

acc. 24396

88/26

Ref: ALB/MT/WP3A/149

347 Manchester Road

BURNLEY

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17th November, 1988

W.H. Ruthven Esq.,
Hon. Secretary
Mount Everest Foundation
Gowrie
Cardwell Close
Warton
PRESTON
PR4 1SH

Dear Mr. Ruthven

MEF REFERENCE 88/26

Thank you for your letter dated 23rd October 1988. I apologise for not having written to you sooner regarding our trip to the Altai; however, I set out below a brief initial report adopting the headings suggested in your letter:

1. Name of Expedition

London Mountaineering Club 1988 Altai Expedition.

2. Members

- 2.1 Andrew Lovatt Bond
- 2.2 Steve Gould

3. Leader

Andrew Lovatt Bond
347 Manchester Road
BURNLEY, Lancs. BB11 4HD

4. Mountaineering Objective

The principal objective of the expedition was an Alpine style traverse of three peaks in the Altai range of approximately 4,000 metres - Heroic Korea, Sapozhnikov and Sukhov. Unfortunately, due mainly to persistent bad weather, a serious attempt on the traverse was not made, although a camp was established on the Men Su Glacier, and occupied for several days.

However, the expedition did make successful ascents of:

- (i) Ak Ayuk - 3,650 metres, a training peak climbed by the north face (the same route was climbed in 1987 by Mark Phillips and Alec Erskine).
- (ii) East summit of Beilukha - 4,506 metres, the highest peak in the Altai range, climbed by the 'normal' route (climbed in 1984 by John and Shiona Town).

Both the above peaks were climbed at more or less the same time as us by a team from the North London Mountaineering Club.

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5. Dates of Expedition

Depart London Heathrow/arrive Moscow	23rd July
Arrive base camp, Ak Kem Lake	27th July
Ascent of Ak Ayuk	29th/30th July
Ascent of Beilukha	8th/12th August
Depart base camp	15th August
Depart Moscow/arrive London Heathrow	18th August

6. Weather

There were only two fairly short periods of fine weather; the first during the initial two or three days at the camp, and the second towards the end of the trip. Unfortunately, during most of the remainder of the trip the weather was predominantly unsettled, with frequent fast moving fronts, bringing rain at lower altitudes and fresh snow in the mountains; and with temperatures at the Men Su Glacier camp rarely dropping below freezing. One particularly bad storm led to flooding and set off a series of landslides, one almost obliterating the base camp at Ak Kem Lake.

7. Accidents

There were no serious accidents.

8. Technical Route Description

8.1 Ak Ayuk - Day 1 : walk in to camp at foot of north face.

Day 2 : ascent of north face via an initial snow cone giving access to a rightward trending traverse line leading to the main snow slopes of the north face; these were followed with little technical difficulty to the summit plateau. Descent by north-east ridge.

8.2 East summit of Beilukha - Day 1 : from base camp ascend Ak Kem Glacier to camp at Tomsk Bivouac.

Day 2 : cross Delone pass and establish camp on Men Su Glacier.

Day 3 : ascend from Men Su Glacier to Berelski saddle, traverse snow slopes on south side of Berel Peak to gain south-east ridge/buttress, ascend ridge (2 or 3 easy mixed pitches) to reach summit snow slopes and then east summit of Beilukha. Descent by same route to camp on Men Su Glacier.

Day 4 : descend by same route to base camp.

9. Estimated Total Cost

£1,300/person including extra nights spent in Moscow (but excluding any additional items of personal equipment purchased by expedition members).

I trust the above details are sufficient at this stage and will forward the expedition's full report in due course. Two further copies of this report are enclosed.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW LOVATT BOND