

# Dhaulagiri 2

**Franz Huber**

(Translation: E. N. Bowman)

Five members of the expedition left Vienna on 23 March 1971 by Lufthansa for Kathmandu via New Delhi. Customs formalities and many other preliminaries had already been seen to by two members who had travelled ahead of the main party. Thanks to this we were able to set forth by 29 March from Pokhara with sixty porters and three Sherpas. The march-in proceeded at a spanking pace and without incident, so that three weeks later we had reached the village of Mukut on the north side of the Dhaul Himal and set up Base Camp close by at a height of 4000 m.



64 *Dhaulagiri 2 from the east.* Photo: H. Kock

We were considerably delayed by masses of fresh snow which came down as low as Base Camp, and it was only by the tireless efforts of the entire team that we were able to establish Camp 1 on 25 April at a height of 5000 m. Our immediate problem was now to attain the Tschorten ridge (5600 m) in order to set up Camp 2 on the other side. Eventually, after considerable exertion, we succeeded in occupying this camp at a height of 5300 m on the far side of the ridge.

Our next task was a long and dangerous traverse of an ice-barrier before we could erect Camp 3 at 6000 m. We were held up for three days in this camp by continuous snowfall and it was not until the fourth attempt that we were able to site Camp 4 at 6450 m in the lee of an ice-wall. The main difficulties of the ascent began above this camp. An immense ice-fall stretching right across the entire face below the summit of Dhaulagiri blocked further progress. Vertical ice-cliffs alternating with knee-deep snow proved very harassing for everybody, and it was not until 17 May that we were able to establish our last camp at 7150 m above the ice-fall. From Camp 5 it was a long trek up to the ridge, and along this to the summit of Dhaulagiri 2 (7751 m).

The first pair were Adolf Huber and Sherpa Jangbu, who reached the top at about 1.30pm on 18 May. A second rope, consisting of Adi Weissensteiner and Ronald Fear, got there some two hours later.

The remaining members of the party were as follows: Helmut Drachsler, Günter Gruber, Dr Horst Stych and Franz Huber. The whole undertaking, which ranked as a mini-expedition, was very carefully budgeted and cost about S.500,000. This sum was raised by public subscription and from private sources as well as by gifts from Alpine clubs and individual contributions from expedition members.