

the South-west ridge, and after establishing Camp 3 at 18,250 ft, just below a towering spur, traversed the ice-wall and followed the ridge to the summit. The summiters were M. Sen Gupta, P. Chaudhury and Sherpas Pasang Tchering, Nima Dorji and Ang Chhutar.

**Nanda Bhanar, 20,568 ft** was attempted by a team of students of the Sherwood College, Naini Tal, led by K. P. Sharma of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi.

## Nepal

**Kanjiroba Himal, Main Peak, 22,583 ft; British attempt 1969** This pre-monsoon party (leader John Tyson) attempted the North-west and North-east ridges without success, and subsequently forced a very difficult descent out of the Langu gorge, southwards, into the head of the Jagdula khola, for a further attempt on the South-east ridge. Article p 114.

**Churen Himal, 24,184 ft; Italian attempt from south 1969** This expedition (leader P. Consiglio), in a post-monsoon attempt, placed Camp 5 at 20,834 ft on the West ridge which rises from the col between Putha Hiunchuli and Churen Himal. On 13 November a height of 21,588 ft was reached, but owing to the difficulty and the high wind the attempt was abandoned. See also [13] and map [12]; and p 19.

**Gurja Himal, 23,599 ft, first ascent 1969, from west; Japanese expedition** T. Saeki and Sherpa Lhakpa Tensing reached the summit on 1 November. Article p 17.

**Dhaulagiri IV, 7660m; Austrian attempt 1969** The O.A.V. Section Edelweiss expedition met with a disastrous accident on 10 November, five Austrians and the Sherpa Nindra losing their lives. On 1 October Base Camp was established at 3450 m at the foot of the South face and on 9 November the final camp (5), was pitched at 6900 m on a saddle between Dhaulagiri IV and an unnamed seven-thousander to the west. A wireless message from the leader was received at Base Camp the same evening stating that the assault party were all in good condition and hoped to start at 3am next day on a bid for the summit. The route would lie over a snow-ridge, interrupted only at one point. This was the last news received from the party. An extensive air search failed to discover any traces of the missing men and it has not been possible to establish the cause of the accident. The dead Austrians, Richard Hoyer (leader of the expedition), Peter Lavicka, Peter Nemec, Kurt Reha and Kurt Ring, were all members of the Österreichischer Alpenklub and were among the foremost Austrian

climbers of the day. We offer our very sincere sympathy to the Section Edelweiss, and also to the O.A.K. on the grievous losses it has suffered as a result of this lamentable disaster, the worst in the history of the Club.

**Dhaulagiri I, 26,795 ft; American attempt 1969** This expedition (leader Boyd Everett) left Pokhara on 16 April for an attempt on the South-east ridge. Climbing out of the Kali Gandaki valley in the vicinity of Lete, a camp was established below the ice-fall of the Dhaulagiri East glacier at 12,400 ft, and a further camp made in the ice-fall at about 14,900 ft.

On the morning of 28 April a party of six Americans and two Sherpas left the camp in the ice-fall to carry material towards the site for a higher camp and to place a bridge of logs over a crevasse which was barring their way at a height of about 17,000 ft. It was while the party was engaged in this bridging operation that an enormous ice-avalanche, coming either directly from the ice-fall above or possibly partially from the flanks of the South-east ridge, swept seven of the party to their deaths: B. Everett, P. Gerhard, our member J. V. Hoeman (see p 332), W. Ross, D. Seidman and the Sherpas Pema Phutar and Tenzing. The bodies could not be recovered. The sole, miraculous survivor was Lon Reichardt, who escaped uninjured. See also *A.A.J.* 1969 498. We offer our deep sympathy to the American Alpine Club on their very severe loss in this disaster.

**Tukucha Peak, 22,703 ft, first authorised ascent 1969; Swiss expedition** This five-man party (leader Georges Hartmann) left Pokhara on 17 April. From the Dambush Pass at 17,000 ft, Camp 1 was established at 20,000 ft and from this camp the summit was reached on 10 May by Georges Hartmann, Alois Strickler and the Sherpa Sirdar, Sonam Girmi. Two more members reached the summit on 13 May from a higher camp. See also *S.A.C. Bulletin* 1969 157.

The uncertainty as to whether this was a first ascent arises from the visit in the autumn 1968 of a party whose activities have not yet been clarified.

**Roc Noir, 24,800 ft, first ascent 1969, by East ridge; German Annapurna expedition** The objective of this nine-member expedition (leader Ludwig Greissl) was to climb Annapurna I by the East ridge, gained from the south. Sherpa Sardar, Ang Temba. They left Pokhara on 26 March and established Base Camp at 14,100 ft on 2 April. The summit of Glacier Dome (23,191 ft) was reached on 5 May and the attempt on the long East ridge was started, making on 9 May the first ascent of the Roc Noir (24,800 ft)—so called on account of its appearance from the north (R. Obster, P. Schubert, K. Winkler).

Camp 5 was at 23,300 ft, and Camp 6 at 24,000 ft was on the ridge beyond the Roc Noir. The summit now seemed within their grasp and attempts to advance along the ridge were made on 13 May and again on 19 May. However, these attempts were defeated by a piercing west wind, which blew at gale force more or less without interruption for over a week, often in full sunshine and out of a clear, blue sky.

**Annapurna II, 7937 m, and Annapurna IV, 7525 m, 1969: Yugoslavian expedition** A. Kunaver (leader) and nine others. Travelling by car from Europe we reached Pokhara on 14 September and went on through the gorge of the Marsyandi to Thonje and Pisang and so to the head of the Sapcha valley below Annapurna III.

We pitched our lower Base Camp at 3950 m and here our Pokhara porters left us. On 27 September upper Base Camp was established at 4650 m and Camp 1 at 5300 m. During the fortnight's acclimatisation period that followed, the higher camps (2 at 6000 m and 3 at 6400 m), were set up and equipped, and a dump of equipment destined for Camp 4, c 7000 m, was prepared.

When the acclimatisation period was over we all went down to Base Camp for a short rest, and on 10 October we set out for the final assault. After setting up Camp 4 we established Camp 5 at 7350 m. By 21 October all camps were fully occupied and the Annapurna II assault team, M. Maležič and M. Drašler, supported by two Sherpas, established Camp 6, 7250 m, right under the final cone of Annapurna II. On the same day the support team, J. Andlovic (our doctor), A. Kunaver and L. Golob, reached the top of Annapurna IV.

Next day, 22 October, Drašler and Maležic set out for Annapurna II. Owing to high wind and mist in the early morning they started rather late and did not reach the top until after sunset (second ascent). They got back to Camp 6 at 2 am on the 23rd, Drašler suffering from frost-bitten hands and feet as a result of which he subsequently lost a toe joint and one of his thumbs had to be shortened. By 26 October the whole party was off the mountain. Our stay had lasted four weeks. Weather conditions on the whole were good, but it was very windy especially in the region of Camps II and IV. Fixed ropes were required at fourteen places and rope ladders at two.

**Aleš Kunaver**

**Annapurna IV: Czechoslovak ascent 1969** There was also a Czechoslovakian expedition on the mountain at the same time as ours, and one of the party, Albrecht, with the Sherpa Ang Babu, reached the top of Annapurna IV.

**Aleš Kunaver**

**Peak 29 (Dakura), 7514 m = 24,652 ft, Japanese attempt 1969** Osaka University expedition: S. Sumiyoshi (leader) and seven others. The party made a post-monsoon attempt from the east. Base Camp was pitched at 4100 m near the south side of the Pungen glacier on 22 September and Camp 6, 6850 m, the highest camp, on 24 October. The highest point reached, c 7400 m, was attained on 1 November by Y. Kohda and J. Kuroda on the east ice-wall of the main peak.

Previous Osaka attempts on Peak 29 were made in the spring of 1961 from the west (*A.J.* 66 390) and in 1963, post-monsoon, from the east (*Les Alpes* 1965 3).

**Mount Everest: Japanese visits 1969** Two members of the Japanese Alpine Club's reconnaissance party, H. Nakajima and Y. Sato, reached 8000 m on the South-west face on 1 November, in preparation for the full-scale attempt planned for this year. In addition, a ski-ing party reconnoitred the Western Cwm; their aim, in 1970, is to make a ski-ing film, in the course of which Y. Miura will attempt to ski down from the South Col.

**Books on the geology and exploration of Nepal** The books reviewed on pp 300 and 310 are of considerable importance for mountaineers and tourists.

**The Rules Governing Mountaineering Expeditions 1969** appeared some time ago, but not before the last *Alpine Journal* went to press. Detailed comment is now superfluous. The new rules administered one or two initially bitter pills but contain nothing to which we shall not soon become reconciled. Royalty costs are up, at least for the smaller peaks. Everest remains at Rs 10,000 and the other peaks above 26,000 ft at Rs 8000. But everything else is now Rs 6000 (about £250) whereas before peaks below 25,000 ft only rated a comparatively modest Rs 1600.

Compensation rates for death have been fixed at Rs 50,000 for Liaison Officers and Rs 30,000 for 'Sardars, Sherpas or porters'. Certainly, for a climbing Sherpa this is a fair rate, but the addition of the words 'or porters' to the clause, to cover local men hired on the way to base, has caused difficulties with insurance companies. No payments under this head have had yet to be made but expeditions may perhaps be forgiven for questioning their responsibility for such porters who, although employed by them, are carrying out no more than their normal, day-to-day work.

Sherpa pay is up, Sardars from Rs 15 to 25 and Climbing Sherpas from Rs 8 to 15. Wages everywhere, of course, keep increasing and the switch from Indian currency (in use when quoting rates about ten years ago) to Nepalese, and the more recent devaluation of Indian, British and Nepalese currencies, each to a

varying degree, make a detailed comparison with the past difficult. Certainly Rs 8 was a low wage for a Sherpa: Rs 12 might have seemed fair enough, but by now we are used to the initially rather unwelcome Rs 15. Rs 25 for the Sardar of a large expedition is a fair wage, but does still seem excessive for a man in a small expedition employing only two or three other Sherpas, and himself possibly lacking in experience. All the above receive free food, and also clothing and equipment. Local porters carrying to base receive neither, and the usually accepted daily wage is now Rs 10 out of Kathmandu and Rs 12 out of Pokhara. Expeditions must be grateful that the sharp increase in High-Altitude Sherpa pay does not yet seem to have resulted in similar demands from other men, although the possibility of some small increases cannot be excluded. For practical purposes Rs 12 is the equivalent of ten shillings.

Turning now to the aftermath of the publication of the Rules, one matter on which the 'Expedition Watchers' in Nepal during the years of the mountaineering ban were usually agreed was the certainty that, when mountaineering was again permitted, the number of permits at first granted would be very limited, and the screening process highly selective. In fact nothing has been further from the truth. Permits granted for the pre-monsoon season of 1971 amount to a near-record of fifteen expeditions (see below), although of those three have since withdrawn, or are likely to withdraw, at their own request. The Nepalese have been extremely prompt and helpful in dealing with applications. Perhaps the Czechs achieved a record in this respect. They arrived, in the autumn of 1969, without any prior application or formality, nine men, food and equipment all in a large van, and were *en route* towards Annapurna IV within days. (However, there is no guarantee that similar methods would work another time.)

In this same realm of crystal-gazing, scanning the formidable line-up of expeditions about to assault the remaining prize summits of Nepal, it was difficult not to restrain some feeling of regret that the mountains were about to be crushed by these human hordes. Again, one was wrong. With the summits of Dhaulagiri IV, Churen Himal and Peak 29 still unsullied and only two 7000 m peaks climbed for the first time (plus two others ascended by old routes) thirteen expeditions in Nepal in 1969 have made remarkably little impression on the mountains. Indeed, while regretting the heavy loss of human life (especially the four Sherpa casualties of the year, including Phu Dorje—see p 341 below) one must rejoice that the mountains remain inviolate to such an extent.

Over twenty expeditions are likely to visit Nepal during 1970, about three-quarters of them from Japan. The future is full of interest but the events of

1969 leave one apprehensive of the possible consequences of inexperience and over-confidence. In fairness to them, excluding the Everest ski-ing expedition, which is nothing more than a stunt, the Japanese record has been good.

J. O. M. Roberts

### Permits granted or requested as at February 1970

#### *Pre-monsoon 1970*

Everest—climbing	Japanese
Everest—ski/film	Japanese
Makalu	Japanese
Lhotse	Austrian
Dhaulagiri IV	Japanese (Fukuoka)
V	Italian (Biella)
Annapurna I—north side	British (Army)
I—south side	British (Bonington)
III	Japanese (Women)
IV	Japanese (Kansai)
Tukucha	Japanese (Waseda)
Bauddha	Japanese (Keio)
Dakura	Dutch

#### *Monsoon 1970*

Dhaulagiri	Japanese (Doshisha)
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#### *Post-monsoon 1970*

Peak 29	Japanese (Osaka)
Dhaulagiri IV	Japanese
V	Japanese (Hokaido)
Bauddha	Japanese (Hinin)
Kanjiroba Himal	Japanese (Osaka City)
Nampa Himal	British (J. T. H. Allen)
Churen Himal	Koreans (requested)
Pumori	Japanese (requested)
Kagmara	Japanese (requested)

#### *Pre-monsoon 1971*

Everest	International
Lhotse	Japanese (Waseda)
Annapurna II	Japanese

#### *Post-monsoon 1971*

Everest	Argentinian (requested)
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*Pre-monsoon 1972*

Everest

West German

*Pre-monsoon 1973*

Everest

Italian (Monzino)

Everest

Austrian (requested), but offered instead  
either post-monsoon 1973, or pre-monsoon  
1974

J. O. M. Roberts

**China**

## KASHGAR RANGE

**Qungur massif: climbing history** This massif, on the eastern edge of the Pamirs, contains not only the highest mountain in China, Qungur II, or Qungur Tagh (25,325 ft, 7719 m), but also the highest summit ever reached by a woman, Qungur I, or Qungur Tjube Tagh (24,918 ft, 7595 m). There is a map in the *World Atlas of Mountaineering* (Noyce and McMorris), p 131.

Its climbing history is noteworthy for the confusion and misunderstandings that have arisen. Credit must go to Sir Clarmont Skrine for the discovery in the early 20s that the massif contains these two very high mountains (*Geographical Journal*, 66 385-409). Unfortunately, it turned out that Qungur II proved to be the higher peak. Further confusion arose from the various spellings of Qungur (Kongur, Kungur) which have been used by later writers, and the various heights assigned to the two peaks. As long ago as 1925, however the spelling of Qungur was adopted by the Royal Geographical Society.

Qungur I was climbed by a Russo-Chinese expedition under K. Kuzmin on 16 August 1956, six Russian and two Chinese climbers reaching the summit. We are not aware of any detailed account of the climb, but *Alpinismus*, September 1966, p 28 has two photographs of the mountain, one showing the route followed. On 13 June 1961 two Tibetan women, members of a Chinese-Tibetan Women's expedition, also reached the summit of Qungur I (see S.A.C. *Bulletin*, 1961 157). So far as we know, Qungur II is still unclimbed.

**Australia**

**Summary 1969** The Australian Andean Expedition, mistaking hepatitis for altitude sickness, kept on and successfully ascended nineteen peaks in the