

THE BRITISH MASHERBRUM II EXPEDITION

1991

Supported by the BMC and MEF



MASHERBRUM II seen from the lip of the plateau (top of the ropes) c.6000m. The route followed the corniced ridge running left to right (bottom of photo). Camp II was placed where the ridge hits the South Face. The face was climbed direct to deposit us on the right of the summit cornice (see photo) which was climbed to a heavily corniced summit.

Leader:

Mark Miller  
62 Nettleham Rd  
Sheffield  
S8 8SX

Dates:

21st AUG - 20th SEPT

Members:

Vic Radvills      Miguel Helft  
Graham Lipp  
Christine Patterson (Doctor)  
Ewen Todd  
Rob Spencer  
Duncan Talbot  
Mark Miller  
Andy Mayers  
Mark Neave  
Norman Croucher  
Terresa Booth  
Dave Little  
Ian Swarbrick  
  
Anwar Ali (Cook)  
Yosep Ali (Cook)  
Zafar Ali (L.O.)

Location:

Husho Valley, Karakoram, N. Pakistan.

Objective:

Masherbrum II c.7200. The mountain had received one ascent to date. Italian, S-E Ridge, 1988. Our ascent was the 2nd overall and 1st British.

Photo: Vic, Ewen, Graham,  
Duncan and Rob on  
the ropes.

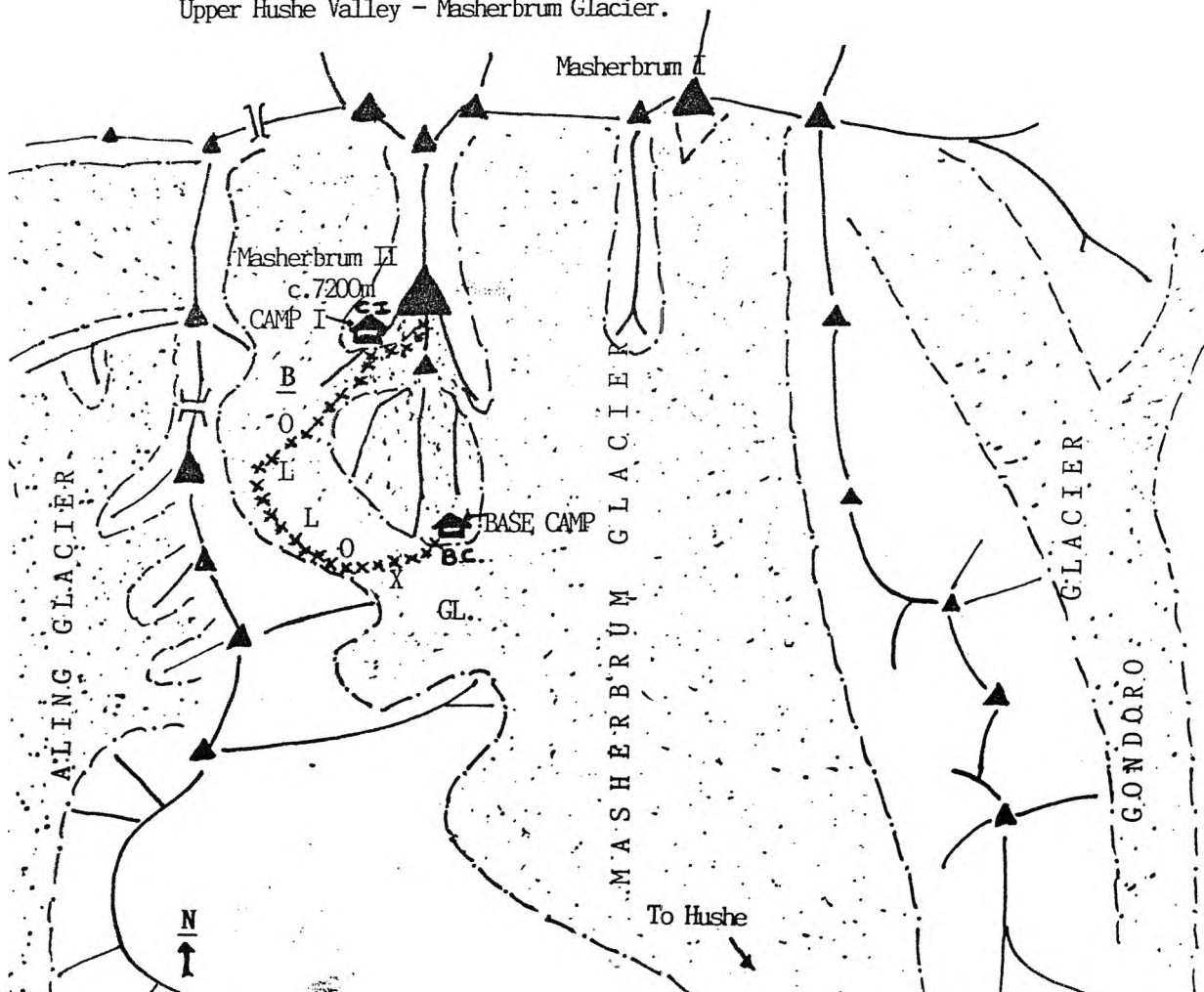


## THE ROUTE

From our base-camp at the Junction of the Bolux and Masherbrum Glaciers, we headed east up a large, boulder strewn river bed. We traversed to the south side and climbed onto the lateral moraine which was followed to the snout of the Bolux Glacier. We crossed the terminal moraine to the north side and headed north up the glacier until it bifurcated at a grassy knoll. Climbing this knoll took us off the glacier into a rocky valley. The glacier soon returned and dog-legged east to form a wide easy angled couloir. This couloir terminated in a rocky col (5,200m) where we situated our camp I. This route had been reced by some of the members whilst climbing Masherbrum I in 1989. The route then traversed east for 200m to join a icy couloir, This couloir was threatened almost constantly from stone-fall from the huge cliffs above and the seracs to the left. Several worrying moments were had in this vicinity. The couloir narrowed (especially dangerous) for 200m before widening into an ice field. We climbed to the foot of the rock buttress bounding the left side. We then headed diagonally left to an isolated rock buttress. The ice field was climbed direct to the rim of the basin (6,000m). Equipment was dumped here. A 400m traverse, due south connected us with a heavily corniced ridge which lead directly to the foot of the summit pyramid where we placed camp II (6400m). A shallow rib was followed passing the first serac on the right. The angle gradually increased as we approached the second serac, again passed on the right. We climbed directly to the summit, arriving on the East Ridge, 50m from the top. A huge overhanging ice mushroom surrounded the summit. This was eventually surmounted with the use of aid. A single rope led us to the heavily coriced summit.

A single static 9mm rope (presumably left by the Italians) was discovered to the east side of the summit, terminating beneath the ice overhang. An ice screw was salvaged from this rope and was used by us to abseil over the overhang from the summit. This discovery caused us to think that may be the Italians had not been to the top. No evidence of abseil points were found (may be they used a bollard?)

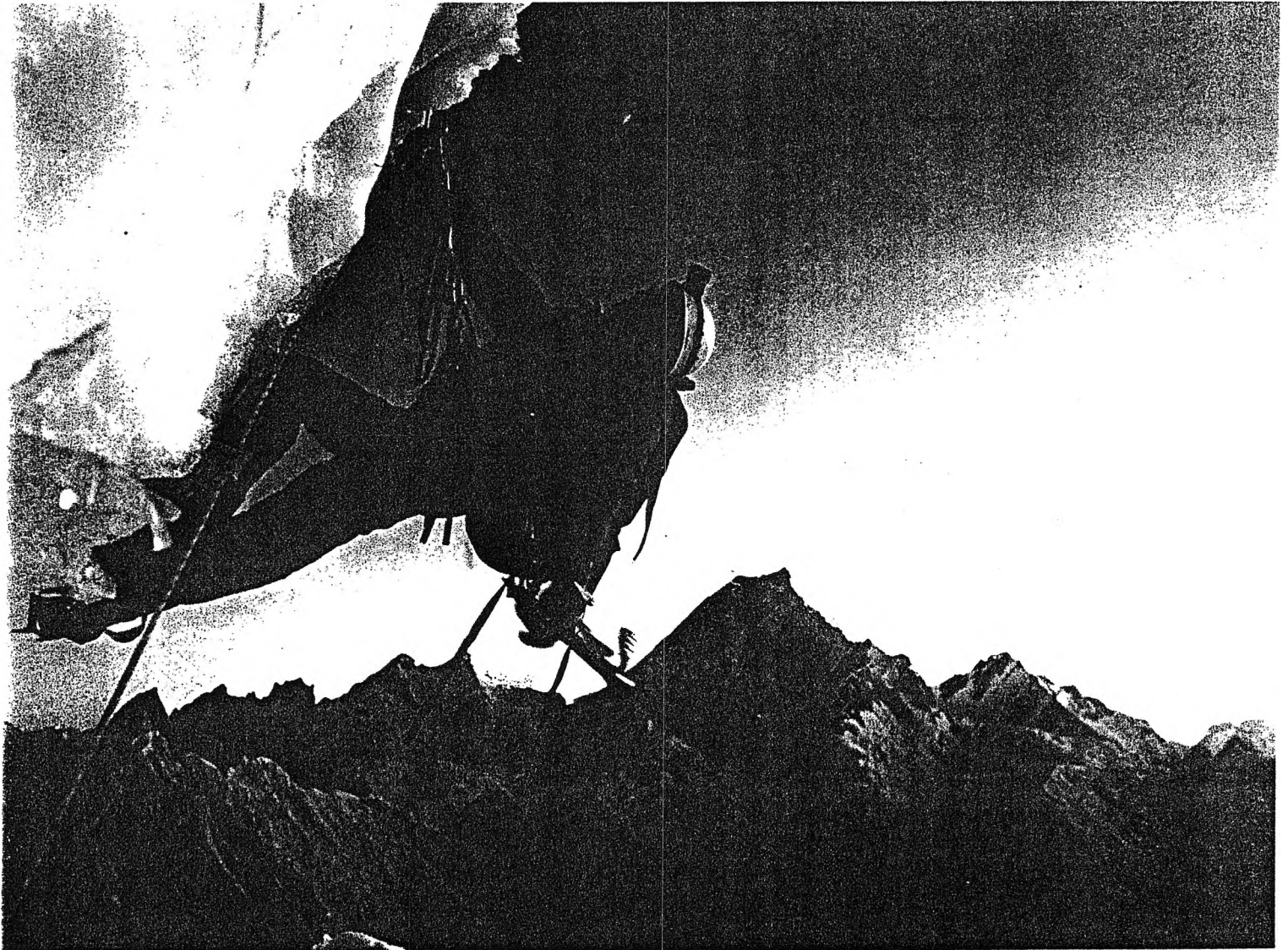
Upper Hushe Valley - Masherbrum Glacier.



STORES:

Approx. 200kg of food and gas (100 cylinders) was freighted out from Britian. The majority of the food was for the hill. All the shopping for the trip was done at a local cash and carry. The staples were purchased in Pindi, Skardu or Hushe itself.

Accidents: Christine took a 200ft fall from the narrows in the couloir above Camp I. She suffered severe bruising and grazing of her left side with some shock incurred. Duncan who was above her, Neave and Booth could not descend for fear of causing rock fall. Once out of the coloir they waited at the bottom of the fixed ropes to warm up Christine. Duncan continued up the ropes to Camp II where he alerted the others. Miller descended to the group of three with food and stove and after 2 hours rest all four continued to Camp II. The next morning at lam they left for the summit. Christine ( the expedition doctor) suffered some dizzyness on her ascent and descended to Camp I the same day as she topped out. She suspected she had broken her arm and had a very swollen hand. There was a point when we thought we might have to cut her rings off.



Victor tackling the summit mushroom, Masherbrum I and East behind.

Diary:

- AUG 21: Depart London  
22: Arrive Pindi  
23-26: Briefing etc.  
27: Depart for Skardu.  
28: Bus arrives 11pm  
29; Rest and dealings  
30: Jeep to Hushe 10hrs.  
31: Walk to Base Camp.
- Sept 1 : Two porter to Camp I with M, V, and E.  
2 : All but Norman as above.  
3 : M, D, A, R, V & E to C I to sleep.  
4 : M, V, & V to rim of basin c.6000m. and return to C I. All to CI.  
5 : Rest at C I  
6 : M, V, R, DUNCAN, D, E, & A to 6000m. M, V & E CONTINUE TO C II  
c. 6400. All return to CI. Acclimatisation day on fixed ropes  
7 : R to B.C.M, V, E, D & A to B.C.  
8 : R to CI. All at CI carry to 6000m. & return to CI  
9 : M, V, E, D, & A TO camp I. All other except Norman to B.C.  
10: Above plus N to CII and sleep.  
11: N rest at B.C. all above to summit and return (except M) to CI.  
G, I & Miguel arrive CII  
12: All but Miguel to summit. All but M, N & Miguel to CI. D, Neave,  
& T arrive CII.also Christine.  
13: All to summit and descend to CI.  
14: All to B.C. Those at BC. return to CI to clear camp I.  
15: Rest  
16: Walk to Hushe  
17: Rest  
18: Porters and Jeeps to Beligone. Half of group to Skardu, half Makalu  
19: All Skardu  
21: Flight to Pindi  
22: Pindi  
23: Pindi  
24; Pindi  
25: Fly home.

CONCLUSIONS:

Some of the team had been to altitude previously this year, but even still the rate at which all acclimatised was very rapid. All but one took Diamox prophylactically.

The weather was very stable throughout our time at B.C. with only one two day storm. September is an excellent month to climb in the Karakoram as it is cooler and consequently the snow and ice conditions are at their best. We were very fortunate with both. We arrived in Hushe in the rain and left in the rain.

FINANCES:

Porter to BC	650	
Porters to Camp I	80	
Hotels	1500	
Jeeps in	200	
Jeeps out	180	
Provisions - Hill & BC	2000	
Freight	800	
Drugs	400	
Air tickets UK - PAK - UK	9100	
Cooks	400	
LOs gear	700	
LOs wages and expenses	500	
Expedition equipment	3000	
Cooks gear	400	
Kitchen equipment	200	
BC misc.	200	
PIA internal flights	644	
Big bus Pindi - Skardu	400	
Porter insurance & staff	250	
Members insurance	1652	
Gas	150	
Peak fee	800	
Taxis	150	
Feight to Pindi	100	
Freight Pindi - London	200	
Admin.	500	
Interest on bonds	440	
Misc.	500	
Porters out	350	
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Total		25440

Income:

MEF	1200	
BMC	1000	
6 members paid £3000 each as clients.	18000	
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Total	20200	

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS: 5240