

UN-NAMED PEAK 6230

VISHWAR

BRITISH UN-NAMED PEAK 6230m EXPEDITION 1989

C. J. Schaschke.

Ref: MEF 89/26

An expedition report submitted in accordance with the regulations of the Mount Everest Foundation Management Committee.

October 1989.

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### Summary

The British expedition to Un-named Peak 6230m in the Kishtwar region of the Indian Himalaya, was an attempt at the first ascent of the north face, traverse of the summit and descent by the south face; the only route by which the peak had been previously climbed. The peak, attempted in July, was plagued by snow fall which left faces in a potentially dangerous condition. On the 25th of July 1989, Ian Mills, Neil Brown and Carl Schaschke completed the ascent of the north face and decided, in the interests of safety, to abandon the south face descent and reversed the north face route. The ascent from base camp took 6 days with 4 bivouacs while the descent took a further 2 days.

### Members

The expedition was composed of 3 lead climbers, a Medical Officer, a Base Camp Manager and a support team of 2. These were:

- Carl Schaschke. 26. Expedition leader and lead climber.  
Phd student at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.  
Himalayan experience, with the fifth ascent of Tharkot (6099m) and first ascent of Kalidaha (c6000m) to his credit.
- Ian Mills. 29. Lead climber.  
Project Manager with Laings Construction in London.  
A former mountaineering guide with the British Antarctic Survey with a number of alpine seasons to his credit as well as an ascent of Mount Kenya in 1985.
- Neil Brown. 30. Lead climder.  
Chartered Accountant with Deloitte, Haskens and Sells in London.  
Former Himalayan experience with an ascent of Island Peak (6187m) in 1987. Experience also includes a number of alpine seasons, extensive climbing in North America and an ascent of Mount Kenya in 1985.
- Ruth Brown. 31. Medical Officer.  
Biology School Teacher in London.  
Partners her husand, Neil, on all their mountaineering trips.
- Mike Thexton. 30. Base Camp Manager.  
Chartered Accountant self employed in London.  
Previous experience as Base Camp Manager with the 1986 Pete Thexton Memorial Expedition to Lobsang Spires. Trekking experience includes visits to China and North America.
- Jane Mills. 30. Support.  
Former Landscape Architect with Lambeth Council, London.  
Trekking experience includes the wastelands of Iceland and Kenya as well as a number of alpine ascents partnered with her husband, Ian.
- Melodie Partland. 28. Support.  
Biology School Teacher in Glasgow.  
An experienced trekker with visits to Turkey, Indonesia, Burma, China, Australia, North America, Malaysia, Thailand as well as previous trekking in the Indian Himalaya.

Delhi to Base Camp by C. J. Schaschke.

Sunday 2nd July - Leave London.

The seven of us converged onto London Heathrow's Terminal Two from all over the country in time for our flight to Delhi with Air India. No problems were encountered although the Air India security, handled by British Airways, required an explanation to the array of offensive looking ice screws, crampons and friends detected by the X-ray machine. We explained that we were an expedition and so had our vast mass of brightly coloured kit bags weighed collectively. This came to 184 kg not including the hand luggage which was certainly in excess of the 5 kg allowance. By gritting teeth against our otherwise straining faces we boarded the plane for the 8 hour flight.

Monday 3rd July - Arrive Delhi.

We arrived in Delhi with our luggage. Another expedition this year was not so fortunate. The Indira Gandhi International Airport lies some 10 km from the centre of New Delhi. There are two choices of transport available into town. Bus or taxi, although the occasional autorickshaw could be used. A taxi costs Rs70/- plus a first taste of the Indian bureaucratic hassels concerning how much the taxi driver with inevitably overcharge. A bus costs Rs10/- for each person. I had booked rooms at the YMCA some months previously for our arrival. The bus will, on request, stop there. The address for booking the YMCA is:

YMCA,  
Parliament Street, (off Jai Singh Marg).  
New Delhi,  
110002

Rooms cost about \$5 per night per head.

It is possible to stay at the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) which lies some 9 km from the city centre close to the airport. There are 4 dormitories bookable in advance. The cost is Rs60/-. For Indian mountaineers the cost is Rs6/-. The address is:

Indian Mountaineering Foundation,  
Benito Jaurez,  
Anand Niketan,  
New Dehli,  
110021

Having booked into the YMCA, a party of us went over to the IMF to enquire about our Liaison Officer (L.O.). I had sent three letters requesting details of our L.O. in order that we could buy him suitable equipment and clothing. I had not received a reply to any of my letters and so assumed the L.O. to be of medium build with size 8 feet. The previous year, however, the L.O. turned out to be a giant with size 11 feet.

We met Mr. P. C. Katoch, the Chief Administrator at the IMF, <sup>who</sup> apologised that our L.O. had been sent on another expedition and a replacement would need to be found. We left the L.O.'s kit in the custody of the IMF.

Tuesday 4th July - Delhi.

We returned to the IMF where Mr Katoch informed us that a replacement could not be found and that we could not leave Delhi until one was available. This could be days or weeks. We explained our limited time schedule to Mr Katoch and that waiting weeks was not possible.

I remembered Mr Katoch from 3 years previous. To solve any problem requires a level of courtesy and understanding with him. I have seen arguments with him by other expeditions in similar situations get absolutely nowhere. After an hours discussion, a telephone call was made and another hour later our L.O. turned up. I signed official papers giving us permission to venture into the mountains and to respect the environment. We gave the L.O. his kit and asked him to be at the bus the following evening.

Wednesday 5th July - Delhi to Jammu.

There are several ways of getting to Kishtwar from Delhi. These include flying, train, bus or taxi to Jammu followed by bus or taxi for the remainder of the journey to Kishtwar. We chose the bus to Jammu since the taxi and flight would be expensive and the train is required to be booked several days in advance plus the fact the the bus for Kishtwar leaves from the bus station in Jammu whereas the train station is on the other side of town.

There are two types of bus going to Jammu from Delhi. The government buses leave the Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in Old Delhi or private company buses described as Luxury 2x2 leaving from New Delhi. We chose the latter although the term luxury is misleading. Having been on the government buses in the past, luxury is a relative term and very appropriate.

The bus stands can be found along Janpath; the 5th radial from Connaught Place. Prices for the bus were about Rs 100/- each although we insisted on a discount for the large party as well as for our gear. Another expedition the year before used this form of transport and were required to pay extra for both having a large party and luggage. Who can con who the most?

Our L.O. did not arrive at the bus at the pre-arranged time. We held the bus up for an hour and made a number of telephone calls to the IMF. We eventually left Delhi without him although we knew the IMF had details of our plans and so it could be possible for him to catch up with us later as had been the case the previous year.

Thursday 6th July - Jammu to Kishtwar.

The overnight bus journey took 14 hours. Air conditioning in the bus means open windows. We arrived into Jammu at 8.45am and missed our connecting bus. The last bus to Kishtwar leaves at 8.15am in order that it can travel the hazardous journey by daylight. The bus would normally cost Rs27/-. A guide book described Jammu as the City of Temples but suggested the stop over should be as short as possible; infact to get a connecting bus would be ideal. We decided to hire a couple of taxis instead of staying in Jammu for Rs1200/- each. These would take us direct to Kishtwar. The journey turned out to be through spectacular landscapes along precarious winding roads high above the river Chenab. One of the taxis broke down not far from Kishtwar as the sun was setting but we had by now overtaken the bus we had missed earlier and were able to catch it for the remaining distance into Kishtwar itself.

Kishtwar is a large town with both Muslim and Hindu inhabitants. There are a number of hotels although by far the best is the Dak Bungalow half a mile beyond the town centre. We turned up at the Dak Bungalow but found it full. We were invited to camp on the lawn instead which we accepted and would move into a room the following day when it became vacant.

Friday 7th July - Kishtwar.

The day was spent buying food supplies and base camp equipment such as rice, pots and pans. Mules were arranged through the Chowkiddar at the Bungalow for the following day at Galhar some 32 km distant. The rest of the day was spent recovering from the arduous bus journey we had just endured.

Saturday 8th July - Kishtwar to Shashoo.

We got the 7.30am bus to Galhar and which takes two hours. To my amazement the mule man I had met the previous day was also on the bus. He was supposed to have gone on ahead to Galhar the day before with his mules so we would not have lose a day in Galhar. His mules had left Kishtwar that morning and would not arrive in Galhar until lunch time. We made it clear that they would then carry straight on to Shashoo as arranged.

The road to Shashoo forms part of a major piece of construction connecting the State of Jammu and Kashmir with Himachal Pradesh. So far the section of road to Shashoo has been finished although the local Mayor has not officially opened it. Buses terminate at Galhar and its a 16km march onto Shashoo. A French trekking party in the area did, however, pay their bus driver a sufficient amount of Rupees to induce him to carry on along to Shashoo.

Minor rock fall had blocked the road beyond Shashoo and with the now exhausted mules we decided to camp on the newly constructed road itself. There is, however, a forest rest house some 1,500 ft up the hillside along the now abandoned high level route.

Sunday 9th July Shashoo to Atholi.

Neil, Ruth and Mike were up first and were to head off along to Atholi. The rest of us took a more leisurely pace. Just after they had left there was a tremendous roaring and crashing of rocks. The newly rock blasted road had collapsed and hundreds of tonnes of rock cascaded down into the river below at exactly the spot Neil, Ruth and Mike were. As the dust cleared there was no response of life from the devastation. We assumed the worst standing shell shocked looking into the muddy waters for any signs of life. Nothing.

A short time later Neil appeared scrambling over the unstable debris blocking the entire road. Fortunately the three of them had just passed by only minutes before and had walked around the back of a rock bluff. When the rock had collapsed they were safe but were unable to get back to let us know of their safety.

The road was left impassable. We met two geologists also travelling our route. They explained that being Sunday the Task Force who are responsible for the road construction do not work as they are not insured for the day of rest. The geologists did, however, suggest that we approach the Chief Engineer based in Shashoo. After a short meeting with this man permission was granted for some of his men to have a look at the seriousness of the situation and to clear away as much debris by 'Dozer as possible. No immediate premission for any other forms of clearing the debris was granted.

After an hours worth of clearing the debris away a number of immovable and impassable rocks were left in the middle of the road. As if from nowhere an air compressor, drills and 75kg of explosives appeared on the scene. This was contrary to the initial premission by the Chief Engineer. A series of five almighty explosions finally cleared the path. The route was re-opened to Atholi by lunch time.

In Atholi we found room at the Forest Rest House and booked into the area at the Police lodge. This was our first view of the Himalayan peaks to the north and the Pir Panjal mountains to the south. The weather had been perfect now for a week.

Monday 10th July - Atholi to Chishoti.

Leaving the Chenab river behind, we crossed north up the Pardar Nullah passed the Buddist village of Gulubgar. This was the most beautiful part of the trek passing through forests, small villages and freshly sown fields. We came across an attractive slow moving part of the river and so decided to take a relaxing afternoon swimming. While it is possible to stay at Kundel at a distance of 16 km up the valley, we had intended to stay at the Chishoti Forest Rest House further on. What I had failed to remember from the previous year was just how much further on it was to reach this hut. From the relaxing afternoon, it turned into a slave drive in an attempt to reach the hut before sun set. We managed it just in time leaving everyone totally exhausted. For future reference, it is worth the extra slog necessary to reach this hut as it is the most beautiful in the valley.



Tuesday 11th July - Chishoti to Machail.

The Parder Nullah is 30 km long. Machail lies at the top end Atholi at the other. After the long day of the previous day, this was a comparatively short day of some 8 km. We arrived in Machail where the Police Officer had been expecting us. He showed me a piece of paper with a number of names of expedition leaders on it. I recognised all of them including my own!

There are no shops in Machail. The Police Officer was of great assistance and we were able to buy some 30 kg of potatoes from the villagers - the staple diet of the Buddhist inhabitants.

We camped a little beyond the village on some flat ground. All flat ground is used for farming using irrigation. It became apparent why our patch of ground had not been farmed; there was no water supply. We were forced to collect our water from some distance away much to our inconvenience. I found out later that there is, in fact, a camping ground almost right in the village itself.

Wednesday 12th July - Machail to Base Camp.

In glorious sunshine we left the outskirts of Machail and turned right up the Bholang Nullah under the awe inspiring ice tower of Shivling. The obvious valley ahead was the Dharlang Nullah the scene of the previous years trip. Kalidaha could clearly be seen some 20km distant. It was from photographs taken from the summit that had inspired this expedition.

The path up the valley is well used as a trading route through to Zaskar. The site of our Base Camp was to be in a little oasis at the junction of the Hagshoo Nullah some 6km beyond the last village of Sumcham. This had been used previously by Simon Richardson and Roger Everett and proved ideal. We paid the mule men off and were finally left alone by ourselves. Un-named Peak 6230m lay straight ahead at the top of the valley silent and white. We had arrived.

## BRITISH UN-NAMED PEAK 6230m EXPEDITION 1989

### BASE CAMP REPORT - Mike Thexton

#### Location

Base camp was located where the stream flowing down from the Hagshu Nullah joins the main stream flowing down the Bholong Nullah from the direction of Un-named Peak. We pitched on a grassy group of small islands in the middle of a network of streams. Higher up towards the foot of the Hagshu Nullah, there are bridges across the stream, carrying the main path up to the Umasi La. Nearer the central river, the side streams had to be waded (although our cook rode his donkey across), and was off the path - so we were a little more private.

#### Local life

The valley is inhabited by shepherds, and there are horses, goats and cows in abundance. Neither the locals nor the wildlife caused us much problem, although one particular cow was always in our kitchen after our supplies. It ate most of the soap, which thereafter was one of our scarcer commodities. We hired a local cook, who guarded the camp when we were trekking and climbing - but we were not sure how necessary this is. Certainly the campsite is easily accessible from Sumcham, the highest village. Some of the local entrepreneurs brought up cheese (reasonable) and chicken (the world's first vegetarian poultry, as far as we could detect) to sell to us.

#### Water and toilet facilities

Although the major watercourses were silty and undrinkable, there were smaller clear streams around our camp from which drinkable water was available. During our stay, most people had stomach complaints, and it is likely that the water became contaminated - whether by us, others or the cook. We located our toilet at some distance from the camp and across a substantial stream, but it is possible that some problems transferred from it.

#### Cooking

We bought most of our Base Camp equipment in Kishtwar. It was not good quality - in particular, we could not get a proper tarpaulin, and the plastic sheeting we used for a cooking shelter was in constant danger of tearing up and blowing away. Our kerosene stove and lamp were also not much use: the stove seemed solid enough, but was hard to light and control, and the lamp-glass blackened up with the local kerosene and only occasionally increased the illumination.

We brought 30 litres of kerosene and 10 litres of petrol, and it was only just enough - despite the fact that we used fallen wood for cooking some of the time, after the stoves died. We suspected that our cook had given or sold some to the locals. It seems that you have to watch everything very closely, as such gifts do not appear in any way wrong to them. If properly briefed, I think our cook would have understood better that we needed everything. There is a small grove of birch trees in this place, which provided a reasonable amount of dead wood on the ground.

## Rubbish

The villagers have no conception of "litter": the cook could not understand why we wanted to carry out our rubbish, so we had to insist. On the other hand, they find almost anything useful, and one local entrepreneur came up on our last night and took away (in triumph) most of our dead cans, plastic bottles, and even batteries, which he seemed convinced would be useful to him. Moral: don't burn it before you've offered it as a present.

## Weather

The weather was variable at Base Camp (around 10th July - 28th July). About half the days were hot, clear and sunny; on others it could be very windy and quite cool, and we had some days of persistent rain (which fell as snow higher up). Before our walk-out there was heavy rain, followed by a hot day, which raised up the surrounding streams and made us concerned that the campsite might flood - it would be a risk in very heavy rain. On the walk-out, several of the streams which had been easy to cross on the walk-in had risen substantially, and two were impossible to ford. We built two bridges to get our donkeys across - with a very small amount of assistance from local mulemen and some more from a French trekking party, but design exclusively by Brown and Mills (Construction).

UMASI LA TREK - Ruth Brown.

Altogether there were three separate trips to the Umasi La. On the morning of July 16th, Neil and I set off from our base camp to reach the Umasi La at 8 a.m. on July 18th. Ian followed on July 17th, also reaching the top of the pass on July 18th, but later in the afternoon. The third trip including Mike, Jane, Melodie and myself set off on July 21st, to return to base camp on July 24th having not reached the Umasi La because of bad weather.

The trip made by Neil and myself was partly for Neil to acclimatise for his later climb and partly to familiarise myself with the route for our later attempt on July 21st. The route follows the valley to the snow of the Haptal Glacier and then turns north and climbs steeply up the side of the valley to reach a hanging valley at around 4,000m. From here, it is possible to follow a path skirting round the west side of the valley and never descending into the hanging valley itself. It is a very attractive place to stop though and Neil and I brewed up and rested here before climbing to about 4,200m for our 1st bivvy. From the head of the hanging valley, it was possible to climb the moraine to another smaller flat grassy area with space for 2 small tents where we put down our bivvy bags. The next day, we followed the moraine up the main valley. It was heavy going because of soft snow covering the rocks and we were continually going through the snow up to mid-thigh. We decided to stop around 2 pm that day around 4,800m. Our final day started at 5.30 am with a steeper snow slope taking the right hand (east) side of the head of the valley beside the ice fall coming down from the Umasi La. The snow was crisp and firm and was much easier going than the day before. The route on the upper glacier wandered around the larger crevasses and climbed gradually towards the top of the pass.

The weather was perfect and the views of the peaks in all directions were superb. The glacier steepened up as it approached the Umasi La. We were feeling the altitude more now and were pleased to reach the narrow notch marked by prayer flags which told us we were at the pass. We looked down

into Zanskar on the other side and took a few moments to appreciate our surroundings, but were eager to descend quickly as the altitude of 5,320m was giving us both headaches. We retraced our steps, picked up our bivvy gear and returned to base camp. On the return, instead of following the moraine down the middle of the valley, we walked down the snowfield to the last of the moraine and made much faster and easier progress back towards the hanging valley.

At the same time as we descended this snow slope, Ian was walking up the moraine in the centre of the valley without us realising. Ian, Carl and Melodie had left base camp on July 17th, but Carl and Melodie had returned that morning because of illness and Ian had decided to continue alone to the Umasi La. Ian continued up the moraine and all the way to the top of the pass that afternoon. By the time he reached the upper glacier, the snow was very soft and it was heavy going for him. He was still expecting to meet us somewhere since we had passed without noticing one another. Eventually, after a very long day, Ian returned, at 8 pm of the same day to base camp.

When Ian, Carl and Neil set off to climb the mountain, Jane, Mike, Melodie and I set off again following the same route. We decided to camp in the hanging valley at 4,000m. This gave people the chance to acclimatise gradually and the grassy open valley was a very pleasant place to spend the night. Mike and I put down our bivvy bags and Jane and Melodie shared a small tent.

The following day, we opted for the snow field rather than the moraine, following our descent route of the previous trip. This proved to be easier going, even though the snow was 2 feet deep or more. We stopped for the night under the steeper snow slope beside the ice fall, just beyond where Neil and I had stopped. There were frequent rockfalls from the steep slope above, but the bivvy site was fortunately out of the line of fire. Our plan was to set off the following day at 5 am to reach the Umasi La in the early morning. When Mike and I looked out at 4.30 am it was snowing hard and the visibility was very poor. We decided to wait until 6 to see what would happen to the weather. It didn't change all day and we spent the day reading and waiting for an improvement. The next

day, it was still snowing and the cloud was well down around us and, disappointed, we decided to return to base camp. On the return, with the warmer weather, there were many rockfalls and avalanches, particularly on the steeper eastern side of the valley and there were a couple of places where we were keen to move fast to avoid rocks flying down the gullies. We arrived back at base camp around 2.30 that afternoon and our thoughts went to Neil, Ian and Carl on the mountain and we wondered how they were doing in this weather.

## The Climb - Neil Brown and Ian Mills.

We set our base camp at the foot of the Hagshu Nullah under the north face of Shivling, being one of the prettiest spots in the valley and a flexible centre for acclimatising treks. This meant that the base of the climb proper was some four or five miles up the valley. We had made an earlier sortie up the valley and dropped some food and gear on the left lateral moraine of the Hapshal glacier above where the main trekking route heads left to the Umasi-la.

Ian, Carl, and myself said farewell to the Umasi-la party around lunchtime on the 19 July and set up camp on the moraine towards evening. Having miscalculated the amount of food and equipment we could physically get on our backs, we did our best to rectify the situation by eating seven tins of meat intended as our one luxury item. Mills displayed his ingratitude by promptly throwing them up again.

The following day we descended from the lateral moraine and crossed the dry glacier to an easy snow gully which appeared to avoid the jumble of the lower icefall by its right hand side. This led up to a possible camp site at about 16,000 feet on a levelling of the glacier. Here we decided to call it a day when the weather closed in.

The next day we were snowed in. Carl had brought a pack of cards which was little compensation for the lack of progress. Towards dusk we moved the tent fifty yards further onto the glacier as a precaution against avalanches.

The morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> brought some respite from the storm but no improvement in visibility. We buried my tent under snow before we set off, intent on saving weight and moving quicker. I was slightly concerned we would never find it again. Onwards and upwards through the glacier. Unable to see much in the mist, we picked a line up the right hand side of the glacier, though we later found on descent that the left was easier and safer. It was a little discomfiting wending through some large and recent serac falls in the mist, but eventually we found ourselves in a flat snowy coomb at around 17,000 feet and well above all the icefalls. We dug ourselves some shallow graves and settled in for the evening hoping for a break in the weather.

The morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> brought more snow. Carl and Ian amused themselves by playing noughts and crosses in the snow but otherwise there were no adverse effects of altitude. The weather was looking depressingly set in, but we decided to press on up a snowslope which we hoped would lead to a ramp crossing the north face and which seemed to lead up to the summit ridge.

After less than an hour, we stopped to reassess the situation. There was a constant stream of powder avalanches from all sides of the valley and we weren't too sure what was above us, so reluctantly we gave it best and went back to the site of our previous bivi.

We were now quite low on food and with snow piling up on our route by the minute, we had decided to head down in the morning if it didn't clear. I remember waking several times in the night to find snow flakes drifting into my bivi bag and thinking what a lot of effort to have got this far with nothing to show for it.

The next day, our sixth since leaving base camp, dawned absolutely clear. We geared up, excited and almost stunned with astonishment at our good fortune. Carl did much of the trail breaking up deep powder. We could see the route to the summit for the first time. The ramp which from previous photos we had expected to be steep and technical proved to be an easy slope and by mid-day we were established at around 19,000 feet a few hundred feet below summit ridge.

The snow had softened to the point where further progress would have been dangerous (and we were knackered) so we stopped to brew and rest. Carl sat out a stinker of a headache brought on by his tremendous efforts driving a channel through soft snow.

Ian and I decided to dig a snow hole as this seemed to be what real mountaineers did in these situations. It started to storm before we had it finished, so the hole came in handy. A cold night for all of us - aren't snow holes supposed to be warm? - but we were close to success and we had decided to go for it whatever the weather.



Monday 25th, perfect morning. Carl made a brew of dried stuff which I promptly dropped in the snow. Almost perfect morning. Moving together up the col. Cornice looked doable, then proved to be avoidable and we found ourselves on the summit ridge looking 10,000 feet down to the Dharlang Nullah and out over Himalayas unlimited. Alternate pitches up the summit ridge. Steepening with hard ice under about four inches of soft snow. Summit always about five hundred yards away and no real features to bring it closer. Ian stopped to belay below some rocks, then it was Carl's turn in front and he came to a halt before the rope ran out. We were on top with views everywhere and an awful lot of unclimbed peaks all around, hard ones, easy ones, big ones and little ones. There's a lot of climbing in Kishtwar for people who just want a little peace and a 6,000 metre peak to themselves.

We had abandoned the idea of descending to the south as the slopes looked genuinely unstable and we were concerned that the base camp team would be worried (we were already due back). Descent was pleasant, simple and euphoric. Why can't they all be like that?

There is a sense of privilege in exploring a glacier system and having the chance to do an unclimbed route and with it a sense of obligation. We packed down all our rubbish and abandoned only one icescrew. This area will be wild and beautiful for many years to come. The lower Hapshal valley on a popular trekking route with the prospect of the new road bringing vehicle access to within three days is a cause of greater concern. Right now it's pretty close to paradise. Maybe that explains why Carl proposed to Melodie as soon as we got back. We know he had to have had something on his mind to play cards that badly.

# Accounts - Mike Thexton

The rate we obtained in Delhi was approximately 25 - 26 rupees to the pound, which was considerably better than Carl had found in previous years. The following accounts summarise the main categories of expenditure and income, although most of the meals bought locally are not included:

## Expenditure in England:

Flights	7 x 440	3080
Insurance	7 x 75	525
Peak fee		360
Printing and stationery; travel to sponsors' meeting		120
Liaison Officer equipment		70
Other equipment		17
Food		96

(most equipment was personally contributed by team members) ----

4268

## Expenditure in India:

### To Kishtwar:

YMCA	3 nights x 7 people	80
Bus to Jammu		40
Taxis Jammu - Kishtwar		100
Dak bungalow in Kishtwar	2 nights	30
Bus to Galhar		5

(meals bought individually) ----

255

### Purchases in Kishtwar:

Food		40
Fuel		15
Base Camp equipment		60

115

### Walk-in and Base Camp:

Mules	10 for 5 days	100
Cook		40
Accommodation on walk-in		5
Food purchased locally (chicken, cheese, potatoes)		10

155

### Walk-out:

Donkeys	5 for 6 days	75
Galhar to Kishtwar: porters and jeep		45
Dak bungalow		20
Kishtwar to Jammu	lorry	64
Jammu to Delhi	train	20
YMCA in Delhi	2 nights	45

(large meal for 7 at the Metropolis costs about £4 each, including beer) ----

269

### Total expenditure

5062

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Income:

Grants from MEF and BMC	£600 each	1200
Personal contributions to kitty	£552 each*	3862
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		5062
		=====

\* not including equipment contributed to the expedition, nor some expenditure incurred locally not from the central kitty. This might amount to about £100 for non-climbers, and substantially more for climbers.

The original budget was for £1000 personal contributions, and this seems to have been conservative. The expedition probably cost the climbers between £750 and £800 each.

Mike Thexton ACA

MEDICAL SUPPLIES - Ruth Brown.

The communal medical kit:-

(1) DRUGS

<u>Analgesics</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>In medical kit at start of trip</u>	<u>Amount used on trip</u>
Paynocil	mild pain	20 tablets	5 tablets
Distalgesic	moderate pain	60 tablets	none
Temgesic	severe pain	20 tablets	none
<u>Antibiotics</u>			
Amoxil	Urinary and upper respiratory tract infections	100 capsules	none
Erythromycin	Upper respiratory and skin infections	100 tablets	none
Trimethoprim	Urinary infections	20 tablets	none
Fucidin	Antibiotic ointment	30g	10g
Imodium	diarrhoea	50 capsules	25 capsules
Codeine	diarrhoea	20 tablets	none
Flagyl	Giardia infection	105 tablets	30 capsules
Fasigyn	Giardia	8 tablets	2 tablets
Triludan	Antihistamine	30 tablets	none
Maxolan	Nausea	35 tablets	none
Acetazolamide (diamox)	Acclimatisation	30 tablets	5 tablets
Temazepam	Hypnotic (for sleeping pills)	20 tablets	20 tablets
Efcortelan	Hydrocortisone ointment for minor burns and inflammation	30g	none

<u>Analgesics</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>In medical kit at start of trip</u>	<u>Amount used on trip</u>
Reludrat	Oral electrolyte (to treat dehydration)	40 x 15g sachet	10 sachets

(2) DRESSING ETC

Melolin dressings	4	10 x 10 cm	none
Micropore tape	2		none
Elastoplast bandages (3")	2		none

	<u>In medical kit at start of trip</u>	<u>Amount used on trip</u>
Assorted adhesive dressing		
Scissors		
Clinical thermometer		
Antiseptic swabs	10	none
Steinstrip skin closures (1/4" x 3")	3	none
Silk sutures (45cm)	3	none
Sterile syringes and needles	Assorted	none

In addition, individual medical kits were carried containing:-

Assorted adhesive dressings	
Bandages	
Mild analgesics of choice	
Sunscreen (SPF 15 minimum)	
Sunscreen for lips (SPF 15 minimum)	
Antimalarials - paludrine (2 tabs daily) and nivaquine (2 tabs weekly)	these were started 1 week before the trip and continued for 6 weeks after the trip

## EXPEDITION FOOD - by Melodie Partland.

As the only member of the expedition who did not get sick I feel qualified to write about the food.

### I) Mountain Food.

Before leaving for India we purchased most of the food for the mountain from Makro Self Service Wholesalers Ltd. We chose a variety of foods which would be both palatable and could be readily rehydrated in order to minimise the expenditure of fuel. This included the following:

<u>Food</u>	<u>Quantities</u>	<u>Kg (approx)</u>
Dried Milk	1	1.8
Rowntrees Yorkie bars	24	1.6
Pomme Maison (mash)	9x107g	1.0
Colemans Sweet & sour mix	12x35g	0.4
Colemans Chicken casserole mix	12x40g	0.5
Applewoods Cluster bars	51x30g	1.5
Smash	4x500g	2.0
Jordans Crunchy cereal	4x1.2kg	4.8
Birds Angel Whirl	2x866g	1.7
Cheesecake mix	2x1.2kg	2.4
Knorr soup mix	1x372g	0.4
Maggi soup mix	4x383g	1.5
Ketchup sauce	1x680g	0.7
John West tinned Tuna	12x200g	1.2
Napolina Tortellini	6x250g	1.5
Batchelors Pasta Chicken	12x127g	1.5
Twinings Earl Grey Tea bags	1x250g	0.2
Plumrose tinned Chopped Ham	12x170g	2.0
Kraft Cheesey Pasta	12x190g	2.3
Bachelors Savoury Noodles	12x86g	1.0
Lyons English Breakfast Tea bags	1x200g	0.2

Approximate Total = 30.2 kg

Actual Total = 30.391 kg

Of note; the Tortellini proved highly popular although it required a longer heating time than the other pastas. The Pommies Maison mash potato with sour cream and chives made a delightful alternative to the Smash variety.

The cheese cake mix was a success at Base Camp whereas the Angel Whirl was not.

The tinned meat and fish would have been more appreciative on a longer trip.

## II) Base Camp Food.

The Base Camp food was bought in Kishtwar which is the last village where fresh produce can be easily purchased. It should be noted that in July there is a limited availability of fresh fruit and vegetables. Those available included lemons, mangoes, apples, bananas, plums, potatoes and coconut.

For the Base Camp, the following additional foods were purchased:

<u>Food</u>	<u>Quantities</u>	<u>Kg (approx)</u>
Chapati flour (bags)	4x10kg	40.0
Potatoes (bag)	1x30kg	30.0
Dried Milk	8x500g	4.0
Condensed Milk tinned	4x400g	1.6
Lentils (yellow and red)	2X3kg	6.0
Rice (bag)	1x10kg	10.0
Tomato Ketchup sauce	3x200g	0.6
Red Label Tea	4x500g	2.0
Nescafe Coffee	1x250g	0.2
Cadburys Horlicks	2 jars	1.5
" Drinking Chocolate	1x500g	0.5
Assorted herbs and spices		1.0
Fresh lemons		1.0
Salt	1x1kg	1.0
Cashews, almonds & peanuts		1.0
Raisons	1x500g	0.5
Fresh Onions (bag)	1x10kg	10.0
Marmalade & jam	6x500g	3.0
Baking powder	1x100g	0.1

Approximate Total = 114.0 kg

Of note; dried yeast was brought to India and used successfully to make loaves of bread in an improvised oven.

10 burlap sacks were purchased in Kishtwar to carry the food and other additional equipment on mules for the "walk in".

### III) Base Camp Kitchenware.

The following equipment was purchased in Kishtwar for the Base Camp Kitchen:

- 1 Petrol Stove.
- 1 Petrol Lamp with 3 spare mantles.
- 1 Large Pot.
- 1 Medium Pot.
- 2 Plastic Buckets (for washing and collecting water).
- 1 Rolling Pin and Chapti Board.
- 2 Sharp Knives.
- 1 Mixing Bowl.
- 1 Soup Ladel.
- 3 Spare bowls and cutlery sets.a

Each member had his own cutlery, bowl/plate and mug. The hired cook was supplied with his own set.

### IV) Mountain Cooking Equipment.

The cooking equipment used above Base Camp included:

#### Mountaineering

- 2 MSR Stoves
- 3x1 litre Sigg Bottles
- 1x0.6 litre Sigg Bottle
- 2 Pans and Grips

#### Trekking

- 2 Optimus Stoves
- 2x1 litre Sigg Bottles
- 1 Pan and Grips

Each member carried their own cutlery etc.

Petrol was used on the mountain with the MSRs since it ignites more easily than kerosene although the fire hazards are greater.



### Notes on Geology - by Carl Schaschke

Not being a geologist I don't feel qualified to comment on the geology of the area with any authority. It is known, however, that the mountains in the Kishtwar region are composed of metamorphic rock. Detailed knowledge of the area is in its infancy. Research into their formation is currently being undertaken by the geologists at the University of Roorkee, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Compact granular quartzite and granite predominate the rock found in the area as well as feldspar and mica schist. Unusually large specimens of tourmaline have also been identified: a complex composite of sodium, calcium, iron, boron and silicon (Courtesy of the Department of Geology at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow). Sapphires are also mined at 2 sites near the village of Sumcham.

In terms of glaciology, there is evidence that all of the glaciers in the region are receding. No explanation has been given for this.

Notes on Botany in the Kishtwar Region - Jane Mills

On the walk-in the floral zonation followed the pattern of most mountainous areas; beginning with broad leaved deciduous trees, changing to evergreen, followed by conifers and finally the hardy Birch and Salix species.

From Kishtwar to Atholi the zonation was not distinct; the construction of the road having a dramatic affect on the local flora, with stands of Populus and Aesculus showing signs of suffocation, their trunks buried in rock and soil. As we left Atholi we entered a distinct forest zone of what looked like a glaucous Holly or perhaps a Quercus Ilex. Whether this was to do with altitude or a particular soil I am not qualified to say, but it was extensive.

As we climbed higher this predominating species was gradually superseded by various conifer species, a few of which I could identify apart from Cedrus Deodara often seen in British parks and gardens of the 20th century. This conifer region with its associated acid flora continued for much of the walk-in and for me was one of the most beautiful sections of the walk. The graceful sweeping branches of the Cedars and its suffocating blanket of acid needles reducing the herbaceous flora to a minimum, with wild strawberries just in fruit. Beyond this as we climbed towards Sumcham (incidentally this was the highest point that Cannabis Sativa was seen growing) and Base Camp on the final day, the full glory of Himalayan flora opened itself up. The forest gave way to localised clumps of paper barked Birch and stunted Willows surviving only where there was guaranteed water and stable soil. The flat valley floor was grazed by sheep, goats, cows donkeys and ponys. The wetter areas abounded with Anemone Primulas and Caltha Palustris 'alba', a pale marsh marigold. The Polygonum family were richly represented with species ranging from Polygonum Amplexicaule to P. Affine; an easily recognised 'rock plant' of English gardens and even a tough looking rhubarb.

The wet valley floor was obviously relatively fertile to support such a range of grazing animals, but where the soils were much less fertile and less stable and in particular the morains of the Hagshoo Nullah the floral diversity was breath taking with such plants as Tillium spp., Fritillia spp., Aquilegia spp., Geranium spp., Symphytum spp., Myosotis spp., Orchis spp., and a host of others I could not identify.

When we left Delhi we were at the height of the Indian summer, but as we climbed higher the season was pushed back until we reached Base Camp where it was still spring. The primulas were finished except for isolated plants in the very high spots, but the Mecanopsis Latifolia - blue poppy was only just coming into flower as we left, offering rich pickings for those with an interest in Botanics.

So far I have concentrated on the natural flora; below Sumcham this obviously survives in close association with the local forms of agriculture. This too shows a degree of zonation with the variety of crops diminishing as the season shortens higher up. Barley and rice are grown on terraces as a staple food as too are lentils and beans of various sorts and potatoes. Many of the villages had groups of walnut trees around them, for their annual crop of nuts. Lower down maize is grown for food and possibly fodder and lower down still apples, pears, bananas, plums and mangoes were seen growing.

Of the fauna, we saw very little 'wild'. In the conifer forests we had a glimpse of a troop of monkeys. These were more frequently seen represented on many of the temples along the valley. Also a pair of brown backed vultures who regularly circled the Hagshoo Nullah were an impressive sight. However, I think the most notable fauna for most of us were the shepherd dogs which were both large and territorial and caused a certain amount of trepidation when attempting the Umasi La or travelling up to the Haptal glacier.

### Maps for Kishtwar Region - by Carl Schaschke.

The Indian Mountaineering Foundation specifies that satellite maps shall not be used. Ironically, the map in question can be bought in Leh, Kashmir. This map, also available in Europe, includes major roads although useful information for the mountaineer is sparse.

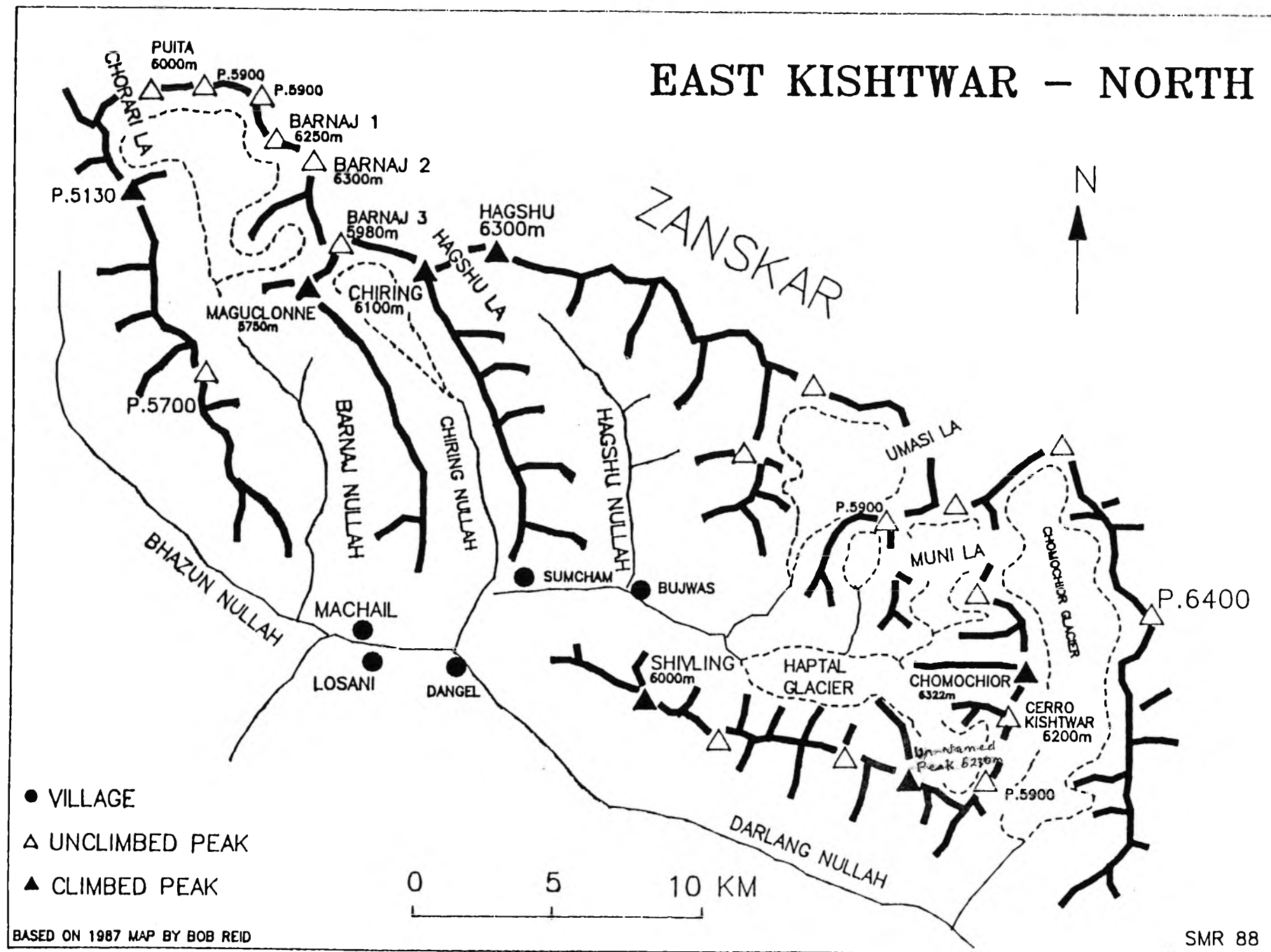
Leomann Maps have produced a series of 8 Indian trekking maps. Kishtwar is included on Sheet 2 covering Kargil, Zaskar and Nun-Kun areas. Additional information is included with trekking routes and short descriptions and physical topography. The scale is 1:200,000. There are a number of errors to be found on the map including the omission of some villages and a valley in the proximity of Un-named Peak 6230m.

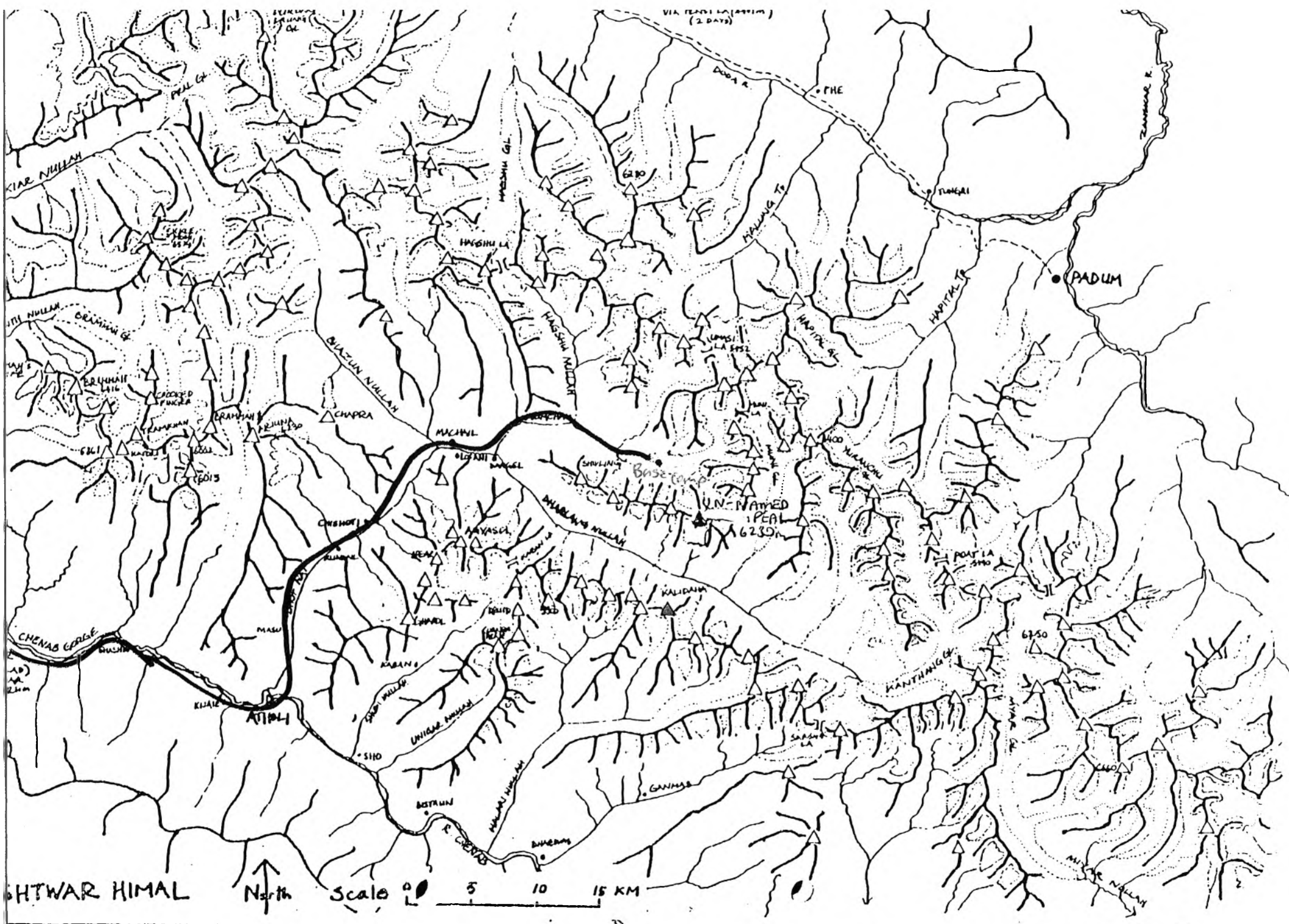
An elementary map of the Kishtwar region can be found in the Lonely Planet guide "Trekking in the Indian Himalaya". The guide, however, does include a good description of the trekking route.

A German map produced by ? is also available covering the Kishtwar region. The map also includes a reliability diagram in which it should be noted that Un-named peak 6230m lies outside the boundary of geographical certainty. Contours have been included although these should be regarded with scepticism where major peaks have been omitted. The majority of place names are in error to those found in the region, presumed to be due to a German spelling.

Bob Reid and Simon Richardson have both produced the best maps of the area. These were formed from an amalgamation of information and previous experience of climbing in the region. Both maps are presented.

# EAST KISHTWAR – NORTH





Fritz Kolb's Route Solved? by C. J. Schaschke.

Fritz Kolb, an Austrian interned in India during the war, was the first mountaineer to visit the Kishtwar region and who, in 1947, intended to cross the main Himalayan chain into Zaskar via the Umasi La. For some reason his journey north up the Bholang Nullah didn't take him over this pass. Instead a series of passes and glacier crossings eventually lead him south into the Dharlang Nullah of the Kishtwar range no doubt much to his consternation. He called his pass the Muni La, whose exact position has caused confusion with cartographers ever since.

With valuable knowledge gained in 1988 during the Chomochior Peak Expedition, Simon Richardson and Roger Everett gave a possible explanation of his route (see map). It was thought that his route took him near the Umasi La but mistook the whereabouts eventually taking him further over the Muni La and into the Chomochior glacier.

Having been to the Umasi La, I can appreciate this possible error. From above the glacier leading to the pass a choice of five icefall present themselves. Only one of these leads to the Umasi La. Even so, the journey necessary to get access to the Muni La shown on the map does not appear to be feasible in practice. Had he attempted this route by climbing high it would have become almost immediately obvious where the correct pass lay.

I believe his journey didn't, however, take him as far as the Umasi La. Standing back down in the Bholang Nullah the long and wide valley compels the eye to be drawn towards the distant mountains where the valley gently turns north. The head of the valley is obscured from sight by a high hill side. Without doubt, the most logical journey for an explorer would have been to follow the valley to its conclusion since Zaskar also lies north. The path necessary for the Umasi La, however, takes an unobvious and unlikely turning up the hillside to the left before the bend in the valley. Had he continued straight on up the valley he would then have been confronted by two major icefalls. The left hand icefall is totally imprenetable while the right hand icefall (which we took) has access to an upper glacier via the extreme right hand side. From this high glacier an easy pass leads back down over the other side and into the Chomochior glacier and back into the Dharlang Nullah.

This route suggested is considered to be the most logical and feasible route possible that could describe his journey all those years ago.

### Acknowledgements

The Expedition is grateful to the following who have supported and contributed to the successs of this expedition:

- Mount Everest Foundation
- British Mountaineering Council
- Indian Mountaineering Foundation
- Field & Trek, Brentford, Essex.
- BDH Chemicals Ltd., Poole, Dorset.
- Air India.

Also to:

Simon Richardson, Roger Everett, Bob Reid, Geoff Hornby, Dr. Honey and Mrs. C. Partland.



Summary of Ascent of Un-Named Peak 6230m - C. J. Schaschke.

Date	Camp	Alt. (ft) [approx.]	Location
18/7/89	B.C.	12,000	Tents in valley.
19/7/89	C1	14,000	Tent on lateral moraine of lower glacier.
20/7/89	C2	16,000	Tent above icefall of higher glacier.
21/7/89	C2	16,000	- ditto -
22/7/89	C3	17,000	Bivouac on high glacier.
23/7/89	C3	17,000	- ditto -
24/7/89	C4	19,000	Snowhole below summit ridge.
25/7/89	C3	17,000	Summit 20,440ft. Return to bivouac.
26/7/89	B.C.	12,000	Return to tents in valley.

Route:

