
KEN WILSON

Recent Himalayan History

The pace of activity on the great Himalayan peaks over the last three decades has been so great that keeping up with events and placing them in their true perspective is becoming increasingly difficult. We are now in a period akin to alpinism after the initial first-ascent surge that *AJ* editors like Percy Farrar and Edward Strutt chronicled so well. The columns of guided parties on Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn during the 19th century is now being repeated in the Himalaya and Karakoram by organised commercial groups. These seem to offer one of the few ways for ordinary climber and expert alike to overcome the pricing and access regulation that guards the great peaks. By this route thousands of people have now taken part in 'the Everest quest' together with hundreds on most of the other 8000m peaks. Recent books have sought to document all successful ascents. But now, to coin a phrase, 'It is difficult to see the wood for the trees' for those seeking to analyse the more innovative climbs.

In the following table dealing with the world's four highest massifs, I have attempted to do this. The *American Alpine Journal*, now the main publication of record, and the guidebooks of Jan Kielkowski have also painstakingly recorded events. These have been my main sources, together with *Japanese Alpine News* and the erstwhile *Iwa to Yuki* magazine. Lindsay Griffin's *Mountain Info* column, which has been preserved through the magazines *Mountain*, *High* and *Climb*, has also been useful but the failure to index it by the latter two publications makes its information harder to access. Apart from expedition accounts, or articles in the relevant journals (not forgetting the *Himalayan Journal*), periodic books have attempted the chronicling task. Mason's *Abode of Snow*, Dyhrenfurth's *To the Third Pole*, and the Swiss *Mountain World* series were fine earlier efforts. *World Atlas of Mountaineering* (Noyce and McMorrin) and *Himalaya Alpine Style* (Fanshawe and Venables) were two other useful sources. More recently, *On Top of the World* (Sale and Cleare) has made a very worthy contribution.

All sports try to identify top performance. In cricket the first class game is chronicled assiduously. The same should apply in climbing. At present Griffin's column and the magazine *Alpinist* are the only English language publications, both unindexed, that are trying to do this. It thus seemed timely for the *AJ* to make an attempt to record, compare and contrast events at high altitude. One hopes that the following (somewhat abbreviated) tabulation will form a basis for more considered analysis.

There may well be omissions, but I hope the key events will be found here. I am grateful to Jonathan Pratt, Andy Collins, Ian Parnell, Doug Scott, Pavle Kozjek, Jim Curran* and others for their help and advice.

* In his books *K2 Triumph and Tragedy* (Hodder 1987) and *K2 The Story of the Savage Mountain* (Hodder 1995).

THE HIGHEST PEAKS

NOTABLE ATTEMPTS / ASCENTS / REPEATS / TRENDS / INCIDENTS

- * Denotes the first ascent of an important new route.
- E/s Expedition style: large party using fixed camps/ropes to allow supply by support climbers and hired porters.
- L/s Lightweight style: a small team, all aiming to gain the summit, using some fixed camps/ropes.
- A/s Alpine style: small team or solo attempting a climb in one push or trying again after a failed push. Also summit solo attempts from an advanced position, often with broken trail, and rigged glacier hazards.
- S/a Challenging 'peak' solos with little or no advance preparation by others.
- (-b/ox) No bottled oxygen used (though sometimes taken for emergencies).
- + Indicates death, mainly on descent.

Bold type indicates important events or performances.

Medium type indicates other noteworthy climbs/performances.

A claim in italics indicates that it is unclear or awaiting further evidence or convincing debriefs.

All entries on satellite peaks of less than 8000m are in medium type.

EVEREST 8848m

1

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----|---|
| 1922-1938 | Everest N Ridge | E/s | Early Exps. of C G Bruce, H Rutledge. 1922: Bruce, Finch to 8320m; 1924: Norton (8575m), Somervell (8538m) both (-b/ox); Mallory+, Irvine+ to ?8570m. 1933: Wyn Harris, Wager, Smythe , (-b/ox) to c8575m. Also of note in 1924 was Odell's 3 days of support/search/rescue exertions at above 8000m. |
| 1952 | Everest SE Ridge | E/s | Lambert, Tenzing of R Dittert's 8-man Exp (plus a cadre of h/a Sherpas). To 8540m on the SE Ridge after a night in a tent without sleeping bags. |
| 1953 | * Everest SE Ridge | E/s | 1st ascent: Hillary, Tenzing , members of J Hunt's Exp. The South Summit was reached a few days earlier by Bourdillon and Evans. Success achieved after 9 full E/s attempts and 3 L/s bids. |
| 1955 | Everest SE Ridge | E/s | 2nd ascent: Schmied, Marmet and (next day) by Reist and Von Gnten, of A Egger's Exp that had earlier made the 1st ascent of Lhotse. |
| 1960 | * (?) Everest N Ridge | E/s | Wang Fu-Chou, Gombu, Qu Yin Hua , members of Shih-Chan-chun's large, well-trained Chinese Exp. For years thought a propaganda-linked claim. Post cold war debriefs by a range of experts placed 4 bivouacking below the 3rd Step and reported cogent accounts of a summit climb thereafter. |
| 1963 | * Everest W Ridge / N Couloir | E/s | Hornbein, Unsoeld , leaders of a small party within N Dyhrenfurth's large US Exp that climbed the peak by the SE Ridge (Whittacker, Gombu). 3 weeks later H and U traversed the summit (up the 'Hornbein Couloir' and down the SE Ridge) to link up with Bishop and Jerstad who had climbed the SE Ridge. All four survived a bivouac, though some with serious frostbite. |
| 1963-1973 | SE Ridge ascents | E/s | Exps in 1963 (US), 1965 (Indian), 1970, 1973 (Japanese), 1973 (Italian) put 27 climbers on the summit. Several other Exps in the same period. |

1963-1973	SE Ridge ascents (continued)	E/s	Couloir left of the Geneva Spur (an important variant) was climbed by Ito, Sagawa and Yoshikawa , members of H Matsukata's and H Ohtsuka's 1970 Exp.
1975	Everest SE Ridge	E/s	J Tabei (1st fem asc), Ang Tsering of Mrs E Hisano's Exp.
1975	* (?) Everest N Ridge	E/s	Phantog (2nd fem asc), Norbu, Lotse, Samdrup, Pasang, Togygal, Khyen (Tibetans), Ho Sheng Fu (Chinese). Possible 1st ascent of route after 9 previous attempts – the 1924 bid is thought an unlikely 1st and 1960 is now thought a probable 1st.
1975	* Everest SW Face	E/s	Haston, Scott (with S Summit bivouac); Boardman, Pertemba , Burke+ (probable solo ascent), members of C Bonington's 24-man Exp. After 5 previous attempts, the left-hand gully through the rock band proved the key. The bivouac was influential. Repeats in 1988 (1 to top, 3 to S summit, all+), 1992 (6), 1993 (6), 1995 (3) all E/s.
1978	Everest SE Ridge	E/s	Messner, Habeler 1st asc without bottled oxygen (-b/ox) by members of W Nairz's conventional Exp (using oxygen).
1979	* Everest W Ridge Direct	E/s	Stremfelj, Zaplotnik, Belak, Bozik, Ang Phu + – members of T Skarje's Exp that crossed the Lho La and climbed left of the avalanche-threatened W Shoulder face that devastated the 1974 French Exp. Snow caves were used at key points with much hard climbing higher up.
1980	Everest SW Face	E/s	1st winter ascent:: Cichy, Wielicki on A Zawada's 16-man Exp.
1980	Everest N Ridge	E/s	Kato of H Wanatabe's 39-strong Exp soloed the peak from the highest camp, having previously climbed the SE Ridge (with Ishiguro) in 1973.
1980	* Everest N Face, Hornbein Couloir Direct	E/s	Osaki, Shigehiro – of a 12-man team led by H Miyashita climbing from the E Rongbuk glacier using a slanting left-hand start and much fixed rope.
1980	* Everest South Pillar		Czok, Kukuczka of A Zawada's Exp. Direct to South Summit from Western Cwm.
1980	* Everest N Face	A/s S/a (-b/ox)	Messner's 1st solo ascent of peak using a low traverse to the Great Couloir. A complete solo with no other groups present and a risky glacier approach.
1982	* Everest SW Face Central Pillar	E/s	Balyberdin, Myslovski; Bershov, Turkevich; Ivanov, Yefimov, Krishchaty, Valle, Khomutov, Golodov, Puchkov, Tamm , members of Y Tamm's Exp. By the rock spur L of SW Face, using rolling seige style as on Lhotse (1990) and Everest (2005).
1983	* Everest Kangshung Face	E/s	Buhler, Momb, Reichardt; Cassell, Lowe, Reid of J Morrissey's 14-man Exp.
1984	* Everest S Pillar (-b/ox)	E/s	Demjan, Psotka+, A Rita . Left line of face.
1984	* Everest N Face, Great Couloir	E/s	Mortimer, McCartney-Snape , with Henderson (to 50m below the summit) – of G Bartrum's 5-man Exp by a direct line right and in Great Couloir (-b/ox).
1984	Everest N Face/Great Couloir	E/s	Erschler (solo) from a 3-man bid (with limited oxygen) by L Whittacker's 10-strong Exp. By Messner's 1980 line but N Col gained from the E Rongbuk glacier.
1985	Everest SE Ridge disaster		Kumar+, Bakshi+, Negi+, Bahuguna+, Rao+ of Brig J Singh's Indian Army Exp. Kumar fell below the S Summit; exhaustion/cold killed the others on the S Col.
1986	Everest N Face, Hornbein Couloir Direct	A/s	2nd ascent of route. Loretan, Troillet (supported by Béghin) 2-day ascent (-b/ox) by main couloir at night to a snowhole. Resting/rehydrating in daytime warmth. Solo bids by Marshall (July 86 to 7700m; June 87 to 8000m). 1991: Gyalbu, Norbu (2nd asc). Cronland (1st solo) All (-b/ox)
1987	Everest N Face Hornbein Couloir Direct	A/s	Béghin, Garido (-b/ox) – a more direct 'attempt' with a succession of steep sections up to 70° (a technical climb at altitude).

- 1988 * Everest S Col (Kangshung side) L/s **Anderson, Teare, Webster** (to col), **Venables** to summit (-b/ox).
E/s repeats in 1988 (4 climbers, all +) (to Summit or S Summit) 1992 (6), 1993 (6), 1995 (3).
- 1988-1995 Everest SW Face
- 1988-1996 * Everest N Face of NE Shoulder L/s
3 new lines by American and Japanese teams (1988) and Russians (1996):
* **Blanchard, Twight**. Starting in the centre, finish near the top of N Ridge.
* **Hasegawa, Koshino**. Well right of the previous route, also exiting on N Ridge.
* **Kohanov, Kuznetsov, Semikolenkov, Bakaleinikov, Zakharov** to NE Shoulder.
- 1990 Everest S Ridge E/s **Commercial Exps develop**. Organiser/guides offer supported ascents to paying clients. Of 72 ascents in 1990, 21 (30%) were from such groups and of 117 in the pre-monsoon of 1999 there were 43 (37%).
- 1991 Everest E Face R/h Rib (Fantasy Ridge) E/s Japanese to 6400m, and an Indian/Nepal attempt to 6900m in 2002.
- 1993 Everest SW Face E/s **1st winter asc: Nazuka, Gotoh; Tanabe, Ezuka; Ogata, Hoshino** of K Yagihara's 9-man Exp. A 1992 bid by the same group reached 8350m.
- 1995 Everest NE Ridge *Integrale* * (Everest's longest route) E/s **Nima Dorje, Furuno, Imoto, Pasang Kami, Lhakpa Nuru, Dawa Tsering** – members of T Kansaki's Exp completing the work of Exps in 1982 (Boardman+, Tasker+ A/s to the pinnacles), 1985, and 1988 (**Bryce, Taylor** to NE Shoulder) and (1990) to 8700m by M Perry's Exp.
- 1995 Everest N Ridge/NE Ridge L/s S/a **A Hargreaves** (f) **1st female solo** (self-sufficient ascent – climbing/camping alone above Advanced Base but with many others on the mountain). An earlier SE Ridge solo claim by L Brady may not have reached the summit.
- 1997 Everest SE Ridge and N Ridge E/s J Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* described the hopes/ambitions of a commercial expedition on which 4 of its 8 members died in a storm.
- 2001-2007 Sundry 'record' ascents: fastest/youngest/oldest, men/women, first ski descent summit to Khumbu base without removing skis. These 'feat' ascents/descents grew common. Snowboard descents (tragedies) on the N side followed. First helicopters landed on the South Col and the summit (2005) recalling the first Everest flight (1933), balloon crossings (1992) and a paraglider descent (1988).
- 2005 * Everest North Buttress Direct E/s **Mariev, Shabalin, Tukhvatullin; Kuznetsov, Sokolov, Vinogradsky; Bobov, Volodin**.
3 teams summit over 3 days to complete a rigged (mainly rock) route. Steeper terrain on final band turned on left.

K2 / CHOGIRI 8611m

2

The steepness of K2 and lack of suitable porters tended to discourage bottled-oxygen use on the S side.

Notable early bids: 1938 (route-finding problems on Abruzzi resolved); 1939 (going high on difficult ground)

- 1954 * K2/Chogiri SE Rib (Abruzzi Spur) E/s **1st ascent: Lacedelli, Compagnoni**, members of A Desio's 18-man Exp. Controversial because of frost-bite injuries to a porter during the summit bid blamed on Bonatti's alleged summit ambition. He accused the lead climbers of placing their last camp too high to be reached by support climbers in daylight.

1976	K2/Chogiri NE Ridge	<i>E/s</i>	Chrobak, Wroz – members of J Kurczab's 19-man Exp reached 8400m on a direct attempt. Powerful, near successful, bid by a strong team.
1977	K2/Chogiri SE Rib (Abruzzi Spur)	<i>E/s</i>	2nd ascent: Nakamura, Shigehiro, Takatsuka; Hiroshima, Aman, Onodera, Yamamoto from I Yoshizawa's and T Matsuura's Exp.
1975	K2/Chogiri NW Ridge	<i>E/s</i>	Whittacker, Patterson, Wickwire of J Whittacker's 11-strong Exp reached 6600m on the hard, pinnacled ridge above the Savoia Saddle (bypassed on later attempts).
1978	* K2/Chogiri NE Ridge/Abruzzi	<i>E/s</i>	Wickwire, Reichardt; Roskelly, Ridgeway. 2nd new route on peak. Success over 2 days (on the Abruzzi finish) after attempts on the 1976 Polish Route failed (avalanche risk). Wickwire bivouacked (safely) 150m below the top after taking summit photos. Minimal oxygen used by both teams.
1979	K2/Chogiri SE Rib (Abruzzi Spur)	<i>L/s</i>	Messner, Dacher. First (-b/ox) ascent of the peak.
1981	* K2/Chogiri W Ridge	<i>E/s</i>	Sabir, Ohtani – members of T Matsuura's 17-strong Exp added a 3rd new route on the peak. Attempted by UK teams in 1978 (<i>E/s</i>) and 1980 (<i>L/s</i>). The ridge was avoided by a rising line on its right flank to join the SSW Ridge.
1982	* K2/Chogiri N Ridge	<i>E/s</i>	-Sakashita, Yoshino, Yanagisawa +; Takami, Kawamura; Shigeno, Kamaru (a day later), members of I Shinkai and M Konishi's 14-member Exp (-b/ox). The 4th new route on the mountain.
1982	K2/Chogiri SE Rib (Abruzzi Spur)	<i>E/s</i>	Women's Exp led by W Rutkiewicz aborted (7100m) on Halina Kruger's death.
1983	K2/Chogiri N Ridge	<i>L/s</i>	Da Polenza, Rakoncaj. First repeat of 1982 route by F Santon's Exp (-b/ox). Martini, Stefani summited 5 days later. All were aided by 1982 fixed rope.
1986	K2/Chogiri SE Ridge	<i>L/s</i>	W Rutkiewicz (-b/ox), L Barrard+ (1st female ascents) with M Barrard+ and M Parmentier (-b/ox). The Barrards disappeared on the descent.
1986	K2/Chogiri SE Ridge (Abruzzi Spur)	<i>E/s</i>	Chamoux climbed the route in 23 hrs, aided by ropes and camps in place.
1986	* K2/Chogiri S Ridge	<i>A/s</i>	Kukuczka, Pietrowski+ (of K Herrligkoffer's Exp) completed a hard, committing climb (-b/ox). On descent to rejoin team members, Pietrowski, dehydrated and unroped, fell on ice when crampons loosened.
1986	K2/Chogiri SSW Ridge (‘The Magic Line’)	<i>S/a A/s</i>	Casarotto+ Solo attempt to 8300m near end of the technicalities. Fatally injured in crevasse fall (on known ground) during the descent. A bold attempt.
1986	* K2/Chogiri SSW Ridge (‘The Magic Line’)	<i>E/s</i>	Wroz+, Piasecki, Bozik of J Majer's Exp completed a hard climb (attempted by 3 earlier groups). Wroz fell from fixed ropes above the Shoulder.
1986	* K2 SSE Ridge (to shoulder only)	<i>S/a</i>	Cesen, completing line nearly done by D Scott's 1983 Exp. This (with the Abruzzi finish) may be the easiest line to the summit for <i>A/s</i> teams. * Done <i>E/s</i> in 1994. <i>Reservations re Cesen's claims apply pending full debrief.</i>
1986	K2/Chogiri Sundry routes		13 deaths in 1986. Intense summit ambition. Many teams tackling too few routes; over-extended groups descending the Abruzzi seeking support from other teams. These factors developed into situations that, when combined with storms that afflict the SE flank, ensnared an assortment of, mostly, very experienced climbers.
1991	* K2/Chogiri NW Face	<i>L/s</i>	Imamura, Nazuka members of T Ueki's Exp climbed the Chinese side of the Savoia Saddle to link up with the 1982 Polish route on the north flank of the NW Ridge to join the Japanese route to finish. (-b/ox)

1991	* K2/Chogiri NW Face / N Ridge	A/s	Béghin, Profit complete the 1982 NW Face line to the N Ridge finish across the avalanche-prone high glacier. (-b/ox)
1993	K2/Chogiri, W Ridge	E/s then L/s	Mazur, Pratt , leaders of a 10-man climbing/trekking Exp, complete 2nd ascent of the 1981 Japanese/Pakistani route – a sustained mixed climb.
1994	* K2 SSE Rib/Abruzzi route	L/s	J Oiarzabal's team: A and F Inurrategui, de Pablo, Gutierrez (pre-preparation to Camp 2) climbed the peak in 4 days by the line tried in 1981 (Y Seigneur's Exp), pushed A/s to 100m below Shoulder by D Scott's Exp in 1983, and completed to the Shoulder by <i>Cesen</i> (1986).
1993-1995	K2 Deaths on the Abruzzi route		Culver+, Joswig+, Bidner+ ('93), Pazkhomenko+, Izagin-Zake+, Kzaldin+ ('94), Escartin+, Oliver+, Hargreaves (f)+, Grant+, Slater+, Angles+ ('95). 13 deaths in 3 seasons, mainly from mishaps on the final summit push.
2001-2003	Political / topographical problems		After July 2001 there was a break in activity because of 9/11 and the wars that followed. In addition, a sérac fall from above the bottleneck created difficulties.
2004	K2/Chogiri SSW Ridge	E/s	Corominas. 2nd ascent of route. Soloed from 8300m with support to that point by Cadiach and De la Matta+ (died of appendicitis at Camp 1).
2004	K2 statistics		7 deaths / 48 ascents during the year. 246 ascents / 61 deaths to Jan 2004.

KANGCHENJUNGA MASSIF 8598m

3

Kangchenjunga Main 8598, Central 8496m (the 5th highest peak) and South 8476m

Early Indian listings of peaks referred to Kangchenjunga Central as South and as the 5th highest peak, with Yalung Kang as the 7th. Yet no doctrine has yet taken hold to systematize these figures. Instead, a loose consensus has come to be accepted, based more on the 'look' of a peak than anything more precise. The col depth of Lhotse, for instance, is 588m, while that of Kangchenjunga Central/South is 218m. We can thus anticipate new bouts of mountain pedantry (doubtless under the UIAA's aegis) as climbers in ever larger numbers take on this challenging (and expensive) form of peak-bagging.

1955	* Kangchenjunga SW Face (Yalung)	E/s	1st ascent: Band, Brown; Hardie, Streather (on successive days), members of C Evans' Exp that succeeded after seven earlier attempts.
1977	* Kangchenjunga NE Spur/N Ridge	E/s	2nd ascent: Chand, N Dorje , completing climb first tried on 1929 and 1931 Exps led by P Bauer.
1978	* Kangchenjunga South and Central	E/s	Chrobak, Wroz (South), Branski, Heinrich, Olech (Central). 1st ascents by members of P Molteki's Exp. The summits were linked * Central to Main (Koroteav, Mozaev, Pastuk, 1989), South to Central (Mitan, Wada, 1984).
1979	* Kangchenjunga N Spur/W Ridge	L/s	Scott, Tasker, Boardman: 3rd ascent , with Bettembourg in support. The avalanche risk of the N Face was avoided by the N Col couloir. A safer way to the ridge by the buttress right of the couloir was done by J Roskelley's 1985 Exp, two other routes on the right having been done in 1980 and 1983.
1980	* Kangchenjunga NW Face Direct	E/s	Fukada, Kawarura, Ang Phurba, Sakashita, Suzuki. 4th ascent with 5 others, reaching the top 3 days later. They took a direct way through the Three Terraces, previously tried (with a fatality) in 1930. Technically easier (but more avalanche-threatened) than the 1979 route via the N Col.

1981	Kangchenjunga NW/W Face (N or NW Ridges)		Exps in 1981 (US), 1982 (Italian/German – L/s ascent by Messner, Mutschlechner, A Dorje by 'N Ridge to join 1977 Chand/Dorje route.
1983	Kangchenjunga SW Face	S/a	Béghin. 1st solo ascent alone on a long, heavily crevassed route. An earlier solo by Bachler (E/s) was a one-day push from the highest camp. Marshall (In 1984) shadowed Polish/French Yalung Kang teams lower on the face (reducing glacier risk) to a camp by the Sickle for his final summit bid.
1986	Kangchenjunga SW Face	E/s	1st winter ascent. Kucuczka, Wielecki. Members of A Machnik's Exp.
1987	Kangchenjunga NE Spur/ N Ridge	E/s	2nd ascent of route (-b/ox). Tsering+, Butia+, Dorje+ of Maj Gen Kuketry's 62-man Indian Army Exp failed to return from their ascent. Bhawan Singh, Limbo and Chander Singh+ repeated the climb; the latter fell on descent.
1989	Kangchenjunga (all 8000m summits) (inc Yalung Kang from the Yalung glacier)	E/s	Bershov, Bukreev, Vinogradsky, Pogorelov, Turkevich (W to S); Elagin, Lunyakov, Khalitov, Balyberdin, Korotaev (S to W) of E Myslovsky's 32-strong Exp. They linked the summits, each team doing the climb in two days.
1991	Kangchenjunga SW Ridge	A/s	Stremfelj, Prezelj (-b/ox) by a long, technical, demanding route, to S summit but utilizing some fixed rope from earlier Exps, with support via Hogsback Peak teams on the <i>Original Route</i> and having a mid-height escape option onto the Great Shelf.
1995	Kangchenjunga SW Face	E/s	8000m peak-baggers had mixed success: Loretan and Troilet (not an 8000m aspirant) reached the top by a W Ridge finish, Loretan thus becoming the 3rd 'completer'. They descended safely. The slower Chamoux+ and Royer+, after radio messages, bivouacked and were never seen again. Earlier, Riko+, one of their 3 Sherpa porters, fell from the gangway. The French climbers, intent on the 'feat', failed to assist, prompting the same response (next day) from the Sherpas.
1998	Kangchenjunga N Spur/W Ridge	L/s	G Harrison. 1st female ascent , with Pratt, Horvath and Shaw. (Earlier attempts by Bremer Kampf, Frantar+ and Rutkiewicz+ ended tragically.)

YALUNG KANG 8420m

Kangchenjunga W Summit. The 7th highest peak

1973	* Yalung Kang SW Face	E/s	1st ascent: Ageta, Matsuda + of H Higuchi's Exp.
1975	* Yalung Kang SW Face	E/s	Dacher, Lackner, Walter ; and six others from S Aeberli's Exp in the following days. Direct from Great Shelf of Yalung glacier.
1980	Yalung Kang SW Face	E/s	Saldana+, Medina+ of J Casanova's 9-man Exp disappeared after summiting.
1981	Yalung Kang N Face	L/s	Attempt to 8000m by Chandler+ & Bremer Kampf (f).
1984	* Yalung Kang SW Face (S Face Direct from the Hump by Yalung valley)	E/s	Cichy, Piasecki – members of T Karolczak's Exp. Hard mixed climbing on a 1500m buttress (by Karolczak and Wroz). Summit gained 3 days later.
1985	* Yalung Kang (by the E Ridge from the N Face)	E/s	Bergant+ (-b/ox), Cesen (+b/ox) of T Skarje's 14-man Exp by a route from the Upper Snowfield of the N Face. Bergant slipped while waiting to abseil during descent. At night, in the crevassed upper snowfield, Cesen avoided a risky descent and a cold bivouac by pacing out a ledge between crevasses. A later search provided no clue as to where Bergant lay. Skarje's AAJ report and Cesen's O'Connel interview differ in some respects.

KHUMBHAKARNA (JANNU) 7710m

Important Kangchenjunga satellite peak. 47th in the listings

(Kangbachen (7903m) and Gimmigela Chuli (7350m), high satellites of lesser difficulty, are not included.)

1962	* Khumbhakarna	E/s	1st ascent: Desmaison, Keller, Gyalzen Michung, Paragot; Bertrand, Bouvier, Leroux, Pollet-Villard, Ravier, Terray, Wangdi.
1978	Khumbhakarna	A/s	2nd ascent: Rouse, Carrington, Baxter-Jones, Hall generally by the 1st ascent route to the vicinity of the summit.
1976	Khumbhakarna N Face	E/s	Ogawa, Sakashita, Suzuki, plus 9 others over 4 days, to complete the route attempted by a NZ team in 1975.
1982/1987	Khumbhakarna N Face	L/s	Two exps led by P Béghin attempted the steep mixed 1987 ground right of the Japanese Route, but were forced to finish by that route (Béghin, Décamp).
1982	* Khumbhakarna SW Spur	E/s	Roche, Jurjon, Fillon of H Sigayret's 8-strong Exp, following attempts in 1979, when I Galfy's Exp reached 150m below the summit, and in 1981, when Martis, Chrenka and Spanik of A Blazej's Exp reached 100m below the top, and then Bakos and Galfy reached the summit by a finish up the French Route.
1989	* Khumbhakarna (Jannu) N Face/E Ridge	A/s	S/a Cesen. A sustained/technical ice and rock route up ground tried by French inc L flank of summit headwall. No plausible account of this is available.
1992	* Khumbhakarna East (7468m) E Face	A/s	Pockar, Furlan to 7100m on the SE Ridge. This face has since had several attempts, none getting higher than the Pockar/Furlan bid.
2004	* Khumbhakarna N Face	E/s	Ruchkin, Pavlenko; Totmyanin, Kirievsky, Borisov of A Odintsov's 11-man Exp direct up summit headwall. Their 2003 attempt reached 7200m.

LHOTSE 8516m

4

Lhotse Middle 8414m Lhotse Shar 8382m

1954	Lhotse and Lhotse Shar	E/s	N Dyhrenfurth's 7-man team probed Lhotse Shar's S Face then, from W Cwm, attempted W Face. Senn, backed by Spohel, gained foot of W Couloir (8109m).
1955	* Lhotse W Face	E/s	1st ascent: Luchsinger, Reiss of Eggler's 11-man Exp. They climbed the 50° W Couloir. Later, the Exp placed 2 teams on Everest's summit.
1970	* Lhotse Shar, S Ridge/SW Face	E/s	1st ascent: Mayerl, Walter of S Aeberli's 7-man Exp by a route pushed to 8000m by Iguchi and Matsuura of H Yoshikawa's Exp. In Indian listings this 8400m peak rates the 7th highest in the world (86m col depth). The twin-peaked Lhotse Middle (8410m) has a 66m col depth.
1971	Lhotse S Face	E/s	R Uchida's 13-man Exp gained 7317m.
1974	Lhotse, Lhotse Shar, E Ridge	E/s	Officially attempting Lhotse by the long/serious E Ridge, Warth, Diemberger (of a 4-man Exp) climbed * Shartse II (7503m) with 5 camps, from Barun glacier.
1975	Lhotse S Face	E/s	An experienced 13-man Exp team led by R Cassin was hit by avalanches while tackling ramp line well to the left (to 7400m) judging the centre too risky.
1977	Lhotse S Face	E/s	A similar line to the Cassin attempt climbed to 7804m by K Makei's Exp but foiled by deep snow.
1977	Lhotse W Face	E/s	2nd ascent: Warth, Von Kanel, Urkein; Zinti, Sturm, Vogler; G Schmatz (ldr), S and P Worgotter, Dacher (-b/ox), Lutz+ , the latter found dead at the foot of the face after falling on the couloir descent.
1980	Lhotse S Face / SE Ridge	A/s S/a	N Jaeger+ after attempting the S Face, transferring to the Lhotse Shar route in a bid to traverse to Everest's S Col. Last seen moving upwards on SE Ridge.

1981	Lhotse S Face (central line)	E/s	Podgornik, Stremfelj, Zaplotnik gain 8250m on edge R of summit buttress. Matijevic, Kenez reach 8100m on W Ridge above the Lhotse/Nuptse Col (W Cwm full of mist) – members of A. Kunaver's 22-man Exp that spent 2 months on this very dangerous face placing 6 camps (several in snow holes) avoiding casualties despite employing full expedition relay tactics.
1981	Lhotse Shar S Ridge / SE Ridge	E/s	Xabier Erro's 4-man team got to 7550m on unclimbed S Ridge. 2nd ascent: Hauser, Bruchez of J Fauchere's 14-man team. Petten+, Favez+, fell down S Face after failed attempt. Fauchere+ fell on the return trek.
1984	* Lhotse Shar, SW Face	E/s	Demjan (supported by three others): Bozik, Rakoncaj, Stejskal of I Galfy's 18-man Exp climbed the face (initially rock, then snow/ice, mixed on final spur).
1985	Lhotse S Face, R Dihedral	A/s	Fine, Fauquet to 7200m on rib right of 1981 line quit after seeing Holda+ fall.
1985	Lhotse/Lhotse Shar S Face (r/h line)	E/s	Dasel, Flut, Hajzer of J Majer's Exp gained 8200m on the right flank of Lhotse's summit buttress after a Lhotse Shar S Face start. Holda+ fell down Central Couloir while descending (with Kukuczka). Kukuczka, Majer, Falco-Sasal, Fine (of the French team) reached 8050m. The accounts by the AAJ and Kuczka differ on some facts.
1986	Lhotse W Face	E/s then L/s	Messner , Kammerlander. Messner was first to climb the fourteen 8000m peaks. Kukuczka repeated the feat a year later with a new route on Shishapangma.
1988	Lhotse W Face	E/s then L/s	First winter ascent: Wielicki soloed the couloir from a prepared route. A Zawada's Exp reached 8321m in 1974 but permit dates forced them to quit on Dec 31.
1988	Lhotse S Face (with the Lhotse Shar start)	E/s	Kukuczka+ (with Pawlowski) on gaining the summit ridge at c 8350m fell (cornice break?) and broke the rope being used (for belaying or fixing).
1990	Lhotse S Face	A/s S/a	<i>Cesen claims 4-day solo completion of route taken to 8250m by compatriots in 1981. Cesen articles (Mountain 134, AAJ 1991) and lecture photos/accounts prompted queries about this very advanced claim. The Russians concluded: 'he nearly made it'. Hard climbing later found on summit ridge. Thorough debriefs now needed.</i>
1990	* Lhotse S Face, R Dihedral The line taken followed the right rib of the Dihedral (see topo in <i>Mountain 147</i>)	E/s	Bershov, Karatayev, of A Shevchenko's 20-man team , completed the line first tried A/s in 1985 by Fine and Fauquet. 6 camps were placed and much fixed rope used, and left. The final part, from a snow cave (8300m), on rock thinly covered with snow, had sustained difficulties (UIAA V, VI). Ridge crest dangerously corniced. Summit reached at 7pm. Camp regained after 22 hours. Climbers exhausted – shepherded down by support climbers.
1990	Lhotse S Face, Central Couloir	A/s	Profit, Béghin climbed to 7600m where a storm forced a retreat.
2001	* Lhotse Middle, N Face (from the Khumbu, South Col approach)	E/s	1st ascent of world's highest unclimbed peak (8414m). Timofeev, Bolotov, Kuznetsov, Vinogradsky; Koshlenko, Gilin, Sokolov, Yanochkin, Volodin of V Kozlov's 11-man group. Climbed by the Kangshung flank of the N Ridge, then across avalanche-prone slopes to climb the snow-plastered final rock tower.
2006	* Lhotse S Face (central line)	E/s	Tanabe, Yamaguchi, Ngawang Tenzi Sherpa of N Onoe's 8-man Exp (plus 18 h/a Sherpas) gained the summit ridge at 8475m some 200m horizontally, 41m below summit, a serious traverse (partly climbed by Bershov, Karatayev, 1990). The climbers took the 1981 route up the Central Buttress, then traversed down right to the R Dihedral. Here the 2001 fixed ropes led up to a 20m wall turned on the left by fragile climbing to gain the near-level ridge crest. After their attempts (2001, 2003) they here considered the 'Face' climbed.