

BRITISH MAKRONG CHHISH EXPEDITION 1991SUMMARY REPORT

A report summarising the activities of the British Makrong Chhish Expedition. The primary objective of the expedition was the first ascent of Makrong Chhish 6608 M. in the Hispar region of the Pakistan Karakoram.

**Expedition Members:-**

Climbers - Steve Hillen (leader)  
Dave Lister  
Mike Penlington  
Dave Tyson

Cook - Hakim

Liaison Officer - Major farooq

In addition the expedition was supported by - Julie Gilbert  
Emma-Jane Waller

**Activities and Itinerary.**

Two expedition members Steve Hillen and Mike Penlington flew out to Islamabad on 7th June to make preliminary arrangements. They were joined on 12th June by the remaining expedition members.

The majority of the expedition members flew to Gilgit on June 14th, two of the party travelling by road with a large proportion of the equipment. Most of the food and cooking equipment was purchased in Gilgit, with only a small amount of specialised food carried from the U.K.

Transport to the Hispar valley was by three jeeps along the Karakoram highway to Nagar. At Nagar 30 porters were hired then the jeeps continued to Huru, the furthest jeepable settlement along the road to Hispar. The walk in began the following day along the Hispar valley to the village of Hispar and then on the North side of the Hispar glacier to Bitenmal where basecamp was established in sight of Makrong Chhish. The walk in took three days.

Advanced base camp was established by the four climbers and liaison officer on an ablation valley of the East Makrong glacier, a tributary glacier of the Hispar glacier.

The first attempt on the mountain was made on June 27th by all four climbers. The planned route was on the South face via a large gully leading to the East ridge about 300 m. below the summit. Two bivouacs were made, the second just below the highest point at about 6000 m. The attempt was abandoned as the party was not sufficiently acclimatised.



During a period of poor weather Camp 1 was established at approximately 4800 m. The final attempt on the mountain began at 7.30 pm on the 8th July following the original route. Some difficulty was experienced negotiating several of the crevasses which had opened up since the previous attempt. At approximately 11 a.m on the 9th July, ledges were dug at the previous high point in order for the climbers to rest until evening. Shortly afterwards a large avalanche swept down the gully over the ledges. None of the party were injured but it was decided to abandon the attempt.

On the descent, at 5 p.m. whilst abseiling over two crevasses, a snowstake anchor pulled out and Dave Lister slid approximately 60 ft before stopping. This left Steve Hillen above the crevasses without a rope. Steve front pointed down the slope to the second crevasse. Steve then jumped across the crevasse but lost his footing and started slipping. Dave Tyson, who was below Steve, moved to try and stop him but they became entangled and both slid down an avalanche runnel and over an ice cliff to their deaths.

The remaining two climbers recovered the bodies and then arranged for an army helicopter to retrieve them and for them to be flown back to the U.K.

The expedition was supported by the Mount Everest Foundation, British Mountaineering Council and Nick Escourt Award. Full acknowledgements will appear in the main expedition report which is being prepared.

For further information please contact-

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