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89/11

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.

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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 experiencing 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. No one 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.

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Manaslu 1989 - Budget (in US \$)

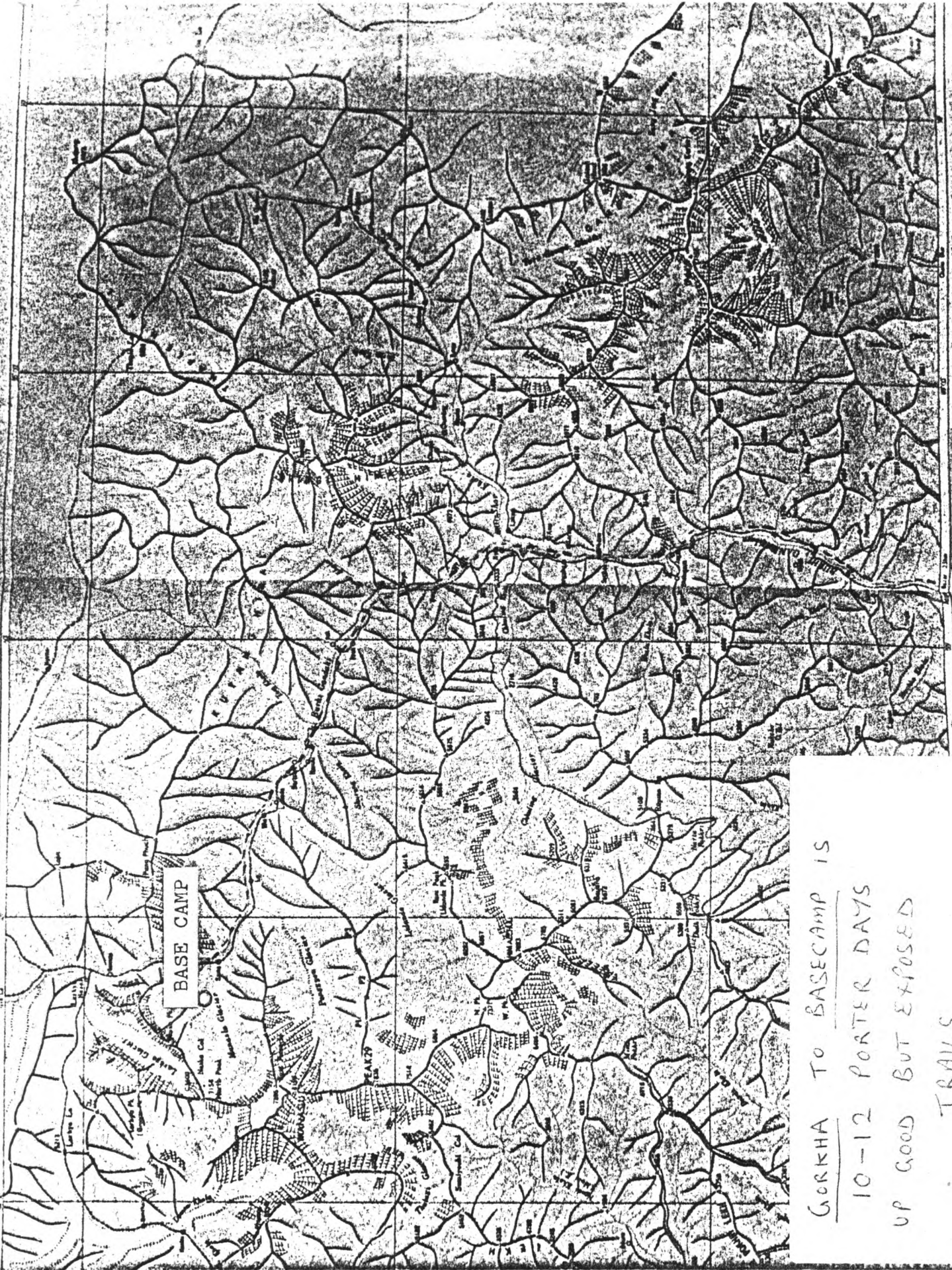
Land costs only

Organisational expenses in US - brochure/envelopes/paper	500
- stamps/telephone/gas etc.	1000
Manaslu Permit	2710
Liaison Officer wages	74
Liaison Officer gear	676
Trekking Agent's fee	1000
Members' expenses in Kathmandu - Hotels nights (55 nts)	600
- Meals	300
Exped. food bought in ktm. - members & sherpas	3400
Items bought in Ktm. - Sherpa gear - Sirdar/cook/2 cookboys	2634
- 2 high altitude sherpas	1600
- rope & pickets	277
- Kitchen	360
- Cooking fuel	130
- Boxes/string/dokos etc.	227
Sherpa flights from Lukla (allowance)	275
2 Buses etc. to Gurkha & (return) with loads & members	365
Porter wages - 121 Porters x \$1.75	3058
Sama porters - @ \$3 / load	363
Roadside costs during trek	500
Sherpa and porter insurance (6 people)	168
Extra fresh vegetables to BC incl. portorage	763
Return loads from basecamp	1000
Staff Wages - Cook	150
- 2 Cookboys	200
- 2 high-altitude sherpas	280
Pema wage	500
Misc. expenses and unforeseen costs etc.	1000
Sherpa bonuses	1000

Total 25,310

Air tickets cost around \$1000 from Central USA

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



KATHMANDU

BASE CAMP

GORKHA TO BASECAMP IS
10-12 PORTER DAYS
UP GOOD BUT EXPOSED
TRAILS

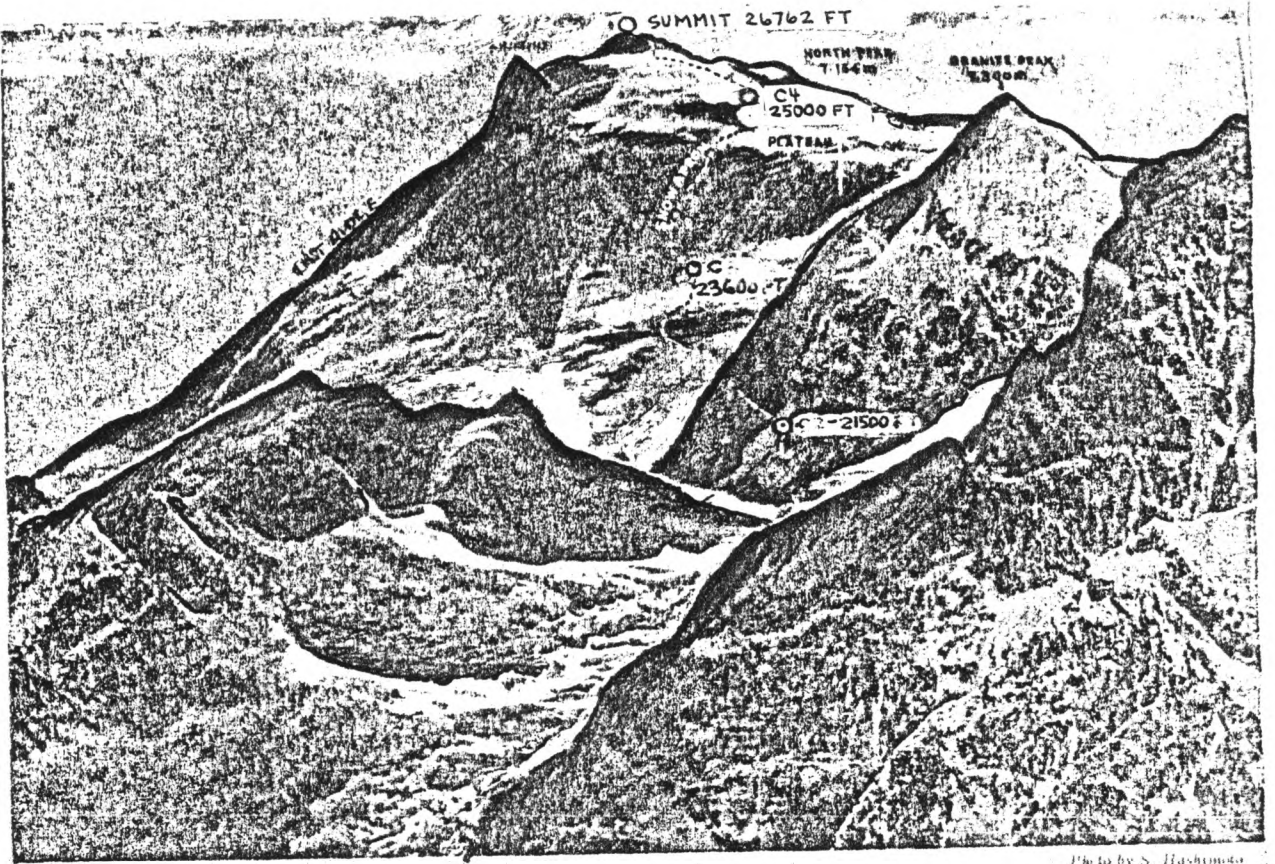


Photo by S. Hashimoto

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

