

BROAD PEAK 2018 - MEF REFERENCE- MEF18-05

EXPEDITION REPORT



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The expedition would like to acknowledge assistance received from the following;

D K Scott

C Mcneish

The Mount Everest Foundation

The British Mountaineering Council

The Alpine Club

Mountain Equipment

Rescuers: Andrej and Bartek Bargel, Piotor Pablus, Dan Mazur and his Sherpas, Frekrik Strang,

Davis Roeske, Major Ramazan

Captain Kaddar - our expedition Liaison officer.

EXPEDITION MEMBERS

Joint Leader - Sandy Allan

Joint Leader - Rick Allen

Kacper Tekieli

Stanislav Vrba

OBJECTIVES

Broad Peak was first climbed to the summit by an Austrian expedition in 1957, Herman Buhl, Kurt Diemberger, M Schmuck and F Wintersteller reached the summit by the West Flank.

The Central summit was traversed by a team of Polish climbers in 1975 with the sad loss of three members.

The three summits were traversed by J Kukuczka and W Kurtyka in 1984, they descended by the West Flank.

There remain many opportunities for technical unclimbed new lines on this mountain.

Our expedition's main objective was either to try a new unclimbed line on the very steep and technical SW face of the central summit or an attempt on the unclimbed South Ridge.

Neither of these two objectives were attempted due to an incident while acclimatising.

SUMMARY

Our team acclimatised to almost 7000 metres on the normal route (1957) of Broad Peak and were hoping to then try and climb a new unclimbed line. However, after only our first night at around 7000 m (Broad Peak Camp 3), barely acclimatised and in very bad weather R Allen decided to try the summit via the normal route. He apparently reached the summit but fell off in descent. He ended up being rescued and being helicoptered out to Skardu. K Tekieli and S Vrba stayed on at Base Camp and in improving weather but with lots of snow thawing, they decided to try an unclimbed line leading to Broad Peak North Summit. They left their camp at 8.00 pm with their chosen line in the shade with the snow deep coming up to just below their knees. The base of the climbing started at around 5250 m and after several hours climbing in a fast and light style they got caught up in a large rock fall at approximately 5850 m around 10 pm where S Vrba sustained severe cuts to his leg. The team got themselves down to flatter terrain with 7 abseils of about 120 m each, S Vrba abseiled/lowered with K Tekieli down climbing. They were met by members from the K2 ski expedition who assisted them to K2 Base Camp during the night where S Vrba's leg was stitched by Polish doctors and then S Vrba was taken to our Broad Peak Base Camp by mule. Both climbers were evacuated by helicopter on 19th July.

Due to both accidents no attempt was made on the unclimbed SW Face route or on the still unclimbed South Ridge of Broad Peak.

BUDGET FOR EXPEDITION

Budget for Broad Peak 2018

Description:	\$US	£Stirling	£ each
Agent fee			
Full service to BP return	30,000.00	21690.00	5422.50
Insurance (BMC)		3210.00	802.00
Flights		2400.00	600.00
Bivi tents		900.00	225.00
7.7mm dynamic rope		600.00	150.00
50 High alt gas (in Pakistan)	650	470.00	117.50
High Alt food		400.00	100.00
Excess baggage			100.00
Down sleeping bag		800.00	200.00
Down jacket/trouser		600.00	150.00
High alt boots £500 each pair			500.00
4 Reactor stoves plus pots (£129.00 each)			129.00
Excess Baggage charges		500.00	125.00

Tips and other sundries

700.00

175.00

Total per climber (team of 4 divide by 4)

£ 8796.00 per climber

£35,184.00 met by MEF, Alpine Club, and the climbers own personal contributions.

Notes:

1. Agent fees includes all services including permits from Islamabad to base camp and return plus staff at Base Camp.
2. Equipment prices are best we can get at trade and all team members already have a lot of high altitude equipment so the above mentioned are new items required.
3. Insurance quotes for British Members was £780.00 for S Allan consequently estimated for other members at same price.

ACCOUNT OF EXPEDITION

Our Expedition arrived at Broad Peak normal route (1957) Base Camp on the 9th June 2018 after a 9-day approach. Our plan was to acclimatise to about 7000 metres on the normal route and once we all felt well and acclimatised at this altitude we would then try a new unclimbed line. We had in mind several unclimbed lines to choose from, our preferred option being the unclimbed south Ridge of Broad Peak, however we also had a very fine technical line on the SW Face which was the line we presented to the MEF committee for our grant application. However, on seeing this line the upper rock sections appeared rather blank slabs with continued technical difficulties. During our first three weeks at Base Camp the weather was very unsettled with much snow fall. We were able to push our acclimatisation programme on the normal route but the snow was building up on the technical faces making an attempt our planned SW Face objective increasingly unlikely so we set our sights on the unclimbed South Ridge.

By 7th July S Allan and R Allen had spent one night at Camp 3, approximately 6900m) and in the very strong winds with poor forecast S Allan decided to descend back to base camp. K Tekieli and S Vrba arrived at Camp 3 while S Allan was descending and the three members decided to spend the night at Camp 3 for acclimatisation purposes. That evening (8th July) the weather remained very windy with falling snow . At around 8.00pm R Allen decided to push ahead and try for the summit, *Note: It was previously agreed all members that if we went to the summit via the normal route we would only attempt it in good perfect weather so as not to exhaust ourselves for our main objective.* Because the weather was so bad K Tekieli decided not to go any higher, S Vrba accompanied R Allen for the first hour or so but found the weather too bad and encouraged R Allen to turn back but R Allen kept going towards the high col which leads to the summit while S Vrba returned to Camp 3.

Back at Camp 3 S Vrba and K Tekieli watched R Allen's progress and they were sure that he arrived at the col between the central and main summit at 6 pm that night, a traverse that normally takes 6 hours or so. R Allen then went out of sight and went to the summit. K Tekieli and S Vrba did not see him again until 6.30 pm the following night. As they watched him descend they lost sight of him as he descended into a small hollow which

meant they could not see him from their position and they kept watching fully expecting him to appear again. However, he did not appear and S Vrba rushed up towards the location but could see no signs of him or any tracks in the snow. He assumed he had fallen into a crevasse or had fallen off. S Vrba returned to Camp 3 and after several hours of waiting they (Tekieli and Vrba) decided to leave one tent up for R Allen with all his equipment tidy and ready for his arrival and then descended as the weather was still very bad and they assumed that R Allen had gone missing presumably dead.

S Allan was at Base Camp having spent a day and night there. It was on the morning of 10th July when friends (Piotr Pablus working with Andrej Bargel) came running from K2 Base Camp reporting that they had seen a black dot high on the mountain at around 7300 metres. They had sent up a drone (operated by Bartek Bargel from K2 Base Camp) and saw a body, seemingly dead and very still with blue clothing on. S Allan assumed from the colour of the clothing that this may have been R Allen, so he instigated a rescue attempt. By this time K Tekieli and S Vrba were close to reaching Base Camp. S Allan with the help of various Liaison officers managed to contact climbers who were now making their way up towards Camp 3 in improving weather and three of them decided that they would try and assist R Allen. The drone flown from K 2 Base Camp flew again and was used to give the rescuers an indication of R Allen's position. Eventually, after several hours of trying to reach R Allen, the climbers reported by radio that they were not great technical climbers and did not have the equipment to go into the complicated terrain of seracs and crevasses where R Allen was situated, so had to turn back. At Base Camp S Allan got in touch with Dan Mazur who was at Camp 2 and heading very slowly up to Camp 3. Dan with his Sherpas decided to try and assist R Allen and sped up their rate of ascent to try and reach Camp 3 before night fall and by 6.00 pm they had arrived at Camp 3 and with the help of the drone flying in front they were able to assist R Allen and bring him back to Camp 3 where he spent the night. The following day they took R Allen down to Camp 1 and the following day back to Base Camp.

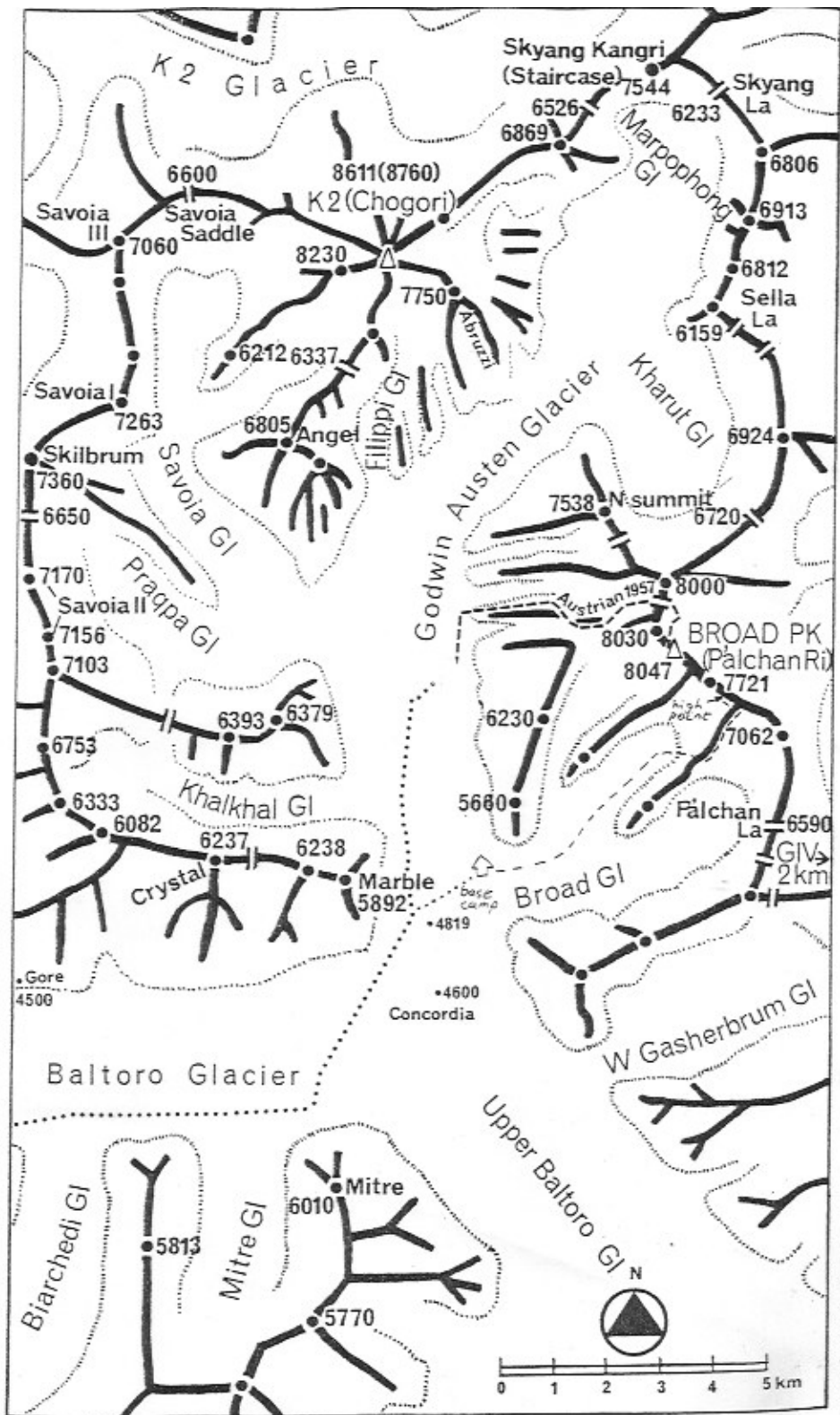
R Allen had sustained some cuts above his eye, frost bite on his toes and had very large dark bruising under both eyes. We could only assume that he had fallen off, slid down about 600 metres and came to a stop. We are assuming he was unconscious for most of that night as when the drone initially saw him he was completely still and the thoughts were that he was dead. However, by mid-morning when the drone located him for a second time we could see some small arm movements from R Allen which indicated he was indeed alive and eventually he began to move and was able to traverse towards his rescuers, albeit it very slowly.

On his rescue R Allen at first resisted any help and the rescuers said he behaved very aggressively towards them. Later he acquiesced and was grateful to all who assisted him. S Allan assured the rescuers that such behaviour was totally out of character for R Allen and they should consider that he must have had a head injury and probably did not remember anything of his accident. Prior to departing Base Camp R Allen cleared up all misunderstanding with everyone at Base Camp who were involved with his rescue.

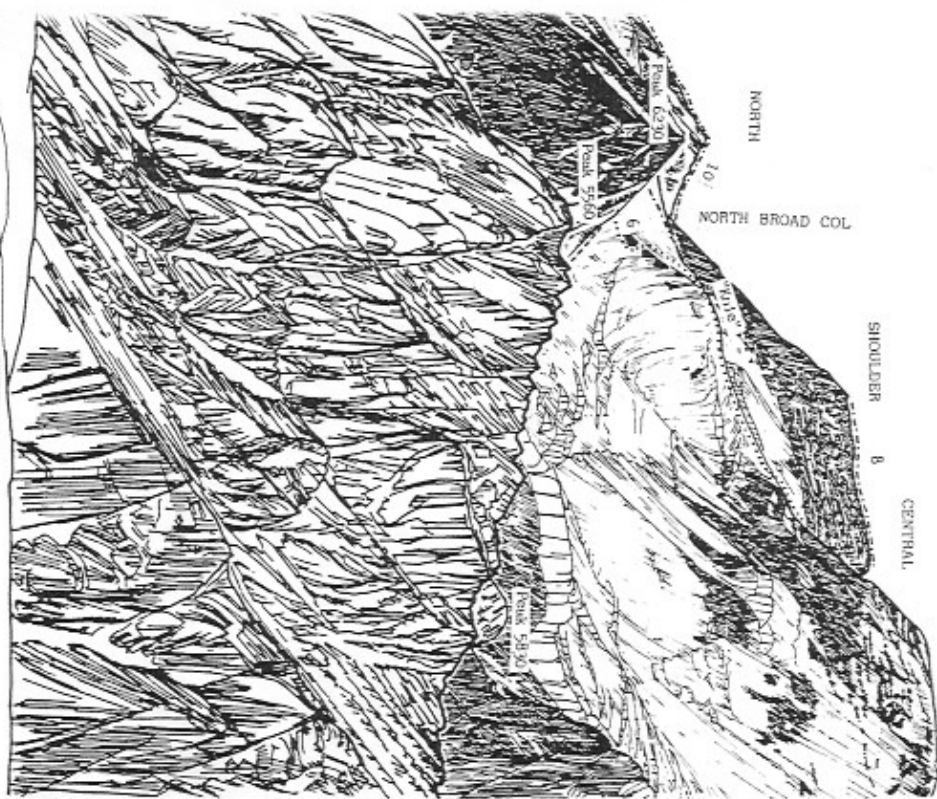
R Allen on the advice of Polish doctors decided to fly out from Broad Peak Base Camp accompanied by S Allan on 14th July.

Several days later, K Tekieli and S Vrba decided to try a shorter and more direct less technical unclimbed line on Broad Peak's North Summit but after a full night and day of very fast and light climbing they were caught in large rock fall which struck S Vrba on the leg which led to K Tekieli having to lower S Vrba several pitches where our Polish friends from K2 Base Camp helped to carry S Vrba back to Base Camp where a surgeon stitched his leg and they too had to be helicoptered out to Skardu and on to Islamabad.

Base Camp was cleared by our staff and all rubbish and equipment including tents etc were brought back to Skardu to storage and the remainder flown back to Europe.



BROAD PEAK
MAIN



GODWIN AUSTEN

GLACIER

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