

NUMC Malangutti Glacier 1990

(Summary report)

Expedition members

John Clayton - Leader

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Objectives

The objective of the expedition was to climb mountains of up to 6000m in the Malangutti Glacier region. Specific peaks were not selected until arrival in the area. Climbing an unclimbed peak was our highest priority.

Dates

Overall dates of expedition:

29/6/90 - 25/8/90

29/6/90 Leave England(Heathrow)

10/7/90 Arrive at base camp

18/7/90 Climb Mt. Neverest

25/7/90 Climb Shufktin Sar

4/8/90 Return to Passu

25/8/90 Return to England

Weather

Generally very good weather during the expedition. Occasional bad spells for no more than two days with up to a week of fine weather. Hot days and cool nights during fine spells but a lot of snow fell during the bad periods.

Accidents

No serious accidents occurred during the expedition. During the ascent of Mt. Neverest, a large rock fell on John's foot but he was able to complete the climb. His foot remained swollen for about two weeks. On return to Gilgit, we all picked up various stomach bugs which remained with us for up to a month after returning to England.

Route Description

Mt. Neverest - Rubble Ridge, a long ridge slowly climbing from 3300m to 5700m to meet the summit ridge 10m from the North summit. The slightly higher South summit is about one hour away along the ridge, which includes several interesting rock steps.

Rubble Ridge itself, involves a very long scramble up slate scree, traversing round several precarious pinnacles. At no point is the climbing technical but care is needed all the way. On the ascent there was very little snow but we were caught on the summit while it snowed for 36 hours, which made the descent that much more exciting. The descent route followed the ridge down for two hours before escaping down a snow slope into corrie to the north. This gave a fast scree run down to base camp. (12hrs up, 4hrs down, unclimbed peak)

North face of Shufktin Sar - The route took a fairly

direct line up the ice of the north face with a few detours around the rocks. The route trends right towards the top to meet the gap in the very large cornices, giving access to the east flank and the summit. The key to the climb was a steep leftward snow/ice ramp through the large rock band on the lower part of the face. The climbing alternated between soft unconsolidated snow and hard avalanche runnels. At various points, short traverses could be made onto the rocks for much needed rests.

Having reached the east flank, there is an easy snow climb to within 5m of the summit where there is a nasty, one move, ice step with potential for a 2000m fall. Descent is made by the east flank involving one abseil off the glacier (the only time a rope was used on the whole expedition). The whole ascent was made at night due to high avalanche risk, giving several problems with cold batteries in headtorches and cameras. (6hrs up, 4hrs down. New route, mountain previously climbed by a Japanese party by our descent route).

Cost

Approximate cost of expedition	- £2200
Cost of extra equipment	- <u>£ 800</u>
Total cost	- £3000