PEAKS AND PASSES OF THE GARHwal HIMALAYA
PEAKS AND PASSES
OF
THE GARHwal HIMALAYA

The guide-book for climbers and cross-country alpinists compiled by Jan Babicz

Alpinistyczny Klub Eksploracyjny
Sopot 1990
CONTENTS

PREFACE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE REGION
1.1. TOPOGRAPHY OF THE GARHWAL HIMALAYA .......... 9
1.2. FROM THE HISTORY OF EXPLORATION ............... 11

2

SEVEN THOUSAND METER PEAKS OF THE GARHWAL HIMALAYA
THE MASSIF OF NANDA DEVI .................................. 18
TRISUL ................................................................. 38
DUNAGIRI ............................................................. 46
THE TIRSSULI MASSIF ........................................... 55
KAMET ................................................................. 63
THE MUKUT PARBAT MASSIF ................................. 70
ABI GAMIN .......................................................... 76
MANA ................................................................. 77
THE CHAUKHAMBA MASSIF ................................. 81
SATOPANTH ........................................................ 83

3

CLIMBING GUIDE TO THE WESTERN PART OF THE GANGOTRI GROUP

CONTENTS


4 HIGH CROSS - COUNTRY TREKS

1. AROUND THE BANDARPUNCH MASSIF
1.1 THE ROUTE ACROSS THE DHUMDHAR KANDI PASS ................................................................. 206
1.2 THE ROUTE FROM HARSIL TO THE BASPA VALLEY ................................................................. 210

2. THE JAONLI VALLEY .................................................................................................................. 211

3. THE HIGH ROUTE FROM GANGOTRI TO KEDARNATH
3.1 THE TRAIL FROM GANGOTRI UPON THE AUDEN'S COL ....................................................... 214
3.2 FROM GHUTTU TO THE KHATLING GLACIER AND THE AUDEN'S COL .................................. 214
3.3 FROM KHATLING GLACIER TO KEDARNATH ....................................................................... 215

4. THE KEDAR VALLEY .................................................................................................................. 216

5. THE GANGOTRI GLACIER ......................................................................................................... 217

6. THE ROUTE FROM GANGOTRI TO THE RAKTVARN VALLEY .................................................. 223

7. THE TRAIL FROM GANGOTRI TO BADRINATH VIA KHALINDI KHAL ...................................... 223
CONTENTS

8. THE ROUTE FROM MALARI TO BADRINATH VIA GUPT KHAL ......................................................... 226
9. THE ROUTE FROM BADRINATH TO MALARI VIA BHYUNDHAR KHAL ........................................ 227
10. THE NANDA DEVI SANCTUARY
   10.1 FROM LATA TO SARSON PATAL ......................................................... 229
   10.2 THE TRIP TO SHIPTON’S COL .............................................................. 230
   10.3 THE TRIP TO THE SUnderDHUNGA COL ........................................... 232
   10.4 NANDA DEVI KHAL ........................................................................... 232
11. THE TRAIL ACROSS THE BAGINI PASS (5800 m) ................. 234
12. FROM PINDAR VALLEY TO MARTOLI VIA THE TRAILL’S PASS ................................................. 237
13. FROM MALARI TO MILAM BY THE GORGE OF THE GIRTHI RIVER ................................. 239
14. THE ROUTE AROUND THE PANCHCHULI VIA THE RALAM DHURA PASS .............................. 240

BIBLIOGRAPHY .................................................................................. 243
"PEAKS AND PASSES OF THE GARHWAL HIMALAYA" is the source book intended for climbers and cross-country alpinists and is a first step to prepare a detailed climbing guide on this part of the Great Himalayan Range. The book contains information about the topography and the state of exploration of the Garhwal area. It gives the detailed description of all seven thousand peaks and presents the summits lying in the western part of the Gangotri Group. A separate chapter is devoted to high trekking routes.

The contents of the book have been based mainly on information published in mountain magazines and journals. Often however, the source provide data which are incomplete, incompatible or even incorrect. Therefore, some descriptions published here, especially those concerning authors of first ascents, may bear some errors, for which I beg your pardon in advance.

In the preparation of future editions of this guide-book, I welcome comments on the accuracy of and changes to descriptions used, suggestions of worthwhile and/or new routes that might be included in the guide and any other constructive comments. I also welcome good quality photographs suitable for the preparation of photo-diagrams. All comments and offers should be addressed to

JAN BABICZ ul. BAJANA 5B/1, 80-463 GDANSK, POLAND

Finally I'd like to underline that climbing peaks requires getting permits and paying fees. Besides, a number of summits and treks described in this guide were inaccessible to foreigners for political reasons at the time of printing. The present climbing regulations i.e. obtaining permits, fees, possibilities of entering various regions of India can be obtaining from

Indian Mountaineering Foundation, Headquarters Complex, Benito Juarez Road, New Delhi 110 021.
I wish to acknowledge that I read extensively and borrowed freely from such Alpine journals as Himalayan Journal, Alpine Journal, American Alpine Jurnal as well as Indian Mountaineer and many other climbing magazines, for all of which I am grateful indeed.

I used material that appeared in published reports of such climbers as: Robin Beadle, Jakub Bujak, T.Gwyned, Harish Kapadia, Roy F. Lindsay, H.W. Tilman and Juan Tomas.

I wish to acknowledge the help rendered me by such mountaineers as: A.K. Bhattacharayya, Anna Bruzdowicz-Dudek, Marek Bumblis, Benon Czechowski, Ian Dring, Dave Fletcher, Walenty Fiut, Mirosław Gardzielewski, Katie Garrod, Robert Jerrom, P.P. Kapadia, Michał Kočańczyk, Joss Lynam, Gianni Mandelli, J.C. Marmier, Bohuslav Mrozek, Marek Oreńczuk A.J. Pollard, Victor Russenberger, Sadhan Sengupta, Alfred Sosgóром, Dawson Stelfox, Jan Szulc, Seiji Takami, E.Theophilus, Jerzy Wala and Waldemar Żmürko

I am particularly grateful to:
Patricia Fletcher of the American Alpine Club Library
Josep Paytubi of Centre de Documentacio Alpina,
Axel Strasser of Deutscher Alpenverain Library,
Hanna Hanke-Stroińska of Muzeum Sportu i Turystyki
Wiesław Wójcik of CBG PTTK

Thanks are also due to many people for their help in various matters. they are: W. Bełz, A. Bruździak, H.A. Carter, D. Hołatówna, P.E. Johnson, Z. Kaleczyc, Z. Kowalewski, J.W. Lefley, P. Misiurewicz, J. Nyka, D. Tkaczyk

Finally, I warmly thank Marek Kaniewski the president of Alpine Exploration Club of Sopot and Krzysztof Paul from Mountaineering Club of Gdańsk for assistance in organizing the trip to Garhwal, as well as my partner Piotr Bojarski for a wonderful month together on the glaciers of the Garhwal Himalaya.

JAN BABICZ
Gdańsk, July 1990
I

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE REGION
1.1. TOPOGRAPHY OF THE GARHWAL HIMALAYA

The northwest corner of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh is occupied by a very interesting mountainous region formerly known as the Kumaun Himalaya, and today is commonly called the Garhwal Himalaya. The eastern limit of this part of the Himalaya is the Lipu Lekh Pass and the valley of the Kali River which also constitutes the Indo-Nepal border. According to professor Kenneth Mason, who was an outstanding expert in the matter, the western limit of the Garhwal Himalaya is the gorge of the Sutlej River. In practice, however, mountain ranges rising on the left-bank of the Sutlej which encompass such peaks as LEO PARGIAL (6770 m) and KINNER KAILASH (6474 m) are to be treated separately, especially since they are on the territory of the neighbouring state of Himachal Pradesh. In this respect we should consider the Tons River as the western limit of territory which is of interest to us while the Lamkhaga Pass and the Borasu Pass would be the northern limits. Apart from the Great Himalaya, a very well developed range of Zaskar, which constitutes the watershed and Indo-Tibetan border, also lies within these parameters. The outskirts of the Garhwal area are drained by left-bank tributaries of the Sutlej, mainly the Baspa, and the right-bank of the Kali (the Dhauliganga, the Goriganga, the Ramganga). Between them lies the Himalayan drainage basin of the Yamuna River and first of all, the holy river of Hinduism – the Ganges, which collects waters of the Bhagirathi, the Mandakini, the Alaknanda and the Pindar. These rivers divide the Great Himalaya into four mountain groups.

The most eastwards one is called the Eastern Kumaun Himalaya. It ranges from the Lipu Lekh Pass down the valley of the Kali River in the east, while its western limits are the Kangri-bingi La Pass, Unta Dhura Pass and the Gori Ganga Valley. The highest mountain of this division is PANCHCHULI II (6904 m), apart from which only three other peaks exceed the height of 6500 m. They are CHIRING WE (6559 m), RAJRAMBA (6537 m) and CHAUDHARA (6510 m).
The Panchchuli Range borders in the west on the **Nanda Devi Group**, the mightiest in this part of the Himalaya, extending up towards the Dhauliganga River Valley and the Kiunglang La (Niti Pass).

The eastern part of this group, called the Eastern Nanda Devi Subsection, culminates in the tri-summit massif of Tirsuli with HARDEOL (7151 m), TIRSULI (7074 m) and virgin TIRSULI WEST (7035 m). The Northern Nanda Devi Subsection comprises peaks situated north of the Rishi Ganga gorge. The highest elevation here are DUNAGIRI (7066 m), RISHI PAHAR (6992 m), KALANKA (6931 m) and CHANGABANG (6864 m). To the Southern Nanda Devi Subsection belongs summits located south of the Rishi Ganga. The highest peak of Garhwal—NANDA DEVI (7816 m) and two other 7000 m peaks: NANDA DEVI EAST (7434 m) and TRISUL (7120 m) dominate over this area.

Another outstanding mountain section is the **Gangotri Group**. It ranges from the Mana Pass, the Saraswati River (which becomes the Alaknanda) in the east to the Chor Gad, the Jadh Ganga and the Bhagirathi Valleys in the west. The Gangotri Group culminates in CHAUKHAMBA I (7138 m), SATOPANTH (7075 m), two virgin peaks: CHAUKHAMBA II (7068 m) and CHAUKHAMBA III (6974 m) as well as SRI KAILAS (6932 m), KEDARNATH (6940 m) and THALAY SAGAR (6904 m).

To the west and north of the Bhagirathi River, as far as the river Tons, extends the **Bandarpunch Range** culminating in BLACK PEAK (Kalanag 6387 m), BANDARPUNCH (6316 m) and the tri-summit massif of SWARGAROHINI. The northern limits of range are the Lamkhaga Pass and the Borassu Pass.

One more mountain group rises northwest of the Nanda Devi Section. It is the **Kamet Group**. It stretches from the Kiunglang La (Niti Pass) and the valley of the Dhauliganga River in the east to Mana Pass and the Saraswati River Valley in the west. The Kamet Group includes the highest mountains in the Zaskar Range. Six peaks exceed the altitude of 7000 m and next three rise higher than 6900 m. They are as follows: KAMET (7756 m), ABI GAMIN (7355 m), MANA (7272 m), MUKUT PARBAT (7242 m), MUKUT PARBAT II (7130 m), MANA NORTH-WEST (7092 m), P 6977, P 6940 and P 6910.
1.2. FROM THE HISTORY OF EXPLORATION

Peaks of the Garhwal Himalaya are sacred for millions of Hindu believers. The Ganges, so important for the history and culture of India, has its sources here. Places like Gangotri, Kedarnath or Badrinath have for centuries been objects of pilgrimages. Considering the fact that the route leading along the Kali Valley, up the Lipu Lekh Pass towards sacred MOUNT KAILAS on the Manasarowar Lake has been known for long, one may risk saying that the Garhwal are the earliest explored part of the Himalaya. It was the Garhwal that introduced the world's highest mountains to Europeans: in summer 1624 two Portuguese missionaries Antonio de Andrade and Manuel Marques crossed the Mana Pass (5668 m) and in search of a legendary Christian community reached Tsaparang in the upper Sutlej. Two years later the first Christian church in Tibet was established and subsequently, a number of Jesuit missionaries traveled along the Alaknanda and the Saraswati up the Mana Pass. Next Europeans came to the Garhwal in the first half of the nineteenth century. The region was then under the severe reign of Nepalese rulers who were hostile towards foreign travellers. The Nepales defeated rulers of Kumaun and Garhwal at the end of the eighteenth century and conquered lands as far as the Sutlej. Despite hostile attitude towards foreign visitors, in 1808 young lieutenant W.S. Webb was sent to this region with a mission to explore the sources of the Ganges. He was accompanied by Captain F.V. Raper and Hyder Young Hearsey. They reached the village of Raithal about 50 km beneath Gangotri from where they retreated to the junction of the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda. On their return journey, as first Europeans they crossed the Kuari Pass (3898 m). Two years later, a Liverpool veterinary surgeon, Wiliam Moorcroft and H.Y. Hearsey visited the valley of the Dhaulig River and in disguise, under the assumed names, crossed the Niti Pass into Tibet. They reached as far as Manasarowar Lake and definitely stated that no Ganges tributary existed so far to the north.

In result of the Nepalese War of 1814–16 the Gurkhas were forced to retreat from Garhwal and Kumaun into the territory east of the Kali River. Together with these developments all poli-
tical obstacles blocking the topographical exploration of Garhwal disappeared. Soon the altitudes of mountain peaks started to be measured. In 1817 J.A. Hodgson and Herbert reached the snout of the Gangotri Glacier.

In 1830 G.W. Traill, the first commissioner of Kumaun crossed the pass between NANDA DEVI and NANDA KOT reaching the settlement of Martoli in the Goriganga Valley from the Pindar Glacier.

Another important event in the exploration of Garhwal was the expedition of Schlagintweit brothers who attempted to climb KAMET in 1866. At that time, however, the topography of the massif was still unknown and the explorers may have been trying to climb ABI GAMIN having allegedly reached fairly an impressive altitude of 6875 m.

The first traveller who came to the Himalaya for sport and adventure was W.W. Graham. In July 1883 together with two Alpine guides Emil Boss and Ulrich Kaufmann he tried to force the Rishi Ganga gorge and to attack NANDA DEVI. The attempt to reach the legendary ,,Sanctuary” was unsuccessful. Then Graham launched an attack on DUNAGIRI but here again he was forced to retreat.

Another traveller who came to Garhwal with the same aim as Graham was dr. Tom G. Longstaff. He was accompanied by two brothers Alexis and Henri Brocherel from Courmayeur. On 8 June 1905 having walked along the Lawan Valley they reached Nanda Devi Khal (5910 m). From there were thus the first to look down into the ,,Sanctuary”, descent into which, however, seemed too difficult for the porters. In spite of unsuccessful attempts to climb NANDA DEVI EAST and NANDA KOT, that was Longstaff who first ever succeeded in reaching a 7000 m summit. On 12 June 1907 he, together with Brocherel brothers and Kabir Buratoki, reached the top of TRISUL (7120 m).

In the following years KAMET, the second highest peak of Garhwal, became the aim of numerous expedition. A proper route was traced out by expedition led by C.F. Meade in 1913. From the Purbi Kamet Glacier the expedition reached the col between KAMET and ABI GAMIN (Meade’s Col 7138 m). The top of KAMET was eventually reached by the members of a strong team led by Frank Smythe in 1931.
A breakthrough in the exploration of Garhwal took place in 1934 when Eric Shipton and Harold W. Tilman together with three Sherpas forced their way through the Rishi Ganga gorge and as first people stood at the foot of NANDA DEVI. The summit which had been defending itself against numerous expeditions attempting to approach it for nearly half a century, was surprisingly reached by the first team that launched an attack on it. H.W. Tilman and N.O. Odell, members of an British-American expedition, set foot on the top of NANDA DEVI on 29 August 1936.

In 1937 F.Smythe during his „climbing holiday” reached MANA (7272 m) and four other six thousand peaks in surrounding of the Banke Glacier.

A year later an Austro-German party under prof. R. Schwarzgruber was exploring the Gangotri Group and succeeded in reaching virgin peaks of BHAGIRATHI II (6512 m), CHANDRA PARBAT (6728 m), MANDANI PARBAT (6193 m), SWACHAND (6721 m) and SRI KAILAS (6932 m).

In 1939 two other expeditions operated in Garhwal: the First Polish Himalayan Expedition led by A. Karpinski and the Swiss one led by André Roch. Both had a very successful start: the Poles climbed NANDA DEVI EAST (7434 m) and the Swiss ascended DUNAGIRI (7066 m), but also both ended tragically. Stefan Bernadzikiewicz and Adam Karpinski lost their lives in an avalanche while attempting to reach TIRSULI. An avalanche also swept the Swiss camp off the slopes of CHAUKHAMBA killing two of their porters.

During World War II Alpine activity in the Himalaya died down. It marked the end of an era. The conquest of the Himalaya resumed in 1947 when André Roch and his Swiss party climbed KEDARNATH (6940 m), SATOPANTH (7075 m), BALBALA (6416 m) and NANDA GHUNTI (6309 m). That was the last expedition operating in India under the British rule.

The early fifties were marked by extensive exploration of Garhwal, reaching a number of 7000 m peaks and arrival of first independently operating Indian teams. In August 1950 an Anglo-Swiss expedition reached ABI GAMIN (7355 m) from the head of the Mangnang Glacier on the Tibetan side. A year later adjacent MUKUT PARBAT (7242 m) and a number of six thousand peaks were captured by climbers from New Zealand operating
in the Himalaya for the first time. Later that year the first Indian Himalaya expedition repeated the ascent of TRISUL. In June 1952 a French expedition climbed the dangerous peak of CHAUKHAMBA I (7138 m) from the Bhagirath Kharak Glacier.

Also in that time, such 6000 m peaks as BANDARPUNCH, GANGOTRI I and III as well as UJA TIRCHE were conquered. Soon afterwards however, due to the occupation of Tibet by Chinese forces, Indian authorities closed the Garhwal and Kumaun areas for foreign expeditions. In this way the most popular part of the Himalaya remained inaccessible for 20 years. During that time only few Indian parties operated in there. A great achievement of Indian mountaineers was the ascent of TIRSULI (7074 m) by members of the Himalayan Association from Calcutta in 1966. In 1970 the first women’s ascent of TRISUL (7120 m) took place.

The first half of the 1970ties was marked by the intensive activity of climbers from the Indo-Tibet Border Police. In consecutive years ITBP expeditions accomplished a number of first ascents among others upon: PANCHCHULI I (6355 m), PANCHCHULI II (6904 m), NANDA PAL (6306 m), BALAKUN (6471 m), lofty SHIVLING (6543 m) and inaccessible NILKHANTA (6596 m).

In 1974 a small part of Garhwal in the NANDA DEVI area was opened to foreign mountaineering activity. A great number of strong expedition made some remarkable sport successes possible. On 4 June 1974 the Anglo-Indian team including Chris Bonington, Dougal Haston, Dough Scott, Balwant Singh Sandhu and Chewang Tashi climbed magnificent granite CHANGABAND (6964 m). The climbers gained top after traversing the northeastern ridge.

In 1975 a young English team of Dick Renshaw and Joe Tasker climbed an extremely difficult southern pillar of DUNAGIRI and a small Japanese expedition ascended the neighbouring beautiful and very difficult summit of KALANKA (6931 m). The northern part of the NANDA DEVI Basin was also the scene of activity performed by the Himalayan Association of Japan. That was the first expedition to get there since the Shipton-Tilman times. The unclimbed tops of RISHI PAHAR (6992 m), SAF MINAL (6911 m) and BAMCHU (6303 m) were reached.

The year 1976 brought such splendid achievements as the traverse of the both summits of NANDA DEVI (Japanese),
establishing new routes up TRISUL (Yugoslav), NANDA DEVI (Americans) DUNAGIRI (Japanese) and CHANGABANG (as many as 3 routes). The first women’s ascent of ABI GAMIN was also a considerable achievement.

Next year a women’s team from India climbed KAMET and Czechoslovak climbers climbed the 1800 m high North Face of KALANKA. The top event of 1978 was the ascent of difficult and dangerous peak of HARDEOL (7151 m).

As result new delimitation of so-called „Inner Line”, western part of the Gangotri Group was re-opened to foreign mountaineering activity. This immediately brought about the ascent of THALAY SAGAR (6904 m), the shape and difficulty of which resembles CHANGABANG. In the following years a number of sport problems were solved and now the Gangotri area remains the main arena of climbing activity in India the more so after the NANDA DEVI „Sanctuary” has been closed. The remaining parts of Garhwal are mainly accessible to Indian teams, though joint teams from time to time can be granted permission into the officially closed areas. In this way the joint Franco-Indian expedition got to KAMET by the new southwestern route in 1985 and in 1988 the Indo-American expedition climbed MANA.

READ

THE AMERICAN ALPINE JOURNAL
the foremost mountaineering journal published in the USA. It contains excellent articles about climbing in all parts of the world, numerous photographs, many in color, valuable maps, diagrams and topos.

Write to:
THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB
113 EAST 90th STREET
New York, New York 10128-1589 USA
II
SEVEN THOUSAND METER PEAKS OF THE GARHWAH HIMALAYA
THE MASSIF OF NANDA DEVI

The massif of Nanda Devi comprises two outstanding and independent summits. The lower eastern summit – NANDA DEVI EAST (7434 m – 24,390 ft) sends towards the north and south two mighty ridges. These crescent shaped ridges form on their western side a huge glacial basin which because of its very difficult access is called the Nanda Devi Sanctuary. This is inside the Sanctuary where rise the main western summit of NANDA DEVI (7816 m – 25,645 ft) the highest elevation of Garhwal. Some 3 km apart, the two summits are joined by an almost horizontal ridge at altitude of about 7100–7200 m. The northern sides of the massif form one of the most beautiful glacial cirque in the world. Only one route has been put up on this side so far: that is the Czechoslovak route leading up the right pillar of the 3000 m high North East Face of NANDA DEVI.

The North Wall of NANDA DEVI EAST is „only” 2600 m high but may boldly be called the face of the 21st century. Parties that would like to climb it will face extreme difficulties.

A relatively easy but long route may be established on the North Ridge of NANDA DEVI. Its upper part was done by the American expedition in 1976 while Czechs climbed the lower part up to the point 6895 m two years later.

NANDA DEVI seems more accessible from the south. It was from this side an British-American team reached the summit by the South Ridge. Another magnificent aim is the Western Pillar situated between the normal route and the American route, already attacked by Wojciech Kurtyka and Alex MacIntyre in October 1978.

THE FIRST ASCENT OF NANDA DEVI

(The following text is an abridged and slightly changed version of the H.W. Tilman’s article- see lit. 82)

In 1934 E. Shipton and H.W. Tilman made their way through the gorge of the Rishi Ganga River which gives the only access to NANDA DEVI and its basin for a large and heavily equipped
party. After a month long observation of the mountain from all sides and having reconnoitred the South Ridge up to about 6100 m, they came to a conclusion that this was the only possible way to reach the top. So, when two years later the British-American Himalayan Expedition arrived at the foot of the mountain, its members had no doubts where their attack should be made. The party consisted of 4 British (T. Graham Brown, P. Lloyd, N.E. Odell and H.W. Tilman) and 4 American climbers (H.A. Carter, A.B. Emmons, Ch.S. Houston and W.F. Loomis).

On August 7 Base Camp was established in a point about 300 m above the glacier and 150 m below the crest of the „Coxcomb” ridge. Four days later they put up Camp I. To reach it, the climbers crossed the ridge and traversed under the north side of „Coxcomb”, a fantastically weathered ridge of crumbling yellow rock, and then in steep rock and snow climbed to the foot of the South Ridge proper.

On August 12 Odell and Tilman reconnoitred for Camp II. The crest of the ridge was too narrow and broken to follow and they kept close to its north west side. For 200 m the way led over loose and rotten rock. Beyond this horrible place route led mostly in snow. It was rather seldom possible the climb upon the crest of the ridge owing to cornices. Camp II was established on a small platform backed by a sheer rock wall on one side and falling steeply down to the glacier on the other.

Above Camp II the route led along the crest of a steep and narrow snow ridge inclined at an angle of 40–45°. After 180 m the angle eased off. Camp III (6460 m) was pitched at the foot of what the climbers called „the Snow Saddle”. The saddle provided easy climbing in sound snow on the initial 200–250 m, steepening again to 45° later.

During another reconnaissance, Odell and Tilman realized that the only safe route was in snow and the most likely place to find it was a broad shallow gully about a quarter of a mile to the left. A few days later Lloyd and Loomis found access to the gully but there was no place for a camp and climbing further up the gully did not prove promising. Despite this, they decided to move Camp III to the upper part of Snow Saddle, closer to the gully and to continue climbing by the gully. On the evening of the 24th
five climbers were established in the new camp with food stock for nearly a fortnight. The plan was to bivouac as high as possible on the next day. The summit party would have two days to make their bid and on the third day the other team would go.

On 25 August two ropes set out from Camp IV. They had to traverse to the gully in grind snow inclined at an angle of 45–50°. By 3 p.m. they were high enough and they headed for an ill-defined rock ridge on their right, which seemed easier. They failed to find a proper bivouac site. The proposed camp site was as steep as the rest of the mountain side. After a rest, they tackled a rock tower right above them, but there too, they didn’t find a place to pitch their tent. At 4 p.m. Lloyd, Loomis and Tilman decided to descend while Odell and Houston climbed another 50 m to find a place where they were hardly able to put up a tent (7160 m). On the following day they reconnoitred up the ridge, 150 m higher they found a level snow shelf big enough for two tents. Higher up there were several hundred feet of interesting and difficult rock and snow ridge. Happily the rotten rock had given place to a hard quartzite which was enjoyable in handling. This ridge ended in a snow dome where it abutted against a wide snow terrace leading by an easy gradient to the foot of the final snow and rock wall below the summit. They returned to the camp, intending to move it higher the next day, but Houston felt ill suddenly that night. In the morning Odell’s shouts „Charlie is ill” were misunderstood and taken for „Charlie is killed”. Expecting the worst, Lloyd and Tilman quickly reached the bivouac site. Houston insisted on going down not to delay the summit bid. All four of them roped up. Some way down they met Graham Brown and Carter. Houston and Lloyd joined them while Odell and Tilman returned to the bivouac. This is how Mr H.W. Tilman describes the summit attack:

„...Next day we moved camp in two shifts to the higher site at 7315 m, and on the 29th set out for the top, getting off at 6 a.m. Thanks to the previous reconnaissance we were not long on the difficult ridge, and 8 o’clock saw us beginning the long trudge up the snow terrace. In spite of a cold night and the early hour the snow was not good and speedily became execrable. We were soon going in over our knees and, in steeper places, it was hard to make any upward progress at all. A very hot sun added to our discomfort and hopes of the summit grew faint, but there was no help beyond plugging on and seeing how far we could get:
this we did, taking our time and resting frequently. Towards 1 p.m. we were surprised to find ourselves approaching the final wall and, once this was reached, we felt the deed was done.

There was a difficult bit of rock which Odell and which I thought horribly unsafe, then we were landed fairly on the steep glacis with the summit only a couple of hundred feet above us.

Presently we entered a short but very steep gully in which the snow was reasonably good and, after a severe struggle, we drew ourselves out on to a gently sloping corridor just below the summit ridge. Odell had finished the gully and was moving up to where I sat, preparatory to continuing by the corridor, when there was a sudden hiss and, quicker than thought, a slab of snow about 30 yards long slid off the corridor and disappeared down the gully, peeling off the snow where our steps had been kicked as it went. At its lower end the avalanche broke away to a depth of a foot all round my axe, which was well driven in and to which I was holding: the break at its upper limit extended to a depth of three or four feet.

The corridor route had somehow lost its attractiveness and we finished the climb by the ridge, reaching the top at 3 p.m."

THE FIRST ASCENT OF NANDA DEVI EAST

The next to have their share in the exploration of the Nanda Devi Massif were climbers from Poland. The First Polish Himalayan Expedition was organized by Klub Wysokogórski (Mountaineering Club) as preparation for a planned K2 expedition.

The party consisted of Adam Karpiński, leader, Jakub Bujak, Stefan Bernadzikiewicz and Janusz Klarner. On 25 July 1939 the Poles established a camp in front of the Eastern Wall of NANDA DEVI EAST. Despite the time was late and the climbers came down with diseases they were able to pitch five camps and accomplish three summit attacks during their 5 week long activity. Finally J. Bujak and J. Klarner reached the top on 2 July. At that time it was the fifth highest peak reached by man – a great success as for Himalayan debutants.

The Polish route leads from Base Camp in the Lawan Valley (Bhitalgwar 4300 m) to the foot of a rock and scree rib by the side of a snow gully which goes up directly to the Nanda Devi
2. NANDA DEVI EAST from the Lawan Valley. The Polish Route is marked.

Acc. to photo by J. Bujak.
SEVEN THOUSAND METER PEAKS OF THE GARHwal HIMALAYA

Khal (Langstaff's Col), then by the gully onto the col (Camp II, 5910 m). The way to the col takes 8 hours. The gully is moderately steep reaching an angle of about 40° in its upper part. From the col towards the summit extends the three kilometer long South Ridge, the vertical height of which amounts to 1500 m. Right above the col there is a mighty tower of rotten rock - first gendarme- 100 m high. The ascent of it avoids the actual ridge following a shallow and steep gully cut in its South East Face. Beyond the first gendarme there is a second one, a shallow col separating both of them. The descent from the second gendarme towards the third follows over a short but very exposed ice slope. The third gendarme itself, made of comparatively easy but crumbling rock is followed by a horizontal snow ridge, which ends under a rock step, about 30 m high - „the Step to the Snow Point”. Then, the snow ridge continues up to the Snow Point, where it comes down along a slight depression. Polish Camp III (6250 m) stood on a small platform on the rock-and-snow part of the ridge beyond the „Snow Point”. This section is about 460 m long and includes several small gendarmes, steps and terraces constituting an interesting rock and snow climb. The next part of the route is formed by a snow, corniced ridge falling very steeply towards the east. It's western slopes are inclined at an angle of 45°, easing off considerably at the altitude of 6460 m and changing into a huge neve forming the upper eastern border of the ice field enclosed between the two peaks of NANDA DEVI.

The neve higher changes again into a steeper slope with belts of rock protruding in places. This slope is nearly 300 m high and is called the „First Step”. Camp IV stood on the neve below the „First Step”. From that place the ridge runs first north, then turns sharply north east and rises gradually to the summit. It is a snow ridge but is interrupted by steep rock in two places: the „Second Step” - about 100 m high, and the „Third Step” - 30 m high, located close to the summit. On the morning of 2 July four climbers left Camp IV located above the „First Step” at 7000 m. In his account of the final bid (see lit. 10) J. Bujak writes:

„Camp V was on the top of a huge boulder which jutted out from the snow slope. When we awoke the next morning there was dense cloud and a high wind blowing over the ridge. To go on was out of the question. We lay all day in our small tents, listening to the flapping of the canvas under the violent gusts of wind, and thinking of our steadily diminishing food-supply.
Another morning came. It was Sunday the 2 Juli. The sky was clear, and although the wind was still high and the thermometer stood at zero Farrenheit, we did not even think of waiting for better weather, it might not come at all.

We started at 7:30 a.m. on two ropes. I went ahead with Dawa, Bernadzikiewicz and Klarner followed thirty minutes later. The snow was hard, so that I had to cut steps for Dawa, who was the only one not wearing crampons, having left them behind in a lower camp, unwilling to carry anything for which he saw no use. I shall not repeat what I thought of Dawa while cutting those steps, but I admit that I was glad of the steps on the way down.

After three hours' climbing we reached the foot the Second Step. Bernadzikiewicz, who was not feeling well, decided to go back. He wanted to return by himself, but I could not agree, both for his own safety and for the necessity now for speed, and Dawa Tsering had to go with him. We were only two now: Klarner and I. The Second Step, the most difficult part of the upper ridge, was above us. We slowly climbed its lower half to the place where a band of steep slabs barred our way. Our first attempt to pass it failed and the prospect seemed serious. It was already midday, if we were now delayed we would not reach the summit that day. However, after a few minutes we found a practicable route, and by climbing on the very edge of the rocky step and turning two overhangs, we reached the less inclined upper part of the ridge.

After a short rest we went on. The sun was already declining towards the west. It was to be a race against time, but our pace was that of the tortoise racing the hare. In fact, our average rate of climb for this day was no more than 180 feet an hour, rests and time lost in looking for the way included.

At 4 o’clock we reached the foot the highest step. This was the last obstacle. It was not too difficult, and certainly easier than one before. After another hour of scrambling over rock and steep snow, a wide snow-field appeared before us. It was 50 yards wide, 100 yards long, and sloped slightly upwards. Its highest point was the summit. We were there at 5:20 p.m. After years of planning, after months of preparation, after weeks of strenuous effort, and after we had nearly given up hope, we succeeded”.
THE TRAVERSE OF THE NANDA DEVİ MASSİF

For a number of years many climbers dreamt about traversing both summits of NANDA DEVİ. During the first attempt in 1951 two climbers from Lyon, Roger Duplat and Gilbert Vignes vanished without trace. Bad weather prevented a Franco–Indian expedition from accomplishing their task in 1975. In 1976 climbers from the Japanese Alpine Club and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation undertook a joint attempt.

The expedition was composed of 14 Japanese and 7 Indians. The leaders were Katsuhiko Kano and Jagjit Singh. The climbers began their activity on two summits simultaneously. Camp EI was pitched on Nanda Devi Khal (5910 m) on 18 May. The way up to the pass led by a steep gully, at the last 50 m turning into a wall inclined at an angle of 60°. Next camps E2 (6350 m) and E3 (6950 m) were set up on the South Ridge of NANDA DEVİ EAST on 22 and 29 May. On 3 June Yoshinori Hasegawa, Kazushiige Takami and porter Sher Singh reached the summit. On 9 June the ascent was repeated by Prem Chand, Tsuneo Shigeriro, Kiryu and a high altitude porter. They set up Camp E4 just behind the top. Meanwhile camps W1(5700m), W2(6200m), W3(6600m) and W4 (7200 m) had been placed on May 22 and 28 and June 5 and 11 respectively on the traditionally south route on the main peak.

At 5:10 a.m. on June 13 Hasegawa and Takami left Camp E4 and having descended about 300 m reached at 6:40 the starting point of an extremally sharp ridge falling on both sides with 2500 m high walls. Conditions on the ridge were good and the climbers were moving up without major difficulties. The real climbing troubles began at ten o’clock on a 200 m high hump in the part where the ridge dips lowest. There were several overhanging sections on the ascent of the hump and a knife-edged ridge on the descent. This section took five hours.

On the same day Yazuo Kato, Masafumi Teramoto, Minoru Kobayashi and Sherpa Nawang Phenjo traversed the South Face despite unstable snow and avalanche danger to reach the ridge between the east and main peaks and established Camp W5 at 7250 m. Soon afterwards they were joined by Hasegawa and
Takami. At 5 p.m. Kato and Teramoto began the return to Camp W4 and it not before ten o'clock that they had reached it after a hard time on the traverse. The others spent night in Camp W5. Storm made any action impossible the next day. On 15 June Hasegawa and Takami left Camp W5 at 6:40 a.m. and climbed along the ridge direct to the summit. The route to the top of West Peak was through a big rock wall with powdered snow and was extremely difficult to follow. Meanwhile, Kato and Teramoto began ascending by the normal route. At about noon, the weather turned harsh and they worried about possibility whether they could receive the traverse party at the summit, in particular, they felt that the traverse party might not be able to find the way down through the big rock wall beneath the summit if the weather would further deteriorate. Fortunately, 15 minutes later when Kato and Teramoto reached the top, Hasegawa and Takami emerged from the mist accomplishing the first traverse from the East Peak. Bad weather prevented other teams from repeating this success.

Moutaineers who want to keep up with history of climbing in Asia will be interested in getting

THE HIMALAYAN JOURNAL

published by the HIMALAYAN CLUB since 1928. It is the foremost authoritative reference for climbing in the Himalaya, Karakoram and Tibet.

Distributed by:
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS P.O.Box 31,
BOMBAY 400001, INDIA.
3. The American Route acc. to photo by H. Adams Carter.
AMERICAN ROUTE BY THE NORTH WEST FLANK AND THE NORTH BUTTRESSES

The route covers a drop of 3700 m from Base Camp at 4100 m. In its lower part the route leads up a giant gully onto a rocky ridge limiting the gully on the left. In some section of the gully ropes have to be fixed. On the top of the ridge, at the foot of the North West Face of NANDA DEVI there is a wide and avalanche-safe place suitable for a camp – Ridge Camp (ca. 5200 m). Then by a scree covered slope slightly downwards to the place where a 400 m wide gully begins. The traverse of this gully is to be the most dangerous part of the route because of the possibility of huge avalanches breaking off the glacier above. After crossing the gully, slantwise up to the edge of another ridge where Advanced Base is located (5200 m).

Above stretches a 1700 m high ice-rocky mountain side sloped at an angle of 45–50° which leads on to the North Ridge. Then along the easy ridge to the foot of a partly overhanging extremely difficult buttress which is the crux of the route. Then by the edge of this buttress in about F9, A2 difficulties passing 180 m vertical quartzites into a gully half way up and then in mixed ground onto a snowfield on the top of the buttresses – Camp IV (7300 m). Farther up the ridge (becoming difficult) onto the top of it and across a steep cliff, a short patch of ice and 150 m long dome onto the top of NANDA DEVI.

NANDA DEVI BY THE PILLAR OF THE NORTH FACE – CZECH ROUTE

In 1978 Czechoslovak climbers were attacking NANDA DEVI by the long North Ridge achieving the point 6895 m. Before leaving the Sanctuary they reconnoitred the North Wall having decided to launch an attack upon its central pillar. In autumn 1981 a strong, 12 man expedition from Vitkovice Sport Club in Ostrava under the leadership of the veterans of 1978 attempt Milan Martaus and Vlastimil Šmida (climbing leader) began operating in
4. The Czech Route acc. to O. Srovnal.
the north part of the Sanctuary. Besides the two leaders, four other members of the expedition participated in the previous attempt to climb NANDA DEVI.

On July 30, after a six day march from Surainthota (20 km up-stream from Lata) a caravan of 120 porteres reached Base Camp on Haajkund lake (4730 m) located 1 hour away from the foot of the North Face.

On 5 August Camp I was set up at 5500 m. The route led by the front wall of the pillar in bad rock. The climbers had to make two difficult pitches (IV–V) at 5200–5300 m. Next part of the route required heavy labour and what is more, frequent avalanches of rock were falling down. The route was landmarked by the edge of the pillar, some sections of which were snowy and overhanged.

After they had passed a 250 m high, steep buttres (IV–V) on August 17, the climbers reached a narrow ledge (at 6050 m) beneath a yellow cliff. One third of the tent pitched here was hanging down from the ledge, so one could hardly call this a camp. Nevertheless, the tent served well as a shelter for food stocks. Now, the pillar was becoming a narrow crest full of seracs, snow precipices and vertical up casts.

On August 24, about 80 m beneath a high icy cliff the team composed of Šmida, Srovnal and Mrozek set up Camp III (6800 m). A few days later, on September 1 Šmida had sustained rib injuries as one of the seracs collapsed under his feet. This incident forced the party to return to BC. The team Rakoncaj-Sulovsky got the upper hand of the pillar. On September 7 they reached the ice field stretching at the bottom of the summit pyramid where they fixed Camp IV (7150 m).

Above the ice field sloped at 30–50°, an extremely difficult summit pyramid rose bringing the ascent into crucial stage. The team attacked a very dangerous snowy chimney leading up to an icy ramp intersecting the pyramid. After making the first 100 m of the chimney, what cost them three full days (pitches V+, VI/A3 2 pitches V/A2) they gave up and retreated.

Weather which had not been very good from the beginning, now deteriorated and it was snowing too. Despite all this a team composed of Leoš Horka, Ludvik Palaček and Kamil Karafa left Camp II and on 10 September reached Camp III. An attempt to get to Camp IV broke down in deep snow. When they eventually
reached the ice field on 14 September, they found no signs of Camp IV. The tent must have been washed away in an avalanche. Shocked at this discovery they spent a difficult night without sleeping bags under a canvas. None the less they want on to continue their way up 3 o’clock the next morning.

They covered the first 100 m thanks to the ropes fixed there before. Further parts of the chimney were becoming easier: four pitches IV. On the snow ramp intersecting the wall, at an altitude of approximately 7500 m, they spent another night without sleeping bags, in a snow hole. The next day, September 16, this group was joined by the support party, Otokar Srovnal and Bohumil Kadlcik, so that at 9:30 a.m. altogether five climbers set out towards the peak.

They abandoned plans to traverse to the difficult North Ridge deciding to continue the ascent right up the wall. Clouds whirled and veiled the climbers and radio contact was also lost, so that the anxious remaining members of the expedition spent a sleepless night in Base Camp, while the team was progressing towards the ridge above the buttress at height of 7650 m.

From here, the peak was to be ascended by a snowy ridge sloped at an estimated angle of 30–35°. At 6 p.m. the team Otokar Srovnal and Bohumil Kadlcik achieved the broad summit of NANDA DEVI, and an hour later they were followed by Ludvik Palacěk, Leoš Horka and Kamil Karafa. In falling snow they descended ca. 100 m down the South West Wall where they bivouacked in a snow hole.

On September 19 at 2 p.m. Rakoncaj and Sulovski repeated the success of their colleagues reaching the summit 12 hours after they had left Camp IV. The entire action took the team only 6 days, while the ascent of the former one lasted 14 days. Lit.24
5. The South West Face of NANDA DEVI EAST.
BRITISH ROUTE ON THE SOUTH WEST FACE OF NANDA DEVI EAST

In autumn 1978 the British expedition led by David Hopkins tried to reach NANDA DEVI EAST by a new route on the South West Face. At first W. Beattie and A. Kimber, D. Hopkins and A. Wielochowski, climbing in pairs, made a serious alpine style attempt on the face. Progress was satisfactory until, descending alone from a bivouac at the 6700 m level on the face, Beattie slipped and suffered a fatal fall. This occurred at 8:00 a.m. on 15 September. Following a difficult evacuation, Beattie was buried on 17 September at the 5480 m level on the South West Face.

On 19 September D. Challis and A. Wielochowski returned to the face and, climbing rapidly, soon reached the 6700 m high point on 21 September. They rested the following day, and on the 23rd followed the obvious curving arête, which exited them from the face to the South Ridge at 7000 m. Continuing along the original South Ridge they were halted at the Second Step, 7160 m some 240 m below the summit. By this time both were very fatigued, given this and their lack of support, the pair decided to retreat.

The line of the climbed route is given by a large slanting 50° ice field in the middle of the face. It is approached through the triangular rock buttress beneath: first up difficult iced-up slabs, then by the obvious central contour, and easy-angled snowfield leading left to its foot (5790 m). A tent was placed at this point. The ice-field was followed for c.600 m to a distinct ridge they called the „Biancograt“ which led to an easy-angled snowfield and an excellent bivouac site in a cave at 6700 m. The route then followed the obvious curving arête above, which was approached by a gully on the left, and exited from the face on to the South Ridge at 7000 m. The Polish South Ridge route then leads to the summit.

INDEX OF ASCENTS OF NANDA DEVI (7816 m)

1. N.E. ODELL and H.W. TILMAN - 29 VIII 1939, first ascent, British-American expedition, route by the South Ridge
2. ROGER DULAT and GILBERT VIGNES - 29 VI 1951, apparently second ascent, climbers were killed in descent on the East Ridge, French exp. led by R. Duplat, classic route.
3. NAWANG GOMBU and DAWA NORBU - 20 VI 1964, third ascent, Indian exp. leader N. Kumar, classic route.
organized by Ecole Nationale de Ski et d’Alpinisme and IMF, leaders: Yves Pollet-Villard and Balwant S. Sandhu classic route.

5. YASUO KATO and MASAFUMI TERAMOTO-classic route, YOSHINORI HASEGAWA and KAZUSHIGE TAKAMI-by the East Ridge, sixth ascent, 15 VIII 1976, Indo-Japanese exp. led by Katsuhiko Kano and Jagjit Singh, first traverse of both summits.

6. LOUIS FREICHARDT, JOHN F.C. ROSKELLEY and JAMES STATES - I IX 1976, seven ascent - Indo-American exp. under the leadership of H. Adams Carter and William F. Unsoeld, the new route by the North West Flank and then by the Nord Ridge. The first attempted female ascent was unsuccessful and ended in the death of Nanda Devi Unsoeld.


9. BOHUMIL KADLČIČ KAMIL KARAFA, LEOS HORKA, LUDVIK PALACEK and OTOKAR SROVNL -16 IX 1981, eleventh ascent, the new route by the Central Pillar of the North Wall, JOSEF RAKONCAJ and LEOPOLD SULOVSKY - 19 IX 1981, twelfth ascent, Czechoslovak exp. led by Milan Martaus.


11. GYASI RAM (died in descent), WANGDU TSERING and Sherpa K.KAMI - 16 X 1981, 15th ascent, Indian Army Expedition led by K.J. Kumar, classic route.
7. The Nanda Devi Massif from the South Rishi Glacier Acc. to photo by H.Kapadia.

INDEX OF ASCENTS OF NANDA DEVI EAST (7434 m)

1. JAKUB BUJAK and JANUSZ KLARNER - 2 VII 1939, first ascent, Klub Wysokogórski PTT, Polish exp. led by A.Karpiński, route from the Lawan Valley upon Longstaff Col and then by the South Ridge upon the summit.

2. LOUIS DUBOST and TENZING NORGAY - 6 VII 1951, second ascent, French exp. led by R.Duplat, ascent of the Longstaff Col from the Nanda Devi Sanctuary then by the South Ridge.
3. YVES POLLET-VILLARD, WALTER CECCHINEL and DORJEE LATHOO - 15 VI 1975, third ascent, French-Indian exp. leaders: Yves Pollet-Villard and Balwant S.Sandhu, route as above.

4. YOSHINORI HASEGAWA, KAZUSHIGE TAKAMI and SHER SINGH - 3 VI 1976, fourth ascent, PREM CHAND, TSUNE0 SHIGEHIRO, KIRYU and a high altitude porter - 9 VI 1976, fifth ascent, Indo-Japanese exp. under leadership of Jagjit Singh and Katsuhiko Kano, the first traverse of both summits.

5. PREMJIT and PHURBA DORJI - 4 X 1981, apparently sixth ascent the climbers died in descent, PALAT, CHAMBA TRASHI, PHURBA TSERING and TSERING TASHI - 7 X 1981, seventh ascent, SRIVASTAVA, DAYA CHAND (died in descent), WANGGYAL and SANGE - 7 X 1981, eight ascent, Indian Army exp. led by K.J.Kumar.

TRISUL

7120 m – 23,360 ft

The tri-summit massif of TRISUL lies in the southern part of the Nanda Devi Group. From the main summit to the north, there extends a long ridge which forms the western frame of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary and divides the Trisuli and Ronti Valleys. It is in the North Ridge, that the tops of BETHARTOLI: SOUTH (6318 m), MAIN (6382 m) and NORTH (5831 m)
rise. In the South Ridge the following summits rise consecutively: the junction top of TRISUL II (6690 m), TRISUL III (6008 m) and peak 5998 m.

TRISUL was first attained on June 12 1907 by Thomas G. Longstaff, Alpine guides Alexis and Henri Brocherel and Ghurka Karbir Burathoki, by the North West Flank from the Trisuli Glacier- the route mostly in snow, actually without Alpine climbing.

The second ascent was made on June 21 1933 by Peter R. Oliver and porter Kesar Singh (who climbed Kamet two years before).

TRISUL was the aim of the 1951 First Indian Himalaya Expedition organized by the Doon School teachers from Dehra Dun. Gurdial Singh (leader), Roy Greenwood and Dawa Tondup reached the top on June 23 1951.

The next to contribute to the exploration of TRISUL were the Yugoslaves who climbed TRISUL II and III in 1960.

In the 70-ties TRISUL became the most popular 7000 m peak in India being climbed every year by a number of parties.

In June 1970 an expedition of Indian women-climbers led by Meena Agrawal accomplished the first women's ascent.

The first skiers came to the top of TRISUL in 1975. A year later the Yugoslaves approached TRISUL from the west and made their way up from the Ronti Glacier.

THE CONQUEST OF THE SUMMIT

The 50th anniversary of the Alpine Club fell in 1907. Alfred Mumm wanted to commemorate this jubilee and organize a reconnaissance expedition to MOUNT EVEREST. Eventually, the British authorities did not issue a permit to enter Tibet, in order not to hamper relations with Russia and another objective had to be found. Subsequently, the idea to climb TRISUL was born. If successful, it would have been the highest summit reached by man at that time. Apart from Mumm other member of the expedition were: Tom Longstaff, brothers Alexis and Henri Brocherel, Charlie Bruce and 9 Gurkhas trained by the latter. Longstaff who reconnoitred southern and western slopes of TRISUL during his recent missions to the region, suggested to approach the mou-
ntain from the north. The part reached the village of Surai Thota on the Dhauli River after having climbed the Kuari Pass on May 5, only to realize that the next stage of the route would be inaccessible for the poorly dressed porters. Masses of snow were still covering passes on their way up to the Rishi gorge. They decided to spend the time on reconnoitring the completely unknown surrounding of the Bagini Glacier. During the ten day reconnaissance, the climbers went around the massif of DUNA-GIRI, crossed the Bagini Pass for the first time and discovered the Ramani Glacier. It was not until May 31, that they had begun working towards their prime objective, when Longstaff and Mumm along with 3 Alpine guides and 5 Gurkhas set off towards the Rishi gorge. After crossing a provisional bridge over the Rishi on June 3, the climbers finally reached the valley leading to the northern foot of TRISUL. On June 6 an attempt was made to reach the top from Juniper Camp beneath the Trisuli Glacier at 4000 m. On the first day, the route was easy, leading by the left edge of the glacier and along a lateral moraine wherefrom turning sharply to the right. A bivouac was pitched on the last free of snow patch of the moraine at 5030 m. The climbers set off at 5.30 a.m. the next morning heading up a snowy slope between an icefall on the left and a row of black cliffs on the right. The bivouac at 6100 m was very unpleasant. Tents could hardly resist the pressure of wind which also did not allow the climbers to go out the next morning. The second night was even worse bringing the attempt to an end. On June 9 the climbers retreated to Juniper Camp, Mumm fell ill and was unable to continue. Longstaff however did not give up and after one day rest resumed the attempt to reach the summit. He was accompanied by Brocherel brothers and Gurkha Karbir who had already gathered considerable Alpine experience in the Karakorum and the Alps. Reminiscences of the fatal nights at high altitude made them change the strategy. They decided to pitch their first bivouac high enough to be able to reach the summit in a quick push on the following day.

Thus, on June 12 four climbers put up their tents at 5320 m, underneath high cliffs rising overhead. Due to a very low temperature, they failed to set off as planned at 4 o'clock the next morning. They left the tents at 5.30 and were progressing smoothly reaching site of the fatal bivouac of the earlier attempt at 10 o'clock. Higher up some cracks appeared and the climbers belaid
8. TRISUL and NANDA GHUNTI seen from southwest.
themselves with a rope, Alexis was leading all the time and he covered most of the distance in snow shoes. They reached the summit after a ten hour attack and at 7 p.m. they were back at their bivouac. Before it got dark they had managed to pack their tents and go down to the camp on the moraine. The descent took them altogether 3 hours. Actually, it was the highest peak attained at that time, the exact altitude of which had been known.

THE WEST FACE OF TRISUL

The West Wall of TRISUL consists of two parts divided by the Ronti Glacier. In 1976 climbers from Yugoslavia arrived at the foot of NANDA GHUNTI. The expedition was led by Tone Sazanov. They pitched their Base Camp at 4500 m. Camp I was put up on upper the Ronti Glacier which was attained from the Nandakini Valley, by the route leading up an unpleasant couloir. Camp II was pitched on May 2 at 6000 m at the foot of the middle ice arête. Above, there was a steep mountain side covered with water-ice and inclined at an estimated of 55° and intersected by vertical steps that had to be fix roped. Despite stormy winds that had already started damaging their tents, next two camps were pitched. Finally, on May 15 Andrej Grasseli and Stefan Marence attained the summit by an easy ridge. On the next day also Vanja Matijevic climbed the top.

In 1987 another successful Yugoslav expedition appeared in the Nandakini Valley. As part of acclimatization procedure they climbed the lower part of the wall (high 1500 m, inclination 45–50°, max 60°, climb graded at IV, time 12 hours) reaching a big plateau beneath the upper part of the wall. On May 27 they launched an all out attack in Alpine style. They covered the upper part of the wall in two days and on May 30 all members of the expedition: Miss Vlasta Kunaver, Stanko Frantar, Janez Kastelec, Vanja Matijevic, Sandi Marincic and Lado Vidmar (leader) set food on the top. V. Kunaver and S. Marincic come down by Paraglider, while the others traversed the tops of TRISUL II and III which had already been climbed in 1960 by Ales Kunaver. This new route on TRISUL's West Face was named to commemorate this outstanding Yugoslav climber who died in a helicopter disaster together with Toni Hiebeler in 1984. Lit. 37
9. Ales Kunaver route in the main Trisul West Face (2100 m, 50-60°, IV)
10. The main Trisul West Face with two Yugoslav routes.
DUNAGIRI
7066 m – 23,184 ft

DUNAGIRI, rising in fork of the Dhauli and Rishi Rivers, is not only the highest but also one of the most beautiful and interesting mountains in the Northern Nanda Devi Group. From the south, DUNAGIRI presents its extensive trapezoid summit with the characteristic ice slab, occupying the middle of the South Wall. The South Pillar limiting the South Wall on the right becomes in its lower part a ridge dividing the upper Ramani Valley into two branches. Above the left branch rises the mighty East Face. The Ramani Glacier begins at the foot of this face.

A three kilometer high North Flank falls down towards the Gannakhui Glacier. Access to DUNAGIRI from the west is possible only through the difficult and steep Tolma and Hanuman Valleys. The summit has three outstanding ridges: South West, East and North.

FIRST ASCENT: 5 VII 1939, André Roch, Fritz Steuri and David Zogg, SSAF Himalaya Expedition led by A. Roch, route from the Ramani Glacier, upon the South West Ridge by which upon the summit.

FROM THE HISTORY OF EXPLORATION

The lofty summit of DUNAGIRI rising 5 km above the Dhauli Valley has been attracting the attention of many travellers and climbers. It had already been attempted in 1883 when there were practically no Alpine climbing in the Himalaya by W.W. Graham with guides: Emill Boss and Ulrich Kaufman. Half a century later in 1933 P.R. Oliver and D. Campbell tried to reach the South West Ridge from the Tolma Valley but they were stopped by precipices and hanging glaciers. Two other attempts /E. Shipton 1936, F.S. Smythe and P.R. Oliver 1937/ were unsuccessful too.
THE SOUTH WEST RIDGE OF DUNAGIRI
SWISS ROUTE

The South West Ridge extends from a col (5900 m) between DUNAGIRI and DI (6014 m) wherefrom it climbs a snow-covered peak and a little plateau (good camp site) at the foot of a shoulder beginning with a 50 m high rock band graded at IV. Above the rock band the shoulder changes into a rock icy crest dividing the South and West Walls. 1,5 km long and moderately steep but exposed cornice ridge leads from the top of the shoulder (6600 m) towards the summit of DUNAGIRI. The right way up to the col 5900 m was discovered by E. Shipton in 1939, when he, together with Sherpa Ang Tharkay, reached the top of the shoulder. Lit. 72. A year later F.S.Smythe and P.R.Oliver repeatedly but unsuccessfully attempted the summit. Because of unfavourable weather conditions they were only able to cover one third of the summit ridge reaching the height of 6700 m. Lit.

So, the Swiss party that had arrived in the Ramani Valley in June 1939 had the route by the South West Ridge well reconnoitred. The Swiss originally planned to launch a one day attack from the col 5900 m. On June 23 Zogg fixed about 50 m of rope on the rock band where the ridge rises sharply. The day after at 4 a.m. Roch, Steuri and Zogg left the camp on the col and quickly covered the rock band. Then cliffs became not so steep and easier. An unpleasant traverse to the left across an icy and very steep slope brought them to the last rocks. At 11 a.m. after seven hours of climbing they were on the top the shoulder. The summit was at a distance, on the other end of a difficult ridge. After hesitation they stepped back to renew the attack on July 4. Then they brought a tent and bivouac equipment. Climbing the rock band with extra baggage took them 11 hours. They bivouacked on a platform cut out in ice to continue at 6 o'clock the next morning. After 2,5 hours they were on the highest point in the ridge. Then the route led by snowy and rocky gendarmes. They reached the summit of DUNAGIRI at noon. The way back to the tent took them only two hours. After a two hour rest, at 4.30 p.m. they resumed the camp on the col. Lit. 61, 62.

In September 1979 the Swiss route was the aim of Polish Student Union of Alpine Clubs led by M.Łukaszewski. On September 20 the party composed of A.Hartman, R.Pawłowski, P.Piasecki and T.Karolczak
attained the height of 6800-6900 m but were forced to retreat because of bad weather. The next 1980 Polish expedition was luckier. Its members A. Hartman and G. Benke ascended the summit by the South-West Ridge on August 17 1980. (first Polish ascent).

**BRITISH ROUTE BY THE SOUTH PILLAR OF DUNAGIRI**

In October 1975 Dick Renshaw and Joe Tasker ascended DUNAGIRI by new and extremely difficult route from the south. It was the second ascent of the summit. The Renshaw/Tasker route leads by an iced-up couloir, upon the South East Ridge which intersects the tiny Dunagiri Glacier from the upper Ramani Glacier. The rock on the steep and difficult ridge is first loose but later becomes solid. Then follows an ascent up a snow covered slope leading towards a triangle rock pillar which is to be outskirted on the left by an icy mountain side. The route keeps to the left onto an icy ramp to by-pass a rock barrier (4 pitches). This icy ramp brings to the bottom of an ice covered chimney overhanging in its upper part (VI-). Then in a less steep mixed ground requiring mindful ice-rock climbing upon the summit snow slope, 300 m above which rises the peak.

The route covers the vertical rise of ca. 1850 m with a few convenient bivouac sites. The first ascent lasted 7 days plus 4 day descent by the same route.

In 1978 the Americans Karl Kerton and Bred Shaver repeated the same route but died in descent.

**THE MIRGA-PREYZNER VARIANT**

(Polish exp. led by B. Strzelski)

From September 18 to 20 1981 the team Andrzej Mirga and Tadeusz Preyzner reached the „Swiss” ridge by a new route leading up the left edge of ice slab, which falls down from beneath the rock barrier in the upper part of the South Wall. The declivity from the ridge to the bergschrund is 1500 m and the inclination of the ice slope amounts to 50–60°. Return by the same route.
THE NORTH RIDGE OF DUNAGIRI: JAPANESE ROUTE

After an unsuccessful attempt of the Japanese expedition which tried to climb the South West Ridge in spring 1976, another Japanese expedition decided to attack the unclimbed North Ridge. Akitake Makinouchi was the leader of the eight man party. Only he and the doctor had some prior expedition experience. The others had been climbing only in Japan. After a four day transport from the Suraithota village Base Camp was established at 4000 m on the eastern edge of the Gannakhui Glacier. At first the Japanese wished to reach the ridge right from the upper cirque of the Gannakhui Glacier, but the icefalls of the glacier seemed too difficult and they decided to attempt a rock gully leading to a snow plateau beneath the peak 6090 m. This route was much longer and much more difficult but much safer too. Camp I (4500 m) was pitched on September 21 in the mid-height of the gully. Camp II was put up on the plateau (5000 m). The next camp stood on a snowy arête in the North East Face of the peak 6090 m. On October 10, after they had fixed 500 m of rope, they pitched Camp IV just beneath the peak 6090 m. It had taken them a whole week to climb a steep rocky ridge on the way to the top of a mighty rock tower. They pitched Camp V on the top of this rock tower (6600 m) on October 20. Above there was only an easy snowy slope. On the next day three climbers: Naboru Takenaka, Tadahiko Ohsuki and Takashi Sakai attained the top of DUNAGIRI. On october 24 the ascent was repeated by Norioh Teramae, Minoru Umemoto and Takioh Masuda. These were the third and the fourth ascents of the peak.

THE POLISH VARIANT

In 1978 in the Gannakhui Glacier region was active the Polish scientific expedition organized jointly by PTPNoZ and PKG and led by A. Paulo and Z. Rubinowski. The Poles climbed up the icefall from where the Japanese had withdrawn. In 2 days the team: K. Rosiak, S. Rzeźnik and B. Strzelski covered the easy North East Arête and reached the Japanese temporary camp TC5 on the North Ridge. Here, however this ambitious attempt came to an end.
THE EAST RIDGE OF DUNAGIRI
THE POLISH ATTEMPT

(An inter-club expedition organized by Mountaineering Club from Bydgoszcz, leader E. Temlak.)

The virgin East Wall of DUNAGIRI has a East Ridge on one side, while on the other, there is a rock spur whose upper part becomes the wall of a huge rock tower rising in the East Ridge. The base of the wall is at a height of 5300-5400 m. An evident snow-ice couloir inclined 30-60° descends from the ridge on the right side of the spur.

On June 30 1981 after they had fixed 320 m of rope in the mid part of the couloir the team A. Bieluń, W. Fiut, T. Piotrowski and J. Tillak attempted Dunagiri by the East Ridge. The climbers reached the ridge near a prominent arête (first gendarme – 6300 m). There a sharp cornice ridge led to the top of second gendarme in which the spur culminated. The climbers encountered the most difficult part of the route above this genderme. Huges cornices, extreme exposure on both sides and loose sugar snow made climbing and bivouacs very difficult. Snow falls and mist were limiting orientation and they decided to withdraw near third gendarme at an estimated altitude of 6700–6750 m. The team retreated on July 6 down the route of ascent.

Our readers may wish to get regularly

THE INDIAN MOUNTAINEER

the half-yearly National Adventure Journal published in May and November. It emphasizes climbing in the Himalaya, but also has articles on white-water running, skiing, alpine flora and fauna and much more!

Send your subscription to the Editor,
INDIAN MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION,
Headquarters Complex, Benito Juarez Road, Anand Niketan,
NEW DELHI 110021, INDIA.
THE TIRSULI MASSIF

The mighty tri-summit mountain group called TIRSULI, which means Trident of Shiva, lies north of NANDA DEVI. The massif can be reached from the south by the Milam Valley, from west by the Dunagiri Valley and from north by an almost unknown the Siruanch Glacier. The highest summit in the massif is HARDEOL (7151 m) which means the Temple of God. In the west HARDEOL neighbours on RISHI PAHAR (6992 m) with which it is connected by a sharp icy ridge.

The eastern summit of the massif is TIRSULI proper (7074 m). The northwestern, still unclimbed summit is called TIRSULI WEST or TIRSULI II (7035 m). Between them extends a snow covered and difficult plateau ending suddenly in serac barrier falling down into the Milam Glacier and the Dunagiri Valley.

TIRSULI

7074 m – 23,210 ft

The first climbers to appear on the Milam Glacier were members of the 1939 Polish expedition. Encouraged by their successes on NANDA DEVI EAST, the Poles altered their original plans to explore the Panchchuli Group and turned towards more ambitious objectives which were the peaks of the Tirsuli Massif. The only route towards the peak of TIRSULI led by an icefall of the Milam Glacier into its upper cirque, surrounded by the East Wall of TIRSULI and summits of CHALAB (6160 m) and KHOLI (6114 m). A good prospect of climbing operation was broken by an avalanche which damaged the tent pitched at 6150 m. S. Bernardzikiewicz and A. Karpiński were killed. Lit.

After India gained independence, the whole region was closed to foreign explorers. No sooner than in 1964 the next attempt was undertaken by the Indians, but neither this nor the next expedition organized by the Himalayan Association from Calcutta succeeded.
16. A view of the East Face of TRISULI from near the saddle between the peaks of CHHALAB and KHOLI showing the route of first ascent. Route attempted on Sept. 30, 1966 on the left.
The alpinists from Calcutta were not discouraged by their failures and renewed attacks a year later. This time the party under the leadership of Chanchal Mitra and including Shyamal Chakravarty, Nirapada Mallick, Nima Tashi and Dorje attained the top of TIRSULI on October 9 1966. Lit. 12

HARDEOL

7151 m – 23,460 ft

HARDEOL falls down the Milam Valley forming a two kilometer high East Wall which is limited on the right by a precipitous ice and rock pillar. In the south, HARDEOL neighbours on RISHI PAHAR (6992 m) which rises in the wall surrounding the Nanda Devi Sanctuary. Access to the sharp ridge connecting the two summits if defended by dangerous hanging glaciers flowing down from a cirque at the foot of the RISHI PAHAR East Wall. The route to the plateau is also jeopardized by serac barriers.

An attempt to reach the plateau right from the Milam Valley undertaken in 1974 by the Indo-New Zealander Women Expedition came to a tragic end. Four climbers died in an enormous avalanche caused probably by an earthquake.

A year later HARDEOL became an objective of a strong 28 man Indo-Tibet Border Police expedition led by S.P. Mulasi. This time the summit was tried from the west via the Dunagiri Valley. On May 25 Base Camp was pitched on the Bagini Glacier at the foot of KALANKA. Camp I stood 5 km farther at a height of 5335 m. The route to Camp II led by a heavily broken ice-fall. There was a couloir above, rising to a serac barrier from which avalanches were falling frequently. The climbers decided to evade the couloir by the slopes of TIRSULI II. Here however they were forced back again by rock avalanches. Finally they moved towards the slopes of HARDEOL, where after 15 days Camp III was pitched at the height of 6550 m. Then weather broke down completely. Heavy storm and snow cut off 4 climbers in the avalanche ridden Camp III. After heavy efforts they managed to step down and the expedition was called off.

The next expedition to HARDEOL was organized by the ITBP in 1978 the leader being again S.P. Mulasi. This time a long
roundabout route was chosen—by the East Wall of TIRSULI upon the ridge, where from down onto the plateau and then upon the summit by the South West Ridge.

A seven man team set of from Camp V located 500 m beneath TIRSULI ridge on May 20. After three hours the climbers reached the ridge wherefrom they descended 450 m on the plateau where they pitched Camp VI. On the following day they traversed the plateau and put up Camp VII at the height of 6500 m. After traversing the pre-summit at 7.45 a.m. Dawa Rinzing, Kanhaya, Nima Dorje, Nima Tensing, Pemba Tharkey, Prahlad and Thendup attained the top. Lit. 49.
18. South Face of TIRSULI WEST.
KAMET

7756 m – 25,447 ft

KAMET – the highest mountain of the Zaskar range - rises near the Indo-Tibet border above the Purbi (east) and Pachmi (west) Kamet Glaciers. In the north KAMET neighbours on ABI GAMIN (7355 m) from which it is separated by the Meade’s Col (7138 m). In the south it borders on the Mana Massif. The summit has three great walls being excellent climbing objectives. The East Wall is about 1800 m high and rises above the upper part of the Purbi Kamet Glacier. The South Wall located between the South and West Ridges rises ca. 2100 m above the left branch of the Pachmi Kamet Glacier. The North West Wall falls down towards a cirque located between MUKUT PARBAT and ABI GAMIN.

According to J.C. Marmier, a great and logical route can be put up on the South Face. This route involves considerable ice and mixte difficulties and may be an excellent objective for a light attack in alpine style for a technically prepared and experienced party. An equally interesting objective but with better access is the pillar limiting the South Face on the right hand.

First ascent:
21 VI 1931 – R.C. Holdsworth, Eric E. Shipton, Frank S. Smythe and sirdar Lewa,

First female ascent:  
14 VI 1977 – Thirty Birdy, Bharati Banerjee, Chandraprabha Aitwal and Sherpa Lhakpa Tsering and Bhagat Singh, Female IMF exp. led by Meena Agrawal, by the route of the first ascent.

FROM THE HISTORY OF EXPLORATION

KAMET, seen from Almora, Ranikhet or Naini Tal, looks rather inconspicuous protruding only a little bit from behind the surrounding tops. This is probably the reason why this second highest peak of Garhwal remained unknown until the second half of the 19th century when the expedition of Schlagin-
tweit brothers came to the Kamet Massif from Tibet. The explorers named the surrounding peaks: Western, Central and Eastern Ibi Gamin and Mana. On August 18 1855 on the slopes of Eastern Ibi Gamin (ABI GAMIN) they reached an estimated altitude of 6875 m breaking the height record in climbing.

Later, in 1874–77 E.C. Ryall on behalf of the Survey of India, was carrying out topographical studies and he measured the altitude of the summit. Thirty more years elapsed before climbers turned their attention to KAMET. They were: T.G. Longstaff major C.G. Bruce and A.L. Mumm who in June 1907 went upstream the Dhauli River Valley to the Raikana Glacier. The only route towards the summit led up the narrow and winding the East Kamet Glacier. The route along it seemed too dangerous because of numerous glaciers hanging off the slopes of MANA. The expedition crossed the Bhyundar Pass into the Alaknanda Valley trying, as it turned out later with no success, to find a more convenient approach to the summit from the west.

Despite this capt. A. Morris Slingby and capt. de Crespigny made another serious attempt to reach KAMET from the west. In 1911 they went up Pachmi Kamet Gal and climbed difficult rock and ice slopes onto the Slingby Saddle (6559 m) located between MUKUT PARBAT and ABI GAMIN, taking the later for KAMET. From the saddle they went forwards along the ridge but had to step back because of problems with porters and danger of avalanches.

A year later C.F. Meade’s expedition was trying the same route but retreated from 7000 m. Meade, not seeing chances of reaching KAMET from the west, in 1913 decided to try the route via the Purbi Kamet Glacier, which occurred safer than Longstaff had anticipated. After they had made their way up through the glacier they faced a number of rocky cliffs and later they had to cut out steps in steep ice (altitude 6400–6700 m). They were heading towards a col between KAMET and ABI GAMIN. The ascent was progressing quickly and when they reached the Meade’s Col (7138 m) they faced acclimatization problems, which in addition to soft and wet snow must have caused the failure of the summit attack. The success of the expedition, however, was the discovery of the right route which in 1931 brought the carefully prepared F.S. Smythe’s expedition successfully to the top.
THE CONQUEST OF THE SUMMIT

The members of the successful party were: E.B. Beauman, C.R. Greene, R.L. Holdsworth, E.E. Shipton, F.S. Smythe (leader) and capt. E.St.J. Birnie who was in charge of transport and the only one without prior experience in climbing. The climbers were accompanied by 10 selected Sherpas under sirdar Lewa. On June 9 they reached the Raikana Glacier – the site of their Base Camp (4300 m). Camps I and II were pitched on the left (north) edge of the Purbi Kamet Glacier: Camp I at 5125 m, on a shoulder beneath a dangerous part of the glacier, Camp II at 5670 m. The route led by a wide and later becoming narrow, exposed and stone bombarded couloir. After they had passed the couloir they arrived at a snowfield leading towards an ice-rocky wall falling from the Meade’s Col. Here, at 6289 m the climbers put up Camp III which served as an Advanced Base wherefrom rightward slantwise up the 100 m high ice and rocky wall. Here at 6700 m they pitched Camp IV.

To reach the col they had to climb an ice covered slope cut by some cracks and a serac barrier – the only difficult part of this section of the route. Camp V stood on June 20 just beneath the Meade’s Col at 7100 m. There were two possible ways to climb to the top, either by the ridge, right from the col, or by the edge of the North Wall. Smythe had chosen the latter one and next morning on June 21 two teams Shipton-Lewa and Holdsworth-Nima Dorje-Smythe set off. The wall initially sloped at an angle of 30–40° later became steeper. Nima Dorje, carrying a heavy camera, retreated from 7600 m. The others forced a very steep, 100 m high icy wall to arrive at the summit ridge. At 4:30 p.m., after 8,5 hour long ascent the climbers attained the top of KAMET. To comemorate the share that the Sherpas had in the conquest of KAMET a few meters before the top, the English let sirdar Lewa to set foot first on the top. He paid a price for this success when he froze his feet during a difficult and exhausting descent. Two days later Birnie, Greene and porter Kesar Singh repeated this success. An interesting fact was that Holdsworth was using skies to climb from Camp IV to V and in descent, despite some frostbite, he managed to ski from Camp III downhill to Base Camp in one day. Lit. 75.
20. KAMET seen from the Pachmi Kamet Glacier. Acc. to photo by J.C. Marmier.
JOINT INDIAN-FRENCH ARMY EXPEDITION

KAMET had been climbed frequently by Indian expeditions along the original route from the east. A new route from the Pachmi Kamet Glacier was established by the Indian-French Army exp. in 1985.

This route leads by the left side of the South (South West?) wall upon the West Ridge wherefrom on the top. The way to Base Camp leads from the Saraswati Valley by a 25 km long moraine. Base Camp was put up on 8 September at 5300 m and Advanced Base at 5600 m on a rocky plateau at the foot of the wall.

The route to the West Ridge led right up the ice rocky South Wall. The climbers fixed ropes at a 3500 m long section of the route. Difficulties according to UIAA rating system were V–VI. Ice runnels inclined at an estimated angle of 50° (max. 70–75°).

Two camps were put up on the West Ridge, CI at 6900 m and CII at 7200 m. The top was attained on 28 September 1985 by J.C. Marmier, P. Boyer, H. Sachetat, L. Mailly, E. Gramond, E. Bellin, U. Flematti (Frenchmen) P. Awasthi, Havildars Som Nath, Umed Sing, T. Tashi, Ram Phal, Rajiv Sharma and Nima Norbu (Indians). The expedition was led by Balwant Sandhu and Jean-Claude Marmier.

THE MUKUT PARBAT MASSIF

The two-summit of MUKUT PARBAT is located 3,5 km north west of KAMET. The West Peak is 7242 m high and the East Peak – MUKUT PARBAT II, which is still virgin, is 7130 m high. Both summits are connected by a wide jagged ridge. A wide snow covered slope drops from the crest of this ridge down to the Pachmi Kamet Valley.

MUKUT PARBAT is attainable from the Indian side by the Pachmi Kamet Valley and the Dakhkhini Chamrao Valley above which dominates the monolithic South West Face. From the Tibetan side the natural way to the foot of the massif is the Mangnang Glacier flowing down from the sloping northern side of MUKUT PARBAT.
The only climbers to operate in that area have been the New Zealanders. On July 11 1951 E.M. Cotter and H.E. Riddiford with Pasang Dawa Lama attained the main summit by the western route from the Dakhkhini Chamrao Glacier. They got to a saddle at 6400 m and then by a partly difficult North West Ridge reached the top. The East Peak has not been attacked yet. The most sensible route seems to be the ridge from the Slingby Saddle (6559 m) dividing the Mukut Parbat Massif from ABI GAMIN. The prime sporting objectives are the South Pillar limiting the South West Face on the right and the traverse of both summits. Besides, there are number of virgin 6000 m peaks in the ridge diverging towards the Mana Pass. Among them, there are two relatively high: P 6910 m, surmounting the Uttari Chamrao Valley, and P 6940 m, dominating over the Balbala Valley.

**MUKUT PARBAT I**

7242 m - 23,760 ft

**THE CONQUEST OF THE SUMMIT**

In summer 1951 a small expedition from New Zealand reached Badrinath. The members of the expedition, E.P. Hillary, F.M. Cotter, W.G. Lowe and H.E. Riddiford – the leader, were accompanied by Sherpas Pasang Dawa Lama, Nima Thundu and Ylla Tanzing.

After an unsuccessful attempt to reach NILKHANTA, the climbers turned towards MUKUT PARBAT I. The only fact known about this summit was that it is a beautiful, virgin peak in the Kamet Group. So the operation had to start with extensive reconnaissance. The route via the Pachmi Kamet Glacier appeared long and strenuous, and what’s more, the West Ridge was defended by ice-fall. Eventually, they decided to try the summit from the Chamrao Valley.

Camp I, which also served as Advanced Base, was put up at the foot of P 5700 m on a little patch of grass. On 6 July they pitched Camp II (5800 m) on a col in the ridge dividing the Chamrao and Pachmi Kamet Valleys. Above, there was an easy ice-fall flowing down from beneath a col 6400 m in the North West Ridge of MUKUT PARBAT I. Having climbed the ice-fall and an ice cliff they reached the col below which they up Camp III.
At 8 a.m. on July 11 two teams: Lowe – Hillary and Cotter – Riddiford – Pasang set off from the camp on the col. They reached the crest of the ridge after a labourious traverse and 3 hours later they were on top of an ice pinnacle (6860 m). From there they were able to see the key section of the route being a narrow ice ridge rising from a col beneath the cliff towards a sloping summit ridge. Hillary and Lowe retreated seeing no chances of reaching the top on the same day. The others, encouraged by Pasang continued climbing. It took them 4 hours to cover the delicate and exposed ridge. Technical difficulties were behind them now, but the summit ridge was long. A strong cold wind blowing all the and the party managed to reach the top at 5:45 p.m. where they took shelter against the wind in a small depression. At 6 o’clock, the tired climbers rushed downhill belaing themselves only in the most dangerous places. It was completely dark when
they reached the col where Lowe was waiting for them with a torch. Lit. 59

Abi Gamin

7355 m - 25,447 ft

Exploration of ABI Gamin has had longer history than any other peak. Already in 1855 Schlagintweit brothers attempted it from the north by the Mangnang Glacier. Later it was tried from the west via the Pachmi Kamet Glacier upon the Slingsby Saddle (6559 m) and then by the North West Ridge. On this route, A.M. Slingsby achieved the height of 7120 m in 1913. These tries were described as attacks upon Kamet, taking ABI Gamin for one of its summits.

It was not before 1950, however, that ABI Gamin was eventually attained by a small four-man Swiss-English party. The only experienced participant was René Dittert who, by the way, joined in the last moment. The remainder of the team were Kenneth Berrill, Gabriel Chevalley and Alfred Tissiers along
with 4 Sherpas. After they had crossed the Mana Pass and eventually found the right valley, they pitched Camp II at 5740 m on the right moraine of the Mangnang Glacier. It was clear, that the route should lead up the sloping but rather long North Eastern Ridge bringing to the ABI GAMIN summit plateau. It took them two days to find the way through the ice-fall defending the ridge and on 19 August they launched an all out-attack. However, just after three hours they decided to pitch tents at the foot of the ice-fall because wet snow was hindering the march.

On the next day, the climbers covered the ice-fall and pitched Camp IV just below the crest of the ridge. Camp V was put up beneath a short, rocky part of the ridge. On August 22, after a march lasting 2.5 hours G. Chevalley, R. Dittert, A. Tissiers and Dawa Tondup reached the highest point of the summit plateau.

The second ascent was accomplished by N.D. Jayal, Pemba Sherpa and Poojan Singh from the Bengal Sappers Mountaineering Club by a new route from the south (details unknown).

The classic route via the Meade’s Col and then by the West Ridge was traced out by the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute of Darjeeling. The top was attained by John D. Dias and Gurdial Singh on July 16 1956. This route has been repeated several times by numerous Indian parties heading for KAMET.

The first female ascent of ABI GAMIN was accomplished by the same route by an Indo-Japanese team led by Meena Agrawal and Michiko Suda.

On June 18 Chandra Prabha Aitwal, Thity Birdy and Fumie Nasu with Sherpas Lakpa Tsering and Kami Tsering reached the summit of ABI GAMIN.

MANA

7272 m - 23,860 ft

MANA rising south of KAMET, dominates over three valleys: Purbi Kamet Gal, Bankund Gal and Nakthoni Gal. In the East Ridge, which separates the Purbi Kamet and Banke Glaciers rise such peaks as: P 6977 m, DEOBAN (6855 m) and P 6620 m (BIDHAN). Northern slopes of these peaks are intersected by hanging glaciers which form an unbroken barrier joining the East Face of MANA. The mid, rocky part of the face is occupied by
a vertical pillar bringing to the ice plateau which can be also attained from the north, from the upper basin of the Purbi Kamet Glacier. Above the ice plateau and the cirque occupying the left side of the face rises the ice covered summit dome.

A huge rocky wall crowned with a serac barrier drops down towards Purbi Kamet from a col between P 6977 m and MANA. This wall virtually defends access to the East Ridge. The sloping North West Ridge with an indistinctive virgin peak of MANA NORTH WEST (7092 m), located ca. 2.5 km away from MANA extends towards KAMET. This ridge can be reached from the north by a plateau above the Purbi Kamet Glacier or from a plateau extending west of the summit. It drops down the Naktshoni Valley with enormous serac barriers. Huge ice-falls defend access to the South Wall from the Banke Glacier.

The summit was attained on August 12 1937 by F.S. Smythe during a private venture undertaken together with P.R. Oliver by the route from Gupt Khal (earlier know as the Zaskar Pass, 5788m) and then along the South Ridge upon the peak 6541 m, wherefrom a descent nothwards on an ice plateau. From the plateau again upwards the South Ridge by which upon MANA.

In the spring of 1988 the ITBP expedition climbed MANA by a new way from the Purbi Kamet Glacier. The 32-members team was led by Harbhajan Singh. With Base Camp at Vasudhara Tal (4880 m) fixed on 28 April, and the summit camp at 6720 m on May 17, three of the climbers: Kanahyalal, Tsewang Smanla and Sherpa Chholdan climbed to the summit via the East Ridge. For the ascent 600 m of rope were fixed.

In the summit of 1988 the Indo-American joint army expedition successfully scaled MANA from the Nagthuni Glacier. Most of the Indian team members were instructors at the High Altitude Warfare Shool in Gulmarg. The U.S. team comprised members of the U.S. Army Military Mountaineering Team from Fort Greeley, Alaska. The expedition was led by H.S. Chauhan and Robert A.Wood. Base Camp was laid on 30 August. The team established 3 higher camps after skirting the Nagthuni Glacier from its southwestern route. The climbers fixed 2000 m of rope before making the summit bids.

On 13 September the first five climbers reached the summit, followed by ten other members on 14 September and 11 more on September 15. For the mountaineers, that last 600-meter climb to the top was the most critical time of the expedition.
The summit denme of Mana from east.
28. MANA NORTH WEST from west. Acc. to photo by J.C. Marmier.
THE CHAUKHAMBA MASSIF

The mighty massif of CHAUKHAMBA (4 pillars) lies among the Gangotri Glacier in the west, the Bhagirath Khark Glacier in the north and the Satopanth Glacier in east. The massif was known earlier as Badrinath Parbat after the name of a Hindi temple in the Alaknanda Valley. The magnificent, 10 km long ridge has 6 summits: P 6763 m, CHAUKHAMBA I (7138 m), CHAUKHAMBA II (7068 m), CHAUKHAMBA III (6974 m) CHAUKHAMBA IV (6854 m) and P 6638 m. Only the highest has been attained, the others remaining virgin.

CHAUKHAMBA I

The summit was attempted in 1938 from the upper basin of the Gangotri Glacier by Leo Spannraft and Toni Messner from R. Schwarzgruber's expedition. They did not find a convenient way from west, however, while reconnoitring the area, they climbed MANDANI PEAK (6193 m) and SWACHAND (6721 m) by the South West Ridge from the Maiandi Valley. The climbers did not want to give up and by a circuitous route via Khalindi Khal, the Arwa Valley and the Mana village reached the Bhagirath Khark Glacier. An avalanche falling down the North East Face frightened porters so that they refused to continue the march. The obstinate Austrians traversed to the Satopanth Glacier, only to realize that the 2 km high East Wall does not give any chances of climbing the top. Lit. 28, 65, 66.

A year later CHAUKHAMBA I was attacked by a Swiss expedition led by A. Roch. The Swiss had plans to traverse the North East Face diagonally from right to left to reach a col in the East Ridge, wherefrom they wanted to traverse left to the sloping North Ridge. On September II, three tents together with the climbers were swept 500 m down from the site where they were bivouacking. Two porters were killed in the accident but the Swiss miraculously escaped major injuries. Lit. 61, 62.
29. The Chaukhamba Massif from north with the French route marked. Acc. to photo by V. Russenberger.
The face was eventually conquered by a French expedition led by E. Frendo in 1952. The French by-passed the lower slump on the left and pitched Camp I over there (5300 m). The next section of the route, especially jeopardized by avalanches, led diagonally across the North Face upon a snowy pillar where Camp II was pitched (6000 m). The area above, was not avalanche prone. Camp III was put up at 6400 m and on June 13 at about 6 p.m. Georges Lucien and Victor Russenberger attained the top of CHAUKHAMBA I.

SATOPANTH

7075 m - 23,212 ft

The second highest summit of the Gangotri Group is located in a disjoined side-range separating the Gangotri and Chaturangi Glaciers. Natural way leading to the mountain from the northwest is the Sundar Valley, while the Suralaya Valley, over which the East Face surmounts, gives access from the northeastern direction, whereas the Swachand Valley leads to the foot of the South Wall. From the north SATOPANTH looks like a regular trapezium with a nearly horizontal summit ridge which falls to north with a wall larded with dangerous seracs. The limit of the North Wall on the left is formed by the North East Ridge leading towards the main summit (7075 m). On the right the wall is limited by the North West Ridge falling down from the western summit (7045 m). Both ridges were attacked in September 1938 by E. Ellmauthalter and W. Frauenberger – members of the Austrian expedition led by R. Schwarzgruber. Eight years later the North East Ridge was climbed by the Swiss who ascended SATOPANTH for the first time on 1 August 1947. They were: Réne Dittert, Alexander Graven, André Roch (leader) and Alfred Sutter. Lit. 16.

THE NORTH EAST RIDGE – SWISS ROUTE

The Swiss route leads from the right branch of the Sundar Glacier (altitude 5500 m) up an icy slope to the shattered rocks forming the base of a high, weathered pinnacle, wherefrom upon the northern col (6000 m). Here begins the most difficult section of the route which leads up a snow and ice cornice ridge to the foot of a snowy, avalanche prone slope (6400 m) by which direct to the summit ridge.
30. SATOPANTH from north. Swiss Route on the left, Japanese one on the right. Acc. to photo by J. Wala.
The second ascent of SATOPANTH took place on August 25, 1981 and was accomplished by the team M. Gardzielewski and L. Lehrer, who having known nothing about their predecessors climbed the North East Ridge in Alpine style bivouacking on the northern col and in descent at 6500 m.

Since then, the route has been repeated a number of times and at present belongs to one of the most popular in the Gangotri area. Ropes are usually fixed in the key section of the route and camp II is usually placed at 6400 m.

**THE WEST SUMMIT OF SATOPANTH BY THE NORTH WEST RIDGE – JAPANESE ROUTE**

The Japanese team: Motomu Omiya, Hiroto Hisamatu and Akira Suzuki attained the West Summit of SATOPANTH (7045 m) by the North West Ridge on 22 May 1984.

The Japanese Route leads from a snowy plateau underneath the North Wall (Camp I at 5650 m) upon a col in the North West Ridge (Camp II at 6100 m), traversing below a serac barrier. From the col, by the easy snow ridge upon the West Summit (bivouac in descent at 6900 m).

**THE SOUTH WALL – POLISH ROUTE**

In June 1986, the Polish team: Ryszard Kołakowski and Tomasz Kopyś climbed the virgin South Face in Alpine style and on sight. The Polish route leads by the right side of the 1500 m high wall direct to the summit, bivouacs at 6200 m and 6800 m, disintegrated rock, inclination of snowy section 60°, icy section 45–50°, rock and mixte difficulties on four sections of the route – 10 pitches in total ranging from II to IV+, AO with 15 m A1.

The climbers began the attack on June 9 at 8 p.m. due to safety measures and high temperature during the day. They passed over the lower snow fields and couloirs as well as a vertical rocky brink of the first barrier (15 m A1, 2 pitches II–IV+) during the night. On the next day in the evening they had the couloir behind them and approached a rock belt on the right of the central depression. After a bivouac, on June 11, they traversed left onto the edge of the depression. Following this depression, in good ice inclined at an angle of 40–55°, using rocks for belay-
ing, they reached the summit dome.

On the next day by a mixte gully (2 pitches II–III) and an easy traverse to the right, they arrived under an overhanging cliff of the South East Ridge which was evaded on the right side by a mixte wall (III–IV+) and after returning to the ridge, they reached the top on 12 June 1986. The team descended by the Swiss route traversing the summit for the first time.

In 1983, SATOPANTH was tried from the south by a Hungarian expedition. On October 18, after fixed rope on a 150 m long section of the route, they achieved the East Ridge (6400 m). Moving along this ridge, they reached the height of 6900 m on October 24. From there, an avalanche forced them to retreat. In descent from Camp II (6400 m) Laszlo Jankovics slipped and fell to his death.

31. Polish Route on the South Wall of SATOPANTH.
The western part of the Gangotri Group has become the major scene of climbing activity in Garhwal since the establishment of the Nanda Devi National Park and complete closure of the „Sanctuary“ . Despite growing popularity of this area the number of virgin peaks is still great and the possibility of tracing out new routes of every type and standard is practically unlimited. Easy access and short caravans make it possible to organize cheap and light expeditions in Alpine style. Moderate altitudes is also an advantage favoured by climbers with great technical skills but without Himalayan experience. This all constitutes an ideal transition from Alpine routes to the giants of the Karakorum and the Nepal Himalaya.

This chapter describes a number of summits rising in the surroundings of the following six valleys: Jaonli, Rudugaira, Kedar, Gangotri, Chaturangi and Raktvarn. Depending on the stage of exploration of individual summits the descriptions may differ from each other considerably, however, they should be sufficient to choose a sensible objective.
32. JAONLI seen from the top of the rock rib on the way in P 6244. Acc. to photo by M.Bumblis.
JAONLI (6632 m - 21,760 ft)

The two-summit, broad peak of JAONLI rises in the ridge dividing the Jaonli Valley from the Khatling Valley. From the side of the Jaonli Valley the peak looks like a domed, snow-icy massif separated from the Gangotri Group by a deep pass, whereas the ice-rocky East Wall falls right towards the Khatling Glacier.

The peak was ascended from the side of the Jaonli Glacier by the third consecutive Doon School Expedition. Its leader, as in 1964 and 1965 was Hari Dang. On 6 June 1966 four climbers: Hari Dang, Tsering Lhakpa, Pervez Merwanji and Nima Sherpa reached the top. A day later the ascent was repeated by A.K. Kaul, Lhakpa Sherpa and Krishna Chaudhuri.

Indian climbers attained the peak several times in the years to come, their ascents being only mere repetitions of the route covered in 1966. The climb is of lesser technical difficulty and requires only experience in the use of crampons, axes and ropes. However, there is a potential danger of avalanches, crevasses and seracs.


The first foreign climbers to arrive at the top of JAONLI were members of the expedition organized by St. Bartholomew's Hospital Alpine Club. On July 24 1988, after a three day caravan from Dabrani, the British pitched Base Camp on a broad, grass covered platform on the right side of the valley. Advanced Base was set up two days away on a lonely patch of grass beside a shallow meltwater stream, between the high lateral moraine and rocky sides of the glacial valley. The march across the glacier to the foot of the mountain took three hours. Then the route leads up a huge boulder fall of black evil rock above which stretches a long, wide snowy ramp which extends towards the col (3h) where Camp I was established at 5330 m.

On August 4 three climbers: Chuck Evans, Andrew Pollard and Tim Dickinson left Camp I. They trudged across the basin behind the col and climbed a steep crevassed slope. The had been walking for 10 hours before they reached a broad snow platform at 5730 m where they pitched Camp II. Up to this point the
slopes were fairly gentle but above Camp II they rose steeply towards the North Summit. There were fewer crevasses to negotiate but snow avalanches became a real danger since slopes were actually steep and snow was wet.

After another 12 hour march they bivouacked at the height of 6220m protected from avalanche ridden slopes by a small ice cliff. On the following day, after a few hour march across a long steep snow mountain side they reached the ridge leading from the Gangotri Peaks to the lower North Summit. The ridge is broken off in one place by a huge precipiced ice cliff which intersects the entire North Face of the mountain forming a seemingly impassable barrier. Reaching the South Summit from there would be a difficult technical climb so they traversed beneath the ice cliff to the western side of the mountain. The traverse to the col between the two summits required careful and delicate negotiation in nearly vertical ice. After an hour’s rest on the col they set off for the South Summit which was attained at 12:45 p.m. on August 7.

THE GANGOTRI MASSIF

The upper part of the Jaonli Valley and the Rudugaira Valley are intersected by a mighty, 6km long lateral ridge divering north of the summit of JAONLI. This ridge drops towards the Jaonli Valley with an uninterrupted wall of steep rock, while its snow-icy eastern slopes fall gently down the Rudugaira Valley. The ridge is of horizontal character without any clear ups and downs. Three not very outstanding elevations in the ridge are usually referred to as: GANGOTRI III (6577 m-21,578 ft), GANGOTRII (6590 m-21,620 ft) being the top of the upcast of the ridge and the highest GANGOTRI I (6672 m-21,890 ft).

In autumn 1952 the Rudugaira Valley was the scene of activity of the Oxford University Expedition, the members of which accomplished the first ascents of GANGOTRI III and GANGOTRI I. On September 10 the team of Lamprey, J.B.Tyson and Sherpa Annullu reached GANGOTRI III after a 9 hour climb from Camp II (5640 m) along the North East Ridge. On October 2 J.B.Tysen, Huggins, Pasang Dawa, Govordan and Annullu reached GANGOTRI I by the North East Ridge. On the Following day Huggins felt sick and a day later.

Since the access to all three summits of GANGOTRI by snowy slopes of the Rudugaira Valley is easy, they have been very popular training area for climbers from India.
33P 6264 and the Gangotri Massif seen from the Jaonli Valley. The Polish Route (Ewa Kalinowska Route) is marked. Acc. to photo by A. Bruzdowicz-Dudek.
P 6264 (6264 m – 20,551 ft)

The next peak rising above the Jaonli Valley is P 6264. Its summit dome rises from a wide ice plateau extending above the Jaonli Valley at 5300–5700 m. The glacier that flows the plateau down the valley in two mighty ice falls is separated by a rock rib.

That route was chosen by the female expedition organized by Mountaineering Club „Trójmiasto” from Gdańsk in September 1986. The 500 m rock rib was fixed with ropes (difficulties-II, in two places-IV). Camp I was pitched on the top of the rock rib. On October 8, the whole team set of up the heavily crevassed and thickly covered by snow glacier, towards a col in the North West Ridge of P 6264. After two bivouacs. the team reached the foot of the col where they pitched a camp on October 10. After a one day rest 5 climbers left for the top. The col proper was reached by an ice-snowy wall (III) where from a snow ridge led towards the top. The summit was attained (apparently for the first time) by Ewa Kalinowska, Anna Bruzdowicz-Dudek, Jolanta Patynowska, Felicja Paszek and Marek Bumblis, the only man participating in the expedition.

On October 15, during the descent from Advanced Base, Ewa Kalinowska (leader) slipped on icy grass and fell to her death.

SRIKANTA (6132 m – 20,120 ft)

The ridge that extends from JAONLI across the GANGOTRI PEAKS and P 6264 ends with a detached and nice but not very high six thousander SRIKANTA.

On October 16 1979 summit was attained by four members of a Canadian expedition led by Dilsher Virk, a Canadian subject of Hindi descent. The remaining members of the party were Peter J. Fuhrmann, Thomas Anderson, Claire S. Israelson, Scipio Merler, Sharon Virk and Ratan Singh.

Base Camp was established in the Dudh Nala Valley below the snout of the glacier (ca. 3870 m). The route from BC followed the ablation valley to the west of the Dudh Glacier, heading due south.

Advanced Base was pitched at the junction of the Dudh and Srikanta Glaciers. Two more camps were put on the North Ridge, at 5180 m and 5640 m respectively. Most of the severe technical difficulties were encountered in the steep, extremely hard ice above the last camp. After two days of route preparation, the
final attempt was made on October 15. Blowing snow engulfed the summit party of Fuhrmann, Israelson, Merler and Ratan Singh at one p.m. However they persevered and attained the summit at four p.m. The retreat was only possible in the blowing snow because of the 370 m of fixed rope and Rattan Singh’s uncanny route sense.

THE SOUTH FACE OF SRIKANTA – BRITISH WAY

The Royal Air Force Expedition succeeded in reaching the summit of SRIKANTA from the Jaonli Valley in September 1984. The climbers set off from Base Camp located at the foot of the West Ridge and ascended the West Pass by a steep route – first right from Base 600 m up a steep grass covered slope and then another 600 m up a still steeper slope covered with scree sliding downwards (time 4–7 hours).

From the pass where Advanced Base had been pitched a long jagged ridge led upon the South West Summit. The ridge was full of gendarmes and may have been a very difficult and interesting but surely time-consuming objective. Having this in mind the climbers traversed onto an ice couloir intersecting the steep and difficult West Face fixing ropes in the most dangerous gullies and rock pitches. Then after a beautiful climb in excellent ice and hard pressed snow (difficulties IV–V) they continued up the couloir and reached a deep col between rock pinnacles near the summit.

From there, the route could either go over the col to the eastern side of the mountain over loose rock, across an avalanche swept slope, and up a very steep wall, or they could tackle a very intimidating chimney which formed a natural discussion they decided to try the chimney. The chimney was full of ice (difficulties E1, A3), and the attempt to climb it ended in the fall of the leading member of team and they had to retreat.

After a few days of unfavourable weather conditions the climbers traversed from ABC across the South West Ridge to the South Face.

They crossed the steep South Face in fairly solid ice covered by a thin layer of new snow. Then they reached the access couloir broad, shallow and black of old ice, which took the up to the
summit. On September 22 they attained the top after a 14 hour climb. After a bivouac high in the West Wall they descended down the couloir to ABC. The summit was reached by T.G. Moore, P.N. Taylor, Edwin Rogers and A.J. Watkins. The expedition was led by E.J.M. Thomas. Lit. 19.

THE JOGIN MASSIF

JOgin is a popular, multi summit massif which rises above the upper parts of the Rudugaira, Kedar and Jogin Glaciers. The highest elevation of the massif is the junction peak of JOGIN I (6465 m). Its ridge that extends towards the north divides the Rudugaira Valley from the Kedar Valley and culminates in P 6250 m (North Summit), JOGIN II (6342 m) and P 6014. Farther section of the ridge has no Alpine character. Unemminet summit of JOGIN III (6116 m) rises in the ridge connecting the Jogin Massif with Thalay Sagar.

All three summits of JOGIN have been attained from the east by relatively easy routes from the western branch of the upper Kedar Valley. Camp I, being the starting point for these routes is located at 5180 m in a snow cirque at the foot of the side ridge connecting to P 6250 m.

It is not known whether any attempts to reach JOGIN from the west and the south have been made.

JOGIN I (6465 m – 21,210 ft)

From Camp I towards the west, up a 300 m high ice-fall inclined in places at an angle of 50°. Having passed this crucial part of the route, farther up a gully over a 300 m high rock band and by a snow slope upon a little platform (Camp II). The climb through this rock band is comparatively easy technically though dangerous because of disintegrated rocks.

The peak of JOGIN III can be reached right from Camp II through several snow humps. Time of the passage depends on snow conditions (3-4 hours).
Above Camp II a steady, wide snow slope brings to the col between JOGIN I and JOGIN III (3 h away from Camp II). From the col the climb continues along the steep East Ridge (inclined at 60°) upon the top (1.5 h).

In autumn 1983 the expedition organized by Obihire Agriculture and Veterinary Alpine Club was operating in the Kedar Valley. After they had established Advanced Base Camp at 4900 m on September 10, the Japanese covered the ice-fall fixing ropes from the height of 5000 m to the bergschrund at 5250 m. Two camps were pitched on the wall falling down from the ridge connecting JOGIN I and JOGIN II: Camp I at 5650 m on September 11 and Camp II on September 22.

On September 30 Kaoro Aoyagi (leader), Mastaka Suzuki, Yoshihiro Oshima and Norihiro Nomura reached the top of JOGIN I having accomplished the first ever passage of the North Ridge. On October 3 Shigeru Nakata, Hiromichi Nomura and Hirosh Togawa covered the remaining part of the ridge and set foot on JOGIN II.

JOGIN II (6342 m – 20,807 ft)

From Camp I (5180 m) the route goes up the glacier, by-passing the ice-fall on the left, and upon a huge snowfield (Camp II, 5640 m). Then up another ice-fall to the foot of the South East Wall (Camp III, 6035 m). Then through an unpleasant rock band consisting of weathered rocks and loose stones and up the South East Wall proper on the top (5 h away from Camp III, inclination 75–80°).

JOGIN III (6116 m – 20,066 ft)

P.M. Das, Bob Parry and Jim Price reached the top of JOGIN III by the long South East Ridge on September 18 1986. The route led from camp at 5700 m, first in snow, then in mixed ground and rock. It took the climbers 20 pitches and 6 hours to get to the flat summit.
P 6014 (6014 m – 19,730 ft)

On September 9 1987 the Polish team comprising T. Czarski, R. Kołakowski and Z. Krośkiewicz climbed the col in the ridge separating the Rudugaira and Kedar Valleys by an ice-snowy rib from Base Camp on Kedar Tal. Then moving along the ridge they reached point 6014 m. The height of the wall is 1000 m, 45°. The return by the same route.

THALAY SAGAR (6904 m – 22,650 ft)

THALAY SAGAR rises above the glaciers of Kedar, Kirti and Phating. It belongs to the most beautiful and difficult mountains in Garhwal. Its North West Face belongs to the most complicated technical problems on sixthousanders.

The summit was opened to foreign climbers in 1979 and was first attained by an Anglo-American team later that year.

The members of the party were: Roy Kligfield, John Thackray, Peter Thexton and Jon Waterman. The 8-day ascent was made by the North West Couloir inclined at an angle of 60° and then by the West Ridge in very bad rock and difficulties ranging from IV/IV+IV/V. The summit was reached on June 24, 1979 by Kligfield, Thackray and Thexton.

In 1983 the summit was attained by the Polish-Norwegian expedition organized by Mountaineering Club from Gliwice. Their route led by the North East Pillar. This pillar had been repeatedly attacked by the British who reached the height of 6700 m in 1983. The pillar rises from the col between the summit of THALAY SAGAR and BHRIGUPANTH and separates the North East Face from a little lower but not less difficult East Wall.

Another advanced stage in exploration of East Wall was the attempt to climb the direttissima undertaken by the team of T. Kopyś and Z. Skierski on September 25-28, 1987. They began with fixing 200 m of ropes in steep ice. The wall proper is 600 m high in difficulties reaching VI. A1.

After the climbers had already passed over the crucial part of the route and reached the ice summit dome, one of the climbers fell off and the team decided to withdraw when there were only 150 m of wall left.
36. THALAY SAGAR from northwest. The route of the Anglo-American party ascended snow on right to rock.
37. The East Face of THALAY SAGAR seen from MERU WEST. The North East Pillar on the right. Acc. to photo by P. Schiml.
THALAY SAGAR from the East Ridge of SHIVLING. Acc. to photo by D. Scott.
The Polish-Norwegian Route on THALAY SAGAR by J. Skorek.
THE NORTH EAST PILLAR OF THALAY SAGAR
POLISH – NORVEGIAN ROUTE

Andrzej Czok, Hans-Christian Doseth, Frode Guldal, Havard Nesheim and Janusz Skorek were attempting the pillar from August 16 to 24, 1984. They reached the top on August 23 after a 7.5 day ascent. The descent took them 1.5 day. This is a difficult and magnificent route covering the vertical height of 900 m. Difficulties are V+, rising to VI and AO in places. Climbing mostly in solid granite full of slabs and blocks typical for the Alps.
BHRIGUPANTH (6772 m – 22,220 ft)

The junction peak BHRIGUPANTH lies north of THALAY SAGAR. It has three faces and three ridges. The precipiced, 1700 m high, rock-icy West Face rises above the head of the Kedar Valley. The icy North East Wall (c. 1200 m high) drops towards the Bhrigupanth Glacier, whereas the much lower snow-icy South East Face dominates over the plateau dividing BHRIGUPANTH from THALAY SAGAR.

The summit was conquered by the Indo-American Woman Expedition led by Arlene Blum. On June 19, 1980 the top of BHRIGUPANTH was attained by Penny Brothers, Susan Coons and Nancey Goforth. The remaining members of the party were: Rajkumari Chand and Rekha Sharma (a female liason officer) -Indians. Barbara Drinkwater, Piro Kramar and Christy Tews-Americans.

The route led from the Kedar Valley up a steep but not very difficult upcast of the glacier onto a massive ice dome at the foot of the North West Face of THALAY SAGAR – Camp I (5500 m). above stretches a rock barrier intersected by an ice-snowy couloir inclined at an angle of 45°. leading to the col (5900 m) between THALAY SAGAR and BHRIGUPANTH. From the col a descent 60 m down a broad and flat plateau (Camp II).

From the plateau a safe ramp leads through ice cliffs to the summit slopes which are surmounted by a neat row of little rock buttresses encircling the summit itself.

The Americans reached the top after a bivouac at the foot of a fractured rock buttress at about 6480 m. Lit. 5, 81.

The route was repeated in September 1982 by Japanese climbers who reached the top right from the camp on the plateau.

On 8 October 1983 the peak was climbed by an 11-member Taiwanase party. Chang Ming Lung along with Sherpa Ang Pasang reached the top from the North West Face (3rd ascent). However, it is not known whether the team had really covered the extremely difficult North West Wall. It is more likely that they had climbed along the ice-snowy couloir falling down from the col between MANDA III and BHRIGUPANTH to continue then along the North Ridge. Another attempt by Huag Teng Jye. Hsu Ching Jung and again Ang Pasang ended in the death of the trio.
The North West Face of BHRIGUPANTH. The Polish Route is marked. Acc. to photo by A. Rygier.
THE WEST PILLAR OF BHRIGUPANTH
POLISH ROUTE

From September 17 to 20, 1987 the Polish team: Ryszard Kołakowski and Zbigniew Krośkiewicz climbed the pillar from the Kedar Valley for the first time and accomplished the fourth ascent of the summit. The pillar is 1800 m high. Difficulties: 2 pitches in rock V+ to VI- with three places AI, 10 pitches IV to V. mixte IV, ice inclined at an angle of 45°. Descent by the South East Wall, down to the col between BHRIGUPANTH and THALAY SAGAR.

THE MANDA MASSIF

The Manda Massif consists of three summits rising in the adjoining ridge north of BHRIGUPANTH. Its closest neighbour is MANDA III and a little farther rises the highest peak of the massif MANDA II, while MANDA I is the northern-most in the group. Besides, the ridge between MANDA II and MANDA I is supported from the west by a mighty rock rampart (6008 m) ending a short adjoining ridge and culminating over the Kedar-ganga Kharak. Also on the eastern side of the ridge there is a secondary summit marked on maps by the spot-height 6038 m.

From the Kedar Valley the massif doesn't look too impressive. Quite different is the view over MANDA II and MANDA I from the east where they fall down with extremely difficult walls of ice and snow.

In spring 1969 a small reconnaissance party was operating in the eastern part of massif. They climbed two summits of lesser importance. Lit. 55.

MANDA III (6529 m – 21,420 ft)

The mountain falls down towards the Kedar Valley and forms a broad moderately steep wall 1500 m high. MANDA III is still believed to be unclimbed. In 1986 it was attacked by a British party. The climbers covered the 1000 m high North Western Wall and achieved the height of 6200 m on the North Ridge.
The Manda Massif seen from northeast. Acc. to photo by S.Sengupta.
The North East Face of MANDA I with the line of the American attempt.
MANDA II (6568 m – 21,550 ft)

The summit was attained by Mark Udall, Peter O’Neil and Peter Athans (Americans) on October 9, 1982. On October 6 the climbers crossed the Kedar Glacier and camped at 5180 m in the cirque below the 1070 m ice and snow ramp which led to the notch between MANDA II and MANDA III. On October 7 they climbed most of the ramp in 13 hours. On the lower 600 m they climbed unroped. The ramp, which began at 35° steadily steepped to 60° or 65°. After three 60° ice pitches they bivouacked in an ice-hole. On October 8 Athans was feeling ill. O’Neil and Udall climbed remaining 120 m to the ridge and returned to the bivouac after fixing their two ropes. The next morning, all three ascended the two ropes and a third pitch to the ridge. They followed north along the ridge on frozen dirt, loose shale and snow for half a mile. The climbers ascended a moderate snow-and-ice slope of 240 m to the south summit ridge of MANDA II and followed the ridge to the summit.

MANDA I (6510 m – 21,360 ft)

The first to set foot on top were members of a four man party from Bombay under the leadership of Minoo Mehta. They established Base Camp on the bank of the Kedarganga at 4270 m. Camp I was set up on the east lateral moraine of the Manda Glacier. Camp II was placed at 5490 m on the top of the icefall, which was not difficult but dangerous due to rockfall. On June 7, Nandan Singh and Rustom Antia climbed a gully of hard snow on the west of the peak then over a patch of steep ice and onto the northern summit ridge. Antia double-axed up the patch and Nandan Singh followed. They reached the summit at three p.m. and returned to Camp II by evening. Lit. 64.

This route was repeated in 1982 by the Japanese expedition organized by Ehime University Alpine Club. Base Camp on Kedar Kharak stood on May 29. They set up Camp I on June 2 on the Manda Glacier at 5000 m and Camp II on June 9 at 5600 m where they reached the North Ridge. On June 18 Sogabe, T.Sasaki and Kawaguchi left Camp II at 5:50 a.m. and reached the summit at 1:30 p.m.
THE NORTH EAST WALL OF MANDA I
AMERICAN ATTEMPT

The mighty North East Wall falls 1800 m down towards the Manda Valley. The lower parts of the wall are full of very steep rock barriers. Members of the American expedition who attempted the summit from the east in May 1981, estimated the passage of the wall to take 4-6 days in extremely difficult ice and rock. The North East Wall borders on the right on a row relatively easy snow fields and ice gullies leading up towards the very steep North Ridge. This ridge was attained on May 26, 1981 by Tony Heer, Dave Sweet and Mark Udall. The major obstacle on their way was an ice rocky barrier at about 5200 m blocking the access to the first snow-field. On May 24, Dave Sweet and Mark Udall left Advanced Base at 4570 m and fixed about 150 m of rope through the ice-fall up to the top. At 3 a.m. on the next day the whole team set off uphill. Above the barrier, they climbed two belayed pitches in steep ice, then 250 m through steep and deep snow to the foot of the upper ice-fall. The Americans evaded the ice-fall doing two belayed pitches in a gully on the left. Then across seracs, they reached a steep basin sloped at an angle of 30-40° (upper snow-field). After they had traversed the basin, the climbers bivouacked in a bergschrund. On May 27 they realized that easy looking snow slopes were in fact very steep. After 200 m, snow turned into ice, and required careful and tight belaying on 6 pitches. The last pitch led through a weathered rock barrier. When they had finally made their way through the snow slopes and stood on the ridge, to their discontent, they realized that instead of the expected pass there was a sharp ice-snowy rampart with even no place to dig a hollow in the snow. A bivouac in such conditions was too risky and it was decided to withdraw and descent. Lit.

THE MERU MASSIF

The Meru Massif rises above the upper parts of the Bhrigupanth, Meru and Kirti Valleys. From the east, MERU looks like a long jagged ridge falling down with 800-1200 m high, vertical, slab walls. The ridge contains a number of peaks, the most
CLIMBING GUIDE TO THE WESTERN PART OF THE GANGOTRI GROUP

eminent of them being: MERU NORTH (6450 m) and MERU SOUTH (6660 m). Apart from these, MERU WEST (6361 m) lies on the ridge that connects BHRIGUPANTH and MERU NORTH.

MERU NORTH (6450 m – 21,162 ft)

The peak was first reached by the Hida Alpine Club expedition by the route from the Meru Glacier. The route from Base Camp (4300 m) to Advanced Base (4600 m) was on moraine. From there to Camp I (4900 m) it was on the glacier, then up the 800 m high North East Wall (difficulties IV-V, loose rock) to a col 5900 (Camp II). From Camp II the climbers continued along the North Ridge and partly by the snow-icy East Wall winding among seracs. On October 4, 1980 Tamotsu Iwashima and Osamu Shimada climbed to the summit in eight hours.

In 1983 the summit of MERU NORTH was reached by a Polish women expedition. On September 8, Aniela Łukaszewska, Ewa Pankiewicz and the leader Danuta Wach achieved the top. On September 15, Monika Niedbalska and Ewa Szcześniak repeated this first female ascent of the summit by the Japanese route.

Next to have their share in the exploration of the summit was a three man party from Slovenia who traced out two new routes on the East Wall. On August 25, 1988, Franz Knez, Andreja Hrastnik and her brother Martin set off up the East Face of MERU NORTH. After their second bivouac on the rock wall, they had deviated considerably to the right and bivouacked again before reaching the top of the face (difficulties: VII in UIAA rating system). From September 6 to 8 Knez and Martin Hrastnik climbed a more direct route to the left of the previous one (UIAA grade VIII. AO). It is not clear whether they reached any of the summits of the group.

MERU SOUTH (6660 m – 21,850 ft)

The first to reach this peak were members of the Tokyo University expedition: Tomoya Takahashi, Mutsuo Ominato, on October 10, 1980.
Kimimasa Miwa, Fumihide Saito, on October 11, Kenshiro Ohtaki (leader), Yoshiharu Ota and Yunichi Endo on October 12. The ascent was accomplished by the South East Ridge from the Kirti Glacier.

THE SOUTH EAST RIDGE OF MERU SOUTH JAPANESE ROUTE

On August 25 the climbers set up Advance Base Camp on the Kirti Glacier at the altitude of 4700 m. Camp I was pitched at 4800 m on the glacier (west side of the peak) on August 31. There were two gullies leading to the South East Ridge. They climbed the right gully, traversed a rock band, and climbed the next gully, where they fixed 300 m of rope, to reach the shoulder, (Camp II at 5400 m). A steep snow ridge followed, where the climbers set up Camp III on September 12 at 5940 m. They baypassed a peak 6390 m on the northwest and continued along a 100 m knife-edge and on October 7 set up Camp IV at 6370 m. Above this camp they climbed a 60 m iced rock wall with direct aid. Then they climbed the last rock wall, some 90 m in height, to the final snow ridge which led to the top.

MERU WEST (6361 m - 20,870 ft)

The summit was attained by Julius Muller, Karl Reindl, Fridrich Roth, Konrad Scharreiter, Peter Schiml and Reinhard Streif on September 7, 1981. They set off from the camp on the col in the North Ridge of MERU NORTH. Details of the route are unknown.

SHIVLING (6543 m - 21,467 ft)

SHIVLING is a two summit mountain which rises not far from the snout of the Gangotri Glacier. It belongs to one the most beautiful peaks in all Garhwal. Due to its unusual shape and easy access SHIVLING is very popular among climbers. About
twenty routes have been put up on both of its summits, in spite of the fact that there are still unclimbed peaks not far away.

The main summit drops down towards the Meru Glacier with the North Face, the limits of which are the West and North Ridges. The North East Face which rises on the side of the Gangotri Glacier is limited on the left by the East Ridge. The southern front of both summits rises above the Kirti Glacier. The South East Ridge leads upon the lower South West Peak, which also has the South Face, South West Ridge and North West Face.

The first ascent of SHIVLING was made by ITBP expedition under Hukam Singh. The climbers who reached the top on June 3, 1974 were:

Hukam Singh, Ang Tharkey, Pemba Tharkey, Laxman Singh, Dorjee and Pasang Sherpa.

The South West Summit was achieved by British climbers Chris Bonington and Jim Forthneringham in 1983.

### THE WEST RIDGE OF SHIVLING – ITBP ROUTE

The route of the first ascent is the easiest one amongst those leading to the main peak and is often used in descent. The crux of the route is the 100 m high serac barrier defending access to the col between the two summits of SHIVLING. The route leaves the Meru Glacier and climbs upon the col, where the lower section of the West Ridges diverges (Camp I at 5050 m). From the col five pitches up a gully of mixed rock and snow, then beyond a snow wall and rocks to Camp II (5450 m). Then by a rocky ridge to Camp III (5850 m), wherefrom to the foot of an extremely difficult and dangerous ice barrier. A 30 m traverse to the right should be made, to reach a terrace below a slab and ice wall, where the hanging glacier is only 70 m wide. It is a really enjoyable technical climb in ice sloped at an angle of 80°. Then through the barrier and over the col, wherefrom across a snow cirque and the summit ice-field upon the top.

### THE NORTH FACE OF SHIVLING

#### CZECH ROUTE

The 1700 m high North Face extends between the North Ridge and the West Ridge. In September 1987 the team compri-
46. The West Ridge of SHIVLING by H. Seki.

...sing Bronislaw Adamec, Pawel Rajf and Jiri Svejda climbed the face in Alpine style.

The route has 50 pitches in difficulties ranging between IV+ and V+ in UIAA rating system. The inclination of the ice parts reaches 80-85°.

On September 12, the Czechs climbed an avalanche-threatened ice couloir and the first ice-field rising above. After they had fixed ropes along a few pitches above the field, they descended to a small ice cave on the top of the field where they bivouacked. The difficulty of this first section of their route was 70° ice and UIAA IV+ rock. On September 13 after having passed the fixroped section of the route, the climbers encountered another ice couloir that led to the second ice-field. There were parts of
47. The Czech Route on the North Face of SHIVLING.
the couloir that were of 80°. Above they had two pitches of 65° on the snowfield and one more on the buttress. On the following day, after they climbed 65° to 70° ice in the ice-field, they arrived under a huge rock-and-ice step. They climbed this in an 85° water-ice groove. It became dark when they were still two pitches away from the summit chimney. On September 15 they went on climbing the remaining two pitches of the water-ice groove inclined now at an angle of 75-80° and then a terrible rotten chimney encrusted with snow and ice which took the leading climber 3 hours. During the next pitches the rock got better. The next day, they first had a pitch of 80° water-ice, then mixed pitches of IV+ and 70°. They finally climbed the ice slope below the summit and at 2:30 p.m. set foot on the top.

**THE NORTH RIDGE OF SHIVLING JAPANESE ROUTE**

The Japanese route leads from Advanced Base Camp (4730 m) below ,,Baby“ Shivling up the side of the North Ridge on rotten rock to the col between ,,Baby“ and SHIVLING, where Camp I was set up (5350 m). From there the route follows the North Ridge to some big rocky gendarmes. The Japanese climbed over the first pinnacle and traversed under the rest on the left to reach a snow gully on east, which led them back to the ridge crest. There was some direct aid in this part. Camp II (5600 m) was just beyond the pinnacles and before the gully. The climbers found a flat place on the North Ridge for Camp III (5800 m). They climbed the steep ice face and then a very steep, thin, un- sound snow ridge up to the place where it becomes vertical and precipiced (camp IV at 6200 m). The Japanese by-passed this up- cast traversing the North Face through a system of ledges to the edge of the summit dome. It took them 10 hours of labour- ious climbing from Camp IV upon the top.
THE NORTH FACE OF SHIVLING
ITALIAN ROUTE

The face was covered by the team of Club Alpino Italiano comprising Paolo Bernascone, Fabrizio Manoni and Enrico Rosso in September 1986. They made the ascent in 8 days and the descent in one. Since there were no ledges on the face, they had to carve out their bivouacs in ice. The first, 150 m high, rock band was of UIAA V, VI and AI. The 350 m of mixed climbing to 5500 m had 85° ice and rock of V to VI. Higher uprising to 6000 m there was ice slope of 65° in the first half and 70–75° in the second. Finally mixed climbing led through an 85° to 90° couloir to the 200 m wall. Having climbed the wall and after another 100 m along the East Ridge they arrived at the summit.

Earlier, in 1983, the face was attempted by Richard Ian Cox and Nick Kekus. After 4 days they reached the upper edge of the ice-field, but while lifting up their load Cox fell down when his post was torn out. Due to bad weather, it was not before 3 days that they were able to begin their descent, during which injured and exhausted Cox died.

THE NORTH FACE OF SHIVLING
YUGOSLAV ROUTE

The route leads up the left edge of the North East Face and then along the ridge upon the summit. Aco Popelnik, Damjan Vidmar and Danilo Tić achieved SHIVLING by this route between September 17 and 23, 1987. The lower part of the route took them 3 days of rock and mixed climbing. On the fourth day they were moving mostly in snow and ice. They got to the East Ridge on the fifth day. The sixth bivouac was in seracs just below the summit. They reached the top on 23 September in the morning and were back in Base Camp later that night. The greatest difficulties were in the lower half of the wall and near the top of SHIVLING.

THE EAST PILLAR OF SHIVLING

Georges Bettembourg, Greg Child, Rick White and Doug Scott climbed this pillar between June 3 and 15, 1981. The route covers 1200 m of vertical height. It is a hard climb up steep walls of granite, broken mixed rock and snow and traversing long
exposed ridges with gendarmes that have to be either encountered or by-passed. They climbed 60 rope lengths in all, 1/3 of them leading along very exposed and dangerous aretes of snow covered rock linking steep buttresses. There are fairly reasonable bivouac sites en route.

48. SHIVLING South Face- The Japanese Route by M. Nakao.
THE SOUTH EAST FACE OF SHIVLING
JAPANESE ROUTE

The route leads by the upper part of the South East Face and later by the South West Ridge upon the main summit. It took the climbers 8 days from September 2 to 9, 1983 to climb this route of 51 pitches and to cover the vertical height of 1200 m. The members of the team were: Masaki Nakao, Kenji Ohama, and Masami Yamagata. The route leads up a clearly visible edge intersecting the upper part of the face to the right of the col between the two summits of SHIVLING. On the first day the Japanese left Base Camp on Tapovan and having climbed the col at the foot of the East Pillar, reached the base of the South East Face. On the next day they crossed the East Ridge, climbed to the end of glacier and followed an ice wall above. On the third day they followed an ice-water couloir, crossed a small ridge and found a band which leads to the arête which they had planned climb. The next 4 days were spent on the edge which after 25 pitches brought them to a snowfield at the foot of a vertical, monolithic wall.

They traversed to the left and after 3 pitches reached the South West Ridge. After having climbed 10 pitches along the ridge they reached the summit.

Earlier, in October 1981, SHIVLING was attempted by the South Pillar by the Austrian party under Gunter Gruber. The Austrian climbed from a glacial basin below the rocky South Face. They fixed 1500 m of rope and reached the altitude of 6300 m. Although the entire South Pillar had been climbed, they could not go further, due to the shortage of equipment and anticipated bad weather.

SHIVLING SOUTH WEST
SOUTH EAST RIDGE
BRITISH ROUTE

The first to climb the South West Summit of SHIVLING were Chris Bonington and Jim Fotheringham. They made their ascent between September 13 and 18, 1983. The vertical height of the pillar amounts to 1800 m. The climbers by-passed vertical, rotten walls forming the lower part of the pillar. Their route climbs from the Kirti Bamak Valley straight up a huge scree covered slope, higher becoming a 300 m wide gully falling down from below
49. Bonington-Fortheringham Route to South West Summit of SHIVILING (first ascent).
a serac barrier blocking access to a snow cirque at the foot of the South Face of South West Summit. The gully should be climbed at night because of the danger of ice and rock avalanches. Higher up, the gully divides and the route follows its right branch. Becoming steeper, the gully leads towards slabs and a precipiced wall in its upper part where there is an excellent bivouac site under an eaves at 5330 m. Then, through the slabs which Bonington and Fotheringham climbed thanks to a layer of snow onto the crest of the ridge where broken ground led to the top of a pinnacle. From there, down along a snow arete on the other side, to a traversing line of soft snow and loose rock that led into the basin. A bivouac was set up at 5500 m on the edge of the bergschrund that guarded the slopes leading up to the ridge. From the bergschrund up a series of frozen, snow runnels towards broken rocks, wherefrom 4 pitches upon the ridge. Then 6 pitches along the ridge to the top of a small spiky gendarmes at 6100 m (bivouac site). The route continues 200 m up the ridge becoming steeper and more difficult, to the foot of a smooth bulge which was passed by a long diagonal traverse towards the centre of the South Face. There, they pitched a bivouac on a small and narrow ledge at 6300 m. Then, they encountered the most difficult section of the pillar, the key pitch being a steep corner estimated at HVS (Va). Higher up, the pillar relented but every ledge was covered with debris, what required careful and attentive climbing. From the top of the pillar (6450 m) after 2 snow pitches up the ridge upon the South West Summit of SHIVLING.

SHIVLING SOUTH WEST, SOUTH WEST RIDGE – AUSTRALIAN ROUTE

The team of Australians: Brigitte Muir, Jon Muir and Graeme Hill attained the South West Summit by its South West Ridge on June 15, 1986.

From the foot of the West Face straight upon the South West Ridge through 650 m of mixed ground. The team pitched a camp there and spent 3 days fixing ropes along the further section of the ridge. They continued up to a small platform in the ridge where they bivouacked. Then, they made a few rock pitches, still along the ridge, untill they arrived at the foot of a buttress. Then, they traversed one pitch upon a snow ledge where they spent 4 days fixing ropes on the buttress. The crux of the climb was the
pitch above the ledge. The two following pitches brought them upon the summit ridge along which there were still 6 pitches to reach the top. On the way back, they had to climb one pitch down and to abseil seven consecutive ropelengths onto the col dividing both summits of SHIVLING, wherefrom next two ropelengths down through serac brought them to the West Ridge (7 h to ABC).

Between the summits of THALAY SAGAR and KEDARNATH extends a rocky jagged ridge with outstanding unclimbed rock towers marked on map as 6300 m, 6108 m, and 6123 m high and two-summit P 6254 m. Closer to KEDARNATH the ridge becomes icy and culminates in the summits of KIRTI STAMBH and BHARTEKHNUNTA which practically belong to the large
Kedarnath Massif. Only the latter two peaks have been attained. It is not known whether any attempts to climb any other of the above mentioned summits have been made.

**KIRTI STAMBH (6270 m – 20,570 ft)**

KIRTI STAMBH is uneminent elevation of the ridge between the summits of P 6254 m and BHARTEKUNTHA. It was first achieved by the Scottish exp. led by Roy F. Lindsay in 1982. The Scots climbed the peak from the Kirti Glacier above which rises the heavily seraced and avalanche ridden North East Face. In spite of this Ernie McGlashan and Rick F. Allen found an inherently safe route evading the major objective dangers already during their first attempt on October 4 and 5. This intricate route was made up terrain which offered climbing, involving ice graded at IV in Scottish rating system, and rock at IV in Alpine grade. The attempt collapsed at the altitude of 6000 m. the third consecutive attack was successful.

On October 19 three climbers left the bivouac at 5425 m. McGlashan and Allen set out with Lindsay breaking trail. Having traversed out from the shelter of the cliff and ascended a snow ramp to join a gully at 5486 m, near tragedy struck. Lindsay was hit by a wind slab avalanche, funnelled down the chute from snow slopes out of sight above. By dint of rolling diagonally down towards the gully wall, he extricated himself from the snow before it poured over an ice slope and onto boulders 100 m below. He suffered bruising and shock and retreated to Base Camp accompanied by McGlashan.

Allen after some deliberation, continued alone confident that he could safely negotiate the rock traverse and steep ice pitches solo having previously climbed these difficulties with McGlashan. From their previous high point they could see no problem except a possible cornice leading onto the summit snowfield and possibly bergschrund difficulties on the final slopes. The climber reached the col between P 6254 m east of KIRTI STAMBH and the summit of KIRTI STAMBH on the evening of October 19. An uncomfortable bivouac was spent by some rocks near the col. The 20 October dawned fine and after negotiating the bergschrund difficulties on the summit snowfield, Allen reached the summit of KIRTI STAMBH at 9.20 a.m.
THE KEDARNATH MASSIF

The outstanding and high summit of KEDARNATH (6940 m - 22,770 ft) looks from the side of the Kirti Glacier like a big white mountain. In the east a razor-sharp, semi-rocky and semi-corniced ridge joins the main peak of KEDARNATH with its subsidiary feature KEDAR DOME (6831 m - 22,410 ft). In the west, KEDARNATH connects to BHARTEKHUNTA (6578 m - 21,580 ft) by a long, dangerous and avalanche ridden ridge. These peaks together form a huge massif covered with glaciers flowing down north the Kirti Valley.

KEDAR DOME has the gentle North West Flank that provides perhaps the easiest and most frequented climb in the Gangotri area. Already in June 1933 KEDAR DOME was attempted from this side by members of a British expedition under Marco Pallis. However, the summit was reached 14 years later by a Swiss party comprising R. Dittert, A. Graven, A. Roch, A. Sutter along with Wangdi Norbu and Ang Dawa. They set foot on the top on June 25, 1947 after a 7 hour march from Camp II up a steep slope.

On the same day the climbers attempted to reach KEDARNATH but the accident that happened on the difficult and sharp ridge extending between the two summits prevented them from accomplishing their plan. Sirdar Wangdi Norbu slipped and pulled Alfred Sutter behind. In result of a few hundred meter long fall down the North Wall, Norbu was badly injured while Sutter escaped major injuries and a few days later, on July 11, he along with R. Dittert, A. Graven, A. Roch and Tenzing set foot on the top of KEDARNATH.

The next to contribute to the exploration of the massif was an expedition of ITBP under Y.C. Khanna which attained KEDARNATH by a new route leading through a huge glacier flowing down from the northern slopes. 10 climbers on total set foot on the top on 11 and 20 May 1974.

Another ITBP expedition led by B.C. Khulbe achieved the top of BHARTEKHUNTHA. On September 9, 1975 after they had passed the icy North East Wall the summit was reached by 6 climbers.

The massif seems to be the most interesting from the side of the Ghannahim Glacier above which rises, the only of this kind, monolilithic East Face of KEDAR DOME. It probably constitutes the biggest Alpine problem in the Gangotri region. In Octo-
The East Face of KEDAR DOME with a line of the Hungarian attempt.
ber 1986 the Polish team comprising Z. Mikolajczyk, M. Oreńczuk and W. Żmurko attempted to climb the pillar limiting the East Face on the left, by the so called „Fin” from October 3 to 9. The Poles made 60 pitches reaching the altitude of 6250 m wherefrom they descended by abseil to a canyon by which they came down.

The face was finally climbed by the Hungarian team in 89. Attila Ozsvath with a partner climbed to the top of the face leaving the snow ridge leading to the summit untrodden.

THE SOUTH EAST PILLAR OF KEDAR DOME – POLISH ATTEMPT

On the first day, the party covered the distance from the foot of the wall (4900 m) about 200 m up an avalanche cone: then 300 m diagonally left through a system of grass ledges (0–1, 1,5 h, no belaying). Then 2 pitches up a snow-icy gully inclined at an angle of 45-50° and again diagonally uphill through a system of ledges, chimneys and slabs upon the edge of the pillar (about 400 m from the foot of the wall, 10 mixed pitches, 45-50°, difficulties IV becoming V in places, a number of places with no adequate belaying. Later that day ropes were fixed along two pitches leading up to the edge of a eleary seen, beautiful, rock depression (difficulties V, V+, AO).

On the next day, after climbing the fixroped section of the route they climbed two consecutive pitches (III–V+, insufficient belaying) which brought them right under the first belt of eaves which they encountered straight with weak belaying (difficulties V+, VI–). Above the eaves, to the left in mixed ground (V+, AO) and into a clearly visible gully (V, AO). Then to the right through a system of ledges above the second eaves belt- site for the 2nd bivouac.

From the bivouac three easy pitches bring under the third eaves belt. Then two pitches through the breach in overhang (V, AO, IV) and another extremely difficult one with very weak belaying. The next five easy pitches lead first diagonally right to a snow-icy gully (50°) which climbs up to the crest of the ridge. The team followed the gully, reached the ridge (V+, AO) and bivouacked on other side.

On the next day the climbers made eight pitches along the ridge and traversing the pinnacle reached the first step of the „Fin” (5700 m, bivouac, difficulty V). They fixed 90 m of rope along three consecutive pitches leading through beatiful slabs (V+).
52. The South East Pillar of KEDAR DOME, the Polish attempt by M. Oreńczuk. (A)
53. South East Pillar of KEDAR DOME, the Polish attempt by M.Oreńczuk. (B)
to the top of the buttress

KEDAR DOME
SE PILLAR-C

B7 6250m

Horror!

55 cutted platform

extremely difficult belaying

Slabs

54 The South East Pillar of KEDAR DOME, the Polish attempt by M.Oreńczuk. (C)
On October 7, the climbers made 6 pitches through slabs covered with fresh snow and on October 8, first 3 pitches through ice slabs and in avalanche threatened snow (45–50°), then up a chimney (IV) which brought them to steep and smooth rocks (IV+, AO) where belaying was unsafe. Again, through a system of ledges they managed to reach the upper edge of the „Fin”. On the following day although belaying was insufficient they made 5 pitches along the crest of the „Fin”, but at 6250 m they realized that they would not be able to continue. From that point they had 200 m left to the top of the pillar. After a bivouac they descended.

THE EAST FACE OF KEDAR DOME

HUNGARIAN ATTEMPT

In October 1989, the East Face of KEDAR DOME was objective of the Hungarian expedition from Budai Alpine Club. Janos Singer, Gabor Babcsan and Attila Ozsvath started fixing line at the bigining of October. Some days later all equipment stored in a snow cave (C2-5400 m) was buried overnight by snow pouring down the wall after a heavy snowfall. Only after two and a half days digging the climbers found their equipment. On 11 October they went down for a rest and another three-man team continued.

After some days of developing the route they reached a ledge at around 5800 m which was planed to be Camp III. It was in fact an ice slope of 40-50° and hard as glass. It took a day of hard work to carve out a narrow ledge enough only for sitting. The real difficulties came later when they moved camp there. Bag hauling, not much helped by the usual afternoon snowfalls consumed twice as much energy as they anticipated. During this operation J.Singer broke his wrist and had to give up two days later. Due to minor frostbite and other health problems only Szabolcs (the 43 years old employee of the Hungarian railways, who had lost one of his legs downard from knee in an accident!) and Ozsvath remained finally in CIII. The first 3-4 ropelengths above CIII was beautiful climbing along cracks. This was followed by an awe inspiring corner, 40 m long (VI+, A2) ending in a completely smooth perpendicular slab. After a few bolts they reached an inclined dieder which led out of steep zone. Having built in a total of 740 m of fixed rope the ran out of material
so on 21 October they had to carry with then all their equipment. After 6 pitches on ice and snow inclined at 50-60° they reached the lower end of the summit ridge. Szabolcs was so optimistic that he left his rucksack hoping for a quick assault. After 300 m the climbers reached the top of the wall but still were far away of summit. Temperature fell rapidly to -20°C and the climbers spent a very difficult night without sleeping bags or cooker. Lacking reserves both in food and energy they gave up to reach the summit next morning.
55. The Hungarian attempt on the East Face of KEDAR DOME.
KEDAR DOME from the Gangotri Glacier — first by the East Ridge then by the North East Ridge.

The broad summit of KEDAR DOME sends towards the Gangotri Glacier two ridges, the North East Ridge constituting the left limit of the North Wall and the East Ridge, long and ending in three pinnacles. Both ridges were climbed by A. Sosgórnik in 1987.

On 12 September together with Barrie Barret and Calun Philips, he launched an attack up the East Ridge. From the glacier (alt. about 4700 m) they climbed a characteristic snow couloir which higher becomes an ice chimney. To evade bands in the lower part of the ridge they reached a col in the ridge below the highest pinnacle. Vertical height of the couloir – 700 m, gradient 60–70°.

After a bivouac on the col they set off by the left side of the ridge towards the top of the pinnacle 5694 m – pure rock climbing up to V. From the top of the pinnacle 4 rope lengths to a bivouac platform.

In October 1984 this pinnacle was achieved by Martin Moran and Dave Cuthbertson by the route from the Ghanohim Glacier up a beautiful pillar of wonderful granite (Sunrise Pillar, vertical height 600 m, 20 pitches, difficulties TD sup overall with crux pitches of VI-a and VI-b).

From the platform, only Sosgórnik continued the climb, first by a snow field to the ridge which was level there, then about 400 m along the ridge up to the place where it entered into the summit dome. The route further up was blocked by a serac barrier, which the solo climber evaded traversing from the ridge to an ice couloir leading to the fields below the summit. A. Sosgórnik climbed the couloir overnight and after the remaining 300 m (no difficulties, height 100–150 m) set foot on the top at 4 a.m. on 15 September 1987.

The descent followed by the rock-snowy North East Ridge which occurred to be easier in descent than the „voie normale“. Thanks to this the climber could reach Advanced Base at the foot of the wall already at 11 a.m.

SOUTH FACE OF KEDARNATH — ITALIAN ROUTE

The South Face of KEDARNATH rises above the Chorabari Glacier. The vertical height between Base Camp and the top
amounts to 2900 m while the wall proper is 2400 m high. Its lower part is occupied by a hanging glacier flowing down from a plateau located at the foot of the upper part, which comprises 4 characteristic rock-groups. They are called: the Triangular Rock the Middle Rock Wall and the Top Rock Wall and are separated from each other by sections of ice. The distance from Gauri Kund to Base Camp via Kedarnath amounts to 14 km and takes only a day and a half.

In spring 1981 an expedition organized by Tokyo-Arukou-Kai attempted the South Face. During their 1 month long activity, the Japanese covered 2/3 the face and reached the foot of the Middle Rock Wall. Bad weather and lack of time forced them to retreat. The next Japanese attempt in 1987 ended in a failure, too.

The South Face was eventually climbed a year later by the party of Italian climbing instructors from "Attilio Piacco Alpine School" comprising Gian Maria Mandelli (leader), Domenico Chindamo, Romano Corti, Mauro Farina, Lorenzo Sala, Felice Vassena and Gian Battista Villa.

On August 14, 1988, 3 hours away from Kedarnath, they set up Base Camp in a narrow valley at 4040 m. In spite of unfavorable weather conditions, they pitched Advanced Base at 4500 m and fixed ropes up to 4900 m. Camp I was set up on the plateau at 5200 m. Their route led by the right side of a hanging glacier, through a 150 m high ice-fall and snowy slopes of the rock tower 5041 m. Major difficulties of this part of their route were ice slopes inclined at an angle of 45° and rocky sections (III-V). They encountered much greater difficulties on the 200 m high Triangular Rock (V, AO). It took them 2 days to climb this section of the route. Camp II was pitched on the top of the Triangular Rock (5700 m) on August 31. A day later they fixed ropes on the ice ridge leading to the foot of the Middle Rock Wall. They moved their tents to 6000 m where a hard snowfall forced them to terrible bivouac. They realized, it was impossible for them to climb the South Face directly from the Top Rock Wall, since they had only five days at their disposal. So they decided to continue in Alpine style by-passing the Top Rock Wall on the left.

On September 4 a team of six climbers set off up the right side of the Middle Rock Wall. They encountered considerable difficulties there (ice inclined at max. 75°, rock IV). At about 1 p.m. they reached the ridge at the height of 6300 m and decided to pitch tents there. It took them 5 hours to dig two implacements for the tents in ice. On September 5 they climbed the steep ridge
The Italian Route on the South Face of KEDARNATH.
acc. to photo by Gianmaria Mandelli.
as far as the Top Rock Wall, where they turned left to cross the plateau. At about 2 p.m. they were on the ridge leading to the summit. During the night heavy and freezing wind dropped temperature to -40°C. Corti who had gone out of the tent for 10 minutes came back with frostbites. In that respect only Villa, Chindamo and Sala set off uphill. They reached the summit of Kedarnath after a 2,5 hour rock and ice climb up the ridge. Lit. 45.

P 6443 (6443 m – 21,138 ft)

The South East Ridge of Kedarnath forms a 500 m high, very steep upcast. Further away extends a jagged ridge full of rocky and icy pinnacles. The highest elevation of this part of the ridge is P 6443. A broad 900 m high rock-icy wall falls from the ridge down its northeastern side. Access to this wall is blocked by the ice-fall of the Ghanohim Glacier. The only way to attempt it can be the ice couloir, which leads from the middle of the upper part of the Ghanohim Glacier to the ridge, left of the summit dome. In the south i.e. on the side of the Chorabari Glacier, rises a massive 1500 m high mixte wall, the base of which is easily accessible from nearby Kedarnath.

SUMERU PARBAT (6331 m – 20,770 ft)

The peak has got 3 faces: northwestern, southern and eastern. The ice North West Face rises above the Ghanohim Glacier. It was from this side that the summit was first attained by a party of Mountain Lovers Association of Asansol On October 4, 1971, Pranesh Chowdhury, Milan Sengupta and Sherpas Tshering and Mami climbed SUMERU PARBAT. An interesting objective is the rocky South Face (1300 m) rising above the Bisali Glacier.

In October 1985 the summit was attained by a new route from the east by an Indian party. The way to a huge snowfield at the foot of SUMERU PARBAT is risky since it passes through a large number of crevasses. Then towards the south through a snowfield up to the base of the wall and upwards (gradient 45–50°) through a narrow fissure to a large wide depression. From the bottom of the depression the route climbs up a massive pile of ice blocks and reaches a buttree-like intermediate on the face. Then the route turns eastwards following the ridge for about 70 m and cross a steep 6 m wall of 75° and finally traverses to-
wards the south to the ridge leading to the summit. Lit 18.

**KHARCHAKUND (6612 m – 21,695 ft)**

KHARCHAKUND is a mighty and wild summit rising north of SUMERU PARBAT. It has three ridges, 2 of them having been climbed so far. In 1980 the members of the Torei Alpine Club expedition climbed the West Ridge and set foot on the top (first ascent).

In 1987 a British party climbed the extremely difficult North Ridge.

Out of three walls of the peak only the North East Wall has been attained so far. The 1800 m high face, which is up to 65° steep, was climbed alpine-style by Balthasar Pichler and Sepp Inhöger from Austria in a two-day ascent on 21-22 August 1983.

**THE WEST RIDGE OF KHARCHAKUND – JAPANESE ROUTE**

The Japanese climbers began their climb on April 29, 1980. They made Advanced Base on the Gangotri Glacier at 4500 m on May 13. The route leads across the Ghanohim Glacier to the foot of the West Ridge – Camp I (4900 m). Then the Japanese climbed a snow face to get to the ridge and placed Camp II on the crest at 5350 m on May 17. A rock step prevented their continuing on the ridge and they traversed steep snow towards the left and set up Camp III at 5900 m on a narrow snow ridge. There were many crevasses between Camp III and a col on the North Ridge, where they established Camp IV at 6250 m on May 29. The North Ridge was snow-covered hard ice. Also on May 29 Hashimoto and Tanimura left Camp III very early and reached the summit at 11 a.m. The following day Kaoru Ueno with Sueo Miyahara (leader) left Camp IV and Yoshiki Yamanaka with Masao Mizuno left Camp III and all of them got to the top at 10 a.m.
THE NORTH RIDGE OF KHARCHAKHUND – BRITISH ROUTE
(Route description by Robin Beadle)

A British team comprising Robin Beadle, Bobby Gilbert, Rob Tresidder and Pete Scott, all of the Oread Mountaineering Club, climbed the North Ridge in Alpine style. The summit was reached on September 18, 1987 after 5,5 day ascent. Descent was by the normal West Ridge route and took 1,2 day to Base Camp at Sundaban.

Difficulties were encountered on rock up to Alpine VI, AI and ice up to Scottish V.

From a comfortable bivouac at the foot of the mountain (alt. 4925 m) scree slopes on the west side of the ridge were climbed to meet the crest at a notch at the start of the difficulties. The first bivouac was made here. The same point could be reached by scrambling up the ridge itself about 250 m but this was found very loose.

The ridge was followed with no great difficulty (III) for about 250 m until a short crack let to a 6 m traverse across a slab (IV, fixed rope). A short descent was made to scree covered ledges which were followed leftwards. Unprotected, loose rock (III) was then followed diagonally up leftwards, to a point on the ridge ahead above the first tower.

The right arete of a slab above (V, fixed rope) was taken to a diedre. An exit on the left by a short, steep corner crack (V) led to an excellent platform on the crest of the ridge. The compact boss of the rock ahead was surmounted (IV), and the ridge then followed easily for a pitch. A line keeping to the left of the crest was followed until an icy gully was reached. Here was found it easiest to move back right on the rib, and continue upwards until a 6 m leftwards traverse to a snowpatch (III).

The snowpatch was climbed (50 m). This led to a steep section of rock from which a leftwards exit led to a shoulder on the ridge (V). A sentry box was climbed to a belay. A crackline followed (V, 50 m) leading to the top of the first of five pinnacles (alt. 5500 m). This pinnacle was descended by abseil, as was the second (fixed ropes). The third small pinnacle was crossed with no difficulty, and a bivouac made on a ledge system on the eastern side of the fourth.
A descent on the eastern side bypassed Pinnacle 5 to reach the foot of a snow slope. This was climbed for two rope lengths to a rockband which was passed by a leftwards fault (Scottish III) giving access to the upper snow/ice wall. The wall was climbed for 250 m to the right of a large serac band. An excellent bivi site is available at the top of this wall. The snow/ice arête, conspicuous from the glacier, was taken easily to its end on top of a pinnacle (alt. 5874 m). A scramble and abseil (fixed rope) were made down the back of this pinnacle, and a steep snow slope on the immediately following „Bifurcated Pinnacle“ ascended. The climbers passed through the gap in this pinnacle to reach the eastern side, traversed some flakes and make a diagonal abseil (fixed rope) to bypass the bulk of the pinnacle. A short climb up a diédre (10 m) regained the ridge, and the third bivouac was made at the col behind the pinnacle (alt. 5840 m).

A steep snow/ice crest climbed, almost to the foot of the next impressive rock buttress, Longland Buttress. A traverse left on soft snow gained mixed ground on the east of this buttress (Scottish IV). From here, a steep snow slope was ascended diagonally back right to gain a corniced ridge. This gradually steepening ridge was followed to the foot of the initial pinnacle of the Great North Tower (GNT), where a traverse right led to a good belay. Two excellent ice pitches (Scottish IV) on the right of the pinnacle regained the crest of the ridge. The ridge was then followed for three pitches towards the main part of the GNT (rock move IV, mixed move Scottish IV). At a large bergschund, a leftwards traverse across snow was made to the eastern edge of the tower. Here a system of grooves led for one pitch to a snow patch on the summit tower (VI, AI 3 pts.). They made their fourth bivouac here (alt. 6085 m).

From the snow patch the crest of the GNT was climbed for two pitches, blunt at first, but after a notch becoming a really classic knife edge ridge (III/IV, I rope move). Two 50 m abseils were made into the unknown down the very impressive South Face of the GNT, to arrive at the North Col Inf. (alt, 5957 m). From the Col a steep ice slope was climbed up leftwards for two pitches, followed by a difficult traverse left on ice, bypassing a gendarme on the ridge (Scottish V). This gained a cave below a chimney (V, AI 2 pts) leading to the very summit of the Tower in the Col (alt. 6068 m). One abseil was made down the far side of the tower, and poor snow climbed and traversed for a pitch
(Scottish III/IV) to a notch before the next small pinnacle. Here the fifth bivouac was made in a „V“ between ice and rock on the crest of the ridge (alt. 6020 m).

The traverse along the ridge was continued for 10 m, and a 20 m diagonal abseil made on the east side to a snowy (left a jammed abseil rope). A traverse on a poor snow ledge (25 m, Scottish IV) was made to the North Col. Sup. (alt. 6000 m). The climbers bivouacked here in snow hole, but a rock ledge is also available. Easy snow slopes were climbed to the summit (approx 3 hours).

Behind SUMERU PARBAT the altitude of the watershed ridge falls below 6000 m. In the part of the ridge up to MANDANI PARBAT rise a number of five thousand meter peaks, the highest of them being YEONBUK (5933 m – 19,465 ft). Snow-icy, about 700 m high and moderately steep walls fall down towards the Gangotri Glacier, whereas the southern flank consists of much higher 1300-1400 m rocky walls.

MANDANI PARBAT (6193 m – 20,319 ft)

MANDANI PARBAT is the last summit in the ridge limiting the Gangotri Glacier on the left. It was climbed for the first time by the Austrian team of Toni Messner and Leo Spannraet by the route from the Gangotri Glacier. They reached the top on 20 September 1938 after a ten hour arduous climb from the glacier.
The Chaukamba Massif seen from Mandani Parbat. Acc. to photo by B. Czechowski.
THE WEST FLANK
OF THE CHAUKHAMBA MASSIF

The 1600 m high West Flank of the Chaukhamba Massif forms a huge ice-rocky amphitheatre which surrounds the upper-most part of the Gangotri Glacier. The horse-shoe shaped ridge is almost 11 km long and contains six peaks of the massif.

At the southwestern end of the massif rises P 6638 m (21,780 ft). This peak seems to be easily accessible from the col dividing it from MANDANI PARBAT. A moderately steep ice ridge leads from the col to the base of the mixte wall over which the summit dome culminates.

Reaching CHAUKHAMBA IV (6854 m – 22,487 ft) is much more difficult since to climb the top we would have to traverse P 6638 and cover the difficult, 2 km long ridge joining both summits. The summit of CHAUKHAMBA IV is joined from the south by a very steep ice-rocky ridge. The vertical height of the ridge is 2500 m and there are three buttresses in it. Climbing this ridge will surely not be easy.

The next summit in the ridge is CHAUKHAMBA III (6974 m – 22,880 ft). From its top down to the Gangotri Glacier falls a wall cut across by a serac barrier and a rock band. A sharp ice ridge leading over a little culmination joins CHAUKHAMBA III with the next summit in the massif, located 2 km away CHAUKHAMBA II (7068 m – 23,190 ft). An icy wall falling down from the mixte dome forms in its upper part a narrowing couloir which leads upon the ridge near the summit. On the left the wall is limited by a mighty 1500 m high pillar – the only formation of this kind in the whole West Flank.

CHAUKHAMBA I (7138 m – 23,420 ft) is situated farther north and visible only from the of the head of the Gangotri Glacier. It is the only climbed summit of the extensive massif. The summit dome rises above the ice plateau from which a huge ice-fall zig-zags down towards the Gangotri Glacier.

The northern-most summit of the massif is P 6763 m (22,188 ft) rising above the Meade’s Col (6053 m). This col separates the Chaukhamba Group from the remaining summits in the northern limit of the Gangotri Glacier.
60. View northeast from Mandani Parbat. Acc. to photo by B. Czechowski.
C.F. Meade and his two Swiss guides reached the col from the Bhagirath Kharak Glacier in 1919. In 1934 Eric Shipton and H.W. Tilman tried to cross over the col to the Gangotri Glacier but un intermittent avalanches falling down the North Flank of CHAUKHAMBA I prevented them from doing so. In September 1938 the Austrians Toni Messner and Leo Spanraft climbed the col during their attempted ascent of CHAUKHAMBA I by the North West Ridge. The sharp, ice-rocky ridge extending from the snowy saddle of the col to P 6763 seemed impassable to them (lit. 28, 65). Despite their critical opinion, it seems that this ridge is most likely to provide the easiest ascent of CHAUKHAMBA I from the north, since from the top of P 6763 to the summit dome extends a tenderly sloped ice plateau.

So far, no route has been laid out from the Gangotri Glacier to any of the Chaukhambas. It is a difficult endeavour both technically and logistically to climb any one of the CHAUKHAMBA summits mainly because of the prior necessity of covering the entire 25 km long glacier, objective avalanche danger and problems with obtaining a permit.
P 6805 (6805 m – 22,330 ft)

P 6805 is an elegant rock pyramid rising in an adjoining ridge south of the little known peak of P 6690 m and dominating over the surrounding area.

Already in 1938 members of R. Schwarzgruber’s expedition were looking at it with interest and called it JANHUKUTH. This peak is the most interesting objective in the lateral valley of Maiandi, above which rises the 1600 m high West Wall. It is limited on the right by a huge ice gully leading to col in the South Ridge of P 6805. This col is said to be attainable from an ice cirque, located high on the eastern side of the mountain.

SWACHAND PEAK (6721 m – 22,050 ft)

The summit rises in the upper of the Maiandi Valley wherefrom it looks like a very steep ice pyramid. On 23 September 1938 Toni Messner and Leo Spannraut climbed it by the route over the steps of the Maiandi Glacier upon the South Ridge which led them to the top. SWACHAND PEAK looks quite differently from the Swachand Valley, above which rises its vertical West Wall. The 1300 m high wall seems to be extremely difficult but has a number of ledges and snowfields convenient for bivouacs.

P 6465 (6465 m – 21,212 ft)

From SWACHAND PEAK towards the south extends a sharp ice-rocky ridge with some less eminent summits. One of them is P 6465, which was climbed first in September 1987 by the London Hospital Expedition led by Simon J. Wheeler. On 15 September Camp I (5200 m) was established on the Swachand Glacier at the foot of the North Flank of P 6465. On 19 September, Camp II (5870 m) was set up half way up the North Flank. Two days later John Sanders and Richard Stradling reached the summit. They had an unplanned bivouac at 6300 m in descent. Most of the climb the North Flank was in snow with little technical diffic-
The North Flank of P 6465. Acc. to photo by B. Czechowski.
The exception was a 200 m band of mixed ground (between 6000–6200 m) which provided the main technical problem of the climb.

Behind the summit of P 6465 the ridge separating the Swachand and the Maiandi Valleys divides into two branches with a glacial hung high between them. Both ridges culminate in sharp rock pinnacles of over 6150 m. The west branch of ends in P 6172 m (20,249 ft). The West Ridge of P 6172 may be considered as an interesting training climb. The ridge is composed almost entirely of rock with a number of steep steps in the upper part.

SWACHAND PEAK neighbours in the north on two consecutive summits rising in the watershed ridge. They are P 6702 m (21,990 ft) and P 6684 m (21,930 ft). The latter is moved deeply eastwards and thus not visible from the lower part of the Swachand Glacier. The North Flank of both summits forms a single ice wall full of hanging seracs. The extremely difficult West Face of 6702 rising almost 1600 m over the Swachand Glacier looks very impressive.
The West wall of SWACHAND PEAK. Acc. to photo by B. Czechowski.
The Swachand Valley is closed by an uninteresting but topographically important summit P 6666 m (21,870 ft). Overlooking the valley of Swachand, Suralaya and Bhagirath Khark, the junction peak P 6666 (see also p.182) is the point which the watershed ridge turns northwards, whereas a long and extensive lateral chain adjoins westwards.

The first summit in it is the already described seventhousander SATOPANTH (see p.83). There is a sudden change of the type of rock between P 6684 and P 6666 at the head of the Swachand Bamak. Whereas SWACHAND PEAK, P 6702 and P 6684 are of solid granite, P 6666 and SATOPANTH are composed of loose, unattractive shale.

Farther west, the above mentioned lateral chain curves gently to as far as the summit of BHAGIRATHI PARBAT I. The North Flank of this chain forms a single huge rock wall surmounted by a serac barrier and closing the Sundar Valley. The eminent, unclimbed peaks of P 6770 m (22,212 ft) two unmarked elevations of over 6600 m, P 6477 m (21,250 ft) and P 6193 m (20,320 ft) rise consecutively in that section of the ridge. A few kilometer long ridges divided by hanging glaciers extend from these summits towards the Swachand and Gangotri Glaciers. Some of the peaks in those ridges are of quite considerable height, for instance in the ridge adjoining P 6477 rises very interesting P 6504 m (21,340 ft). Until the end of 1989 it was the only attempted objective (unsuccessfully) in that area.

P 6504 neighbours in the east on an unmarked peak of about 6300 m being the highest point in the ridge ending in P 6215 m (20,390 ft). In the northwest rises the handsome summit of over 6200 m situated in the ridge adjoining P 6193.

THE SOUTH RIDGE OF P 6504
AMERICAN ATTEMPT

Greg Collum, Steve Mascioli and Daniel Cauthorn made their attempt to climb P 6504 in 1987. They tried the South Ridge—the same route which was attempted by a four member British team in 1985. They reached the glacial basin below the South West Face at 5180 m on June 7, but a storm kept them there until June 10.
68. View north from Yeonbuk.
69. The 1500 m South East Face of P 6504 seen from the Gangotri Glacier.
An unknown summit of over 6200 m situated south of BHAGIRATHI I. Acc. to photo by P.Bojarski.
On the 11th, they climbed a broad snow couloir to a spectacular bivouac at 5790 m col in the South Ridge. On the next day, insecure mixed pitches led left and up to a bivouac at 6000 m, directly below steep rock buttress. Since a direct line through rock proved impossible, they traversed several hundred feet left and climbed frozen cascades and mixed ground to a bivouac at 6100 m back on the crest of the ridge. On the next day, Mascioli was not well and decided to stay in bivouac. Only Collum and Cauthorn continued. They climbed two hard pitches to the central icefield. They followed the ice to a steepening mixed terrain and bivouacked at 6250 m in a very exposed place. On the next morning, leaving their bivouac equipment, they climbed several excellent, difficult mixed pitches almost reaching the summit ridge. There, the rock turned back from granite to shale which was covered by a foot or more unconsolidated snow. They were progressing too slowly and at 6400 m they retreated.

**BHAGIRATHI PARBAT I (6856 m – 22,493 ft)**

The highest peak of the Bhagirathi Group forms complex and topographically complicated massif. In the North Ridge extending towards **BHAGIRATHI III** rise two outstanding, over 6500 m high, rock towers: **NORTH PINNACLE 1** and **NORTH PINNACLE 2**. Towards the northeast extends a long and precipice ridge dividing the Vasuki and Sundar Glaciers. Farther in the ridge, rise two eminent peaks **P 6702** and **VASUKI PARBAT**. Both ridges constitute limits of the North Face which rises over the Vasuki Glacier.

The East Face, which falls down towards the Sundar Glacier is almost unknown. Two other faces: the vertical purely rocky South Face and the Ice-rocky North West Face rise above the Gangotri Glacier. They are divided by the West Ridge which ends in a mighty rock tower.

**THE CONQUEST OF THE SUMMIT**

The top of **BHAGIRATHI PARBAT I** was first climbed by the Japanese expedition led by **Hisatoshi Takahayashi** in autumn 1980. After Advanced Base Camp was established on 11 September
The BHAGIRATHI PARBAT seen from northwest.
ber at 4700 m, the route was worked up a glacier which led to
the col between BHAGIRATHI PARBAT I and P 6477. Camps I
and II were placed at 5659 m and 6355 m on September 20 and
27 on the South East Ridge. Ken Kazanawa, Masanori Ono and
Takami Kurimoto set foot on the top on 29 September, In the
days to come, the remaining members of the party, as well as the
liaison officer S.K. Mehta, repeated the ascent of their collegues.
Details of the climb are not known.

THE WEST RIDGE OF BHAGIRATHI
PARBAT I – BRITISH ROUTE

In 1983 a small British party climbed the West Ridge for the
first time. The final attack was carried out between 16 and 23
August. On August 21, the top was reached by Charlie Heard and
Martin Moran. The third member of the team John Mothersele
retreated 200 m beneath the top. On August 22, during the des-
cent, C. Heard fell to his death because of the failure of the
abseil post.

Advanced Base at the foot of the ridge (4700 m) was appro-
ached by the right side of the Gangotri Glacier, (from Nandaban
7 km). The route covers the vertical height of 2150 m and is re-
latively safe from rock and ice avalanches. The lower part of the
route which covers 900 m of vertical height runs through solid
granite slabs and arêtes up to the foot of a monolithic granite
tower. The difficulties on this stage come to II and III, raching V
in places, in the Alpine Rating System. During reconnaissance
C. Heard and J. Mothersele went up and down the lower part of
the ridge without belaying in the time of 8 hours.

200 m beneath the tower there is an excellent site for a bivou-
ac in a concealed rock niche. The almost vertical 300 m high rock
tower is the most difficult part of the route – difficulties V, VI.
The final 25 m were climbed with the help of artificial aids in
4 hours, VI+ in good conditions, loose blocks, overhanging parts.
From the top of the rock tower, the route proceeded 200 m in
mixed ground to the beginning of a very steep, precipiced but not
corniced ridge. Beneath the first step of the ridge there is a suita-
ble place for a bivouac on a small plateau. The ridge is about
850 m high and the average gradient is 40° with some steeper
sections and a rock buttress 200 m beneath the summit. From the
The Bagirathi Group with the line of the Kirkus/Warren route.
BHAGIRATHI I West Ridge Route by M. Moran. 2200 m. grade ED, 16-23 August 1983.
camp beneath the first step up to the summit buttress 5 1/2 h.
Lit. 48a.

THE NORTH RIDGE OF BHAGIRATHI PARBAT I

In autumn 1979 the summit of BHAGIRATHI PARBAT I was attempted from the north by the Czech expedition. The way to BHAGIRATHI I led from Camp I onto a shallow saddle. From where it was necessary to descend to the upper part of the Vasuki Glacier and then to ascend the steep iced slope, to a gallery shaped by a small ascending cwm parallel to the glacier running between BHAGIRATHI I and BHAGIRATHI II. In addition, the access to the peak of BHAGIRATHI I was cut off by two spires more than 6500 m high each. The climbers fixed ropes immediately on the steep slope from the glacier to the small cwm. On 2 October, the final attack was launched. With the aid of the ropes fixed earlier Leopold Palenicek, Karel Jerhot and Zdenek Lukes reached the nearer one of the two spires standing in the way to BHAGIRATHI I and decided, because of technical reasons and no time, to conclude the climb.

The ridge was once attempted by Japanese team in 1983, who gave up at the point of 6550 m. The first ascent of the North Ridge was made by another Japanese team in 1989. The Aizu Alpine Club expedition led by T.Sasaki placed BC on August 15, ABC (4800) on 19, started to climb the ridge and placed CI on 20. Fixing ropes as the climbed, placed C2 (6150) on September 5, C3 (6400) on 9. They finally found that climbing over Pk. 6656 was the crux of this route, then push up the steep snow arete to reach Pk. 6556, at which the main ridge leading to BHAGIRATHI I and III got joined. The climbers pitch up C4 (6480) on the col ahead of Pk. 6556 on September 16, and extended their fixed ropes as far as the point over Pk. c.6650 and two more rock pinnacles on 19. On September 20, T.Sasaki left C3 and K.Saitoh C4 and jointly attacked the summit. After 6 pitches they laboured up they reached the top at 6 p.m.
BHAGIRATHI PARBAT III (6454 m – 21,175 ft)

The top of the mountain is composed of fragile, weathered shale lying on a solid granite base. Similar to the other summit of the Bhagirathi Group, also BHAGIRATHI PARBAT III looks most splendid from the side of the Gangotri Glacier, above which rise three of its faces: southern, western and northwestern. The South Face, being the least interesting of them and frequented by stone avalanches is limited on one side by the South Ridge and the mighty South West Pillar on the other. The pillar was climbed by two-man Scottish party in 1982. It is so broad that it can be considered to be a wall in itself. It separates the South Face from the magnificent West Face. In the bottom part of the latter, there is a vertical precipice above which culminates the triangle, shale summit dome.

In September 1989, the West Face was attempted by two leading climbers from Yugoslavia, but due to bad weather conditions, they were unable to accomplish their task.

One year later Silvo Karo was back at the foot of the West Face. This time he was accompanied by Janez Jeglic, another very strong climber from Yugoslavia. After two attempt a final summit bid was launched on September 2. On 5 September the pair reached the highest point (c.6000 m) of the 1989 attempt.

From there the wall was a great overhang. This was crux of the route. Next day they managed to climb this extremely difficult part of the wall diagonally to right reaching the Scottish Route (fifth bivuuac). At 9.15 a.m. on September 7 they finally stood atop BHAGIRATHI PARBAT III having climbed the most difficult way in the Indian Himalaya: UIAA VIII, aid climbing up to A4, ice in the lower part of the face up to 85°.

Apart from the upper overhanging part of the wall rock is good.

The left limit of the West Face is an outstanding vertical pillar which was climbed by the Spaniards in May 1984.

The narrow North West Face extends farther left. Its upper part is formed by a steep icefield dominating over a 700 m high granite precipice in the lower part of the wall.

The East Wall which is about 500 m high, rises above the Vasuki Glacier extending northeast of the summit. The East Wall is limited by a sharp, ice North Ridge on one side and the South Ridge on the other.
THE FIRST ASCENT

On June 18, 1933, the summit was climbed by two Britons: Colin F. Kirkus and Charles Warren – members of the reconnaissance expedition led by Marco Pallis.

The route led from the Gangotri Glacier by the steep scree slopes of the South West Flank upon the South East Ridge. It took the British team two days to reach the foot of the upcast of the ridge. After the bivouac the climbers set out to turn the first step on the ridge. This was done by means of long traverse striking up shallow rock gully, then turning back to the crest of the ridge above the step. Then they scrambled up the very rotten rocks of the ridge over a series of towers until they eventually could attain the South Ridge proper.

THE SOUTH WEST PILLAR OF BHAGIRATHI PARBAT III – SCOTTISH ROUTE

In September/October 1982, the Scots Allen Fyffe and Bob Barton laid out an extremely difficult route on the pillar. In view of the danger of stone avalanches, a safer route by the left side of the pillar was chosen. The route is a typical wall climb and covers 1400 m of vertical height. In its lower part it leads up a granite wall, then by a snowfield up to the summit ridge. After they had reconnoitred the lower stages of the pillar (8 ropelengths), the team launched an all out attack on 28 September. It took them 10.5 days to climb the pillar. This Scots reached the summit on 8 October and after another day and a half the exhausted climbers managed to descend by the North Ridge.

The second to put this route to their account were the New Zealanders Carol McDermott and Philip Castle. It took them 6 days to cover 19 pitches of the rocky part of the pillar. On the seventh day, they climbed five pitches of hard but moderately angled ice and another five pitches of an easier snow ridge. The summit was reached at 5:30 p.m. on 19 September. The climb proceeded in good granite, mainly 5.7 to 5.8 with one section of 5.9. Aid was used on 5 pitches, but apart from one sustained aid pitch, none was more than 6 m long.

The Coreans Kwang Bong Sin and Jang Hong Sang who accomplished the third ascent of the Scottish Route reached the summit from the Good Ledge (ca. 5580 m) in 4.5 hours.
The magnificent West Face of BHAGIRATHI PARBAT III, showing the lines of the Scottish and Yougoslavian Routes. The Spanish Route follows the pillar on the left. Acc. to photo by A.Fyffe.
THE WEST PILLAR OF BHAGIRATHI PARBAT III – SPANISH ROUTE

Juan O. Aldeguer, Sergio Martinez, Jose L. Moreno and Juan Tomas reached the top on 26 May 1984. The final attack lasted 12 days. The route covers 1300 m of vertical height, 835 m of which are a magnificent, vertical pillar. Rock Boots are necessary. It is basically a free climb. Sufficient fissures provide beautiful, athletic climbing in vertical excellent granite. Since there are no ledges for bivouacking, hammocks are necessary.

Above the pillar extends a 200 m zone of very steep and dangerous schists. The final stage of the route leads by a nice ice slope (60°) which arrives at the summit arête. The route is 1600 m long in all and consists of 40 pitches. Difficulties: M.(5-10) with four passages of VI and two of A3+. The climb has been graded V and superior (French granding).

The first ascent of the Spanish Route (Impossible Star)

On 5 May the team began to fix rope on the wall. The route they took, passed by a superb pillar situated to the left of the Scottish climb of 1982. The rock there is a magnificent white granite, and the climb is vertical and very difficult. The average advance is two long pitches a day. The leader must climb only with „rock boots”, which it is possible to open a route only during hours of sunlight which does not reach the wall untill 11:30 in the moring.

In eight days, 350 m of rope were fixed on the wall. While one roped team was leading out the route, another was taking heavy loads of upto 150 kgs (food and equipment) which were necessary in order to remain on the wall for fifteen days. There were two falls which resulted in minor injuries.

After one attempt frustrated by a snowfall, on 16 May, the climbers started the final attempt. Using the „capsule” system, they left the ABC and began to sleep on the wall, in a bivouac of hammocks which they located at point A.

In three stages they made the central diedral of the wall, and on the 20 th they moved their „dormitory“ to point B, where they installed rigid hammocks.
In three more days they overcame a zone crossed by an overhang and reached 6000 m where granite was replaced by mixed schists.

On the 24th, they threw away nearly all equipment, and using the Alpine technique moved to point C where they spent the night. On the following day they passed the schists zone which was extremely rugged and converted the climb into a very dangerous one. They made an uncomfortable trench bivouac and on 26 May after crossing some pretty ice slopes (60°) arrived at the arête, and later at the summit at 5 p.m. They descended a bit by the South East Arête towards BHAGIRATHI I, and bivouacked. On the 12th day in the wall, they made eight rappels on the North East Face (bad rock, joined ropes in order to descend snowfields). Afterwards they climbed down making large S’s through slopes in bad snow, as far as the Chaturangi Glacier, which they followed to reach Base Camp by night. Lit. 84.

The Spanish route in Alpine Style.

A few months after the Spanish success, two Canadians Scott Flavelle and David Lane accomplished the second ascent of the pillar. Their climb which which took place between 23 September and 2 October was completed in the Alpine style.

On September 23, they carried two big loads each, up the ice to the beginning of the rock, climbed four pitches and hauled three bags up two of them. On the 24th, they hauled the rest of the bags and then climbed two difficult aid pitches. On the following day the climbers made four aid pitches in dihedrals to the snow terrace. On September 26, they fixed three pitches and hauled a bag with ice gear. On the next day they jumared the three pitches and climbed two more to a second snow terrace. They also fixed another pitch. On the 28th after jumaring the rope, they climbed the crux, two long, difficult, steep aid pitches to the crest of the buttress where the ice begins. On the 29th they made an aid pitch and then three mixed pitches to bivy on mixed ground (50°). After sorting the gear and leaving a cache, on the 30th, three mixed pitches were climbed. They bivouacked at 1 p.m. The summit was reached on October 1. They climbed five pitches to get to the top at 1 a.m. They threw most of the unnecessary and unbreakable gear off to be picked up at the bottom. They bivouacked on the second snow terrace. On October 2, they rappelled down their route to reach the base of the wall at noon.
BHAGIRATHI PARBAT II (6512 m – 21,364 ft)

The long lateral ridge dividing the Gangotri and Chaturangi Glaciers ends in the summit of BHAGIRATHI PARBAT II. It was attempted by the Marco Pallis Expedition as early as 1933. The attempt was brought to an early end by the outbreak of the monsoon on 21 June.

Five years later the Austrians were lucky enough to have good both snow and weather conditions. After a bivouac at 6300 m, Edi Ellmauthaler and Toni Messner climbed the top by the East Face on 9 September 1938. The route led by a snow- and icefield in gradient 45–55°. The final stage leading to the top was mixed and graded at II–III.

At present, it id one of the most commonly climbed routes in the Gangotri area. Despite minor difficulties, some deaths have been recorded in descent.

The next route to the top of BHAGIRATHI II was laid out not earlier than in 1981 when three Irishmen covered the icy, 2 km high North Face, rising straight up from Nandaban.

According to American Alpine Journal 1985, the Italian party of A.Sarchi, V. Raveschietto and E. Bonapace climbed the West Face in October 1984. However, no details have been released and it is not certain whether the Italian route goes by the West Face.

The plated precipice of the West Face witnessed the unsuccessful efforts of a seven member Polish party in 1985. After nine days, four of the Poles were able to reach the altitude of 6000 m (UIAA IV–V, AI, ice up to 60°), but deteriorating weather conditions put an end to the attempt.

The next Polish try of 1988 had a tragic end. On the fifth day, when the climbers were about half way up and some 600 m above the foot of the face, a rockfall struck them killing Jan Nowak and seriously injuring the leader Krzysztof Wielicki.

According to „Taternik“ of 1/90, the West Face was covered in the course of one day, after having fixed ropes on some sections, by Franz Knez and his wife (4 pitches VII with some places VIII). No details are available and it seems that the climb was accomplished without required official permit.
THE NORTH WEST FACE OF BHAGIRATHI PARBAT II – IRISH ROUTE

Between 7 – 11 September 1981 the Irish team composed Ian Rea, Tommy Maguire and Dawson Stelfox climbed the middle of the North West Face. It is an ice-snowy route and covers 1700 m of vertical height from the foot to the top – 35 pitches from bergschrund to the summit.

An incredible boulder field gives relatively easy access past the lower ice fall to the bottom of the face, (ca 4800 m). On 7 September at 8a.m. the climbers set off. The ice was solid and few crevasses open and easily avoidable. Roped up, they were progressing smoothly across the lower section which was slightly threatened by seracs above. At about 2 p.m. they reached the bergschrund and found an ideal spot to form a tent platform. On the next morning, the first pitch above the bergschrund proved to be one of the steepest and hardest of the whole route (70°). Above that, an open snow slope (55°) led up, in about 10 pitches to the central rock band. From there a broad leftward snow ramp led them in three awkward pitches to the central rocky rib capped by a snow arête. At the base of the rib, the climbers were able to level off a comfortable platform for the tent. Another early on the 9th saw them on the snow arête by 6:30 a.m. They easily passed through the remainder of the rock band in about 4 pitches onto the upper snowfield. Finally after another 8 pitches the Irish reached the upper rock outcrop. They spent a very uncomfortable night on an ice ledge only 35 cm wide.

On 10 September the team climbed 7 pitches reaching the summit edge about two pitches from the top. Tired but happy, the climbers traversed the knife sharp edge ridge till just below the summit where a slight dip in the ridge provided a platform for the tent.

On the 11th in the morning, they climbed the last pitch to the top and began to descend by the East Wall abseiling from a snow stake. From there one short traversing pitch led to a wide snow slope (40°), leading in turn to scree and boulder fields below. In descent T. Maguire slipped and fell 200 m sustaining mortal injuries.
The Irish Route on the 2 km high North Face of Bhagirathi Parbat II, by D. Stelfox.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitch</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Type of Ground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>70° hard ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-11</td>
<td>II:1</td>
<td>55°-66° snow ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>55° snow ramp leftward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>55° mixed brittle ice rising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>55° mixed brittle ice traverse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLIMBING GUIDE TO THE WESTERN PART OF THE GANGOTRI GROUP

| 15 | III/II | 50° snow arete |
| 16 | III    | 50° snow arete |
| 17 | II     | 65° ice runnel |
| 18-21 | II | 55-60° snow ice |
| 22-26 | III | 50-55° snow ice |
| 27-29 | II | 50-55° snow ice |
| 30-32 | III/II | 45-50° snow ice |
| 33-35 | II | summit ridge |

OVERALL GRADE TD+/ED-

P 6702 (6702 m – 21,990 ft)

The summit P 6702 rises in the ridge dividing the Vasuki and Sundar Glaciers. A long sharp ridge connects P 6702 to BHAGIRATHI PARBAT I. Above the Vasuki Glacier rises the icy North West Face intersected in the middle by a diagonal icy ramp leading to a small basin below a col in the West Ridge.

The summit was first attained by a Japanese expedition under Kijoji Aizawa which unsuccessfully attacked the long East Ridge of BHAGIRATHI PARBAT I. On 24 September 1985 Takaoki Fuji ascended the top alone.

From P 6702 down to the Sundar Valley fall two huge, parallel, beautiful rock pillars divided by a deep rock-icy amphitheatre. In 1988 the Italians Massimo Marcheggiani and Tiziano Cantalamessa with a partner laid out a 1700 m route (called „Keep the Himalayas Clean“) from the Sundar Valley. The details of the new route are unknown.
78. View southeast from the slopes of BHAGIRATHI PARBAT II.
79. The West Face of VASUKI PARBAT.

**VASUKI PARBAT (6792 m – 22,283 ft)**

The summit of VASUKI PARBAT is a long, narrow and heavily corniced ridge ending in the ice North Wall falling down straight towards Vasuki Tal. Towards the Vasuki Glacier the ridge drops with the wild, vertical West Face. The broad East Wall rising above the Sundar Glacier is built of ice and rock.
According to S. P. Chamoli VASUKI PARBAT was first reached by the TTBP expedition led by L. P. Semwal: on 2 October 1973 Ang Puri, Ang Puttar and Neem Puttar set foot on the top but no details of their route are available.

In September 1980 a Japanese expedition reached VASUKI PARBAT by the East Wall. It was a small team of 3 members: Keisuke Nakae (leader), Hiroshi Nomura and Masahiro Nomura. After establishing Advance Base on September 10 on the East Face at 5100 m, the climbers fixed rope to 5700 m the next day. They left ABC with gear for seven days on September 12. The Japanese bivouacked at 5640 m and 6300 m on the face and at 6550 m on the East Ridge before reaching both the main summit and the south summit (6750 m) on September 15. They bivouacked twice more on the descent. Three years later a French expedition tried to cover the North West Ridge which marks the right sidge of the North Wall. The attempt broke down at 6200 m.

The route covered by the French led straight from above the lake Vasuki Tal over easy loose rock up to 5600 m. The first problem of the route was a vertical, 20 m high wall (IV). On the top of this wall a good platform was found which proved an ideal site for Camp I. The rocky platform is situated among loose rock, at the bottom of a big tower with 200 m high vertical faces. They by-passed this tower by means of a travers in mixed ground on its north side (150 m of fixed rope). Having traversed that part, they climbed the snow slope of the North Face (60°, 250 m of fixed rope). The last 20 m led over a vertical cornice in solid ice and was surely the crux of the climb. After that after a few metres brought them to Camp II at the top of another platform (6000 m) Further up the North West Ridge became less steep for some time. The climb continued in an easy but very crevassed ground. Then, the ridge ended abruptly against a vertical rocky spur that led to the north pinnacle (6300 m). There is a deep gully on the right of the spur. It is 300 m high and it is inclined at 55–60°. The French reached this gully having traversed along the base of the spur but at 6200 m they were forced to retreat because of the lack of equipment and late time.
The surrounding of the Sundar Valley from north.
THE SURROUNDING OF THE SURALAYA VALLEY

Another lateral glacier is the heavily crevassed and not easy to go through Suralaya Bamak flowing 6 km down along a valley called the same name. Its left limit is a long ridge ending in a rock tower of 5801 m. This ridge connects with the North East Ridge of SATOPANTH, the virgin East Wall of which falls down towards the Suralaya Valley and poses the main climbing objective in that area. It is a 1200 m high ice wall with some scattered ice-rock.

On the right side of the Suralaya Valley rises a broad tower of CHANDRA PARBAT (6728 m – 22,075 ft). This peak has three ridges. One runs north for a distance, then turns northwest and then west to drop finally to the junction of the Suralaya and Chaturangi Glaciers. The second ridge dips southeast and then ascends P 6739, the higher neighbour of CHANDRA PARBAT. The third and the easiest accessible ridge which ends on the right of Suralaya Bamak. It was by that ridge that the summit was attained without major difficulties by the Austrians Walter Frauenberger and Leo Spannrauf on 11 September 1938. In later years the route was repeated by parties of Indian Air Force (1965), ITBP (1974), the Poles W. Gawęda and J. Szulc (1981) and the expedition of Diganta Club from Calcutta (1984).

The upper part of the Suralaya Glacier is surrounded by unlimbed peaks of the main watershed ridge. Only two of them P 6666 and P 6526, the icy wall of which fall down towards the Suralaya Valley, are visible from the Chaturangi Glacier. The North Wall of the junction peak P 6666 m (21,870 ft) is about 600 m high and doesn’t look encouraging. It is very steep and cut across by icy runnels. The most convenient way to the top seems to lead by the icy cornice ridge from the col separating P 6666 from SATOPANTH. The col is located high at 6250 m but is easily accessible from the north.

The North West Wall of P 6526 m (21,410 ft) looks more encouraging. It can also be attained from the col on its right. The col was crossed on 28 July by E. Birnie who was looking for the way to the Alaknanda Valley.
82. P 6666 above the Suralaya Valley.
CHANDRA PARBAT
6728

P6739

84. Peaks on the right bank of the Suralaya Glacier.
In the farther part of the watershed ridge rise the summits of P 6557 m (21,513 ft) and P 6739 m (22,110 ft). Being overshadowed by the CHANDRA PARBAT, and thus invisible from the lower part of the valley, they have probably never been attacked, although their not too steep slopes should not pose major problems.

THE SURROUNDING OF THE SETA VALLEY

Behind the summit of P 6739 the watershed ridge falls sharply towards the col dividing it from two other summits P 6352 m (20,840 ft) and P 6166 m (20,230 ft) rising above the Seta (20,840 ft) and P 6166 m (20,230 ft) rising above the Seta Valley. In July 1931 E. Birnie toured this valley and climbed two cols in the main ridge on both sides of P 6166.

In 1984 a woman expedition from West Bengal was operating in the Seta Valley. They attempted P 6352 and P 6166. The latter one was actually climbed by Dola Sarkar and a porter.

A year later both summits were again attacked by the Burdwan University expedition, but they like their predecessors reached only P 6166.

Interesting objectives in the surrounding of the Seta Glacier is the North East of the unclimbed summit P 6739, as well as the East Face of CHANDRA PARBAT.

Behind P 6166 the ridge turns northwards. The last summit in the surrounding of the Seta Glacier is the little known and not very high P 6035 m (19,800 ft). There is no record of any ascents of that peak.

AVALANCHE PEAK (6443 m – 21,138 ft)

Another summit in the main ridge is called AVALANCHE PEAK (6443 m – 21,138 ft) situated above the Kalinda Glacier, which was climbed on 22 July 1931 by E. Shipton, F. Smythe and porter Nima. From the glacier extending eastwards as far as the Kalindi Khal Pass they climbed up a steep slope (50°, 180 m) to a clearly visible col in the North East Ridge of the peak. From the col they descended 60 m and traversing the East Face reached
the crest of the South East Ridge which brought them to the top. Later that day the ascent was repeated by E. Birnie and porter Dorje, (Lit. 75).

These are allegedly the only ascents of the summit.

KALINDI PEAK (6102 m – 20,020 ft)

On the northern side of the Kalindi Khal (5947 m) rises the sharp rocky cone of KALINDI PEAK. It was climbed by E. Shipton and F. Smythe on July 1931. In 1947 members of A. Roch’s Swiss expedition climbed the top. Since then the peak has been climbed a few times by climbers from India.

P 6181 (6181 m – 20,279 ft)

In the north KALINDI PEAK neighbours on P 6181 which was first climbed by E. Beauman, C. Greene and R. Holdsworth (lit. 75) on June 1931.

In 1975 that ascent was repeated by an expedition from Calcutta and three years after by a training party from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. In 1985 climbers from Calcutta set foot on the top again. They made a very steep descent from the Khalindi Khal towards the Arwa Valley. After they had traversed the East Wall of KALINDI PEAK, they got to the col between P 6181 and the summit located east of it, 5812 m of height. Then they set off the southeastern slope which was mostly steep, snowcovered with scattered rocks. At I p.m. they easily reached the top.

Camp I of the Smythe’s expedition of 1931 was pitched on the above mentioned col. That was from this camp that members of the expedition made a number of successful climbs. Apart from AVALANCHE PEAK, KALINDI PEAK and P 6181, also P 6291, P 6297 and P 6230 located in the ridge dividing the Arwa Bank Valley and Mana Valley (E. Shipton and R. Holdsworth) were attained then.

The last summit rising on the left of the Kalinda Glacier is P 6236 m (20,663 ft).
The northern surrounding of the Khalipet and Chaturangi Glaciers.
THE NORTHERN SURROUNDING OF THE KALINDA, KHALIPET AND CHATURANGI GLACIERS

The northern part of the Chaturangi Valley is rather seldom visited by climbing parties and topography of the summits rising around is not quite clear.

Above the Kalinda and Khalipet Glaciers rise 3 unclimbed ice-snowy sixthousanders: MANA PARBAT II (6771 m – 22,215 ft), MANA PARBAT I (6794 m – 22,299 ft) and P6730m (22,080 ft).

The peaks of MANA PARBAT have been attempted repeatedly by Indian parties from the Kalinda Valley. In 1984 the expedition of the Youth Hostels Association of India from Bombay under Ranvir Singh reached the col between the peaks of MANA PARBAT by very bad weather.

Reaching both tops should not pose major problems since the route from the col leads up snow-icy slopes.

The ascent of P 6730, the rocky South Face of which falls down the Khalipet Valley, is sure to prove much more difficult. The only route safe from falling seracs seems to be a 1100 m high pillar limiting the South Face on the right and leading straight up to the top.

In the ridge dividing the Kalinda Valley from the Khalipet Valley rises a mighty peak of 6393 m (20,974 ft). It is very well known to all walking from Nandaban up the Chaturangi Valley. In spite of this, no attempts to reach P 6393 have been recorded.

Behind P 6730 adjoins a long lateral ridge dividing the Chaturangi and Raktvarn Valleys. The junction point is an unmarked peak of over 6700 m. First the ridge runs south and separates the lateral valleys of Pilapani and Khalipet. In this part of the ridge rises another unnamed sixthousander (about 6300 m). Farther the ridge turns westwards. Summits rising in this part do not look interesting from the Chaturangi Glacier. They are as follows: P 6401 m (21,000 ft) – connecting with its icy ridge to the side summit of CHATURANGI (6407 m – 21,020 ft). P 6395 m (20,980 ft), P 6304 m (20,682 ft) and an unmarked peak of about 6300 m.

Farther, the ridge becomes very dangerous because the rock towers rising in it are composed mostly of unstable schists.
Peaks on the ridge dividing the Chaturangi and Raktvärn Valleys. Acc. to photo by J. Wala.
The first ascent in this area was accomplished by the Austrians: E. Ellmauthaler, W. Fraunberger, R. Schwarzgruber and R. Jonas. On 1 October 1938, after a most arduous climb from the Chaturangi Glacier up a slate covered ridge, and then along a steep knife edged snow ridge, they reached a peak marked on major Osmaston’s map as 20,981 ft. This may have been P 6395.

In 1968 the West Bengal Expedition climbed the peak 6210 m under the false impression that it was CHATURANGI. Finally the summit was attacked and climbed by members of the Tokyo Alpine Club expedition in October 1980 (earlier this expedition made the first ascent of MERU SOUTH). On October 20 the Japanese set up a camp below the South Ridge of CHATURANGI at 4900 m. The rock of the ridge was very rotten, but they placed next camp on it at 5791 m on October 22. Above this camp they climbed along the rotten-rock for an hour until it turned into a snow knife-edge. The summit was attained on October 27 by Kimimasa Miwa, Mutso Ominato and Yoshiharu Ohta. Two days later the climb was repeated by Kenshiro Ohtaki (leader), Fumihide Saito and Junichi Endo.

The West Bengali party operated in the CHATURANGI area in 1969, too. In his report the leader of the expedition S.R. Chaudhuri describes the ascent of the peak 20,684 ft. It is however not clear whether he means the summit of a corresponding altitude P 6304.

THE SURROUNDING OF THE RAKTVARN VALLEY

The last major valley joining the Gangotri Valley is the hardly accessible Raktvarn Valley running from the south up to the foot of the highest peak in the area SRI KAILAS. The Raktvarn Valley is divided from the Chaturangi Valley by a long and mostly uninteresting ridge already described (see p. 189). The eastern limit of the valley is the ridge connecting P 6730 and SRI KAILAS. Lateral arêtes partition the upper part of the valley into some branches. The are the valleys of Pilapani and Nilambar. Three lateral glaciers: Shyamvarn, Swetvarn and Thelu flow down into the Raktvarn Valley from the north.

The first climbers to appear in the Raktvarn Valley were members of the Austrian expedition who reached SRI KAILAS in 1938. In later years only Indian climbers operated there repeatedly ascending SRI KAILAS and some minor peaks above the
The virgin peaks surrounding the Pilapani Bamak seen from the Raktvann Glacier.
View from P 5947 to the north. P 6587 above the Nilambar Valley on the right, P 6587 above the east branch of the Raktvann Glacier on the left.
The surrounding of the head of the Raktvarn Glacier seen from P 5947.
The Thelu Valley. It was not earlier than in the 80ties that joint parties appeared in this area. In 1981 an Indo-French expedition reached SUDARSHAN PARBAT and CHATURBHUJ. But the majority of summit in the surrounding of the Raktvarn Valley remain unclimbed. The entirely virgin area is the ridge connecting the Mana Parbat Massif to SRI KAILAS. The highest point in this ridge is P 6796 m (22,297 ft), rising between the Pilapani and Nilambar Valleys, the icy face of which is spangled with serac barriers.

Farther in the ridge, rise the slender summit P 6587 m (21,610 ft) separated by a deep col from the massive summit of the same altitude which dominates over the eastern branch of the upper part of the Raktvarn Glacier. Moreover in that ridge, there are a number of unmarked culminations. None of the mentioned summits is believed to have been attacked so far, and the only climbed ine the top marked with the spot height 5947, reached by M. Kochańczyk, L. Lehrer and J. Szulc while reconnoitring the area in August 1981.

SRI KAILAS (6932 m – 22,745 ft)

The summit was reached by four Austrian climbers: E. Ellmauthaler, W. Fraunberger, R. Jonas and R. Schwarzgruber on 16 October 1938. On 13 October they left Base Camp at Nandaban for the Raktvarn Valley where Camp I was pitched at about 4875 m on the moraine. Next day saw them toiling up the moraine scree to the place where the glacier coming down from the north turn westwards. Camp II was pitched at about 5485 m on the moraine between two glaciers covered with ice pinnacles. They continued up the Raktvarn Bamak on the third day and after about two hours of climbing turned to the left where an attractive bit of glacier suggested going between very steep and broken ice. They proceeded cautiously up to 6160 m and established Camp III. On the following day the climbers attained the pass at the base of the West Ridge, which they followed up to the top – from C3, 6 h.

The mountain received the first Indian ascent when an expedition led by D. Pandya climbed it in 1963.

The first woman on the top was Hanna Przedpelska-Preyzner who set foot on the top on 2 September 1981 accompanied by M. Kochańczyk. It was the third consecutive ascent. The Polish
team, like the Austrians, reached the top in the course of 4 days since they left Tapoban.

Between SRI KAILAS and the next outstanding summit P 6803 (22,330 ft) extends a medium high, ice-snowy, cornice ridge. There are some minor elevations in it and its average altitude is 6400 – 6500 m.

In September 1979 after failing to climb SRI KAILAS, an Indian expedition ascended the snow dome which lies west of it. The summit (6629 m) was climbed by Ranvir Singh (leader) and high-altitude porters Narayan Singh and Gopal Singh. P 6803 falls down towards the Shyamvarn Valley with the 800 m high ice rocky South Face. Nortwards of P 6803 extends the ridge with summit P 6715 m (22,030 ft) dividing the Guligad and Lambigad Valleys. The western neighbour of P 6803 is the summit of YOGESHWAR (6678 m – 21,910 ft). Moreover, in the ridge dividing the Shyamvarn Valley, and the upper part of the Raktvarn Glacier rise the following sixthousanders: P 6557 m (21,515 ft), P 6565 m (21,540 ft) and P 6245 m (20,490 ft).

All these summits are supposed to be unclimbed and the only one attempted by climbers has been YOGESHWAR.

Later the ridge goes down considerably forming a deep saddle above the Swetvarn Valley (The North Col, ca. 6050 m). Above the col dominates a regular quadrilateral pyramid CHATURBHUKJ (6655 m – 21,835 ft).

Its top was attained by the French team consisted of Hubert Odier, Alain de Blanchaud and Jacques Giraud on June 5, 1981. The French reached the North Col from the camp in the eastern part of the Swetvarn Valley, wherefrom they made a 60 m, ice descent (70°) into the Guligad Valley and a long traverse to the North Ridge along which up to the summit (lit.).

SWETVARN (6340 m – 20,800 ft)

The peaks stands at the head of the Swetvarn Valley. It has three ridges. The North Ridge joins CHATURBHUKJ, the South West Ridge joins SUDARSHAN while the East Ridge falls between the two branches of the Swetvarn Glacier.

On 25 May 1981, the summit was attempted by members of the Indo-French expedition. The East Ridge was chosen because two other ones were found to be too sharp. The climber negotiated the sharp snow-ridge, but 100 m below the top, the ridge
became razor-sharp and corniced. A narrow traverse and mixed terrain ahead stopped them. In their opinion no route seemed feasible over the East Ridge or the other ridges.

**SUDARSHAN PARBAT (6507 m – 21,350 ft)**

The first ascent of the summit was made on 30 May 1981 by the East Ridge.

SUDARSHAN PARBAT dominates over three valleys: the Thelu Valley extending from the south to the base of the mountain, the right branch of the Swetvarn Valley which runs eastwards and the Matri Valley which extends towards northwest. The handsome icy-rocky pyramid is clearly visible from Gangotri. That is why the mountain has been known to pilgrims for ages.

The summit was repeatedly attacked by Indian parties mainly by the West Ridge. The first ascent, however, was made by the East Ridge by members of a joint Indo-French expedition. The top was reached on 30 May 1981 by Hubert Oduer, Alain de Blanchaud, Zerkis Boga, Lakhpa Tsering, Bernard Odier and Jacques Giraud.

**THE EAST RIDGE OF SUDARSHAN PARBAT**

The partly very sharp and steep East Ridge falls down from the top into the right branch of the Swetvarn Valley. The access to the foot of ridge (abt. 5790 m) from the Base Camp at 4800 m on the Raktvarn Glacier is very tiring and unpleasant. The route leads by the central moraine to the junction of the Swetvarn Valley (5400 m) than in tight rock up to the foot of the ridge and then on its right to a gully running down from the col. Up the gully to the col some 100 m, 70°. In the lower part of the gully there is a series of very bad pitches in rotten rock.

from the col up some 150 m of mixed ground, 50°, to the crucial part of the ridge. It is a narrow 20 m long ice arete connecting the East Ridge to the main massif. then along the crest of the ice arête in gradient rising from 60° to 80° to the level of a huge serac hanging over the North East Wall. The route cross a small plateau over the serac and following the arête (50°), reach another plateau from which up to the peak ending the arête inclined at 75°. During the first passage about 500 m of rope
SUDARSHAN PARBAT from east with the route of first ascent (East Ridge).
Acc. to photo by B. Odier.
became razor-sharp and corniced. A narrow traverse and mixed terrain ahead stopped them. In their opinion no route seemed feasible over the East Ridge or the other ridges.

**SUDARSHAN PARBAT (6507 m – 21,350 ft)**

The first ascent of the summit was made on 30 May 1981 by the East Ridge.

SUDARSHAN PARBAT dominates over three valleys: the Thelu Valley extending from the south to the base of the mountain, the right branch of the Swetvarn Valley which runs eastwards and the Matri Valley which extends towards northwest. The handsome icy-rocky pyramid is clearly visible from Gangotri. That is why the mountain has been known to pilgrims for ages.

The summit was repeatedly attacked by Indian parties mainly by the West Ridge. the first ascent, however, was made by the East Ridge by members of a joint Indo-French expedition. The top was reached on 30 May 1981 by Hubert Oduer, Alain de Blanchaud, Zerkis Boga, Lakhpa Tsering, Bernard Odier and Jacques Giraud.

**THE EAST RIDGE OF SUDARSHAN PARBAT**

The partly very sharp and steep East Ridge falls down from the top into the right branch of the Swetvarn Valley. The access to the foot of ridge (abt. 5790 m) from the Base Camp at 4800 m on the Raktvarn Glacier is very tiring and unpleasant. The route leads by the central moraine to the junction of the Swetvarn Valley (5400 m) than in tight rock up to the foot of the ridge and then on its right to a gully running down from the col. Up the gully to the col some 100 m, 70°. In the lower part of the gully there is a series of very bad pitches in rotten rock.

From the col up some 150 m of mixed ground, 50°, to the crucial part of the ridge. It is a narrow 20 m long ice arete connecting the East Ridge to the main massif. then along the crest of the ice arête in gradient rising from 60°to 80° to the level of a huge serac hanging over the North East Wall. The route cross a small plateau over the serac and following the arête (50°). reach another plateau from which up to the peak ending the arête inclined at 75°. During the first passage about 500 m of rope
SUDARSHAN PARBAT from east with the route of first ascent (East Ridge).
Acc. to photo by B. Odier.
were fixed on the lower part of the arete including the crucial part. The ascent from the camp to the outlet of the gully took 6 hours. The way back by the same route lasted 4 hours.

THE SOUTH WEST RIDGE OF SUDARSHAN JAPANESE ROUTE

On 21, 22 and 23 October 1984, 8 members of Academic Alpin Club of Hokkaido attained the summit by a new route from the Thelu Glacier. Three camps were established: CI (5200 m) on the Thelu Glacier, CII (5800 m) and CIII (6000 m) on the col between the summits of THELU and SUDARSHAN. The route to CI was without ice on scree, from CI to CII it was mainly on ice and loose rock. The gradient was steeper on the way to CIII, wherefrom by the South West Ridge to the summit,

THE SURROUNDING OF THE THELU VALLEY

In the surrounding of the lateral Thelu Valley rise a number of easy peaks, popular among Indian climbers. They may constitute objectives of training ascents for acclimatisation.

In the ridge adjoining south of SUDARSHAN rises the summit SAIFE (6161 m – 20,215 ft). It was climbed from the west by members of the Diganta Club of Calcutta in 1978. On 19 May 1981 Hubert Odier made a solo ascent of the summit by the snow slopes of the North East Face and the East Ridge. C.D. Danthi, Konu Pomal and Komi Tsering repeated the route on May 30. They were followed by Alain de Blanchaud and Jacques Giraud on 7 June. The French left ABC at 4 a.m. and reached the summit at 6.30 to be back at the camp for breakfast at 8:30 a.m.!

In the farther part of the ridge dividing the Thelu and Swetvarn Valley rises a frequently climbed though not marked on maps point of 6080 m locally know as KOTESHWAR. On 19 May 1981 Alain de Blanchaud and Jacques Giraud reached the top by a new route leading up the gentle East Face and then following the South Ridge.

Besides, on the right side of the valley rises the summit of THELU (6002 m – 19,692 ft).

Farther in the ridge limiting the Bhagirathi Valley on the right the following summit rise consecutively: TWINS (6565 m – 21,540 ft), Matri (6721 m – 22,050 ft), CHIRBAS PARBAT (6529 m
- 21,420 ft) and **KHALIDANG** (6373 m – 20,910 ft). Although these peaks are located close to the Gangotri village they have not been attempted by foreign climbers so far, perhaps because they are not seen from the bottom of the valley. Some Indian parties trying to approach the above mentioned peaks from the Bhagirathi Valley failed.

The most interesting objective is sure to be the handsome pyramid of **MATRI**. The mountain has three faces: the South Face, rising above the Matri Valley, the West Face falling down towards the Chirbas Valley, whereas the ice-rocky North East Face towards with the similar wall of the neighbouring mountain **TWINS** forms the left limit of the upper part of the Guligad Valley.

The only climbed top is that of **CHIRBAS PARBAT**. On June 8, 1986 the peak was reached by **Gautam Dutta, Sher Singh** – the members of the expedition organized by **Kangchenjunga Foundation** from Calcutta. The summit was approached from the Guligad Valley. The climbers reached the top from Camp III (5790 m) which was pitched on the col between **CHIRBAS PARBAT** and **KHALIDANG**. Then they followed the long West Ridge up to the top. Lit. 26.
95. The peaks above the head of the Kirti Valley.
IV

HIGH CROSS – COUNTRY TREKS
I. AROUND THE BANDARPUNCH MASSIF

Popular trekking guides recommend some very easy standard routes in the Bandarpunch area such as:
- a two day trip from Uttarkashi to the mountain lake Dodi Tal,
- a pilgrim trail from Hanuman-Chatti in the valley of the Yamuna River to the temple at Yamunotri (14 km), or
- a tour of the Har-ki-Dun Valley (42 km).

Besides, it is possible to trace out at least two long mountain treks around the entire massif. What makes these treks more interesting, is the fact that they have probably never before been covered in a single attempt.

The first, longer trail leads from the village of Harsil on the Bhagirathi River, across the Lamkhaga Pass (5282 m) to the Baspa Valley, from where back via the Borasu Pass to the Har-ki-Dun Valley, and then by the Ruinsara Gad Valley upon the Yamunotri Pass (5172 m) and to the temple in Yamunotri.

Another, shorter variant is more advanced technically and leads by the Sian Gad Valley upon the difficult Dhumdhar Kandi Pass (5608 m), situated between DON'S PEAK and YELLOW TOOTH, where from down the Ruinsara Gad Valley and then along the route of the first variant to Yamunotri.

1.1 THE ROUTE ACROSS THE DHUMDHAAR KANDI PASS

The first part of the route.

The starting point for this trek is the village of Jhala (2135 m) situated on the right bank of the Bhagirathi River near the place where the stream of Sian Gad joins – 4½-5 h by bus from Uttarkashi. We cross to the left bank of the stream and across the jungle and Alpine meadows go up the Sian Valley – the most delightful of the valleys around Harsil. We pass the villages of Tangua and Dorangatatto to arrive in Kiarkoti (3500 m) – 9 h from the outlet of the Sian Valley.

From Kiarkotri the route leads through steep and strenuous moraines up to the fork of the valley (about 5 h). We ford the
ice-cold stream Gantraro and go up a steep-covered mountain side along the left bank of the Sian flowing down from the south. We pass Ratia (4880 m) and arrive at a moraine table Sirkey Thatar (5030 m) at the head of a ridge, 6h. After another 3 hour march we reach an ice field (5340 m). The summit of RATIA (5642 m) rises on our left and YELLOW TOOTH (5795 m) is ahead of us.

Then the route climbs towards northwest onto the broad pass of Dhumdar Kandi (5608 m) pillared on both sides by scree dumps. The descent down the western scree-snow slopes is difficult and very steep. Then by the right side of the Kalanag ice-fall through scree and moraines to the place where it joins the Bandarpunch glacier—from the pass 10 h.

After 3 hours of trekking we arrive on Uparaly Kiarkotri (4875 m) parched atop Ruinsara Gad snout and then at the little lake Ruinsara Tal (3380 m) where we cross to the left bank.

Going 14 km down the valley you can come to the Forest Rest House in Seema (2500 m) just above the village of Osla in the Har-ki-Dun Valley.

Proceeding further up a steep slope we come to a stone shelter in Thange, wherefrom another steep ascent brings us to the Yamunotri Pass. The views from the pass over the massif of SWARGAROHINI and BANDARPUNCH are well worth the climb. From the pass a very steep, almost 1000 m descent to the Alpine plateau of Damni (3965 m) – from the beginning of June shepherds have their bivouacs there.

From Damni another steep descent to Yamunotri crossing the Yamunotri stream towards the end. That is the end of the first part of the route – 8 days from the staring point.

**The second part of the route**

This part goes to Sukki in the Bhagirathi Valley. It was used for the first time by J.B. Fraser as short-cut from Yamunotri to Gangorti as early as 1815.

From Yamunotri 5 km down to Jankai Chhatti (2595 m) by the main pilgrim trail and then to Phool Chhatti where we cross the stream Yamuna over a little bridge to arrive in Kharsali. Then we go up 7–8 km through the grazing ground called Den Ka Khoj inhabited by a few families in summer to SONAPRA TOP (3953 m). A short descent brings us to a stone shelter at Digdara Thach. From the shelter further down to the valley of the river
97. KALANAG, left, and BANDARPUNCH on the right seen from the Bandarpunch Glacier. Acc. to photo by H. Kapadia.
Bin. After crossing Bin Gad the trail turns east and reaches Ben Thach situated at the foot of Bamsaru Khal (4780 m). From Ben Thach the trail climbs up steeply, cross the Bamsaru Khal and following the Chain Gad reaches Sukki (2487 m) which is situated near Harsil.

1.2 THE ROUTE FROM HARSIL TO THE BASPA VALLEY

The passage from Harsil to the Baspa Valley is possible by two high passes Lamkhaga and Chhotkhaga (Nela Pass) situated in the ridge above the Jalandri Valley.

The Lamkhaga Pass (5282 m) is easier of the two mentioned, is regularly used by natives. The Chhotkhaga Pass (5151 m) – however lower, but more difficult, was used by Marco Pallis in 1933.

Since India gained independence both passes have probably not been crossed by foreigners. In view of this fact we must rely on a report dating about half a century. The following text is a slightly changed part of the article by J.F. Ottley.

From Harsil we go up the Jalandra Valley. After about 5.5 km we arrive at a pleasant birchgrove at 3000 m. The section to follow involves a great climb. Shortly after Phulal Daru the valley assumes the U-shape of an ancient glacier, through and old grass grown moraine provide climbing. At 3960 m one toils over a tributary is magnificent. There is a lot of birch a camp can be pitched at the north end of the flats at the foot of the pass.

Above, the glen bends gradually to the east and at 4725 m we reach a razor-backed lateral moraine overlooking a fine glacial amphitheatre. Two big, crevassed glaciers flown down from the north and feed a glacial basin nearly a mile wide and reaching down to 4270 m.

From the moraine the way lies over a col to the east. It is a long climb up snow slopes evidently covering the glacier. When we reach a one mile long snow plateau we’ll have a steep climb to the summit ridge in front of us. Rocks protrude through snow on the top, but the north side is corniced above almost sheer slope down to another plateau. from there a convenient rib between two ice-falls affords a quick way down – from Kiarkoti 11 hours.
If we want to cross the Lamkhaga Pass after leaving Kiarkoti we must proceed along the left, western branch of the valley up to a place suitable for bivouac just below a high traversing moraine hiding a steep glacier flowing down from the point 5959 m into Jalandri Gad. The way from this camp to the pass is easy and takes about 6 h, the glacier in its final part being uncrevassed – 10 hours in total to Gundar Thadang Camp below the Baspa Glacier.

2. THE JAONLI VALLEY

The Jaonli Valley is about 20 km long. Its upper part is filled by a glacier. The stream Lad flowing out of the glacier joins the Bhagirathi River in the place called Lohari Nag (2128 m) located about 3 hours away by bus from Uttarkashi. On the distance of 12 km the valley descends 2 km! Actually the lower part of the valley reminds of an extremely steep gorge rather than a river valley. The river itself roars down through huge cataracts to join the Bhagirathi.

The wall of sixthousand meter peaks surmounting the valley on its right side and the Jaonli Massif have been described in the former chapter. (see pages ).

The ridge limiting the valley on the left is much lower-its highest points do not exceed the altitude of 5500 m. Those peaks may be interesting objectives for advanced tourists. Taking pictures of the Gangotri Massif form this side would be interesting too.

To reach the outlet of the valley we can cross the Bhagirathi River in Lohari Nag by a 3 man cable cab. You can also get off near the bridge 3,5 km downstream and reach the starting point along the right bank on foot, (difficult passage, use of ropes is necessary).

Stage 1

Having crossed the river we climb straight through the jungle, dense in places. After a few hours we arrive at a small plateau covered by forest with some shepherds’ cabins. From the plateau steeply to the Lad Gad. There is a convenient cave there in which a few people can find shelter.
Bin. After crossing Bin Gad the trail turns east and reaches Ben Thach situated at the foot of Bamsaru Khal (4780 m). From Ben Thach the trail climbs up steeply, cross the Bamsaru Khal and following the Chain Gad reaches Sukki (2487 m) which is situated near Harsil.

1.2 THE ROUTE FROM HARSIL TO THE BASPA VALLEY

The passage from Harsil to the Baspa Valley is possible by two high passes Lamkhaga and Chhotkhaga (Nela Pass) situated in the ridge above the Jalandri Valley.

The Lamkhaga Pass (5282 m) is easier of the two mentioned, is regularly used by natives. The Chhotkhaga Pass (5151 m) – however lower, but more difficult, was used by Marco Pallis in 1933.

Since India gained independence both passes have probably not been crossed by foreigners. In view of this fact we must rely on a report dating about half a century. The following text is a slightly changed part of the article by J.F. Ottley.

From Harsil we go up the Jalandra Valley. After about 5,5 km we arrive at a pleasant birchgrove at 3000 m. The section to follow involves a great climb. Shortly after Phulal Daru the valley assumes the U-shape of an ancient glacier, through and old grass grown moraine provide climbing. At 3960 m one toils over a tributary is magnificent. There is a lot of birch a camp can be pitched at the north end of the flats at the foot of the pass.

Above, the glen bends gradually to the east and at 4725 m we reach a razor-backed lateral moraine overlooking a fine glacial amphitheatre. Two big, crevassed glaciers flown down from the north and feed a glacial basin nearly a mile wide and reaching down to 4270 m.

From the moraine the way lies over a col to the east. It is a long climb up snow slopes evidently covering the glacier. When we reach a one mile long snow plateau we’ll have a steep climb to the summit ridge in front of us. Rocks protrude through snow on the top, but the north side is corniced above almost sheer slope down to another plateau. from there a convenient rib between two ice- falls affords a quick way down – from Kiarkoti 11 hours.
If we want to cross the Lamkhāga Pass after leaving Kiarkoti we must proceed along the left, western branch of the valley up to a place suitable for bivouac just below a high traversing moraine hiding a steep glacier flowing down from the point 5959 m into Jalandri Gad. The way from this camp to the pass is easy and takes about 6 h, the glacier in its final part being uncrevassed – 10 hours in total to Gundar Thadang Camp below the Baspa Glacier.

2. THE JAONLI VALLEY

The Jaonli Valley is about 20 km long. Its upper part is filled by a glacier. The stream Lad flowing out of the glacier joins the Bhagirathi River in the place called Lohari Nag (2128 m) located about 3 hours away by bus from Uttarkashi. On the distance of 12 km the valley descends 2 km! Actually the lower part of the valley reminds of an extremely steep gorge rather than a river valley. The river itself roars down through huge cataracts to join the Bhagirathi.

The wall of six thousand meter peaks surmounting the valley on its right side and the Jaonli Massif have been described in the former chapter. (see pages ).

The ridge limiting the valley on the left is much lower–its highest points do not exceed the altitude of 5500 m. Those peaks may be interesting objectives for advanced tourists. Taking pictures of the Gangotri Massif from this side would be interesting too.

To reach the outlet of the valley we can cross the Bhagirathi River in Lohari Nag by a 3 man cable cab. You can also get off near the bridge 3.5 km downstream and reach the starting point along the right bank on foot, (difficult passage, use of ropes is necessary).

Stage 1

Having crossed the river we climb straight through the jungle, dense in places. After a few hours we arrive at a small plateau covered by forest with some shepherds’ cabins. From the plateau steeply to the Lad Gad. There is a convenient cave there in which a few people can find shelter.
Stage 2

From the cave we go up by the left bank of the river. It should not be crossed despite an encouraging bridge. The river flows down a steep gorge. The jungle is now behind us giving way to rhododendron shrubs and birches. We traverse steep slopes, cross unpleasant gullies washed by avalanches to reach the zone of meadows. Now we cross the river which is actually only a fast stream and arrive at a place where climbers bound for SRIKANTA usually camp.

Further up, the valley turns right, the snow covered of JAONLI dominating in the vicinity. On the left rise consecutively: SRIKANTA and a tri-summit massif of GANGOTRI. A lofty peak called by the locals ANNAN dominates on the right.

Stage 3

We proceed by a narrow and hardly visible patch keeping towards the mountain sides rather than to the stream. After some 3–4 hours we arrive under a glacier flowing down from P 6264. On the left side, beneath rocks, there is a natural amphitheatre used by shepherds for sheep round-ups. There is rock-shelter there and a stone stove. Only scrub birches and juniper shrubs grow there.

3. THE HIGH ROUTE FROM GANGOTRI TO KEDARNATH

For ages, pilgrims have wandered by a round-about trail connecting the temples of Gangotri and Kedarnath. This pilgrim trail cuts across the region from the village of Malla to Ghutu and via Panwalikanta to Soneprayag and Kedarnath. But there is also another direct link between the two above mentioned places. Bidyut Sarkar and Atanu Chatterjee with a porter covered this way in September 1983.

The first part of this Alpine trail leads by the Rudugaire Valley upon the Auden’s Pass. The second stages goes by the Khatling Glacier to the Bhilaganga Valley wherefrom by Masur Tal, Puniya Tal and Vasuki Tal to Kedarnath.

3.1 THE TRAIL FROM GANGOTRI UPON THE AUDEN’S COL

The Auden’s Pass (5486 m) is situated in the ridge dividing the glaciers of Rudugaira and Khatling. It is one of few places in this part of the Great Himalayan Range where a reasonably easy
crossing can be made. In June 1939 geologist J.B. Auden crossed over the pass but the local tradition says that this way had been frequently used by pilgrims for a long time before. Provided that this is correct, the glacier must have undergone great changes, whilst the route, though nowhere very difficult, would now be dangerous for an unequipped party.

From Gangotri we go about 1.5 km downstream by the left bank of the Bhagirathi River until we reach the Rudugaira Valley. Then we head towards the south having the Rudugaira stream on the right for another 1.5 km. After a level march, a fairly steep climb follows. The Rudugaira stream is now to be crossed over a shift log bridge. The route then climb on the left side of the stream heading chiefly towards the south. At 4000 m there is a camp site just above the forest line. Higher up only juniper shrubs and rhododendron trees are seen. From this camp site, we climb 500 m up a steep slope, then pass a grassy meadow, crossing two streams en route 1.5 km away from each other, before we finally reach the place where expeditions put up their base camps.

Looking towards the south we can see GANGOTRI III (6577 m), the summit ridges of GANGOTRI II (6590 m) and GANGOTRI I (6672 m). In the north a rock wall of RUDUGAIRA (5819 m) which rises 1619 m above the mentioned camp site. Across the valley to the east is the Jogin Massif. From Gangotri to the camp site 7-8 km.

We again cross to the right side of the stream this time over a snow bridge. Then, we enter the glacier and labourously meandering among lateral moraines we come to the site of Advanced Base (4850 m) used by parties bound for GANGOTRI III.

From this camp we proceed among crevasses 600 m up a broad snow field bringing us to the pass. From the pass a descent down a steep gully to the Khatling Glacier. Bivouac on the left (north) side at 4330 m. It takes all day to come down to the Bhilaganga Valley by the heavily crevassed glacier. Two days away down the valley lies the village of Ghuttu. (see route description from Ghuttu to the Khatling Glacier).

The pass was traversed in the opposite direction in summer 1986 by the RAF trekking party. The passage from the snout of the Khatling Glacier over the pass to the camp under GANGOTRI III took them 3 days. On the following day they came down the Rudugaira Valley to Gangotri.
3.2 FROM GHUTTU TO THE KHATLING GLACIER AND THE AUDEN’S PASS

The starting point for this trek is the village of Ghuttu (1526 m) located on both sides of the Bhilanga River. It has a bus connection from Tehri (3.5 h). In the village porters and guides can be hired. There is also a post office, bank and a number of shops.

Stage 1
First we go through terrace fields to Deolang village, then by a thin jungle to the settlement of Reeh where people from Gangi move in winter (from Deolang 1.5 h easy march).

From Reeh to Gangi about 9 km by the right bank of the Bhilanga stream – first 5 km steep ascent through a rhododendron forest. The village of Gangi (2585 m, population 400) is the last settlement in the valley – nearby a suitable place for a camp.

Stage 2
Beyond Gangi the trail becomes faint in places while vegetation is increasingly dense. We go over Deokhri (1 h) to Kalyani, a 3 house settlement 6 km away from Gangi. A trail to the Sochastratal Lake (4872 m) adjoins left beyond the Kalyani stream. After a steep ascent across dense bushes we arrive on a wide field known as Birodh. From there we proceed to a big glade Kharsali surrounded by huge oak trees and conifers (excellent place for a camp). We cross the creek called Kharsali over a little bridge and go along a forest trail to Bhelbagi (3 km). According to map the snout of the glacier is 8 km away. The return to Ghuttu can be completed in two stages.

Stage 3
We pass a prominent waterfall on our right and near the upper forest line we reach a rock projection known as the Khatling Cave.

Stage 4: Khatling Cave – Katchora
On the next day we arrive at a glacier. We leave its snout on the right and ascend the left moraine ridge to a camp high enough to leave the glacier far below. The place can be easily recognized after a clearly visible cairn. It is probably the last point where the Gujjars come. On our right the crevassed glacier turns into an ice-fall.
Stage 5
 Above Katchora we are still able to avoid the glacier by negotiating a loose moraine and boulders. We encounter some snow patches till we reach a scrap of rock which blocks the valley. After ascending the scrap we camp on its top. The camp site is an excellent viewpoint and weather permitting you can see the GANGOTRI peaks northwards and in the east the marvel of THALAY SAGAR. On our left and westwards the Sangli Bamak joins the Khatling ice-fall in a gentle sweep.

Stage 6
 We come down the scarp of rock, cross the ice-fall there and move over to the Jogin side. The ice-fall is now less severe and all we have to do, is negotiate plenty open crevasses. We have by now turned the second bend of the glacier moving northwards. This is why the col is not visible while on the lower half of Khatling, due to the convexity of the topography interrupting the line of sight. Besides it is slightly difficult at first to identify the proper col since more than one depression comes to view on the ridge which joins the GANGOTRI and JOGIN groups. After passing a snowfield and a glacial pond we encounter a series of undulating snow slopes. Our camp below the col is in quite awe-inspiring surrounding. The massive East Wall of GANGOTRI III is on our left. The ridge contains a number of impressive rocky spires, the col itself being beside two, which point upwards like a pair of rabbit’s ears. The glacier rolls away and smaller peaks are set on an edge like well arranged snow cones.

3.3. FROM KHATLING GLACIER TO KEDARNATH

The route linking the upper part of the Bhilanga Valley and Kedarnath in the Mandakini Valley is not quite clear. The article „Locked lakes of Garhwal” by Rajinder Arora (see IM n°22, p.92-101) is believed to be the only written report. The first stage of the route goes to the Masar Tal Lake situated left of the lateral glacier of Dudhganga. The lake is visited by local pilgrims. From the snout of the Khatling Glacier we continue towards southeast into the Dudhganga Valley. The trail of green vegetation slowly turns into shades of brown and then gray. A sea of boulders and rock, loose and tricky covers all the route.
After about 7 hours of steep climb through the rocky terrain we arrive at a small flat plateau situated about 150 m below Masar Tal.

The next stage of the route goes through a rocky region similar to the first part. After about 3 hours of a really hard climb we arrive at a col near a ravaged conical peak (Masar Peak) and then we enter the zone of uninterrupted whiteness. We follow the gently rising glacier on the left side of the valley until we reach the col in the ridge separating the Dudhganga Glacier and the upper part of the Mandakini Valley. From the col a loose rocky steep descent leads to a small green pasture opposite Vasuki Tal (from the col 4 hours) and continues to Kedarnath.

A number of not very high (5200–5483 m) summits separated from each other by broad, passable saddles rise in the ridge separating the Dudhganga Valley and the head of the Mandakini Valley. It is not clear which of these saddles gives access to Vasuki Tal, so one should take into account finding the proper way.

4. THE KEDAR VALLEY

Stage I: Gangotri – Kedarganga Kharak, 1100 m of vertical height, time 6–7 h.

The Kedar Valley is a narrow gorge with steep wooded sides. The precipiced outlet of the valley through which cascades of the stream Kedar Ganga fall, is situated in the very centre of Gangotri. Despite this, it is not all that easy to the entrance to the valley. Houses built without any plan or order blocked the entrance, and to get to steep wooded left side of the stream we must cross over a fence and private land. A fading path zig up a steep hillside to traverse a precipiced rocky bank above the Kedar Ganga waterfalls and arrive finally in a small rocky basin surrounded by vertical walls.

From the basin straight uphill, climbing in places, then up an extremely steep mountain side and through a forest at the foot of a rocky wall we arrive at an exposed traverse leading by smooth slabs. After rains or when covered by ice the slabs may be dangerous.

The path crosses creeks flowing down precipiced gullies to come gradually over the upper tree line. By one of those gullies just on the tree line we pass the first place clear enough to pitch the tent – from Gangotri about 4 h. Then again steeply and labourously by open grassy slopes. After some time the path comes
HIGH CROSS-COUNTRY TREKS

down and after passing another precipiced gully gradually descends towards the bottom of the valley. We go by the stream for a short time to begin a steep ascent to the extensive Alpine meadows of Kedarganga Kharak (4298 m). A mountain pasture at the snout of the glacier is an excellent camp site – from Gangotri 6-7 h.

The pass dividing the Kedar and the Rudugaira Valleys (ca. 5200m) may be climbed from there by stone covered slopes. From the pass there is an extensive view on summits in the surrounding of the two valleys.

Stage 2

From Kedarganga Kharak we go first steeply up the edge of the moraine then in moderate acclivity by fairly stabile stones up the valley. After some 2 h march the lake Kedar Tal (4746 m) appears before our eyes. The lake is situated in a basin surrounded by the moraine on one side and by the slopes of JOGIN II on the other. We come steeply down to the lake where climbing parties operating nearby usually camp. Then by a relatively convenient footpath we proceed along the edge of the moraine until we reach the base of a transverse ridge cutting into the valley. Actually you can get there from Gangotri in 2 days but good aclimatisation is required beforehand, otherwise a speedy ascent up to 5000 m may cause altitude sickness.

An interesting proposal is to climb the pass (6000 m) between BHRIGUPANTH and THALAY SAGAR. The way upon the pass leads by a moderately difficult ice-fall to a camp at 5400 m the foot of the North West Wall of THALAY SAGAR. Then by an ice-snow, 600 m high couloir inclined at an angle of 45° upon the pass.

5. THE GANGOTRI GLACIER

The Gangotri Glacier is the largest one in the Himalaya. Along with its tributaries it forms a complex glacier system with a surface area of 200 sq.km and 20 cb.km of ice. It originates from the northwestern slopes of the Chaukhamba Massif and terminates in the snout located about 25 km below, at an altitude of about 4000 m.

The snout consists of a 40 m high ice wall and a large ice cave known as Gaumukh (30 m x 20 m) from which the melt water giving rise to the Bhagirathi River gushes out.

The glacier has a general gradient of only about 5°, except for the last 3 km where the gradient rised to 10°. On its way
The peaks on the left side of the Kirti Valley.
The peaks above the head of the Kirti Valley
down it is joined by five tributary glaciers: The Maiandi (length 5 km), the Swachand (7 km) and the Chaturangi (16 km) on the right side, the Ghanohim (6 km) and the Kirti (7 km) on the left side. Considerable evidence indicates that some other glaciers like the Bhrigupanth, the Meru or the Raktvarn used to be important tributaries to the Gangotri Glacier in an earlier period, although they have developed independent snouts and since then no longer join the Gangotri.

**Stage 1: 16 km, vertical height about 700 m.**

Above the settlement of Gangotri the Bhagirathi River flows down a broad glacial valley totally different from steep lateral valleys of Kedar, Rudugaira or Jaonli. A convenient foot-track has been built high above its bottom on the right bank. The way meant for numerous pilgrims leads to the Gaumukh.

From the bus we go upstream turning left before a bridge and find a convenient footpath. Initially we go through a forest later replaced by shrubs, then traverse precipice walls by a ledge cut out in rock. After some 9 km we arrive in Chirbas (3606 m). In the local resthouse you can get a cup of tea and something to eat. This stage of the trail leads to the scenic beautiful mountain pasture Bhujbasa (3792 m, ca. 14.5 km) from which great view of the Bhagirathi Massif can be admired. The view of the mountains is impressive but the pasture itself has been dug out to build some primitive stone constructions. Apart from the rest-house with a kitchen without a chimney, an ashram has been built where both pilgrims and trekkers can spend the night and get a basic vegetarian meal. Actually, this is an example of destruction of Himalayan environment inflicted not by tourists or climbers.

Less than 2 km away there is a convenient place for a bivouac next to a space covered by level stones, used as a helicopter landing site.

**Stage 2: about 5 h, labouriously, vertical height – 500 m.**

The Gangotri Glacier begins some 1 km away from the bivouac. We turn left before the snout of the glacier and labourously in steep rubble. The way to the pasture of Nandaban leads by the right side of the glacier. During the summer season the footpath is clearly seen and marked by cairns but in early spring and after rains the surface of the glacier is changed to such an extent that a new way has to be found among heaps of moving stones.

After an hour since we have entered the glacier, on our left, we pass by an outlet of a stream flowing down from the Raktvarn Valley. It falls down in cascades from the wall blocking the entra-
HIGH CROSS-COUNTRY TREKS

nce to the valley. After another 2 hours of labourous march we arrive at the outlet of the Chaturangi Valley. We turn left and by an exposed traverse over an ice wall we reach the Chaturangi Glacier the surface of which is completely covered by stones. We cross it and on its left side we force the last obstacle, that is a very steep, stone covered slope of the moraine. When we finally reach its edge we can see an unexpectedly beautiful view of green meadows and crystal clean streams. We are at Nandaban, a pleasant grassy pasture at 4335 m in the fork of the Gangotri and Chaturangi Glaciers.

**Stage 3: 6–7 hours, labourously.**

From Nandaban we go first down to the foot of BHAGIRATHI II where a system of terraces divided by moraines begins. The trail leads by the crest of the moraine and then by the middle terrace, to the place where the way is blocked by a huge field of dangerous disintegrated scree which forces us to descend to the glacier. Traversing the steep slope of the moraine we come to the edge of the glacier. We proceed between the scree slope and the glacier, amongst huge unstable blocks of granite, as far as we can continue the march by the terraces. The next scree slope is to be traversed by a precipiced gully, eroded by a stream. We camp where the next belt of terraces begins.

**Stage 4: 6–7 hours.**

On the next day the trail follows terraces and moraine crest at the foot of BHAGIRATHI I. Despite continuing along the right side of the Gangotri Glacier seems encouraging, we should come to the glacier when we are about opposite KEDAR DOME, since higher up, the way is blocked by a precipiced impassable gully, left by a retreating lateral glacier.

We go in the middle of the glacier moving towards the North Ridge of KHARCHAKUND. We camp on the glacier at the level of the lateral valley Ghanohim at about 4800 m.

**Stage 5: 5–6 hours.**

Higher up the surface of the glacier becomes level and flat. We continue by the middle along the North East Face of KHARCHAKUND as far as the outlet of the Swachand Valley which leads to the foot of the South Wall of SATOPANTH. We can camp here and on the next day tour the Swachand Valley without load, or continue uphill as high as 500 m, in order to force the ice-fall and reach the entrance to the Maiandi Valley.

On the way back from the camp in the area of the Ghanohim
The head of the Swachand Valley.
Valley, we go along the easier left side of the glacier to Tapoban which is 3 days away from the camp at the outlet of the Swachand Valley.

6. THE ROUTE FROM GANGOTRI TO THE RAKTVAHN VALLEY

Stage 1: Gangotri – Gaumukh, see stage 1 route description n°5.

Stage 2: Gaumukh – Thelu Nala,

The outlet of the Raktvahn Valley is situated ca. 2h away from the bivouac below Gaumukh. The entrance to the valley is hampered by the steep scree covering the terminal moraine continuously bombarded by loose stones. We go by the right side of the valley to the outlet of the Thelu Valley-camp on its right side.

Stage 3: Thelu Nala – Swetvahn Bamak.

After an hour-long convenient march about 150 m above the glacier we come to a wide and deep gorge. We are forced to climb up in loose steep scree till we can cross over. After crossing the gorge we traverse a similar scree on the other side till it becomes flat.

Stage 4

On the next day after a half day march we arrive at Swetvahn Bamak where we climb up the terminal moraine and get down on the other side to Swetvahn Nala. We proceed up along the glacier and pass the meeting point of Shyamvahn Bamak and Raktvahn Bamak. After about one hour from the junction we turn north and see SRI KAILAS for the first time. We camp on the right side of the glacier. An interesting opportunity is to climb P 5968 to take pictures of the summits surrounding the Pilapani Valley. An alternative proposal is to visit the little know Shyamvahn Valley.

7. THE TRAIL FROM GANGOTRI TO BADRINATH VIA KHALINDI KHAL

In the ridge, above the valleys of Seta and Kalindi, there are three high saddles which enable passage to the Arwa Valley. One of them was crossed by members of the successful expedition to KAMET in 1931. Having reached the summit they went from Gamsali via Bhiundar Khal to the Alaknanda Valley. Then, the climbers explored the head glaciers of the Arwa Valley, crossing
the main watershed into the head of the Chaturangi Glacier. Three years later, E. Shipton, who participated in the Kamet expedition, reached Badrinath for the second time. He was accompanied by H. Tilman. They went north up the Alaknanda to Mana and explored the Bhagirath Kharak Glacier in the hope of finding a pass leading to the Gangotri Glacier. Unsuccessful in their efforts, they crossed over the ridge to the Arwa Valley to climb and cross over Khalindi Khal (5947 m) and descent as far as Gaumukh. However, the first to cover the whole distance from Gangotri to Badrinath were Toni Messner and Leo Spannraft of Austria. Looking for the way to climb CHAUHKAMBA, they went via Khalindi Khal to Mana and Badrinath in September 1938. In mid October, on their way back, they crossed over another pass, north of Khalindi.

Two first stages of the route from Gangotri to the mountain pasture of Nandaban have been already described (see trail n° 5).

**Stage 3: Nandaban – Vasuki Tal, vertical height 550 m, 4h**

From Nandaban we proceed up the Chaturangi Valley. The footpath leads first by a pleasant meadow along a stream, then by the crest of the moraine. Behind them one can see peaks in the Meru Massif and the ice East Face of BHRIGUPANTH. An unnamed peak P 6393 rises far ahead of us. After some 5 km we bypass the outlet of the valley leading towards the Bhagirathi Massif and come to a deep gorge eroded by the glacier. We descend diagonally right towards the snout of the lateral glacier. From the bed of the gully diagonally left upon a very steep unstable slope (danger of stone avalanches). From its edge we have the view of the shallow moraine lake Vasuki Tal (4900 m). We camp on the lake at the foot of the North West Ridge of VASUKI PARBAT.

**Stage 4: Vasuki Tal – Suralaya Bamak, vertical height about 300 m, 5–6 h.**

The route leads by a precipiced crest of the moraine and traversing the avalanche ridden slopes of VASUKI PARBAT, reaches soon the outlet of the Sundar Valley. SATOPANTH appears all of a sudden from behind a bend with the mighty rock wall surmounted by seracs rising in the background. We cross over an easy glacier and climb upon the crest of the moraine, then diagonally left across a steep rocky slope we come to the edge of fields covered with boulders at the foot of the rock tower (5801 m). This pinnacle ends the ridge dividing the Sudar and Suralaya Val-
leys. Then we head towards a visible huge block behind which we camp (alt. about 5200 m).

**Stage 5: Suralaya Bamak – Seta Bamak**

From the bivouac near the boulder we go slightly uphill soon reaching the outlet of the Suralaya Valley. On the other side of the Chaturangi Glacier is the outlet of the Khalipet Valley which is surmounted by an unnamed peak P 6730 m and MANA PARBAT. Farther, we have a steep and tough trek across the Suralaya Glacier and along the northern slopes of CHANDRA PARBAT. We camp the true left lateral moraine of the Seta Glacier near its junction with the Chaturangi Glacier.

**Stage 6**

Next the route leads to the other side of the Seta Glacier. The we gradually ascend the extreme left lateral moraine of the Kalindi Glacier. We camp on this moraine below AVALANCHE PEAK.

**Stage 7**

We set off along the Kalindi Glacier carefully evading open crevasses. After some time we approach a steep crevassed slope which leads to Kalindi Khal.

**Stage 8**

The descent from the pass proceeds close to AVALANCHE PEAK. The way is easy at first leading down gentle snow slopes, soon however increased attention is necessary due to a large number of crevasses. Then we traverse left onto rocks, to descend 200 m down a crumbly slope towards a heavily crevassed but flat glacier. Then we proceed down the rocky bed of the valley left of the stream. After crossing to the other side of the stream we camp at about 4880 m.

**Stage 9: about 18 km, 10 h.**

After half an hour march we pass by the lake Arwa Tal. We keep to the right bank of the main stream all the time despite inconvenient small tributaries running down south from numerous glaciers. Towards its end, the Arwa Valley narrows to an almost george-like width before turning into a broad level plain at its junction with the Saraswati River. We reach Gastoli and camp on a meadow across the river.

**Stage 10: about 15 km**

From Gastoli down the Saraswati Valley via the Mana village to Badrinath.
8. THE ROUTE FROM MALARI TO BADRINATH VIA GUPT KHAL

The pass Gupt Khal (5760 m) is situated about 3 km southwest of MANA PEAK. Formerly, Gupt Khal was known as the Zaskar Pass, since it divides the Great Himalayan Range and the range of Zaskar. The two valleys that lie on both of its sides are Uttari Nakthoni Gal and Bankund Gal. The first to cross over the pass were topographers R. Gardiner and R.C.A. Edge who were making maps of the Bankund Valley in 1937. Later that year Frank Smythe and P. Oliver used this pass during first ascent of MANA PEAK and in the years to come, the pass was mainly used by climbers bound for MANA PEAK. Very few parties, however, crossed it from the Bankund Valley.

Stage 1
From Malari (64 km away from Joshimath) we go 13 km up the Dhauli Valley to Gamsali (3300 m). The village is located at the outlet of the Amrit Ganga River to the Dhauli.

Stage 2
Going up the Bankund Valley we reach Dumsain, a flat open space with a clear lake. For nearly 7 km away the bed of the valley is almost level. We camp on a grassy shelf between Thur Udiar and Eri Udiar.

Stage 3
On the following day we come Eri Udiar (cold cave), 1 km, wherefrom across the glacier we reach the lake Bank Kund (4380 m), 6 km. It is beautiful spot with turquoise blue water surrounded by soft green grass.

Stage 4
The next part of the route leads initially 3 km up the moraine. Then we cross over the rubble covering the glacier towards its left side and continue the march up the valley to the camp at Garh (4870 m), 10 km.

Stage 5
The way follows the glacier. We camp after 6 km at 5440 m.

Stage 6
On the next day we go first by the flat glacier to its bend where we can see the pass for the first time. Then we begin the final ascent 200 m up a steep slope, 4 h from the camp on the glacier.
5 km. From the pass we descend first by a snowfield and then along a rock ridge between the glacier and its eastern spur. We follow the moraine for the next 3 km to come to the Nagthuni Valley which brings us to the junction with the Saraswati Valley.

**Stage 7**

We follow a convenient trail on the left bank as far as Ghastoli (3996 m) where we cross the Saraswati and going still down the valley via the village of Mana arrive at Badrinath (3122 m).

9. **THE ROUTE FROM BADRINATH TO MALARI VIA BHYUNDDHAR KHAL**

A much shorter and easier route linking Badrinath to Malari leads over the pass Bhyundar Khal (5090 m) situated above the Bhiundhar Valley which bifurcates from the Alaknanda Valley some 10 km north of Joshimath.

The first wanderer believed to cross over the pass as early as 1848 was Richard Strachey. He was followed by colonel Edmund Smythe (1862), general C.G. Bruce, A.L. Mumm and T.G. Longstaff (1907). In 1931, having climbed KAMET, the Smythe’s party crossed over the pass and spent two days in the valley. Fascinated by the beauty of the flora they named the Bhiundhar Valley the Valley of Flowers.

The phenomena contributing to the charm of the Bhyundar Valley is that the upper stage of the valley bends almost at right angle.

**Stage 1: 16 km, vertical height 1100 m.**

From the bridge over the Alakananda between Pandukeshwar and Govind Ghat we go to the outlet of the Bhyundar Valley. The footpath up the valley plunges almost at once into dense vegetation. The trail follows the right bank of the stream. Its first section, to the village of Bhyundar (2563 m) is easy but later a labourous 4 km climb follows. We bypass a large pilgrim complex at Ghangaria (3072 m, 14 km) which is set between high mountain walls and a dense forest. We camp 2 km upstream where a trail to the lake Hem Kund adjoins to the right.

**Stage 2: vertical height about 650 m.**

After about 1/2 km, the trail descends steeply down a narrow gorge and crosses the bridge over the Bhyundar Ganga. We proceed up the valley straight north until we reach the stream run-
ning down from beneath Khunt Khal. This pass was used by both Longstaff's and Smythe's parties on their way down to Hanuman Chati in the Alaknanda Valley.

Near the above mentioned stream the valley turns east at almost the right angle. We camp a little farther, where the valley extends into vast grassy plain – Tipra Kharak (3731 m). Higher up the valley divides. The Lari Bank Valley closed by the huge West Wall of GHORI PARBAT (6708 m), extends towards the south. Over the upper part of the northern branch dominate: RATABAN (6166 m), separated from Bhyundar Khal by an undistinguished, unnamed peak and NILGIRI PARBAT (6474 m) which is moved northwards. This beautiful summit was conquered by F.S. Smythe in 1937. His way led from Khuliagrivia Gal by the pass Khulia Ghata. This pass lies north of Tipra Kharak. C.F. Meade went through there on his way to Mana.

Stage 3

From Tipra Kharak we proceed by the right side of the glacier until we reach the junction of the valley (about 3 km). We turn north, then northeast. We climb the steep left side of a rocky chasm, then traverse over it to a gully leading upon the saddle. From Tipra Kharak 5–7 h.

The way over the Bhyundar Pass is not difficult, but attention is advised in descent through ice-fall on the east side. Below the ice-fall we descent down a slope first covered by scree than by snow until we come to the glacier. Once on the glacier we have a dull and fatiguing trudge over ice and moraines to the junction with The Banke Glacier. Then labourously across the glacier. We camp on its other side on a shelf between two shepherds’ bivouacs known as Thur Udiar and Eri Udiar – from the pass 7 km.

Stage 4

On the next day we go down the valley to Gamsali wherefrom 13 km down the river Dhauli to Malari.
10. THE NANDA DEVI SANCTUARY

10.1 FROM LATA TO SARSON PATAL

Stage 1: From Lata to Lata-Kharak, 6 km.

The first section of the route brings us to Lata-Kharak (3965 m) – an open, broad, grassy saddle, always windy and cold. From the end of the road in Lata we proceed uphill across dense forest. After an hour and a half we reach Belta Kharak. The trail continues uphill and though the scenery is beautiful the trek is very tiring. To Lata-Kharak 6 h in all, about 6 km, vertical height 1600 m.

Stage 2: Lata-Kharak – Dharansi Pass (10 km) – Dibrugheta (14 km).

It is a 10 km long arduous march from Lata-Kharak upon the Dharansi Pass (about 4267 m). In places there are misleading rock traverses and scree gullies. From the pass we descend to Dharansi alp (convenient bivouac at 4150 m). From Dharansi alp the path initially climbs the Malatuni Pass (about 4238 m) to descend later almost 1000 m across slippery grass and snow slopes, over boulders and through dense forest to the meadow of Dibrugheta (3499 m), 14 km in all.

Stage 3: Dibrugheta – Deodi (9 km) – Trisul Nala (14 km).

On the next day route covers about 300 m of vertical height first, and then traverses several mountain ridges to descent finally 300 m down to Deodi on the Rishi Ganga (about 3350 m), 9 km.

We cross the river over a permanent wooden bridge. At Deodi there are three different camp sites: one convenient for climbers bound for the glaciers of Ramani and Bagini, the second for the Sanctuary and the third for the Trisul-Bethartoli direction.

From Deodi the route ascends through a pine forest, then traverses over spurs to enter Trisul Nala. At the entrance to Trisul Nala we can see the entire route leading to the Nanda Devi Sanctuary and the mighty peak itself – 14 km in all.
Stage 4: Trisul Nala - Ramani (3 km), – Bhujgara (9 km) Patalkhan (17 km).

The 3 km way down to Ramani is an easy walk through thick rhododendron forest. The Rishi gorge looks very steep and frightening from there. Then the route climbs steeply at first under a precipice. It follows a dry stream bed across grass and rocks. A huge cairn marks the end of the first part of the climb. The real ruggedness of the gorge is to be experienced when the trail traverses rocks and scree above the exposed chasm of the Rishi Ganga. The track is very narrow in places. 6 km away from Ramani we reach a small open space called Bhujgara. It is a dizzy perch, nothing more than a few narrow ledges cut out of the mountain side, just enough for tents.

Beyond Bhujgara the gorge is getting narrower. We have to cross a snow gully, and soon reach the base of the slabs. It takes 2 h to cover this section of the route and climbing difficulties are up to grade III in places. After a sharp turn we climb a scree slope to traverse 150 m under an overhanging rock and over a huge rock face on which you can get only undercuts as hand holds. It is a steep rock stairway leading up a huge rock wall and traversing it in the middle. The camp is at Patalkhan (3962 m) at rim of the Sanctuary.

Stage 5: Patalkhan – Sarson Patal (10 km).

The way from Patalkhan to the Sanctuary encampment at Sarson Patal (4510 m) is very tiresome. It goes up and down over scree and boulders until we turn south to reach Sarson Patal. It lies in a dell surrounded by green meadows.

10.2 THE TRIP TO SHIPTON’S COL

In search of a convenient passage from the Changabang Glacier to the Ramani Glacier, E. Shipton and Rinzing Bhutia climbed a rocky col in the ridge dividing both glacier on September 27, 1934. A vertical wall of rock, the smooth face of which is almost impossible to climb down, falls towards the Ramani Glacier. It forced them to withdraw. Nevertheless, it is advised to climb the col, since it gives opportunity to see the northern part of the Nanda Devi Basin. The ascent from Patalkhan takes 3 days.

From Patalkhan we descend to the river bed of the Rishi Ganga and cross it a little above the confluence of the North
Rishi and the South Rishi to enter the mouth of the North Sanctuary. After crossing the river we follow the right bank of the North Rishi. The river is crossed again at the snout of the North Rishi Glacier.

Then, we go to the junction of the Changabang Glacier and the Uttari Rishi Glacier and camp by the glacial pond Haaj Kund. From the pond we proceed up the Changabang Glacier and camp at about the half of its length.

On the next stage, we continue along the glacier until we reach its head which rises in a cirque of stupendous granite cliffs. A gully in granite slabs leads towards the crest of the col.

10.3 THE TRIP TO THE SUNDERDHUNGA COL

Less than 4 km south of Sarson Patal, the glaciers of Dakkhini Nanda Devi and Dakkhini Rishi come together. Going along the former we will arrive at the Nanda Devi Base Camp, while the latter comes from the south and leads to the Sunderdhunga Col. The col is easily accessible by that way, but on the other side a 2400 m high, precipiced wall falls down south from the plateau beneath the saddle.

The only climbers to traverse it were E. Shipton and H. Tilman. In September 1934 after they had reconnoitred the South Ridge of NANDA DEVI, they together with three Sherpas, made their way across the col and descended the dangerous wall to the Sunderdhunga Valley.

The way from Sarson Patal upon the col passes by the meeting point of the two glacier (2 km) and follows the left bank of the Rishi Glacier. The moraine are to be avoided by climbing the slopes near the bank. After a long march we set up a camp (4877 m) on a small rocky ground. The views of NANDA DEVI and the Sunderdhunga Col are great from the camp site. Above, a very wide glacial valley with gentle ice slopes on both sides reaches the broad saddle.

10.4 NANDA DEVI KHAL (5910 m)

Nanda Devi Khal (Longstaff's Col) is situated on the eastern rim of the Sanctuary at the foot of the South Ridge of NANDA DEVI EAST. A steep, snow-icy 600 m high gully falls down from the col towards the Sanctuary. Unlike the descent from the Sun-
102. The west side of Nanda Devi Khal (5910 m).
derdhunga Col the descent from Nanda Devi Khal to the Lawan Valley is not too difficult. The route across the col is an attractive, short and direct way out of the Sanctuary. First ascent accomplished from the Lawan Valley by Alexis and Henri Brocheler on June 1905. In 1936 H.W. Tilman, C. Houston and Sherpa Pasang crossed Nanda Devi Khal on their way from the Sanctuary to the Lawan Valley. They named it the Longstaff's Col. This name has, however, not been accepted by cartographers from India.

The approach of the col from the Lawan Valley is steep, avalanche ridden and limited on both sides by rock bands. It takes 8 hours to cover the distance from the foot on the left rib at 4900 m to the col. The route first leads by the rocky rib then by the steep gully. In case of avalanche danger it is better to climb a heavily weathered rib.

11. THE TRAIL ACROSS THE BAGINI PASS (5800 m)

The ridge dividing the upper part of the Ramani and Bagini Glaciers has at least two distinctive depressions which enable passage from one valley to another. The West Face of CHANGABANG falls with its characteristic sweep of white granite to a col some 800 m below the summit. Its northern side down north with a very steep ice wall.

West of that col, the watershed ridge rises to a sharp conical peak of BAGINI (6190 m), and further still falls again to a long serrated granite ridge. Another low depression is between this peak and DUNAGIRI. From the Ramani Glacier the col looks almost inaccessible. Nevertheless, it was here, that T. Longstaff with company came from the Bagini Glacier in search of the access to the Nanda Devi Sanctuary in May 1907.

In 1936, E. Shipton's party reached the Ramani Glacier. He chose the middle depression and climbed the crest of the serrated ridge only to find that any descent towards the north was impossible. The rest of the day had been spent on moving along the knife edged of the ridge before they were able to find a gully from which descent was possible.

The col at the foot of the Western Face of CHANGABANG was crossed by the Czechoslovaks who climbed the North Wall of KALANKA (6931 m).
Stage 1

The route begins in the village of Jumma located on the Joshimath – Malari road. One kilometer upstream from Jumma, we cross the Dhauli over suspension bridge and proceed by a narrow footpath on the left bank. We soon descend to the river bed. After another kilometer among boulders, we enter the Dunagiri Valley. Both sides of the gorge are very steep with cliffs rising high over the Dunagiri River bed. The trail traverses through the cliffs on the left side. In places the narrow end exposed path is supported by pitted wood beams in the rock wall. After the next 5 km we reach a place called Chacha where shepherds bring their flocks for grazing to the pataches of meadows amidst forests. Further on, the trail lies through heaps of loose earth and boulders. In the end, we arrive at a wide open area with potato fields. To reach the ledge with Dunagiri village we have to make a steep ascent. Leaving the village we descend to the river bed and cross to the other (right) side over a wooden bridge over the gad. About 2 km upstream from the bridge the Dunagiri Gad is joined on the left by a stream flowing down from Dunagiri Bamak. We proceed towards the Bagini Glacier along the stream as far as another streams joins. At that place the river widers and some some vegetation can be seen on both sides.

Stage 2

On the next day we follow the right bank of the Bagini stream which flows in numerous streamlets crisscrossing throug huge boulders of the moraine and glacial debris. Heading south we follow the lateral moraine for about 1,5 km where we get down to the side of the glacier. There is a good camp site on the moraine with a stream nearby (4640 m).

Stage 3

From that camp we proceed further up the Bagini Glacier which soon turns sharply south. Then, we cross it diagonally avoiding crevasses to climb over loose rock up the moraine on the left side of the glacier. The bivouac on the moraine.

Stage 4

On the next day we still are on the left side of the Bagini Glacier heading west towards the col between the summit of BAGINI and the East Ridge of DUNAGIRI. The bivouac on the glacier.
Stage 5
They way to the col leads up a steep snow-icy slope. The descent to the Ramani Glacier down a 300 m chasm is much more difficult and abseil is required. From the col to the bivouac on the Ramani Glacier 5–6 h.

The descent by the gently flowing glacier to its snout takes 6 h. Another 6 h brings us to the outlet of the valley and the connecting trail to Lata by Deodi Dibrugheta and Lata-Kharak.

12. FROM THE PINDAR VALLEY TO MARTOLI VIA THE TRAILL'S PASS
The difficult and rarely used Traill's Pass (5312 m) is located in the ridge dividing the upper parts of the Pindar and Lawan Valleys. A heavily crevassed, ice plateau extends vastly on the southern side of the ridge. The hanging glacier Pindar, which forms one of the most spectacular ice-falls in the Kumaon Himalaya, flows from the plateau down the valley.
G.W. Traill, the first Deputy Commissioner of Kumaon, accompanied by a hundred coolies crossed the pass in 1830. In later years he was followed by Adolph Schlagintweit (1855) and colonel Edmund Smythe (1861). The first to cross the pass from the other side i.e. from the north to the south were Hugh Rutledge with his wife and R.C. Wilson (1926).

The Pindar Glacier may have undergone considerable changes because now crossing the pass is difficult and dangerous. The route upon the pass follows long section of the NANDA KHAT ascent. It is safer and easier to evade most of the crevasses and seracs of the glacier by climbing above the pass and then descending to it. The route begins in the village of Song, which has a bus service from Almora via Bageshwar and Kapkote. The first stage climbs up the valley to the nearby village of Loharkhet. There, an ascent to the pass Dhakuri Khal (2982 m) begins. From the pass, near which the Sundardhunga gorge joins the Pindar River on the right, we descend to the Pindari Valley and Khati (2210 m), from Song about 20 km.

Pindari Valley is frequently traveled by Indian people because of a good foot-path leading to the viewing point of the Pindar Glacier. This path was originally built by G.W. Traill as part a plan to establish a route all the way over Gori Ganga.

The next stage is 16 km long and goes from Khati via Dwali (2576 m) at the junction of the Pindar and Kafni, to Phurkia.

The snout of the Glacier is about 8 km upstream from Phurkia. A broad, magnificent view over the surrounding peaks extends from there. From the west to east rise BAULJURI (5957 m), PANWALI DWAR (6663 m) and NANDA KHAT (6611 m). The face of NANDA KHAT looks as if it were the continuation of the ice-fall of the Pindari Glacier, a jumble of serac bands and exposed slopes. A beautiful, unclimbed summit of CHANGUCH fanked in the west by the Pindari ice-fall and in east by the great South Face of NANDA KOT (6861 m) rises above the upper part the Pindari Glacier. On the righthand side of the glacier parties bound for NANDA KHAT usually set up their camps.

The trail continues over steep grassy slopes with bits of rocks until it reaches a grassy meadow called Sura Kharak (4810 m). Then, in order to evade the heavily crevassed glacier we climb a ridge up to the first rock band which leads to a cone shaped ice formation below the second rock band. The rock is very loose and poses constant danger of rockfall – camp on a strip of moraine.
running along the top of the rock band. Trail’s Pass can safely be approached from this camp.

**13. FROM MALARI TO MILAM BY THE GORGE OF THE GIRTHI RIVER**

The Nanda Devi Group is limited in the north by the Girthi River which originates from the glaciers flowing down from the slopes of NANDA GOND (6315 m), KHOLI (6114 m) and CHALAB (6160 m). For many miles the Girthi flows down a precipiced gorge to meet the Kio Gad at Girthi Dobala and merge with the Dauli at Malari. This gorge is said to have been traversed for the first time by Kurt Boeckh in 1893. The next recorded passage of the gorge was made by the Scottish Himalayan Expedition in July 1950, (lit. 52).

The following description of the route has been prepared mainly on the base of the report by Harish Kapadia, (see lit. 29).

From Malari the route follows the left bank of the Girthi, climbing up steeply and traversing an unpleasant patch of scree. Finally it turns to enter the Siruanch Valley. Suddenly we are amidst lovely pine, birch and rhododendron forest. From two uninhabited houses, the route traverses to a camp on a lovely alp.

Siruanch Valley is closed in the south by the 6 km long and 2000 m high Tirsuli Wall with yet unclimbed peaks of CHALAB (6160 m), TIRSULI WEST (7035 m), P 6635, P 6267 and P 6504.

Now, the route crosses the nala to go up 660 m to Damphu Dhar (4200 m) and descend to Gangdeopani. Traversing to the right we land at Johar Kharak. Opposite is Girthi Dobala with the Kio Gad draining the Sumna and Lapthal Valleys near the Tibetan Border. As we enter the precipitous Girthi gorge 600 m above the riverbed, RAMBHA KOT (5227 m) rise steeply opposite us. This intricate looking peak stands between the Girthi and Kio Gad and walls the gorge for 10 km. Although precipitous too, our side of the gorge is fortunately not so steep. A 700 m descent follows soon, which us to the camp site at Dumpani (3500 m). Lack of drinking water, 14 km.

Then we run into Are Gadera, a steep ravine full of snow.
Afterwards we cross Sangla Palyo which is a bowl of scree. The beautiful Senyarupani alp appears ahead of us. Then we arrive at Dudhgarhi and after another 4 km to Girthi (3620 m) – we camp in a birch forest.

The next 12 km long stage of the route links Girthi with Topidunga (4200 m) via Gangharia where the Girthi East joins. Topidunga used to be an important, strategic point in times when numerous caravans were travelling across the nearby passes. The way to the east leads to the Kungribingri Pass (5548 m) and further to Tibet. In the north the Khingri Dhura Pass (5244 m) leads to Lapthal while in the south the Unta Dhura Pass (5360 m) paves the way to Milam in the valley of Gori Ganga.

The route from Topidunga to the Unta Dhura Pass covers about 1000 m of vertical height and is 6 km long. On our way we pass by the frozen lake of Gangpani (5020 m) – the highest source of the Girthi. From the pass we descend south to the Pari Tal (lake). Then the route descends further steeply to Dung (4000 m), 14 km.

On the next day we go down the Goankho Valley via Sangong to Milam (3424 m), which used to be the meeting point of caravans. Together with the decline in trade with Tibet, the area lost all its importance. The people have moved to the plains and now only few families live here in ruined houses for a few months a year.

14. THE ROUTE AROUND THE PANCHCHULI VIA THE RALAM DHURA PASS

The most interesting offer in the Eastern Kumaon is a trek to the wonderful mountain nest of the Panchchuli Massif, although it is now difficult to obtain permission to visit it. The most convenient route leads along the Darma Valley, the starting point being the village of Darchula. From there an easy 4-day trail takes us to Duktu – a fairly big village at the entrance to the Panchchuli Valley. From Darchula via Tawaghat (roadhead, 1000 m – 13 km), Nue (1700 m – 29 km) and Sela (2500 m – 46 km), we arrive in Duktu (3260 m – 65 km). The view of the Panchchuli Group from Duktu is the most impressive one. NGALAPHU (6410 m), PANCHCHULI I (6355 m), P II (6904 m), P III (6312 m), PIV (6334 m) and PANCHCHULI V (6437 m), rise
and II have been climbed so far. Both of them were reached by ITBP expeditions by the western approach from the Gori Valley.

The declining Sona Glacier, flows down from between NGA-LAPHU and PANCHCHULI I and merges with the Meola Glacier about 8 km above Duktu. The two glaciers are divided by tiers of cliffs above which there a grassy slopes, a scree shelf and a broken ridge leading up to the final pyramid of the highest of the Panchchulis. Panchchuli Base Camp is 6 km away at 3380 m. The trail is fairly convenient and easy until the junction of Meola and Sona Glaciers.

North of the Panchchuli Masif, in the ridge separating the Ralam and Lassar Yankti Valleys lies the high and difficult pass of Ralam Dhura. Among the earliest visitors there, were two Swiss geologists Arnold Heim and August Gansser who crossed it from the east to west.

In 1950, the expedition of the Scottish Mountaineering Club crossed the pass on their way from Milam to the eastern side of PANCHCHULI.

From Duktu we proceed upstream the Darma River. At Tidang the valleys bifurcate The main Darma Valley extending to the northeast connects via the Shin La Pass (5495m) to the Kuthi Yankti Valley, while the Lassar Yankti Valley extends to the northwest. We continue our march by the Lassar Valley to Sipu (3440 m, 16 km) located some 150 m above the river bed. From Sipu we go about 3 km up the valley and then have to turn west to the Nipchukang Glacier. We are about 10 km away and 2100 m beneath the Ralam Pass, which is situated above the southern branch of the valley. First we climb up narrow pastures on the left moraine to a grassy alp, then by a long steep rock arête evading the ice-fall dropping from the ice cirque beneath the pass. Eventually, we step onto the glacier, and meandering among crevasses, come to a gentle ice slope bringing to the col between two unclimbed sixtoumanders.

A rock and scree wall which faces the side of the Yankchar Glacier is 180 m high. We descend about 4 km down the crevassed glacier. Then we proceed westwards to the Yankchar Pass (5030 m) located in the ridge dividing the Shunkalpa and Yankchar Glaciers. From the pass we descend 1300 m down to the snout of the Shunkalpa Glacier and after another 4 km we arrive in the village of Ralam – a cluster of twenty houses set on the side of a deep, green glen.
From Ralam one can make a whole day march via the Birjegani Dhura (4656 m) to Tola in the Gori Ganga Valley - vertical height from Ralam 1200 m.
4. Berril Kenneth: **Abi Gamin 1950**, HJ vol. 17, p. 78 - 95
5. Bharthers Penny: **Bhrigupanth - an easy day for a lady?** HJ vol. 41 p. 175-178
6. Birnie E.St.J.: **The first ascent of Kamet**, HJ vol. 4
8. Bonington C. and Fotheringham J.: **Shivling – First ascent of the West Summit by its Southeast ridge**, IMn 13, p. 33-37
10. Bujak Jakub, Blake S.B.: **The Polish ascent of Nanda Devi East 1939**, HJ vol. 12 see also AJ LIII (1941), N 262, p. 31-45
12. Chanchal Mitra: **The first ascent of Tirsuli**, HJ vol. 27, p. 67-75
19. Emlyn Thomas: **A very modest mountain**, HJ vol. 43, p. 54-62
21. George Lucien: **Premiere ascension du Chaukhamba (7138m)** Journ. SSAP (1953), n 1. P. 50-52
26. Indranath Mukherjee: **First ascent of Chirbas Parbat**, 1986, 
HJ vol. 44, p. 81-85
28. Jonas Rudolf: **Im Garten der gottlichen Nanda**, Wien 1948,
Seidel
29. Kapadia Harish: **In famous footsteps**, HJ vol. 45, p. 53-65
30. Kapadia Harish: **Central Garhwal and Kumaon**, HJ vol. 45,
p. 77-85
31. Kapadia Harish: **A trek in Eastern Kumaon**, IM n° 13, 
p. 95-105
32. Khera S.S.: **Trail’s Pass** 1941, IM n° 3, p.32-38
34. Kolakowski R.: **W dolinie Kedara** 1987, Taternik 2/87, 
p. 65-66
35. Krenek Ludwig: **Trisul (7120 m)**, BdW VII (1952) p. 283
37. Kunaver Vlasta: **Trisul’s Aleš Kunaver Memorial Route**, 
38. Kysilka Tomas: **Shivling, First North Face ascent**, IM n° 23, 
p. 63-67
39. Lindsay Roy F.: **The Scottish Garhwal Himalayan Expedition**, 
IM n° 13, p. 68-73
vol. 15, p. 18-45
41. Longstaff Thomas G.: **Mountaineering in Garhwal**, AJ XXIV 
(1908/9), p. 107-133
42. Longstaff Tomas G.: **This my voyage**, London 1951
43. Lukes Zdenek: **Czechoslovaks over the sources of the Ganga** 
HJ vol. 37, p. 72-74
44. Maeda Fumihiro: **The South Face of Kedarnath Peak**, HJ 
vol.39, p. 51-54
45. Mandelli Gianmaria: **Kedarnath Peak South Face 1988**, HJ 
vol. 45, p. 186-188
BIBLIOGRAPHY

49. Mulasi S.P.: Hardeol, IM n 2, p. 22-34 and IM n°3, p. 2-18
51. Muni Divyesh: Nanda Khat 1987, HJ vol. 44, p. 185-186
54. Oliver Peter R.: Trisul 1933, AJ XLVI (1934), n°248, p. 142-146
57. Ranjit Lahiri: Auden’s Col, HJ vol. 40, p. 164-165
61. Roch André: Garhwal-Himalaya Expedition Suisse 1939, Neuchate-Paris 1940, V. Attinger
62. Roch André: Dunagiri, Gauri Parbat, Rataban and Chaunkhamba 1939, HJ vol. 12, p. 30-51
63. Roskelley: Nanda Devi the tragic expedition, Stackpole Books 1987
64. Rustom Antia: The first ascent of Manda 1981, HJ vol.39, p. 60-61

245
BIBLIOGRAPHY

67. Schweizerische Himalaya-Expedition 1947, Lohner-Sutter, BdW II (1947), P. 17-114
68. Scott D., English M.: The Indo-British Gangotri Expedition I IM n°8, p. 28-30
71. Shipton Eric E.: Nanda Devi, Hodder and Stoughton, 1936
72. Shipton Eric E.: Survey of the Nanda Devi District, AJ 49 nos 254 and 255, p. 27-40. see also HJ vol. 9
73. Singh V.P.: Bharte Khunta and Kedar Dome, IAF Mountaineering-cum-ski Expedition. IM n°3, p. 65-76
75. Smythe F.S.: Kamet Conquered, Gollancz, 1932
76. Smythe F.S.: The Kamet Expedition, AJ November 1931
77. Smythe F.S.: Garhwal 1937, AJ L(1938), n 256, p. 60-81
78. Smythe F.S.: The Valley of Flowers (1938)
79. Snelson Kenneth: The Panch Chuli and Darmaganga, HJ vol. 17, p. 97-100
81. Tews Christy: The first ascent of Bhrigupanth, IM n 7, p. 44-50
84. Tomas Juan: Spanish Bhagirathi 1984, IM n°15, p. 72-75
85. Tyson J.B.: Oxford University Expedition to Tehri-Garwal 1952, HJ vol. 18 (1954)

AAJ - American Alpine Journal
AJ - Alpine Journal
BdW - Berg der Welt
HJ - Himalayan Journal
IM - Indian Mountaineer

246
Dear climbers and trekkers,

A booklet

**GARHWAL HIMALAYA**

will be published soon!

7 USD + 1.0 USD (surface mail)

This publication contains an index of over six thousand meter peaks, some orographical sketch map and 15 panoramas. It will certainly be very valuable for those who wish to visit that region.

Order your copy now!

To JAN BABICZ ul. Bajana 5B/1, 80-463 Gdańsk, Poland

Please send me ......copy (s) of your booklet **GARHWAL HIMALAYA**

Name .................................. Street..............................................
City .................................. Zip .............................. Country ..............

I enclose bank draft, (M.O.) for USD ..............