, Independence Day.* From November 8 to 10 Andrzej Sokolowski, Przemek Wojcik, and I made the first ascent of the central couloir on the 1,000m northeast face of Phari Lapcha.

In the 11 p.m. darkness, belaying at 5,500m, Przemek and I could hear Andrzej fighting for every meter. From time to time falling ice bombed us, and we were cold, but we kept moving up slowly. The couloir was typically mixed: thin ice, fragile rock,



The 1,000m northeast face of Pharilapcha (6,017m), showing the line of Independence Day. Thacker and Turner attempted the prominent couloir system to the left, retreating from the first rock band. See *AAJ* 2008 p. 402 for other routes on this face. *Michal Krol*