

British Far West Nepal Expedition 2015

Supported by:
Berghaus
Mount Everest Foundation

Approved by the British
Mountaineering Council

Acknowledgements

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Financial Assistance and Equipment

Berghaus
Mount Everest Foundation

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Aims of the Expedition

- 1 To make the first ascent of Gave Ding (6,571m) in the Changla Himal of north west Nepal, via the north face. And to continue to the summit of Lachama Chuli if practical.
- 2 To explore other possibilities on surrounding peaks.

The Team

Mick Fowler (59) British. Civil Servant. Leader.

Regular climber in the greater ranges since 1982. Notable expeditions include Taulliraju South Buttress (Peru), West Face of Ushba North (Caucasus), Spantik North West Pillar (Pakistan), AkSu North Face (Kyrgyzstan), Hunza Peak (Pakistan), Cerro Kishtwar North West Face (India), Taweche North East Pillar (Nepal), Arwa Tower North West face (India), Mt Kennedy North Buttress (Yukon), Siguniang North West Face (Sichuan), Kajaqiao West Face (Tibet), Manamcho NW ridge (Tibet), Sulamar North Face (Xinjiang), West face of Gojung/Mugu Chuli (West Nepal), Prow of Shiva(India), Kishtwar Kailash (India), Hagshu NE Face (India)

Paul Ramsden (46) British. Health and Safety Consultant

Extensive rock climbing and mountaineering experience in Europe, Middle East, Africa, North America, South America, Asia and the Antarctic. First winter ascents of Cerro Poincenot and Aig Guillaumet. Winter ascent Fitzroy Supercouloir, New routes on Jebel Misht (Oman), Thunder Mountain (Alaska), Siguniang NW Face (Sichuan), Manamcho (Tibet), Sulamar North Face (Xinjiang) , Prow of Shiva(India), Kishtwar Kailash (India). Hagshu NE Face (India).

Steve Burns (59) British. Computer Analyst (retired).

Climbing for 30 years. Numerous alpine trips including three in winter. Climbs include Walker Spur and North Face of Les Droites. Winter climbing at Grade V and has led E5 rock. Three Himalayan trips to Kwangde Lho (twice) and Paldor and also Point 5935 in the Nyachangtangler East – Tibet in 2007., Shakkar Peak (India)

Ian Cartwright (53) British. Formula One Engineer.

Climbing over 20 years. UK Climbing to grade V and E1. Mountaineering experience in Norway, New Zealand, Switzerland, France, Equador and Nepal. Three Himalayan trips; Paldor (1996) and attempts on Kwangde Lho in 1999 and 2001. Point 5935 in the Nyachangtangler East – Tibet in 2007., Shakkar Peak (India)

Introduction

Gave Ding 6571m is in the Humla district of Western Nepal and is to the east of the Dojam / Chuwa Khola valley up which is a trail into Tibet – used for local salt trade apparently. A side valley – the Lacham Khola - gives access to the peak and surrounding area. The mountain was unclimbed and the area has been very

little explored though in 2011 an expedition led by Julian Freeman-Attwood explored the valley on the south side of the mountain and information from this trip proved invaluable. Gave Ding is not the highest in the region – this being Lachama Chuli (6721m) which lies to the east of Gave Ding and is connected to it by a long ridge. Apart from Freeman-Attwood the only known visit to this area was a Japanese womens expedition in 1983 who were unsuccessful on Lachama Chuli. It has since had one ascent from the eastern (Tibetan) side.

Preparation

Arrangements were made through Royal Mountain Travel in Kathmandu for permits and internal transport and also to arrange the cook / sirdar – this would be Prem Tamang who knew the area having been the cook/sirdar on the Freeman-Attwood expedition. Travel via road was arranged to Nepalgunj in the west then flights to Simikot in the Humla district from where the 4 – 5 day walk would begin

Rinjin at Simikot is a highly recommended ‘Mr Fixit’ and he arranged mules, kerosene and gas for us.

Useful contacts:

Mahesh at Royal Mountain Travel: maresh.artix@royalmt.com.np

Prem Tamang: nirkajit333@hotmail.com

Rinjin (Simikot): rinjnlama31@yahoo.com

Timing

The team arrived in Delhi on 31st October and base camp was reached on the 6th October. A further 18 days were spent at or above base camp. The weather was largely good – in fact very warm at Simikot initially. However it did get very cold at altitude – colder than we had previously experienced. In retrospect it was thought that a mid September start may have been better – though typically October and November are cited as being the best time for the more popular areas further east in Nepal

Travel

Air India flight from Heathrow to Kathmandu with a change over at Delhi.

Arriving at Kathmandu in the morning of the 1st October we were met by Royal Mountain Travel and made final arrangements at their offices and also got the necessary permits from the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

The non arrival of Paul’s baggage caused some delay (and anxiety) but they duly turned up at the airport at about 4pm and allowed us to proceed immediately on the 14 hour drive to Nepalgunj in south west Nepal. We arrived there just in time to catch the 8am flight to Simikot. This flight was only 45 minutes or so and here we were met by Rinjin who had arranged gas and mules for our trek. Somewhat tired, we were thankful to spend the rest of the day resting at Rinjin’s house in order to start the trek next morning.

Over the following 4 days we trekked east with 16 mules then north up the Dojam / Chuwa Khola – a beautiful valley – even more so when descending 3 weeks later with trees in full autumn colour. The first night’s stop was just above Dojam – the last village on the route. Higher up beyond the tree line at about 4000m the Lacham Khola valley runs in from the east and we camped for the third night in a wide open area in the lower valley with the larger peaks – Lachama Chuli and Gave Ding now visible.

The following day we went up the valley and took the left fork (the right – southern branch was the one explored by Freeman Attwood). We had hoped to reach base camp at a glacial lake at 5000m but it soon became apparent that the terminal moraines we encountered further up the valley were too much for the

mules (which did get through some impressively rough territory) and we would have to settle for a base camp below the moraines at about 4600m and some distance west of the peaks. But it was a pleasant spot on grass by a clear stream.

The mules and mule men departed next day. Remaining with us at base camp was Prem Tamang his son Lhakpa and also Chiring our porter.

Account of the expedition

Acclimatisation

After a rest day at base camp - all 4 members set off on a 5 day acclimatisation trip, the initial objective being to reach the glacial lake where we had hoped to make base camp. This was reached via an intermittent shepherd's path along an ablation valley on the north side of the Lacham glacier. Lhakpa and Chiring helped us carry kit for a gear dump here. Stunning views of the peaks on the opposite side – particularly of Gave Ding and also Lachama Chuli. Being as very little information had been available beforehand it was a relief to Fowler and Ramsden to find that the north side of Gave Ding sported an inspiring line free of objective dangers.

The glacial lake was about 5000m but we struggled to locate a flat area for our two small tents so a base camp here could have been problematic. There was no snow but murky glacial water was obtained from the lake outflow. Next day we tried to follow the valley further east to get as high as possible but a significant problem was the lack of snow cover – the whole area on this northern side of the glacier was extremely dry – the glacier itself was largely covered in dry rubble. Basically no water source for us – we turned back to the glacial lake and traversed the eastern shore and into the northern branch of the valley – also snowless but a stream flowing down into the lake at least provided a water source (albeit murky and glacial) for a second night's camp – but we had barely gained a 100m above the previous camp.

We hoped that proceeding up this northerly branch and around the north side of Pt 6132m (a rubbly peak) we would find plentiful snow. The next day we panted up a lateral moraine ridge and around the north side of the peak to again find virtually snowless conditions – just a meagre snow patch which would have to do. We flattened out tent sites at c5,300m on the moraine ridge and collected snow / ice from the patch.

The high valley ahead of us was impressive – a cluster of 6000+m peaks but only showing significant snow ice cover in the upper 200m or so. There was a glacial ice covered lake below us but the valley floor was largely dry rubble. The Tibetan border runs along the summits on the north and east side of the valley – whether the conditions are typically Tibetan here or are due to recent climatic changes we do not know.

We had reached 5300m. The following day we trudged up the rubble slope on Pt 6132m where Paul and Mick set up camp on a tiny snow patch at about 5400m – Steve and Ian deciding to spend a second night on the moraine ridge.

The weather had been perfect all this time but deteriorated on our return to base camp next day. On the way down we discovered a possible base camp site by a clear stream flowing into the lake in the north west corner. This was the only clear water we came across above our base camp.

The weather was poor for the next 3 days.

Gave Ding North East Buttress

On the 16th October in improving weather Mick and Paul departed for the gear dump by the glacial lake and crossed the glacier below the north buttress of Gave Ding. Over the following 5 days they climbed the buttress, linking snow / ice lines with steep mixed climbing (and a further 2 days in descent).

The upper part of the buttress narrowed into a distinct 'Peuterey like' ridge which led to the head wall. A traverse right (in deep powder) was made to a steep wall of blue ice to outflank the huge cornices which hung over most of the head wall. This finally led to the summit ridge and the summit on day 6 from base camp. With the route and summit ticked a camp was made just below the top before descending the west ridge to a col above a steep shallow couloir dropping down to the Lacham glacier. A final camp was made at the col before a long day of descending the couloir, all on abalakov threads, followed by a walk out to base camp – arriving there on the evening of the 23rd October - an 8 day outing.

The weather remained good throughout with the exception of a heavy afternoon snow fall on the 5th day.

A fuller account is given below by Mick Fowler

Attempt on unnamed peak 6045m

On the acclimatisation trip an attractive peak west of Gave Ding was noted – set back from the Lacham Glacier up a small side valley. It was marked as 6045m on the map we had. A long snow / ice slope ran the full height of the north face up to the final rocky summit ridge – and reaching a col between the main east and a lower west summit. However entry to the face was guarded by a steep bulge in the ice and a rock buttress on its right. On the 17th October Steve and Ian (with help from Lhakpa and Chiring) crossed the Lacham Glacier and set up camp on the lateral moraine of the side valley at 5000m below the face. Lhakpa and Chiring returned to base camp.

The following day the face was gained by some interesting mixed ice grooves on the right side of rock buttress. Pleased to have done the supposed crux the easier angled face above was found to be covered in loose powder snow and progress was slow. The steeper face above consisted of hard gritty glacier ice covered in a layer of cruddy powder – but progress was maintained up to a small crevasse feature where the tent could be set up at about 5400m.

A very cold night followed. Next day another pitch was done but the hoped for improvement in conditions did not materialise and the prospect of another 600m of the powder snow and hard gritty ice was not a great. After some soul searching descent was made and base camp was reached the following day.

Achievements of the Expedition

Mick Fowler and Paul Ramsden made the first ascent of the north east buttress of Gave Ding over an 8 day period

Steve Burns and Ian Cartwright attempted an unnamed unclimbed 6045m summit west of Gave Ding.

Exploration of the valley north of Gave Ding and Lachama Chuli.

Mick Fowler has written the following account of the expedition

'My bags are missing'

It was not the best possible start to the British Far West Nepal Expedition 2015.

Miraculously Paul Ramsden's missing bags appeared on the next flight but by this time we were late and our driver was fretting about driving to the delightfully named town of Nepalgunj in order to catch our meticulously pre-booked flight to the airstrip at Simikot.

'I've never driven through the night before' he explained.

I couldn't ever recall having a driver that spoke good English before and contemplated that this is not always a bonus.

'But I think we have enough fuel to get there' he added in an appropriately reassuring tone.

This was a reference to India blocking fuel supplies to Nepal which meant that queues at the pumps were so long that it had taken him 17 hours to gather enough fuel to fill the tank.

A few hours later we were stuck in a queue behind a fatal accident in which two policeman had been squashed by an overturned lorry. As the lorry was lifted by a rather out of control JCB the throng of youths taking photos on their mobile phones was such that riot police had to be called to restore order. And then less than an hour after driving past the spread-eagled bodies laid out at the side of the road we stopped and somehow ended up joining in celebratory dancing at what seemed to be a child's birthday party. Despite our driver successfully completing his first night drive (with no assistance whatsoever from his lorry driving friend) we were gutted to arrive late at Nepalgunj airport. But our plane was delayed and so all was well. We would arrive in Simikot as planned.

As we waved goodbye to our driver he said he was pleased to have only dozed off a couple of times on the drive and had no idea how he might find enough fuel to return to Kathmandu.

Seldom has a trip started with such a concentrated number of ups and downs.

Our plan was to try and climb a 6,541 metre unclimbed mountain called Gave Ding in the Humla region of north west Nepal. This is not the easiest of spots to get to which is great for keeping the crowds away but does add a whole raft of uncertainties to any trip. It also means the area is relatively unexplored, so much so that the valley we were planning to visit had not previously been visited by westerners. Our decision to visit was based on distant shots from unhelpful angles and Google Earth searches. A key factor influencing us was that by setting Google Earth at the right time of day we spotted that the shadow of the north face of Gave Ding was longer than any other shadow in the area. That presumably meant it was bigger and steeper than anything else around. And an unclimbed big face in a remote area not previously visited by westerners seemed to offer such good ingredients for adventurous action that the British Far West Nepal Expedition came into being. Steve Burns and Ian Cartwright joined us, Berghaus and the Mount Everest Foundation gave support and we could but keep our fingers crossed that we had made a good decision.

With only eight people on board the Twin Otter flight from Nepalgunj to Simikot it seemed an unnecessary luxury to have an air hostess on board. Mind you she was delightfully friendly and offered boiled sweets and earplugs served in the same tray. With a population of around 2,000 Simikot is the administrative centre of Humla region. The fact that it is marked on many large scale maps of the world just emphasises how sparsely populated this area is. There are no roads and much as the straight line distance from Nepalgunj is only just over 200 kilometres the journey takes just under a week without flying. But flights are totally weather dependant and there is always a risk of being stuck for days. Roads are being built from

the south and also from Tibet to the north but driving hereabouts is so tortuously slow that I guess flying will always be the only realistic access option for most mountaineers and trekkers.

Frustratingly, even though the plane flies at little more than 4,000 metres, the carriage of gas cylinders for our stoves was prohibited. Understanding this we paid for cylinders to be portered in weeks in advance.

'How long did it take to get them here?' we asked our supplier.

'Oh , not long. They came on the plane' he explained.

Knowing the right people here is clearly very important.

Back in Kathmandu our Liaison Officer had decided that he might join us later and so our team at Simikot consisted of six of us; four climbers, our cook Prem and his son Lakpa. We also had a porter to carry kerosene and ferry kit to base camp if our mules couldn't make it all the way. Somehow we ended up with far more mules than we needed but the muleteers did an admirable job of spreading the load in such a way that it was not immediately obvious how lightly loaded they were.

After Simikot we were to see no westerners at all. The good mule tracks of this part of the world took us through ethnically pleasing villages on day one and occasional shepherd huts on day two. After day two we were to see no more humans at all until the walk-out.

It was on day four from Simikot that the real adventure started. This was the day we left the main valley leading to Tibet and turned into the left branch of the Lachama Khola where we hoped to have a base camp by a prominent lake we had spotted on Google Earth at 5,000 metres. Our friends Julian Freeman-Attwood, Nick Colton and Ed Douglas had been up the right branch in 2011 but we had no real idea how far we might be able to make it up the left hand branch. It didn't take long for us to find out.

'The mules can go no further'

Prem was interpreting for the muleteers who were acting in a way that left little room for doubt.

We were at about 4,500 metres and a long way horizontally from our intended base camp site. Using our one porter to ferry loads was out of the question. Prem and Lakpa offered to help but ultimately we decided it would be easiest to have our base camp where we were.

And so after a day sorting ourselves out at base camp, and nine days after leaving the UK, the four of us ventured into the upper valley to find out whether our gut feeling had been right and exciting objectives were to be found here. After all the planning, preparation and anticipation it was a tense day.

We need not have feared. The north face of Gave Ding reared up in a complex line of Eiger like walls crowned by a Peutery like ridge leading to a short but sharp headwall. Ice cliffs threatened both sides but in the centre there looked to be a single safe line.

First though some acclimatising was necessary and that became more than usually problematic. Our plan was to spend time up high in the unexplored side valley immediately opposite the north face of Gave Ding. This was ringed by unclimbed 6,000 metre peaks but as we gained a better overall sense of the area it became increasingly clear that the contrast between the north and south sides of the mountains here is extreme. We were told it had been a weak monsoon and perhaps that was a significant factor but just about every face that was not truly north facing was snow free loose rubble up to a height of 5,600 metres or so. Water was a real problem. Above the lake where we had originally planned to have our base camp we could find no water at all. The glacier was completely covered in sun-baked tortuous moraine and no streams at all came down from the mountains above. All in all we decided that the valley was one of the most dry and desolate glacial basins we had ever seen; we didn't spend as much time as high as we would have liked and it was not our most successful acclimatisation outing. Paul and I could but hope that our bodies were ready for the altitude gain involved in climbing the 1,600 metre mixed face that towered above

the far side of the glacier. At least it looked hard so we would gain height slowly and thereby stand a chance of acclimatising on the route. Positive thinking is important in Himalayan climbing.

After waiting out a couple of days of indifferent weather at base camp we were camped under the face with seven days food and four gas cylinders for the stove.

Our planned day one was to move together up a snow couloir and then traverse easily to a possible bivouac spot on a col between a pinnacle and the face. The traverse line turned out to be powder snow on slabs and very tricky in places but even so by early afternoon we were at our planned bivouac spot. The sharp crest sported no good spots for our little tent so we used a snow hammock to hold back as much of the powdery snow as possible and urinated on it in the vague hope that would help freeze everything together. This sort of worked and we ended up with the tent floor draped over a 50 centimetre wide crest of snow. Boots and other heavy stuff hanging in the fabric on either side vaguely stabilised matters but the ever possible chance of the whole show slipping off to one side did not make for the most relaxing of nights.

Above us the wall reared up in a series of blank Eiger like walls broken by discontinuous white streaks. After much discussion we had a plan and various fall back plans for this section. Plan A was a curling line of weakness leading to a distressingly steep section. If we failed on this plan B was to abseil diagonally out of the steep section to a parallel line further right. And Plan C was to traverse a long way back left to a line that looked harder – so Plan C wasn't much of a fall back plan at all really.

A morning of awkward work on powdery mixed ground followed by delicate traversing put us above a huge drop below the main difficulties of Plan A. As I arrived at the stance Paul was hanging out from the belays craning his neck to get a good view of the tenuous line of weakness above.

'Looks hard. Might just go.'

The position had become outrageously exposed. The ground below overhung for several hundred feet such that abseiling into Plan B was clearly a non runner. That meant we really had to get up the near vertical mixed ground above. Oh dear there was only one option. And it was my lead.

Much as I derive enormous amounts of retrospective pleasure from technical Himalayan climbing it is not often that the Fowler body yelps with delight at the time. Here though the situation was exceptional. The snow/ice conditions were now perfect, the protection reasonable and the climbing just within my limit.

'Absolutely brilliant' I heard myself shouting to no-one in particular.

It soon became apparent that the improvement in the conditions was due to the consolidating effect of the large quantities of spindrift that intermittently poured down this part of the face. But nothing was going to detract from my enjoyment here. And on the plus side the spindrift waves made for an excellent opportunity to test the neck and hood design of the proto type jackets that we were testing for Berghaus.

Three fantastic pitches, including a memorable descent from a disturbingly unexpected cul de sac, led to an easing of the angle and a snow crest on top of a buttress which, almost uniquely in my experience, was soft and deep enough for us to quickly clear a platform that was only a little short of the size of our tent. It did collapse a bit in the night and bend the poles but we had expected a sitting bivouac and a bent pole seemed a small price to pay for the relative luxury of tented accommodation.

Above us steep mixed ground led to another rock band cleaved by another difficult looking line of weakness. By now we were fully appreciating the fact that the face was very truly a north face. We had had no sun whatsoever since crossing the bergschrund three days earlier and the temperature was stubbornly low.

Paul persevered out of sight as I shivered. Soon he reported that he was leaving his rucksack hanging on a runner. Never a good sign that. We both like to avoid the faff of hauling if at all possible. The problem was ice too thin for secure protection stretching a long way up a near vertical groove. Seconding on a single 7

mm rope I couldn't help but be aware that a) the rope looked very thin and b) the sack being hauled on the other rope was making much smoother progress than me. It was a pity I couldn't get any photos of Paul leading such a spectacular pitch. But I did manage to snap a shot of his sack.

By now we were well up the face with excitement levels growing. We seemed to be correct in our judgement that the line was completely safe from objective dangers and the climbing was turning out to be even better than we had expected. And to end an excellent day we found a perfect tent ledge beneath an ice cliff just as we were resigned to a sitting bivouac.

Not far above us was the start of the Peuterey ridge like section. The Peuterey ridge on Mt Blanc is a classic of its genre and with a sharp icy crest in a superb position this bore many similarities to my experience of the upper section of that route. And here we were to welcome the sun for the first time in four days. Mind you it seemed to have very little warmth in it and we were already commenting that the conditions were amongst the coldest we had experienced on our climbs together.

At the end of the ridge a 20 metre ice wall gave access to a small hanging glacier below a 150 metre headwall of cornice fringed, hard blue ice. This looked challenging but with gathering clouds our first priority was to get the tent up. Thus far the weather had been good with afternoon snow showers clearing by nightfall. Now though darkness fell with snow falling heavily. Soon the wind picked up and the snow accumulated so that the walls of the tent pushed heavily against us. I lay awake deep into the night listening to the sound of the wind and snow. I didn't sleep well.

It was a relief when morning dawned clear and calm but bitterly cold. We guessed the temperature could be as low as minus 30 degrees Celsius. Around 75 centimetres of new snow had fallen and the snow line was way below base camp. In places the powder snow was chest deep and it was a fine, energy sapping effort by the Ramsden to trail break a trench to below the headwall. The hard blue Himalayan ice here was of the kind that only those who have experienced it can fully appreciate. By now our axes and crampons were blunt and bounced ineffectually off the ice. At one point the enormous effort required to get secure axe placements saw me reduced to clipping into the base of my axe and hanging sack like against the ice. Exhausting stuff this Himalayan climbing. And the cold was such that this turned into the only climbing day ever that Paul, who seems largely immune to the cold, has worn a down jacket all day.

The summit crest came suddenly. After five days of hard climbing on the steep and inhospitable north side it felt like something of a release to pull into the sun, have a whole new panorama open up and be able to walk about freely on the relatively amenable southern slopes. The summit was easily reached and a firm summit hug felt to be in order.

We pitched our tent in a good spot just below the top and enjoyed spending the last few hours of daylight soaking in the wonderful view of unexplored terrain and relishing the feeling of having completed the climb that we had dreamed of for the last year. We wondered how close the nearest other climbers were - and concluded that it was a very long way. The remote grandeur of our position felt very special.

All we had to do now was get down. That took a further two days involving complex glacier travel on the south west side, 25 abseils from abalakov threads on the north side and four absolutely exhausting hours crossing the glacier and descending to base camp.

Once down I soon fell asleep and spilled my dinner in my lap. Before that though we had agreed it had been one of the very best climbs that we had done together. And as we walked down through the changing seasons of old growth deciduous forests I knew already that the retrospective pleasure of such a fine trip would stay with me for many years.

Adventures in the remote Himalaya are difficult to beat.

Gave Ding Finances in £

£1 = 156.50Rs £1 = \$1.5

Expenditure	£	
In UK...		
Flights to Kathmandu	1990	
Insurance (BMC)	2006	
Map	23	
Hill food	201	
Emergency beacon hire	38	
In Nepal...		
Transfer from KTM airport	31	\$47
Hiace KTM to Nepalgunj	567	\$850
Hiace Nepalgunj to KTM	567	\$850
Return flights to Simikot for 4 climbers	1019	\$1528
Return flights to Simikot for 3 Nepalis	337	\$505
Tent and 'other utensil' hire	133	\$200
Simikot Special Permit	267	\$400
Agent fee (Royal Travel)	279	\$418
Camping fee beyond Dojam	48	7,500 Rs
Insurance for mules/porters/LO etc.	945	147,771 Rs
Simikot excess baggage	433	£278 on way in, £155 on way out
Gas	243	20 @ 1900 Rs per cylinder
Kerosene	425	140 litres at 475 Rs p/litre
Mules walk-in	859	1200Rs p/day p/mule
Mules walk-out	429	1200Rs p/day p/mule
BC/walk-in food/stove/barrels	549	85,887 Rs
Prem wages	360	1,500 Rs p/day
Kitchen boy wages	288	1200Rs p/day
LO wages and flight to Nepalgunj	1294	Wages \$1840, ticket \$100
Porter	134	1200 Rs p/day
Hotel KTM	106	
Meals/Miscellaneous	528	
Visas	265	\$100 x 4
Rinjin - fee/food/accomm. at Simikot	261	40,850 Rs
TIMS Permit	30	\$40
Transfer from KTM airport to RMT	31	\$47
TOTAL	14686	
Income		
Mount Everest Foundation	2900	
Berghaus	10000	
Members' contribution	1786	
TOTAL	14686	

Some photos



The route takes the shadowy face to gain the ridge in the upper third



Nice grooves



Mixed climbing



Steep



Cold



Day 3 from base camp



Day 3 from base camp



Approaching the summit on day 6 from base camp



Summit smiles



The line (with bivvies marked)



Pt 6045m from the north west