

BRITISH GASHERBRUM IV EXPEDITION 1988- SUMMARY

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OBJECTIVE: AN ASCENT UNCLIMBED SOUTH RIDGE OF GASHERBRUM IV
 7980 M. THE ASCENT WAS TO BE ATTEMPTED USING FIXED ROPE TO AROUND
 THE 7200M MARK AND THEN AN ALPINE ASSAULT ON THE FINAL HEADWALL.

DATES: THE PLANNED DURATION WAS FROM 1ST MAY TO END JULY

ACTUAL DATES:

1ST MAY TO 9TH MAY- FLY ISLAMABAD. PREPARATIONS IN PINDI/ISLAMABAD.
 9/10TH MAY - TRAVEL TO SKARDU/BUS
 13TH MAY - DASSU/JEEPS
 14/15TH - SIT OUT PORTER STRIKE FOR WAGES!
 15/26TH - JOURNEY TO BASE
 28/29TH JULY - REACH 23,000FT /ABANDON TRIP.
 13TH JULY - REACH LONDON

SUMMARY:

Three members left on 29th April for Islamabad (DL, PH, GH). Martin was to follow in a week after the preliminary work had been carried out. The expedition left for Skardu by bus on the 9th May. On the 13th we set off for Dassu. Problems were encountered at Dassu on account of the porters wanting an extra 400rs/- each for the journey to Base. The expedition did not have the funds available to pay this and for a while had to consider abandoning the trip. Two days were spent at Dassu before the porters agreed to go for an extra 200rs/-. This took all our reserve money and we were left with no contingency at all.

The journey to Base was uneventful, no porter problems that couldn't be solved! The weather to Base was particularly good, especially compared to the horrendous conditions experienced on the '86 trip. This without doubt contributed to the ease of the journey.



d.g. 88

+
23

At Concordia Geoff fell ill and his condition began to deteriorate towards Base. (Base reached 26th May) He had had problems in Islamabad with a tooth abscess, and although he had received treatment for this, it seemed as though it might be causing trouble again. At Base he became seriously ill, running a temperature of 104 and covered in spots. He began to lose his sight and had a very serious tonsillitis which affected his breathing to a great extent. I called in a Czechoslovakian doctor and an army doctor to see him, neither knew what he was suffering from and the decision to evacuate him by helicopter was made. Arrangements were made at the army camp for a helicopter but it didn't arrive for two days. A few hours before it eventually came Geoff, to everyone's astonishment got up from his death bed and started to walk around! After discussion with the doctor, it was decided that he should stay at Base and see if he could recover. Without him the trip would have had to be abandoned. Arrangements were made to cancel the helicopter but it had left before the message reached Skardu. We informed the pilot of Geoff's recovery and he left to work on the Conway saddle.

The three of us remaining began carrying up the icefall on the 28th with Rozi Ali helping. Geoff managed to start working on the 3rd we had established and carried all the equipment to Camp I. Camp 2 was established on the 11th June, and Camp 3 reached on the 12th. We returned to Base on the 14th and returned to Camp 2 on the 17th. Martin and Phil went to Camp 3 (21,000ft) on the 18th, whilst Geoff and I carried to 3. On the 19th Phil and Martin start climbing up the ridge and we move to Camp III. The ridge proper was reached after three days of climbing and most of the hardware and ropes were carried and dumped at around 23,000ft. The approach to the ridge is approximately 8 miles along the East Gasherbrum glacier, with a dangerous crevassed section on top of the 1st icefall. Climbing onto the ridge involved mixed ground/hard ice (grade V), poor belays and stonefall danger (avalanche when snowing).

There was a lot less ice around than in 1986 and consequently the stonefall was worse. Due to this and damage to the fixed ropes we decided that we would have to move Camp III to the left on the subsidiary ridge that comes down off GIV. On the 22nd we took 800m of rope and dropped a line down to the ridge from our high point. The site was good for the camp but posed considerable difficulties if it snowed heavily, due to avalanche danger from the upward slopes and also the line back down onto the glacier. The height of this camp is around 21,700ft.

Next day we stripped the old Camp III and moved everything down to below the ridge of the new camp. Geoff and Phil stayed to do a carry up to the new camp whilst myself and Martin returned to Base. On the 23rd everyone was back in Base. The weather was excellent and had afforded us little in the way of problems.

However, relationships within the team were not good and this wasn't doing anything for moral. We decided though to go back up on the 26th. Unfortunately Martin was ill and we postponed it until the next day. On the 27th we all set off for Camp II and during the approach it was decided to abandon the trip. On the 28th myself, Phil and Martin went up to recover the equipment from the ridge and Camp III. On the 29th we returned to Base.

In retrospect, the team was too small to attempt this mountain. Not only is there the problem of illness in such a small team (and there was this time), but there is such a vast distance to cover before the ridge is reached. With a larger team it would have allowed us to rest one party whilst still continuing on the mountain, this was just impossible with four members. Secondly it is very much easier to dissipate bad feelings amongst a larger group, with four it is impossible. I am certain that had we been closer as a team, then we would have been able to continue much higher, probably not the summit, but certainly to the headwall. As it was, things just didn't work out.

The high point reached on the ridge was around the 23,000ft mark, about 200m lower than the '86 trip.

CONCLUSION: Dismal failure!

PAKISTAN EXPENDITURE:

TOTAL MONEY EXCHANGED

5595 POUNDS STERLING.....	184635	RS/-
100 " "	3525	
300 " "	9900	
1000 " "	29800	
MONEY FROM SALE OF BARRELS.....	300	
MONEY FROM LOUISE.....	500	
TOTAL RUPEES.....	228660	

EXCHANGE RATE VARIED BETWEEN 33 AND 29-8 RS/- TO THE POUND

 EXPENDITURE/PAKISTAN IN RUPEES

HOTELS ISLAMABAD.....	1129
TAXIS/SUZUKIS/TRANSPORT.....	5796
EXPENSES PERSONAL.....	6917
EQUIPMENT.....	8488
PORTER EQUIPMENT.....	5103
PORTER FOOD.....	4189
CUSTOMS CHARGES.....	1800
INSURANCE.....	6870

LD EXPENSES.....	2400
FOOD PURCHASES/KITCHEN EQUIPMENT/SUNDRIES.....	10365
TELEPHONE.....	100
BUS TO SKARDU.....	6600
INTRANSIT EXPENSES.....	411
K2 HOTEL SKARDU.....	10778
TOTAL.....	70946

INCOME

14794-11

EXPENDITURE

7769-59

6995-00 (PAKISTAN)

14764-59

BALANCE..... 29-52 (IN ACCOUNT)

THE COSTS OF REPORTS ETC TO SPONSORS HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT,NOR HAS THE LOSS OF THE HELICOPTER DEPOSIT WHICH AT THE
PRESENT TIME IS SOMEWHERE IN THE WHEELS OF PAKISTAN BURAUCRACY!

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE

1) BRITAIN

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT/PURCHASES/LO GEAR

RADIOS.....	222-00
BATTERIES.....	30-00
ROPE/8MM STATIC/1700METRES.....	520-00
DMM GEAR;HARNESSES	
80 KARABINERS	
20 S/G "	
20 TITANIUM ICE SCREWS	
4 BETTERBRAKES	
3 SETS WALNUTS	
40 PEGS	478-20
PEGS.....	23-00
PEGS/KNIFE BLADES.....	40-00
BONGS.....	27-00
12 SNIK PROTECTION CREAM.....	25-50
1 SNOW SHOVEL.....	26-00
20 DURACELL BATTERIES.....	28-00
66 PROPANE/BUTANE EPIGAS 250 CART.....	64-00
6 METAPASTE.....	6-00
2 BURNER HEADS.....	13-10
CORD.....	1-30
LACES.....	1-00
6 KFS SETS.....	4-50
6 MUGS.....	3-50
6 PLATES.....	3-50
6 WATER BOTTLES.....	5-60
4 SLEDGES.....	12-00
FLAGS.....	3-15
PURITABS.....	9-24
SPRAY PAINT.....	10-00
TARPAULINS.....	33-00
EYELETS.....	10-00
SCALES.....	3-00
GLUES ETC.....	3-44
LO/COOK GEAR	

2 PRS WALKIN BOOTS.....	40-00
6 " SOCKS.....	18-00
2 " DACHSTEINS.....	14-30
2 HOLLOFILL SLEEPING BAGS.....	72-00
GIFTS/SUNDRIES	

BOOKS/EXPED REPORTS '86.....	25-42
PHOTOGRAPHS/BRITISH EMBASSY/MINISTRY.....	62-87
RAFFLE PRIZE.....	39-00
TOTAL.....	1877-62

BOX FOR KITCHEN EQUIPMENT.....	215	215
MATCHES.....		18
PAKISTAN FLAG.....	28	28

5. PORTER EQUIPMENT

SOCKS/62 PAIRS.....	6	414
SUNGLASSES/31 PAIRS.....	21	620
SHOES/65.....	29	1890
RAINSHEETS.....	22	1435
GLOVES/60.....	6	360
STOVES/8.....	48	384

NOTE: 34 PAIRS OF SUNGLASSES GIVEN TO EXPED.

6. PORTER FOOD/FUEL

KEROSENE /18 GALLONS		252
SPICES.....		40
DAL MASH.....		135
SALT/7KG.....		27
SUGAR/22KG.....		242
TEA/5KG.....		220
MILK POWDER/16KG.....		720
GHEE/16KG.....		260
ATTA/252KG.....		868
ONION/3KG.....		48
CIGARETTES/725 PKTS.....		1377

6. CUSTOMS CHARGES

STORAGE.....		400
CLEARANCE.....		1100
WAREHOUSE PORTERS(RIPPED OFF!).....		300

7. INSURANCE

LO.....		272
LOW ALTITUDE PORTERS /70 INWARD @ 56RS/- EACH.....		3920
" " " /20 RETURN " " "		1120
COOK/HIGH ALTITUDE PORTER.....@ 432.....		432
5% STAMP DUTY.....		936

NOTE PORTERS INSURED OVER 1MONTH EACH WAY. COOK/LO FOR THREE MONTHS.

8. LO EXPENSES

ENTITLED TO 150 RS/- DAY WHILST IN ISLAMABAD/PINDI MINIMUM.

9. FOOD PURCHASES/KITCHEN EQUIPMENT/SUNDRIES

3 COOKING POTS LARGE.....	290
1 FRYING PAN.....	75
1 MIXING BOWL.....	50
1 TAWWAH.....	48
2 PRESSURE COOKERS.....	580
SPARE RINGS FOR ABOVE.....	30
ROLLING PIN/FLAT WOOD.....	48
3 LARGE SPOONS.....	54
3 PAN SCRUBBERS.....	18
2 BOTTLES WASHING UP LIQUID.....	39
2 KETTLES/LARGE AND MEDIUM.....	215
8 LARGE CANDLES(VERY LARGE!).....	256
10 CARTONS MATCHES.....	25
1 WASHING UP BOWL(DOUBLED AS A BATH!).....	68
1 COOLER.....	150
4 SNOW BRUSHES.....	48
11KG RICE	110
5 X 2.5KG MILK POWDER.....	725
SUGAR 30KG.....	300
WHEAT FLAKES/17PKTS.....	234
2 TINS OATS(VERY EXPENSIVE!).....	200
ATTA/4 X 18KG.....	200
LENTILS/18KG.....	180
GHEE/15KG.....	245
LUNCHEON MEAT(NOT FORK)/10 TINS.....	450
SARDINES/30 TINS.....	540
BISCUITS/20 PKTS.....	180
SALTED PEANUTS/20 X 550G.....	400
TEA/23PKTS.....	460
JAM/6 X 1KG.....	168
SALT/2KG.....	10
TINNED FRUIT/34 TINS.....	680
DRIED ONION/1.5KG.....	38
MANGO CHUTNEY/2.....	30
MANGO PICKLE.....	27
TOMATO SAUCE/2.....	41
HP SAUCE/2.....	35
JELLY(DRIED)/30PKTS.....	210
TINNED CHEESE/10.....	290
LIGHTERS/24.....	192

SKARDU PURCHASES

RICE/9KG.....	90
CIGARETTES/RED AND WHITE/4 CARTONS.....	232
GOLD LEAF/7CARTONS.....	862
DATES/8PKTS.....	48
COOKING OIL/4 X 4LITRES.....	280
PORRIDGE/10PKTS.....	110
SPICES: CORIANDER.....	25
GARAM MASALA.....	12
CURRY POWDER.....	49

FOOD CONTINUED:

ALLACHI.....	5
SPICESVAR.....	12
GARLIC/2.5KG.....	25
KISH MISH/4KG.....	140
PICKLE.....	48
GREEN TEA.....	100
ONIONS.....	25
TOMATO POWDER.....	76
VARIOUS KITCHEN EQUIPMENT.....	71
SUNDRIES.....	38
TOILET ROLL.....	84
BATTERIES.....	60
BAGS.....	34

10.K2 HOTEL /SKARDU

TRIPLE ROOM.....	400
DOUBLE ROOM.....	325
BREAKFAST.....	25
LUNCH.....	55
DINNER.....	60
TEA/PER PERSON.....	5
COKES/SOFT DRINKS.....	8
EXTRA TOAST.....	2
SOUP.....	10
STORAGE CHARGES FOR LOCK UP GARAGE/PER DAY.....	30

11.JEEPS

TO DASSU/RETURN.....	900
FOR TOYOTA/BIG JEEP	
JEEP IN SKARDU.....	100

12.ASKOLE.

GOATS.....	1100
CHICKENS.....	100
EGGS.....	3
ZO/YAK.....	4000

13. PORTER WAGES

GOVERNMENT PAY OFF CHART (FARCE) !!

STAGE	WAGE	FOOD	RETURN	TOTAL	ACTUAL
DASSU/CHAKPO	60	20	15	95	
CHKPO/CHONGO	60	20	15	190	
CHONGO/ASKOLE	60	20	15	285	315
ASKOLE/KOROPHON	63	20	25	393	
KOROPHON/JOLA	63	20	25	501	
JOLA/BARDUMAL	63	20	25	609	
BARDUMAL/PAYJU	63	20	25	717	
REST DAY PAYJU	25	20		762	800
PAYJU/LILIGO	63		25	849	
LILIGO/URDUKAS	63		25	936	1040
URDUKAS/BIANO	63	20	25	1044	
BIANO/GORO	63		25	1131	1250
GORO/CONCORDIA	63		25	1218	1445
CONCORDIA/SHAREEN	63		25	1305	
REST SHAREEN	25	20		1350	
SHAREEN/BASE	63		25	1437	1700

NB. MAKE ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A 25% INCREASE IN EXPECTED PORTER WAGES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT WHEN YOU FIND THE WAGES HAVE RISEN OUT THERE!

THE EXPEDITION USED A TOTAL OF 58 PORTERS. PLUS I TO DRIVE THE GOATS TO PAYJU AND ONE SIRDAR.

SIRDAR WAGES.....3000

PAYMENTS ACTUAL

DASSU/ALIGON	1 PORTER RETURNED	100
CHONGO/ASKOLE	4 CHANGED.....	1260
	1 ENGAGED FOR GOATS	
ASKOLE/KOROPHON	2 MEN 100RS/--ADVANCE.....	200
BARDUMAL/PAYJU	6 MEN @ 800.....	4800
	1 MAN @ 900.....	900
	1 MAN @ 500/.....	500
LILIGO/URDUKAS	1 MAN @ 1040.....	1040
	1 MAN @ 940.....	940
URDUKAS/GORO	2 MEN @1250.....	2500
	1 MAN @1200.....	1200
GORO/CONCORDIA	1 MAN @1300.....	1300
	1 MAN @1130	1130
	1 MAN @ 600.....	600
SHAREEN/BASE	1 MAN @1600.....	1600
	3 MEN @ 960.....	2880
	40 MEN @1700.....	68000
	1 MAN @ 700.....	700
	4 MEN @1460.....	5840
TOTAL.....		98590

RETURN PORTERS

16 PORTERS ENGAGED @ 1600.....26400
 PLUS I BONUS OF 100.....100
 TOTAL.....26500
 OVERALL TOTAL.....124998

14.LD EXPENSES

WHILST ROZI ALI WAS WORKING AS A MEMBER OF THE TEAM,OUR LD
 CHARGED,US 150 RS/- A DAY TO EAT AT THE ARMY CAMP!

15.AIRFARES/SKARDU

FLIGHT.....PER PERSON.....315
 EXCESS BAGGAGE....PER KILO.....3

IF ONLY BRITISH AIRWAYS COST SO LITTLE!

16.EXCESS BAGGAGE ON RETURN TO UK

WE HAD NEARLY 200KG EXCESS.IT COST 550RS/- AFTER A LITTLE
 PERSUASION,WE WERE LUCKY,IT SHOULD HAVE COST 20,000 RS/-.

PRICES OF FOODSTUFF IN ISLAMABAD/ESAGEES SHOP

GREEN TEA ..9	BAKEDBEANS 25	JAM.....28
PINEAPPLE.....60	PEARS.....20	MUSHROOMS.....35
HOTDOGS.....60	CORNED BEEF...20	TUNA.....16
SARDINES.....18	LUNCHEON MEAT.45	TOMATO PASTE..20
OVALTINE.....75	DRINKING CHOC.82	PEANUTS.....20
KRAFT CHEESE 33	TINNED CHEESE 29	SLICES 40
TANG.....110	HONEY..... 37	SALT..... 4
FRUITELLA.....7	JASMINE TEA...55	LEMON TEA.....65
MANGO CHUTNEY.15	PICKLE.....15	WEETABIX.....55
CORNFLAKES...25	WHEATFLAKES...13	OATS 1KG TIN 100
PORRIDGE11	CHEESE CRAKER 9	BISCUITS 9
MILK 2.5KG .145	4 PINTS OIL 125	SOYA OIL .. 75
TOMATO SAUCE 20	HP SAUCE ... 25	DATES..... 7
TEA 250G 20	JELLY..... 7	LIGHTERS..... 8