1989 Manaslu N.E. Face Expedition

The expedition consisted of 11 western climbers and 2 climbing sherpa friends.

Adrian Burgess (leader for beauracratic purposes)
Alan Burgess
Andy Lapkass
Paul Moores
Peter Nichols
Chris Treese
Jim McEachen
Ken Torp
Pete Athans
Steve Matous
Ron Matous
Dawa Nuru Sherpa (Phortse)
Pinzo Sherpa (Phortse)

We climbed in small independant groups of twos and threes at the speed and rate of ascent which suited the particular individuals. Hence, it is too difficult to document everyones' exact progress but the dates given are those of the first people to arrive at a particular camp or altitude.

On 30th September we set up basecamp on the south-facing hillside at a height of 14,300 feet. This is the low basecamp and Spanish, Austrian and Japenese all had theirs higher at 16,300 feet. At this place we erected a large tent and used it as a storage dump on the way to Camp 1 at Naike Col (18,300 feet). There is no real climbing to this point - just a straightforward glacier. This section took between $3\ 1/2$ - 4 hours from basecamp.

The route above Naike Col steepens and then crosses a 600 foot wide open gully which, although threatened from above by crumbling ice cliffs, only avalanched once in any proportions. The route then follows a series of four step-like bumps up to Camp 2 at 20,500 feet. One of these steps involved 250 feet of steep snow/ice climbing but the Spanish had already fixed a rope on it. There was also a 15 foot aluminum ladder spanning a small crevasse which was opening at an alarming 8 inches a day. By the end of the expedition it spanned a 16 foot hole. (you may ask how this was mathmatically possible - because one end of the ladder was swinging free attached to rope).

Camp 2 is on a flat shoulder protected from the upper slopes by a crevasse. However, if there was a very large avalanche it would not be safe and so we dug ice-caves. These were completed by the second week of October.

over

The weather during the entire month of September had been horrible we were told and it had snowed for 23 out of 26 days. This had built up a potentially dangerous slab of deep snow above Camp 2 and we approached it warily - but not warily enough. Three sherpas who were working for the Austrians, tailed by Andy Lapkass, broke a deep trough up to about 22,000 feet. Andy returned a little in advance of the others and was in a position to see them cut a huge slab of about 500 feet wide which carried them for over 1000 feet. Luckily the threesome came to rest on top of the debris and were only shaken. Andy then went back up and effected a rescue back down to Camp 2. The next day they were able to descend without help.

Although the weather had cleared we were experienceing very high winds above 22,000 feet. During the third week of October Alan, Paul, Andy and I went up to a Camp 3 (23,150 feet) which was sandwiched above and below by ice cliffs. It was in a very exposed position and extremely windy. The night was foul and with the wind ever increasing we were forced to descend. A few days later Dawa, Peter Nichols and Chris Treese went up to Camp 3 but given the ferocity of the wind, decided not to sleep there. Noone went back up to that height again. After another week waiting in Camp 2, with the weather firmly fixed into a winter mode we abandoned the attempt. We left basecamp on the 6th November.

Adrian Burgess. Park City, 1989.

ADRIAN BURGESS 1337 W Quailmeadow Rd Park City, Utah 84060

CONFIDENTAL

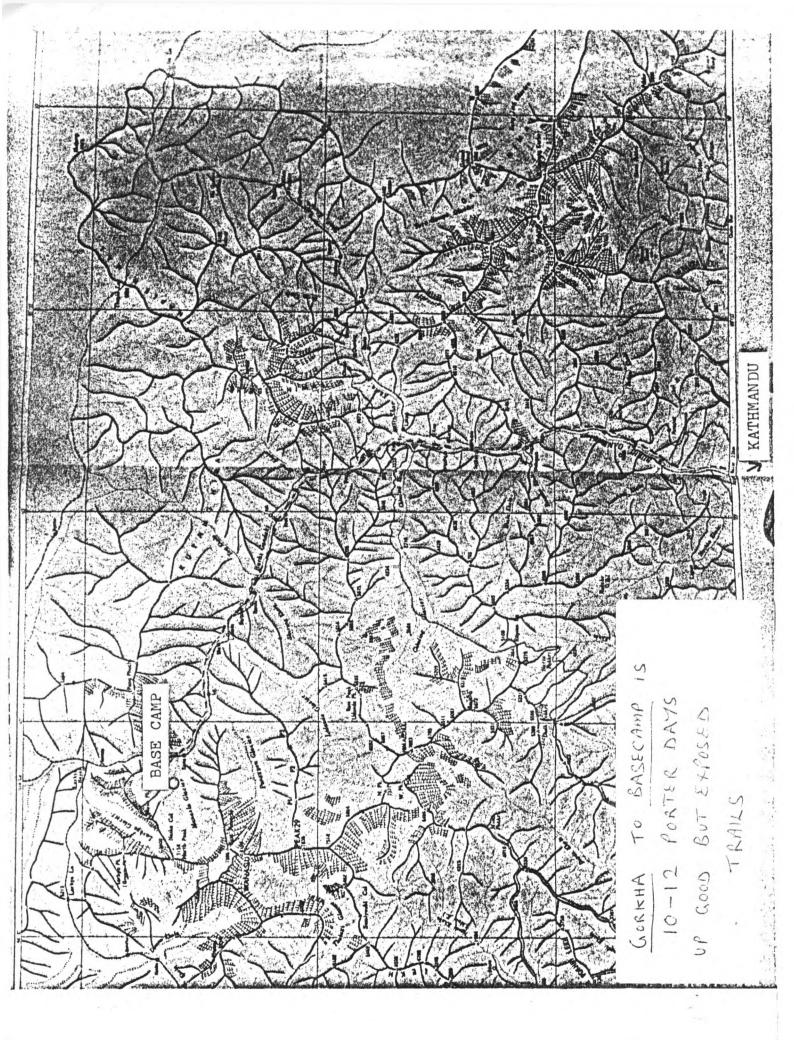
Manaslu 1989 - Budget (in US \$)

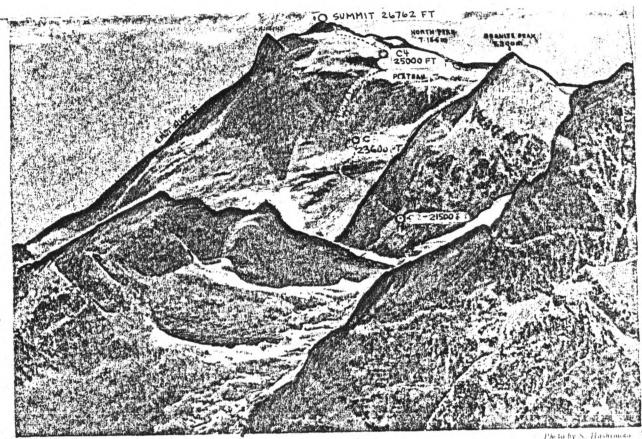
Land costs only

- stamps/telephone/gas etc. 1000 Manasiu Permit Liaison Officer wages Liaison Officer gear Trekking Agent's fee Members' expenses in kathmandu - Hotels nights (55 nts) 600 - Meals Exped. food bought in ktm members & sherpas 3400 Items bought in Ktm Sherpa gear - Sirdar/cook/2 cookboys 263 - 2 high altitude sherpas 1600 - Kitchen 2000 - Kitchen 2000 - Kitchen 2000 - Kitchen 2000 - Boxes/string/dokos etc. 22 Sherpa flights from Lukla (allowance) 27 2 Buses etc. to Gurkha & (return) with loads & members 36 Roadside costs during trek 306 Sherpa and porter insurance (6 people) 16 Exira fresh vegetables to BC incl.porterage 76 Return loads from basecamp 300 Staff Wages - Cook 15 - 2 Cookboys 200 - 2 high-altitude sherpas 200 Pema wage 300 Nisc. expenses and unforseen costs etc. 1000 Sherpa bonuses 1000		
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Air tickets cost around \$1,00 from Central (5)

The only Sponsors were MLF and BMC who gave 500 pounds each to the project.





NORTH FACE OF MANASLU SHOWING UPPER PORTION OF ROUTE; PHOTOGRAPHED BY THE 1955 POST-MONSOON EXPEDITION FROM CHO DANA PEAK, C. 23,000 FT.

