

*Unnamed Peak Attempt, Khumbu Region.* In the last week of November 1994, Jeff Singer and Clay Patton of Durango, Colorado attempted an unclimbed peak in the Khumbu Region of Nepal. The peak is located just north of Renjo La and northwest of the town of Gokyo. Leaving the town of Gokyo, the small team was assisted by two porters. Sirdar Pemba Jabba stayed at basecamp to help with the morning and evening preparations. Our route was to follow mixed gullies on the east face and finish with the rocky east ridge and the 5941-meter summit. The lack of available daylight combined with intense cold and early afternoon storms forced us to abandon our attempt approximately 225 meters short of the summit. We graded the climbing to that point at WI 3/4 5.7.

JEFF SINGER, *unaffiliated*

*Ascents of Imje Tse and Ama Dablam.* We ascended Imje Tse (20,305 feet). The summit was reached by Don McIntyre, team leader, David Bridges, Mattie Thomson and Minga Dorje Sherpa. We then went on to ascend Ama Dablam (22,494 feet) via the Southwest Ridge, the summit of which was reached by John Cleary and David Bridges on April 25.

DONALD MACINTYRE, *unaffiliated*

*Cholatse, North Face.* Our expedition was composed of four French climbers (aged 21-26) selected by the French Mountaineering Federation (FFME): Boris Badaroux, Philippe Batoux, Marc Challamel, Christophe Mora and Paul Robach (leader). Searching for a challenging and unclimbed route, we were very excited to find the tremendous north face of Cholatse (6440 meters). We established Base Camp on October 9 at the bottom of the north face, about 100 meters below the Zonghla lodge. Our objective, a 1400-meter high wall with sustained ice and snow difficulties, was without serac danger. There was also enough snow in the lower part of the face. (Photographs show that in some years, the first third of the route is composed of rock slabs and poor ice.) After a week trekking for acclimatization, we started to climb, finding gullies (60° to 70°) of rotten snow or thin ice where we couldn't use ice screws. We were obliged to use deadmen or to dig the snow in order to find cracks to set pitons. Two hundred meters of fixed rope were left after this first reconnaissance. Over the next days, we fixed another 400 meters of rope. We followed a tremendous ramp in the middle of huge overhanging rock walls. In this section, we found steep slopes up to



85°, sometimes rotten. The highest point was at 5600 meters, where we left bivouac gear. After a few days of resting, we started on October 23 at 1 a.m. The climb along the 600 meters of fixed ropes took us seven hours and a lot of energy! From the altitude of 5600 meters, we climbed in alpine-style, in 100-meter pitches. We first crossed a large snowfield (60° to 70°) to the right, which led us at the bottom of a 100-meter high icefall (80° to 90°). When we reached a huge depression above the icefall leading to the north-west ridge, we stopped and spent several hours building an uncomfortable platform for two tents. On October 24, we started late in the morning, climbing a succession of steep ice-flutes under the northwest ridge. When night came, we got to a sharp ice-flute (70°) at the foot of vertical rock slabs, where we dug an unstable bivouac. On October 25, three of us took a full rest day, while the two others fixed a strenuous mixed pitch (IV+/75°) on the right of the rock wall. From this point, we were only 50 meters from the northwest ridge. The next day, we reached this sharp and aesthetic crest and followed it until we gained the summit of Cholatse at 1 p.m. We went down by the same route, finally reaching our uncomfortable bivouac at twilight. The following day, we abseiled the face, recovering all the fixed ropes.

PAUL ROBACH, *French Mountaineering Federation*

*Cholatse, Southwest Ridge, 1993 Solo Ascent.* I went to Nepal along with the 1993 American Cholatse team on September 23 (see AAJ 1994, page 218). After a few days of recovering from bronchitis and other problems at Base Camp I started the ascent of the route on October 18 following the lines that had been fixed by the team in previous acclimation ascents. I climbed directly from Advanced Base Camp II at 19,000 feet reaching this place at 2:30 p.m. after 14 hours. The last four pitches of this steep and exposed section were climbed without the use of a rope. On the next morning I followed the southwestern ridge, a 75° slope, to Camp III for five hours without the use of a rope. Because of the snow softening so much I decided to rest and rehydrate for an early morning summit attempt and meet with the other team members who were returning from a successful summit bit. On October 22 after a four-hour ascent I reached the summit at 21,129 feet at 11 a.m. This place was a knifeblade-type ridge whose steep faces fall 6,000 feet to the Cholatse lake on one side and toward the Taboche Glacier on the other. The tip of the summit was two feet wide facing east toward Thugla. I started my descent after 45 minutes, and reached Base Camp 12 hours later.

THOMAS HEINRICH