

New Zealand Alpine Club Centennial Kulu Expedition 1991

Ref : Kulu.094

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Preliminary Report for the Mount Everest Foundation

Leader : Donald C. French
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Members Climbing : 18

Barnes	Peter Jason	Wellington	NZ
Brown	Nicholas Graham	Lower Hutt	NZ
Cave	Dr Murry Peter	Lower Hutt	NZ
Collins	Dr Moira	Christchurch	NZ
French	Donald Cameron	Wellington	NZ
Gurr	Robin Gordon	Auckland	NZ
Hoare	Christopher Paul	Wellington	NZ
Jackson	Christopher David	Stokes Valley	NZ
King	David James	Lower Hutt	NZ
McBrearty	Robin James	Wellington	NZ
Mitchell	Kenneth Logan	Wellington	NZ
Munster	Diana Elizabeth C.	Wellington	NZ
Peat	Michael Graham	Wellington	NZ
Redmayne	Roger Reinfrid	Woodville	NZ
Sheerin	Neil Lindsay	Wellington	NZ
Steel	Darryl	Wellington	NZ
Steele	Erica Jane	Wellington	NZ
Wadesworth	Clinton Peter	Wellington	NZ

Trekking Support members : 2

Mawdsley	Dr Anne	Wellington	NZ
Redmayne	Charlotte Jane	Shizuoka-Ken	Japan

Liaison Officer : 1

M.S. Bhandari	Joshimath (UP) India
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Objectives Papsura (6451ms) Any feasible route from south.
 Devachan (6187ms) Any feasible route from south.
 Sentinel (5639ms) Any feasible route from south.

Area Tos Nullah, Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh India.

Calender

Duration 12 August 1991 to 9 October 1991

See attached calender for more details

Brief description of events during expedition.

See attached drawing of the climbing region

A group of 18 climbers from Wellington New Zealand arrived in

India in August 1991. Unfortunately one climber was evacuated to New Zealand within two days of arriving in New Delhi. He sustained an injury to his foot after a poorly fixed hold parted from the Indian Mountaineering Foundations Climbing Wall.

The route to base camp was an easy walk from Marnikaran (Parvati Valley). The route followed the true right bank of the river to the point where we left this valley to the Tos Valley. This route followed the true right until the Tos glacier was gained. Another 4 hours walking above the true right of the Tos Glacier bought the expedition too Base Camp.

Base Camp was established on the west bank of the Tos Glacier at a place locally called Sara on 2 September. Over the next 10 days 2 camps were established on the neve underneath the two principal objectives, Devachan (6187m) and Papsura (6451m).

The route to the two neve camps followed the East branch of the Tos Glacier until a spur was obtained which was to the true left of the first prominent icefall. ABC was established on the upper lip of the glacier. The route to camp one was straight forward. At various times an intermediary camp dubbed "Tarn Camp" was used below the SW ridge of White Sail.

On 9 September Nick Brown and Don French, with Dave King and MS Bhandari (liaison Officer) in support established a bivvy under Sara Umga Pass. The Brown/French team climbed the impressive West Ridge of Sentinel. The climb was 27 pitches with the greatest difficulty being no more than grade 17. Brown and French spent a cold but comfortable night on the summit before descending via the Eastern flank. The peak had been believed to be virgin, but a piton was located just below the summit to the east.

A party consisting of Roger Redmayne, Mike Peat, Chris Jackson and Robin Gurr left camp 1 to attempt Papsura during the early hours 12 September. The group made good progress, zig zagging up the prominent gully to the North-West Ridge. The party experienced good conditions so was moving unroped. At approximately 6000m Mr Redmayne lost his footing and fell 400ms to his death. Mr Redmayne was aged 55 years, a retired farm manager from near Woodville. He was an experienced climber with many noteworthy ascents to his credit the New Zealand and the European Alps. No reason for the accident could be found. Conditions were good, climbers fit and healthy, and well acclimatised to this altitude.

13 September saw Rob McBrearty and Clinton Wadesworth successfully ascend Devachan via a gully on its Southern flank, and east ridge.

All members withdrew from the mountain for two weeks while formalities were completed and also due to a week long period of unstable weather patterns. During this period we experienced snow at Base Camp.

26 September saw three separate parties leave Camp 1. Two climbers attempted a repeat of the McBrearty/Wadesworth route on Devachan, but turned back due unsatisfactory snow conditions. Four climbers ascended the prominent gully to the North-West Ridge of Papsura before retreating.

The third party consisted of Mike Peat, Nick Brown and Don French climbed the West Face directly to Papsura's summit, reaching the

summit at 7.30 am. The party, during their descent of the North-West ridge set off two large slab avalanches.

All members cleared the mountain, and cleaned up rubbish from previous expeditions over the next few days, before quitting Base Camp on 3 October.

Finances

Approximate figures only. All figures are New Zealand Dollars

	NZ\$
Revenue	
Individual Contributions 3,800	
x 18	68,400
Other Contributions	
Mt Everest Foundation	1,674
Wellington Section NZ Alpine Club	2,000
Expedition Fund NZ Alpine Club	2,750
Other & Interest	1,000
Total Revenue	75,824
Expenditure	
Airfares	32,800
Indian Travel	2,678
Admin/Postage	2,000
Peak Fees	2,806
Travel Accommodation	2,720
Insurance	8,075
NZ Purchased Food & locally purch. luxury items	3,464
Air freight NZ/India/NZ	3,959
Liaison Officer Gear	458
Base Camp Food/Horses/Cook/Cooks Assistant/Mailrunner/ Base Camp Equipment Hire/ Local transport	11,087
Sundry Expenditure	5,462
Roger Redmayne Memorial Trophy	315
Total Expenditure	75,824

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18 August 1991 Majority of members arrive in New Delhi

21 August 1991 Dr Murry Cave broke foot while climbing on unsafe Indian Mountaineering Foundation Climbing Wall

22 August 1991 Team left by bus for Manali, Kullu District Himachal Pradesh.

23 August 1991 Team arrive in Manali. Joined up with Erica Steele and Kenneth Mitchell who had arrived in Manali a few days prior.

24 August 1991 Cave left India for New Zealand due to broken foot. Rob McBrearty and Clinton Wadesworth leave New Delhi with freight for Manali. Had difficulty clearing air freight.

26 August 1991 Charlotte Redmayne and Anne Mawdsley (trekking team) departed for country further north.

27 August 1991 Using two buses left for Marnikaran. Due to road blockage arrived evening. Joined by Cook, Cooks assistant and mailrunner.

28 August 1991 Using 45 horses left for Tos Village. Lost one horse and load over bank into river.

29 August 1991 Stayed at Tos village all day. Horse Wallahs not willing to move in heavy rain.

30 August 1991 Moved caravan onto Sarum Tach. Large grassy clearing with large bivvy rock.

31 August 1991 Moved caravan to Samsi Tach at base of Tos Glacier. Some members experience mild altitude headaches.

1 September 1991 Horse wallahs refused to move considering route unsafe. Small group recy route with horse wallahs and declared route safe.

2 September 1991 Moved caravan to Sara Tach, (Base Camp) via good route on true right of glacier.

3 September 1991 Dismissed horses. Few members did walks near base camp.

4 September 1991 Group of six establish route to A.B.C. and leave loads there. Another group of 7 went to Sara Umga Pass.

6 September 1991 Redmayne/Peat/Jackson/Gurr

McBrearty/Wadesworth move up to A.B.C. Collins/Munster carry to ABC. French/Brown King/Bhandari attempt to move to bivvy under Sara Umga Pass but return to B/C with poor weather.

7 September 1991 Above six establish route to Camp 1. Night at A.B.C.

8 September 1991 Above six return to B/C. Sheerin/Steel Steele/Mitchell Collins/Munster move up to A.B.C. French/Brown/Barnes/Hoare carry to ABC.

9 September 1991 French/Brown/King/Bhandari move to bivvy spot 200ms below Sara Umga Pass. Sheerin/Steel move to Camp 1. Steele/Mitchell return to B/C. Collins/Munster move to Tarn Camp?

10 September 1991 French/Brown Climb West Ridge of Sentinel. 27 pitches of rock climbing, up to grade 17. Night spent on summit. King/Bhandari attempt same mountain from Eastern flank. Unsuccessful. Spent night out on mountain. Redmayne/Peat/Jackson/Gurr move up to Tarn Camp. McBrearty/Wadesworth to ABC. Collins/Munster return to B/C after unsuccessful attempt to get to Camp 1. Munster having Altitude problems.

11 September 1991 French/Brown descend eastern flank return to Sara Umga Pass bivvy site, joined by King/Bhandari before returning to base camp. Redmayne/Peat/Jackson/Gurr team move to Camp 1. McBrearty/Wadesworth move up to Tarn Camp.

12 September 1991 Redmayne/Peat/Jackson/Gurr team leave early in morning to attempt Papsura via NW ridge. At 6000ms approx. in prominent gully leading to ridge Redmayne loses footing and falls 400ms to his death. Party descend to body before returning to base camp. McBrearty/Wadesworth team move to Camp 1. Sheerin/Steel/Mitchell leave for ABC but return B/C after meeting descending party.

13 September 1991 McBrearty/Wadesworth party leave early in morning and climb Devachan via gully on south face, then onto southeast ridge. Summit gained. Reverse route to camp 1. Memorial service held at base camp for Roger Redmayne. German team establish B/C near ours.

14 September 1991 McBrearty/Wadesworth team return to base camp. Robin Gurr departs with news of Redmayne death.

15 September 1991 Collins/Munster Sheerin/Steel Peat/Brown/Mitchell Barnes/Hoare teams leaves for ABC. French/King carry to ABC.

16 September 1991 Sheerin/Steel to Camp 1. Collins/Munster Brown/Peat/Mitchell Barnes/Hoare to Tarn Camp. French/Steele King/Jackson to ABC.

17 September 1991 Collins/Munster Tarn Camp. Brown/Peat/Mitchell Barnes/Hoare French/Steele return to B/C. Snowing.

18 September 1991 Sheerin/Steel to B/C. Collins/Munster at Tarn Camp. King/Jackson at ABC. Snowing

19 September 1991 King/Jackson Collins/Munster return to B/C. More snow. Brown/Mitchell Barnes/Hoare move to Tarn Camp.

20 September 1991 Snow fall at B/C. Brown/Mitchell/Peat to Camp 1.

21 September 1991 McBrearty/Munster/Jackson leave for Home. Camp 1 party stay put.

22 September 1991 Brown/Mitchell/Peat return too B/C.

23 September 1991 Steele/Mitchell leave for Home.

24 September 1991 Barnes/Hoare, King/Collins/Steel/Sheerin & French/Peat/Brown team leave Base camp for Tarn Camp. Wadesworth to ABC.

25 September 1991 All three above teams move to Camp 1. Wadesworth returns to B/C.

26 September 1991 Barnes/Hoare team attempt to repeat McBrearty/Wadesworth route on Devachan. Turn back low on mountain due to unstable snow conditions. King/Collins/Steel/Sheerin team attempt NW ridge via Redmayne gully. Turned back when ridge is reached (6100ms approx). French/Peat/Brown team attempt West face of Papsura via prominent gully leading directly to summit. Easy front pointing conditions. Summit reached at 7:30am after 7.5 hours. Descended via NW ridge. Set of two large slab avalanches before joining NW ridge team and descending to Camp 1. On passing buried Roger Redmayne in simple grave.

27 September 1991 All three teams stripped Camp 1 and descended to Base Camp.

30 September 1991 Collins/Wadesworth/Hoare/King camp low under Sentinel (Sara Umga pass side).

1 October 1991 Sentinel team returns to B/C unsuccessful.

2 October 1991 Charlotte & Guy Redmayne arrive at B/C. Horses arrive in afternoon.

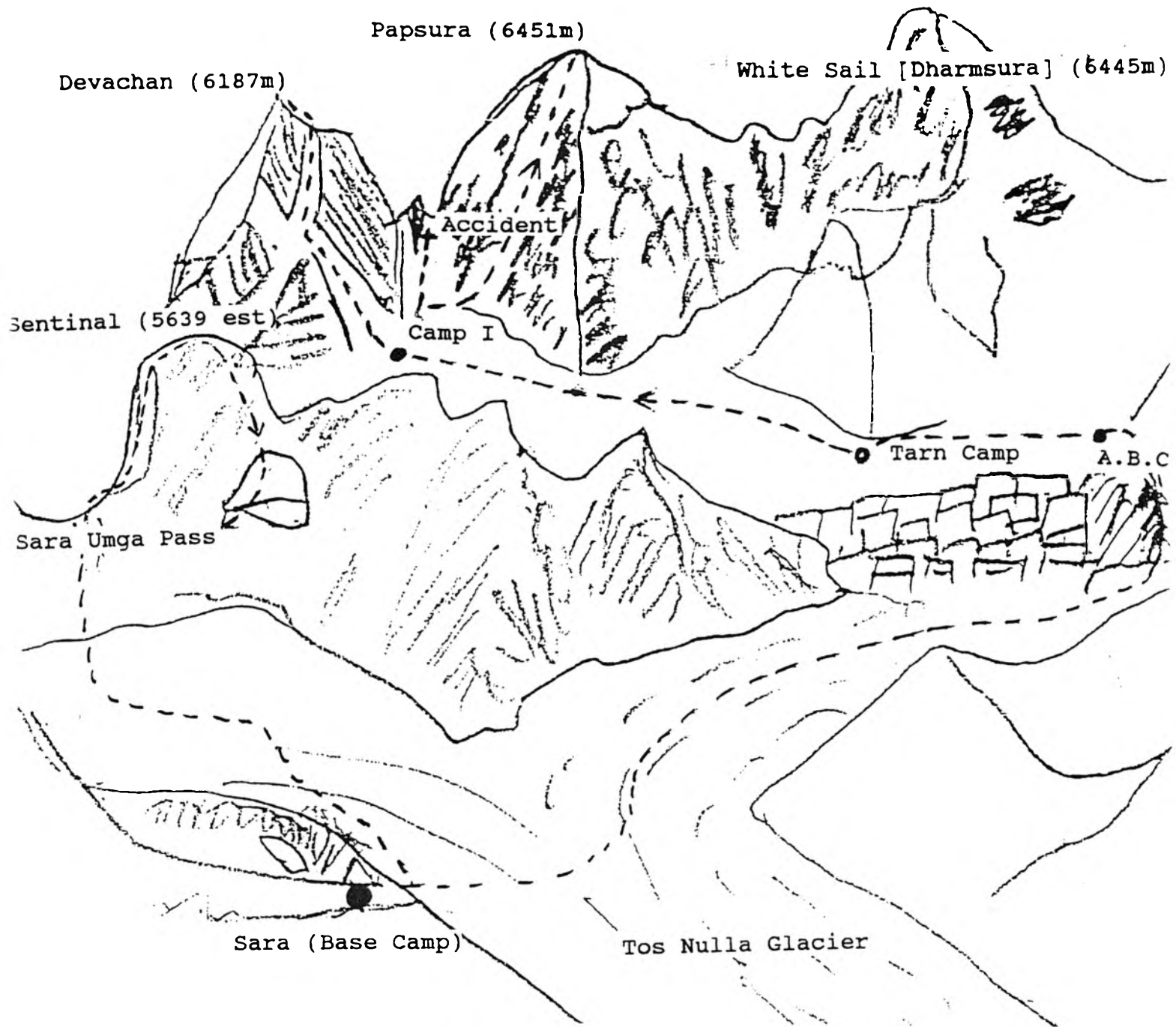
3 October 1991 Break base camp and descend to Sarum Tach. Brown/Peat cross Pass of Animals for next western Glacier system (Malana Nullah).

4 October 1991 Long day to Manikaran. Brown/Peat cross second pass to camp in valley system leading to Beas valley.

6 October 1991 Bus to Manali.

8 October 1991 Overnight bus to New Delhi.

9 October 1991 Arrive Indian Mountaineering Foundation New Delhi. Expedition completed.



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Tos Nulla, Kullu District Himachal Pradesh India