

attempt on the highest of the group, Malubiting West, 7453 m, reaching c 7100 m. They also made what is believed to be the first ascent of a col, c 5840 m, providing a crossing from the Chogolungma to the Barpu glacier in the north. On 17 October they evacuated their Base Camp, reaching Skardu on the 30th and Rawalpindi on 2 November. Being exceptionally late in the season for high ascents, the climbers experienced temperatures of -34°C on 10 October at 7000 m. At the time of writing the highest peak of the Malubiting group is still unclimbed.

Col Goodwin's reminiscences Many British mountaineers on their way to climb in Pakistan have stayed with Colonel E. R. Goodwin at his house in Rawalpindi. Each evening the toils of the day are forgotten in the enjoyment of listening to his reminiscences of the North-west frontier. A limited edition of some of his stories is available for £1, from Mrs J. Pott, 56 Addison Avenue, London W11.

Kashmir 1969¹

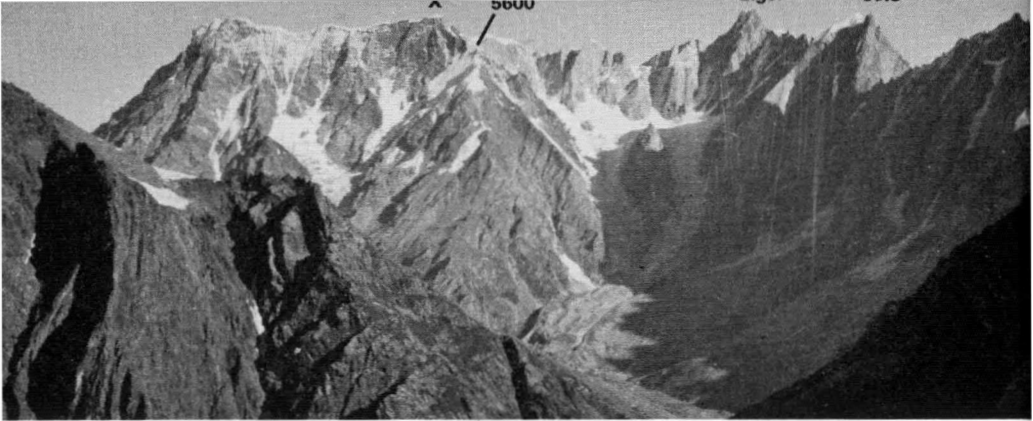
Future prospects I see that large numbers of expeditions go to the Afghanistan-Chitral areas and very few to Kashmir. The Kolahoi-Sonamarg area has many beautiful peaks and aiguilles in the 16,000-18,000 ft range, sadly little visited, and the Eastern Kishtwar area has much higher peaks. This whole area is completely free of the need for any visas or permits. **John Ray**

Haramukh, 16,872 ft On 1 September by a team led by S. R. Khan and sponsored by the Regional Engineering College, Srinagar

'Cashbrair'—correction The account of the first ascent in *A.J.* 74 226 is incorrect in that no peak of this name exists: another local name for Kolahoi (17,799 ft) is Gashbrer, and it is possible that some other peak around the Kolahoi glacier has been climbed and misidentified.

Kishtwar Himalaya expedition C.R.A. Clarke (leader), Mrs B. Harriss, J. C. Harriss; Lt K. Kumar, Indian Army. Near the small town of Kishtwar the river Chenab is joined by its main tributary from the north, the river Marau. Three glacial valleys drain south-west into the Marau, descending from an area of impressive but little known mountains some fifty miles south of Nun Kun. The northern valley, the Kiar nullah has at its head the Prul glacier, and on the southern side is flanked by fine peaks, dominated by Sickie Moon, 6574 m [115]. The central glaciers, the Brammah complex, lead to a number of high

¹ We are indebted to Jagdish Nanavati and Soli Mehta for the majority of this and the following information on India.

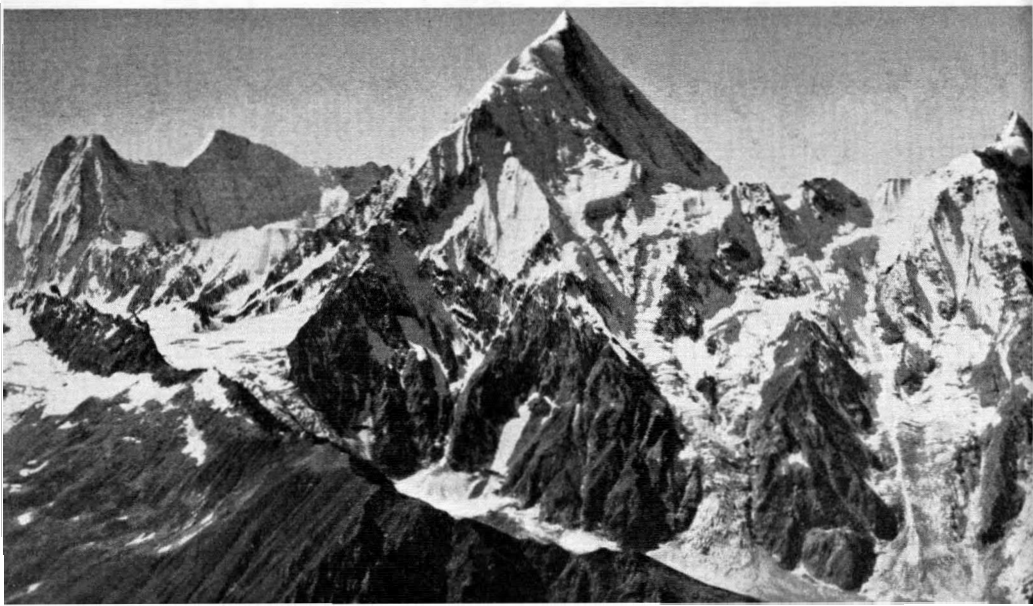


109 *The Tarparun massif from Crooked Finger* The peaks on the right can be seen from the other side (north) in [114]. Photo: J. C. Harriss

This area had been visited previously by only Fritz Kolb (see *H.J.* 14 33, and his *Himalaya Venture*, 1959—*A.J.* 64 273) and by Charles Clarke's 1965 party which effectively explored both the central glacier system and the Kibar nullah, despite exceptionally bad weather (*A.J.* 71 136).

The march to the village of Souede takes only two days from Kishtwar, moving slowly through the pleasantly wooded upper slopes of the deep Marau gorge, and hospitable villages with Alpine-type chalets. The Gujar people are

110 *Brammah from the Tarparun massif with the Brammah glacier in the lower foreground and Flat Top on the far left.* This and next photo: C. R. A. Clarke



ethnically distinct transhumant pastoralists who occupy parts of the northern Punjab in the winter, and the valleys of the Kishtwar Himalaya in the summer months; the women are especially remarkable, with hair tied up in many small plaits, joined together finally in one long braid of goat hair and decked out with beads. Their heavy silver jewellery often includes necklaces made of big Victorian and George V Rupees, a quaint memorial of Imperial might.

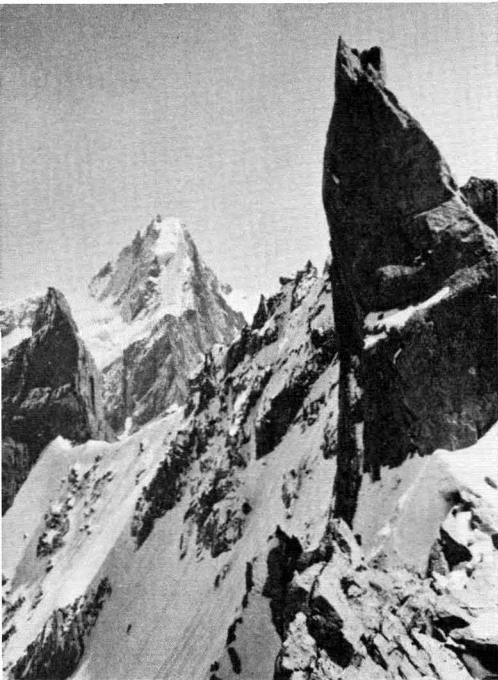
On 8 September, after a further two days march, we set up Base Camp at Sattarchin, a grassy basin dammed up between the terminal moraine of the Brammah glacier and the lateral moraine of the glacier descending from below Brammah's Wife (5279 m). Almost immediately we set out to reconnoitre the main southern arm of the Brammah glacier which had not been visited in 1965, paying heavily as we went for our lack of acclimatisation. The Brammah glacier is not a pleasant place. A world of chaos painted in monotones of black and grey, from which it was always a relief to climb up and away, or to descend back to Base Camp through the trees and along the tiny green meadows by the melt streams. But it is enclosed by spectacular cliffs and peaks, some of which inspire awe—especially the Tarparun massif which dominated our Base Camp to the north, and which includes the peak dubbed 'Eiger' (over 6000 m) in 1965 [109].

We struggled rather unhappily round the corner of the main glacier to be greeted by a daunting sight of towering cliffs punctuated by ice-falls, on which avalanches occurred with alarming frequency. There seemed to be no feasible route for a party of our strength, and so after a scramble up to a peak of about 5200 m on the western side we retreated to base.

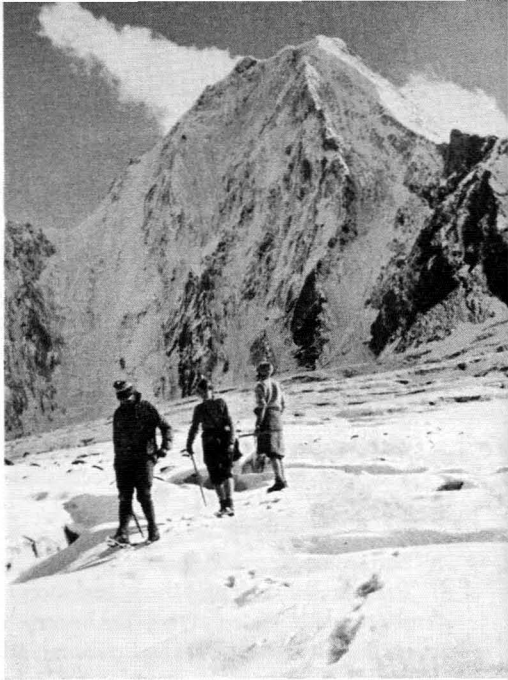
Despite bad weather over the next couple of days (14–15 September) we succeeded in reconnoitring 'Brammah's Wife' by its North-western ridge. However, at about 4600 m it was clear that a north-flowing ice-fall which spilled over the arête to the west made for greater objective danger than we were prepared to face.

It was therefore with great determination to get up something that we turned our attention to the Tarparun massif, to the north. A shoulder not far above Base Camp seemed likely to provide a means of access to high peaks, possibly even the 'Eiger' itself, but unfortunately the route was eventually blocked at a col by wide crevasses (18 September). We had the consolation of having achieved a small snow peak (c 5600 m) on the way, however.

So, not a little frustrated by now, we plodded up the lateral moraine of the glacier yet again, this time making for its southern cwm, beneath the Eastern ridge of Brammah itself, where we camped at 4200 m. And at last we made a



111 *Crooked Finger*

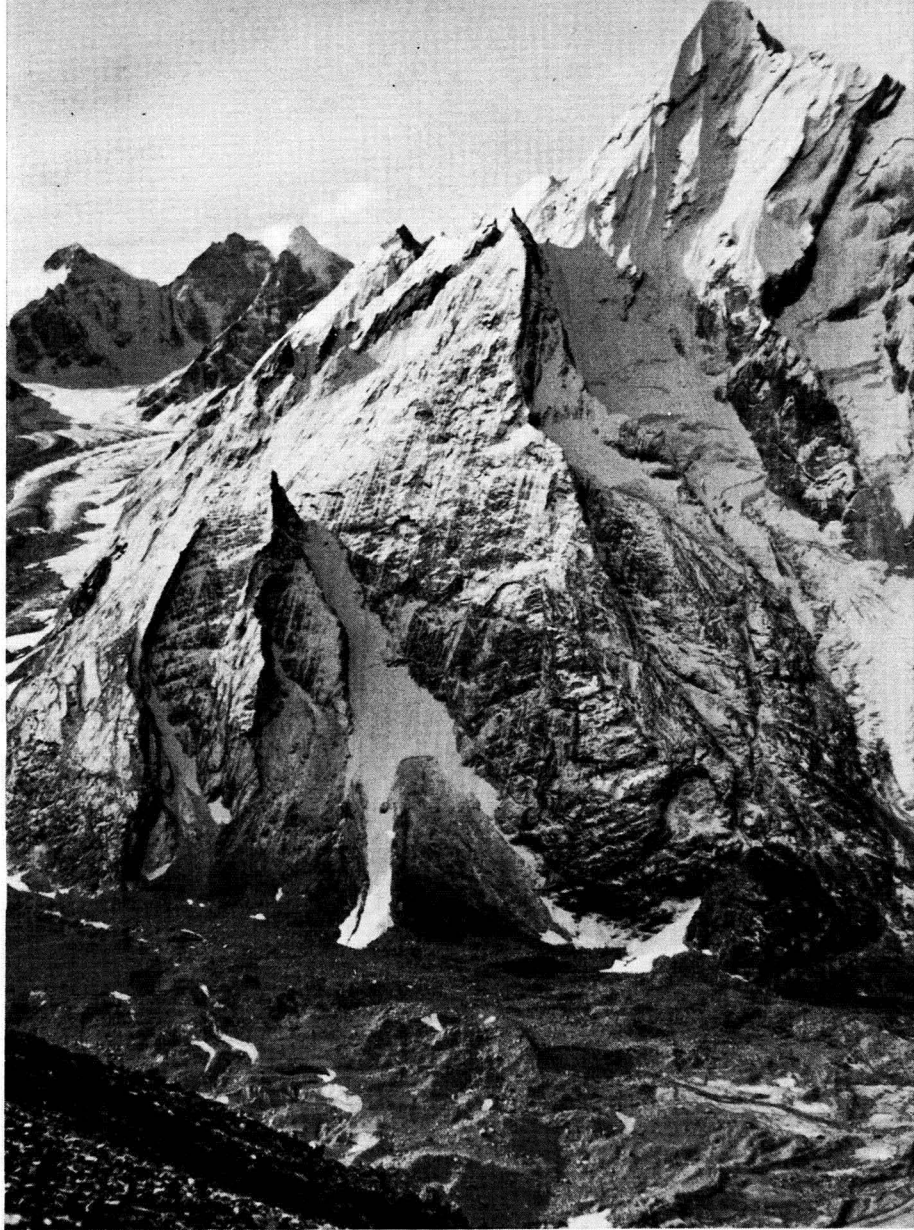


112 *Flat Top from the southern cwm of the Brammah glacier*
Photo: J. C. Harriss

really successful ascent of Crooked Finger (about 5600 m) a fine rock pinnacle, by its easy West ridge, the spire itself giving a III-IV rock climb (22 September). From the top we were able to contemplate the impressive North-west face of 'Flat Top' (about 6000 m), called locally Pathatun, we think. The time had come for Barbara to return home, and for Kiran to rejoin his army unit.

For one reason or another our expected reinforcements failed to arrive, with the result that Charlie and I were on our own for the whole of the month of October, when we were lucky enough to be the first European visitors (so far as we know) to the beautiful Kiar nullah. Shown on our maps (e.g. S of I $\frac{1}{4}$ -in Sheet 52c) as being occupied for much of its length by fifteen miles of glacier, it turned out to be formed by a series of deposition basins dammed up between the lateral moraines of glaciers and ice-falls spilling into it from the south. Each of these small basins seemed to us like one of the basins of Central Asia in miniature as we advanced further and further up the valley, an effect heightened by the clouds of dust whipped up and driven along by the wind. And we knew as well that, according to local legend, somewhere at the head of the valley lay a high route to Tibet. Not even periodic sousings in icy streams, nor an encounter with quicksands, could detract from the sheer joy of exploring such country.

All along its southern side the valley is flanked by impressive peaks, Sickle Moon among them [115]. Cliffs descend vertically into the basins, and the summits are of considerable difficulty. Particularly fine is the Cathedral [113], a sort of Gothic spire (Pt 5370 m). But again the frequency of avalanches made us look



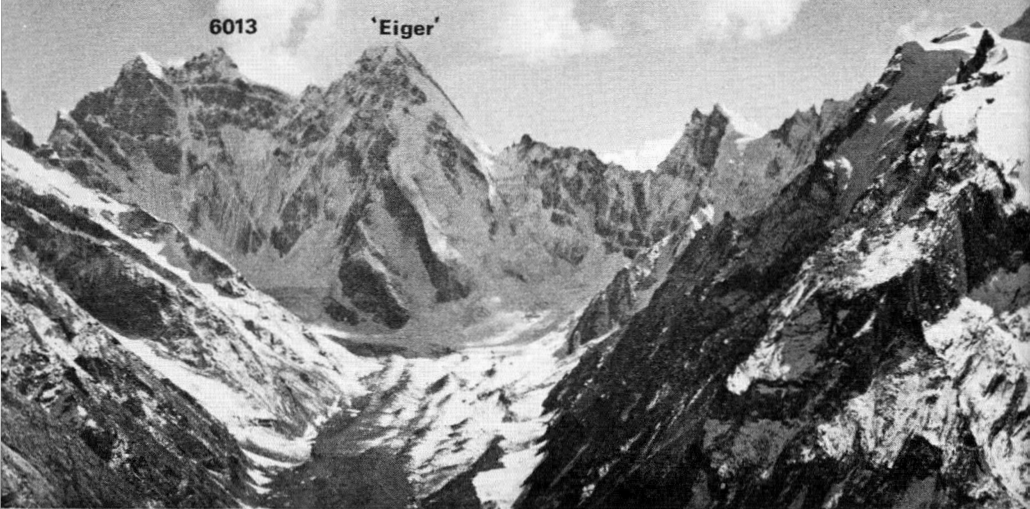
113 *The Cathedral from the north across the Kiar nullah* The peaks on the left probably include 'Solstice Peak', climbed by Kolb's party. This and next photos: C. R. A. Clarke

rather to the peaks of the northern side. With three local helpers we set up an Advanced Base at a place called Sarbal, using summer huts of the Gujar.

We were interested especially in two 6000 m peaks above the high pastures of Wakbal Sarbal, and set about exploring possible routes by climbing subsidiary peaks of about 5000 m on their southerly ridges—unpleasant scree scrambles. We were disappointed in an attempt on Pt 6200 m by its South ridge, when we

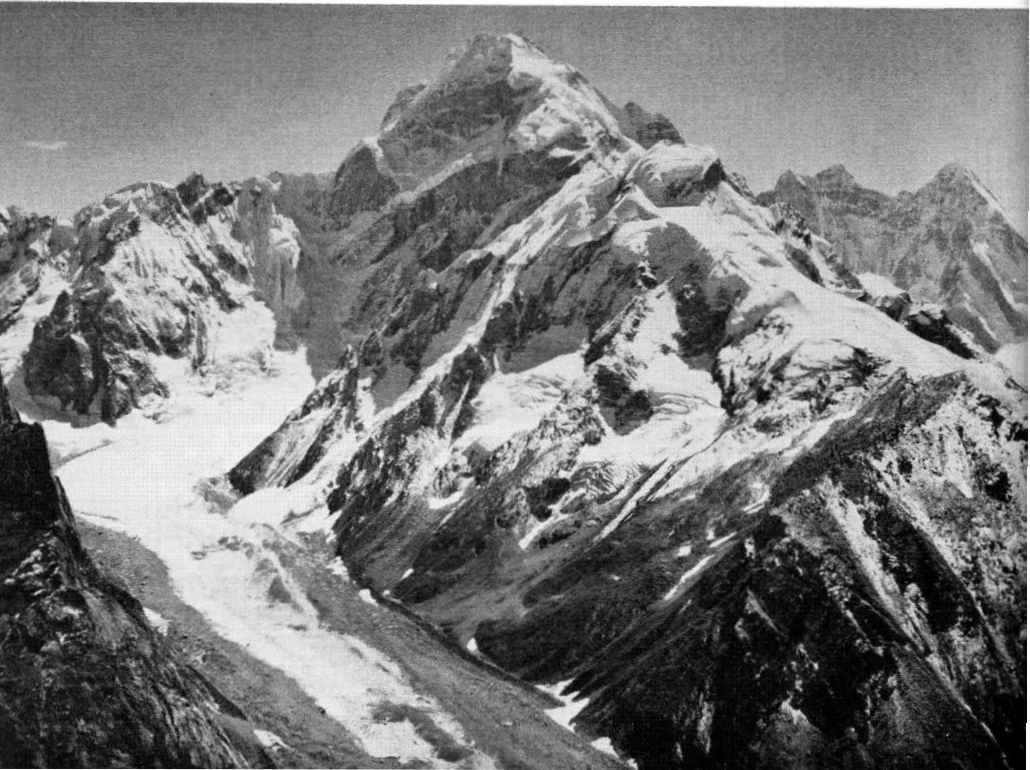
6013

'Eiger'



114 *The Tarparun massif from the north*

115 *Sickle Moon from the north* The peaks on the right—the Tarparun massif—can also be seen in [114]



turned back at about 5600 m because of the risk presented by séracs (9 October). So, finally, we tackled Pt 6392 m by its long (4 km) South-east ridge. We camped at about 5000 m after an exciting encounter with a herd of ibex, just in time for the start of a three-day snow-storm which left the mountain in a condition in which we were able to climb only Pt 5255 m, its lowest satellite (18 October). But the ridge was enjoyable and the weather fine, so it made a good last day.

Our aim in both expeditions has primarily been to explore, and this last time we were not strong enough to do more than scratch the surface from a purely mountaineering point of view. It is a relatively accessible area, and there are lots of good climbs waiting to be done, either before or after the monsoon. (Further information and photos are available from Charles Clarke, c/o Guy's Hospital, London SE1.)

John Harriss

Kulu-Lahul-Chamba 1969

Chamba: first ascents of Duphao Jot and Baihali Jot on 25 and 27 May, respectively, by Indo-British Himalayan expedition (leader Major H. V. Bahuguna). Article p 39.

Hanuman Tibba, 19,450 ft was climbed by a Japanese expedition (leader Dr Isao Morimoto) on 6–8 June (sixth ascent); and on 18 June by an All Ladies Expedition from Gujrat led by Miss D. Saher (other members Dr (Miss) R. Swami, Miss U. Bhatt, Miss R. Patel).

Indar Kila (19,817 ft(?)), first ascent Emilio Civis, of a Spanish three-man expedition, and the Sherpa Pasang made the first ascent on 1 June. Base Camp was at 4400 m on the Indrasan glacier. The difficulties of the final 110 m high pinnacle were in places as high as A2. Other members of the expedition were V. L. de Ceballos and A. Leonart.

Source: *Alpinismus*.

Deo Tibba, 19,687 ft A Japanese team lead by A. Okuyama not only climbed the peak in May but three of its members skied from the summit to Base Camp in fifty-five minutes.

Ali Ratni Tibba, 18,013 ft; first ascent, by West ridge 25–6 May 1969 F. Harper (leader), Mrs. M. A. Harper, D. Nicol, C. Radcliffe. Article p 9. The rock in the area is top-class red granite, with large crystals and generously fissured. The climbing was perfect Chamonix-type, and in fact the area should eventually develop like the Aiguilles, with the big rock faces and pillars giving immensely satisfying lines. For instance, the North and West



116 *The upper part of the North and West faces of Ali Ratni Tibba*
Splendid granite offering a major challenge for the future. West ridge on the right. Telephoto from Base Camp. See also [7]. Photo: Fred Harper

faces of Ali Ratni Tibba, and the pillar dividing the two, are obvious places for future epics [116]. Some peaks of around 17,000 ft remain to be climbed (e.g. that in [9]) but nothing difficult.

Fred Harper

Parbati group, first and second ascents of highest peak, 21,760 ft The first ascent, in 1968, previously reported in *A.J.* 74 226 is described on p 53. The second ascent is reported to have been made from the Bara Shigri glacier on 5 October 1969 by an Indian Ladies' expedition led by Miss D. Sinha.

Garhwal 1969

Gangotri III, 21,578 ft was climbed on 10 June by D. Ambegaonkar and Sherpas Nima and Pemba (second ascent); the team led by J. Elavia was sponsored by the M.S. University of Baroda.

The peak was also climbed on 20 June by the instructors and students of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering led by Major Surat Singh.

Chaturangi glacier: first ascent of Peak 20,684 ft The Gangotri Glacier Exploration Committee of Calcutta's team of seven members climbed this peak on 7 October. The team was led by Dr S. R. Choudhuri—the other members being A. Mukherjee, S. Mukherjee, H. Bhattacharjee, A. Bose, B. N. Gupta and B. Sirkar—the summit team comprising the first five members, and the leader.

Abi Gamin, 24,130 ft is reported to have been climbed (fourth ascent) on 6 July by N. Purohit and two Sherpas. The expedition led by H. Patel was sponsored by the Gujarat State Sports Council.

An unnamed peak in the Gangotri region, of c 19,200 ft was climbed by a team led by Dr G. R. Patwardhan in May; probable first ascent.

Tharkot, 20,010 ft was attempted twice this year. First by a small expedition sponsored by The Climbers' Club, Bombay and led by Harish Kapadia—the other members being B. Merchant, Z. Vasi, Z. Bogha and M. Dattani. Their climb was abandoned when a giant sérac broke and swept five climbers down for about 500 ft, soon after they had left Camp 2 (c 18,700 ft). On the previous day their recce had reached the rock face 400 ft short of the summit and it appeared there were no further serious obstacles. The accident, however, had shaken the party badly enough to hamper further progress.

The second attempt, which started in September, was sponsored by the Calcutta Mountaineers' Club: S. Banerjee, S. Chaudhuri (leader), H. Chowdhury, S. K. Das, D. Ghosh, S. Ghosh, Dr A. K. Hati, B. Malik, B. N. Rakshit. After establishing Camp 2 on the lower slopes of Bhanoti the porters refused to negotiate the crevasses beyond, under the prevailing fresh snow, and the expedition thus failed.

Lampak group 1968 It is now known that the first ascents mentioned in *A.J.* 74 230 were of the Main Peak, 20,280 ft, on 17 September; and of an unnamed peak, 19,216 ft (?), on 21 September. The expedition was led by Nemaï Bose. Base Camp was established at 14,000 ft on 10 September on the Kalla glacier. A rock wall was negotiated to establish Camp 1; and an ice-fall to reach Camp 2 at 18,900 ft. The summit party on the Main Peak comprised T. Bhattacharjee, P. Chatterjee, S. Ghosh, S. Koley and Sherpas Passang, Thondu and Dokji.

South Lampak, 20,750 ft, first ascent 1969 21 September by the Kalla Glacier expedition—sponsored by the Mountain Lovers' Association, Asansol, and led by P. Chakraborty. Base Camp was established at 15,500 ft, and Camp 1 at 16,400 ft. After a number of attempts from Camp 2 to achieve the saddle between South Lampak and Peak 21,340 ft, the team turned its attention to

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 Nemeč, Kurt Reha and Kurt Ring, were all members of the Osterreichischer Alpenklub and were among the foremost Austrian