

S N O W L A K E

E X P E D I T I O N

P A K I S T A N

Summer 1989

Hunza Valley

Hispar Glacier

Snow Lake

● K2

Biafo Glacier

▲
Gilgit

▲
Skardu

Due to bad weather on the approach the Base Camp was set up on

The Hispar Glacier

47
623

89/29

1 9 8 9

S N O W L A K E E X P E D I T I O N

P A K I S T A N

(Due to poor snow and weather conditions we set
a Base Camp up at Shigambarisch , Hispar Glacier)

+
623

SNOW LAKE EXPEDITION

Members

Andy Troll , Chris Lloyd-Rogers , Hilary Fouweather , Mick Nunwick ,
Mick Willcock , Walter Phipps

Address and Telephone Number of Leader

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Objectives

To approach Snow Lake via the Hispar Glacier . Spend 2 weeks climbing nearby peaks upto 6000m . Descend to Skardu via the Biafo Glacier . Andy , Chris and Hilary would return to the UK and Mick Nunwick would join Mick and Walter in Hunza . Attempt Shaltar Peak near Hopar village , Bubli-ma-Tim near Karimabad village plus other suitable peaks .

Dates

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 14-16 July | Mick Willcock to Rawalpindi |
| 21-22 July | Andy , Chris , Hilary and Walter to Rawalpindi |
| 16-23 July | Buying food , supplies and insurance in Rawalpindi |
| 24-26 July | Buying food in Gilgit and making the first attempt at arranging the porters |
| 27 July | Second attempt at arranging the porters in Nagar |
| 28-31 July | Walk-in . Bad weather for the last 2 days and nights |
| 1 August | Bad weather continued , laying over 20cm of snow . Decided to use the site as our Base |
| 2-21 August | Attempted various peaks . Chris , Hilary and Mick left for Skardu via the Hispar La with 2 porters on the 17th |
| 22-28 August | Return to Nagar and Gilgit |
| 28 August | Andy , Chris and Hilary left for Karachi and the UK |
| 29- August | Mick and Walter return to Karimabad and attempt various peaks together with Mick Nunwick when he arrives on the 3rd September |
| 16 September | Mick Willcock leaves for the UK |
| 28 September | Mick Nunwick leaves for the UK |
| 5 October | Walter leaves for Karachi |
| 14 October | Walter leaves for the UK |

Weather

Bad weather before we arrived and on the approach had left a deep snow covering on the routes and Hispar La . Due to continued unsettled weather at Shigambarisch and dangerous conditions walking over snow-covered boulders we decided to use Shigambarisch as our Base Camp .

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Mick Willcock , Walter Phipps

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Andy , Chris and Hilary would return to the UK and Mick Nunwick would
join Mick and Walter in Hunza . Attempt Shaltar Peak near Hobar
village , Bubli-ma-Tim near Karimabad village plus other suitable
peaks .

Summary

Due to bad weather Base Camp was set up at Shigambarisch , Hispar
Glacier . Various peaks were attempted in the area . The summit of a
peak near the Hispar La was reached . The other attempts did not reach
the respective summits for numerous reasons listed below . Other peaks
in the Hunza region were attempted and various degrees of success were
encountered . An attempt to reach Imit village from the Batura Glacier
failed due to deep snow .

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Preliminaries

The Mount Everest Foundation was approached for a grant . The MEF and the British Mountaineering Council helped us financially . Cheap flights with Royal Jordanian were booked well in advance (6 months) with Trailfinders of London . Full payment was made to ensure that no extra charges were added . Visa applications must be made direct to Pakistan Embassy several months in advance . Recommended purchases in Britain are dried egg powder , primer paste , cereal bars , Complan , dehydrated food and mash . Cholera , typhoid , polio , tetanus and Hepatitis A vaccinations and Malaria tablets are all recommended . 250,000:1 US Army maps were brought from Stamfords of London . The maps have the titles Shimshal , Baltit and Mundik .

With judicious packing of hand luggage no freight charges were paid . For this reason only a small amount of food could be brought from England . Any object that could be classed as a dangerous weapon was placed in the hold (ice axes , crampons , penknives , batteries , etc.) . In Pakistan even camera batteries had to be put in the hold .

A negligible amount of Pakistani Rupees can be bought in the UK but the exchange desk at Karachi Airport seems to be open at all hours and gives a good rate .

Journey from Karachi to Rawalpindi

Mick Willcock flew to Karachi 1 week early . In Karachi he tried to reserve tickets on a PIA flight to Rawalpindi for the rest of the group so that they could continue their journey without delay . PIA would not make the reservations if tickets were not paid for immediately . An independent travel agent made the reservations but the arrangements were not necessary as standby tickets were easily available .

He travelled to Rawalpindi by train . The journey took 31 hours but faster ones are available . In Rawalpindi , Mick had 3 tasks to carry out :

1) Buying Food - Some of this was bought in a covered market at G6/4 in Islamabad and a general store at Saddar Bazaar , Rawalpindi . All the items could have been bought either at this store or in the vicinity . Cheese , sardines , tang , porridge , jam , sweets , milk powder , oil , onions , garlic , ginger , toilet paper , soap , candles and pan scrubbers were purchased here as they are not necessarily available in Gilgit .

2) Insurance for Porters - This was arranged with the Eastern Federal Insurance Company Ltd . Under new regulations one member of the party must be insured along with the porters . The staff at their office in Bank Road , Rawalpindi were helpful and friendly .

3) Travel Arrangements - These were for the return journey .

a) Information and possible booking of flights from Gilgit to Rawalpindi , the uncertainty of flights , lack of information and the crowded PIA office put Mick off from pursuing these arrangements .

b) Obtaining tourist travel concessions for the railway journey from Rawalpindi to Karachi , the Superintendent who issues the concessions resides in a small office a short walk away from the railway station . The names and passport details are required for each person wanting a concession .

Sending a person out in advance of the main party allows for the completion of many small tasks and obtaining of information which would otherwise delay the expedition .

On arrival in Karachi Andy , Chris , Hilary and Walter managed to catch the first flight to Rawalpindi having bought standby tickets . They met Mick at the National City Hotel in Rawalpindi . Money was exchanged at one of the large banks on the Mall . They photocopied the details in our passport . Final purchases were made and , having failed to get bus tickets at Pir Wadhai , a minibus was hired from Sargan Travel Service to take us to Gilgit . This cost Rs. 4000 . There are numerous minibus stands in Rawalpindi . Subsequently it was discovered that internal freight and flight costs would work out cheaper . However , the uncertainty of catching a flight is a distinct disadvantage due to the vagaries of the weather .

Journey from Rawalpindi to Hunza and Porter Hire

The journey took 12 hours (18 hours by bus) . We stayed at the Tourist Cottage which , apart from problems with the water , is recommended .

Flour , lentils , rice , black and green tea , sugar , dried fruit , mung beans , salt , pepper , kerosene (paraffin) , plastic sheeting , gloves , socks , shoes , cigarettes and matches were purchased in Gilgit . Sunglasses could have been bought here .

The first attempt at hiring Porters was made in Gilgit with a contact made on Walter's previous trip . A letter had been sent from England explaining the situation and date of arrival . Unexpectedly , Mr Ahmed met us at the Hotel in Gilgit and tried to persuade us to hire the Porters from Hopar village instead of Hispar . Negotiations proved fruitless as a local agreement is in operation which meant that only Nagar Porters could be used to ascend the Hispar Glacier . It is important to ascertain at an early stage what Porter agreements are in operation as it created some ill feeling but , fortunately , no days were lost .

A second minibus was hired to go to Karimabad and we stayed at the New Hunza Tourist Cottage . Problems occurred with the initial arrangement for the Porters the next morning so the day was spent renegotiating the details with Mr. Mirza Hussain of Nagar village . Hussain had been the Guide for Walter's trip to the Hispar Glacier in 1988 . In the afternoon Chris , Hilary and Mick accompanied the gear to Huru by jeep . Andy and Walter completed the formalities and accompanied Hussain and the 14 Porters by tractor early the next morning . All the loads had been numbered . Any food and gear that was needed for the approach was either carried by us or in 2 easily identified loads .

Porter stages are used as a basis for payment . The rates were as follows :

| | |
|---------|---|
| Porters | - Rs.180 to carry 25kg of gear for 1 stage and return empty |
| Guide | - Rs.270 to carry his own gear for 1 stage and return , arrange details and act as translator |

(The Porters carried their own food and clothing and the 25kg)

The Trek to Base Camp

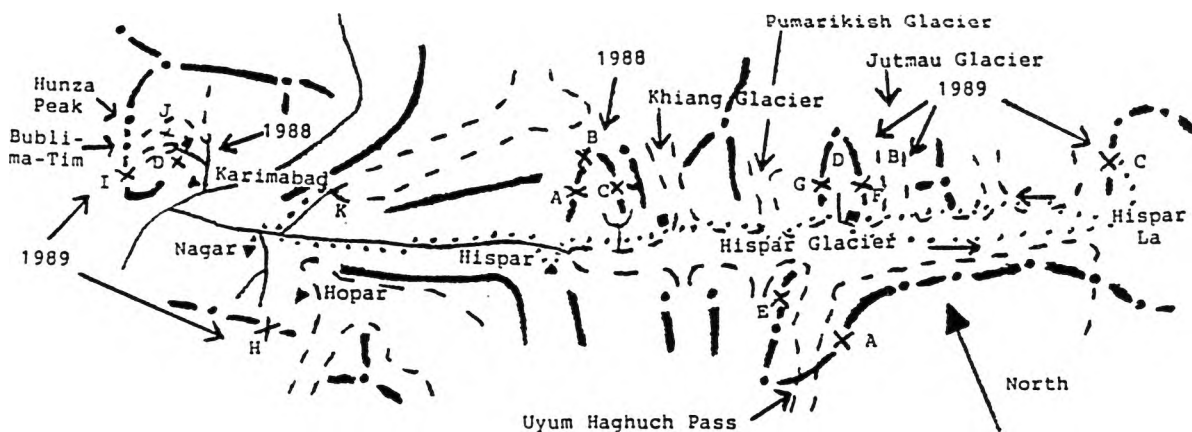
The stages used for payment did not limit the length of each day's walking . Most days 1.5 to 2 porter stages were completed . Camping sites were chosen by mutual agreement between the Guide , Porters and us on an amicable basis . River crossings between Huru and Base Camp proved to be a problem due to poor weather before and during the approach . During the afternoon the tributaries swelled considerably and the Hispar River changed colour from light grey/brown to chocolate . It was decided not to cross one stream below Hispar village in the afternoon and in the morning there was evidence that it had risen 3m . The pulley box bridge above Hispar village is time-consuming for a large party as each person is pulled across one at a time . Rs. 10 per person is payable to the village . We came close to losing a Porter and Walter crossing a stream above Hispar village at midday .

Two nights of high winds and rain made life difficult for the Guide and Porters in their makeshift shelters . The plastic sheeting proved inadequate as it kept ripping . They used our spare Primuses to keep warm . Due to the inadequacy of the shelters , the lack of enough stoves and the heavy snowfall when we reached Shigambarisch , it was decided to use this campsite as our Base .

Key to Maps (They are not accurate)

Peak Climbed or Attempted (Letter identifies the route) X Peak ●
 Glacier Edge - - - Ridge ——— River ——— Village ▲
 Approach Route ·····→ Base Camp ■

Map to Show the Hunza Region , Hispar Glacier and the Peaks Climbed and Attempted in 1988 and 1989



Key to Photographs

Route climbed _____ Hidden section
Proposed line - - - - High point X

Routes

A) Two attempts were made on the first peak E of Uyum Haghuch Pass , by Andy and Walter . Mick was involved in the first attempt . They ascended the W flank which leads to the start of the final section of the N Ridge . They were stopped by deep snow just below the final ridge . The effects of the snowfall before our arrival at Base Camp were still present . The second attempt via the Pass and the W Ridge got nowhere due to bad weather and the unsettling effect , psychologically , of a cornice collapse down the approach to the Pass a few hours before setting off ! This was climbed by another British group 4 weeks later .



Peak East of Uyum Haghuch Pass

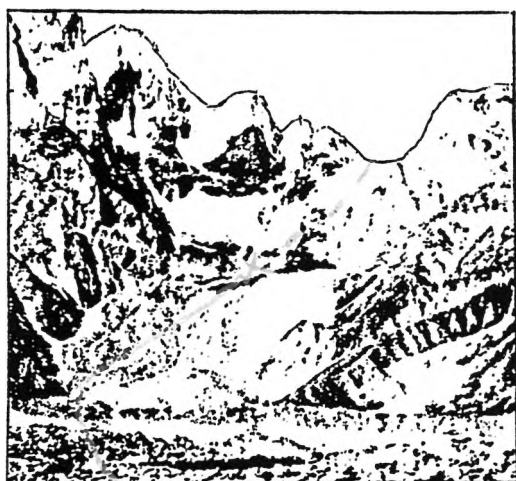
B) Chris and Hilary decided to explore the possibilities at the end of the Jutmau Glacier . This involved a 3 hour walk from Base Camp to the end of the Jutmau Glacier itself , with the path being difficult to find in two large boulder-field areas . The descent to the Jutmau Glacier itself is via a loose , steep path that is not altogether obvious . Progress up the Glacier is slow . There is difficulty in finding an easy route and a safe campsite and so the attempt was abandoned . The headwall at the end of the Glacier sported the largest cornice they had ever seen and seemed to forbid any climbing in the vicinity .

C) Due to the poor snow conditions high up and good weather , Andy and Walter decided to head for the Hispar La (Pass) with 5 days food and some climbing gear . This would give them a view of Snow Lake . To ensure a fast approach they headed for the centre of Hispar Glacier where a white tongue of ice led to the La . Apart from one major detour and a few minor ones to get across crevasses the going was pretty easy and fast . A night was spent E of Khani Basa Glacier and they continued to the La the next day where deep , melted snow prevented further progress . The afternoon was spent building an igloo which started to slump due to the intense heat of the sun . A claustrophobic Walter slept outside . The 3rd day was spent visiting the E edge of the plateau - its big - and deciding which route to try . They returned to the igloo , having decided on the closest peak N of the W edge of the plateau . The igloo provided welcome relief from the sun until it collapsed on top of Walter and set hard ! An early start the next morning ensured good conditions although a rock fall to the left of our proposed line provoked consternation . Neve and ice led up a gully to the col and a narrow ridge of snow and loose rock led to the N summit which they decided was higher as it was closer . They descended the same way and returned to Base Camp via the N moraine of the Hispar Glacier .



Peak to the North of the Western Edge of Hispar La

D) The headwall on the Glacier directly above Base Camp looked possible by first climbing the icefall . While Hilary was recuperating from a bout of Bacillary Dysentery , Chris and Mick attempted to reach the col and climb the ridge to one side or the other . They bivvied at the top of the moraine 400m above the campsite and about two hours from the icefall . The sun hit the icefall soon after 6.30am , so it was important to be on the Glacier above before that time . The icefall proved difficult and after weaving through steep crevassed areas it seemed that there might be no way through . The Glacier was threatened by seracs at the right hand end and a sheer ice cliff on the left . Mick found a route up through the centre up a pitch covered with snow of a dubious quality . He climbed out above the icefall and Chris followed . As she was about to make the last move , Mick reported that they were on an island in the midst of a maze of crevasses and it was impossible to go any further . The headwall , a few hours away , looked tantalisingly close . They returned down the steep slopes as quickly as possible before the sun made them too dangerous .



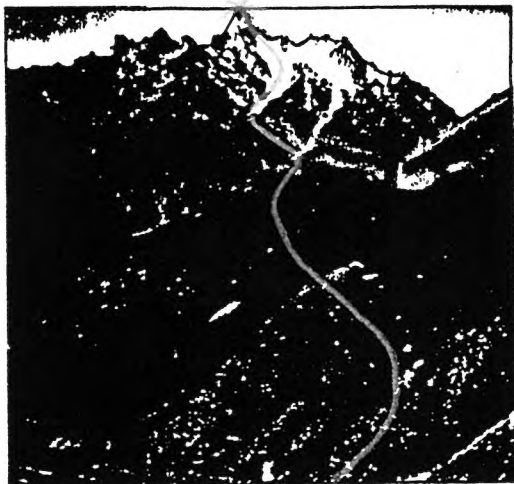
Glacier above Base Camp



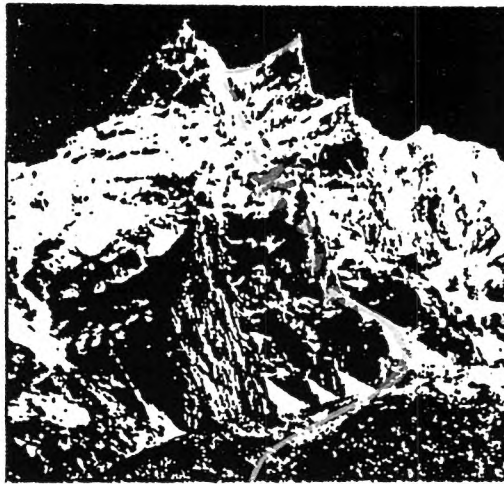
Peak West of Haigutum Pass

E) Chris , Hilary and Mick attempted the ridge W of Haigutum Glacier which was due S of Base Camp . Finding a line across the maze-like Hispar Glacier proved awkward as usual , glacial streams caused extensive detours and irregular sized boulders strewn everywhere slowed progress . 6 hours later they located a good bivvy site on a grassy platform above the moraine some 100m from the N end of the ridge , which is marked by a prominent cairn . Clear water was found nearby . Haigutum Ridge consists of 6 or 7 steep rises of indifferent rock . Care was taken with loose handholds and rock chutes . Steady progress was made to a height of 4900m but the final rise of the first summit consisted of loose rock covered with a layer of soft snow and was not attempted . On the return to Base Camp a better crossing of the Hispar Glacier was achieved by going further E avoiding the worst of the streams and two hours was saved .

F) Two attempts at Ibex Peak , a triangular pinnacle to the NE of Base Camp , were made by Andy and Walter . This was the most accessible peak . The first was more of a reconnoitre and get-fit exercise the day after arriving at Base Camp . Too much snow on the approach ridge slowed and then stopped progression . The second attempt followed the approach ridge and then a traverse into the left couloir . Good neve led to the col where they spotted a large herd of ibex just below the summit . They waited for them to move before setting off up the final section , which involved ascending loose snow and rock and then 2 pitches of solid rock and good climbing . The final block proved to be too hard as it involved 20m of vertical crack climbing with disposable footholds . Caution reigned and 2 abseils led back to the couloir .



Ibex Peak



Twin Peak

G) Andy and Walter attempted Twin Peak which is to the NW of Base Camp . They spent the night 50m below the glacier that leads to the couloir . The conditions were good but the bodies were not , so after 350m they returned to the comfort of their sleeping bags . Time to relax and wait for the Porters to arrive , return to Gilgit and meet up with Chris , Hilary and Mick .

H) After returning to Karimabad and recovering Mick and Walter attempted the E summit of the ridge S of Hopar village via a couloir . Unfortunately heavy snow falls , a few days before leaving , took its toll and they turned back before the bergschrund .



Peak South of Hopar village



Peak South of Bubli-ma-Tim

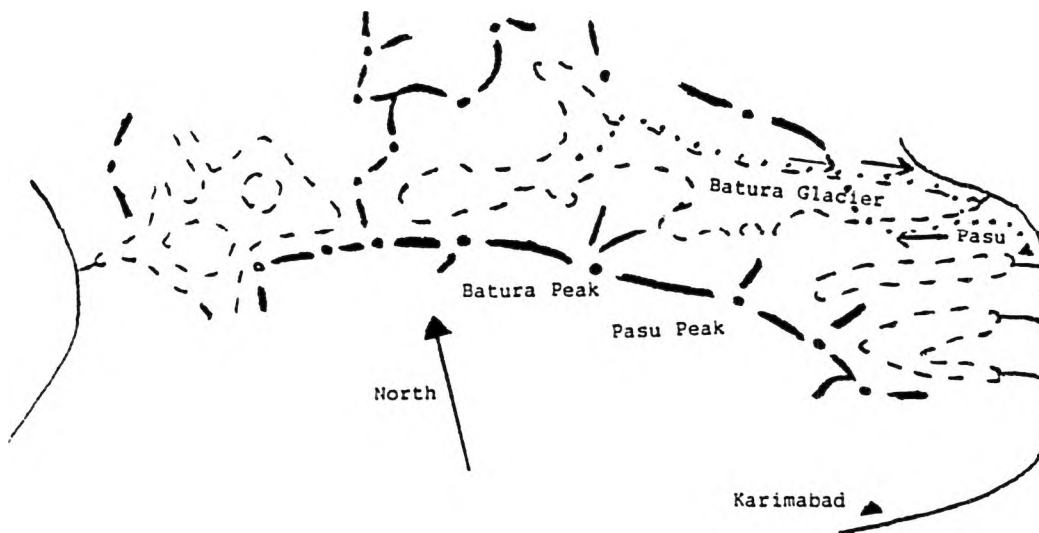
I) After Mick Nunwick joined up , they attempted the highest peak to the S of Bubli-ma-Tim . The day after reaching the Base Camp with the help of 2 Porters they ascended the couloir to where it splits and bivvied . An early start up the left couloir led to the final cornice which was turned on the right . A snowy ridge with rocky outcrops seemed to lead to the summit . The snow had not consolidated but rock belays were possible . Mick N. was affected , psychologically , by the conditions and 150m short of the summit they decided to descend via a different couloir which led back to the approach couloir . Mick was roped down . After this Mick Willcock had to return to the UK . Beware the strong winds which follow avalanches on the Ultar Glacier . It distorts tents and blows away loose cooking equipment and gear .

J) Mick and Walter attempted the rock peak closest to the Base Camp , but misjudged the size and had to turn back after reaching the top of the ramp . They had no bivvy gear , food or water for a second day .

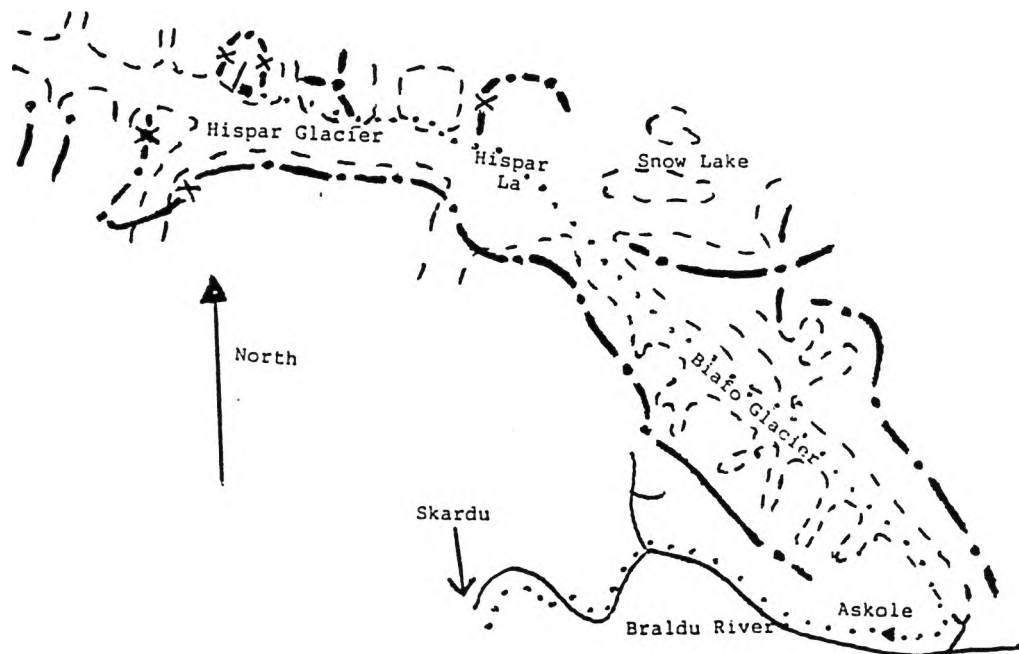
K) They had seen various peaks on the S edge of Trivor Glacier which did not look too steep . It was decided to go up to the base of these peaks with 2 Porters . They could not reach the start of the Gharesa Glacier because a landslide had left bare ice for 20m and there was no spare rope to leave behind for when the Porters returned . A fairly steep and very loose slope next to the normal approach would have destroyed any fixed ropes . A very disheartened team returned to Nagar .

L) The next aim was to walk up the Batura Glacier and pass over a 5000m col to enable a descent to be made to Imit village . The return to Karimabad would be to Nomal village via the Naltar Glacier . It looked feasible on the map although there was no track marked over the 5000m col . Beyond Guchisham village , Mick and Walter had to walk over snow-covered boulders while crossing a side glacier . They decided to head for the central white tongue but deep snow - again - made walking very tiring . Mick decided to head back and Walter wished to see the final basin . 20 minutes later caution prevailed as a foot disappeared into a snow covered hole and took 15 minutes to be extricated ! While returning to Passu an old injury to a tendon in the groin was aggravated , halting further climbing .

Map to Show the Batura Glacier



Trek to Skardu via the Hispar La



Map Showing the Continuation of the Hispar and Biafo Glaciers Trek

This was achieved in a total of 7 days as the result of some long days. 2 Porters, Mohammed Abbas and Shikuru Ali, arrived from Nagar the night before leaving. Two days were spent getting to the foot of the snow leading to the La. A 3 am start enabled the La to be reached by 7.30 am with crisp snow conditions. The Porters were quite happy to start so early as there was a full moon but they insisted on being roped up and would not lead. 70 lbs on their backs assured that. They were, however, most reluctant to camp at the La indicating that they thought they would be fried alive and anticipating deteriorating snow conditions. They were appeased by the judicious offer of 2 umbrellas as sunshades. Tents with doors open at both ends provided adequate shade and draught. From 11 am onward mobility was restricted as the snow softened dramatically causing you to sink up to the knees in soft, wet snow at every step. However, it is a truly memorable place with spectacular views, particularly of the Baintha Brakk (The Ogre).

Another 3 am start saw them making a rapid descent to the Sim Gang Glacier junction and the start of the Biafo Glacier. En route they were rewarded by a continuous panorama of rocky edifices of staggering beauty and climbing possibilities of the highest grades. The Baintha depression on the left (true) side of the glacier is well worth a visit and can be reached in 1 day from the La with an early start and good snow conditions. The entry point to the depression, when travelling from N to S, is extremely convoluted, difficult to find without prior knowledge and time consuming.

Getting back onto the glacier the next day from the other end of the depression proved straightforward . The next camping site at Namla is on the righthand side . They pressed on in an effort to get off the glacier but this made a very long and tiring day as slow progress is made on the last section of the glacier . This is because , in this direction , the cairns waymarking the route are difficult to spot and prior knowledge of the route by Abbas proved invaluable . There is a large , flat area for a camping site where the Biafo Glacier joins the route to Concordia . Fresh water is available 10 m down the track to Ashkole . Here we 2 Members of the Karakorum Experience group were encountered . The Doctor was looking after the second member who had a broken leg and they were waiting for a helicopter to fly them out . This is an uncertain exercise because of the weather conditions and it took 2 days for it to be completed .

Ashkole village can be reached 3 hours from this point where the camping ground is small and can get very crowded . At the next village , Hoto , there is another pulley box crossing . The campsite is below Hoto village itself . The villagers charge Rs. 10 per tent and extortionate prices for eggs . There was no water available at the campsite .

Immediately beyond the village is a river crossing which , even at 5 am , required wading . The Braldu Gorge traverse is exciting , spectacular and exposed but shortlived . Any difficulties are overcome within the hour but could cause those without any rock climbing experience a few heart tremors . During peak trekking seasons , jeeps should be available at the jeep road but in our case , at the end of August , none were present thus necessitating a further 4 hour walk into Dassu itself . The walk to Dassu was done in the heat of the day and proved quite tedious . It might not be possible to make the arrangements immediately but a campsite is available . Be prepared to haggle for the price . If no jeep is available at Dassu it is possible to phone Skardu to arrange a jeep . The journey takes 5 hours and should cost in the region of Rs. 700-1000 .

Return to Hunza

Hussain arrived with 5 Porters from Hispar village 1 day early because the Porters wanted to get back to Hispar in time for a religious festival . As Andy and Walter had given up climbing the day before it made no difference to their plans . A tasty stew with potatoes passed the evening away . After a quick pack in the morning , the group set off for the return to Bitarmarg where another British team had set up there Base Camp . Their Christmas pudding made a welcome change .

The next day to Hispar village was helped by the Porters finding 4 donkeys . At Hispar all the excess food and supplies that the locals would use were handed out and a new group of Porters was arranged for the descent to Nagar village .

The day to Nagar was not as bad as expected because the road that the locals are trying to build to Hispar has been greatly extended compared to last year . This makes walking much easier . It seems , though , that they will never expect to get a jeep along it . Landslides down the gullies wipe out the road on a frequent basis .

Bears

Although we never saw any bears , there was evidence of bears from one day E of Base Camp right through to the end of the Biafo Glacier . Rubbish pits had been neatly excavated and there were stories , told by several parties that we met , of bears rifling food stores , slitting open barrels , undoing the catches on the lids and reaching under tent outers . The Porters insisted that everything be put in the tents at night and they slept close to the kerosene with some rags handy to set alight and throw at any marauding bears . They seemed to know instinctively if any bears were around and growled and yelled to frighten them . Numerous footprints and bear droppings were seen . It was rumoured that the locals would be shooting them in the autumn .

Medical

Andy contracted some form of dysentery before leaving England to prepare his immune system and have a week off work ! He recovered before the walk-in and never suffered again . Chris and Hilary suffered from stomach trouble on alternate days soon after arriving in Pakistan . Shortly after reaching Base Camp , Chris recovered while Hilary developed full-blown Bacillary dysentery . Lomotil worsened the effect and we did not have any suitable antibiotic - only Flagyl (Metronidazole) which did not work . Eventually it disappeared . She suffered from a second dose on arrival in England . A further 2 week holiday ensued ! Admittedly she felt pretty weak . She also contracted a virus called Campylobacter . Both Micks were disease free . Walter suffered from stomach cramps and mild diarrhoea soon after arriving at Base Camp but it cleared of its own accord . On returning to Hunza , he suffered from vomiting and rotten egg belches after eating evening meals . The theory that it was caused by gluttony was disproved as , on the first evening , it took place after eating 2 bowls of soup . He felt fine during the day but got fed up with losing his evening meals . On the third evening a heavy dose of Flagyl (1gm) kicked the habit for a week or so and then the symptoms returned .

A fairly extensive medical kit was used to treat the above and various illnesses presented to us by the locals . Fortunately , most of the kit was not used . Medical Handbook for Mountaineers by Peter Steele provided reassurance and good bedtime reading . Our thanks go to Dr. Janet Williams and Dr. Dick Jackson for their help in making up the medical kits .

Food and Stores

At Base camp our diet was based on dhall , rice , chapattis , processed cheese , fried cheese pasties , cheese and onion soup , porridge , scrambled egg , cooked apricots , sardines for the carnivores , black and green tea , bread and fruit cake . The last two can be made in a pressure cooker . Away from Base Camp we ate either pre-cooked dhall or Hera dehydrated meals with mash . These were supplemented with Kendal Mint Cake - Quiggins , Cluster Bars - Applefords , Shepherdboy Bars - Shepherdboy and Complian - Farleys . We would like to thank these companies for their assistance . Their products all provided a welcome change to our normal diet . Drinking water can be a problem as a majority of the rivers and streams are silty . Even the siltiest water is drinkable if you avert your eyes . The locals drink the silty water continuously and reckon it is good for their health . We did bring 3 portable filters but the silt soon clogged them up .

We provided the Guide and Porters with tennis shoes , socks , gloves , dark glasses , ropes , plastic rainsheets , cigarettes and matches . We could not find thick plastic in Gilgit and the sheeting we supplied as tarpaulins ripped in high winds .

Expenses

Below is a breakdown of the total costs from Heathrow for the 6 Members over the 12 weeks :

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|--------------|
| Visas | 180 |
| Travel - All travel from London | 2777 |
| Administration | 63 |
| Porter Insurance - Upto 25/8 | 64 |
| Food - Hill food upto 25/8 | 273 |
| Supplies - Upto 25/8 | 144 |
| Hotel Accommodation and Food - Upto 25/8 | 125 |
| Porters and Guide - Upto 25/8 | 1170 |
| Food , Hotels , General Spending for 3 members X 1 week , 2 X 5 weeks and 1 X 7 weeks | Approx 650 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL | 5446 |

1988 on the Hispar Glacier

Pete Thompson and Walter spent 5 weeks in the vicinity of Daltonas . This area is 1 day E of Hispar village at the junction with the Khiang Glacier . After an initial reconnaissance they had to return to Gilgit to get rid of a persistent attack of giardia . On their return they attempted 3 peaks in a cirque W of Daltonas . The left branch of the last stream crossed before reaching Daltonas from Hispar village starts from the glacier in the cirque . The attempts are described below :

A) The second main peak on the W flank of the cirque has a 'crooked pinnacle' on the summit . They ascended the couloir to the left of the peak and then broke right two thirds of the way up and followed various gullies and bands of snow to the final ridge . They followed this to the pinnacle which was badly iced over . Walter was shivering uncontrollably so they abseiled straight down the couloir and descended that . Within 2 weeks most of the snow , apart from that in the couloir , had melted .

B) The highest peak at the end of the cirque was attempted . They climbed the left flank of the snow/ice face from a plateau where they had bivvied . At the summit ridge they started traversing rightwards but the going was very slow and they were carrying minimal bivvy gear . The decision to descend was made . They headed diagonally rightwards to reach the central couloir which bounds the right hand side of the seracs . A steep descent was not helped by a shortage of ice axes . Only 2 out of 5 were left . 2 had disappeared/been stolen and Walter broke the blade of his Chacal on the ascent . Relief at reaching the plateau safely was immense . Pete soloed the central couloir to the summit and descended the right hand flank to a col and down the gully a few days later .

C) A rock peak towards the southern end of the E flank of the cirque was climbed from a col to the S . The rock varied from excellent to loose granite .

D) After returning to Karimabad they climbed a 15 pitch gully/chimney line which started about 300m above the start of the top water channel in the Ultar Basin . Excellent climbing of standards upto E2 (?) was marred at the top by the final corner of loose rock , where they broke out rightwards across some slabs and up to a grass ramp which leads to the shepherd's hut . An unplanned night was spent on the route .

Conclusion

The initial aim of climbing on peaks in the Snow Lake area was not fulfilled due to the weather and snow conditions . Movement on the Snow Lake area would have been very difficult except at night and early in the morning , unless cross-country skis were used . During the day the sun would have baked all and sundry - igloos included .

As the Hispar Glacier , Hunza and the Biafo Glacier areas are open zones any peaks upto 6000m (20,000ft) can be climbed without a permit . The choice is enormous along the whole length . However , you have to be choosy if you want an easy approach , particularly in the Hispar area .

As we originally planned to take the Porters above the snowline we should have supplied one stove per 8 Porters , heavy gauge plastic for their shelters and some form of insulating material .

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| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
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| Quiggins | Kendal Mint Cake |
| Shepherdboy | Shepherdboy Bars |
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