

82/34 - AT 13

SHEFFIELD Ogre 2 EXPEDITION



623

1982

accl 23/20 623

The British Ogre 2 Expedition 1982.

Approved and supported by the Mount Everest Foundation and the British Mountaineering Council

In the summer of 1982 four climbers attempted the unclimbed Ogre 2 (Baintha Brakk 2 6960m) in the Karakoram Range of Northern Pakistan. In 1977 Doug Scott and Chris Bonnington climbed its neighbour, The Ogre, after several unsuccessful previous attempts by other parties. They, and their supporting climbers, MD Anthoine and Clive Rowland, endured an epic retreat after Scott broke his legs near the summit and was forced to crawl down the mountain. Its twin peak promised to be at least as difficult. It had already been tried by three previous expeditions since 1979. A British four man party tried in 1979, and large Japanese and Korean expeditions subsequently. None scored much success, and one Korean died when ice swept him away in Death Valley, the dangerous corridor between the Ogre peaks.

In the winter of 1982 Paul Nunn sought political permission to climb one of a number of difficult unclimbed mountains in the Karakoram. Denied permission to try the two highest priorities, he was nevertheless pleased to gain a permit for the Ogre 2. Though evidently difficult his previous two expeditions to the area made it seem likely that an able party would succeed where others had failed.

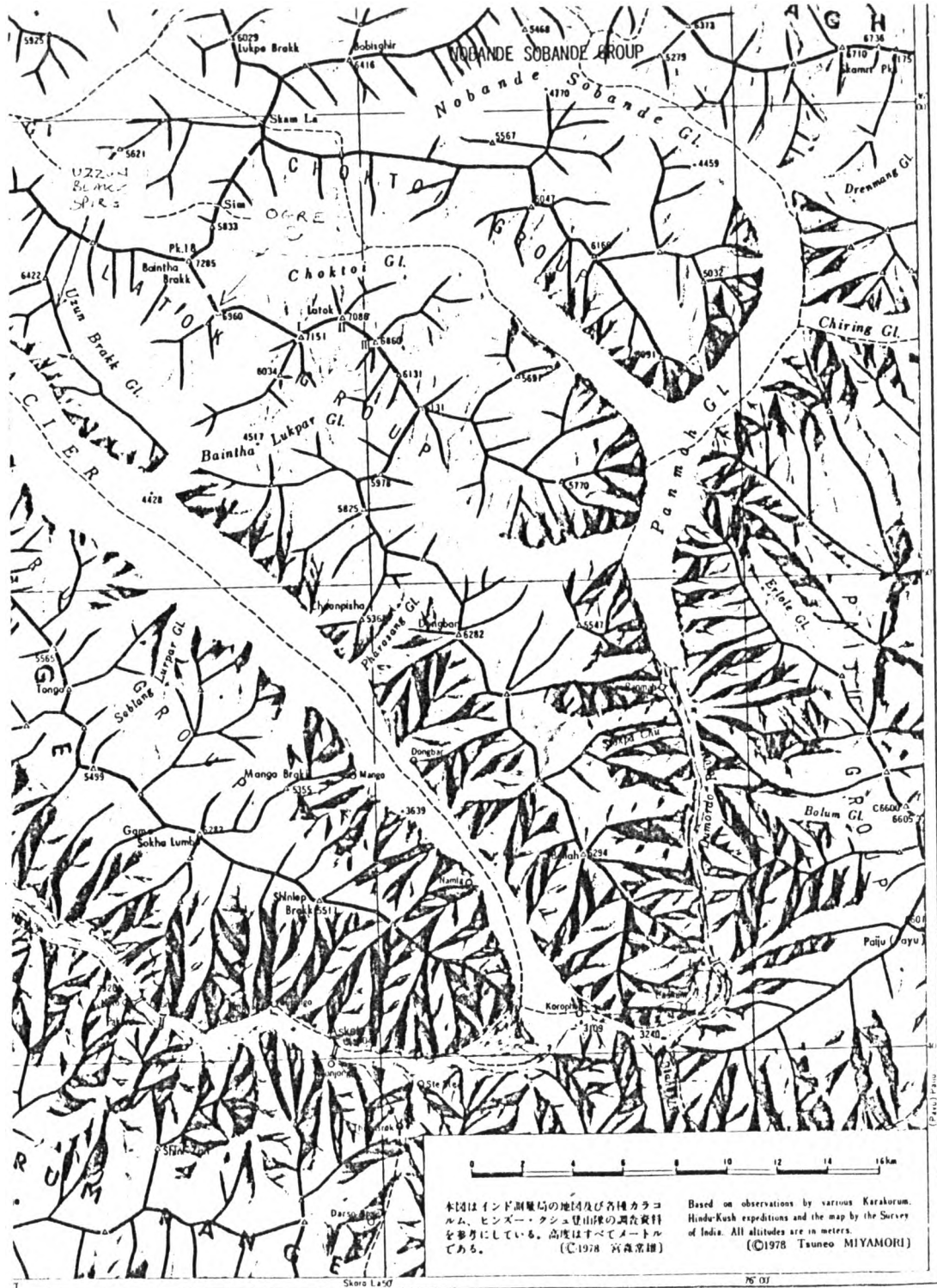
Partners in the venture were Brian Hall, Al Rouse and Andy Parkin. With thirty expeditions and many difficult first ascents in the bag, including ascents alpine style of Nuptse, Mount Kongur, Jannu and Baltoro Kangri, and survival on the boldest ever attempt on Everest, by the West Ridge in Winter, there could not have been a better team.

Ogre 2 is a difficult and complex peak. The West summit is a gigantic Matterhorn-like spire, more than 6,000 feet higher than that famous mountain. The East peak is an icy ridge, and between is the Central and highest summit, approachable only by devious routes through its lower walls, and an extremely long and difficult summit ridge protected by a number of steep towers. The lower reaches were obviously dangerous, and alpine style of ascent seemed best to allow flexibility and speed of ascent to minimize exposure to the falling ice and stones inevitable on such a mountain. It is also the style to which the members are committed, as it is the most satisfying and natural approach in all mountaineering.

Leaving Britain late in June, we reached Skardu on 6 July after enjoying the generous hospitality of Mr and Mrs Corfield in Islamabad and driving up the Karakoram Highway. Thirty-three porters led by Fhada Hussein took our equipment to Base Camp in six days from Dusso. By 16 July we were comfortably installed at 15,500 feet, accompanied by our liaison officer, Captain Liaquat Ali, and our excellent cook, Mr Mohammad Taqi.

For acclimatization we attempted Uzzun Blakk Spire, a challenging rock spire of perhaps 5,950m. A new route was pioneered in two days on 23/24 July, and we bivouaced within one day of the top. A storm ended the attempt and enforced a dangerous descent by a different and unknown route.

On 28 July we climbed the ice slopes towards the North West Ridge of the West peak of Ogre 2. After a bivouac a point was reached at about 6,100m early in the day, after crossing an extremely hazardous hanging glacier. Al and Andy extended the route by difficult rockclimbing above, while Brian and Paul excavated a safe ice cave. Next day we proceeded together up difficult rock, reaching about 6,350m by late afternoon. Andy led some extremely difficult rock while the rest of the party recovered the equipment. Unfortunately no bivouac position could be established and we were deluged with water and stones. This enforced a retreat to the ice cave, with loss of height and energy. The labour on this buttress also caused damage to half of our supply of rope either through stonefall or razor-edged flakes of rock. Retreat meant that our supplies were too limited for us to continue, so on 31 July we retreated early by traversing the North-West face of the mountain and abseiling into the top of Death Valley down steep rock and ice. In a very fast descent we were mightily impressed by the immense amount of debris and danger on this route to the mountain, and all wished if possible to avoid it in future.



本図はインド測量場の地図及び各種カラコ
 ルム、ヒンズー・クシュ山脈の調査資料
 を参考にしている。高度はすべてメートル
 である。(C1978 宮森常雄)

Based on observations by various Karakorum,
 Hindu-Kush expeditions and the map by the Survey
 of India. All altitudes are in meters.
 (©1978 Taunoo MIYAMORI)

BIAFO GLACIER REGION.

On August 2nd and 3rd we investigated the South Face of the mountain in the hope of finding a faster way to the Central Summit, but decided that the only possibility was far too steep and threatened by ice fall. On the West summit the South Ridge did have some appeal though it is evident that it is technically of the highest standard. Assuming that the approach might be less dangerous than those already experienced we decided to try this route.

The attempt was delayed when Brian injured a shoulder in a fall near Base Camp (3 August). A cracked collar bone was suspected, and for him further climbing ceased to be possible. On 6th and 7th August the remaining three climbers tried the South Ridge of the West peak. Unfortunately the gully leading to it proved extremely long and very dangerous. Unbeknown to us the Japanese had tried this route expedition style, and a few fixed roped and pit ones were found. But an index of the dangers was the extent to which these had been destroyed by falling ice and stones. It took twelve hours of extremely threatened climbing to reach the ridge on the 6th very wet and tired and we bivouaced in an exposed position on a corniced ridge. Next day we set off, but turned back when one of my crampons disintegrated. With four or five days of difficult climbing ahead and no means of repair retreat was inevitable for me in the circumstances. On 8 July a dangerous descent was made to Base Camp.

Choices were narrowed by changing conditions and bad weather, which followed immediately upon our return. The only really feasible fast route now seemed to be the North ridge of the Central Summit which involved taking our lives into our hands in Death Valley. When the weather cleared on 16 August we bivouaced below it, and set off in good conditions early on 17 August. The corridor was climbed very quickly before dawn. By 6.00 am we were almost clear of the most dangerous area. An ice cliff 1,000 feet above collapsed at this point and swept the gully, crashing past within thirty feet. Much chastened we climbed very fast into the safer area above. The climbing to reach our ridge above was also overlooked by ice cliffs with a risk of small falls. We decided to retreat, as we had spent a large part of the previous month in such conditions. Base Camp was reached that day, and vacated on 21 August.

Summary

The mountain proved technically difficult, but above all very dangerous from ice and rock fall. Conditions changed as time passed, and the early route became too stonefall ridden to justify re-use. If the summit is to be reached alpine style the North ridge of the Central Summit is the logical route, but that requires either an approach via Death Valley, or ascent of our first route early in the season before the stonefall becomes too bad. That route also involves risk of serious serac fall on the second day, at the point where the ice field is crossed. Whichever route is chosen, The Ogre 2 is likely to provide interesting climbing.

Equipment

Berghaus provided exceptionally suitable rucsacs, Yeti gaiters, Igloo jackets and salopettes of goretex lined with thinsulate and warm jackets and walk in boots. The mountain clothing was warm and very quick drying, a great boon in circumstances where we were frequently wet through from snow and waterfalls at high altitude. Mountain Equipment Everest (Gortex covered) sleeping bags again proved their worth, as did Vista outer gloves. Wild Country Friends, rocks and other auxiliary protection gear proved invaluable, and were much used in ascent and retreat. Tentage, and especially lightweight nylon tents and warmunderwear, came from Blacks, and saved much portorage. P & B Peeby grips and Blacks large groundsheets made a luxurious kitchen and store. On the mountain 20kg seems about the Base Camp leaving weight to be aimed at for alpine style with food and fuel for seven days.

Food

Support came from the Quaker Oats - Sutherlands Foods Division Ltd. Bassetts Ltd.

Liptons Tea Ltd, Thorntons Foods Ltd and John West Ltd. Food was supplied at cost by Raven Foods, and a large order of delicatessen foods, tinned meats etc came from Richardsons Cash and Carry Sheffield. Most food was bought in Pakistan, where good jams, biscuits etc as well as staples, can be purchased. Relatively little freeze dried food was used. Pakistani food and a good cook kept us overfed at Base Camp. Above, good quality salami, cheese, cakes, biscuits etc, and a smoked ham, plus fudges, chocolate and sweets were used with dried potato, noodles, soups, and quick rice. As always brews were in the greatest demand. Food was taken to stay at Base Camp for much longer than we eventually did, as seems wise in this area.

The expedition would like to thank those who were generous in their support.

Film & Photography

Three news reports were supplied to BBC 2 Newsnight. Help was received in this from Messrs Samuelsons Ltd, British Airways, Karakoram Tours, The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (Mr Sabir Hussein Skardu) and Haji Mehdi, Headman of Askole, and from Kossar, our mail runner and Captain Liaquat Ali. The expedition would particularly like to thank Jana Bennet and Howard Anderson at Newsnight, David Graeme (British Airways area Manager, North Pakistan) and Captain Ed Winter (Pilot BA).

Excellent still photographs were taken during the expedition. Members are willing and experienced lecturers and can also supply quality photographic material at competitive rates when requested.

Accounts Opre 2 1982.

Payments

Britain	£	
peak fee	400	
Flights	1500	
Excess baggage	500	
Insurance(us)	118	
Photography	260	
Food UK	335	
Equipment UK	393	
Misc Travel&		
Newsnight costs	132	
Brochure	35	

Pakistan.

PorterIO Insurance	110
food & fuel	300
(inc porter gear)-	
IO	110
KK Tours	80
Travel road to	
Skabdu Transit hire	150

Bus return	25
Brains Return	100
K2 Motel going	65
Masherbrum return	25
Jeeps	150
porters and	
runner	1571
cook	200
Misc-travel food	
& taxis	150
heli fee re National	
Bank	30
Barclays B. Interest	
charge	00
	<u>6905</u>

Receipts.

	£
Mef.	900
BMC	750
Personnl	4000
Misc	70
BBC	1185.
	<u>6905</u>



