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British Gangotri Gal Expedition '82

Members: N.Kekus.
R.I.Cox.

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BRITISH GANGOTRI GAL EXPEDITION '82

A summarised report of the expedition follows for release to its sponsors.

Without their contributions the expedition would not have been possible. Thank you for your help.

Travel: 22nd August - 31st August.

The team left Britain on the 22nd August for New Delhi, India on a flight taking some 14hrs, carrying 120kg of equipment. Arriving on the afternoon of the 23rd August and making for the Indian Mountaineering Foundation Headquarters where they were to stay while in Delhi. The next 2 days were spent finalising permits with the I.M.F. and purchasing necessary food and equipment.

Delhi at this time of year is very hot and humid, so they wished to spend as little time as possible there.

On the 26th August they left for Uttarkashi, (District capital) however progress onto Gangotri was delayed until the 30th August due to landslips on the road. Gangotri was reached on the 31st August where the loads were prepared for the porters, some 7 loads of 25kg each.

The Walk-in: 1st September - 3rd September.

Compared to the troubles on the road the walk-in was straight forward. On the 2nd Sept they travelled from Gangotri to Gaumukh (source of the Ganges). This is a holy site to which many Hindu pilgrims visit. 3rd Sept the base camp at Tapovan (4450m) was reached and the camp established. Tapovan is a truly beautiful place, a little oasis next to the bleak and chaotic Gangotri Glacier. Shiviling (6543m) rises quite magnificently in the back-ground.

Acclimatisation: 4th September - 17th September.

During this period Advanced Base Camp was established at 5100m below a rock buttress descending from the North ridge. From ABC a reasonably safe approach was made onto the N.E. face of Shiviling to fix the initial snow slope. A series of load carries were made to ABC and the top of the fixed ropes (5250m). Most of this period was spent above 5000m in an effort to acclimatise.

The Climb: 18th September - 28th September.

The team set off on the face on the 18th Sept with food for 12 days and much climbing equipment. Carrying heavy sacs they moved slowly and established a bivouac camp at 5400m below the 1st rock band.

The rock band proved difficult (V, A1) climbing, but on good rock. On the 19th Sept a bivouac camp was made below the 2nd rock band at approx 5600m. From there they carried up equipment and fixed the remaining rope to that height. The 2nd rock band involved steep ice (70-80) and mixed (V,V1) climbing for 100m. Richard Cox led the final difficult pitch, this was a fine piece of climbing. On the 22nd Sept they started to climb the main ice field. It was not so difficult as the angle suggested (60), however some soft snow hindered progress.

At approx 5-00 pm the top of the ice field was reached. Richard Cox fell through the 1st pitch on the upper rocks. An anchor failed while hauling sacs causing him to fall (20m) resulting in an ankle injury and possible concussion with related injuries. By night fall Nick Kekus had managed to get Richard Cox back up to the belay and prepare a make shift bivouac. That evening the weather deteriorated. The following day it snow extremely heavy, pinning the climbers to the spot, (6100m). However a more comfortable bivouac was found slightly higher.

The weather continued poor until the 25th Sept. Richard Cox's condition gradually became worse making it imperative to descend.

On the morning of the 26th Sept the weather was fine and the descent was commenced. Richard Cox was unable to stand and so had to be lowered down the face. He was incapable of looking after himself.

On that evening (approx 8-00 pm) an accident occurred in which its beleived Richard Cox became detached from his jumars, in the resulting fall he was killed.

On the 27 th Sept Nick Kekus successfully managed to descend by rappel, alone. He reached base camp by the evening.

The Return: 30th September - 8th October.

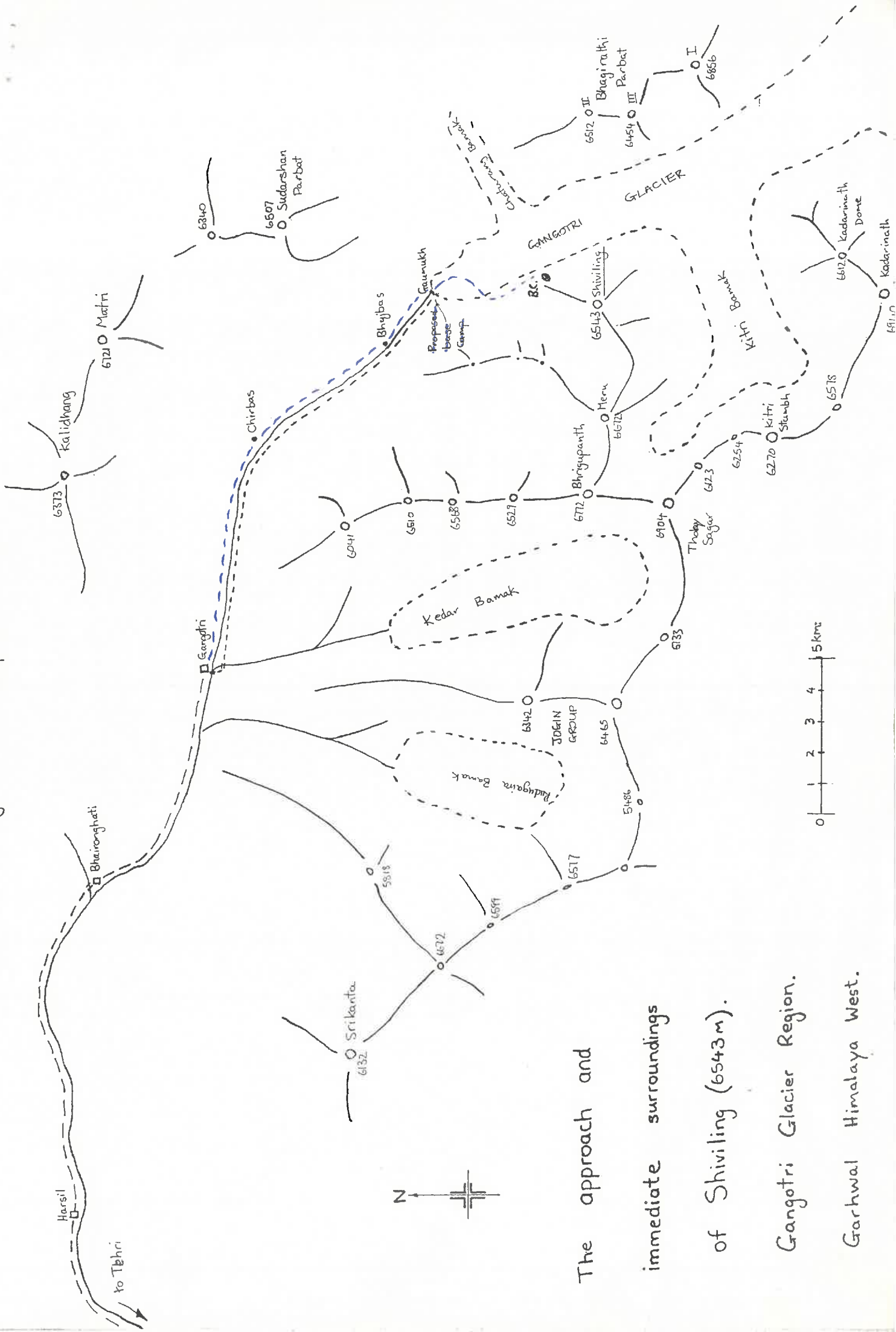
30th Sept base camp was evacuated and Nick Kekus travelled to Gangotri to notify the Police there.

2nd Oct travelled back to Delhi, arriving there on the 4th Oct.

5th Oct reported to British Embassy.

8th Oct flew back to Britain.

British Gangotri Gal Expedition '82



The approach and immediate surroundings of Shivling (6543m).

Gangotri Glacier Region. Garhwal Himalaya West.

BRITISH GANGOTRI GAL EXPEDITION '82

Statement of Account

INCOME

Mount Everest Foundation	650.00
British Mountaineering Council	350.00
G. & H. Craghoppers Award	500.00
Personnal contributions (2x 553)	1106.00
Total	£ <u>2606.00</u>

EXPENDITURE

Equipment (mountaineering, medical, photographic.)	1071.00
Food	92.00
Airfare (2 returns)	625.00
Travel	90.00
Labour	70.00
Administration (peak fee, insurance, postage etc.)	552.00
Acomodation.	106.00
Total	£ <u>2606.00</u>

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J.B.Tyson Esq,
Stacey,
Sandy Lane,
Cobham,
Surrey, KT11 2ES.

18th February 1982.

Dear Mr Tyson

Thank you for your letter of the 16th February regarding our expedition to Shiviling.

As asked by Miss Turner, I am passing on additional information directly to you.

Firstly I have enclosed more specific information about our proposed route, enclosed also are sketch maps and photos. The photo shows our proposed route, more clear photos in the Iwa to Yuki magazine show a feasible line through the upper rock buttress. I had hoped to obtain some copies of Doug Scotts photos of this face, but as yet they have not arrived.

I did though receive a reply from Mr Scott in which he stated that the NE Face would make an excellent route. His approval has now given us total confidence in our attempt on this very difficult route.

I may add this face is unclimbed.

I look forward to here the outcome of the Screening Committee.

Yours sincerely



Nick Kekus
Expedition Leader,

PTO

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BRITISH GANGOTRI GAL EXPEDITION: '82

The expedition is to be a small 2 man team, (in the modern idiom) intending to climb the peak Shiviling (6543m). This mountain is without doubt one of the most impressive in the Garhwal Himalaya West in India. The expeditions particular objective is the steep North East Face, which consists of a steep ice field capped by a vertical rock buttress to the summit snow slope. As Doug Scott says, the face will be an excellent route, a super Droites North Face.

The face we expect will not only pose technical difficulties, but will creat major tactical problems, ie trying to camp on the ice field or pushing the 3000ft of ice in one day. To carry out the latter would require both climbers to be extremely fit and well acclimatized.

which ever tactic is adopted there is no doubt this face will offer a formidable challenge, particularly as we willbe climbing Alpine Style, that is with all the equipment required on our backs and with no support team.

The Gangotri Glacier region on which Shiviling is to be found offers one of the largest areas of new exciting mountains, which in more recent times were out of bounds to foreign climbers, that is until 1979. And so this region has a special attraction to us, as only a hand full of British dlimbers have previously visited the area since the boarder confrontations with the Chinese in the 1950's.

As a final word we see ourselves attempting to consolidate the efforts of Boardman and Tasker on Changabang. In my mind Alpine Style is the only true and worth while form of ascent. Alpine climbing in the Himalayas is coming out of its infancy as equipment becomes better, but more so because peoples attitudes and fears have changed.

We hope that a successful ascent of the NE face on Shiviling will gain respect just as other major Alpine ascents have done.

Budget

We hope with careful planning and support to follow the guide lines below.

Expenditure:	Peak Fee	675.
	Flights	700.
	Transpovt	150.
	Porters	180.
	Food & Accomodation	200.
	Administration (inc insurance)	110.
	Equipment	300.

Total £ 2315

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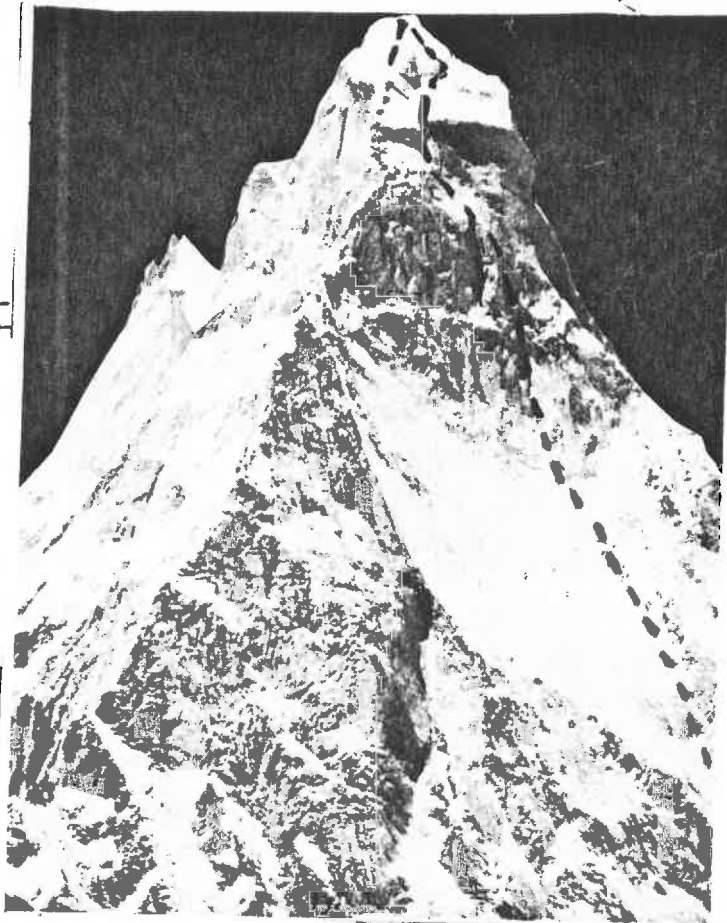
PAKISTAN

SHIVILING ▲

TIBET

DELHI ●

NEPAL



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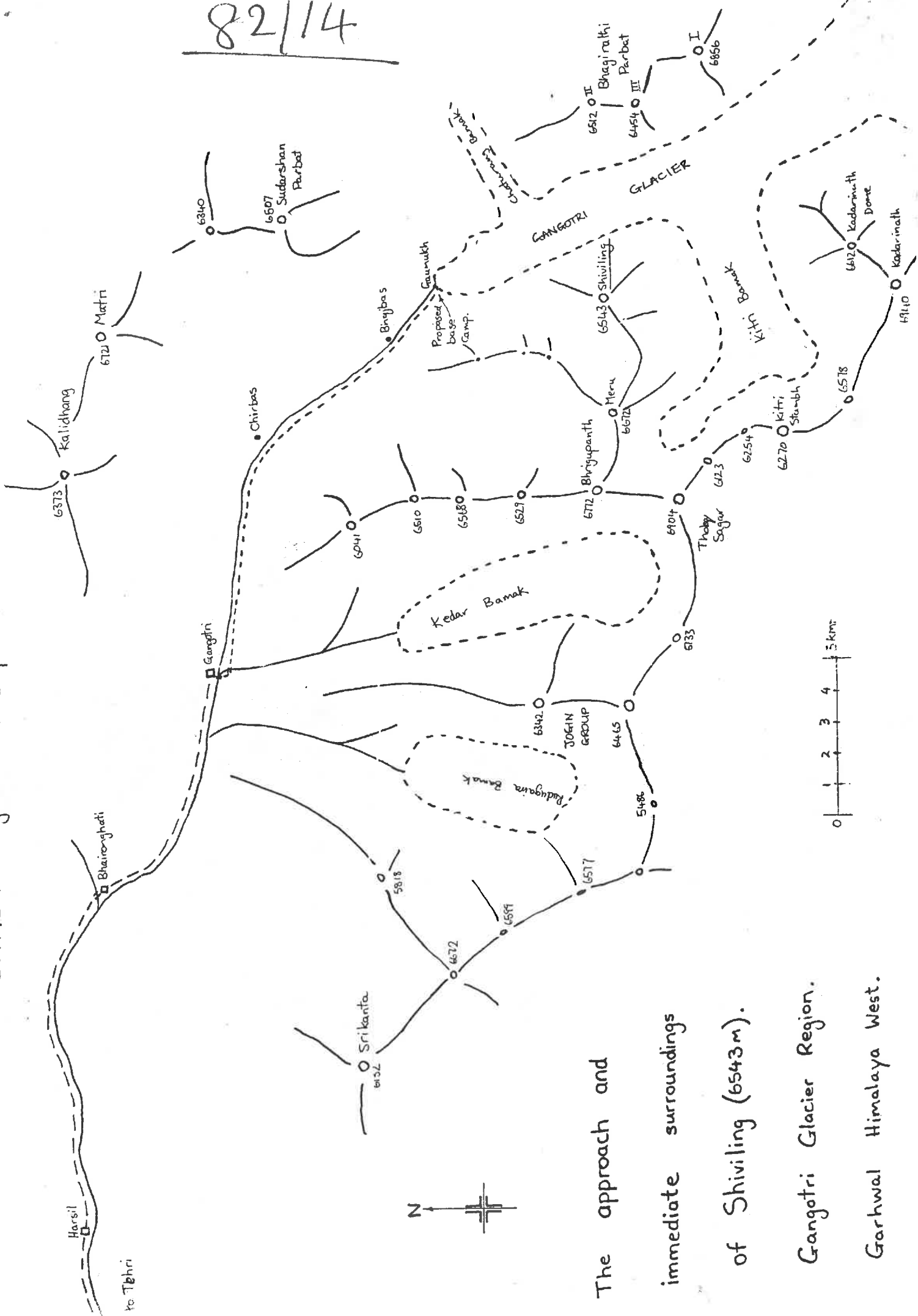
● CALCUTTA

● BOMBAY

P.T.O.

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BRITISH GANGETTI VAL EXPEDITION 04



The approach and immediate surroundings of Shivling (6543m).
 Gangotri Glacier Region.
 Garhwal Himalaya West.