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*The  
Hong Kong  
Mountaineering  
Expedition  
to  
Lamjung Himal  
Spring 1974*

*Patron:*

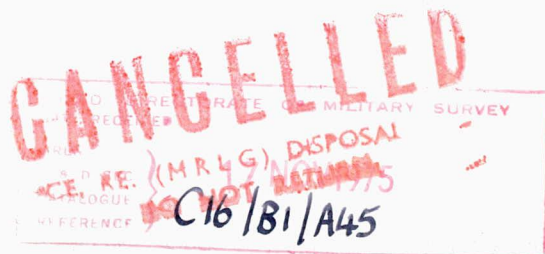
*Lt. Gen. Sir Edwin Bramall, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,  
Commander, British Forces, Hong Kong*

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# The Hong Kong Mountaineering Expedition to Lamjung Himal Spring 1974

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# Introduction

This is the report of a mountaineering expedition which made the first ascent of Lamjung Himal (22,910' or 6,982 m.) in the Nepal Himalayas. The Expedition was organized from Hong Kong and the majority of its members were officers and soldiers of the British Army. For Army purposes, the Expedition was known as "Exercise Mountain Eagle" although in many respects it differed from an orthodox exercise and was not, for instance, entirely service-financed. One of our major purposes in producing this report is to express our thanks to the many individuals and organizations, within and outside the services, who assisted us, and without whom the Expedition could not have taken place.



# Planning

The Expedition originated in April 1973 when Captain Mike Burgess, at the end of a two-year tour in Hong Kong, visited Nepal to investigate the possibility of an expedition to an unclimbed mountain. His first choice, Nilgiri South Peak, west of Annapurna, proved to be out of bounds for political reasons, and at the suggestion of Col. Jimmy Roberts he made an application to the Nepalese Government for permission to climb Lamjung Himal, one of the few other major unclimbed peaks in the area. This permission, for the pre-monsoon season of 1974 (March—May) was granted in June 1973, by which time Mike had been posted from Hong Kong to England.

One of the major problems in organizing a mountaineering expedition from Hong Kong is the rapid turnover of the climbing community, both service and civilian. The Lamjung expedition faced this problem as much as any—its first formal meeting in August 1973 comprised five people, of whom three were about to leave the Colony immediately. At this time, Major Jeff Barker accepted the position of expedition organizer in Hong Kong, and it was around Jeff that subsequent arrangements were largely made. Dick Isherwood, a civilian working for American Cyanamid Company in Hong Kong, joined the Expedition at this stage, as did Cpl. AngPhurba Sherpa, a Gurkha NCO with considerable Himalayan experience, and Lt. Frank Fonfe, a Gurkha officer. Frank was to spend the period up to our departure in Nepal on duty, and acted as an invaluable local liaison man. Capt. Richard Anderson, a close friend of Mike and Jeff, who had been instrumental in getting the expedition members together so far, now unfortunately had to leave the party due to commitments in the U. K. This gave us five firm expedition members.

A party of eight was anticipated—six climbers, an organizer/administrator and a doctor. For some time, the remaining members of the team were in doubt, as people tried to get released from their various commitments. A second Gurkha climber, Sange Tamang, joined our ranks, and for a while we thought we had a doctor as Sq. Ldr. Murray Deane worked on RAF Kai Tak to free himself.

Murray was finally unable to join us, but he was able to make up our medical kit, and to brief Jeff, who volunteered as lay doctor.

The Expedition received official blessing in Hong Kong when the Commander, British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir Edwin Bramall, very kindly agreed to be our Patron. We are most grateful to him for his interest in and active assistance to the Expedition.

As our departure date approached, and various candidates either dropped out or remained uncertain, some urgent action was needed by Mike and Jeff to ensure that we had an adequate climbing team. John Scott, just commissioned from Sandhurst and an experienced alpinist, joined the party at Richard Anderson's suggestion, and Sapper Derek Chamberlain, due to spend a few months road-building in Hong Kong, was released by his unit only a few weeks before our departure. Latest of all to firm up was Phil Neame of the RAF Regiment, another experienced Alpine climber. Phil, who had been a possible from the very beginning, did not get his final clearance until most of us were already in Nepal and barely had time to pack a rucksack before flying to Hong Kong.

Equipment for a mountaineering expedition is not easily obtained in Hong Kong, although we were fortunate in having access to various military stores in Hong Kong and U. K. which provided much of our camping equipment, climbing rope and similar kit. More specialized equipment was purchased from mountaineering suppliers in the U. K. or made in Hong Kong.

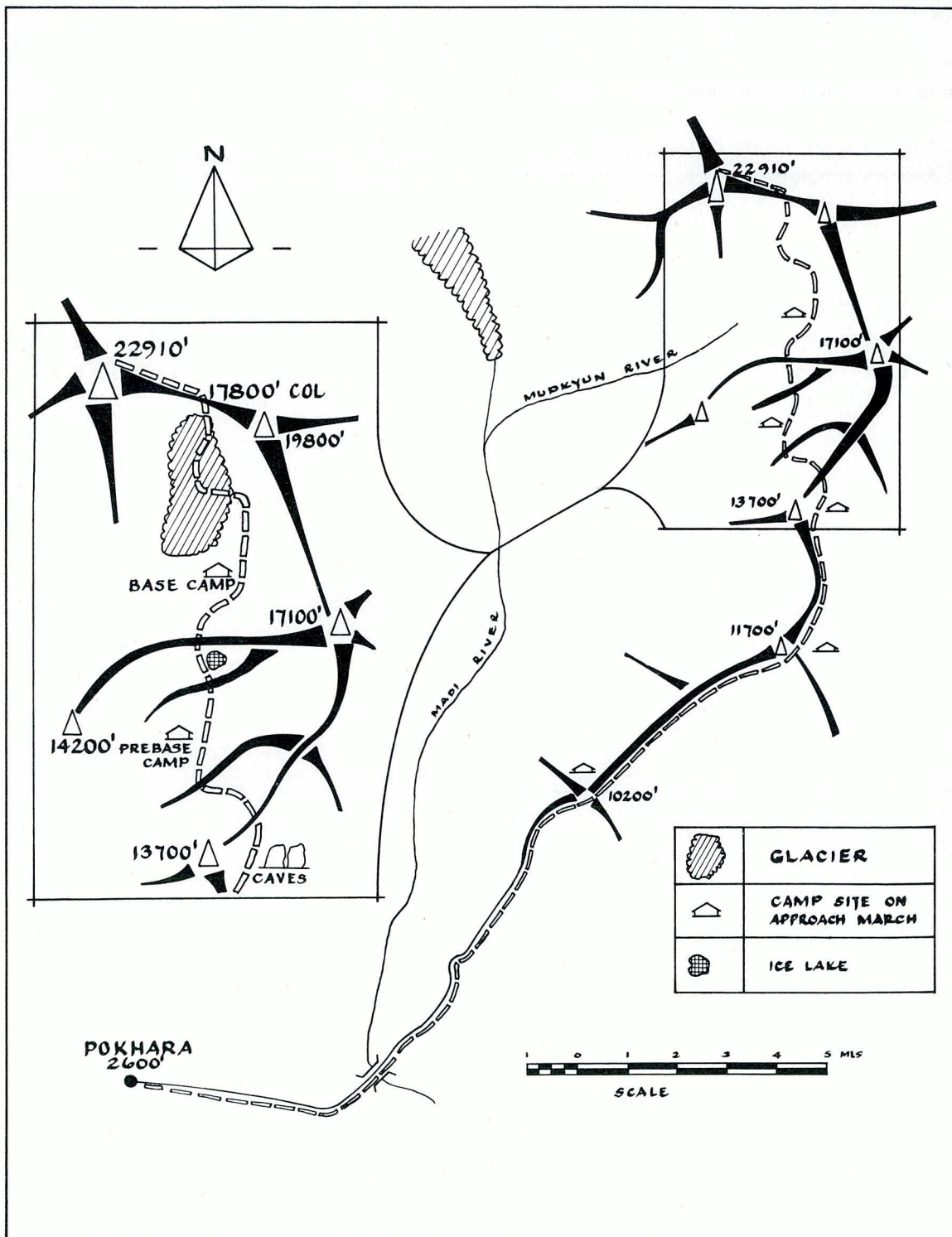
Food for an expedition is best pre-packed into complete rations for convenience in the high camps on the mountain. Much of our food was purchased by Frank from a previous expedition whose surplus supplies had been left in Nepal. The remainder was obtained in Hong Kong, virtually all free of charge through the generosity of a number of companies.

The Expedition was planned from the start on a

low budget, with members providing their own personal clothing and basic climbing equipment, and contributing a substantial portion of the cash costs. Service sources provided some income, and much equipment on loan, and a number of individuals and companies in Hong Kong and the U. K. responded generously to our appeal for support. All benefactors are listed later in this report, but we would particularly like to mention Ed Keller Ltd. and San Miguel Breweries, who gave us substantial grants in return for assistance with their advertising programmes, and Air India, who provided us several air tickets free of charge.



# Map



# Narrative

The Expedition can be said to have started on March 9th, 1974, when Mike and Jeff left Hong Kong for Calcutta and Kathmandu. Others followed over the next week, experiencing Air India VIP hospitality in Hong Kong, and, as a sudden change, a night in the airport at Calcutta prior to onward connections to Kathmandu. The Nook Hotel fitted four people into a double room and we spent several days obtaining permits, clearing our baggage through the Customs, and arranging road transport to Pokhara. We met our Nepalese liaison officer, Narendra Tarkhu, and confirmed that the size 8 boots, bought for him in hope, were in fact his size.

One of our last problems before heading for the mountain was to decide which side to climb it from. Jimmy Roberts had suggested the east ridge or the slopes flanking it, and the only previous attempt we were aware of had been made from that direction\*; however the maps showed a tantalising plateau to the north-west of the summit which might, we thought, provide an easier route from the Marsyandi Khola. Frank's reconnaissance, several months earlier, had not covered this possibility. Frank had already made the acquaintance of Emil Wick, a veteran mountain pilot working for Royal Nepal Airways, and Mike decided that the expedition finances justified a reconnaissance flight. March 15th dawned fine and Emil's Pilatus Porter, rather overloaded, gave seven of us memorable views of the north and south sides of Lamjung and, incidentally, the Manaslu-Himalchuli range. The north flank of Lamjung proved to be an almighty precipice, running without break into Annapurna II to the west, but the east ridge looked fairly reasonable—a narrow snow and rock ridge, with reasonable snow approaches from a col at 17,730 ft., leading via a serac wall to a broad glacier-covered upper ridge and the twin summits. Mike decided on an approach from the south to the col, thence up the east ridge, and we landed at 9 a.m. in Pokhara feeling considerably wiser and more confident than before.

The southern approaches to the mountain had already been well reconnoitred by Frank, but a further inspection was now needed to decide on the precise site for our Base Camp. Mike and Dick set out on the 15th, taking Frank's recommended route via Yanjakot. A five day trek enabled them to find a suitable site in the top of the Mudkyun Khola, at around 13,000 ft. The area, and the final day's approach to it, was heavily covered in snow but we had hopes that this would be disappearing by the time we came up with our porters.

Back in Pokhara, meanwhile, food and equipment were organized under Frank's direction into 30 kg. loads, over sixty porters were assembled and on March 23rd the whole party moved off. Compared to the RAF expedition to Dhaulagiri IV, with their 250 porters, we seemed a small group but we soon found that even sixty people were difficult enough to keep track of, as they stopped for breakfasts and lunches along the trail. The leaders of the caravan perpetually found that they were leading two people while the rest had stopped for yet another meal.

A very slow first day led us over a ridge, across the Madi Khola and steeply up to Yanjakot at 7,000 ft., where the leading group arrived just ahead of a thunderstorm—a bad omen for the route to come. Here we were accommodated and entertained by Major Rasht Gurung, a distinguished retired Gurkha officer. Nepalese dancing, accompanied by rounds of raksi (rice whisky), continued late into the night, and finally, after taking the floor ourselves, we were blessed in a traditional ceremony and wished good fortune for our climb.

The following morning, despite one or two hangovers, all went reasonably well until Dick, in the lead, lost the way and led the caravan to an ideal campsite at lunchtime. The porters took advantage of this to demand a halt, and were only restarted after a considerable delay. A dramatic hailstorm caused further delay and we camped for the night back on the correct route but in a site with little shelter and very little water. No water meant no

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\* Alpine Journal, Nov. 1968 (No. 317) pp. 249-50





*Frank and Jeff signing on porters*



*Above Yanjakot*





*The first walk out*



*A steep snow gully*



*Last Camp before Base*



breakfast on the morrow, and consequently very slow progress. Here, at a height of around 11,000 ft., the weather deteriorated badly and heavy snow set in at lunchtime. Much coaxing brought the party to a pair of shepherd's huts in a clearing, where despite our limited progress we were forced to stop for the night.

The next day, with two feet of new snow on the trail, some of the porters decided they had had enough. For a time it looked as though we might lose everyone, but finally twenty men agreed to stay and were issued with blankets, capes, and gym-shoes to supplement their own clothing. This was a serious enough situation as we still had three days' walk, in the prevailing conditions, between us and our Base Camp. Without the patient persuasion of Frank and Angphurba we would almost certainly have lost everyone.

We decided that, with expedition members carrying full loads, we could just ferry our equipment on by making two carries over each section of the route. This process began the next day, and in two days we moved everything on to a further campsite where large boulders provided natural shelter for the porters' fires. The weather remained bad, with further heavy snowfalls, and the route was unrecognisable as the grassy trail it had been so recently. At this stage, at around 12,000 ft., acclimatisation problems hit us. Both Jeff and Sange were sufficiently ill to retire to Pokhara. Jeff soon recovered and rejoined the party, but Sange was found to have, in addition to altitude sickness, a fairly serious case of amoebic dysentery, and he took no further part in the Expedition.

From the boulder-cave camp we continued, now with only fifteen porters, up steep snow slopes and over one section difficult enough to need a rope. Midway through the day the sun came out, after a long interval, and promptly brought new problems — snow blindness. The porters retired rapidly, dumping their loads, and back at the camp we rounded up all our spare sunglasses and goggles, while Angphurba (our assistant lay doctor) treated the sufferers. The following day, with only

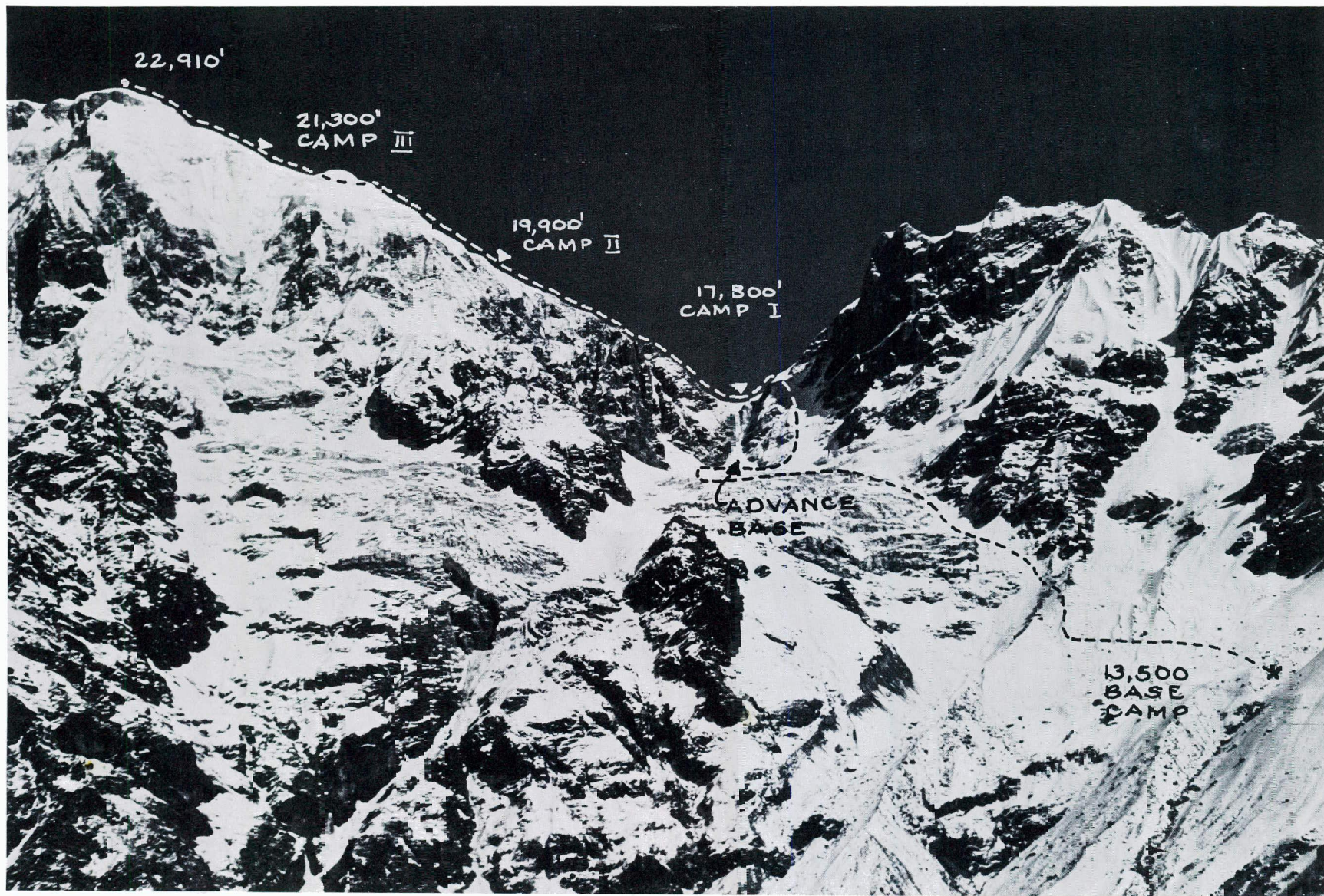
nine fit porters and problems compounded by the dumped loads, we continued and managed to reach a good campsite within a day's carry of base. For the first time for nearly a week we saw Lamjung Himal.

Three more days carrying, with ever-dwindling numbers of porters, saw us established at this campsite. The weather was now distinctly better, snow was thawing and we had splendid views of the mountain each morning. At this point, however, most of our remaining porters quit. They had worked hard in the last few days on ground which was not without hazard, and we could hardly blame them. We were left with our head porter-cum-cook, our mail runner, and two others, to assist us in carrying the last section of the route to Base. When we counted the loads they still made nearly sixty, but some inessentials were dumped at this stage to reduce the number of journeys. It is a measure of our problems that the whisky very nearly failed to make it to Base Camp.

The ferrying of all our essential kit to Base Camp took a full week, and it was not until April 10th that the whole party reached Base. This final section of the route involved some modest snow-climbing, and following further heavy snowfalls the danger of avalanches in the afternoons was considerable. We felt we had done a good-sized climb already — the bad weather had cost us much, but it had at least, we hoped, made the climbing party fit and well-acclimatised. However it seemed that winter had not ended. Base Camp, one night, had 18" of new snow, burying bits of camp gear, destroying our tracks, and finally putting paid to our plans for sunbathing there.

From Base, at 13,000 ft., the route to the east col of Lamjung, at 17,730 ft., was reasonably obvious. A small glacier descended from a snow-bowl below the col, and a reasonable snow-ramp led up the right (east) side of the glacier. This ramp was threatened by a small line of seracs at one point, emphasising that we should be up and down early in the day before the sun got to work on this part of the route. (This was not always achieved but



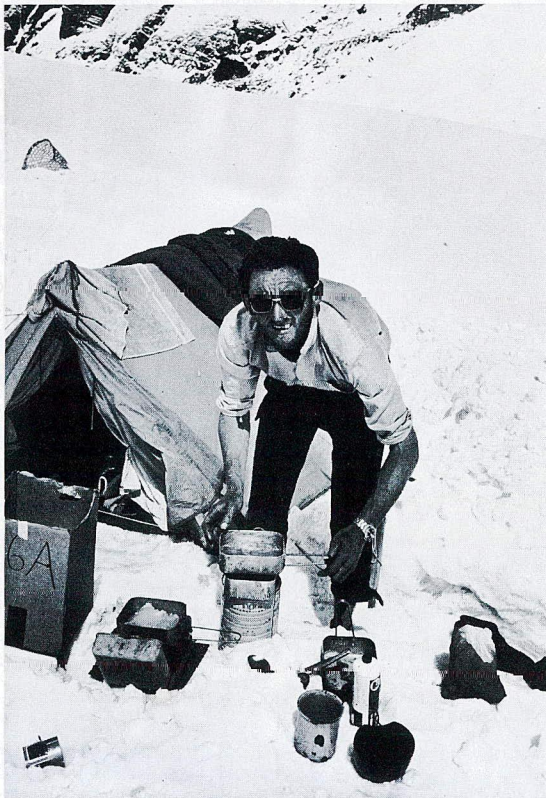


*The route of ascent*

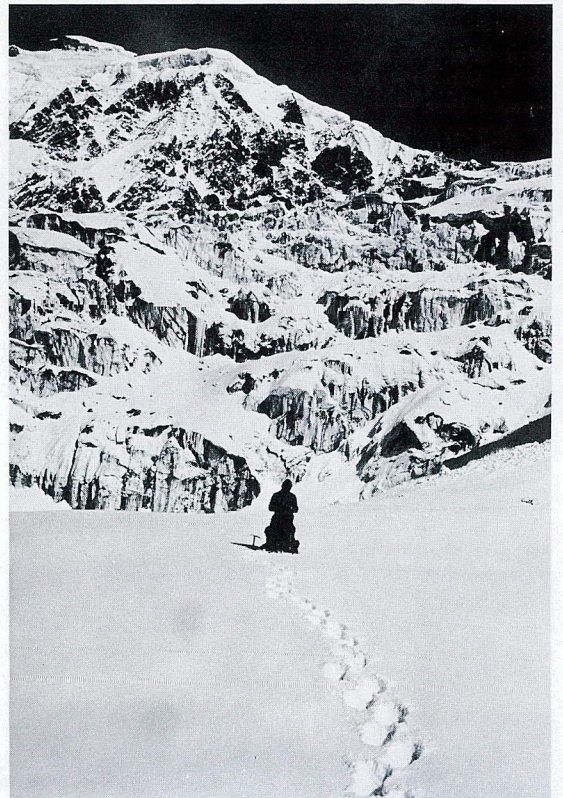




*Base Camp*

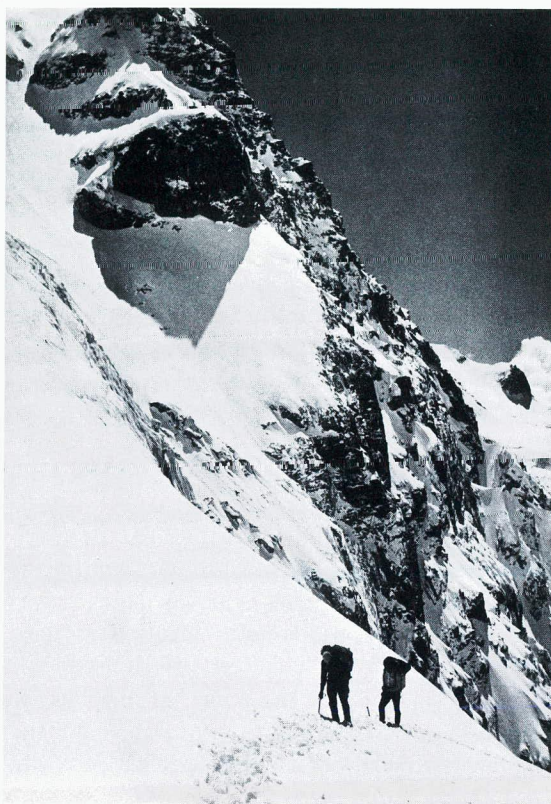
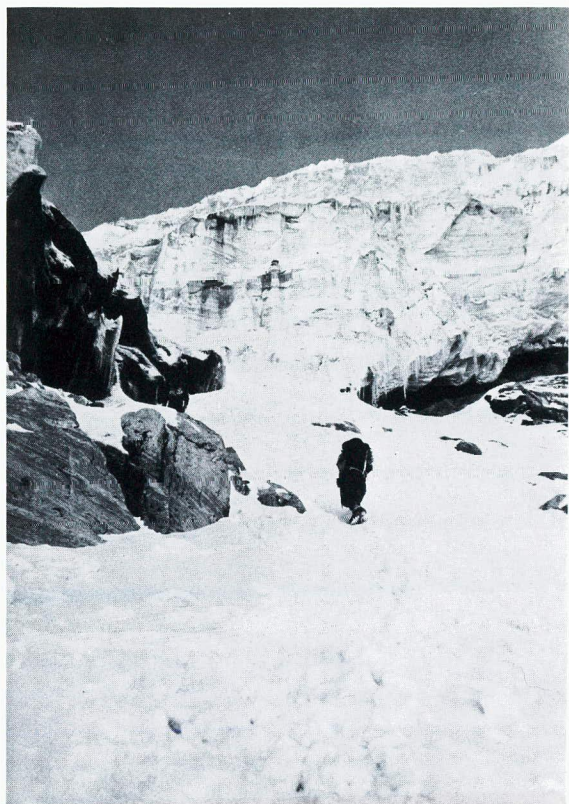


*Dick washing up at Base*



*The glacier below the East Col*

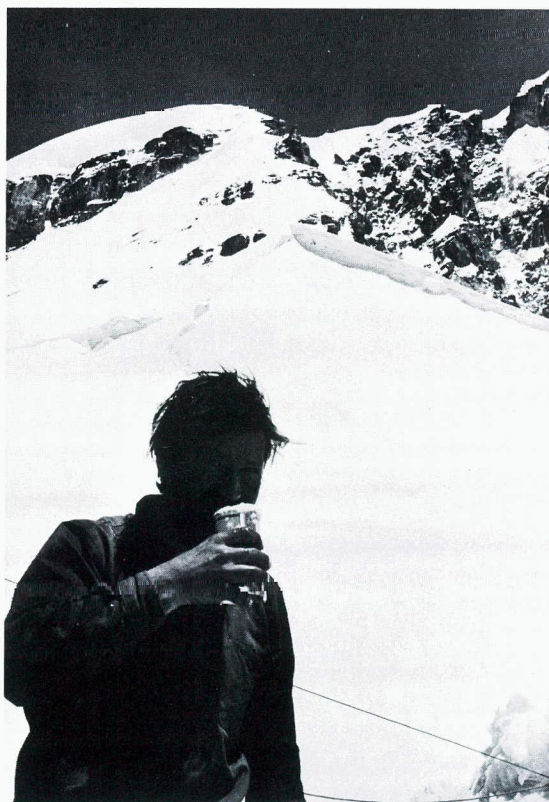




*Carrying loads to the East Col*



*Camp 1 on the Col*



*Refreshment*



as the next best thing we used to run across the fall-line of the seracs). Above the snow bowl twin couloirs leading to the col looked rather dangerous but a broad snow-ramp to the east seemed to offer a safe and reasonable route. We would clearly need a camp in the snow-bowl, at about 15,500 ft.

Carrying of loads above Base Camp began on April 6th when Phil and Dick ploughed a trail through deep powder snow and hail stones like ball bearings, and established Advance Base Camp in the snow bowl after 5½ hours climbing. The effect of snow conditions on the work involved in these carries was shown when, later, the journey was completed in just over two hours. At this stage we were somewhat spread out, with Jeff, Frank and the few remaining porters still carrying loads into Base Camp. Four carries to Advance Base were sufficient to establish a pair at this camp, and on April 11th Dick and Phil set out up the snow ramp, again in poor conditions of deep soft snow. We had thought that the ramp was a safe slope until a series of avalanches came down the day after the first carry. These had, however, the effect of turning the lower two-thirds of the ramp into an excellent slope of hard snow, ideal for crampons, and despite bare ice appearing near its top, our carrying times, as lower down, were cut dramatically on the later carries. When we managed an early start we could complete the round trip in two and a half hours, and it was hard to recall the initial struggle in non-too-stable waist-deep snow. Frank had a long fall on this carry, which left food strewn all over the ramp, but fortunately led to no injury.

The top of the ramp was some two hundred feet above the east col of Lamjung, and the steep snow-ice slope leading down to the col soon bore our first fixed rope. The col itself was a windswept spot with fine views north over the Marsyandi Khola towards Tibet. Camp 1 comprised two Arctic Guinea tents pitched face to face for shelter, and was occupied on April 15th. Here we had the advantage of longer afternoon sunshine than at the lower camps as the cloud banks rising from the south often failed to reach us. Cold winds from

the north prevailed on some days and generally, but not always, signalled fine weather. Our altimeter gave the height of the col as 16,800' on first arrival, and up to 18,200' later; we concluded that the map height of 17,730' was the most accurate figure we would get.

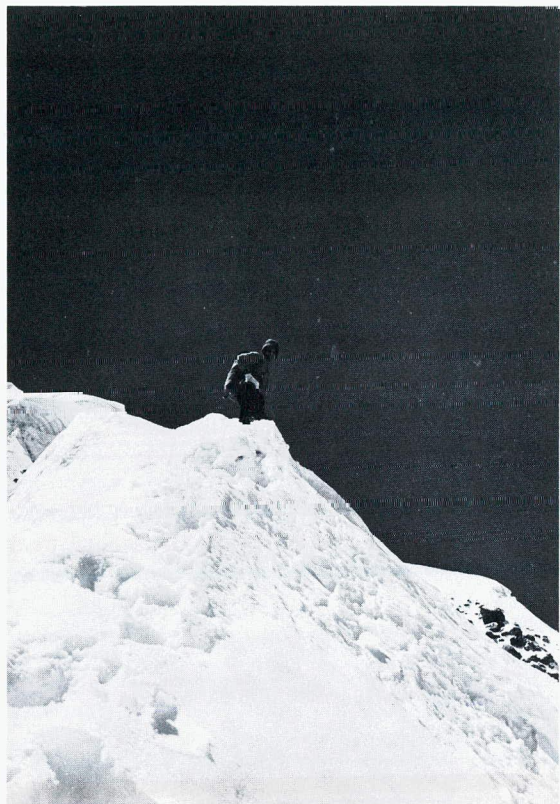
On April 16th, Phil and Dick made an initial carry up the slopes above the col, taking a line of snow couloirs and ridges on the north flank of the east ridge so as to avoid the lower, rocky part of the ridge. The situations here were magnificent, with wide views of the mountains north of the Marsyandi Khola, and the great trio of Manaslu, Peak 29 and Himalchuli rising to the east beyond the Lamjung Pinnacles. They found the ridge, when reached, to be rather narrow, fragile and capped in sugary snow, and their progress up it was fairly slow. In parts it seemed best to break down the whole fragile crest until it was wide and solid enough to walk on. After some five hours from the col they reached a small crest from which conditions on the ridge deteriorated further. From here a thousand feet of very narrow, steep-sided corniced ridge led to the serac-wall which we had identified from below as one of our major obstacles. It now appeared that this ridge, rather than the seracs themselves, would be the crux of the climb, and it was clear that fixed ropes were needed on this section to allow us to stock our higher camps. A further problem was that there was no site on the ridge wide enough for a tent. Phil and Dick found the next best thing, a site for an ice cave, albeit in a hair-raising position, and after starting to dig the cave, dumped their loads and returned to Camp 1.

We had now realised that we needed all the equipment we had brought with us, some of which, in confident anticipation, we had left below Base Camp. A further carry was organized and besides 1,500 ft. of extra rope, our three-foot snow belay stakes, made in Hong Kong, and the subject of many jokes about their size and weight, went up the hill to the battle front. They proved invaluable, as anything smaller could not have provided safe anchorage in the steep soft snow on the ridge.





*The face above Camp 1*



*The ice-cave site*



*Mike on the fixed ropes*





*Above Camp 2 — Lamjungspitzen behind*



*Between Camps 2 and 3*



*Camp 3*





*John on the final section*



*The last pitch*



*Derek on the summit*



At this stage, John and Mike moved to the front and went up to the embryo ice cave, supported by Phil, Derrick and Dick. They had the task of fixing ropes along the ridge, finding a route through the seracs, and establishing Camp 2 in the first area big enough to take tents. There was some congestion on the narrow ridge as loads of rope, stakes, food and sleeping gear were deposited there but John's energy was soon at work extending the cave and making it a tolerable sleeping place. Drips from the roof proved to be the main problem.

John and Mike found that the best way to tackle the ridge was to rope down on its north side and traverse a series of ribs and couloirs, about 100 ft. below its crest, before climbing steeply back to the crest just below the serac wall. In two days they established the route to the seracs, fixing eight ropes, and covering difficult ground on unstable snow and, higher, some fairly awkward ice. Their route led to a gap in the seracs and a site for Camp 2 in a crevasse on the edge of a very large drop. On the third morning a red Very cartridge, a pre-arranged signal, called Phil, Dick and Derrick up to join them, at a height of around 19,800 ft.

The crevasse campsite was sheltered but proved to have a disadvantage, as powder snow blowing off the upper slopes of the mountain accumulated round the tents. We had brought only two "Force Ten" two-man tents up, to save weight, and the threesome in one tent spent a very crowded night. We hoped, however, that we were now positioned to go for the summit, 3,000 ft. above us, without needing further resupplies from below.

Unfortunately, at this stage, Mike contracted a heavy cold. He was unable to shake this off and descended to Camp 1 to rest. The initial summit attempt was made by Phil and Derrick, with John and Dick following a day behind. Each summit party was essentially self-contained, carrying a tent, food, and cooking, sleeping and climbing gear. Phil and Derrick went up light with around 40 lbs. each, while John and Dick, aiming to support them, carried extra food and fuel and had,

initially, loads of around 60 lbs.

The route above the crevasse camp lay across a narrow and fragile snow-bridge, then up steepish ice and snow for 300 ft. to the main east ridge which, as we had seen from our aerial reconnaissance, led without much further difficulty to the summit area. Route-finding difficulties and poor weather caused Phil and Derrick to camp early on their first day, at around 20,500 ft. Here, in an exposed campsite on the ridge, they were within sight of Base Camp 7,000 ft. below, but they were not seen as cloud surrounded the upper part of Lamjung for most of the day. Since they were not carrying a radio they were in fact out of contact with the rest of the party for four days.

On their second day Phil and Derrick continued, over mainly straightforward ground, to another windy campsite just above the "Snow Dome" which forms a conspicuous landmark on the ridge. The highlight of this day's climb was a short overhanging ice cliff which necessitated the use of ice pitons. Overhanging climbing, and the hauling of large sacks, at 21,000 ft. is a fairly strenuous business, they discovered.

On April 25th, at 6 a.m. Nepalese time, Phil and Derrick set out for the summit, in a viciously cold wind which slowed their progress considerably. They had in all about 1,500 ft. of ascent to cover. The first 1,000 ft. was straightforward snow, but the final section to the main summit of Lamjung gave several interesting and, at this height, time-consuming problems. Three rope-lengths of steep and fairly difficult ice led to a knife-edge corniced snow ridge, and a final 40 ft. wall of almost vertical snow-ice. At 3:30 p.m. they reached the summit, a long undulating snow-ridge, and were fortunate to have a clearing in the weather in which to take photographs and admire the view, west to the great bulk of Annapurna II and east to the Manaslu range. After a careful descent of the difficult section they returned to Camp 3 just before dark.

John and Dick made the second ascent of Lamjung



by the same route, passing the first ascent party en route and reaching the summit on April 27th. They were less fortunate with the weather, and had to retreat from the summit plateau with an electric storm buzzing around their heads. Descending the summit wall, they had a fright when an abseil piton, which had supported Dick, pulled out under John's greater weight just as he reached the foot of the steep section. They continued their descent with circumspection, two days later reached Camp 1 in a storm, and took a prolonged rest.

Mike, meanwhile, was recovering from his cold and making plans to climb to the top himself. Frank came up to Camp 1 but decided the upper part of the route was not for him. With Angphurba sick, we were a climber short, and Mike considered a solo ascent. The problem was solved when Phil, after a rest, agreed to go up again. He and Mike set out on April 30th, following the same route and using the tents left by the two previous pairs. They were delayed a little by illness and fatigue, but were able to leave Camp 3 for the summit on May 3rd. Below the final summit tower, the effects of Phil's previous exertions showed again, and he was unable to complete the climb. Mike climbed the final section alone, and was rewarded with better visibility from the summit than either of the other two parties. He and Phil descended uneventfully and were back at Camp 1 on May 5th.

By now the first batch of porters arranged for the return journey had reached Base Camp, and it was time to get our essential gear down the mountain and back to Pokhara. After some heart-searching it was decided to leave the fixed ropes between Camps 1 and 2, as removing them would have been a prolonged operation and, for a fatigued party, a fairly risky one. Camp 1 was packed up and carried down on May 7th, just in time to meet the second group of porters at Base Camp. The journey out was uneventful, and the main body reached Pokhara on May 12th, and Hong Kong on May 22nd.

As a postscript, John, Frank and Dick took a different route out, returning from Base Camp over

the east col and descending to Chame and the magnificent Marsyandi valley. They lost the trail in the forests above Chame and spent a thrilling day descending near - vertical woodland, but, this apart, they concluded that the northern approach to the col had considerable advantages over the route we actually took.



# Equipment

The following is a brief account of the equipment that was used above Base Camp, with comments on its suitability for our purposes.

## Clothing

Clothing and other personal kit was very much a matter of individual choice, as Expedition members provided their own equipment, supplemented on occasion from a small central store of communal gear. Basic individual kit was similar to that used in the Alps, consisting of:

- Sleeping bag — of Redline or Black's Polar standard
- Karrimat — essential for camping on snow
- Duvet
- Breeches
- Overtrousers
- Cagoule
- Balaclava
- Boots
- Snow gaiters
- Goggles or sunglasses — at least 2 pairs
- Gloves — at least 2 pairs
- Shirts, sweaters, socks, underwear
- Pack frame

Some of us used two sleeping bags, while others found one good high altitude bag and a duvet sufficient. With hindsight most of us would agree that it was worth investing in the best single bag available.

Three of us had double boots ( two pairs of Makalus, one of Dolomite Walkers ). These were agreed by all to be worthwhile despite their weight. While no cases of real frost bite occurred those with single boots occasionally had cause for worry, particularly when their boots were wet from the previous day. Several of us had tender feet for some time after the Expedition — including John who had bought his double boots by post and found them a little tight.

Dachstein mittens were, as usual, outstanding for their warmth, waterproof qualities and excellent grip on ice and ice axe alike. However, for fiddly work it is perhaps a good idea to carry a pair of

silk gloves in addition, as we found that naked flesh quickly froze onto metal, as for instance when we were taking down tents. Several mittens were dropped, especially while climbing fixed ropes, and a spare pair for each man was a worthwhile precaution.

Karrimor gaiters and pack frames came in for much unfavourable comment. Their gaiters leaked, wore out rapidly, and did not fit well over double boots. Their pack frames, with the exception of one "Orienteer" model, bent and broke after a few days use, even with 50 lb. loads. They were also thoroughly uncomfortable. None of them stood comparison with Mike's frame, a Camp & Trails "Astral Cruiser" whose adjustable padded waist-band is a model for other manufacturers. On the credit side for Karrimor, their climbing sacs seemed well designed and well made, and their Karrimats were excellent.

## Accommodation

We took the following tents for use above Base Camp:

- 2 Black's "Arctic Guineas"
- 3 Vango "Force Tens" Mark 3
- 1 Vango "Force Ten" Mark 2
- 2 Karrimor Bivouac Bags

The Arctic Guineas were used at Camp 1, where they were left erected for a long period. The lighter Vangos were used at Advanced Base Camp and subsequently moved up to Camp 2 (two tents) and Camp 3 (one tent). The small Vango Mark 2 was used as a store tent at Advanced Base; it was too small for anything else. One Karrimor bivi bag was used at the ice cave between Camps 1 and 2, by the pair installing the fixed ropes. The other bag was carried by the summit parties in case of emergency bivouacs; it was not needed.

The Arctic Guineas and Vango Mark 3's were found to be generally reliable and practical. The tie-up doors of the Arctic Guineas were inadequate to keep out spindrift in strong winds, while the short pegs and rubber "guy lines" of the Vangos were clearly not designed for use in snow, and ice



pegs or axes had to be used to keep the tents down. One of the Vangos had a ridge pole, which made a considerable difference to the amount of living space. This tent was made in lightweight nylon; it suffered rather more from condensation than the cotton Vangos but we felt its lighter weight made this worth enduring.

It is hard to comment on the Karrimor bivi bags since no one could work out how to use them. A bivouac sac is basically a piece of emergency equipment which should be simple and light. These bivi bags seemed unnecessarily large, heavy and complicated. We used them satisfactorily to cover the entrance to the ice cave, and to protect piles of stores at Base Camp.

In addition to the tents listed above, we took an Army Arctic Warfare tent, borrowed from Army expedition supplies. This appeared to be a very well-designed mountain tent, but it proved useless since its groundsheet was not waterproof. Tarkhu used it at Base Camp, after painstakingly covering its floor with masking tape. It would have been fine in a desert.

### **Cooking Equipment**

The stoves we used above Base Camp were 3 Optimus 1-pint collapsible pressure stoves (Model III) and 3 Bleuét Gaz stoves. We took a limited quantity of Gaz (25 canisters) intending to use this only in the high camps. In fact the three Optimus stoves were used up to Camp 1, and the Gaz stoves in the ice cave and at Camps 2 and 3.

Both types of stove were surprisingly economical. One 2-man team used either one Gaz canister or one pint of paraffin per day, substantially less than we had expected. We left a considerable weight of paraffin behind on the mountain.

The Gaz stoves were excellent, their only failing being the slow dying of nearly-empty cylinders which sometimes made breakfast a prolonged event. John found he could measure the amount of gas left by the line of frost crystals on the outside of the canister.

The Optimus stoves, in contrast, were appalling. We had endless trouble with blocked nozzles, loss of pressure, and poor vapourisation, and the Expedition ended with only one of the three stoves useable. Contaminated fuel was a possible cause; in addition the stoves were old and not too well maintained. Whatever the cause, the toll in blackened pots, burnt eyebrows and lost tempers was considerable.

We used several large cooking pots (and large stoves) at Base Camp, but above Base we cooked entirely in groups of two, using standard aluminium mess tins for both cooking and eating. Derek had an aversion to eating out of mess tins and carried an orange plastic plate to a possible record altitude. Everyone was supposed to have his own knife, fork and spoon, but most of these were lost along the way and we became proficient in eating porridge with forks. Those with big mugs were envied by those with little mugs. Washing up was a rare event.

### **Climbing Hardware**

The following is not an account of all the equipment we took, but a summary of what we actually used.

Below Base Camp, and between Base and the ice cave, we rarely roped up. Above the ice cave we climbed as a rule in teams of two. Each team normally carried one rope (150 ft. of 9 mm perlon), half a dozen ice pegs (tubular screws or Dubeks), two large ice channels, several slings, and for each climber a Whillans harness, a prusiking device, a descendeur, an ice axe, an ice hammer and crampons. For the climbing we encountered this set of equipment was adequate, though some scorned the harness and the descendeur, and one or two were seen to wear crash helmets. A second rope would have been useful occasionally, but in fact we did little abseiling except on the fixed ropes.

In all we installed 12 fixed ropes; one on the descent from the snow ramp to Camp 1, eight between the ice cave and Camp 2, two in the



seracs above Camp 2, and one on the final ice slope below the summit. All these were 130 - 150 ft. in length, and all were either 9 mm perlon or No. 4 (1-3/8") nylon - not ideal for fixed ropes but all that we had. Anchors for the fixed ropes were home-produced snow stakes (see below) or Salewa screws in the ice. We used the ropes for over two weeks without any serious abrasion or thawing-out of belays.

Three items of home-produced equipment (made in Hong Kong by 54 Support Squadron, RE) deserve description. These are the snow stakes and ice channels already mentioned, and snow over-boots.

The snow stakes were designed by Dick, and when manufactured, out of very strong heavy-duty alloy angle, were rather monstrous. They were humped up to Base Camp and forgotten until Phil and Dick reached the ice ridge below Camp 2, which with its covering of rotten snow was an ideal place for their use. The stakes were almost three feet long, and getting them in was a major operation, but they provided excellent security on the main fixed-rope section.

The ice channels had a similar origin. They were about 9" long and 1" wide, and were made in light U-section aluminium with a ring eye. They were used as belays and abseil points, and were excellent, holding well in both ice and hard nevé.

The over-boots were large knee-length boots made of single-layer canvas, and pulled over a climbing boot. They had no tread and were intended for use with crampons. They were effective in keeping one's feet warmer and dryer, and were appreciated by these with single boots. However they were clumsy (partly because they were big enough to fit double boots) and rapidly wore out. They were useful for the few porters who stayed with us up to Base Camp.

Other hardware was all standard equipment of well-known brands, and most of it was satisfactory. One or two points are worth making, however.

Jumars and Clog ascendeurs caused problems on snow-covered ropes, as they tended to slip without warning. One Jumar fell off a 9 mm rope when its "safety catch" froze open. Since we were using only one ascendeur each this was not funny. Heibeler ascendeurs slipped less but fell off the rope more easily.

Salewa ice screws were fine but Clog tubular screws were virtually useless; it was difficult to persuade them to screw in at the best of times, and when they were blocked with ice from previous use it was impossible. Dubeks ("drive-ins") were excellent; they were easy to place and firm in position even on relatively soft nevé.

Our karabiners came from Army expedition stores, and most of them had very stiff gates - almost certainly the result of poor maintenance.

Glacier Wonderlamp (Pile Wonder) head torches, also supplied by Army expedition stores, lived up to their usual reputation of being robust but hopelessly unreliable - when will they install an effective on-off switch?

Our crampons were mostly Salewa adjustables. These were good, but the piece linking the toe and heel parts tended to break. Phil used Chouinards which were strong enough, but balled up far more than the Salewas - a severe drawback on this route.

### Communications

We took four Tokai TC-5005 six-channel UHF two-way radios, borrowed from the Army in Hong Kong. These were used only for communication between Base Camp and the higher camps. Contact between Base and Pokhara was by a rather irregular mail runner.

One radio was useless on arrival in Pokhara. The other three remained serviceable, despite fairly rugged treatment, until the expedition was on its way down, when the receiver on another set failed. With a Base Camp and up to three higher camps in use at one time it might have been worth taking a fifth radio to allow for failures. Reception was



generally good; we had a little interference from "foreign" stations, possibly other expeditions in the Annapurna area using the same frequencies. Also the afternoon storms sometimes caused enough static interference to prevent communication during our regular 5 p.m. radio calls.

The radios were useful both in providing a means of emergency contact between camps, and in helping the logistic operations of moving equipment up the mountain. A daily check of what has been and will be moved from camp to camp prevents wasted carries. However the sets were fairly heavy and some of us doubted the value of carrying them high on the mountain.

#### **Statistics**

The list below summarises the equipment (and food) carried above Base Camp, which allowed us to send three two-man parties to the summit. Personal clothing, climbing and eating equipment is not included.

<u>Food</u>	144 man-days
<u>Fuel</u>	8 gallons paraffin 1 gallon methylated spirit 25 Bleuet Gaz canisters
<u>Stoves</u>	3 Optimus 1 pint paraffin stoves 3 Bleuet Gaz stoves
<u>Tents</u>	2 Black's Arctic Guineas 3 Vango "Force Ten" Mark 3 1 Vango "Force Ten" Mark 2 2 Karrimor Bivouac Bags
<u>Climbing Equipment</u>	12 x 150 ft. fixed ropes 8 large ice stakes 8 ice screws 3 snow shovels



# Food

All food that was given to the Expedition in Hong Kong was airfreighted in bulk to Nepal. A further sixteen high altitude ration packs already in Pokhara were purchased from the previous season's British Dhaulagiri IV expedition. On arrival in Pokhara the food was broken down as follows:—

High Altitude rations for 252 man days  
Base Camp rations for 189 man days  
Total: 441 days

## High Altitude Rations

These consisted of:—

- a) "Dhaulagiri IV" Packs — The 16 packs each contained a total of 12 man days food divided into two separate 6 man-day divisions. As they were rather basic, additional "goodies" and extra meat were added to bring the total weight of each pack to 38 lbs.
- b) "Isherwood" Packs — 10 packs were made up, each sufficient for 6 man days and weighing 18 lbs.

## Base Camp Rations

These consisted of all the remaining bulk food divided into six lots and further subdivided into two baskets, 'A' and 'B' loads for ease of portage. Each lot contained 32 man days and was supplemented with fresh vegetables and potatoes.

In addition some 650 lbs. of rice, 120 lbs. of Dal (lentils), and 15 lbs. of rock salt were taken to feed porters.

## Comments

As with all expeditions, food became the subject of many conversations. It was generally thought that we ate very well, and lack of variety to suit individual preferences was the only complaint.

Of the high altitude packs the "Isherwood" proved more popular, having less bulk and more "goodies". Such items as lemon juice, cream crackers, and cream cheeses were quickly consumed. We could have used more of these, as well as cold drink mixes and more freeze-dried meat and vegetables. We had surpluses of porridge, butter, margarine, and tea bags (100 with every Dhaulagiri pack!)

The general preference was for a good meat meal rather than stodge. The large toilet roll in every 6 man day pack proved its worth.

The Base Camp rations were satisfactory. However, during the bad weather on the approach march loads were mixed up and were not eaten in the orderly fashion we had intended. This necessitated re-sorting of the entire stock on arrival at Base Camp.

Each "Isherwood" pack contained the following items: each division of a Dhaulagiri pack contained a similar range and quantity of food.

Biscuits	2 lbs.
Meat (freeze dried)	6 man meals
Vegetables (freeze dried)	4 oz.
Mashed Potato	8 oz.
Spaghetti	8 oz.
Tea	3 oz.
Coffee	2 oz.
Milo	2 oz.
Milk powder	6 oz.
Sugar	3 lbs.
Soup	3 packets
Porridge	1 lb.
Margarine	8 oz.
Cheese	12 oz.
Jam	8 oz.
Chocolate	6 bars
Dried fruit	18 oz.
Sweets	12 oz.
Salt	2 oz.
Seasonings	1 oz.
Plastic lemon	1
Matches	2 boxes
Tin opener	1
Pan scrubber	1
Candles	2



# Porters

The organization and management of porters is often under-estimated, particularly under adverse weather conditions and when they are taken into areas unfamiliar to them. We were fortunate in having three Nepali speakers (Frank and the two Gurkhas) and an outstanding liaison officer in Tarkhu. They overcame many problems, but the need for a good head porter is unquestionable.

The head porter was engaged in Pokhara with a strong recommendation from a previous expedition: the remaining 67 porters were recruited from the Pokhara bazaar without difficulty although three expeditions had already departed with over 400 people. Our porters were mainly Lamas, Puns, and a few Gurungs. They were promised a minimum of five days employment.

Each carried a 30 kg. load in a basket or carrying frame and each was issued with either a blanket or a poncho to supplement their own clothing.

On engagement each man was paid:—

10 NCRs per day basic pay

5 NCRs per day ration allowance for the unladen return journey for which they were not paid

The party then set off at a very slow pace.

On the second day out, beyond the last village of Yanjakot, we had a strike. After 2 hours discussion, threats by the liaison officer, and a hailstorm things began to move again.

The afternoon of the third day produced a heavy blizzard and brought the snowline down to around 10,000 ft. Considerable effort was required to keep the reluctant porters going. Most of them had no shoes, and having spent their ration allowances on raksi, they were getting hungry. The following day, 45 of them quit in spite of the promised issue of a blanket, a poncho, shoes and a sweater each. With the remaining 22 porters, we began to relay loads — an operation that lasted 14 days, with many more problems being encountered.

The porters were reluctant to start early in the morning, hence a late start meant a late finish, usually in afternoon snowfall.

We had insufficient snow goggles for the porters and even with rotation of the few pairs available, we lost a further 8 porters through snow blindness.

Finally, the head porter absconded with some of the porters pay and some attractive items of kit.

We reached the following conclusions:

- (1) The head porter should be chosen carefully. A fairly old man, who commands some respect, is probably advisable.
- (2) Porters should not be paid ration allowances unless they are in an area where food is readily available; otherwise the money will be turned into raksi: for the march above any villages food should be taken in bulk and issued by the head porter.
- (3) Women porters should be avoided unless accompanied by their husbands.
- (4) Blankets are more popular than ponchos. Large sheets of polythene are suitable as ponchos and less liable to be stolen.
- (5) The head porter should not be trusted with too much money. Payments should be made by an expedition member and receipts (thumb prints) obtained from each porter. Bulk payment to the head porter or anyone else can thus be avoided.
- (6) Attractive items should be boxed and sealed.
- (7) An interpreter is highly desirable if not essential.

An increased supply of elastoplast, Aspirin, Panadol, and Suphaguanidine tablets (or similar items) should be added to the medical kit for porters' use.

N.B. Official government rates in 1974 are:—

Labourer: 6 NCRs per day

Porter: 8 NCRs per day

HK\$1 = 2 NCRs at the time of writing



# Photography

We took only still cameras, of the following types:-

Asahi Pentax S.P. II	— 50 mm and 28 mm lenses
Rollei 35	— 40 mm
Olympus R.C. Auto	— 42 mm
Konica C35	— 38 mm
Ricoh 35	— 35 mm
Zeiss Ikon Contaflex	— 45 mm
Minolta 16 mm Pocket Camera	

We took the following films:-

Colour slides — Fujichrome R100	ASA 100
Kodachrome II	ASA 25
Kodachrome X	ASA 64
Ektachrome X	ASA 64
Black & white — Kodak Panatomic X	ASA 32
Kodak Plus X Pan	ASA 125
Fuji Neopan SS	ASA 100

We had an ample quantity of film. In order to ensure good coverage of the climb, each pair of climbers carried black-and-white in one camera and colour in the other.

None of the cameras gave any trouble, and all the film performed well.



# Medical

The expedition, not from choice but by necessity, was without a doctor. Detailed medical advice was sought prior to departure and a list of drugs to cover all likely medical emergencies was advised. Each member was briefed on the treatment of injuries and high altitude illnesses. Emphasis was placed on the individual climber's responsibility to prevent, or failing that, to treat illness in himself and his partner. Everyone underwent a full medical examination before the start. A memorandum was circulated to ensure that everyone was vaccinated against yellow fever, smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, typhus, and cholera.

## Medical Problems

The expedition was fortunate in that it escaped any serious medical problems.

### *Hygiene*

Most climbers suffered from diarrhoea at some stage in the expedition. Two people contracted amoebic dysentery and returned to Pokhara for treatment. It is possible that most of this illness could have been avoided had expedition food rather than local food been eaten on the way in. At the expense of a greater logistic burden this would also have kept the team in a fitter state to cope with the humping of heavy loads at altitude.

### *Altitude Sickness*

Everyone suffered from mountain sickness to some degree. This condition was intensified by the necessity for climbers to carry heavy loads before they were properly acclimatized. One persistent case was quickly cured when the patient descended to a lower altitude.

### *Frostnip*

No case of frostbite was contracted but three climbers suffered mild frostnip. Each case was directly attributable to ill-fitting or inadequate boots. The best form of prevention would appear to be a well fitted pair of double boots.

### *Other Complaints*

Most were affected by the usual selection of colds, coughs, and sore throats and in the majority of

cases these were probably associated with altitude deterioration. Few of these ailments outlasted the descent. One person suffered from piles on the descent but was not in any way incapacitated. Dehydration was countered by a large intake of fluids in the form of soups, stews, hot and cold drinks. Salt tablets were not used but sufficient salt was provided in rations to prevent a deficiency.

## Medical Kit

The medical kit was divided into four types of pack :

Each pack was contained in a small waterproof bag with instructions written on it. The drugs were themselves in small sealed waterproof sacs, one dose per sac, again with instructions and dosage shown.

**Individual Kit** — a first aid pack carried by each member. Contents included plasters, headache tablets, diarrhoea pills (Lomotil), water sterilising tablets, shell dressing, sunburn ointment (Uvistat), lip salve.

**Leaders Kit** — a small pack containing the dangerous drugs for immediate use, mainly to combat severe pain ( Fortral ), pulmonary oedema ( Lasix and Achromycin ) and snow blindness (Amethocaine). Carried by each climbing party.

**Intermediate Camp Kit** — Contained sufficient quantities of items in individual and leaders kits to replenish them and to cater for being snowed in for 48 hours. In addition this kit contained constipation tablets, various antiseptic ointments and creams (including Anusol), crepe bandages and lint dressings. One kit was held at each camp.

**Base Camp Kit**— Stocks of the above items for resupply plus splints and oxygen equipment.



### **Oxygen**

We took a limited quantity of oxygen equipment, intended for use only in medical emergencies. These did not occur and the equipment was not put to the test.

We took the following:

- a) Three cylinders each containing 700 litres oxygen (at NTP). One reducing valve providing a constant flow of 4 litres per minute (at NTP).

One pressure demand oxygen mask with inspiratory valve. One 12 ft. 1-inch diameter hose connected to the mask to provide an oxygen reservoir when the inspiratory valve was closed.

- b) Two MK 8 oxygen sets each containing 120 litres oxygen (at NTP) and having integral reducing valves providing a maximum flow of 2 litres per minute (at NTP).

This equipment was not taken above Base Camp. The constant flow apparatus (a) was more suitable for our anticipated purposes than the small MK 8 sets.



# Expedition Members

<i>Mike Burgess</i>	Age 30, Captain serving with engineer field squadron in United Kingdom. Three alpine seasons and extensive climbing in U.K. Leader of 1973 Hong Kong Expedition to New Zealand.
<i>Jeff Barker</i>	Age 37, Major, Royal Engineers. One previous expedition to Nepal.
<i>Derek Chamberlain</i>	Age 20, 9 Parachute Sqn., Royal Engineers. Two Alpine seasons, one season in Norway, and extensive climbing in U.K.
<i>Frank Fonfe</i>	Age 24, 6th Gurkha Rifles. Free-fall parachutist. Extensive rock climbing in U.K. and Hong Kong, and extensive trekking in Nepal.
<i>Dick Isherwood</i>	Age 30, agricultural scientist working for American Cyanamid Company in Hong Kong. Seven Alpine seasons, three previous Himalayan expeditions, one expedition to New Guinea, and extensive climbing in the U.K. and Hong Kong.
<i>Phil Neame</i>	Age 29, Flying Officer, RAF Regiment. Four Alpine seasons and extensive climbing in U.K. and Hong Kong.
<i>John Scott</i>	Age 26, 24 Parachute Regiment. Previously qualified Chartered Surveyor (Agric. Division). Two Alpine seasons. Expedition to Hoggar and Atlas Mountains. Climbed extensively in U.K.
<i>Angphurba Sherpa</i>	Age 32, 10th Gurkha Rifles. Snow and ice climbing experience in Sikkim, New Zealand, Norway and Scotland.
<i>Sange Tamang</i>	Age 28, 7th Gurkha Rifles. Two training expeditions in Norway and other snow climbing experience.



# Route Description

Only climbers will appreciate how impossible it is for two or more people to agree on the difficulty of a climb. The following description was written by Phil, who must take all responsibility for misleading future generations.

\* \* \*

Lamjung Himal — 22,910' or 6,982 m.

East Ridge (The Hong Kong Route)

1st Ascent — April 25, 1974

Probably the easiest route up the mountain, but still serious and difficult as a 'via normale'. However, provided snow conditions were correctly interpreted, there was little objective danger on the route. During this first ascent, unusually bad weather was encountered, with several heavy falls of snow which led to some avalanche danger and much work in deep powder.

The east ridge itself rises from the east col where Camp 1 was placed. This description describes a southerly approach to the col. However, it is likely that an easier and shorter approach to the col could be made from the north. This, of course, would entail a different initial approach to the mountain via the Marsyandi Khola. Above the col, the ridge divides into three major areas. The lower third is knife-edged with rocky gendarmes, about 1,600 ft. in length. Above is a great barrier of seracs rising for almost 2,000' to the Dome. The Dome is a prominent rise in the ridge, covered in ice. Above the Dome, the broad, easy-angled ice ridge, rises a further 2,000' to the final summit fortress, about 500 ft. in height.

Length (from Base to Summit) 9,500 ft. (3 camps)  
Standard — T.D. Inf.

Base, at 13,400 ft. is situated in a large basin under the south faces of Lamjung and the Lamjung-spitzen. From Base, head due north for 20 minutes to large moraines. Cross these and head N.E. towards the glacier which descends from the col between the mountain and the spitzen. There is a large cwm at the top of the glacier and beneath the col, with a steep step in the glacier guarding its entrance.

Follow the extreme right hand edge of the glacier, easy going but threatened for a short way by a large serac. On entering the cwm, the best route towards the col is around the western edge to avoid crevasses (many hidden). Care is needed not to wander too near the edge however, as the surrounding couloirs are paths of enormous avalanches. Advance Base Camp was situated at the north end of the cwm under the col, at a height of 16,000 ft. approximately 3 hours from Base.

From Advance Base, there is a snow-ice ramp rising to join the west ridge of the spitzen, about 300 ft. above the col. This is considered safer and easier than climbing to the col direct. Climb the ramp, which gradually steepens to 50° , for 1,500 ft. Bear left at the top to gain the ridge (Grade II). Conditions on the ramp vary from deep powder to hard water ice. From the ridge, descend 100' down steep nevé (fixed rope) and traverse diagonally downwards to the east col, and Camp 1 (17,730 ft.) (1½ to 5 hours from Advance Base).

The col marks the start of the east ridge, which immediately above Camp 1 is guarded by several steep gendarmes. A snow couloir (40° ) on the north side of the ridge is therefore followed for 1,500 ft. to reach the ridge itself. Follow the ridge, easy-angled for about 1,000', via a small gendarme to where the ridge is joined by a subsidiary ridge from the north. This section can be very serious in certain conditions, being knife-edged and exposed, and collecting large amounts of unstable snow or ice. Beyond the junction, the ridge becomes still more unpleasant, knife-edged, rotten and corniced on both sides. From an ice cave constructed in the ridge at this point (19,300 ft.) descend for 100' down its northern slope, and traverse below the ridge at this level for 500 ft. to the right on steep unstable snow, before once again gaining the ridge. From here, the ridge steepens. Climb it for 300 ft. to the start of the seracs. A difficult pitch (Grade III) leads to a small platform at the bottom of the great serac barrier, where a temporary Camp 2 was pitched: From the ice cave to this point (19,800 ft.) 1,000' of fixed ropes were placed. From here, climb the

right (lower) side of the crevasse onto the ridge (Grade II) and up to a snow-bridge. Cross the crevasse via the snow-bridge to a small level snow field. Camp 2 was placed here (20,000 ft., 6 hours from Camp 1, with fixed ropes in place).

From Camp 2, climb the steep ridge of a large serac immediately above for 300 ft. (Grade II, fixed ropes used). Continue up, with seracs and crevasses to right and left, to more seracs barring the way. A 14' vertical ice wall above a crevasse, with a snow-bridge conveniently placed at the start, provides the key (Grade IV, 3 screws). Climb this, and up a further 20 ft. to the top of the serac. From here, the route to the Dome is clearly visible. Follow easy-angled slopes, crevassed and usually deep in powder snow, for several hundred yards to the col between the Dome and the summit ridge. Camp 3 was placed here (21,000 ft., 7 hours from Camp 2).

An alternative for Camp 3 can be found 500 ft. higher beneath a prominent serac on the ridge, and was used by the second party.

From Camp 3, follow the ridge easily up towards the summit, past some crevasses, to the final massif, 500' below the top. Here the ground abruptly steepens. Climb an ice ramp on the right for 400' (Grade III, 45° , powder on hard water ice) towards a 'shark-fin' feature marking the start of a level, corniced knife-edged ridge. Move left along the ridge for 200 ft. to the final 40 ft. wall which surrounds the summit plateau. Climb this (Grade IV, 90° , 2 screws) to the plateau. The summit point is 100 yards west from the edge. (5-8 hours from Camp 3.)



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**Summary of Expenditure**

HK\$

## Transport:

Air fares to and from Nepal	11,219	
Internal air fares	312	
minibus	112	
freight	<u>545</u>	12,188

Customs		996
Air Recce		1,203
Hotel Accommodation		1,003
Food		4,401

## Equipment:

Climbing	4,519*	
Base Camp	<u>1,158</u>	5,677

Fuel		390
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## Liaison Officer:

Pay	875	
Insurance	240	
Clothing	<u>894</u>	2,009

## Porters:

Headporters and Mail runner	1,337	
Approach march	2,862	
Clothing	302	
Food	645	
Return march	1,580	
Insurance	<u>431</u>	7,157

Peak Fee		3,029
Insurance (2 members)		420
Brochure		597
Report		3,000*
Films		2,368*
Miscellaneous		<u>1,303</u>
		<u>45,741</u>

The above summary accounts only for the spending of money available to the expedition and does not adequately reflect the true cost of mounting the expedition. The expedition was assisted with air passages and freight, several firms provided food, virtually all the climbing equipment and medical stores were loaned from Army sources and in general each member provided his own personal climbing gear and clothing.

\* Estimates

# Dates

March	10th	Barker and Burgess reach Kathmandu
March	15th	Main party and equipment reach Pokhara Reconnaissance begins
March	23rd	Whole party leaves Pokhara
March	26th	Forty porters resign
April	2nd	First carry to Base Camp (c. 13,000 ft.)
April	6th	First carry to Advance Base (c. 15,500 ft.)
April	10th	Base Camp fully established and occupied
April	11th	First carry to Camp 1 (East Col, 17,730 ft.)
April	16th	First carry to ice cave (c. 19,300 ft.)
April	21st	Completion of fixed-rope section and first carry to Camp 2 (c. 19,800 ft.)
April	23rd	First summit assault begins
April	24th	First party reaches Camp 3 (c. 21,400 ft.)
April	25th	First party reaches summit
April	26th	First summit party descends to Camp 1
April	27th	Second party reaches summit
May	3rd	Third party reaches summit
May	7th	Camp 1 evacuated, whole party descends to Base Camp
May	12th	Main party returns to Pokhara
May	22nd	Main party returns to Hong Kong



# Benefactors

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British Gurkha Pension Paying Post, Pokhara  
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Maj. Rasht Gurung  
Elizabeth Hawley  
Sri M.P. Khanal  
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