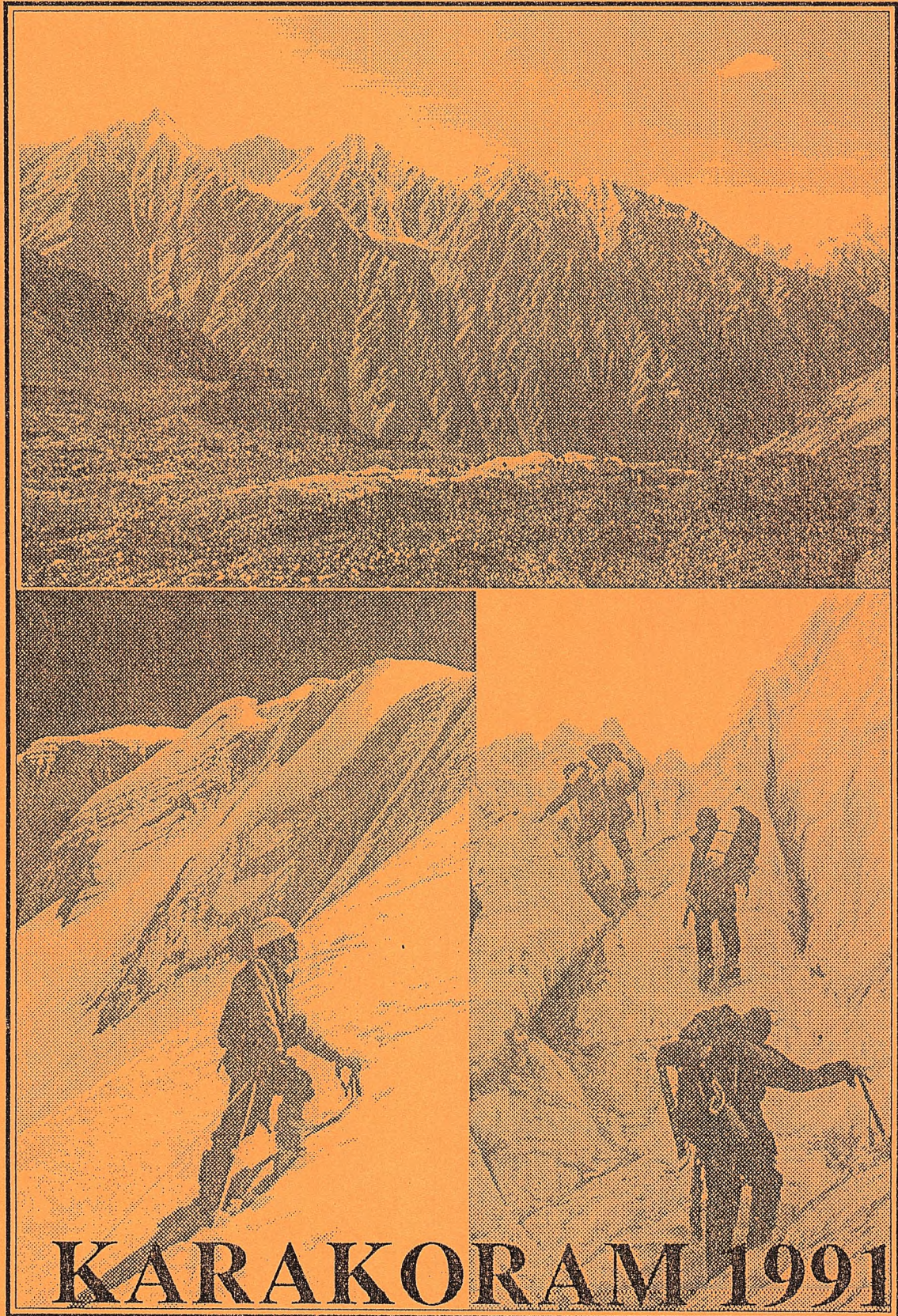


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# YORKSHIRE SHIMSHAL~MALANGUTTI GLACIER EXPEDITION FINAL REPORT



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**YORKSHIRE  
SHIMSHAL~MALANGUTTI  
GLACIER EXPEDITION**

**1991**

**Shimshal Valley  
Karakoram Range  
Northern Pakistan**

**23rd July ~ 31st August**

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# SUMMARY

In the summer of 1991 a team of seven people visited the Shimshal Valley in northern Pakistan. This valley lies off the Hunza Valley around 60 miles south of the Chinese border. While there are now quite a lot of trekking parties going into the area, groups going to climb the mountains are far fewer. The aim of the expedition was to try to reach and climb Pyramid Peak, climb other virgin peaks and generally explore.

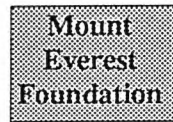
Flying out to Pakistan in two teams on the 23rd of July and 25th July the main section of the party returned on 31st August. The team chose the Malangutti glacier as the area to explore and climbed three peaks in that area. Around 21 days were spent in the mountain area. Out of these we experienced rain/snow on only four. Pyramid peak which was to have been the main aim proved to be too difficult to reach. Two peaks (measured at 5200m & 5250m) in the Madhil Sar area were climbed and Corner Peak and Shiffkitten Sar 'examined'. A further peak shown as 5800m (now believed to be c.5550m) on the map, believed to be previously unclimbed, was also ascended and given the name Straker Sar. An extensive photographic record of the area was made.

The team consisted of Paul Hudson, Steve Baker, Ken Findlay, Les Holbert, Keith Withall, John Prichard and Nils Sjostrom. The local guide who came from Shimshal was Quadrat Ali, a 22 year old student teacher.

Nb. Heights in brackets obtained by altimeter







Patrons:  
**Pete Livesey**  
**Chris Bonington CBE.**  
**Cllr. Bernard Atha OBE.**



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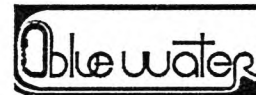
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Roy Lindsay	photographs, maps, advice, two slide shows and a lot of time	Jeff Mason	acting as a referee
Chris Clarke	photographs, advice and a slide show	Paul Exley	acting as a referee
Steve Venables	photographs and advice	Cordee	for maps
Expedition Advisory Centre	lots of helpful information	Leeds Mountaineering Club	for the use of their Hut in Wales
Saif - Ur - Rahman	Third Secretary ~ Pakistan Embassy helpful information	Jan Babicz	Information and equipment
		Frank Wilkinson / YEP	Newspaper article
		R.G.S.	information

**Thanks to all the firms, organisations & people who supported the Expedition**



# THE MEMBERS OF THE YORKSHIRE SHIMSHAL~MALANGITTI GLACIER EXPEDITION

Paul Hudson, British, 41, Teacher of Art - Leeds

The initiator of this expedition, Paul has climbed in Britain and the Alps. He has a strong interest in the literature of mountaineering and looking smart on the hills. His tie was sponsored for charity during the expedition and raised over £200 by climbing two peaks. He is now, along with Ken, looking for another area to visit.



Les Holbert, British, 35, Market Gardener - Morley.

Les has over 20 years of mountain experience and has visited all parts of Britain pursuing this interest, recently he has had two Alpine seasons. He is Membership secretary of the Leeds Mountaineering Club. His level headedness and ability to take on various organisational responsibilities in the field were great assets to the expedition.

Keith Withall, British, 48, Adult Education Teacher -Leeds

Keith has visited Europe extensively, having walked and climbed in the Alps, Pyrenees, Sierras and the High Atlas. Besides Mountains his main interest is the Cinema. Keith climbed one peak and supported the expedition well, making the early exploration at the glacier's edge and making a number of heavy carries.

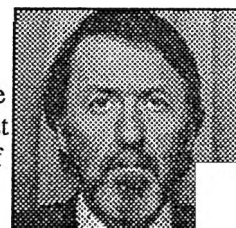


Ken Findlay, 34, British, Student in Community.Studies & Leisure & Recreation (BA)  
Ilkley College - Bradford

In eight Alpine seasons Ken has climbed 17 4000m peaks, he has also climbed in the Pyrenees and Greece. He too is in the Leeds Mountaineering Club. His determination and enthusiastic approach were an important asset to the team. He climbed three peaks and with Keith put up a rock route on a buttress above camp 2. Feeling frustrated in the towns he was always eager to reach the mountains. He plans this expedition to be the first of many to the higher mountains

John Prichard, 49, British, Instructor in Adult Training - Astra Training Services, Bradford.

John has had a wide range of experience in Britain & abroad. As well as extensive winter experience in Scotland he has climbed in the Dolomites and in the Alps. He climbed one peak and was the worst affected by stomach and bowel problems. For much of the time his stamina put him in at the front of the party.

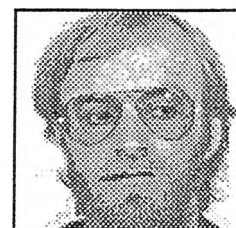


Steve Baker, 29, British, Solicitor. - London

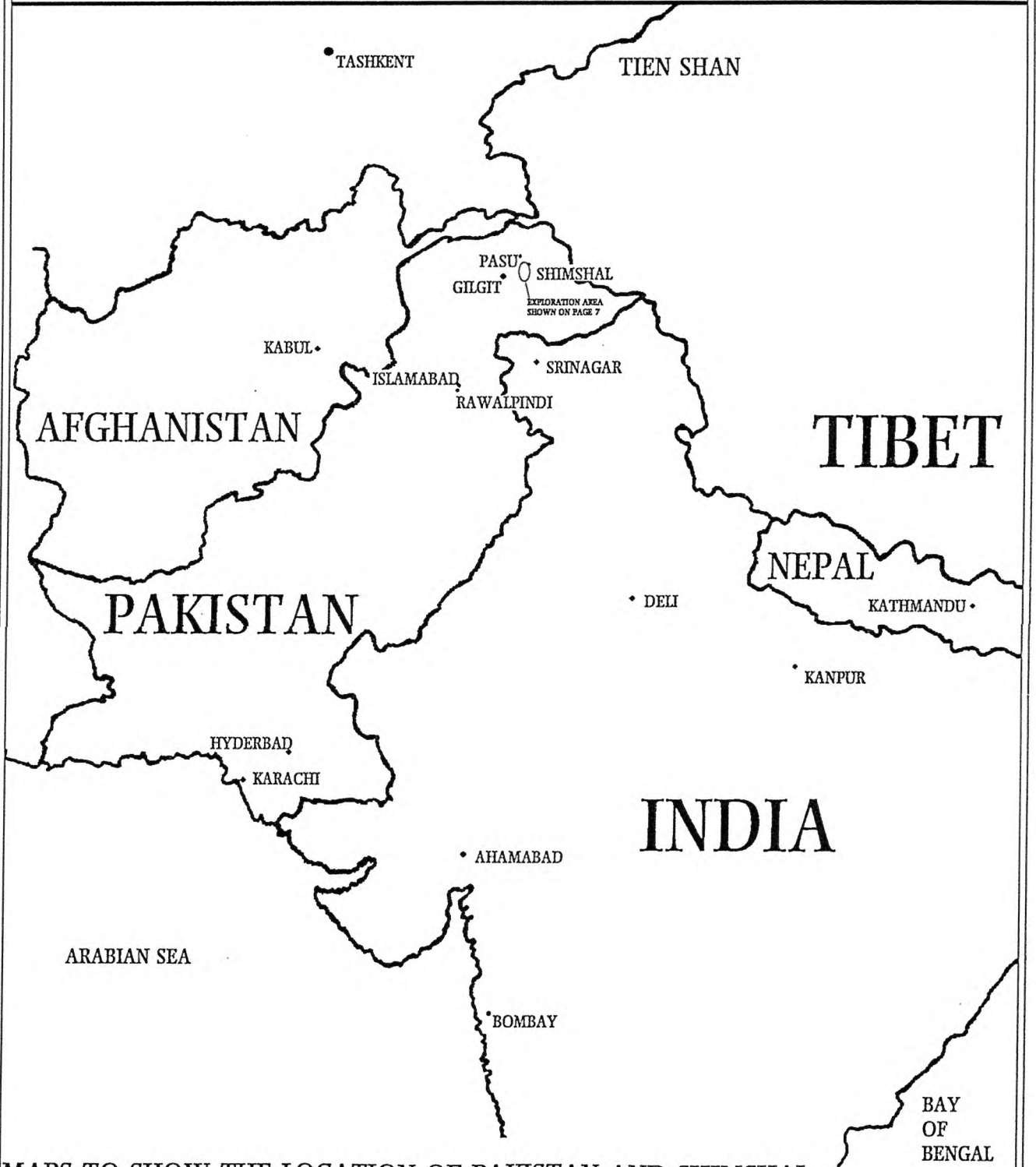
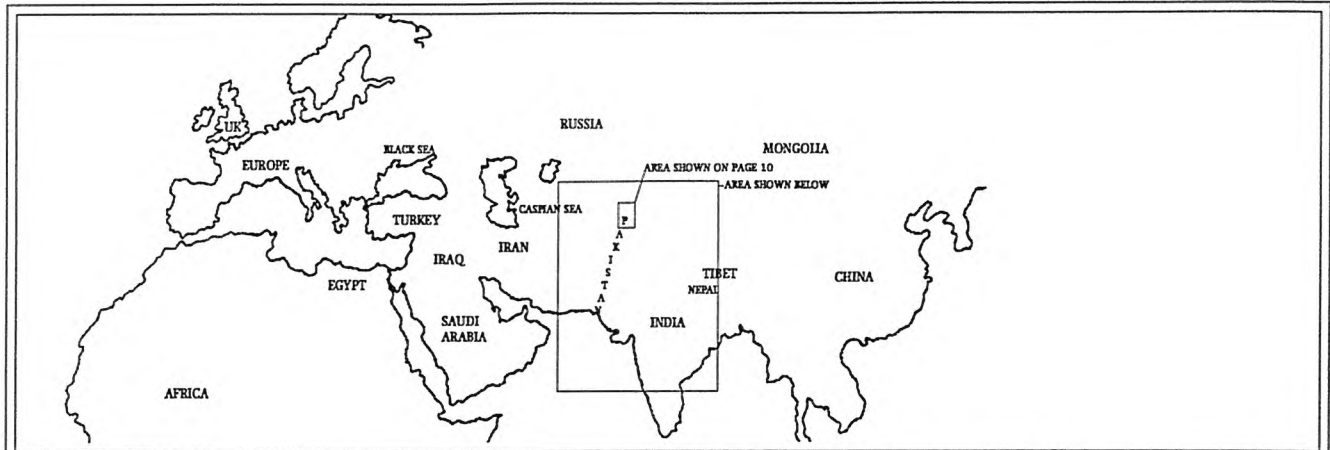
Steve has a real passion for the Mountains. His experience covers not only Britain and the Alps but also extends to the Himalaya where he has trekked to the Everest Base Camp attaining heights of 5,900m. Steve was the fittest and best acclimatised of us all and always in the lead on the mountains. With Ken he bagged three peaks. After the rest of the party had returned to the UK he continued to explore the Karakoram before travelling on into China.

Nils Sjostrom, 35, Swedish, Student

Nils has climbed in the Pamirs (Peak Lennin), Africa (Kilimanjaro & Point Lenan) and in the Alps. In 1981 he was one of a party attempting the 6957m peak Shigrila in India. On this trip he had to leave before anything was accomplished but he did play a part in the early exploration of the area.



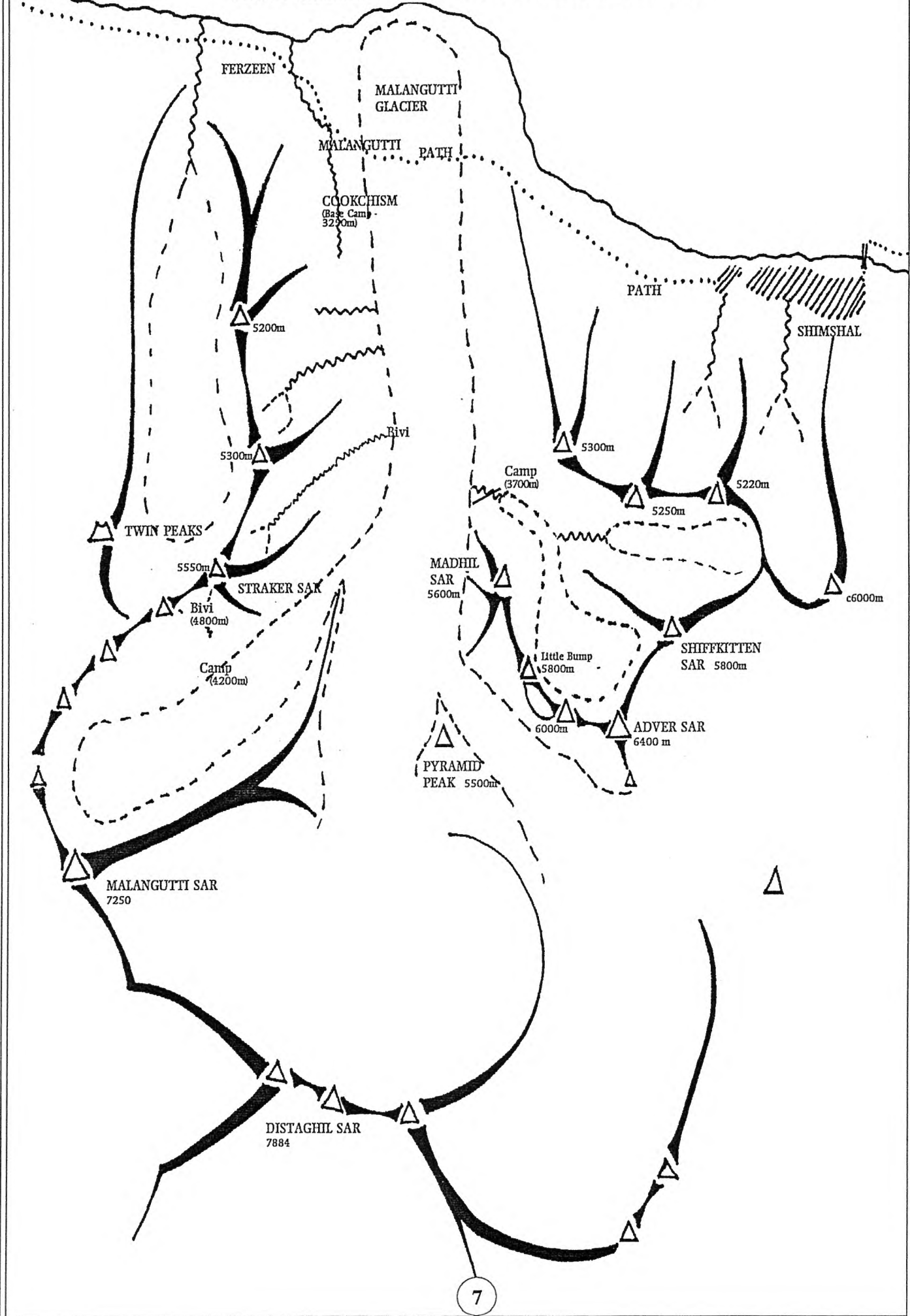




MAPS TO SHOW THE LOCATION OF PAKISTAN AND SHIMSHAL



# THE MALANGUTTI GLACIER AREA







The whole team at base camp for once, these seemed to be rare occasions

Steve	Ken	John	Les	Keith	Nils
	Visiting Shimshali boy		Quadrat		Paul

In the uniform of Phase 3 - Daleswear fleece gear  
with John and Nils in Phoenix

# Beginnings

It all began when Nick Evans had successfully returned from leading the climbing group on the YSES China Expedition in 1988. He had enjoyed the experience and began forming the idea for a trip to Asia. He did all the initial research and located the Shimshal area as a suitable one to visit during August due to it being west of the main monsoon and likely to be blessed with reasonable weather. Further information showed that there were many unclimbed peaks in the area and that the KK Highway offered good access.

Another plus was the Pakistan authorities' view of trekking. In Pakistan you can walk and climb in an open zone up to 6000m without the need for any permit or liaison officer. This makes the formalities minimal.

Nick assembled a small team and we began to locate recent visitors to the area and plan the actual trip in earnest. People living locally who had been to the area recently were phoned. Their responses were interesting, and varied from 'don't bother' to 'a great place!' Then in late November 1989 Nick and I visited Chris Clarke in Edinburgh and after seeing his slides of the chosen area Nick decided that he no longer wished to go. Nick wanted to be fairly sure of attaining the goal of Pyramid Peak and having seen Chris's pictures felt that the risk of failure was too high. The others agreed with Nick and so I was the only one left who still wanted to go. I decided to see if I could resurrect the plan for 1991.

Being a member of the Leeds Mountaineering Club, a widely respected and well known group of hard climbers and adventurers, I decided to see if I could 'con' any of them to join me on this venture. I wrote an article for a news letter in Spring 1990 and then waited to see the result.

Six members: Ken Findlay, Keith Withall, Les Holbert, John Prichard, Mick Belford and Peter Sibley, decided that they too might be interested in supporting my 'dream' as Ken began to put it. So we visited Roy Lindsay, who had already given me a slide show of his trip to the valley in 1988 but gave another to the new recruits and they were hooked. The trip, Take-2, began. Ken was in the Alps that summer and always the enthusiast recruited Steve Baker, who in turn found another London-based friend Stephen Harris. Nils Sjostrom a Swedish climber heard of the trip and also became interested.

We met in Wales and all got on well, testing ourselves against the elements and each other. Planning in earnest started and various people took on responsibilities for medicine, gear, travel, food, etc. Keith travelled to Chamonix during the Christmas of 1990/91 to meet and climb with Nils. He returned with a new friend and frostbite.

By chance we contacted 'Phase Three' from an advert in 'Climber and Rambler' and they proved to be very helpful, supplying free of charge enough fleece fabric to make a jacket and salopettes for each member. These were made for us by Daleswear in Ingleton and collected just before we left.

We had applied to the Mount Everest Foundation for a grant to help with the expedition and so on the day before the interview Ken and I took the coach south. The interview was at the RGS premises in London. As Steve Baker lived in London we had somewhere to stay and a short journey in the morning. The RGS building is large with numerous rooms. While we waited for our turn to come round we visited the Expedition Advisory Centre and the RGS map resource. On being called we found ourselves sandwiched between a polar expedition and one to climb Everest. The Everest team were already in the mountains climbing Mashabrum as a training peak! We felt very small fry indeed. The 15 minutes that each group gets for their presentation went by very quickly, and as the seconds ticked away, our hopes of a grant faded fast. We two, outnumbered by the eminent, famous and knowledgeable, felt our own in-experience of the bigger mountains grow larger and larger. We left in a despondent mood, sure that a letter would arrive in due course declining to assist the expedition. It's hard feeling that one has let one's friends down.

Thus it was a real surprise when the MEF sent their letter offering to support the expedition with a grant of £600, followed later by a further £100. The MEF then put our request to the BMC and Sports Council who awarded us £400. Very late on we applied successfully to Leeds and received a £300 sports grant.

Worries about the group being too large subsided when Peter Sibley and Stephen Harris dropped out due to pressures of work, then at the very last moment Mick was unable to come because of financial difficulties. The final group of seven were left to tidy up loose ends and finalise last minute problems.



# Arrival

The first party of four, left the UK on 23rd July 1991. They travelled from Leeds to Manchester on a National Coach experiencing a little difficulty with one of the drivers. When they informed us that we too may run into some difficulties I went to the Leeds office where the inspectors proved more than helpful.

When they arrived in Islamabad, after an enforced stop-over in Copenhagen due to an electrical storm, Ken, Keith, Steve and Nils set to in an effort to get as much organised as possible and thus speed up the journey for the rest of the group. Their first two days were spent running round Islamabad and Rawalpindi checking and re-checking flights, trying to collect the gas cylinders from customs, meeting various contacts including Nazir Sabir, visiting the British High Commission and the Tourist Office etc.

Ken remarks, "The main worry was how to get hold of a document that would give us access to a helicopter rescue if one was needed. We had taken out the appropriate insurance with the BMC but the Pakistan authorities would not accept that as proof of being able to pay. Roger Payne of the BMC tried his best, as did the British High Commission in Islamabad but the Pakistan authorities did not want to play! We even tried to get them to accept a letter from a UK bank saying that we had the money lodged with them but to no avail. Thus when we arrived we had the insurance but not the facility of calling on the help we might need in an emergency. Fortunately at the tourist office we were told of Nazir Sabir and as we left actually bumped into him. For the sum of \$90 he prepared a document (bond) that would enable us to call on a helicopter if needed, in effect it was his guarantee of our payment. As he did not know us at all from Adam, this was most generous of him."

The first days were quite difficult as we all had to adopt, or at least get used to, the slow Pakistan pace. This was especially noticeable when dealing with any sort of bureaucracy. The first group chose to stay at the Pine Hotel which everyone found to be clean and was reasonably priced.

The second group consisting of Paul, John and Les arrived on the 27th July at around 11am. They were met at the airport and escorted to the hotel. From there various tasks were again allocated and groups set forth to accomplish them. We had to confirm flights to Gilgit and hire a mini-bus; this was because of the amount of gear we had. The internal flight which cost £25 pre-booked in the UK had an allowance of only 17kg each, well under what we had accumulated. The mini-bus cost 4000Rs.

The flight from Islamabad to Gilgit started early. We (Paul, John and Nils) arose around 5.30am for the first flight of the day. It is important that you try for the first flight in case it has to be cancelled, you then get moved to the next available flight pushing others booked for the second flight back as well. Checking in was interesting as you have to have a ticket on every item you carry, these are checked a number of times by a variety of officials. Batteries of any sort cause consternation to the Pakistan authorities and may only be carried in the aircraft hold, not in the hand luggage. Nils had with him a huge bag of camera equipment and as this held numerous batteries, some in cameras others spare, they all had to be removed! Nils seemed paranoid at the best of time and this requirement did little to improve his perception of Pakistan authorities, it was always him against everyone else. In the excitement I found that I had left a folder of information behind and had to bluster my way back to find it just where I'd left it, returning once more through the various x-ray checks and searches. At last we boarded the plane.

The flight was great and we passed quite near the massive of Nanga Parbat, a friendly government official changing seats twice so that we could take photos and get better views.

Ken again: "The journey up the Karakoram Highway took around 16 hours and was one hell of an experience. The road was narrow and barely level, but the scenery was outstanding. The views of Nanga Parbat catching the evening sun were especially outstanding. It was on that journey that I think I picked up my first bug. We had stopped earlier in the day for a meal which had been fine but around 3.30 pm we pulled over for a tea stop. The cups were not the required clean, dry & uncracked and I should have refused the offer of the drink but after 10 hours with only warm mineral water and the last stop 4 hours before, I didn't. The price was diarrhoea and sickness for three days on arrival at the Hunza Inn."

# Pakistan Preparations

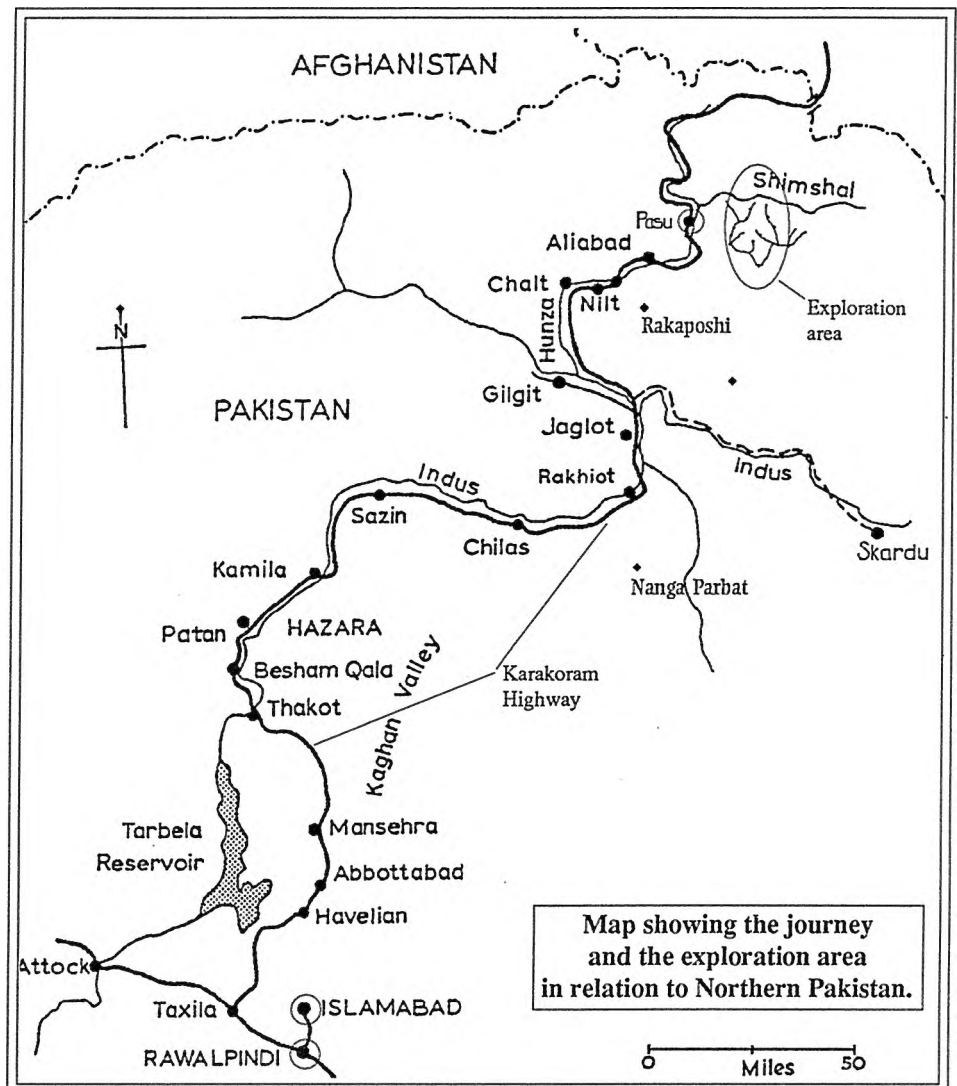
Having been split on the journey to Gilgit the group was reunited when at 8pm on 28th July the Mini-bus drew up outside the Hunza Hotel. We unloaded the barrels and booked the four new arrivals in. There were lots of chattering conversations about the flight verses the KKH both claiming the 'best' experience and views.

Keith recorded in the group diary, "No map can show the intense heat of our journey. The early start co-incided with the most humid of the four Rawalpindi nights and it must have been at least 85°-90° as we loaded the bus. A small relief came as we got underway and a breeze began to dry our sweaty clothing. We rose gratefully out of the humid plains and into the best part of the journey, a cool morning. The landscape was most fertile with rice, maize, fruit trees and forests. As the day wore on and we wound our way along the precipitous sides of the Indus once again the heat began to rise. Steve kept us informed of the attributes of this country and its friendly and hostile inhabitants. Dasso was a welcome halt and even more so when we were informed that it was our lunch stop. After Dasso the landscape became more

barren, searingly hot and totally inhospitable. The road continued, sometimes it seemed to have been cut out of flourey shale that would disintegrate in drizzle. The views of Nanga Parbat had lightened our journey a little and then the last of twelve police checkpoints and views of the snows of Rakaposhi welcomed us to Gilgit." No conclusions were reached but the flight rather pales against such a dramatic journey.

With everyone together we decided to employ Quadrat, the student teacher who had been introduced to us by the Hunza Inn staff. We agreed to 300Rs per day plus some basic equipment; this was a pair of boots, a rucksack and a sleeping bag.

Gilgit was an interesting town which sprawled out in all directions to fill the valley. The town centre is based around one long, if curving, dirt road which is held in place on both sides by hundreds of small shops. Each shop has its own specialism but this is repeated every 30 yards or so. I could not tell how all the individual shopkeepers made a living from the meagre business they seemed to do. Nils who was ever after a better bargain often tried to get the price lowered but this was not often achieved. The mid-day heat was very strong and many cold drinks were consumed at 6Rs each. The market, which is by the new mosque and post office, was especially interesting with even smaller units selling very particular items. As a vegetarian I liked the raw meat hanging with files all around and on it and John saw one butcher slicing up a goat with another tethered just behind. We found around six shops with climbing equipment, but no tents or gas cylinders were seen when we were there.





The days in Gilgit were a strange mix of 'sight seeing' and preparation. The various tasks were split up and again pairs or threes set off to find particular foodstuffs, equipment for Quadrat or get drinks, biscuits and fruit for immediate consumption. Mr. G.M. Baig had, we found out, been killed when an internal flight between Gilgit and Islamabad had gone missing; nothing of the plane or its occupants has been found. His son Ikram, who now runs the shop and a trekking agency, had however been of immense help. He had purchased on our behalf the items listed in Appendix E (page 37) and had them ready and packed for us on our second day, leaving us only a few items to buy. We collected them and got everything to the Hunza Inn.

Having now assembled all the equipment we had brought with that we had bought via Ikram, we set about packing it into the blue plastic barrels that we had been given by Harquestar Ltd., the two expedition sacks from Karrimor and local plastic woven sacks which we sewed up when complete. Each one had to be made up to 23Kg, the weight the Shimshal porters would carry, our little spring balance being put thoroughly through its paces. Les showed his innate desire for order and tried to put some organisation into the event and would have done an excellent job had I not come back from Gilgit centre and stuck my nose in where it was not wanted. Later I apologised for this, but the order which might have been was lacking by then.

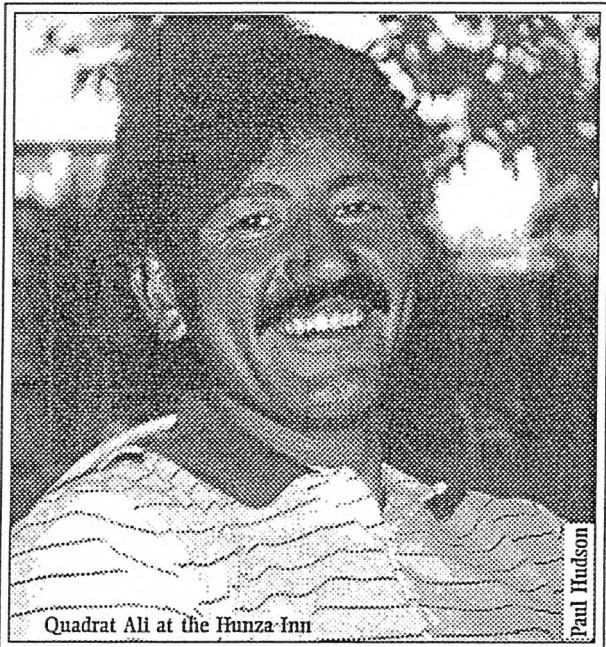
One pertinent point for all those who read this is to ensure that you pack barrels not only to ensure that if one is lost it does not contain the entire stock of this or that equipment but also that you pack and clearly mark it 'Journey' or 'Base-Camp'. Planning and executing this at the hotel will cut down, drastically, the associated frustration of re-sorting every pack because you need something and your accurate list of all contents - isn't.

We knew that plates, cutlery and pressure cookers could all be obtained in Gilgit so we did not take any of these items with us. On the day before we left Steve and Quadrat went round to buy these items, together with some boots and a sleeping bag. What we didn't know was that Steve and Quadrat did not put the plates etc. with the rest of the fresh food in Quadrat's cousin's shop but had left them next door to be picked up the following day before we left for Pasu. We now know that this was not a good idea! We did have enough plates, cutlery and a new pressure cooker for the expedition but they just happened to be 50 miles by road and 3 days by foot away from base camp, when some days later we started to search and re-search each of the porter loads.

Having employed Quadrat we wanted to work with him and on his suggestion let him organise the transportation to Pasu. We began worry when, the day before we were due to travel he had still not confirmed anyone to take us.

He had lots of confidence that he would get a 'friend', we were not so sure. To our relief however, on the appointed day a mini-bus drew into the Hunza Inn at around 8.30am and we started loading all our gear onto it. I don't know if Quadrat had mis-represented the amount of gear we had or just mis-calculated it, but after 40 minutes work we had one heavily loaded mini-bus, a worried looking driver and a conviction from Les that the wish-bone springs had been bent the wrong way!

In the centre of Gilgit we loaded just those 'few' extra items we had bought locally the day before, ourselves and two of Quadrat's 'friends'. We then consoled the driver with 100Rs extra payment and set off gently for Pasu. We waved to Les and Steve who were staying to visit the local army commandant, who had been out of the area the day before, to deliver our Helicopter Bond and who were to travel on to Pasu via the local public transport with Aziz Ulla later in the day.



# To and From Pasu

Slowly the mini-bus made its way out of the centre of Gilgit and onto the open road. We did not leave Gilgit without a hitch though. Just outside the town a policeman stopped the bus and requested to see the driver's licence and permits, as well as handing these over the driver also slipped in some rupees. It got us on our way.

Turning left, on the grandest of scale, we entered the Hunza Valley and slowly began the climb. Distant views of snow capped mountains to the West abounded as we circumnavigated the bulk of Rakaposhi on the East. The best view of this beautiful mountain was well before the official stop so we did not get the photograph many of us really wanted.

As we made our way through Hunza we passed splashes of bright orange, some near trees, some on rocks. It took us all some time to realise that the orange was masses of apricots laid out in the sun to dry. Small children sat by the roadside and if the bus slowed, sometimes even if it did not, they crowded into the middle of the road offering fresh fruit. Being still concerned about hygiene, and remembering Ken's experiences on his arrival in Gilgit, we did not partake. Quadrat did get the bus to stop at a wayside 'shop' in order to get some apples and the driver took the opportunity to cool his overheated engine. It would seem that this is a common thing in Pakistan. The buses stop by water, the driver removes the front seat then pours fresh cold stream water all over the engine. It was at this stop that Nils got very excited at seeing a large bird at one of the stalls and ran about shouting of his discovery. I think it was an eagle, and it looked very forlorn and out of place tethered to the ground.

The Karakoram Highway in this area is quite a challenge. At one point a recent avalanche had not been cleared away and we had to get out of the van and walk so that it could, with a lighter load, negotiate the uneven surface. At another place we asked the driver to pull over so that we could take a photo and noticed his reluctance. We understood this anxiety when we stepped out and saw the huge unstable cliffs of stones and earth towering above us on the up-hill side of the road. We got back in quickly and moved on.

A lunch break at Aliabad, where young children in a very smart uniform were coming out of school, came and went. More views exasperated the eyes and gave excitement to the mountaineering instincts. The mountains seemed so near. Just before Pasu we negotiated an area where the river had diverted itself and now ran directly across the road leaving beds of shingle at its edges.

The Pasu Inn lies directly next to the road and was our over-night stop. Here we lazed around, had an excellent meal including salty (cold) chips and waited for Les and Steve. They arrived on the last bus of the day when it was quite dark. Nils made friends with the proprietor of the Inn who took him rock climbing. Nils returned full of praise for this man's ability and fearlessness of heights. John had time for a walk round the village and met some of the locals who suggested the expedition change its plan and try the Pasu glacier area instead, saying that it was a much better area than where we were heading for. The rooms at the Pasu Inn were clean and good value.

The next morning started well with clear skies. After an early breakfast the local tractor arrived and we loaded all our gear on its trailer. We then climbed on ourselves accompanied by a number of our porters and set off for an easy start. The ride took us out of Pasu on the main road before it turned East onto a dirt track. This track took us across the main river by a new and large bridge, the Agah Khan Bridge, and then continued on the rough track which took us to Jujur. The journey was not always relaxing, as one had to cling on with great strength as the tractor bumped up and down over large boulders, or mind one's head where the road had been cut beneath overhanging rooves of rock. The heat even at this time in the morning was beginning to build and did not bode well for our trek in the gorge. Nils got a bit scared at one point and made a fine display of jogging just in front of the tractor for about half a mile.

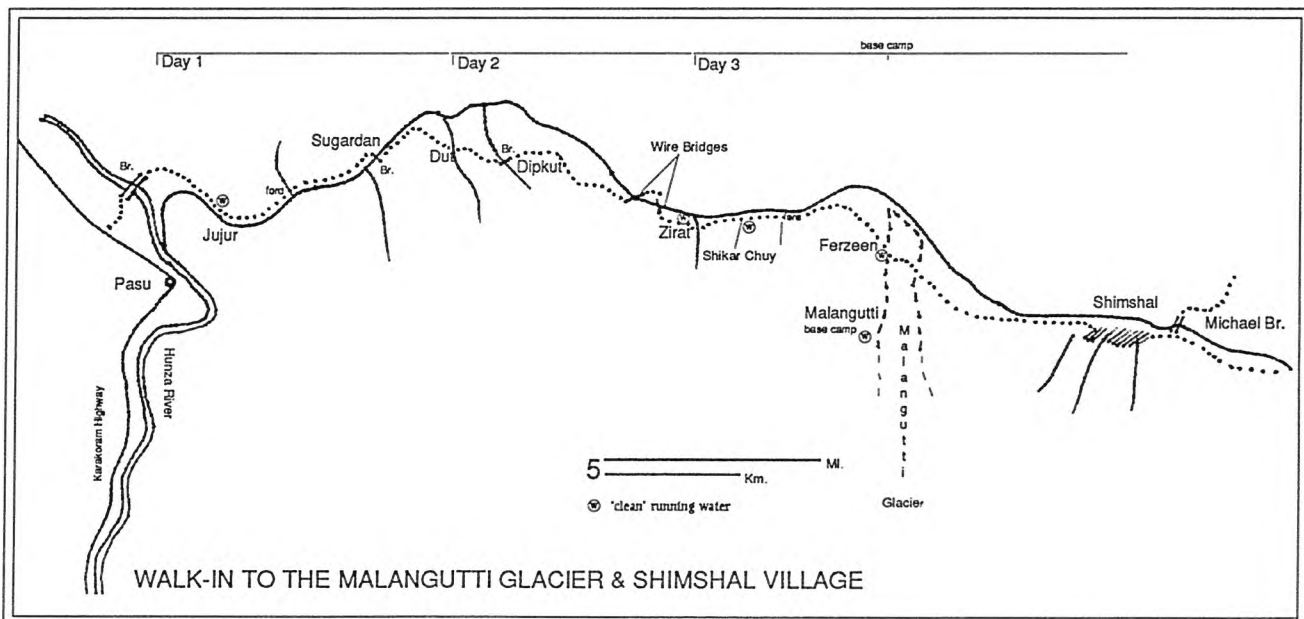
At Jujur we saw the assembled ranks of porters who were waiting for employment. Quadrat organised them and allocated particular loads to each individual keeping a note of the man's name and the number of his load. While Quadrat did this Les made up the final loads to the right weight. The number of porters we needed had increased gradually since the early planning and what had been an absolute maximum of 18 in March, now reached a final total of 24!



Jujur is where the present 'road' ends. The road is not being extended any more at present as the Agah Kahn has ceased financing the project. Instead he is putting pressure on the Pakistan Government to take it up, but as yet without success. Jujur has long been a stopping place for the Shimshalis as it has a large, high slit running into the cliff forming a cave. This cave gives shelter when needed and has a supply of fresh running water nearby. The Shimshalis have large trunks here to stash goods and belongings, each trunk having a stout padlock on it.

When the porters were sorted out some set off with Ken, John, Quadrat, Nils and Keith while Les, Steve and I stayed to walk with those who had decided to eat lunch before starting off. We stayed because of our worry about the loads. We did not trust the porters and were worried in case they all ran off with our goods. This fear, based on comments from reports etc. were completely unfounded with these Shimshali porters. They carried well and on the way out did help us by making a carry from Zirat to The Agha Khan bridge in one day.

On the way to Sugardan where a bridge crosses the river we met a European who was on his way out to fetch a helicopter. His travelling companion, a young lady, had fallen into a crevasse on the Braldu glacier and had subsequently died. Our conversation did not last long and he soon returned to his fateful task. When visiting the British club we had also heard of two other deaths in the Karakoram, sobriety seeped into the thoughts of us all.

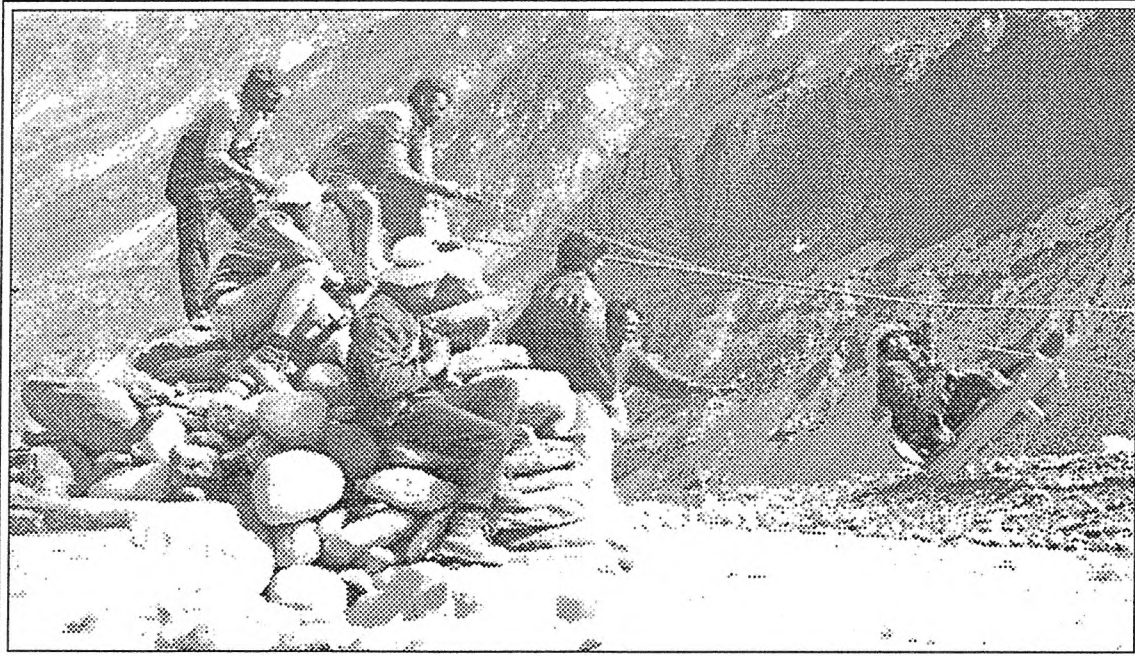


# Dusty Days

The problem is the Karakoram is definitely not like the Alps. That had been our previous experience. We had even missed the note in Steve Venables report of 1987 about the hostility of the Shimshal Gorge and had instead accepted the Roy Lindsay 'incredible and exciting' description. We all agree with Steve. Needless to say, on leaving the greenness of the Hunza Valley we suddenly, or slowly, depending upon one's walking speed, entered a desert or at least an area trying its best to imitate one. Water stayed in the river, rock turned into scree, scree into dust and winds turned dust into the air. Don't, if you can help it, visit Dhut as part of your family vacation. For our brief stay its charms included no fresh water, dust on the ground, dust in the air and a constant wind. These charms were exacerbated by our own lack of expedition experience as our food and cooking barrels strolled into camp 3 to 4 hours after we really needed them. This was not a good start to the trip.

The night passed with various members sleeping on the roof of a hut, down by the river and anywhere else that they thought might give shelter from the dust. The night was clear and the stars fantastic. Morning came early and the porters were almost all gone by the time the last of us were ready to depart.

The second day of the journey took us via Dipkut to Zirat. We left Dhut behind most of the porters who had got up early and departed without much notice. The path wandered over a small rise and over undulating hills before it plunged down to Dipkut. This bridge, just as perilous as the rest, was over a deep ravine. It had been said earlier that there were springs here but when we reached the bridge and looked down Quadrat pointed out some holes to one side of the river where water seeped in at certain times. My idea of a spring seemed to be different to that of the Shimshalis. The path, which at times was built out from the rock face by balancing stones one upon another, now climbed and climbed. It was a long struggle to reach the top and I had plenty of rests during which I admired the series of wonderful views of the valley itself and snow peaks when the valley opened out.



Crossing one of the two wire bridges between Dhut and Zirat with the elegance of a squashed tomato. The bridges were suspended between two pyramids of rocks. The occupant of the 'box' is pulled across the dangerous looking river by porters on the opposite bank.

Crossing the two wire bridges provided the main thrill of the day. This proved more than an amusing diversion, especially for the adventurous who copied the local porters and crossed it hanging upside down hanging onto the wire. The elder members used the 'box' as befitted their station. When using the box the baggage, men or equipment, was securely tied down then porters on the other side of the river would heave on the rope and drag the box and baggage across. It was great fun to watch the others as they swayed their way over the raging water and also fun to do it oneself. After the second bridge it was only a short walk to the accommodation at Zirat.



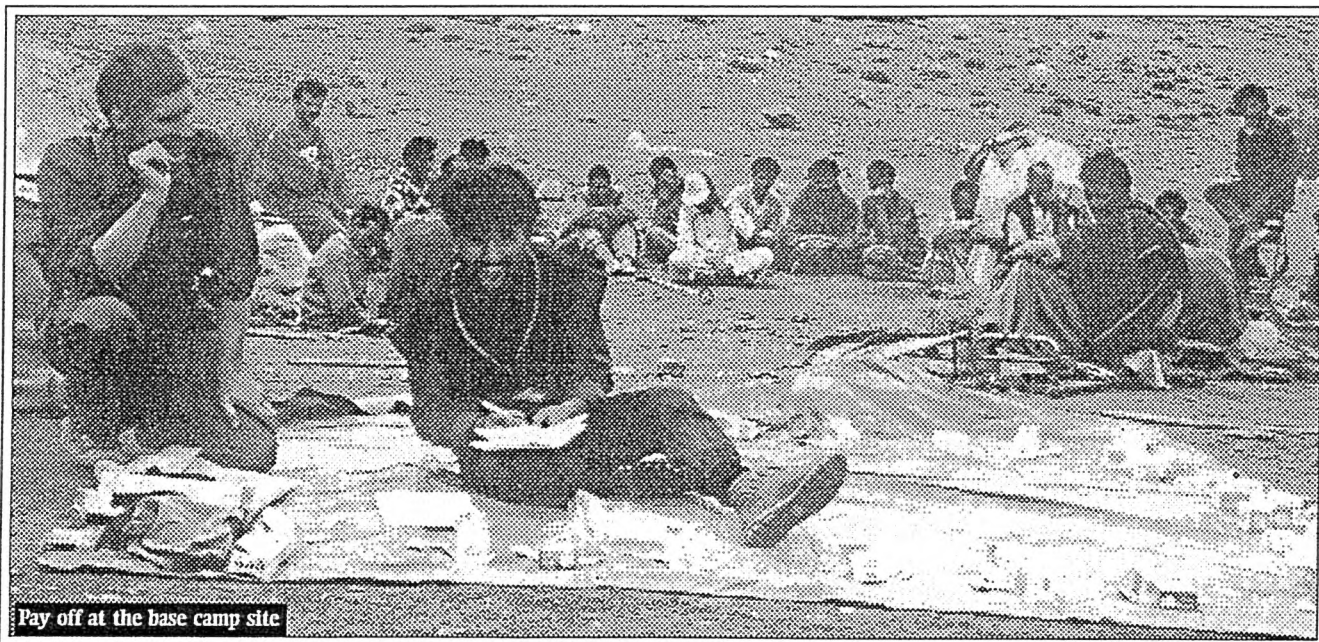
Zirat was apparently once a small village but landslides had taken most of the houses and the original water supply. Now there is one building comprising of one small and two large rooms that the porters use. We camped outside and put up a tarpaulin to protect us from the winds and dust. This was fortunate as later that night it rained; only Ken who managed to stay outside the shelter got very wet. In the morning the porters did not want to set off in the rain so we waited around 'till about 8 o'clock, then the sky cleared a little and in no time at all the porters had grabbed their loads and set off.

This third day started with an easy walk at river level for a few miles, during which we forded one mountain stream, before suddenly ascending a steep cliff. This climb was the start of our last leg to base camp. The lunch stop was at a place called Ferzeen where a small hut had been built, no one lived here but it was on the path to Shimshal. The climb to this place was to avoid the Malangutti snout. Just a few yards further on the route to the village crossed over the glacier itself. I don't know if what happened next is a regular thing or happened just because the porters were happy to be nearing home again with some wages to come. While we were eating our lunch one of the older porters asked that we join the younger ones in a dance. Not knowing what to expect we slowly went down to a flat piece of ground near the hut.

Here we were treated to a Shimshal dance performed by the younger of the porters. It was a dance with slow, starting movements and shuffling steps with hands making erratic movements in the air. A drummer beat with sticks the slow rhythmical beat. Aziz sang a lovely song (he had a particularly good voice) then three other porters sang their song but the sound was not as pure as Aziz. Steve thought the music had similar sounds to that of South America, it was certainly haunting.

Suddenly it was our turn. Ken and Keith began with a handkerchief Morris dance which seemed to go down quite well so I joined in with Steve and we produced a version of the stick dance moving round each other and bashing the sticks against each other in the air and on the floor. We then sang 'A Wild Rover' and finished off with a rendition of 'On Ilkley Moor B'ha Tat', John took the lead and the rest of us joined in when we knew the words and at the chorus. After mutual clapping and hand shaking, the lunch was finished and the journey resumed. The walk to Malangutti was only short and soon base camp was reached.

The porters left us at Malungutti which seemed to be the same place as Steve Venables had moved up to in 1984. It was at the side of the glacier with its own stream, had plenty of bushes, flat camping land and yak dung. Here we said good bye to the porters. The porters work on a system of asking to be paid more than they originally asked for when it comes to being paid off, however after a brief discussion they left with a packet of biscuits, 20 cigarettes and the 900Rs previously agreed, without any extra pay. Having a local as 'guide/cook' probably helped a lot here. We had at least taken that advice from previous explorers and not hired anyone from outside the Shimshal Valley.



# Shimshal Village

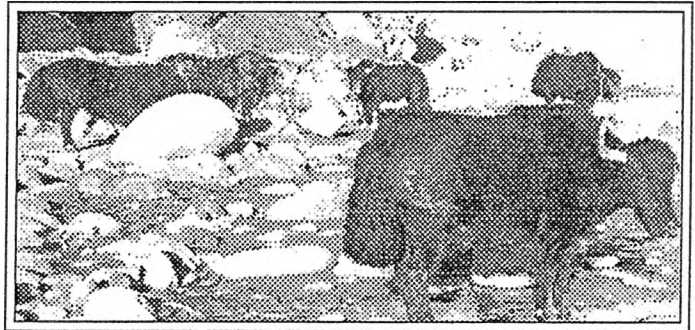
At 7.45am on Monday 5th August Paul, John, Les and Steve followed Quadrat out of camp heading down towards Ferzeen before turning East to follow the edge of the glacier to the crossing point. The glacier here was dry and leaving the moraine covered area behind we crossed clean ice before reaching more moraine and the other side. A scramble up a steep path brought us to the highest part of the path and from then on it was downhill to the valley floor then a trek along it. I suppose the altitude was affecting us as we all struggled on this walk though it be quite a short one. I think it took around 3 hours from base camp. On the way Quadrat, who wanted to look his best for his family whom he had not seen for at least 6 months, found a stream to wash in and we all copied him. That was the best wash I had during the whole trip!

The temperature increased as we walked on and the path seemed never to end and then suddenly there we were at the outskirts of Shimshal itself. It took another half hour to reach Quadrat's house and we walked through little lanes between houses and fields. The crops we saw included wheat, barley, peas, cabbage, potatoes and apricot trees.

Shimshal was not at all as I expected it. It had no village centre as the houses were distributed evenly amongst the fields unlike a village in England. The houses were built of stone which was then rendered with a local stone broken down to powder and mixed with water. The houses we saw were either the design of Mohammed's or were arranged so that they had a series of separate rooms, sometimes linked by a hatch in the wall. Quadrat had his own room which he kept locked when he was away and had its entrance separate to that of the family area. We never saw the Family unit where the Kitchen was and the rest of the family spent their time. Many of the houses had a verandah which gave a shaded area at the front of the house. On the night we stayed with Quadrat he slept outside, saying that was what he had to do. It was the tradition for him to keep a guard on any visitors he had. Toilets were non-existent and when I asked I was directed to use a dust filled corral round the back of the house. The dust and the lack of moisture in the air probably renders the 'products' dry in hours. I don't know what happens to the accumulated deposits when they need to be removed.

Upon reaching Quadrat's we were treated to Green tea and Chilpinduk (a special twin chapati spread with sheep's cheese and ghee). Having been revived we then returned to visit Mohammed Kareem, a porter, and took tea with him. Mohammed's house had one large main room with a stove in its centre and raised benches round the edge that provide seats in the day and beds at night.

Then began the great walk.... back to the central area, calling on Aziz who was out and arranging to call again later, looking at the two schools (Quadrat hoped to be working at the Government one in the new year) past other houses, watching children playing at tug-of-war, then back to Aziz's house for a 'small' cup of tea. The terms 'small' or 'just one' (cup of tea) seemed to be used when inviting us for a drink but we do not really know what is indicated by them. We gave Aziz copies of the photos I had copied from Schomberg's accounts of his visit to Shimshal in 1935 and then met the headman's son from the photo, then in his twenties now about 85. He was very pleased to receive a photo of his father and himself from all that time ago and walked away gazing at it. We said bye to Aziz and continued with the tour. On to the river and the Robert bridge to see the Yaks being grazed on the bank before being taken to the high pastures for the next 5 months. Then back across the bridge and East again just to see the extent of the village on this side, back through more byways, past workers and then to Quadrat's house.



Shimshal Yaks waiting to go to the high pastures for the winter

Then we were treated to the best taste of the whole trip: this was curd. It was wonderful, cool and delicious. We had the same next morning and it was made even better by the addition of a small amount of sugar, it was like a fresh ice-cream! It certainly made an impression on me.

The walk back was also a struggle and while John and Les zoomed off Steve kept me company until we caught them up resting at a large rock. It was evident that we would not be going on up the glacier to meet the others this day.



# Exhausting Excursions

Expedition experience, or the lack of it, played a decisive part in the next few days and we perhaps wasted time in following up the porters stories of a place called Distughill which could be reached in 3 to 4 hours by a path on the West side of the Malungutti glacier. Nils and I were the first two explorers but even that event was not successful. I left the base camp before Nils, being fed up with waiting for him and knowing that he would be walking much quicker than me. For about 70 minutes there was a path which wandered up the West side of the glacier then a landslide had removed part of the slope and the path with it. Having walked to this point with Ken and Les I left them there and continued at glacier level. As they saw where I went I thought they would pass the information on to Nils when they met him. Somehow they did not. I had been going for about two hours and there was still no sign of Nils so I surmised that he had seen a path higher up the slope and was actually high on the slope above me. I had a lot of Nils equipment with me as I was trying to get him set up on the route due to the shortness of time he had to spend with us. I climbed an extremely loose and difficult slope to gain the upper area only to find no Nils and no path. Much later in the day after an adventure of exploring and in trying to regain the lower path, I found Nils where I had left Les and Ken. Nils had tried to find a path higher up and failed and had not thought of looking at glacier level. We dumped Nils' equipment and headed back to base. The following day Les, Steve, John, Quadrat and I visited Shimshal Village while Nils, Ken and Keith continued the exploration.

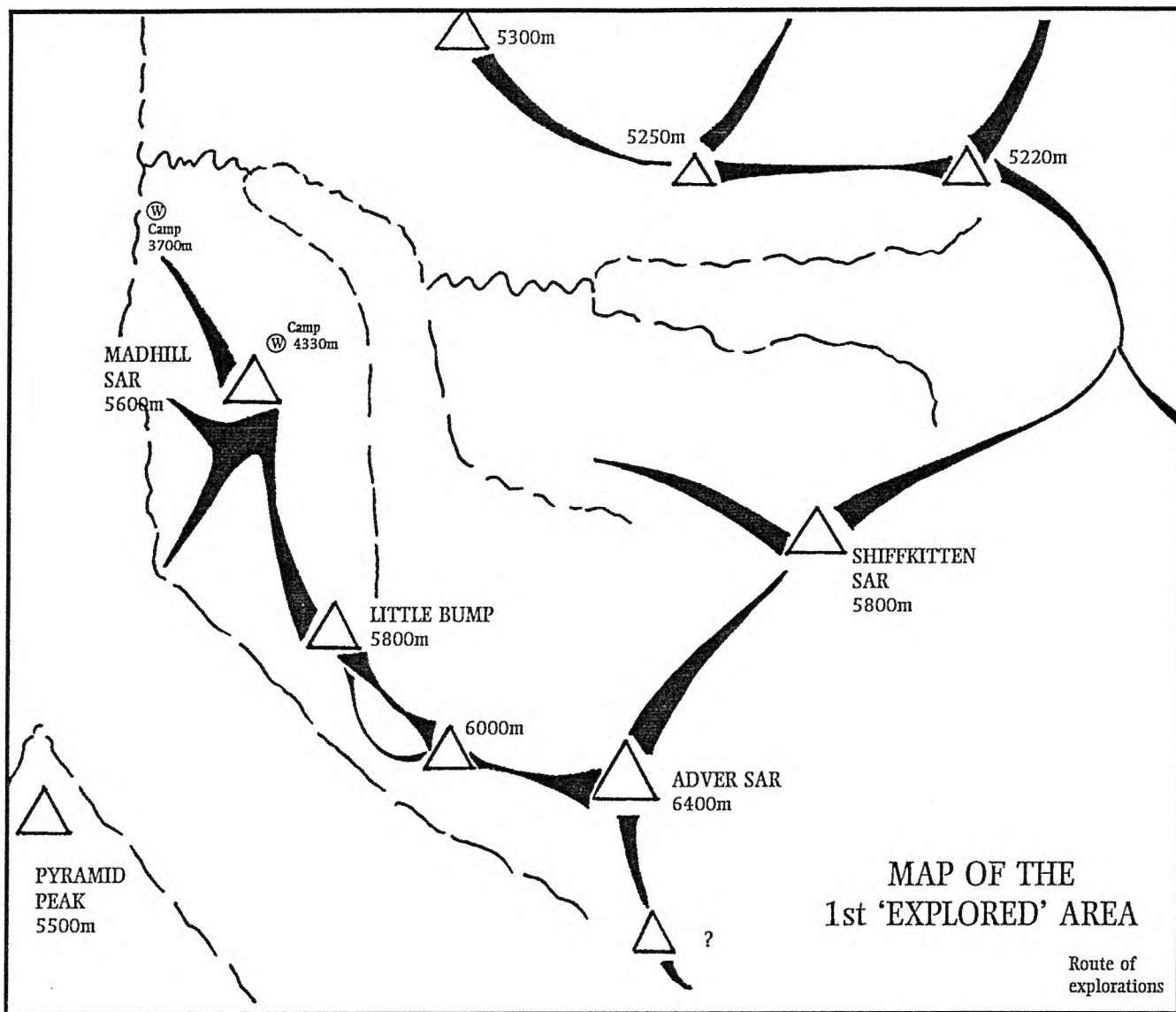
Ken: "The day after Paul and Nils had set off to explore the west path, Keith, Nils and I ventured forth. Paul had reached an area where the ice cut across the path before setting off upwards, so we planned on going further. The journey was quite hard going as the rock, mud and ice mix made it hard to keep your footing while carrying a 22+Kg sack. We passed Paul's furthest point and contoured round a small lake, about 40 minutes further on we reached a large stream that came rushing down a gully from high above. This looked a good bivi site if needed. As we explored further, keeping to the edge of the glacier, the route deteriorated but we continued for about 2 hours hoping to find a way through. There was no way here and after a fruitless journey onto the glacier proper we turned back, returning to spend the night at the earlier bivi site. It took us over an hour to dig out a bivi platform from the hillside and during this time there was a constant rain of stones which fell from the sandy cliffs above us. We all slept reasonably well but during the night could hear rock falling and an occasional avalanche. We christened the site Holiday Inn."

"The next day Nils continued up the route we had followed while Keith and I went down to base. We expected to meet up with the Shimshal group who should have returned after their day visit to the village. They did not come. Nils spent a second day exploring but made little progress and bivied on a steep slope having a very disturbed night. The following day he made his way back down meeting Paul, Steve, John and Les on the way up. He returned to base in the company of John."

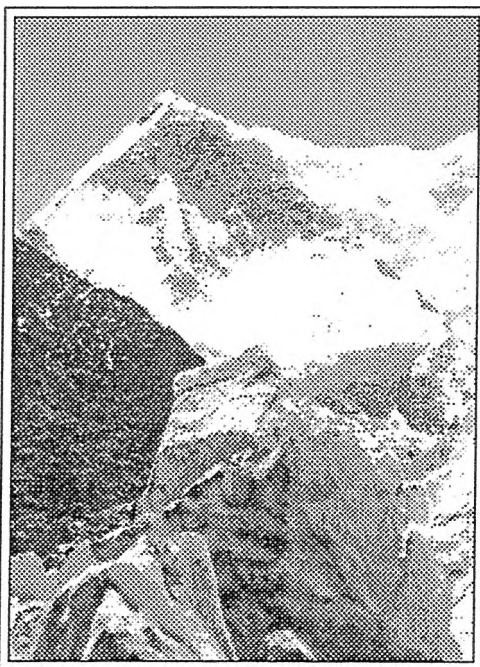
(For over three days various members slowly made their way up this 'pathway' hoping to find the Shangri-La of the Distughill Meadow with its reputed fresh water and lush greenness. It never was found! Nor were the enormous amounts of gear supposedly left behind there by a previous expedition. Don't listen to the porters!)

The walk-in clothes of lightweight trousers and shirt or tee-shirt now gave way to a new uniform. We all donned our brand new fleece gear (the fabric had been donated by Phase 3 and made up by Daleswear at Ingleton). Throughout the trip we wore the jacket and salopettes non-stop, they were comfortable, warm and durable. I slept in the salopettes a couple of times when it was colder and they made all the difference to how I felt in the sleeping bag. I had the trousers rolled up from time to time in the good weather, but that was just my style. John, ever the individual, wore a Daleswear all in one body suit in black and he found this excellent as well.

As dust, dirt and falling stones was all that had been found on August 5th Les, Steve and I turned our attention to the glacier. Just above the bivi site 'Holiday Inn' we reached a point where the west edge of the glacier had an undulating surface which was really quite nice to walk on. Our exploration took us south up the edge of the glacier towards Pyramid Peak, skirting some seracs caused by the confluence of a side glacier we moved left into the centre part of the glacier reaching a point which we thought to be about two hours from a spur of Madhil Sar which came down towards the base of Pyramid peak. How wrong we were!



We then turned our attention to the camping area at the base of Madhil Sar, shown on Steve's map. If good it would serve us as an intermediate camp. The walk across was pleasant, the dry glacier offering no hidden dangers and in fact giving up five bamboo route-marking poles. On reaching this site we found a tent



Pyramid Peak from the glacier. The left (dark) ridge is coming down from Madhil Sar.

platform left by previous occupants, a small lake which looked suspect but in fact had a small stream inlet and proved to be running and a rest. Reaching this camp site at 3700m was very good for our flagging moral as it gave a real sense of moving on and up. Early mistakes in the slow exploration of the west edge were forgotten and just to celebrate Steve climbed up a grassy slope to attain a height of 4000m.

On the 7th August Ken, Keith, John and Nils left base with large sacks to set up 'Advanced Base Camp' on the greenness below Madhil Sar. I accompanied them to the centre of the glacier and then left them to it. On returning late in the day I found the path we had been using up to that point was being cut off by a rising pool of water, this was the last time anyone used the 'path' at the west edge of the glacier and from then on we used the medial moraine as our highway. On reflection we perhaps should have used this from the beginning - it's all to do with believing or not-believing the porters' stories.



After I left them the group of four slowly wandered up the medial moraine and then turned towards Madhil Sar camp site. They had not been there before and so spying a green patch high on the shoulder of a spur they began to make their way up to it. The way became more difficult and dangerous as the slope steepened and became looser. Fortunately one of them caught a glimpse of the real site now some way below them with relief and annoyance they descended. The camp was located in its correct position.

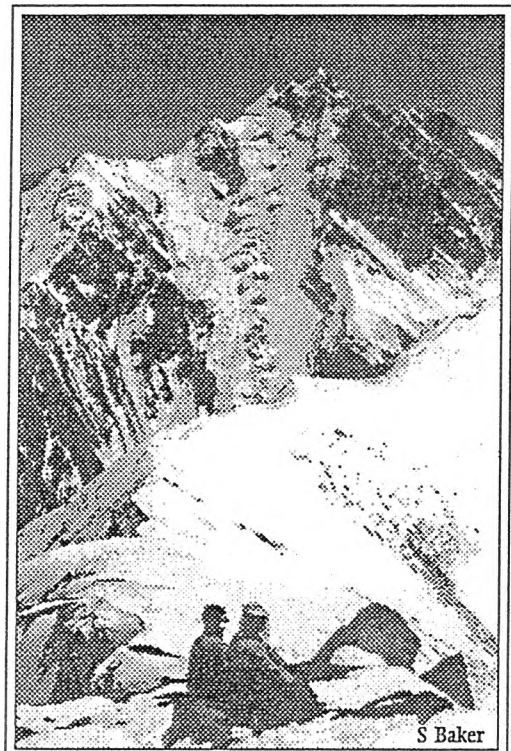
The 8th August dawned fair and Ken made a lightweight recce to the top meadow while the others improved the camp and sorted out gear and food. Nils was putting himself under pressure now seeing the days slip by with nothing achieved and realising how soon he would have to leave. Ken and Nils awoke the next morning at 2 am, ready for an attempt on Madhil Sar, rain however prevented them setting off. Later in the day it cleared up, enough for Ken, Keith and Les to retrace the path to the top meadow.

On the 10th August Ken and Nils awoke early again only to find that the cloud had come down and rain set in. This was disappointing and meant the end of Nils' hopes of gaining a peak, later in the day they set off down the glacier returning to base camp. Because of the two days rain any immediate hopes of mountain ascents were finished. The snow level on the mountains had dropped dramatically and there was obviously an amount of new snow on the hills which would have made any ascent fraught with danger.

The 11th August dawned with a finer prospect and Ken, Steve and I walked up the central moraine to ABC, taking more gear and supplies and stripping the dumps at the edge of the glacier on the way. The following day we climbed the slopes above to the high meadow (Camp 1). Ken and Steve went well but I was slow and always behind them. Ken having been up twice before knew the route by heart. At Camp 1 we found a very pleasant flat meadow with large stones scattered around. Against one, a wall had been built and this sheltered area we used as kitchen and food store, not far away we found a small trickle of water. We 'looked' at a ridge leading to Madhil Sar but found it to be extremely dangerous, being composed of loose slates piled upon loose slates with the occasional larger block also ready to fall thrown in. We descended after around 2 hours of precarious effort. While Ken and Steve descended to make another carry from ABC to this camp, I explored the area, finding a better source of water and marking a way across the glacier for the trip the next day. They returned late and tired; Ken noted in his diary, "the second carry seemed like a good idea at the time, but in the heat of the day I began to regret it, as my limbs cried out with pain." It was this effort though, that made the next few days exploration and acclimatisation possible.

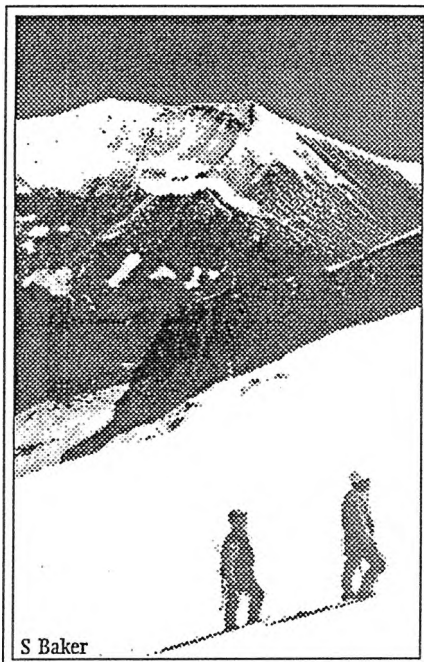
On Tuesday 13th August the three of us set off across the glacier to climb our first peak, Ken and Steve went well but I struggled again. They quickly left me behind and were forced into long rests while they waited for my feet to follow theirs. It was an easy walk to the base of the hill opposite Shiffkitten Sar where I left my sack and started up behind the others. Steve strode out in front being annoyingly fit while Ken cajoled me upwards from behind. The day was beautiful but perhaps a little too warm.

The views were great, it was a pity that I had broken my longer lens at the start of the expedition. After a rest at the false top we ascended the quarter mile ridge to make the true top. Photographs of the sheep, me wearing the tie (needed for the charity sponsorship), Shimshal Village and the views in general filled in the next hour, then we set off on the descent. Steve and I returned to collect my sack while Ken chose a more direct route down. The south facing slope showed some sign of slab movement and we warily crossed it listening for unusual noises. We returned to Camp 1 to find Keith, Les, and John who had walked up that day.



A view from the 1st peak looking south at unclimbed mountains. These could be reached by using a valley approach from Shimshal Village.

On Wednesday 14th we woke later than we had intended, tiredness was playing its part. Les, Keith and John set off for the training peak we climbed yesterday and Ken, Steve and I went off to explore the lower slopes of Shiffkitten. As it turned out we seem to have been 'following' the route of a Dutch group but did



Climbing on the lower slopes of Shiffkitten Sar. Behind is the 1st peak ascended. At the time of the picture John, Les and Keith should have been on the summit

not know this at the time. The day before, on the way down, Steve had noticed a 'nice gully' which looked inviting so that is where we went. Although we were later than we had wanted to be, the gully facing north, still held some crisp snow which overlay an icy base and the climbing, as long as one avoided the deep soft areas was reasonable. The slope varied from 40 to 70 degrees with the top being the steepest. We watched the others making their way up the 5200m peak we had ascended yesterday and then continued up. The sun's warmth made the snow too soft. After a couple of hours we rested again at the base of some ice cliffs, climbing these would give access to the ridge leading to the summit of Shiffkitten. We climbed higher and after some false paths found ourselves at the very base of the ice wall. We thought there were two options one a wall of about 25 to 30 feet the other a traverse to the right to gain a slope which looked awkward to start but became easier further up. Our overall tiredness, the lateness on the day and the softness of the snow made us decide to stop, but we half thought of returning to try this route on another day (of course we did not). On the route down we had an enjoyable slide down on the open slopes, but little realised the problems we would be facing in the enclosed initial gully. It was downright dangerous, slush over ice.

Without crampons there was no grip at all, with crampons little better, snow balled them up straight away. With difficulty and care we made it down the only injuries being to my buttock, sustained during a slide over a hidden rock, and our confidence.

After some discussion the team decided that if we were to make an attempt on Pyramid Peak we needed to get on with it, so the next day we separated into three groups. Ken and Steve set off to climb a second peak from Camp1, Keith and John descended to ABC to have a days rest and Les and I descended to route find on the Malangutti glacier towards Pyramid.

The peak chosen by Ken and Steve as their second ascent was one that had been looked at during the previous two days and looked reasonable. Ken writes, "The start of the route followed the same way as previously and from the outset Steve and I travelled quickly over the now familiar glacier. In less than two hours we reached a 50 degree snow slope just below the ridge. This was the only time during the whole trip that I heard Steve panting for breath. After a short rest we donned the climbing gear which consisted of 4 slings and 4 wires. The rock ridge was quite short and overhung on one side while the other fell away steeply. The rock was loose so we had to climb with great care, one move involved a mantleshelf which at this altitude made my breath quicken. After the climb we reached the top of the ridge and made our way along the loose slate to reach the summit. Further along the ridge a second summit beckoned but the distance combined with the looseness of the rock made us turn our backs on it. The descent was made via a scree filled gully and rocks fell from above as the sun melted the snows grip on them. We made it a quick descent and were thankful we had our helmets when some rocks came perilously close to wiping us out."



Higher on Shiffkitten Sar

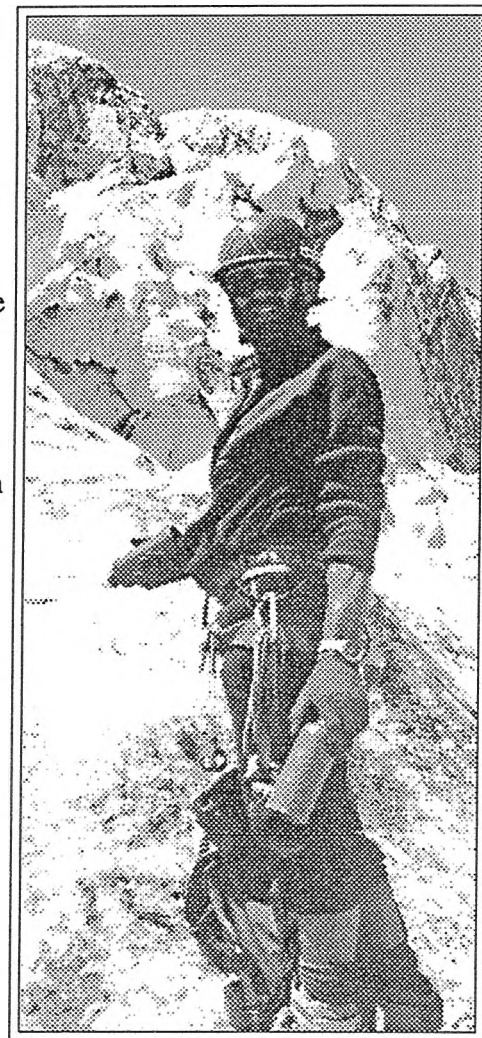


“ After a brew of tea at the now abandoned Camp1 we gathered our stash of personal gear and set off down to join the others at ABC. We were the last to leave this tranquil site set amongst fine views and felt sad to do so on such a great day.”

The route Les and I found kept to the left (East) side of the glacier , where the ice was undulating and without many crevasses or much brokenness. Following one valley after another we made our way slowly south leaving cairns where we could. Much of the part of the glacier was clean though, so few stones were available. This corridor of suitable ice followed the curve of Madhil Sar keeping about a quarter mile from its base. As the seracs became more abundant we travelled more slowly and decided to turn round at a place we called the ‘Ice Meadow’. This was a wide expanse of open flattish ice. We looked ahead but it was impossible to tell if a way through would be found.

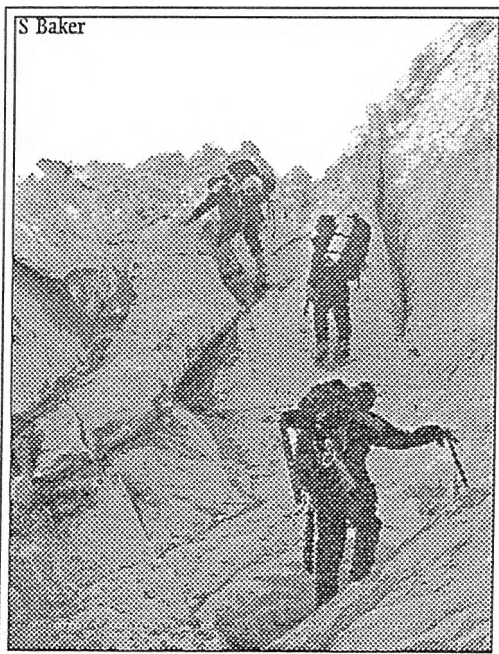
Ken and Steve arrived down late in the day having climbed their peak and having used some rock equipment and a rope! Keith and John had rested but had also improved the camp area and assessed the provisions.

On reflection I wonder if I wasted the next two days. While four of the team went back to base camp to gathered further provisions to see us through to the end of our expedition I stayed at ABC and rested. I must admit that I did not feel full of energy but it would have been of obvious benefit if the seracs in the unexplored glacier area had been given a further look. As it was two day later the team set off with heavy packs towards Pyramid Peak with no further reconnaissance having taken place.



Les during the 2nd exploration of the glacier in preparation for the ‘attempt’ on Pyramid Peak

Thus on the 18th August everyone set off up the edge of the glacier. Even though we knew the way and were able to choose the easy route from ABC to the start of the difficult seracs the heavy sacks made it hard work. After a short struggle when the whole team tried to find a way through to no avail, it was decided that Steve and I would go on a reconnaissance to see if, without the weight of our sacks, we could locate a way through. After two hours of struggling up, down and across we reached a place over which I started warily and then ran as fear took hold. Sensibly Steve, looking on from behind, refused to follow. After finding a way back, with some difficulty, I located Steve and we climbed up a serac to assess where we were and how far we had come.



Paul, Les and John negotiating the glacier

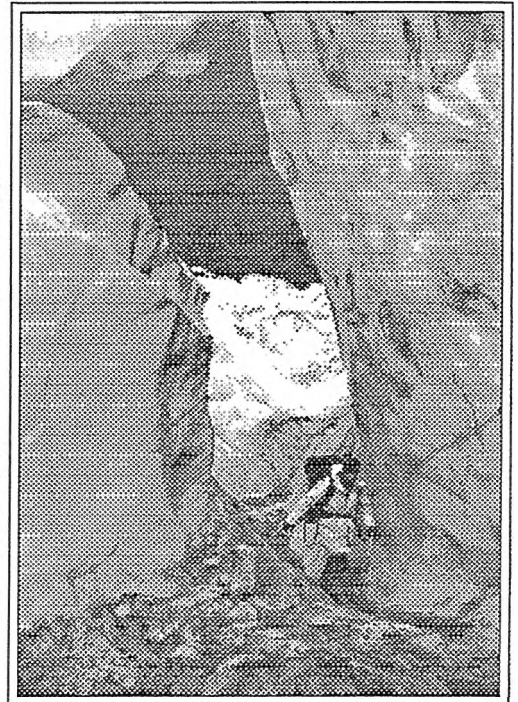
It was with great disappointment that we saw a figure only 500 yards away, such a lot of effort for so little gain. With no clear way forward and knowing how tired some of the others were we elected to return.

Back at the ice meadow the team had had tea and were generally refreshed. The cup of tea which awaited us on our arrival back was greatly appreciated. Some members wanted to turn back and head down, there was despondency in the group. Earlier as we had walked up the glacier Ken had noticed an ice valley running



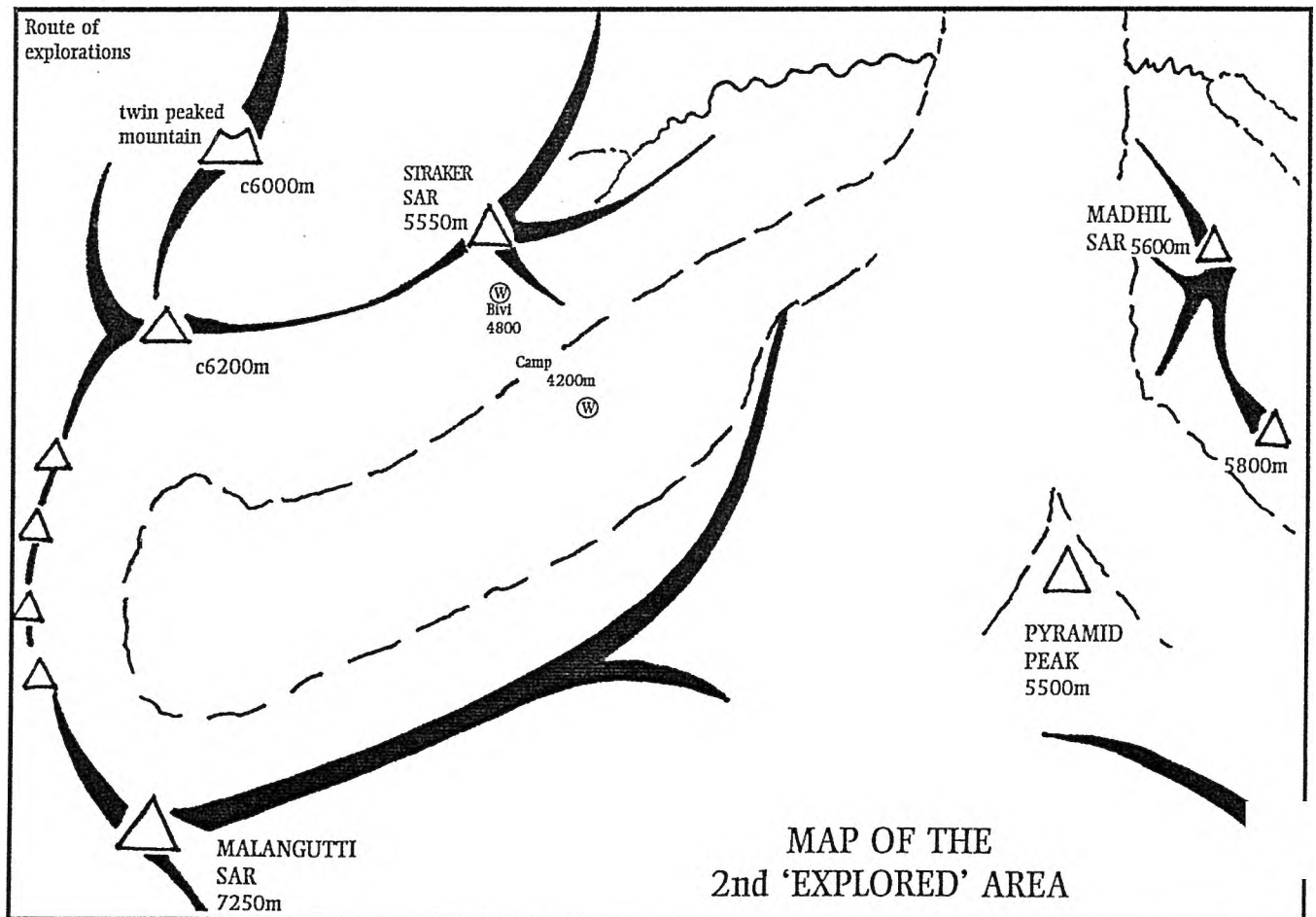
towards the west that seemed to cut between the seracs heading towards the 'Distughill' area. Steve and I were in need of a rest but Ken and Les cheerfully set off to see if we could reach the peaks on the West ridge of the glacier.

After around 40 minutes two figures came running back declaring that they had found what we needed, an ice valley. It was immediately named the 'Findlay/Holbert Corridor Route'. They reported that it was only about 30 to 40 minutes to the edge of the glacier, firm ground and a camp site. Although the tiredness was now apparent everyone took heart at this and a happier band set off. In actual fact it did not turn out quite as the story had been told and it took several more hours of hard slog under heavy packs to reach a suitable place to leave the glacier. A good meadow was found however, its only drawback being the lack of water. Water at this camp had to be fetched from a glacier stream about 15 minutes away. Steve and John were the stalwarts of this part of the day with Ken keeping an eye on the two slowcoaches, Keith and me.



Ken on the way to the final camp via the Findlay/Holbert route

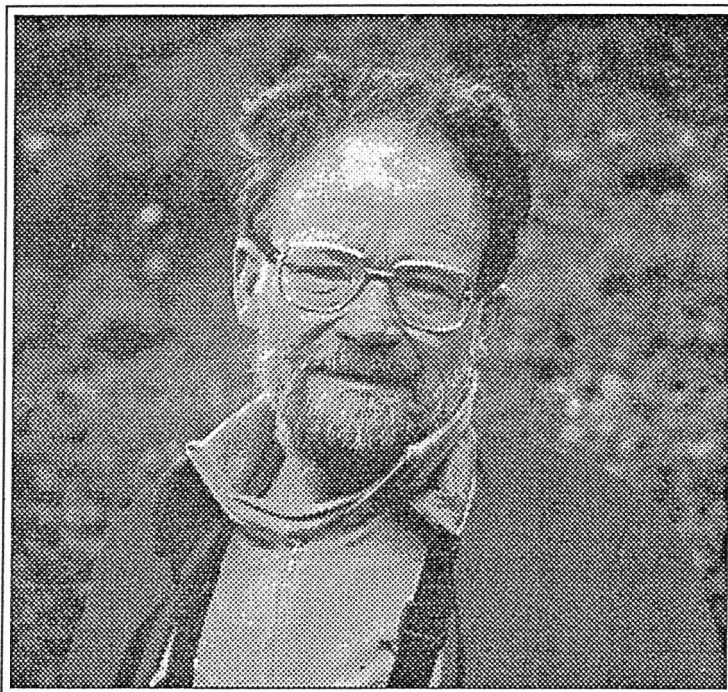
Time seemed to be rushing by now and we were determined to climb the peak that loomed above us. It looked great, a beautiful snow gully led to rocks and a pointed peak. After a nights rest we did our own thing with the aim of reaching the base of the climb later that day, ready for an early start on the morrow. Steve and Les decided to stroll up the edge of the glacier and take a closer look at the walls of Malangutti Sar as well as the ice fall at the glacier's head. Their pictures show an impressive area and a vertical wall of around 3000m.



Ken always ready to try an adventure took Keith for a rock climb on a buttress and succeeded in making a new route. Ken: "The rock buttress looked inviting and although Keith was weary our old friendship and shared exploits persuaded him to accompany me. The rock was reasonably good, far better than anything I had come across before. The climb was around 400ft of grade III and we called it Special K. The buttress had already been christened 3 K Buttress, this stood for Ken and Keith in the Karakoram. Climbing with a full sacks, in plastic boots at around 13,750ft, in the heat of the midday sun was not easy but we enjoyed the experience and felt satisfied with our efforts. We look forward to hearing of its second ascent."

John stayed in camp and sorted himself out. Aware that I was not as energetic as I wanted to be, I started off up the scree slope on my own. It was a long, long trek on small unstable scree, medium boulders and then very large ones. The water that was missing below soon showed itself and became available at convenient distances. Walking on one's own is an interesting activity, but I don't particularly like it. As I did not have my watch I could not tell how long I took to reach the stone meadow, but the walk up seemed to take forever and I was certainly tired when I reached a suitable place to stop.

Later, just when I thought the others might not be coming, Steve appeared over the rocky terrain, followed shortly afterwards by the others. On the way up it had become obvious the peak we had seen from below was not in fact the highest place in the area, but just a point on a ridge. The real peak lay over to the right and that was to be our target the next day.



Keith at the stone bivi wearing the Phase 3/Daleswear Jacket over a North Cape thermal vest

Stone bivi sites were constructed for the night but while a group area suited Ken, Keith, Les and me, Steve and John decided to erect detached abodes for their nights rest. While we made these it became clear that we were not on a scree area but on a stone covered ice. Some members went off to check out the next days start while others settled in early. Les's new Rab sleeping-bag, which was the biggest thing in the camp kept him beautifully warm while I relied on my fleece gear, my North Cape silk liner and older sleeping bag. All except Ken had a reasonable night. He suffered from Chayne Stokes breathing which frightened him and kept him awake for most of the night. In his own words, "During the night I had a terrible time in trying to sleep. It was probably the worst night I've ever spent in the mountains. (Camp 3 was around



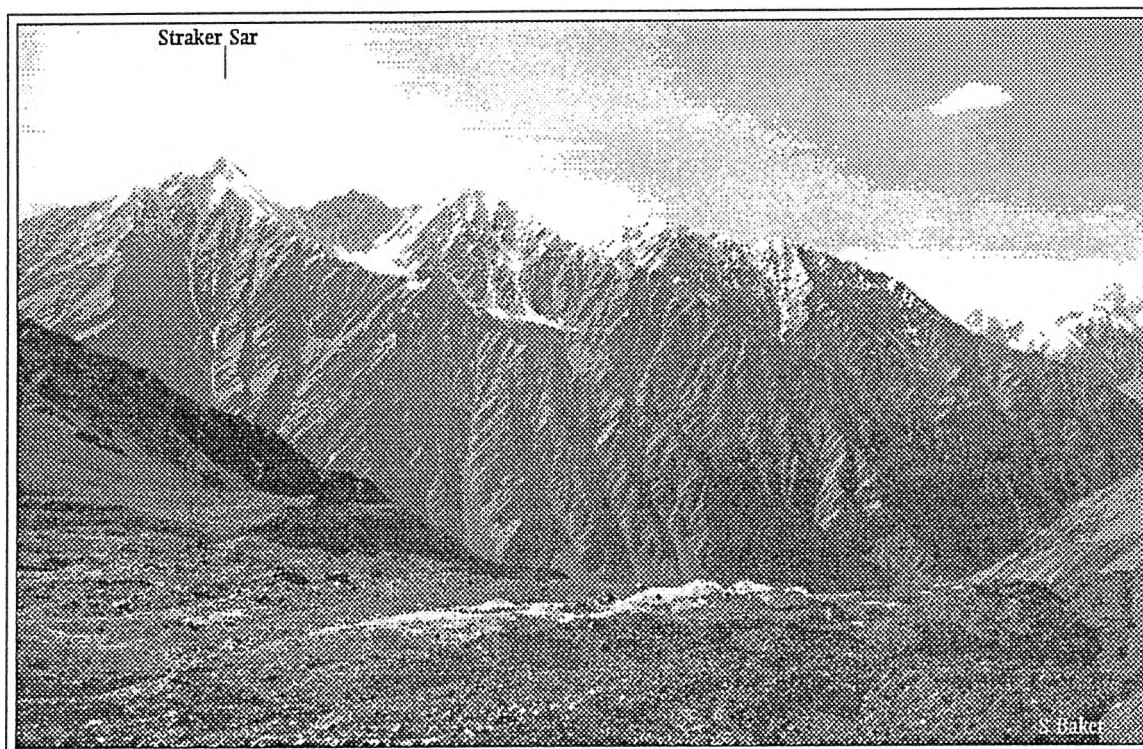
Ken, Les, Paul, John and Keith at the stone bivi site at around 4800m, where Ken had a poor night but did not disturb the rest of us.

4,800m/15,750ft) At times I could hardly breath and my heart was racing out of control, I began to panic. I wished for the morning to come quickly so I could get up from this tortuous night. I got sick of counting all the stars so brilliant above my head."

"To cap it all in the morning my gaiters would not fasten, the battery in my head torch was failing and I had cold feet. As you might imagine I was not in the best of moods, but I was determined that nothing was going to stop me from reaching the summit."



# The Final Peak



The final mountain (on the extreme left) from across the Malangutti glacier at the site of camp 1

After an early breakfast of Choc-a-drinks and a sweet bar we started off at 3.30am. As the light dawned we climbed the lower slopes of a very wide gully. Everyone found the going hard and rests became quite frequent. John quickly took the lead on the snow slope leading to the col. Helping Keith repair his damaged feet put Ken and I even further behind and looking up we saw John trend left, taking a snow ramp, the others followed. Only Ken and I kept going straight up.

I asked Ken if he wanted to climb the head wall in front of us as that was where I intended to go, fortunately he too liked the look of it. We, I think, chose to take the more aesthetic option. The route was enjoyable and felt like real mountaineering rather than 'walking'.

Ken: "The snow conditions were reasonable and as the sun rose behind us I followed Paul up a steep snow wall, giving us direct access to the col. It was real mountaineering stuff. Above us the weather did not look promising with cloud developing and putting our peak behind a blanket of white, we carried on." Nearing the top of the wall which led to a col below the mountain proper, we tried a rock rib but quickly left it due to its looseness. We then came up against soft deep snow, Ken took the lead here, as his lighter step gave me footprints to use which provided better footing, with me in the front I just floundered in the thigh deep soft snow. We struggled to the top. We had expected to see the other four people waiting for us at the top but as we neared the ridge there was only one! Across the col John, Keith and Les sat on a rock outcrop, Keith and Les had become very tired and had decided that they could not go on; John had his doubts about the condition of the snow and the way the weather was changing. Since dawn cloud had begun to gather and now covered the peak we were to attempt. John decided to go down.

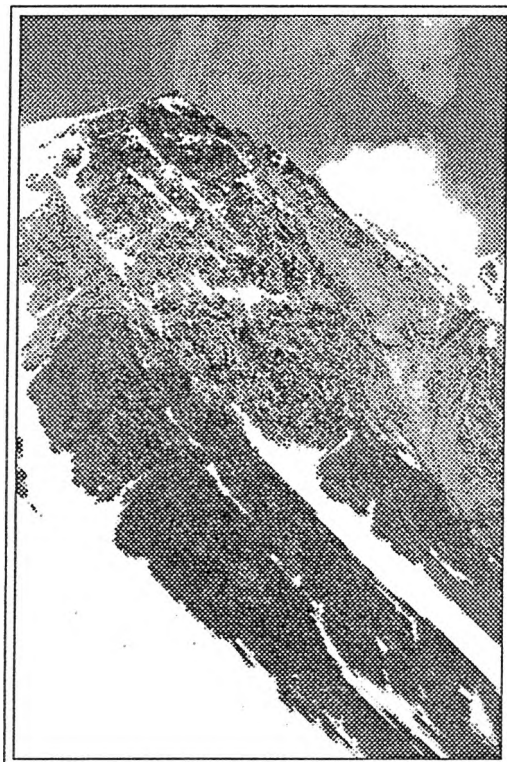
Ken, Steve and I rested for a few minutes, sorted out the rucksacks and started up. The cloud had come further down and now covered the entire face. We had decided to aim for the centre of the face but in the mist our line went to the right and half way up found ourselves near the edge of a vertical cliff. The snow conditions varied and at times became quite dangerous. Steve as always took the lead making steps for Ken and I, even if one of us took over that job Steve was soon back at the front as we were too slow for him. As the early easy angled slopes became steeper misgivings began. It is easy to argue when under pressure and this time was no different: it began when Steve started pointing out the snow conditions and suggested that they were far from ideal. Ken accused him of talking in a condescending way while I stayed quiet recovering my breath. Fortunately on our earlier adventures we had one or two words and as soon as these were recalled the tension dissipated in laughter.



Just below the summit the angle steepened to around 60 degrees, and the soft snow gave way to harder ice. Ice axes and crampons bit as we made our way to the summit.

Ken, "Up the summit slope we went, I was tired but both Steve and Paul were ploughing on and I knew that they were tuned into achieving another summit. After the initial steep section the summit ridge came into focus, and in no time at all we were congratulating each other on yet another triumph. Before we had set off for Pakistan Jim Straker, a member of the Leeds Mountaineering Club had become ill then died of cancer and we had sort of decided that if we did manage to ascend an unclimbed, un-named peak we would call it after him. Quietly I spoke its new name Straker Sar."

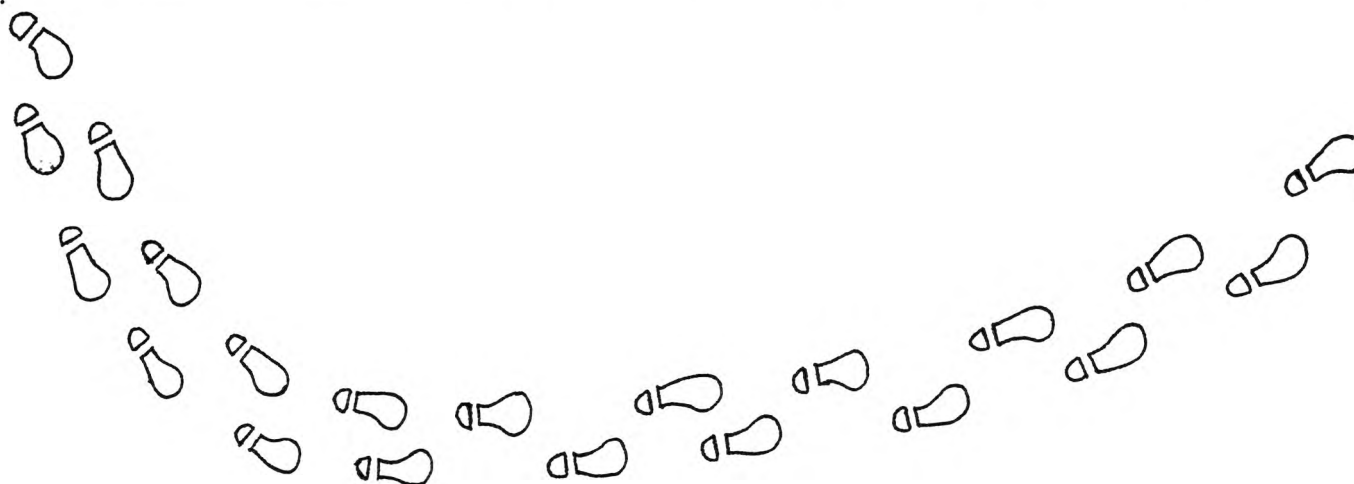
At the summit the cloud persisted, stealing our hoped for views. (The cloud cleared of course as soon as we were down at the bottom again.) We took some photos, the sheep, the tie, us as a group, Steve against the ice, shared some chocolate and congratulated each other; it was not quite Everest but on that day it seemed high enough for us. For all our struggle to gain the height, the descent back to the col took only minutes. Gaining energy as we strode down Ken shot into the lead, with Steve in hot pursuit as soon as he had taken a photo or two, followed at a slower pace by me.



The final peak from the 'easy' slope. The photo was taken from the high point reached by Les, John and Keith

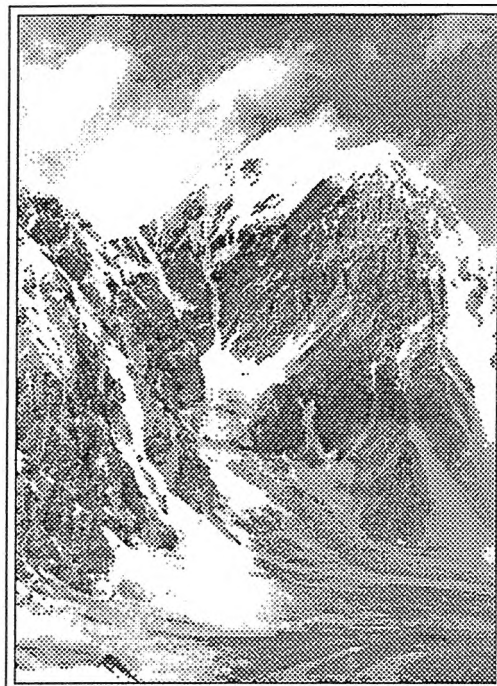
Back at the col the views were better, but cloud persisted around the high peaks. A picnic of peanut butter, honey, biscuits and the last chocolate proceeded a further photo session and topographical observations. From the col we could look down the valley next to (west of) the Malangutti, to our left was the twin peaked mountain we had seen from the Madhil Sar side. It rose above us with steep sides giving real protection against being ascended, looking down and around this valley you became fully aware of the exploration possibilities of this small area, never mind what lay further up the Shimshal valley with its many glaciers and passes.

The walk down was easy and we followed the slope used by the others on the way up. Congratulations from the others and a cup of tea greeted us on our return to the bivi site, both most welcome. Keith related to us their concern earlier when a huge rock avalanche fell from the side of the peak we were on. In fact we saw and heard nothing as can be the case in the mountains when the event is shielded by a spur of rock. The weather remained unsettled and some of our enthusiasm had gone, so instead of staying high with the small supply of provisions that we had left and go for another peak the following day, we decided to go down.

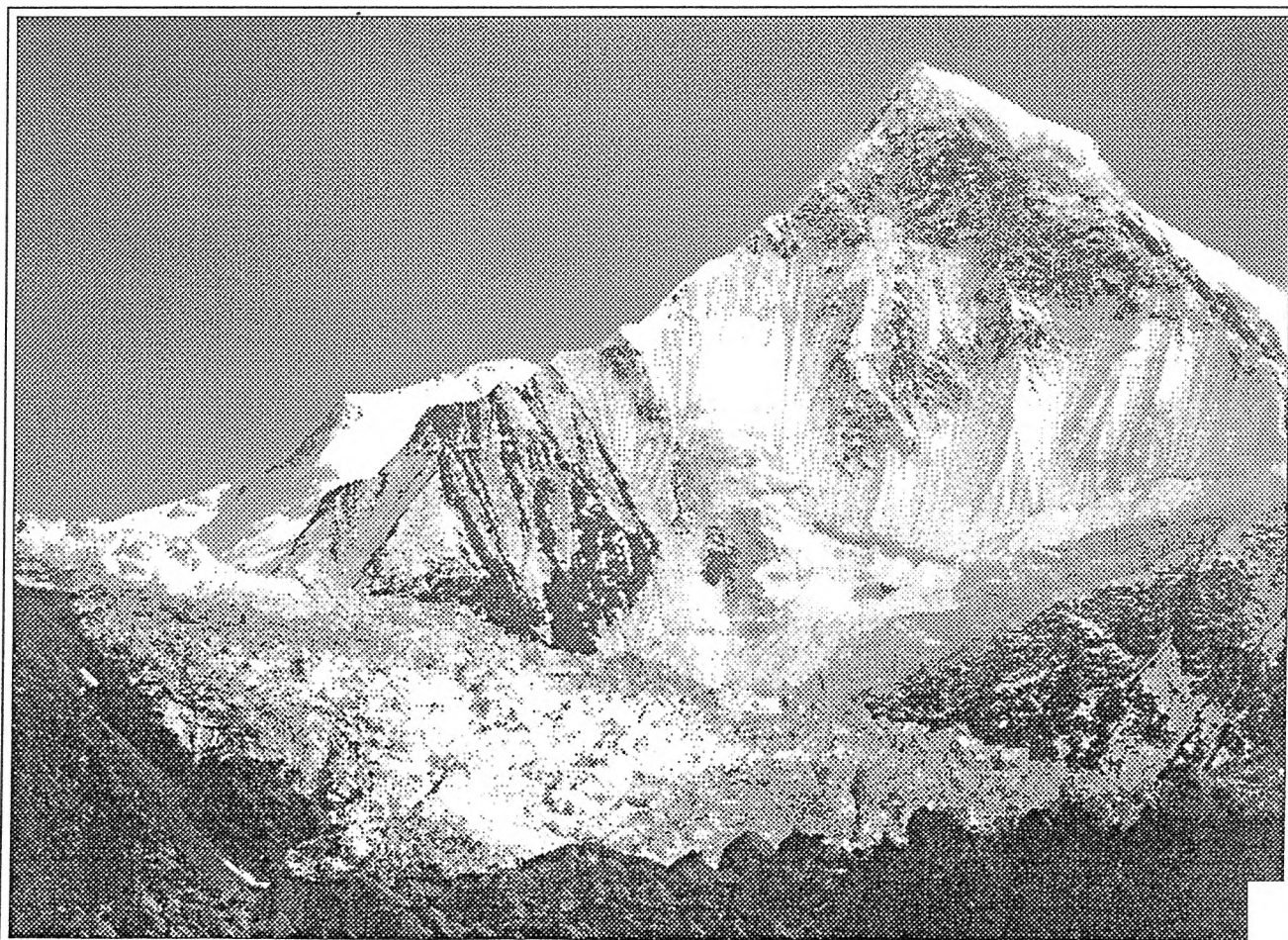


In fact this turned out to be a very sensible decision as it poured with rain overnight and continued to rain the next day until around 10 o'clock. There would have been a lot of snow higher up and we could have accomplished nothing.

The 21st August saw us packing up our wet camp, trying to get a hot Choc-a-Mint drink from the dwindling supplies of gas and making ready for our departure. We headed down the glacier under grey skies, fully waterproofed in our Phoenix Gortex jackets and salopettes. We needed their dryness and warmth on this walk! Keith, John and Ken had been especially pleased to get going, their bivi sacks having leaked and given them very wet night, so wet in fact that someone reported John getting so mad with his bivi-bag that he jumped up and down on it in the middle of the night just to teach it a lesson. The morning was spent route-finding our way back through the seracs, and then back to ABC. There we gorged ourselves on all the food available and were glad to see Quadrat who had decided to come and see what we were doing. He was a great help as he carried Keith's pack down to base camp arriving at least an hour before anyone else. Every one reached base camp in good spirits but tiredness was now beginning to tell and I think everyone was pleased to be getting ready to go home.



The twin peaked mountain which could be accessible by the valley west of the Malangutti



The ice fall that lies against Pyramid Peak is very broken and would be a formidable challenge to any expedition



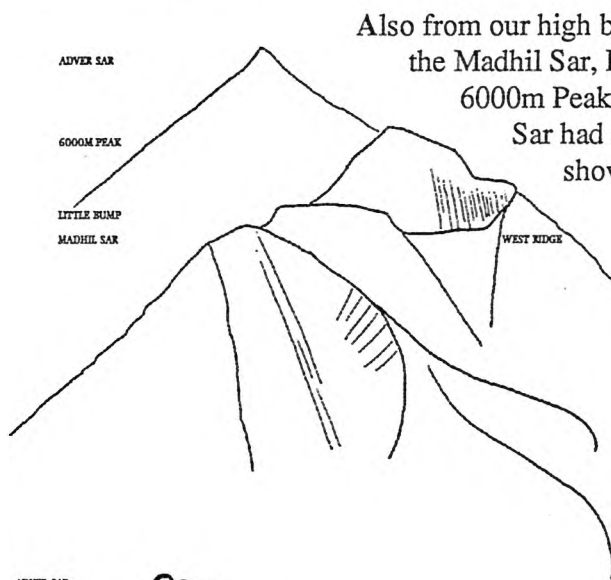
# Observations

While in the area we made a number of height measurements by altimeter. In doing this it seemed to us that some of the existing heights attributed to the peaks might be inaccurate. Our barometer measurements showing some heights about 250m lower than given on the USA maps. Our last peak which should have been around 5800m was measured at 5550. Looking across from our last bivi (4800m) we did seem to be as high as the top of Pyramid Peak, shown as 5500m, with Madhil Sar not looking that much higher.

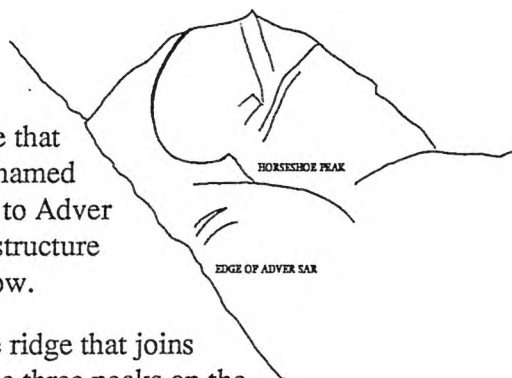
(NB. While Les and I rested at ABC on the 18th August we noticed that without moving one foot we travelled up 100m then down again as the barometric pressure changed.)

The maps show Pyramid Peak as being at the end of a continuous ridge running down from Distaghil Sar however from our observations and photographs it is obvious that it is separate having a distinct drop at its southern end as well, although this drop is much smaller than the northern face and associated ridges.

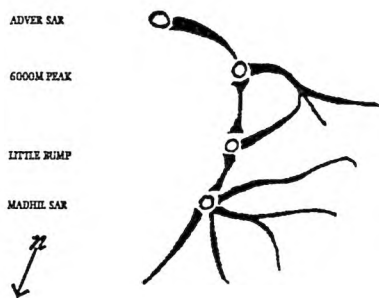
When we were looking across to the valley between Pyramid and Adver Sar we saw a rather attractive peak forming a horseshoe on the horizon.



Also from our high bivi we also notice that the Madhil Sar, Little Bump, Un-named 6000m Peak ridge leading up to Adver Sar had quite a complex structure shown in outline below.



As well as the ridge that joins the three peaks on the east (as seen from below Adver Sar) there also seemed to be a ridge between Little Bump and unclimbed 6000m Peak on its west, with a drop between the ridge and the peak



Having now visited this area once, its potential for further exploration and climbing are quite compelling. If as we suspect the heights of some of the higher peaks are over assessed that would mean that

more would be sub-6000m, and suitable for Pakistan's trekking regulations. The twin peak that we saw from the col below our last peak would be an interesting proposition from its own valley, as would the peak on 'our' ridge, leading up towards Malangutti Sar. The problem there however would be the distance from the Shimshal Valley. Perhaps an approach made from the valley west of the Malangutti would provide suitable access to both. Also Pyramid Peak remains un-reached and

though we did not manage to negotiate its icefall, it may be possible with more time expended on it or in a different year the confusion may be less. The area we were able to look through to, past Pyramid Peak and Adver Sar, also looked worth reaching.

# Travelling To and From

On the recommendation of Roy Lindsay we contacted Pakistan International Airways (PIA) in Bristol and were treated to the attention of Loretta and Marion who work there. Their efforts were greatly appreciated, from listening to my confused requests to dealing with the various changes which were made. They also arranged for us to be allowed extra baggage allowance on the outward journey, worth 20 extra Kgs each. This extra allowance saved us a great deal of trouble at the Pakistan end as we were able to take all our equipment and gear as personal baggage and did not become involved with customs, walking straight through the airport at Islamabad. This was particularly wonderful as reading through the regulations regarding the importing of expedition gear, on the night of the 22nd July, I realised that I had not sent off the triplicate list of the items we were taking, the required 10 weeks before departure! I spent a worried two days before finding out that the others had had no problems. By booking through them we also had a return of payment if anything went wrong, or we did not use any of the flight tickets bought. I can only say that the service we got from this PIA office was second to none. The only drawbacks were the lack of alcohol on the planes especially noticeable and missed on the return journey.

We also booked our internal PIA flights via the UK office. This was more expensive than getting them in Pakistan but saved us endless hours at the booking office in Rawalpindi and the possibility of not getting flights at all. Flights from Islamabad to Gilgit and Skardu can be booked-up months in advance (this is especially true at the Gilgit/Skardu end).

In Pakistan we used the internal flights for three of us but the rest came up the Karakoram Highway with the extensive luggage. They booked a minibus for 4000Rs and travelled up over a day starting at 3am in the morning and arriving at Gilgit at 8pm. Because of the amount of gear and food we had we chose not to use the public buses and again hired a minibus to get from Gilgit to Pasu this was going to cost 1400Rs but on loading up the bus up we had to add 100Rs to placate the driver who looked very worried about his van.

At Gilgit, through the Hunza Inn, we were put into contact with a Shimshali person, Quadrat Ali, who was there studying Maths to become a teacher in his own village. We engaged him to act as guide/cook for 300Rs a day plus some basic equipment. He said that the porters would carry 23Kg each and require 900Rs for the journey from Pasu to Malangutti which was to be our base camp. This journey is divided not into days but into stages- Pasu/Jujur - Jujur/Sugerdan - Sugerdan/Dhut - Dhut/Zirat - Zirat/Malangutti - Malangutti/Shimshal, each stage cost 150Rs. We started out thinking we would need 16 to 18 porters but in the end hired 24 for the walk in. The journey started with a tractor ride from Pasu to Jujur which cost 300Rs. Note that we had to pay the porters for the first stage even though they did not make that carry.

During the walk in Quadrat indicated that it was the custom for trekkers to pay an extra amount to help keep the wire bridges in repair. We had been warned about this and stalled as we were unsure about giving the porters extra when it was really for the bridge upkeep. At present we are thinking of taking collections at any slideshows for the bridges and sending the amount collected to an elder in Shimshal.

When it came to paying the porters off they seemed to expect to be paid more than we had agreed, but after some brief conversations between Quadrat and myself then Quadrat and them they decided to accept the 900Rs, the packet of biscuits and cigarettes we also included and left happily enough. For other visitors it may be worth noting that the Shimshalis much prefer sweets and biscuits to cigarettes, so take gifts of these. It may also be an idea to give out these at the start of the journey rather than at the end otherwise you end up paying the porters to carry the stuff, instead of it forming part of their personal load. Throughout the journey we tried to be fair but not to accede to requests of 'extra' pay.



The walk out required less personnel, Nils left early and took two porters for a fast departure and the rest of us hired 8 porters on the 23rd August. Each at a cost of 1000Rs. He made the trek out in about 18 hours.

Our walk out was interesting as we had got wind of some trouble brewing between the Shimshali and Pasu men. We referred to the rumours as the 'Shimshal War' and fantasised about hoards of Shimshalis on Yaks defending their buildings at Dhut from the masses of invading Pasuites. The truth was not quite that. The trouble was about who could porter in which part of the area. While we had been on the glacier a decision had been made by the authorities in Gilgit that Pasu had the right to porter from Pasu to the bridge at Sugardan, the Shimshalis from Sugardan on. This is in fact a very stupid and inconvenient decision from the point of view of travellers and means that porters will have to be changed at Sugardan where there is no water or resting place. Complying with this decision will mean taking extra time plus the bother of hiring and paying off porters twice instead of once during the journey to Shimshal. Time will be wasted at Sugardan on the outward journey when trekkers will have to wait for someone to go and get the porters from Pasu to carry the loads on.

Our journey out did not quite reach this farce but took on an almost as silly scenario when it was agreed that our Shimshali porters would take us to the road head but only after dark, thus avoiding the notice of the Pasu lookouts. Had we not been so tired at Jujur where we stopped for a brief rest and to wait for dusk I'm sure we might have completed the journey blacked-up as a commando force. This agreement while making it an easier journey and saving us time did in fact cost us more. The extra cost was not from the porters but because we had to send off to Sost to hire a minibus as we had to avoid contact with Pasu at all costs. The minibus cost us 1800Rs (bargained down from 2000Rs) instead of the 1500Rs we had thought it would be. We travelled straight to Gilgit from the roadhead and hid below the windows as we past through Pasu. A disagreement about whether to stop for something to eat or not, caused some friction and an explosion from John, who shouted at everyone else for threatening to veto his eating requirements, so we all gave in. We arrived at the Hunza Hotel around 3am and slept on the veranda surrounded by various equipment.

From Gilgit we managed to send five packages by a NATCO bus for 300Rs allowing us to make the baggage allowance of 17Kg each on the internal flight. Three of us tried unsuccessfully to travel out by plane a day early, hoping to get things organised in Rawalpindi and did no better on our booked flight when bad weather caused two flights to return to Rawalpindi and the cancellation of all others. So on the afternoon of 28th August with time running out we again hired a private minibus and set off down the Karakoram Highway heading for Rawalpindi. The bus cost 3500Rs through the Hunza Inn.

The journey on the KK Highway wanted its share of 'thrill-giving' too so we had the lights fail as we negotiated a land slide area with a 200ft drop on one side and later a battalion of soldiers joined us for a lift to the local village. We had no say as around ten soldiers in full gear, rifles at the ready crammed into the already fairly packed interior. Then with about three hours to go the weather joined in, it decided that the gear on the top of the bus should not be left dry so we then had a rain storm. The bedrooms at the Pine hotel which we reached at around six in the morning looked like a laundry as we hung wet items on every available place.

In Rawalpindi we tried to arrange with PIA for us to be allowed to take some extra baggage out with us above the 23Kg. Despite extensive efforts by the freighting department of PIA the customs stuck their spanner in the works and we did not manage to extricate our extra gear from Pakistan. The fact that the Weekend in Pakistan is on Thursday afternoon and Friday threw us. However the British Consulate came to our aid and we left the gear with them and enough rupees to cover the postage.

It should be noted that the taxi drivers we used were all very helpful and that it is probably useful to make 'friends' with one who will then be willing to come and go as you wish.

# APPENDICES

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# Food

Ken Findlay

Perhaps the most important aspect when choosing what type of foods to take is to make sure that people will actually eat and enjoy it. Therefore flavour is very important. It is no use taking a well composed calorie ration which remains largely uneaten.

The food purchased by the expedition can be split into two types:

- a) Mountain food - consisting of foodstuffs taken from the UK
- b) Base camp food - purchased in the visited country

We chose to take dried food for the mountain rations and bought Peak and Raven meals as we were offered a discount and more importantly members thought that they were a reasonable choice for palatability. For the one vegetarian member we also purchased a number of Pasta Choice meals (Batchelors) and these were also popular with the carnivores. Our special stroke of luck was to have a donation of 300 'Options' chocolate drink sachets. These formed a basic enjoyment pack at every meal and had to be strictly rationed. We also took on the advice of a previous traveller some Safeway 'Supreme Delight' which we used mainly as a drink and was very high on the enjoyment table.

## MOUNTAIN FOOD

Freeze Dried Main Meals	(Raven & Peak)	90
Pasta Choice	(Batchelors)	20
Freeze Dried Sweets	(Raven & Peak)	40
Chocolate Bars	(Twix, Crunchies, Snickers, Mars, Bounty)	200
Harvest Crunch Bars		144
Chocolate Drinks (Ovaltine)	(Options Choc-a-lait, mint, orange)	300
Cup a Soups		80
Knorr Soups	(15 minute soups)	20

These amounts were based on each member having 10 days in the mountains. This gave a total of  $10 \times 7 = 70$  mountain-day-food-units. Below is my grading of the foods we took on the expedition, marks out of 10 for their success and palatability.

Batchelor Pasta Choice	10	Raven Custard & Banana	8
Raven Chili Con Carne	8	Raven Custard & Apple	8
Raven Shepherds Pie	8	Raven Rice Pudding	7/3
Raven Beef Goulash	8	Peak Strawberries & Cream	3
Peak Vegetable Stroganoff	8		
Peak Steak Rossini	8	Cup a Soups	10
Peak Venison Casserole	8	Options Choc Drinks	10++
Peak Lancashire Hot Pot	6	Safeway Supreme Delights	10+
Raven Cod in Parsley Sauce	1	Various Choc Bars	10+
Raven Madras Curry	1		

As you can see most of the main meals taken were more than acceptable and we all had our favourites. The two very low scores for the Cod and the Curry reflect that one was not very nice to eat, the other having a peculiar (some thought revolting) taste. Most found the Pasta Choice very good and they were improved by the addition of tuna or extra cheese. The sweets were all good with two exceptions. The Strawberries & cream had no bulk at all and was definitely a disappointment. The rice has two marks as when give the recommended re-hydration time it was still inedible with the rice remaining hard, by doubling the time it became much more attractive. All these items were used for meals at around 13000 to 14500 feet above sea level and once at 15750 feet.

As it is important to consume a reasonable amount of liquid each day anything that helps accomplish this is a boon. As has been stated earlier the Options Choc-a-... 's were excellent, other items used were the Safeway Supreme Delight which mixed well giving a very nicely flavoured hot drink or cold desert and Cup a Soups which are always easy to make.

We also used a number of food items in the mountain camps which were bought in Pakistan. Tinned processed cheese and tinned tuna were consumed in quantity and eaten both on their own and as an addition to a dried meal. Packets of biscuits were also a main stay and treat, we had both sweet and savoury. Other items were Honey, Peanut butter and jam. These last three items were transported up the glacier in squeeze tubes which turned out to be one of our star buys in the UK.

Generally the food we took was good and proved to be tasty, easy to prepare and enjoyable. Of course we all fantasised about the foods we were unable to get and chips seemed to be mentioned a number of times amongst the more elaborate items.

## BASE CAMP

The food for Base Camp is listed on page 37 with notes regarding its use and quantities.

# GEAR

Gear for an expedition is the most interesting of all the tasks and choosing equipment is akin to getting presents at Christmas. What is more tedious and difficult is finding anyone to support the expedition with gifts or by offering reduced costs. We were lucky and managed to find a number of manufacturers and suppliers who offered us help. The number of letters written were of course mountainous compared with the eventual offers of assistance. Many suppliers replied stating that their budget allocation had already been promised when we wrote; the clear message here is to start early.

Long discussions went into the budget and into the choice of the major items. Discussing tents - type, size, weight etc. nearly took up more time than we were out of the country! As well as the group requirements there were personal ones as well. No-one had been on an expedition like this before so many felt it necessary to upgrade their own equipment or to extend it.

It needs to be noted that the weather we experienced was extremely good and that very little of the time was wet or particularly cold. The depth of snow we encountered was between 1 and 8 inches and this only on the higher slopes.

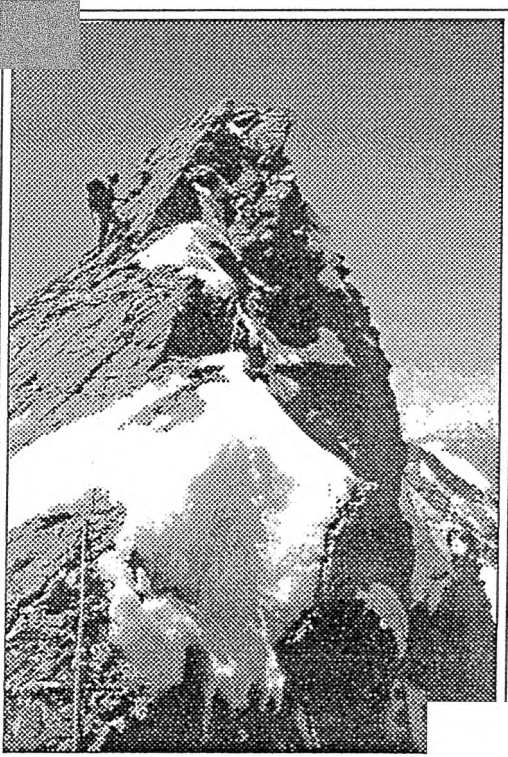
**TENTS:** We took two types of Gortex tents for the higher camps. Both types were easy to erect and neither suffered from condensation problems.

**Phoenix Photon Extreme** - This three man tent was heavier than the Gemini but its extra space took three people in reasonable comfort. This 3 man facility gave it a good man/weight ratio and I think made it more flexible within our group. It had good front area storage and did not suffer from any leakage.

**W/C Gemini** - This is a very light weight tent, comfortable for two and we did fit in three for a couple of nights at camp 2. We should have taken some seam sealant with us as one of the two Geminis leaked at the seam. Luckily we did not experience much wet weather otherwise this would have become an annoying problem.

At base camp we took a selection of tents, including a **Phoenix Phulsion Extreme**. This was roomy, cool in the day and warm at night. The double entrance gave excellent access and storage space.

Ken on the last rope length before the summit of the 2nd peak. He is using Cairngorm rope, Blue Water slings and DMM crabs supplied by 5.15 Ltd



John in his Daleswear 'Cat Suit'. This was often his only attire and kept him warm on the glacier.

**SLEEPING:** The friendliness of the weather we experienced did not really test the equipment but we did have a few very cold nights. Les was the only one with a new bag and he chose one of the Rab range. This Rab 1000 not only kept him extremely warm but also filled any given space. I used a north Cape silk sleeping liner and found it to be very good and well worth the cost. The other item that went down well were the Thermarest sleeping mats, most people did not let them out of their sight once they had used them.

**CLIMBING:** We took quite an amount of climbing equipment and were helped a lot by 5.15 Ltd. of Bristol. The Blue Water and Cairngorm ropes we took reflected what we expected to need for Pyramid Peak. Certainly on the other peaks climbed only minimal equipment was needed or used by us. We often carried a 9mm half length rope but only used it twice on the glacier and full ropes on Shiffkitten Sar and on the second rocky peak. The problem being what to take 'in case' balanced against an over supply. Sit and Chest harnesses were worn on the glacier and mountains and all those used seemed suitable.

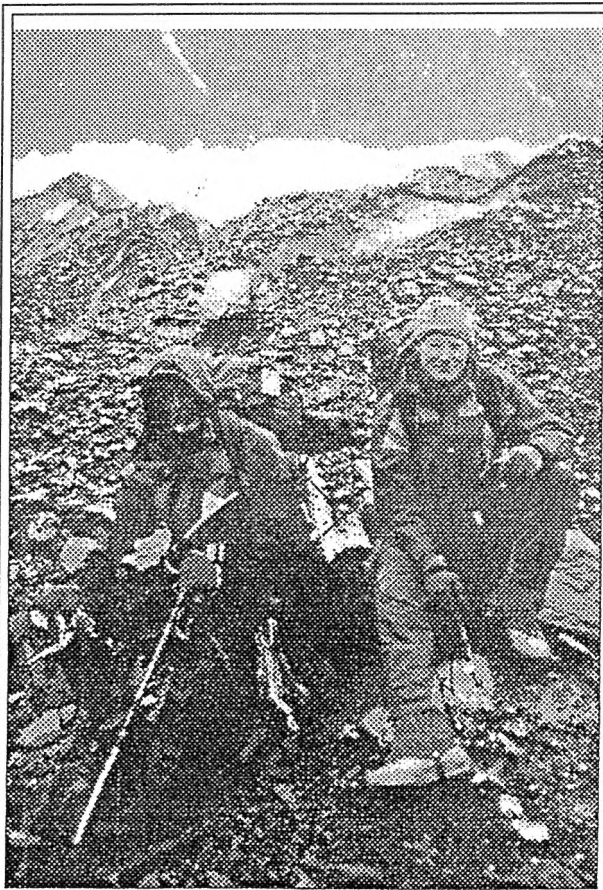
**SNOW and RAIN:** Some members upgraded their previous weather gear and bought Phoenix Gortex 'Diamond'. This proved excellent if a little heavy and kept all those who had it dry and comfortable on the few days it rained. At the other end of the scale Ken had a nylon cagoule which was adequate for the weather we actually experienced. Given more severe conditions the Phoenix clothing would without doubt have come into its own. Some members took Alpine guitars which were excellent as they were easy to put on and off, while others took Yettis. Keith found that his

Yetti's rubber sole split on the moraine and was not really impressed with them.

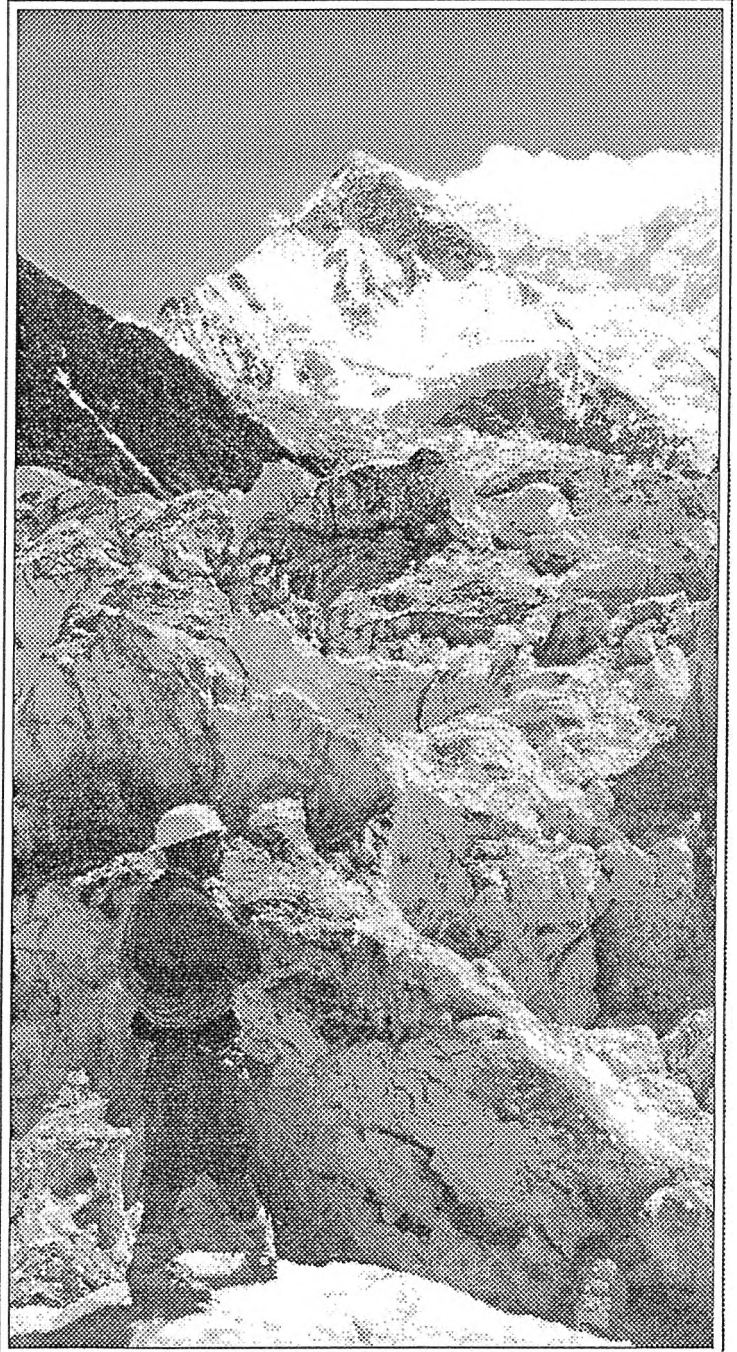


**OTHER CLOTHING:** Lightweight clothing was needed for Pakistan in general and members bought the Shalwar Kameese for their coolness. On the trek in I found my Mountain Equipment trousers very good and also wore them around base camp. Once on the glacier and in the mountains we used some excellent fleece gear provided by Phase 3 and Daleswear, two firms from Skipton and Ingleton. Each member had salopettes and a zipped jacket. I wore mine day in day out and found them comfortable, warm and lightweight. The exception to this apparel was John's Daleswear cat suit, which he wore continuously on the hills and glacier whenever it got at all chilly. To add to this suit John also took an extremely warm Phoenix fleece jacket and was well pleased with its performance. I and others used light thermal gloves for most of the time from North Cape, these were backed up by Woollen Mitts with a palm of leather sewn on.

**FOOTWEAR:** Most of the party took three sets of footwear: trainers for the cities and towns, lightweight walking boots for trekking and plastic boots for the mountains. The first two categories were made up from what people had already, the third was mainly Asolo plastic boots. Most people took the Asolo 101s but Les opted for the Asolo Supersoft. All boots took a great deal of hammer on the glacier treks over dust, dirt, boulders and ice and all stood up well. Some members who had not tried plastic boots before were



John and Steve resting on the walk down from camp 2 in nasty weather. The Phase 3/Daleswear fleece and Phoenix Gortex Diamond jacket and trousers keeping the rain and cold out. Asolo boots and Alpine gaiters protect the feet from cold and wet.



Paul in Phase 3/Daleswear fleece clothing at the start of the nasty bit of the ice fall carrying a Cairngorm rope and wearing Asolo 101 boots with Grivelle 2F crampons

very taken with them. Though new, they caused no great trouble to our feet and few blisters were in evidence. I did find that I got cold feet with the 101s on one day when walking in ankle deep snow and wondered if the insulation was enough. Les found the Supersoft just as good as the 101s and had no trouble using crampons with them.

We all used crampons and needed them on parts of the glacier as well as on a couple of the higher icy slopes. We had a variety of quick fit and straps and in use there was not much difference. Three of the group had Grivelle 2F crampons and were very pleased with them; they fitted well and just once came off Les's boots. Keith brought Messner scissor crampons and he did have a few problems with them coming off in various situations.

**COOKING:** At base camp we used a Pakistani large primus stove, which generally worked well and once the paraffin had been filtered it burnt reasonably. We took gas and Alpine gas stoves which we used above base camp; they always worked well and were light and easy to use. The pans were a mixture of different sized lightweight aluminium ones.

# Medicine

Les Holbert

If you can't take a doctor then take a good book! I recommend 'Medicine for Mountaineers' edited by James A Wilkerson. Published by 'The Mountaineers' ISBN 0-89886-086-5

After seeing that everyone got their various vaccinations on time I turned my attention to assembling a First Aid Kit that could be used by everyone. Fortunately nothing too serious happened to the team while we were in Pakistan, but despite care taken with food and water everyone suffered from diarrhoea in varying degrees, the attacks lasting from a few hours to four weeks in John's case.

We tried a variety of drugs for the treatment of the various attacks of diarrhoea with Imodium being used most widely, but none seemed very effective. Most of the cases cleared given time.

As soon as you engage porters you will find that they are bringing their ills to you for treatment, I am qualified in first aid but could not always treat their symptoms. Below I list those drugs and first aid treatments I used on them.

During the expedition all members had small personal kits while the main bulk of the supplies were kept in a large cool bag. During the first few days at base camp this main supply was accessed by everyone wanting further items, but this was found to be unsatisfactory. People made a mess of the contents and I did not know what was being used without a continual stock take. Then I decided that all issuing of supplies was to be done through me unless I was not in camp. This worked excellently.

On our return to the UK some members went down with further ills which lasted for some weeks afterwards. One member had picked up Shigella and Giardia lamblia and went off to hospital for the identification of these (one being a virus and the other an amoeba). Others just struggled on between bouts of vomiting and doctor's pill.

## ITEMS MOST USED

Lip Salves  
Sun Cream  
Imodium  
Dioralyte  
Micropore/Plasters  
Second Skin  
Paracetamol  
Foot Powder

## ITEMS MOST USED ON PORTERS

Cough Mixture  
Paracetamol  
Plasters  
Antiseptic Cream  
Oil of Cloves (for a tooth abscess)

IMMUNISATION	FORM	TIMING	EFFECTIVENESS
CHOLERA	one injection or two injections 4-6 weeks apart	no later than one month prior to departure	lasts six months
PARA TYPHOID A+B AND TETANUS	two injections 4-6 weeks apart	complete not later than one month prior to departure	lasts three years
POLIO BOOSTER	oral	at the same time as the second Para typhoid A-B	lasts three years
MALARIA	tablets	taken for one month prior to departure and one month after return / or as prescribed	short term prophylactic
GAMMA GLOBULIN against HEPATITIS	injection	during the two weeks prior to departure	short term prophylactic



## FIRST AID KIT TAKEN

Amount	Trade Name	Purpose
2 courses per person	Imodium	Diarrhoea
160	Metronidazole	Diarrhoea
40	Dioralyte	Diarrhoea
200	Paracetamol	Mild Pain
	Tengesic Sublingual	Severe Pain
	Throat Lozenges	
2 Packets	Foot Powder	
	Ronicol	Circulation
	Chloramphenicol	Eyes
	Acriflex	Burns Cream
	TCP	
	Seprin Forte	Antibiotics
	Aqua Ban	Diuretic
2 Bottles	Cough Mixture	

Also - various amounts of Plasters, Melolin, Micropore, Gauze Swabs, Skin Closures and Crepe Bandages.

In the event far too many Medical Supplies were taken with us. On arrival in Pakistan I found drugs and other supplies were readily available over the counter at the local chemists. It is obviously impossible to estimate the requirements of a particular expedition until you are safely back home again. Had we suffered any accident the supplies used and needed would have been very different.

### Appendix D

## Bits and Pieces

<p><b>Bibliography of useful literature consulted.....</b></p> <p>Alpine Journal 1985 p 64-70</p> <p>Blank on the Map Shipton 1938 Hodder</p> <p>Unknown Karakoram Schomberg 1936 Hopkinson</p> <p>Himalayan Odyssey Braham 1974 G Allen</p> <p>Expedition Planners' Handbook &amp; Directory EAC1988/9</p> <p>Trekking in Pakistan &amp; India Swift 1990 Hodder</p> <p>Medicine for Mountaineering Wilkerson 1985 Mountaineers</p> <p>Anglo Scottish 1987 Report</p> <p>British West Karakoram Expedition 1984 Report</p> <p>Mid Wales Expedition 1986 Report</p> <p><b>Maps for reference.....</b></p> <p>RGS The Karakoram 1: 750,000</p> <p>Yataka Saito Shimshal River &amp; Pass c 1: 50,000</p> <p>Photocopy Karakoram area North 1: 250,000</p> <p>Jerzy Walla Karakoram 1: 250,000</p> <p>Schomberg Shingshal Mustagh Area 1: 253,440</p> <p>US Army Shimshal 1: 250,000</p> <p>Also in US Army series Gilgit, Mastuj, Chulung, Baltit</p>	<p><b>DO.....</b>Remember that you only get one chance whether its to go for a peak or to take a picture</p> <p>Practice some dancing before you go</p> <p>Take a printed 'members information sheet'</p> <p>Take a spring balance</p> <p>Take a polaroid camera and film (the porters really do appreciate these instant pictures)</p> <p>Call in at the Australian Embassy</p> <p>Take Chocolate from the UK</p> <p>Employ a Shimshali as a guide</p> <p>Book any internal flights in advance in the UK</p> <p>Take Base Camp postcards for sponsors etc.</p> <p>Change as much money as you can at the airport</p> <p>Take choc drinks etc. from the UK</p> <p>Take some specialist teas, we enjoyed Hibiscus and Earl Grey</p> <p>Take any photos of the locals you can find from previous expeditions etc.</p> <p>Visit Shimshal Village if you can</p> <p>Take filters for the Paraffin (coffee filters )</p> <p><b>DO NOT.....</b>Leave goods in Gilgit</p> <p><b>CONSIDER..</b>Keeping a communal diary - we did and it worked very well. Everyone joined in the task. Not bothering with Gaz it was extremely expensive to freight and get out of customs</p> <p>Making some stuff bags, I made around 16 of various sizes and everyone found them useful</p> <p>Taking plastic carrier bags, ideal to make up man-day units of food etc.</p>
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## Appendix A An Information sheet taken with us. (amendments on our return in bold)

### Pakistan Information

- Notes** Pakistan is 5 hours ahead of GMT - it gets dark around 7.30 in Summer  
Rawalpindi is about 10 miles from Islamabad ; 1,700ft above sea level  
Hunza is around 8000ft  
Tourism Division-Ministry of Tourism Islamabad-College Road, Jinnah Market, F-7/2 Tel. 820856  
Rawalpindi TIC PTDC Flashman's Hotel, the Mall Tel. 64811-2  
Gilgit TIC PTDC at Chinar Inn
- \*Confirm Internal flights 24 hours prior to departure also keep checking on international flights  
MONEY 100 Paise = 1 Rupee - Exchange Rate (27/8/91 at airport = 40Rs-£1) - Only 100 Rs can be taken into the country and only 100 Rs out There is a re-convert limit of 500Rs All encashment slips must be saved  
Fridays = Muslim Holy day All offices & bazars closed (also Govt. offices/customs are closing on Thursday afternoons)  
31st July all Banks closed 14 August National Holiday
- Hotels**
- Rawalpindi; Pine Hotel behind the Pearl Continental 100Rs each R Johnson stayed here says it's OK (We used this basic hotel 375Rs for 3 bedded room/425 for 4 beds- breakfasts taken were good)  
Also 7 Brothers was recommended as a cheap alternative RJ  
Park Hotel, Murree Road -Chris used this / also possible Flashman Hotel
- Islamabad; Sheherezad Hotel supermarket area Maruaz F6 Supermarket Tel. 822295/6 double room 300Rs RL/R J also stayed here -OK & good for shops
- Gilgit; Hotel Balour, off the High Street in self contained chalets Good value RJ paid 50Rs each - eat in Kashgar almost opposite  
Park Hotel 195Rs double Room RJ  
Hunza Inn Chinar Bagh tel. 2814 (d 80-250Rs dorm 30Rs) Best value in town nice atmosphere, good meeting place & food(Guide & RJ) (Used by us both ways the best rooms were very nice- some extra attention to detail would go a long way, food was basic but good value, nice garden area, owner helpful, left unwanted items free of charge while on trek)  
Karakoram Inn (RJ)  
Golden Peak Inn, Bank Rd., Rajah Bazaar tel. 3911 (d & 0Rs Dorm 25Rs Tent 10Rs ) popular with backpackers  
Serena Lodge, Jutial, Gilgit tel. 2330-1 (s/d 450/600Rs) View of Rakaposhi Best Food in Gilgit (Guide)
- Karimabad; Hilltop tel. 10(s/d 125/200Rs) Convenient -good food (Guide)  
Hunza Inn (d 50Rs dorm 15Rs) popular with backpackers (Guide)  
Karimabad (d 40Rs dorm 20Rs) Fantastic View (Guide)
- Passu; Passu Inn Very Good 50/100Rs each does good food (RJ) (Used for one night, good food & clean, owner a keen mountaineer)  
Boreet up by the Lake is popular with trekkers (Guide)
- Food/Restaurants & Shops**
- Rawalpindi; The Pearl Continental is an absolute must on the way out 125Rs for a real eat-all-you-can buffet in 5\* luxury / use of pool ?Rs /day (We used the buffet twice and gorged ourselves used by many other mountaineering parties, excellent)  
Flashmans has an excellent buffet lunch- (Rodents seen by party members and reports of Flashmans being a source of stomach upsets therefore we avoided it) (65Rs) Residents & non-Res eat as much as you like
- Islamabad; Holiday Inn Buffet 115Rs (RJ)  
Kao Wah Aabpara Market, Khayaban-e-Suhrawardy Tel. 829898 Best Chinese in town (Guide)  
White House, Supermarket Tel. 828213 Pakistani & Continental (Guide)  
Moods, near Jinnah Market Good Steaks & Pakistani foods  
Australian Embassy- 4.30 every Thursday every (white) one welcome 250Rs entry - includes 10 free beers!
- Gilgit; Tourist Cottage out of town 20rs for an excellent 3 course meal RL / Hunza Inn , Chinar Bagh tel. 2814 good food / Uashgar Inn RJ / Kashgar excellent food (RJ)( Used by us 'Ethnic' looks dirty but food seemed OK) / Serena Lodge best food in Gilgit (Guide)  
(We used this on the way out, found it excellent but difficult to get back to town after the meal) / Park Hotel good quality food in hygienic surroundings RL  
Dad Ali Shah has trekking items s/h from previous expeditions. When RL was there everything from Ice Screws to Gaz & Fr dried foods! (Bought a gas lamp here for 300Rs but had little else we wanted, prices quite high for mountain equipment. He buys back the equipment at 50% of the price)  
(Shopping in Gilgit was made easy for us because of the help of Ikram Beg who got a lot of items for us before we arrived. He really runs an Adventure Organisation and did this as a favour. There are a lot of small shops in Gilgit where most ordinary items can be purchased, see the list overleaf. There are also about 5 or 6 shops with mountaineering items form ski poles to crampons)
- Travel**
- Taxis From Rawalpindi or Islamabad to Airport they asked for 200Rs RJ paid 80Rs (guide book says 80 in 1989) (We paid 100Rs without baggage) - have cord to hand to tie rucksacks 3 deep onto roof  
All taxis within Rawalpindi or Islamabad area were 10Rs (20/30Rs in 1991)
- Contacts**
- UK PIA Loretta or Marrion 5th Floor, Royal London Buildings, 42-46 Baldwin Street, Bristol BS1 1PN Tel. 0272 272788
- Islamabad British High Commission, Diplomatic Enclave, Ramna 5, PO Box 1122, Islamabad. Tel. 822131/5 Fax 010 9251 823439 (Mr. Rothay)  
(High Commissioner- His Excellency Sir Nicholas Barrington KCMG CVO)  
Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation Ltd, House No. 27, Street 56, F-7/4, Islamabad Tel. 816815 Telex 54356 PTDC PK
- Rawalpindi PIA, 5 The Mall re over baggage allowance on return journey
- Gilgit Ikram Beg / GM Beg Son's, 468 Sir Agha Khan Road, Gilgit, 15100, Pakistan. T. 0572 2409 Fax 0572 2525 atn Ikram Beg  
PIA is next to Mountain Movers North side of the river
- Passu Haqiqat Ali , Village Passu, PO Gulmit Gojal, Hunza Gilgit



On Arrival  
Islam/Rawal Confirm flights to Gilgit and return flights to UK  
Visit the British Embassy & Give full details of all members, addresses, plans, itinerary, bank details, Telex etc. on prepared sheet (The British Embassy were very helpful and we were invited to the Brit Club where beer was available as well as some good conversation and food. Useful contacts were made at the Australian open evening.)  
Contact British Embassy about a letter to the Tourism division regarding the \$4,000 & about helping with re-converting Rs if there are any problems (After a lot of problems we eventually got a bond from Nazir Sabir in Islamabad)  
Find out about hiring a Mini-bus to get to Gilgit & other means of transport if you can...Bus etc.  
Exchange £Travellers Cheques into small & very small currency (Banks at the airport had best exchange rates - 100 & 50Rs notes were the smallest needed)  
Get street maps of Islamabad & Rawalpindi  
?Contact Ikram Beg if you want to know of anything you need to get from Raw/Islam that cannot be found in Gilgit tel. (0572) 2409 / fax 2525 -attn Ikram Beg  
Work from lists when shopping  
Check where the Gilgit plane flies from. How & how long it takes to get there  
Keep notes on expenditure  
Get official Porter rates from Tourist Division & recce Insurance

Gilgit Contact Ikram Beg ref. supplies  
Find out about minibus hire for trip to Passu (Via Karimabad?)  
Re-confirm flights to Islamabad & UK  
Contact local Tourist Office & report to the Local Police headquarters (UK travellers do not need to report)

Passu Hire porters( & Guide/Cook?) Get fresh vegetables if possible

FLIGHTS International; Import limits -- NO ALCOHOL 200 cigarettes 100Rs  
Out Withall/Findlay H252ED: Baker C5527U : Sjonstrom UGYJ7U  
Book in no later than 15.00 hrs; Servisair Desk; MANCHESTER  
PK702Y/23JUL Manchester Dep. 17.00 / Arr

Out Hudson/Holbert/Prichard EN52CU Book in no later than 20.00; Servisair Desk; MANCHESTER  
PK790Y/25JUL Manchester Dep. 2130 / Arr 10.45

Return All (except Nils) PK785Y/31AUG Islamabad Dep 02.30 / Arr 09.15

Internal Flights 27th July Flight 401 06.15 Islamabad ....07.25 Gilgit  
28th August Flight 404 08.45 Gilgit...09.55 Islamabad

Distances & Approx. Times for overland travel

Islamabad - Abbottabad	121k / 75m	2hrs
Abbottabad - Besham	151k / 94m	3.5hrs
Besham - Komila/Dassu	74k / 46m	2hrs
Komila/Dassu - Chilas	129k / 80m	3hrs
Chilas - Gilgit	128k / 79m	3hrs
Gilgit - Aliabad/Karimabad	105k / 65m	2hrs
Aliabad/Karimabad - Passu	56k / 40m	1hr

Ikram Beg

Honey 8tins	Just enough/ a few more would have been welcome
Noodles 5Kg	Spagetti
Oats 3Kg	Not enough - 6 or 9Kg would have been better
Stock Cubes 24	OK
Coffee 1Kg	Needed an extra 1/2 to 1Kg
Processed Cheese 30 tins	Very enjoyable and used for lunch and evening meals - a few more might have been nice
Tuna 60tins	Improved most meals Eaten by many a lot of the time but a few too many
Soups dried 36	Pakistan soups not as good as our own
Sweets 5/6Kg	Not bought - should have been - a small supply was eked out
Tea Bags 1000	No tea bags 2Kg of Liptons black tea not enough. The green tea disliked at camp
Jam 10jars	Not enough
Biscuits 150pkts	Believe it or not we could have done with more- say another 50
Atta 25Kg	Too much
Dahl 16Kg	Too much
Dried Apricots 10bags	Too much - but stewed at base camp made a delicious pudding
Custard Powder 2 Pkts	Pakistan custard is very interesting with unusual flavours - nice
Ghee 10Kg	Not bought- used vegetable oil instead
Dried Milk 10Kg	OK
Eggs Box	Not bought - should have taken some
Salt 2Kg	Too much
Rice 15Kg	OK
Peanut Butter 6jars	Not enough - delicious on the various biscuits at lunch and after meals
Drinking Choc 1Kg	Not available but gift from WANDER Ltd of individual pkts of choc-a-mint,-orange,-laite were wonderful
Onions 10Kg	OK
Paraffin 40-50lt	Too much with the gas taken for the mountain
Water container 20lt	Used a barrel
Pressure Cooker	Essential
Soap	Available
Washing powder	Available
Eating Utensils	Available
Matches	Took disposable lighters from Leeds market
Polypropelene sacks	OK
Plastic bags	OK
All Bought in Gilgit	

# CONTACTS AND USEFUL PEOPLE

Marion Lawrence & Loretta Grove, Pakistan International Airways, 5th Floor, Royal London Buildings, 42-46 Baldwin Street, Bristol, BS1 1PN. 0272 272788

Roger Payne, National Officer BMC was helpful in a number of ways. BMC, Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Booth Street East, Manchester M13 9RZ T.061-273 5835 Fx. 061-274 3233

Expedition Freight Ltd., Panty Cafn, Llanberris, Gwynedd LL55 4UW T. 0286 870052 gave us the best price for freight-ing out the gaz and also got the gaz less VAT as it was for export.

British High Commission, Diplomatic Enclave, Ramna 5, PO Box 1122, Islamabad. T. 822131/5 Fax. 010 9251 8234329 (high Commissioner- His Excellency Sir Nicholas Barrington KCMG CVO) We found Mr. Peter Rothay and Mark McGinnis most helpful on the way out and on our return.

Mrs Farida Parvez, Tourism Officer, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., House No 27, Street 56, F-7/4, Islamabad. T. 816815 Tx.54356 PTDC PK

PIA Cargo Department T.(051) 591071 Islamabad Airport

Nazir Sabir, Nazir Sabir Expeditions, PO Box 1442, Islamabad, Pakistan. T. 853672 Tx.5811 NAIBA PK Fx. 922-51-822313; Nazir was extremely helpful and enabled us to get a Helicopter bond- otherwise we would not have been able to call on one if needed

Salmon Ali, Taxi driver, Contact at Park hotel, Gilgit Travel, Airport Road, Rawalpindi. we used Salmon a lot and he proved helpful and amiable. He is a Christian and appreciates the odd beer if you can

Ikram Baig, Adventure Centre PVT Ltd., Shara-E-Quaid-E-Azam, PO Box 516, Gilgit., 15100, Pakistan; T. (0572) 2409 Fax (0572) 2525-Attn Ikram. Son of GM Baig who was killed in an air crash Ikram now runs an agency to provide guides etc. for adventurous travellers.

Pak China Cloth Shop and Garments, Airport Road, Gilgit. This shop produced Very nice Shalwar Kameezes both from their own stock of cotton 375Rs and in silk bought elsewhere 60Rs. Can produce a garment in around 24/36 hours.

Quadrat Ali ( our Guide / Cook), District Gilgit, P.O. Gulmit, Village Shimshal, Pakistan.

## Hotels & Eating

### Rawalpindi

Pine Hotel T. 563660 Fairly clean and reasonably priced at 375 for a twin bedded room 425 for a three bedded room.

Convenient for Pearl Continental, for the markets in Rawalpindi and the Test Cricket Ground.

Pearl Continental was very good value for the 125Rs Buffet and was used by us twice on the way out. We noticed that a lot of other, larger expeditions also used it.

### Gilgit

Hunza Inn. Some very nice rooms:cost 350 for best rooms -will put in an extra bed if required. Pleasant garden area- good porridge for breakfast (order double helping). Toast always underdone -it is all over Pakistan. Has own dining room where basic,reasonable costing food can be got. (Ask about the sweet-Creme Caramel)

New Kashghar Inn, Cinema Bazar, Gilgit. Reported by guide books to be one of the best places to eat in Gilgit. We found the food OK but the surroundings were less than clean,perhaps ethnic!

### Also Met

Ghulam Mohammed, Village Nahkey, P/D Terishing, Tehsil Astore, Diamer District Astore, N.A. Gilgit, Pakistan (Nanga Parbat Guide)

Ashraf Aman, Adventure Tours Pakistan, No 447, St. 51, G-9/1, PO Box 1780, Islamabad. T. 852505 Tx. 54484 Tours Pk (Guide)

YORKSHIRE SHIMSHAL MALANGUTTI GLACIER EXPEDITION ~ 23rd JULY to 31st AUGUST 1991

<u>NAME</u>	PAUL EDWARD HUDSON	STEVEN JOHN BAKER	KENNETH CHARLES FINDLAY	LESIE HOLBERT	JOHN PRICHARD	KEITH EDGAR DAVIS WITHALL	NILS SJOSTROM
<u>ADDRESS</u>	88 ASH ROAD HEADINGLEY LEEDS LS6 3HD						
<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	8 . 2 . 1949	5 . 7 . 1961	20 . 1 . 1957	21 . 7 . 1955	21 . 2 . 1941	6 . 5 . 1942	2 . 6 . 1955
<u>NATIONALITY</u>	BRITISH	BRITISH	BRITISH	BRITISH	BRITISH	BRITISH	SWEDISH
<u>PASSPORT No.</u>							
<u>BLOOD GROUP</u>	A RH POSITIVE	A			A		A RH POSITIVE
<u>NEXT OF KIN ADDRESS</u>	88 ASH ROAD LEEDS LS6 3HD UNITED KINGDOM						
<u>TELEPHONE</u>							
<u>PASSPORT EXPIRY DATE</u>	10 - 7 - 97	16 - 5 - 98	10 - 5 - 95	27 - 1 - 96	12 - 6 - 2001	12 - 10 - 92	8 - 7 - 2001
<u>RANCE</u> <u>ALLS</u>	British Mountaineering Council Expedition Insurance Scheme Perkins Stacie Ltd Elizabeth House 22 Suffolk Street Queensway Birmingham B1 1LS	British Mountaineering Council Expedition Insurance Scheme Perkins Stacie Ltd Elizabeth House 22 Suffolk Street Queensway Birmingham B1 1LS	British Mountaineering Council Expedition Insurance Scheme Perkins Stacie Ltd Elizabeth House 22 Suffolk Street Queensway Birmingham B1 1LS	British Mountaineering Council Expedition Insurance Scheme Perkins Stacie Ltd Elizabeth House 22 Suffolk Street Queensway Birmingham B1 1LS	British Mountaineering Council Expedition Insurance Scheme Perkins Stacie Ltd Elizabeth House 22 Suffolk Street Queensway Birmingham B1 1LS	British Mountaineering Council Expedition Insurance Scheme Perkins Stacie Ltd Elizabeth House 22 Suffolk Street Queensway Birmingham B1 1LS	FOLKSAM 400 14 GOTEBOURG SWEDEN
<u>COMPANY</u>							
<u>POLICY No.</u>	EX 0921 A	EX 0922 A	EX 0921 A	EX 0921 A	EX 0921 A	EX 0921 A	SOS COPENHAGEN
<u>CONTACT</u>	Europ Assistance Em. Serv. London 680 1234 Telex 947736 Eura G (Insured by General Accident)	Europ Assistance Em. Serv. London 680 1234 Telex 947736 Eura G (Insured by General Accident)	Europ Assistance Em. Serv. London 680 1234 Telex 947736 Eura G (Insured by General Accident)	Europ Assistance Em. Serv. London 680 1234 Telex 947736 Eura G (Insured by General Accident)	Europ Assistance Em. Serv. London 680 1234 Telex 947736 Eura G (Insured by General Accident)	Europ Assistance Em. Serv. London 680 1234 Telex 947736 Eura G (Insured by General Accident)	
<u>VISA</u>	90 Days	More than 90 Days!	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	29 Days
<u>ALLERGIES REACTION</u>							
<u>OCCUPATION</u>	TEACHER	SOLICITOR	STUDENT	MARKET GARDENER	ADULT TEACHER	F. E. LECTURER	STUDENT

We took multiple copies of this form, fully filled in, on the advice of Roy Lindsay. It certainly proved worthwhile. Instead of each member having to fill in the official log book at each army check point we just handed one of these over.



# Finances

## INCOME

M.E.F.	£ 700.00
B.M.C./ Sports Council	£ 400.00
Co~Op token	£ 5.00
Astra Training Services	£ 75.00
Leeds Council ~ Sports Grant	£ 300.00
	<u>£1480.00</u>
Personal contributions	
(7 x £1225.56)	<u>£8578.88</u>
Personal Gear costs	£3535.00

## EXPENDITURE

### GROUP

Flights P.I.A	£3385.00
UK food	£ 250.00
1st Aid	£ 160.48
Tents	£ 945.89
Expedition sacks	£ 70.00
Climbing gear ~ Ropes etc	£ 507.25
Various Gear	£ 628.00
Gas	£ 66.50
Gas Export	£ 230.00
Insurance (BMC)	£ 700.00
Porters	£ 810.00
Cook / Guide	£ 324.00
Pakistan Transport	£ 340.00
Pakistan ~ food/meals	£ 600.00
Pakistan accommodation	£ 200.00
General expenses	£ 356.76
Postage in Pakistan	£ 285.00
UK Expenses	£ 200.00
	<u>10,058.88</u>

### OTHER

Film	£ 773.00
Clothing	£2318.00
Boots	£ 426.00
Other items	£ 188.00
	<u>£3535.00</u>

NB Astra Training services also gave a personal contribution to John of £75.00

## ITINERARY

- T 23 July** Ist team (Ken, Keith, Steve and Nils) fly Manchester to Islamabad. Flight calls at Copenhagen and is checked for damage after being hit by lightening, 3 1/2 hours delay.
- W 24 July** Ken, Keith, Steve and Nils arrive in Islamabad. Travel to Rawalpindi and book into Pine Hotel. Then get on with changing money, visiting PIA, police station and find Salween a useful taxi driver.
- Th 25 July** Ken, Steve, John and Nils visit Ministry of Tourism then British High Commission, later meet Nazir Sabir who will provide a helicopter bond. In evening Ken, Steve and Nils visit Australian Embassy, drink beer and meet Ad Burgess. 2nd team (John, Les and Paul) travel to Manchester for 10 pm flight.
- F 26 July** Ken, Steve, Keith and Nils visit PIA to confirm Gilgit flights and try to locate a minibus to carry the gear and some members to Gilgit. 2nd team arrive at 10 am and are met by 1st team, all go to Pine Hotel. Ken and Steve check out bus costs and rejoin others at Kashmir Wallas - a good meal in delightful coolness. Pay deposit of 1000Rs for bus. In evening everyone visits the British Club as guests - very nice company, beer and food.
- Sa 27 July** Paul, John and Nils fly to Gilgit. Les and Ken get medical and other supplies from Ad Burgess, Keith spends all day and some cash getting gas cylinders out of customs & Steve visits Nazir to obtain bond. Bus booked for an early start next 'morning'.
- Su 28 July** The KK Highway group depart Rawalpindi at 3am, getting to Gilgit at 7.30pm. Paul, John & Nils see Ikram and get food to hotel, hear from Hunza Inn staff about Quadrat a Shimshali who can guide for us.
- M 29 July** Everyone works at packing barrels as well as visits to Gilgit centre for shopping and eats. Meet with Quadrat & agree to employ him @ 300Rs/day, buy Quadrat shoes.
- T 30 July** After last minute purchases everyone except Les & Steve leave Gilgit by minibus for Pasu. L & S follow on later in the day after seeing the local army commander. Journey up is spectacular, great views of Rakaposhi. Steve & Les, with Aziz, arrive when we had given them up.
- W 31 July** All rise early and get equipment loaded on to the tractor trailer. 300Rs drive to Ju-jur, unload and final sort out. Employ 24 porters, Ken, Keith, Nils and John set off straight away, the others await the start of the porters. Meet man at Sugardan going for helicopter, friend dead in crevasse. After a hot dusty trek eventually reach Dut. Food barrels arrive late. Dut is hot, dusty, windy place with no spring water.
- Th 1 August** Porters arise early and catch us napping, many away before we had checked loads. A long walk with a rising path after bridge at Dip-Kut, then down to the river and two wire bridges. Crossed with excitement. Arrive at Zirat. There is a spring here and a large building. Set up tarp outside as protection and it rains heavily overnight. Ken refusing to move into shelter gets soaked.
- F 2 August** A late start as rain continues then a river level walk for about 2 hours crossing one side stream. A steep track takes us to Ferzeen, and dancing, the porters Shimshal style - us Morris dancing finished off with On Ikley Moor Ba Tat. After lunch continue to Base Camp at Malangutti. Porters paid off, we build the kitchen and set up tents.
- Sa 3 August** Mainly a rest and camp building day. Paul explored the glacier path but when looking for Nils climbed up steep dust slope to find more dust and with difficulty descended, finding Nils on return to base.
- Su 4 August** Paul, Les, John & Steve visit Shimshal with Quadrat (41/2hr walk) intending to return the same day, but stay overnight however as guests of Quadrat. Meet with Aziz and oldest man in village, Paul distributes photos taken from Schromberg's account of 1935. Get a full guided tour of the village, non-stop walking for around 3 hours! Ken, Keith & Nils heavily laden set off to explore the Malangutti's edge, bivi overnight at 'Holiday Inn'.
- M 5 August** Paul, John, Les & Steve return from Shimshal but cannot face moving up to follow other three, so rest in afternoon and plan to go early the next day. Ken & Keith return to base late in the day. Nils has a second bivi on his own.
- T 6 August** Ken & Keith have deserved rest day. John, Paul, Les & Steve set off up the glacier edge, meeting Nils just before the 'Holiday Inn' bivi. John, fed up, returns with Nils to base. Steve, Les & Paul continue and decide to venture on to the glacier. The day takes them towards Pyramid Peak and then to Corner Peak campsite, return to base in high spirits.
- W 7 August** John, Keith, Les, Ken, Nils & Paul set off up the 'edge' with full gear to establish ABC at Corner Peak. At 'Holiday Inn' Les returns while the others continue. Paul accompanies the main group to the central moraine then leaves them to return to base, uses the 'edge' path for the last time. Main party find camp site and establish ABC after a heavy and exhausting load carry.

- Th 8 August** At ABC Nils & Ken explore the upper meadows and Nils starts on the NE ridge, Ken calls him back. John & Keith make another carry from the cache on the moraine and cairn the route. At base .... Paul, Les & Steve use central moraine and carry food and equipment to ABC, also stripping gear from 'Holiday Inn'. By nightfall everyone was at the fully operational ABC and the first taste of the Choc-a-drinks hit the jaded pallets - exclamations of wonder were heard.
- F 9 August** A rainy night with snow higher up gave a rainy morning. Paul, John & Steve returned to base. At ABC .... Ken & Nils rested in the morning, hoping for a fine morrow and a chance at Corner Peak. Ken, Keith & Nils again explore the upper meadows in the afternoon reaching 4300m. Have great views of the mountains in sunshine. Les rests. At Base .... Quadrat, Paul, John & Steve are visited by some porters.
- Sa 10 August** At ABC .... Another dismal morning, more rain overnight and gloomy clouds cover all mountains. ABC left behind as all return to base. Difficulty in finding where to leave the glacier and losing path results in late arrival of the group to base. At Base .... Visit by porters, poor weather curtails plans to return to ABC.
- Su 11 August** Nils, who had now run out of time, & Quadrat visit Shimshal. Keith & Les (who had a chest pain) stayed at base while Paul, John, Steve & Ken set off back to ABC.
- M 12 August** From ABC .... Paul, Ken & Steve establish camp 1 on high meadow below Corner Peak, climb a short way up Corner Peak on loose, loose rock. Ken & Steve return to ABC and make 2nd carry up, Paul explores & cairns glacier, also finds good water supply. At base .... Quadrat & Nils return with two porters, later Nils & the porters set off for Pasu. At 11am Les & Keith set off for ABC.
- T 13 August** Paul, Ken & Steve climb 1st peak 5200m. Leave camp at 6.50am reaching summit at 12.50pm. Return to camp 1 at 3.40pm finding Les, Keith & John there. They had come from ABC that morning.
- W 14 August** Les, Keith & John climb their first peak (the 5200m peak climbed yesterday by others). Paul, Ken & Steve climb lower slopes of Shiffkitten Sar to bergschrund. Find it too late in the day to continue.
- Th 15 August** Ken & Steve climb 2nd peak next to the 5200m one, then return to ABC. Rest go down to ABC in morning. Les & Paul explore glacier route towards Pyramid Peak, John & Keith sort out ABC. All members at ABC by nightfall.
- F 16 August** Steve, John, Ken & Keith leave ABC for Base to collect more supplies, Paul & Les stay and rest but use the afternoon to collect alpine seeds.
- Sa 17 August** Steve, John, Ken & Keith return from Base, Paul & Les rest and have a little walk round to see where the river from above enters the glacier. All gear and food is sorted for the mass ascent of the glacier tomorrow.
- Su 18 August** All leave ABC for Pyramid Peak, fail to find safe route but find alternative. Use Findlay/Holbert route and establish Camp 2.
- M 19 August** Various visits and explorations, Ken & Keith do rock route at 4300m. Establish Stone Meadow bivi, Camp3.
- T 20 August** All leave Camp 3 at 3am. Paul, Steve & Ken climb peak shown as 5800m on map but get reading of 5550m on altimeter. Others become too tired and return to camp early. Return to Camp 2, much rain overnight.
- W 21 August** Another wet day, set off down to Base Camp via ABC where Quadrat is met, leave site clean.
- Th 22 August** Pack up Base Camp and prepare loads for porters, need 8. Quadrat leaves for Shimshal after 1pm to get men.
- F 23 August** 1st walkout day. Porters arrive late 10am. Set off for Zirat.
- Sa 24 August** 2nd walkout day. Cross wire bridges, rest at Dhut then on to Ju-jur. 2nd rest and meal then on at dusk to meet mini-bus at bridge. Drive to Gilgit arriving around 2am. Sleep in Hunza Inn gardens.
- Su 25 August** Rest day, everyone recovers from previous days.
- M 26 August** Day in Gilgit buying presents etc., send off loads by public bus to Rawalpindi. Have an evening meal at Serena Lodge - as farewell to Quadrat.
- T 27 August** Paul, Ken & Keith try to get early plane - Fail! Another day in Gilgit.
- W 28 August** Gilgit to Islamabad by road! All flights had been cancelled, arrive at around 5am on 29th.
- Th 29 August** Paul with assorted others spend all day trying to get extra baggage out on the plane, fail at customs.
- F 30 August** Islamabad, Ken ill, visit Friday market and British enclave, arrange for parcels to be sent home by staff there.
- S 31 August** Fly out of Pakistan, Les sick at airport/arrive in UK at 10am, Leeds at 12.30.



# THE MALANGUTTI GLACIER AREA EXPEDITION ROUTES

