

OGRE

PATRON
CHRIS BONINGTON

BRITISH NORTH FACE EXPEDITION 1989

89/31



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BRITISH NORTH FACE EXPEDITION 1989

6/12/89

M.E.F SUMMARY REPORT.

1/ BRITISH OGRE NORTHFACE EXP.

2/ ANDY CAVE (leader)

ANDY PERKINS

DAVE GREEN

CRIS FLEWITT

STEVE HARTLAND

PHIL BUTLER

TIM JORDAN (DOC)

PAUL NUNN (Film)

ALL CLIMBING.

3/ ANDY CAVE :- 38, Steade RD. Nether Edge. Sheffield. S71DS
TEL: 0742-580807.

4/ TO climb the N. Face of OGRE by any route.

5/ late June - early Sep '89

Access - 7/7/89 - 17/7/89

B. camp. 17/7/89 - 29/8/89

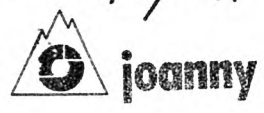
return 29/8/89 - 7/9/89.

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P.T.O.

In approx. 6 weeks at B. camp only 2 good spells of (of any length) weather - one lasted four days + the other five days. Lots of snowfall in between.

Why retreat? Main rock pillars (very steep) had no safe line on to their base. Therefore we opted for left hand ice/rock ridge. We aimed to climb quickly with no fixed ropes; this route however proved much more dangerous than we anticipated.

1st attempt - CAVE, FLEWITT, PERKINS.
8/8/89.

Ski to bottom of couloir leading to prominent ridge. Almost at top then avalanched - team very lucky. Snow fall from 50m above! Flewitt shoulder suspect broken otherwise team O.K. - retreat.

2nd attempt.

PERKINS, BUTLER.

10/8/89 Reach col and observe route ahead. Not actually a ridge but snow upon snow unstable double cornices etc - unjustifiable.

Therefore call off O'Gne!

Last week or so spent exploring snow lake basin - 3 peaks attempted - one summit - Hortford Green - Jordan.

HEIGHTS

B.C.: - 4500

A.B.C.: - 5100m

COL: - 5600m

(* B.C. - A.B.C. 16km)



**BRITISH
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EXPEDITION
1989**

✓ No altitude sickness of any size.
Flewitt's shoulder not broken - badly bruised.

8- Ice - easy angled

9 7 16-17,000

A.C.

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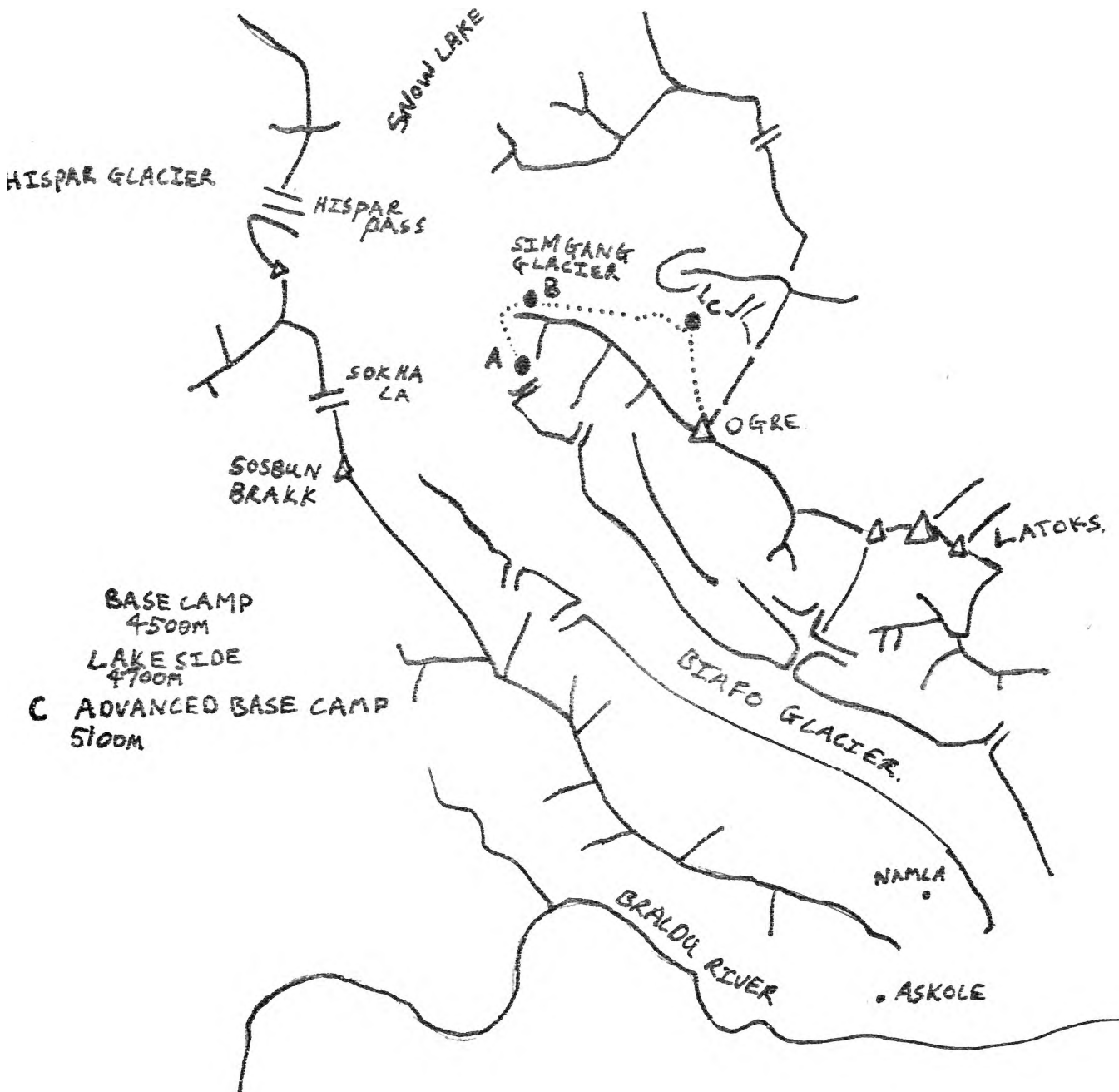
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LIST

Troll Safety Equipment
Wild Country
W.L. Gore & Associates
Phoenix Mountaineering
Berghaus
Functional Foam
Rivory Joanny
North Cape
Allcord
First Ascent
Egyptair

Europe Sport
Kodak
The North Face
EPIgas International
S.H. Containers Ltd.
Barclays Bank
Madison Cycles
Barrie Fielder Technical Services
Chameleon Films
Karakoram Experience
Chris Bonington
Rab Down Equipment.

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Ian Nicholson
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Mohammed Ali Chengasi
Mohammed Taqi Khan
Abdul Karim
Roy Ruddle
Tom Richardson

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SKI REPORT.

Steve Hartland

Skis were used extensively throughout the six week period at and above base camp. Skis were first used to ferry loads up to base camp because we had been dropped short by our porters and were continuously used thereafter to establish and maintain Advance Base Camp sixteen kilometres away at the head of the Sim Gang glacier.

All members used their own skis, either bought or borrowed specially for the trip as sponsorship deals any better than trade price proved unsuccessful from either manufacturers, importers or retailers.

Various models of skis were used, varying in length between 160 - 200 cm depending on individual choice and skiing ability. Dynastar slalom models and "Yeti" skis proved most

Different designs of ski-mountaineering bindings were used by members. Silverett Tyrolia, Petzyl, and Emery. proved reliable. Some members used cheaper Gertsch bindings, the earlier model with a pin system holding the foot plate to the ski proved unreliable, however the later model with "split pins" worked satisfactorily.

Harcheissen were not needed, but skins were used by all members. Pomoea "top fix" skins were popular which needed gluing regularly in order to perform well. Some members used cheaper skins which suffered from excessive balling up.

Whilst some of the team preferred adjustable ski poles, most used one piece "Look" poles, these proved reliable with only one or two breakages.

A small repair kit was carried consisting of, screwdrivers, pliers, tape, glue and wire. Something I managed to overlook to carry was spare screws which would have been useful as one of Cavey's bindings was not properly attached to the ski.

Porters coped extremely well carrying skis, usually four pairs plus poles making a porter load which can be carried easily in large double ski bags.

Future expeditions may note, it is possible to get skis, poles etc as free baggage out of Heathrow because they are the wrong shape and size to pass through the weigh in desk and travel along the electric conveyors.

Special thanks must go to Gerriat Edwards and Nick Banks at Plas-y-Brenin for the loan of some of their equipment.

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FREIGHT

Phil Lobby Butler.

As we were taking a considerable amount of equipment, including polypropelene ropes for fixing, it was decided to air freight some equipment. The success of Dave Green in aquiring huge amounts of hill food meant that the freight consignment then expanded until it filled the dining room at expedition headquarters in Sheffield. Tom Richardson kindly allowed his house to taken over by the whole expedition team on occasions and one hot weekend was spent sorting and packing on the back lawn.

We discovered that Karokorum Experience were sending out a consignment of freight to islamabad at the same time as our trip, and they kindly agreed to handle ours aswell, to simplify paperwork. This was not entirely successful as a harrassed person whilst clearing a vast amount of freight through customs side stepped some of the formalities-this meant we had some difficulty re-exporting gear at the end of the trip, though it was all smoothed over, with the aid of theMinistry ofTourism ... eventually. It is better to stick to the accepted procedureds , though tiresome at the time.

We freighted some 23 items, including 2 mountains bikes, 15 barrells, 3 ski bags and assorted cartons, haul bag. Total weight was 438 kilos and cost including handling charges was £ 562.50 .

The company used by K.E. was - M & M Services
Unit 3
Bitton I.E.
West Drayton
Middlesex.

TAQ INT CARGO
232 Khadam Hussain Rd.
Rawlpindi.

Everything arrived safely.

On the return trip we had 12 items, including the bikes and six barrells. We arranged freight through an agent in Islamabad (office opposite airport). Cost of re export was £475 .

Gas was sent seperately. As few carriers go to Islamabad with ' dangerous cargo ', we had to send it to Karachai and employ another agent to clear it and forward it by rail to Rawlpindi. This is an expensive and time consuming business, and we began to worry if the gas would ever show up in 'pindi- the Me Met. Police expedition had their gas delayed so long that they were forced to leave without it-I don't know if it ever caught up with them...Unlike Kathmandu 'Pindi isn't a wash with second hand equipment shops and it is nigh on impossible to findgas out there ; veterans have their own stash out there safely gaurded and people have been known to smuggle in small quantities, but for an expedition of this size the only option is to freight it, if possible in advance. We used SOS Freight of Manchester airport and TAQ Freight handled the customs and forwading to 'pindi. SOS charged us £ 105 which seemed quite pricey, but we were noy prepared for a further charge of Rs 3000 or £ 95 by TAQ freight for their services. Regulations for packing vary according to carrier, there was some confusion about this, but eventually we packed it in one box with plenty of rockwool-loose lay roof insulation. (total weight inc. packaging -35 kg)

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FINAL ACCOUNTS

Andy Perkins.

U.K. INCOME

	£
Personal Contributions (Air flights)	2400
Personal Contributions (Paid into account)	2760
Personal Contributions (Expenses in U.K.)	1159
Peak Fee Refund	1286
Kings House Raffle	70
Barclays Bank	1000
B.M.C. Grant	1000
M.E.F. Grant	1200
Madison Cycles	480
Personal Contributions (Cash taken to Pakistan)	4420
	<u>15775</u>

U.K. EXPENDITURE

Air Flights (6 @ 400 each)	2400
Peak Fee	1865
Pre-Expedition Publicity & Organisation	960
Equipment	1000
Equipment for Liason Officer & Cook	217
Hill Food	156
Air Freight	667
T-Shirts & Postcards	342
Cash to Pakistan	6290
Extra cash drawn in Pakistan using credit cards	1327
	<u>15225</u>

Balance of 525

POST EXPEDITION INCOME

Repayment of loans of rupees to team	150
Sale of equipment	620

Balance of 1295, distributed
as personal contribution
refunds to Team.

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BRITISH NORTH FACE EXPEDITION 1989

FINAL ACCOUNTS

PAKISTAN INCOME

£

Cash from U.K.	6290
Cash from U.K., drawn on credit cards	1327
Sale of T-Shirts & Postcards	760
	<hr/>
	8377
	<hr/>
EXCHANGED TO PAKISTANI RUPEES:	265305
	<hr/>

EXPENDITURE IN PAKISTAN

Rupees

Hotels & food in Pindi	12160
Taxis in Pindi	2000
Base Camp Food purchased in Pindi	14300
Freight of Gas from Karachi to Pindi	3000
Extra Peak Fee	4152
Agency Fee	6870
Liason Officer's Expenses	13900
Road freight of equipment to Skardu	2500
Air Flights to and from Skardu	4490
Food Purchased in Skardu	6000
Kitchen Gear purchased in Skardu	3800
Hotels & Meals in Skardu	2000
Porters' Equipment	2730
Jeeps (3) to Foljos (the roadhead)	4000
Porters (60) from Foljos to just short of BC94890	
Camp Fees, Bridge Tolls etc.	965
Porters from BC to Foljos	33555
BC Staff Wages	20800
Jeep (1) out to Skardu	1500
Re-export of equipment	15000
Stamps for Postcards	5200
Airport Tax	500
	<hr/>

261500 gives a shortfall of Rs 3805

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FINAL ACCOUNTS: Some brief notes

1. The average cost per head split between the six team members was nearly £ 2000, of which each man contributed nearly £ 1800, excluding the cost of any purchases of personal equipment. This is high when compared to sub 6000 meter peaks in the Huche area (for example) but compares favourably with the cost of an expedition up to the head of the Baltoro.
2. This is primarily due to the high costs of porters in Pakistan, roughly £ 10 per day, compared to £ 2.50 per day in Nepal
3. Some money could have been saved in U.K. if we had not invested a great deal of time and effort in an up-market brochure. In retrospect, the cost of this publicity could easily have been halved, whilst retaining a satisfactory presentation to potential sponsors. The initial mistake was assuming that the quality of the mountaineering objective presented by the Ogre would earn money!
4. By contrast, the T-Shirt and Postcard scam worked well, as mountaineers were prepared to support their own kind in an attempt on an evidently hard route.
5. Thanks are especially due to Barrie Fielder Technical Services, a rope access company, who lent us the £ 2660 necessary for the helicopter bond at zero interest.
6. At the end of the trip, we had to use £ 600 of this bond, plus £ 700 on credit card to pay off outstanding debts and re-export the gear. This required some financial brinkmanship!
7. The total food and hotel bill for eight climbers and two cooks was 34000 rupees. We find it curious, therefore, that the rate set by the Pakistani government for liaison officers meant that he was entitled to 14000 rupees for the same period.
8. The Ministry of Tourism changed their minds three times as to what the peak fee should be, hence the peak fee refund of £ 1200 after our return from Pakistan.
9. This last point, combined with the expedition accounts being controlled by four different people on different occasions, led to some confusion in sorting out these accounts. There may therefore be some inaccuracies, but it gives a fairly good overall account of how to spend fifteen grand quite easily.

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The DGRE. (Baintha Brakk) 7185 m.

Andy Cave

The expedition aimed to climb the steep and previously unexplored north face of the pgre. The summit had only been reached once before by Doug Scott and Cris Bonnington in 1977, by the south face. Their epic retreat back down the south face was to become legendary and ever since the mountain has held a fearsome reputation. More recently a Swiss expedition made an ascent of the spectacular rock pillar in the centre of the south face, although the summit was never reached.

The Team

Originally the team consisted of six members but the number grew to eight, climbing doctor Tim Jordan and climbing cameraman Paul Nunn being late additions.

Phil, Lobby, Butler (40) an experienced Himalayan climber, Spantik, Bojahagur, S.Face Annapurna was in charge of freight and packing.

Andy Cave (23) Four previous trips to the Himalaya and leader of the expedition.

Cris Flewitt (29) Previously big walls in Europe ,U.S.A and was involved in getting sponsorship.

Dave Green (30) Ama Dablam Exp. in Nepal 1987 and in charge of food.

Steve Hartland (25) Aspirant mountain guide based in North Wales who looked after Skis and radios.

Tim Jordan (34) An eye surgeon based in Edinburgh took care of all medical requirements.

Paul Nunn (42) A veteran of the himalaya was in charge of film.

Andy Perkins (29) Deputy leader, Baffin Island, Annapurna III, Ama Dablam. Has key contacts in climbing manufacturing trade and took charge of equipment and funding.

To Base Camp.

Phil Butler and Andy Cave arrived in Islamabad on the 25th of June, one week in front of the main group. This meant that the main group could spend as little time as possible in hot, swetty 'Pindi - most of the time consuming beauracratc problems having already been dealt with. The longest delay was the wait for the security clearance of passports of the late additions to the team. The formal breifing with the Ministry of Tourism took place on the 8th of July and the following day together with Captain Shabbir, our Laison Officer and Mohammad Taqi our senior cook we flew to Skardu.

With the help of Mr. Ali Chengezi we had made the majority of our purchases in 'Pindi. Along with our equipment from the U.K. this had been sent up by road a few days previously, (special thanks to Steve Ratzetti of Karokorum Experience) and we made arrangements for our gas to be forwarded to us as soon as it arrived from Karachai.

Skardu

The Team camped in Mr. Chengezi's garden. Staple foods were bought here rice, flour e.t.c Shoes for porters were bought too. Our younger cook Abdul Karim arrived (the Liaison Officer had preferred to have his own cook as well as his own rations i.e. money in lieu).

The leader and the liaison officer were briefed once again, this time most usefully by Mr. Affidi, the Ministry of Tourism's representative in Skardu.

As laid down in the official guidelines 50 % of our porters were taken from Skardu and the rest from Shigar and Dassu, in all we employed 60 porters. Our porters were chosen by our Sirdars Shigri and his friend, and checked also by our doctor Tim.

On the 11 th of July in two jeeps we drove with all our equipment to Polygon, 16 miles beyond Dassu. Here the names of our porters were put onto the insurance forms which were then sent with the driver back to Skardu and on to the insurance company back in Rawalpindi.

Each porter carried a load of 25 kg and paid approx. \$ 5 per day inc. food. From here to Basecamp should have actually been 10 porter stages.

We spent the first night beside the school room in Hoto. The next morning we crossed the Braidu river and arrived in Askole that afternoon. We spent the night in Askole and one of our porters was changed due to illness. Kossar an old friend of Paul Munn's was the

replacement. (Kossar turned out to have more knowledge of the Biafo region than either of our Sirdars). From the roadhead to Askole is three porter stages although we walked this in two days.

14th From Askole we walked to Namla on the western bank of the Biafo glacier. The porters claimed that this was 2 stages as their old route went via Korophon. So even though they were aware as well as we were that we intended going nowhere near Korophon they demanded that this was an extra stage. We mentioned this to the Ministry on our return and future parties should try to avoid paying for this non existent stage.

On the 15th we left Namla and reached a place just before Baintha on the eastern side of the glacier. There were small natural caves here and armed with plastic sheets the porters made reasonable shelters and escaped a rather miserable patch of weather.

16th The weather was slow to clear and it was late when we set off. We saw the Ogre for the first time as we crossed back onto the glacier we were looking at the south face. On this day many porters had left their personal gear behind believing that this was to be their final carry. There was general confusion between ourselves and the porters. We had explained very clearly to the Sirdars where we wanted our Basecamp. Later in the afternoon in poor weather the porters ground to a halt claiming they had walked more than the agreed 5 stages from Askole. After a hour of haggling we offered them an extra stage and they pushed on for a further two hours. Amongst the moraine, just

beyond the Conway's Dgre and still on the eastern flank of the Biafo, we paid off the porters keeping just 9 behind.

Between 17th and 19th of July the team along with the 9 porters moved the 60 loads up towards a very good Basecamp site at an altitude of 4500m. The site had ample running water and flat spaces on the large stable moraine. This site, the last comfortable site before Snow Lake is situated on the eastern flank of the Biafo and used by the numerous trekking groups crossing the Hispar La.

It was around this time that we first encountered the bear. Bainta the Bear was to plague us for some weeks to come stealing vital hillfood and damaging much tinned food. It was never harmful to individuals. It seemed to arrive at early evening and usually when snow conditions were favourable as it probably travelled from lower down the valley to reach us.

Between 21st and 24th in poor weather a further camp was established at the start of the Sim Gang glacier on the southern side below a very obvious rock rognon. Often a small glacial lake was present and we referred to the camp as Lakeside, alt. 4700m. The 16km journey between base camp and the foot of the Dgre's North face was often split up conveniently by a stay, either on the out ward journey or return journey, at Lakeside. Eventually when fully acclimatized this was found unnecessary.

All travelling above basecamp was on skis. During the daytime snow conditions were poor and temperatures torturous so that most movement

was done in the very early hours of the morning.

On 26th Nunn, Hartland and Cave established a temporary Advanced Basecamp. Eventually assisted by Butler and Perkins, in very poor weather, Advanced basecamp was moved to a more permanent site on the northern side of the six Gang below point.... this was still 2 _3 hours away from the foot of the face. alt. 5100m.

Like much of the Karakorum that year the weather was diabolical. But the team used this time to ferry gear up to advanced basecamp hoping that when the weather cleared there would be sufficient supplies to attempt the face.

4th - 6th august all the team made a visit to the old Basecamp site of Bill Morell's police expedition where they had kindly left a heap of goodies for us (this compensated for our earlier losses due to the bear.) This camp was situated about 4 - 5 hours from our B.C., to the north below Snow lake Peak 6600m.

7th. Flewitt, Perkins and Cave moved up to advanced basecamp in the first real prolonged spell of decent weather. On 8th with 7 days food and one goretex tent. The three aimed to climb as light as possible using no fixed ropes and aiming to gain the prominent col on the left hand side of the face and continue up directly beneath the eastern summit of the Ogre.

Skis were left at the bottom of the couloir leading up to the col and the three moved unroped towards the col until hit by a large avalanche, immediatley after dawn. Perkins and Cave escaped relatively

unhurt but unfortunately Flewitt was hit with a piece of ice and one of his shoulders was feared broken. The three retreated rather shaken. The day after the accident a rather spectacular avalanche coming from the north wall of the Sim Gang swept the glacier engulfing Nunn and Butler who were bringing loads up to A.B.C. Fortunately it caused no harm.

On the early morning of the 10th Butler and Perkins climbed up to the col and spent a day there. They were able to see the route above and considered it unjustifiable, being highly dangerous, and radiocoded this information down to Hartland, Green and Cave at A.B.C. The following night the pair returned and it was decided to abandon the attempt on the Ogre. The team felt it would be more productive to spend the remaining time climbing on the surrounding 6000m. peaks.

Between the 11th and 25th of August various attempts were made on a variety of peaks

Cave, Jordan, Green, Flewitt.

Peak left of Hispar La. Fail due to bad weather.

A 2nd attempt by Hartland, Green, Jordan reach summit.

Perkins and Butler attempt shapely peak north of Sim La, 600m of good ice climbing retreat in poor weather.

Flewitt, Cave attempt granite spire opposite B.C. 1/2 way reached in

two days.

During this period all members at sometime were involved in stripping
A.B.C.

20th Nunn, Green have to leave B.C. They arrange for porters to arrive
at B.C. on 28th.

20th _28th Continuous bad weather, A.B.C. stripped in storm.

28th miraculously porters arrive.

29th _ Baintha

30 _ Namla

31 _ Askole _ Hoto.

1st sep _ Skardu.

6th _ fly Pindi.

8th De_brief

10th _ Home.