

24049
Summary Report of the Leeds Bublinitin Expedition '87.

87/10

Members: Andrew Bowman, Andrew Swann, Richard Barber, Simon Baker.

Support member: Robert George.

Leaders Address: 10 Monkbridge Place, Leeds, LS6 4HW.

Objective: The first ascent of South/West Face of Bublinitin.

The first ascent of South Ridge of Shani Peak.

Expedition Itinerary:-

July 20th: Fly to Karachi, continuation flight to Rawalpindi.

July 21st: Bus journey to Gilgit.

July 22nd: Arrive Gilgit shop for provisions and arrange transport to Karimabad, Hunza Valley.

July 23rd: Arrive Karimabad and arrange porters.

July 24th: Exploratory walk in to Bublinitin Base Camp.

July 25th: Andy Bowman & Simon Baker explore and climb snow dome above Sirkary Glacier (5,200m) return to.

Bublinitin base camp on July 28th. Meanwhile Andy Swann,

Richard Barber and Rob George establish Base Camp and recon route to base of Pinal tower 17,000 ft.

July 29th: Rest day.

July 30th: Establish gear dump below snow/ice field leading to Pinal tower. Andy Swann experiencing chronic stomach problems.

July 31st: Return to Karimabad with Andy Swann due to his illness.

Aug 1st: Andy Swann visits hospital. Bad weather in mountains.

Hospital has insufficient facilities to diagnose illness, suggest Doctors in Rawalpindi.

Aug 2nd: Andy Swann goes to Rawalpindi. Rest of team return to Base Camp.

Aug 3rd: Decision to climb/attempt route on Shani taken as weather still unsettled and with the lack of a 'lead' climber. Feel the face is beyond the abilities of Richard Barber and

Simon Baker.

Aug 4th: Return to Gilgit.

Aug 5th: Re-organise gear, arrange jeep transport to Naltar and try buy fresh food, unsuccessfully.

Aug 6th: Jeep to Naltar walk 4 miles and camp.

Aug 7th: In bad weather complete walk in to Shani Base camp, (15,500ft).

Aug 8th: Rest day, arrange gear.

Aug 9th: Barber, George, Baker recce' walk. Bowman ill with acute stomach cramps, the runs, Perer.

Aug 10th: Unsettled weather, Bowmans condition fails to improve.

Aug 10-13th: Unsettled weather continuation of Bowmans condition.

Aug 11th: Camp guard caught stealing money decision to abandon Base Camp, to seek medical advice in Gilgit.

Aug 12: Walk out, jeep ride to Gilgit.

Aug 13/14th: Baker must return to work commitments, Doctor advises medical advice in Rawalpindi.

Aug 15th: Fly to Pindi: Due to worsening condition of Bowman and lack of finances whole team return home. R. George flies to India.

Aug 16th: Pindi - Karachi - London.

Weather: Prior to our arriving there had been heavy snows, further east in Baltoro no expedition was successful. Our area experienced mixed weather, 1/2 days good followed by 3/4 mixed bad weather. Temperatures were extremely high 8000ft = 90°, Freezing only occurred above 16,000ft during night time, it never seemed to freeze during the day, Snow routes were obviously dangerous and laborious.

Our main reasons for retreat were the illnesses of A. Bowman, and A. Swann, the lead climbers, lack of funds prevented recuperation in Pindi, decent hotels cost £15 plus per night.

Both Swann & Bowman were diagnosed having acute gastroenteritis, worms and food poisoning although great precautions were taken. This is not the first expedition to experience particularly bad health problems in the Hunza Valley ie Doug Scott's team in 85.

A. Bowman is still undergoing further tests two weeks after returning has continuing problems.

Total Cost of trip : £3,400

This total includes air flights, accommodation, all foods, personal equipment, porters, transport in Pakistan and general sundries.

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Many Thanks for all your help
again

Andy Bowman