

RIMO

Interim Report of the Siachen Indo-British Expedition 1985
(AKA the Himalayan Anglo-Indian Expedition)

The expedition was jointly instigated by the Alpine Club and the Indian Mountaineering Federation. (See accompanying Information Sheet). The AC team consisted mainly of members of its filial organisation - the Alpine Climbing Group, and the IMF team entirely of the Bombay Mountaineers, a member club.

The team Members were;

Mr. Harish Kapadia (leader)	Bombay Mountaineers
Mr. Dhiren	"
Mr. Zerkxes Boga	"
Mr. Muslim Contractor	"
Mr. Amant Sarun	"
Ms. Meena Agrawal (Doctor)	" & Alpine Club
Dr. Henry Osmaston (Glaciologist)	Alpine Club
Mr. David Wilkinson	Alpine Climbing Group
Mr. James Fotheringham	"
Mr. Stephen Venebles	"
Mr. Anthony Saunders	"



In addition to the climbing team, there were four accomplices

Opt. Mohindra Singh	Indian Army Liason Officer
Harsingh Senior	Porter-Cook
Harsingh Junior	"
Pratabsingh	"

The team as a whole climbed various peaks in the Rimo range, explored a number of unvisited cols and Glaciers, crossing the passes when possible, and completed some interesting scientific work on the North Terong Glacier. It appears from the literature that the entire Area of the Terong Glaciers has been visited only once in the past, by two members of Visser's Siachen expedition, in c.1937.

Rimo I (7385 m. 24,230 ft.)

This peak was attempted by Venebles and Saunders over six days. A high point of c. 6900 m. was reached on the 9th July, when Venebles dropped his rucksack down the 1500 m. West Face. The sack contained, among other invaluable equipment, the stove, and his sleeping bag. Immediate retreat was strongly indicated. The pair were able to descend the 1300 m. East Face to the Ibex Glacier during the course of the following day, where food and water were available for the first time in nearly two days. The sack, and some of the contents, were recovered from the West Face Glacier a few days later; Bad weather prevented further attempts by this route.

Rimo III (7233m. 23,730 ft.)

Wilkinson and Fotheringham climbed this virgin summit by an exciting glacier excursion over the previously uncrossed South col of Rimo I (6200m. 20,340 ft.). From the South Rimo Glacier, the summit was reached in two days (on the 14th July) and descent another one and a half days.

Outlying Peaks between 6000 m. and 6400 m.

Seven outlying peaks were climbed by various combinations of the Bombay Mountaineers. The peaks were generally climbed by groups of two or three, Alpine Style, from a relatively high advanced camp.

Glaciers

Explorations were made of the upper South Rimo Glacier, Shelkar Chorten Glacier, North Terong Glacier, South Terong Glacier, and various as yet unnamed glaciers.

Access

Access to the area north of Leh, the Eastern Karakoram, is heavily restricted. In the case of this expedition, the problems of operating in a 'military' zone were compounded by a number of porter strikes on the walk to base camp. The Terong River was forded on the way up, but was found to be uncrossable by the end of the expedition. A rock wall above the river was fixed with 600 ft of rope to allow the expeditionaries to exit the valley.

Health

There were no breakages or significant outbreaks of illness. The usual precautions, vaccinations, water purifying tablets, etc. were taken with apparent success.

Acknowledgements

The trip could not possibly have taken place without the valuable help of a number of organisations, in particular;

British Airways

Grindlays Bank

British Mountaineering Council

Mount Everest Foundation

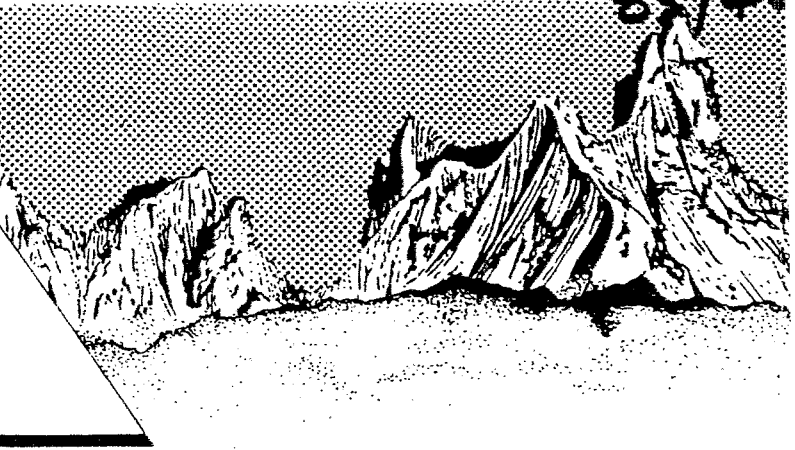
Barclays Bank

Conclusion

This was a highly successful expedition, notwithstanding the failure to climb Rimo I. The Indian and British members became firm friends and have tentative plans for further joint enterprises. We hope in this way to enhance links between the mountaineering communities of India and Britain.



ANGLO-INDIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION '85



The mountains in the far Northern corner of Kashmir have for many years been closed to foreigners. This year, however, the Indian Mountaineering Federation have invited the Alpine Club to send six members on a joint climbing expedition to the area. It is a unique opportunity for British Mountaineers to explore hitherto forbidden territory in a remote corner of the Himalayas.

the Anglo-Indian expedition and we are glad to be continuing the tradition of joint expeditions. Britain and India have strong ties dating from the days of the Raj and ventures like this reaffirm those ties, strengthening cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

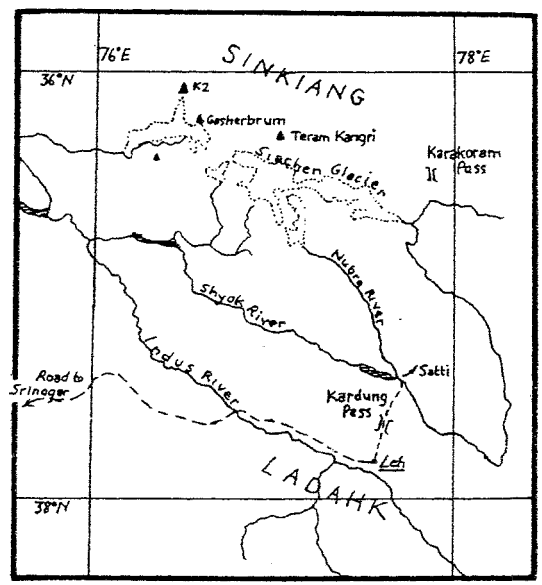
THE SIACHEN GLACIER

The Siachen is the world's largest glacier outside the polar regions. From its head near K2 it flows over 75 km into the Nubra valley. Tom Longstaff was first to explore the area, in 1909, and was staggered by the immense scale and complexity of this Eastern part of the Karakoram range. Three years later the legendary Bullock-Workmans continued his work and in 1935 John Hunt led an army expedition to the area. Eric Shipton's was the last British expedition to visit the Siachen, in 1957.

EXPEDITION PLAN

The expedition will take place between June and September 1985. The British team will fly with all the equipment to Delhi, where we meet the Indian members for final preparations. Then begins the long overland journey north to Ladakh and on into the restricted zone, finally reaching the Nubra valley. From the roadhead, local porters carry all the supplies needed to support and equip a 12-man team for over two months at Base Camp in the mountains.

Now, 28 years later, there are still topographical details to clarify and mountains to climb. The Teram Kangri massif, on the North side of the Siachen, close to China, contains one of the largest groups of major unclimbed summits in the world. Five summits over 23,500 ft and a host of lower peaks have never been attempted - an irresistible mountaineering challenge.

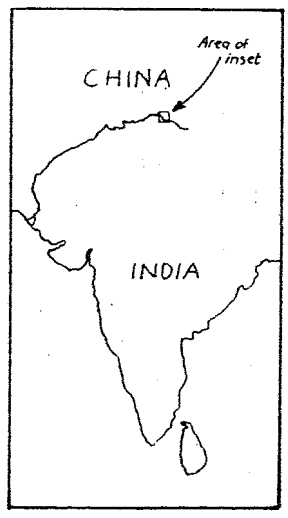


The 1985 expedition intends to take up this challenge, operating from a remote base camp, high on the Siachen. Splitting into four-man teams, we will make a thorough exploration of the Teram Kangri massif and attempt as many virgin peaks as possible.

THE ALPINE CLUB

The Alpine Club was founded in 1857, when many of the great alpine summits had yet to be climbed. Eight years later Edward Whymper and club members made the first ascent of the Matterhorn. British mountaineers were at the forefront of pioneering and ours was the first of the world's alpine clubs to be established. Over the last century the club has built up the world's largest collection of mountaineering literature, has produced 89 volumes of its own Alpine journal and has continued to take a leading role in world mountaineering. The list of past presidents includes such eminent figures as Martin Conway, Eric Shipton and John Hunt, who led Alpine Club members to success on Everest in 1953. Today's president, Lord Chorley, encouraging the shift of emphasis from the Alps to the Himalayas, was quick to respond to the Indian invitation for a joint expedition and, because this is such a unique opportunity, the Alpine Club is officially backing the expedition. The selected team are some of the club's most active members; they have all climbed at the highest standards and between them have over 80 years experience of exploratory mountaineering in five continents.

EAST KARAKORAM



THE INDIAN MOUNTAINEERING FEDERATION

The IMF is the representative body of Indian mountaineers and is responsible for allocating permits to foreign expeditions to the Indian Himalaya. They will select six of their members to join the British team. During the 1970s Chris Bonington led Anglo-Indian expeditions to success on Brahmah and Changabang. This year he is a patron of



ANGLO-INDIAN HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION '85

FINANCE

Mounting a major international expedition is a costly operation and the budget for the British team is £18,000, broken down as follows:

travel and air freight	£ 6000
food and stores	2500
equipment	2300
peak royalty fee	1800
wage of labour	3200
insurance	500
accommodation in India	400
administrative costs	300
contingency	1000
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	£18000
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The Mount Everest Foundation and the Sports Council will be contributing about £1,000 towards the cost. The Alpine Club, while giving the expedition its fullest advice and support, can provide no money; all its funds are required to maintain its unique library, which is administered by a full-time professional librarian. We urgently need financial support.

Our sponsors will be represented in the press, both here in Britain, and in Delhi. We will photograph companies' products and emblems in use during the expedition and will, of course, acknowledge all support in the official expedition report.

All members of the team have a thoroughly professional approach to organising expeditions and have considerable experience of the media. Dave Wilkinson sent back stories and pictures from the British Konyang Kish expedition base camp, which were used in a major series of features by the Birmingham post. The same expedition provided Phil Bartlett with photographs for an advertising agency and an article for the British Airways magazine - 'High Life'. He has also written for all the leading climbing magazines, is assistant editor of the Alpine Journal and has contributed articles to 'The Times'. Stephen Venables, as well as running a furniture business, lectures on mountaineering to a wide variety of audiences, has mounted two photographic exhibitions, is a regular contributor to the Alpine Journal and has sold articles and photographs to the Western Daily Press, the Yorkshire Post, Gulf Air Magazine and Illustrated London News. Jim Fotheringham has published articles and photographs in The Alpine Journal and The Cumberland Times; Simon Fraser is a professional photographer, who recently exhibited his work at the Royal Geographical Society.

Sponsors can be sure that their support will be put to the best possible use in making this exciting adventure feasible.

THE ALPINE CLUB TEAM

PHIL BARTLETT - 29, sixth-form college lecturer, started climbing very young and as a teenager was climbing some of the hardest British rock climbs. His new route on Snowdon - 'Quiver' - still has a formidable reputation. Further afield, he has climbed numerous Alpine peaks, including the first British ascent of the NE spur direct

on Les Droites. In 1976 he climbed difficult new routes on Baffin Island, in the Arctic, and two years later mounted his first Himalayan expedition. Since then he has returned to the Himalayas with the British Konyang Kish expedition and has also climbed on Mt Olympus, in the Sierra Nevada, and in the Andes.

SIMON FRASER - 30, photographer, is currently spending his second winter in Ladakh, searching for the elusive snow leopard. He has climbed several Himalayan peaks and, in Patagonia, climbed Ojos Der Salado (22,000 ft). He has also spent many months in Antarctica, during two tours of duty with the British Antarctic Survey.

JIM FOTHERINGHAM - 32, dentist, lives and works in the Lake District, where he is a well-known local climber. He is also a very experienced alpinist and has climbed several of the great routes of the Mont Blanc range, including the famous Walker Spur. An extremely competent, fast climber, he fitted an ascent of the Cassin rib on Mt McKinley (22,000 ft) into a mere 17-day trip to Alaska. Even further north, he repeated one of the hardest climbs on Baffin Island, in 1979. In the same year he also climbed on Mt Kenya and then in 1980 travelled to the Himalayas to make the first ascent of Thui III, in Pakistan. Jim is best known for his 1983 expedition when he and Chris Bonington made the first ascent of the precipitous west summit of Shivaling.

TONY SAUNDERS - 34, architect, first visited the Alps as a child on skiing holidays. More recently, he has had seven climbing seasons, including a winter ascent of the north face of the Eiger. He has made several first winter ascents in Scotland and was one of the pioneers of an esoteric branch of British mountaineering - climbing the chalk cliffs of Dover, using ice-climbing techniques. In the Himalayas he made the first ascent of Conway's Ogre in 1980, and in 1984 nearly reached the summit of Bojohagur Duanasir (24,046 ft), during 16 gruelling days of continuous climbing.

DAVE WILKINSON - 38, polytechnic lecturer, usually visits the Alps at least twice a year and has climbed many of the hardest routes, most notably the first and only ascent of the formidable NW face direct of the Mönch, climbed over five days in the winter of 1976. His extensive Alpine experience was the perfect grounding for three expeditions to the Andes, where he has made many first ascents, including a new route on Yerupaja (21,759 ft). In the Himalayas, he made the first ascent of Mehrbani, did much of the leading on the 1978 Latok Expedition and was instigator and leader of the British Konyang Kish Expedition.

STEPHEN VENABLES - 30, cabinet maker, began climbing 13 years ago with the Oxford University Mountaineering Club. He has climbed and skied extensively in the Alps, soloing several north faces and, in 1983, making a winter ascent of the remote, rarely climbed NE face of the Finsteraarhorn. In 1977 he travelled overland to Afghanistan, where he pioneered three new routes in the Hindu Kush. He has since returned five times to the Himalayas, climbing several virgin peaks, taking part in the British Konyang Kish expedition and in 1983 making the first ascent of the spectacular Kishwar-Shivaling, by an extreme technical route up the north face. He has also pioneered climbs in the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes.