GEMINI KARAKORAM EXPEDITION - MEF Reference 92/33

1 EXPEDITION REPORT SUMMARY

1.1 EXPEDITION MEMBERS

Jonathan Preston Roy Ruddle

1.2 OBJECTIVES

First ascent, East Face of Pt 5550 (Passu glacier) First ascent of other sub 6000m objectives in the Passu glacier valley (Pt 5714 and Pt 5766 identified before leaving the UK)

1.3 ACHIEVEMENTS

Mountain	Route	Remarks
Pt 5550	South face	First ascent (Preston solo) 700m ice couloir direct to summit. Descent via E face. Grade: Alpine D
Fiyag (5550m) (Wakhi for Scapular; also known as Badshani and Kings Peak	North face	First ascent (Preston solo) 1400m ice face, finishing on the NW ridge. Grade: Alpine TD

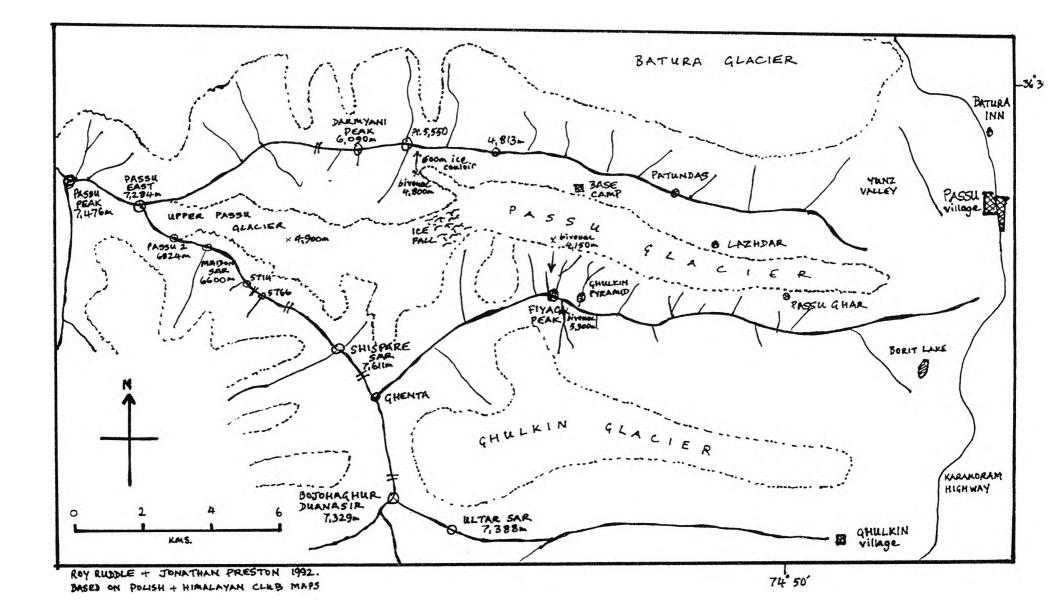
1.4 FINANCES

Income		Expenses	
Personal	1625	Travel	1140
MEF	450	Visas	70
BMC	250	Insurance	200
		Porters	100
		Food etc.	470
		Equipment	210
		Miscellaneous	135
Total	2325	Total	2325

1.5 DATES

Leave UK Return UK	8 August 1992 6 September 1992	Roy 40
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Roy Ruddle 40 Lindale Road Longridge Lancs. PR3 3FT



APPENDIX A - MEDICAL

We took a fairly comprehensive assortment of first aid equipment with us. Both of us are current holders of recognised first aid certificates.

We encountered three main medical problems:

- Despite our slow approach to base camp Roy contracted Acute Mountain Sickness and, probably, Pulmonary Oedema as well. His condition necessitated a hasty evacuation to the valley, complicated by the fact that this involved a 400m climb to cross a high plateau. Fortunately we acted early enough and he was able to make it under his own steam - just. Once in the valley ten days were needed before a fairly complete recovery was made from the chest infection that he had also developed.
- 2) Despite our care in eating Roy contracted what was probably acute gastroenteritis on the return journey to Rawalapindi. This is a common enough disease in Pakistan and in his case it took 6/7 days before all the nausea disappeared.
- 3) Jonathan contracted piles during his last few days at base camp. This caused some discomfort in the journeys to Gilgit and Rawalapindi, but, thankfully, he managed to prevent any infection from taking place.

APPENDIX B - FOOD

With the exception of chocolate and freeze dried mountain food one can buy almost anything in Rawalapindi's bazaars. We took a large quantity of HobNob's and Mars and Snicker chocolate bars out with us and obtained all our other food in Pakistan. As this was a short duration trip we didn't develop any desperate cravings.

Typical menus were:

Breakfast:	Porridge	
	Tea/Herbal Tea	
	Tang	

- Lunch: Biscuits Chocolate Cheese/Fish
- Dinner: Soup Pasta/Rice/Potatoes Cheese Biscuits

APPENDIX C - EOUIPMENT

This was a low level (sub 6000m) climbing trip. We took and used the kind of equipment one would expect to use on a cold summers day in the Alps. It is, perhaps, worth noting that a Lightline sleeping bag or similar is ideal for this kind of expedition.

We experienced one equipment failure - a Simond Chacal hammer. The rivets on this item broke while Jonathan was climbing some very hard ice near the top of Fiyag. Fortunately he was carrying Roy's Barracuda as a spare and was able to change them over. Had he not been carrying the spare his situation would have been quite serious.

APPENDIX D - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our thanks to the following people and organisations for the help they gave us:

- Mount Everest Foundation (expedition grant)
- British Mountaineering Council (expedition grant)
- Dave Carr (information and photographs)
- Geoff Cohen (information and photographs)
- Walter Phipps (information and photographs)

APPENDIX E - REFERENCES

As well as the individuals listed above we used the following references and believe they give a complete history climbing in the Passu glacier valley.

- American Alpine Journal (1974, 1980 1990)
- Alpine Journal (1987 1991/2)
- Mountain Magazine (Issues 17 145)