

ace 25055

9117

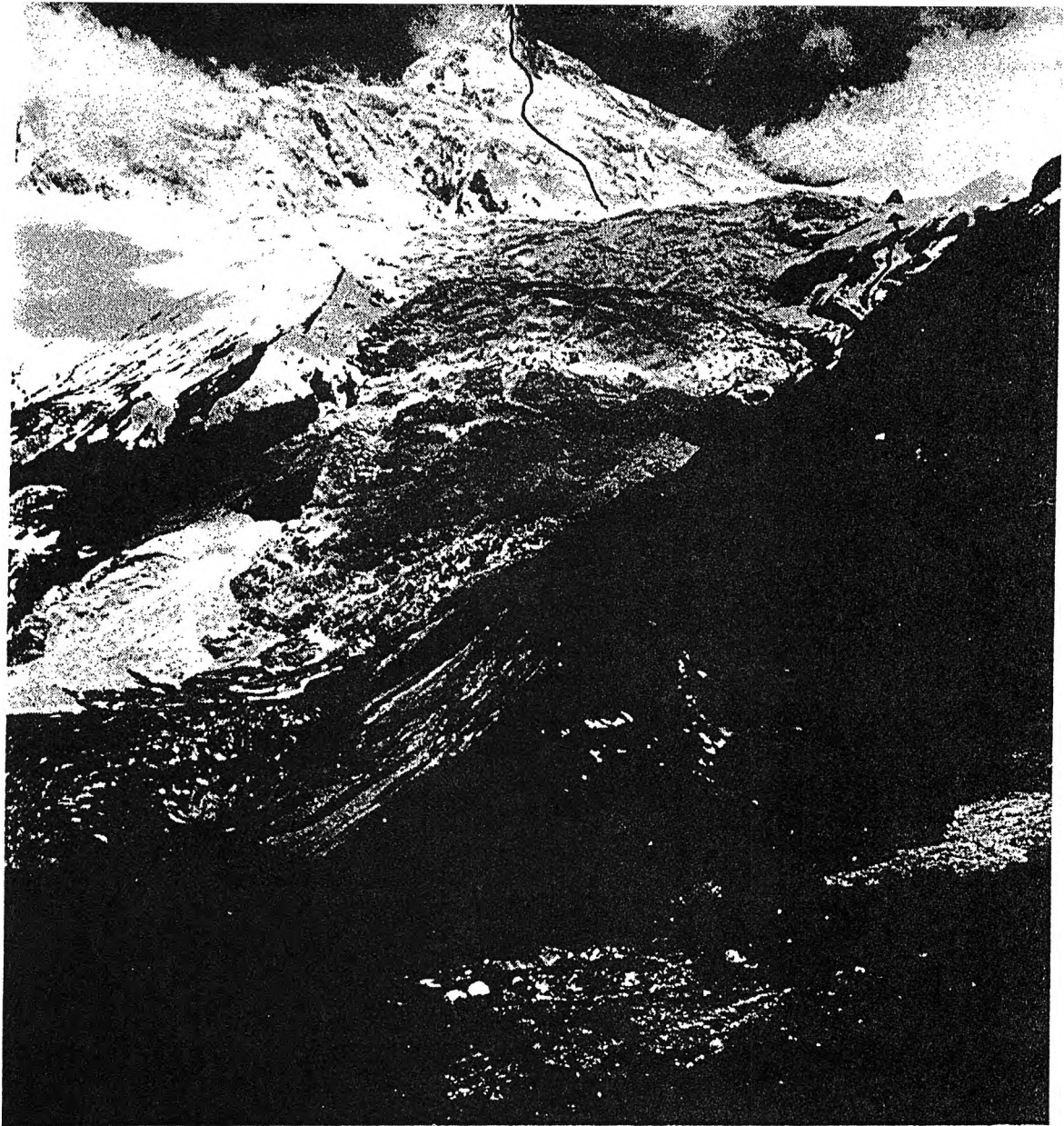
BRITISH WINTER MANASLU EXPEDITION. 1990/91

TEAM MEMBERS.

RON RUTLAND Expedition Leader.
ALAN DEAKIN.
JAMES COOPER.
HILARY MILLS.
DAVID ETHERINGTON.
ADRIAN MOORE.
BARRY ROGERS.

Ron Rutland.
14, Yewdale Rd.
Coniston,
Cumbria,
LA21 8 DU.
Tel 05394 41212.
Fax. 05394 41055.

+
626



View from Base Camp up first Icefall towards Camp 1.

MANASLU EAST 7,990m.

Manaslu East is one of the highest unclimbed mountains. This was the objective of the British Winter Manaslu Expedition 1990/91. The aim was to climb the mountain in winter in lightweight style without sherpa support

True alpine style tactics were decided against owing to the extra problems likely to be encountered in winter conditions but nevertheless the intention of a lightweight approach was carried out in practice. This may seem at odds with the 42 porters that we used to reach Base camp but this was in many ways a decision forced upon us because of the rules to maintain a minimum of four Nepali staff at Base Camp during the expedition.

In the event we were forced to abandon the attempt because of appalling snow conditions which were felt to present so high an avalanche risk as to be unacceptable. This was a unanimous decision.

The expedition vacated the mountain with all its unused goods and rubbish and then made a winter crossing of the Larkya La to join the Annapurna circuit and so back to Kathmandu.

MANASLU.

Manaslu East 7,990M is unclimbed.

Manaslu main peak 8,163M is the worlds eight highest mountain situated in North central Nepal, south of the border with Tibet.

Ascents.

17 W. German.
17 Nepalese.
15 Japanese including 3 women.
11 Swiss including 1 woman.
7 French.
6 Polish.
5 Austrian
4 Italian.
3 Spanish.
2 Yugoslav.
2 S. Korean.
1 British.
1 Czech.
1 Iranian.

92 Climbers (88 men and 4 women) from 14 nations.

Deaths.

12 Nepalese.
5 S. Korean.
4 Japanese including 1 woman.
4 Austrian.
3 Spaniard.
3 Soviet.
2 Yugoslav.
2 American including one woman.
1 Pole.
1 W. German.
1 Argentine.

38 climbers. (36 men and 2 women.)

The largest death toll on any expedition in Nepal took place on the NE face of Manaslu in a series of avalanches when 15 climbers lost their lives in April, 1972. This location is on the lower part of our route!

Above information correct at 1st Nov.1990.

EXPEDITION DIARY.

8th November, 1990.

Expedition arrives in Kathmandu. Barry Rogers withdraws from the expedition for personal health reasons. This matter had been discussed in the UK.

9th - 13th Nov.

Preparation in Kathmandu.

14th. Nov.

Bus to Ghorka.

15th - 24th Nov.

Walk in to Base Camp. 4,180m. This was a low BC owing to porters being unwilling to go higher. The weather during the walk in was mainly good with some showers which were obviously snow on high ground. We had a total of 42 porters.

25th - 26th Nov.

High BC established. 4,900m.

At this point we had encountered some deep snow.

Two porters were retained and used to carry some food and equipment to this camp.

25th Nov. - 3rd. Dec.

The route to the next camp at 5,700m involved a tortuous route across a heavily crevassed glacier. Our progress was slowed by a covering of powder snow which in places was up to two metres in depth. The weather up to this point had been good with temperatures constantly below freezing sinking to 40 below in the shade.

4th - 7th Dec.

The route was pushed to 6,200m. This was despite very poor snow conditions. At this point a unanimous decision was made that the route that we had chosen was too dangerous owing to the prevailing high a valanche risk. All the team were in good health.

There had been very little snowfall during our expedition but the amount of snow that had fallen prior to our arrival was immense. Owing to the very cold conditions this had remained unconsolidated on the mountain and it was this layer of dangerous unconsolidated snow that caused the final decision to be taken. A few years earlier twelve climbers had been killed in an avalanche in similar conditions!

Expedition diary cont.

8th -12th Dec.

We evacuate the mountain removing equipment and rubbish. Spare unwanted food is donated to the local monastery. The final descent day is shrouded in heavy mists and snowfall.

14th - 19th Dec.

Walk out via the Larkya La and return to Kathmandu.

20th - 27th. Dec.

Kathmandu. Govt. debriefing etc. Return to UK.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

British Mountaineering Council.
Mount Everest Foundation.

Berghaus. Rucsacs.
Rab Carrington. Sleeping bags and down suits.
Taymar. Epigas stoves.
Holgates. Food bars.
Fishermans Friends.
Pakistan International Airways.
Summitreks, Coniston.
Aiguille Alpine Equipment, Burton.
Atlas Trekking, Kathmandu.
Liz Hawley, Kathmandu.
Midland Bank, Ambleside.

Colin Mortlock and Frank Davies.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Expenditure.

Nepalese staff equipment payment.	£1,300.
Nepalese staff wages. LO. Sirdar. Cook. Cookboy.	£ 220.
Nepalese staff insurance.	£ 80.
Porter insurance.	£ 85.
Compensation for sacked porter!	£ 18.
Porter wages.	£1,785.
Food England.	£ 306.
Food Nepal.	£ 680.
Equipment England.	£ 432.
Equipment Nepal.	£ 700.
Bank charges.	£ 167.
Expedition members insurance.	£1,032.
Accommodation and camp site fees in Nepal.	£ 195.
Transport to Nepal, flights etc.	£3,360.
Transport in Nepal.	£ 85.
Agents fee. Nepal.	£ 305.
Peak fee.	£1,268.
Refund to MEF.	£ 250.
Miscellaneous, postage, admin, stationary etc.	£ 94.
Total	£12,362.

Income.

Mount Everest Foundation Grant.	£1,100.
British Mt. Council Grant.	£1,000.
Sale of T shirts	£ 410.
Sale of gear on return to Kathmandu.	£ 297.
Expedition members personal contribution.	£9,555.
Total	£12,362.

NB. There is no inclusion of purchase of members personal clothing and equipment such as boots or sleepings bags etc. Most members will have spent at least £1,000 on additional personal expenditure. There is therefore a hidden budget of approximately £18,000.

I would like to record our thanks to all who helped both prior to and during the expedition and apologise for any omissions for which I take full responsibility!

Ron Rutland.
Coniston.