

British Hagshu North Face Expedition 1992

Reference No. 92/41

Final Report

The team was unfortunately reduced to three members, the day before flying from London. John Rowe, having been seriously injured in an accident in the Alps the prrevious month, had not recovered sufficiently and dropped out at the last moment.

Remaining team members :- D.J.(Smiler) Cuthbertson - Team Leader
J.Barry
B.Bowden

As we had previously (1989) attempted this face with the same number of team members, and that attempt was foiled only by bad weather, we decided to go ahead with the expedition.

Our party left London 3.9.1992 and arrived in Delhi, to be met by our assisting trekking Co. (Ibex International)

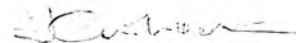
5th September...Flight to Leh, with our Liason Officer and truck transport to Kargil (Hotel).
6th.... .. to Ringdom Gompa (Camping).
7th.... .. to Abram (Camping).
8th.... Porters/Yaks to half-way up Hagshu Nullah (Camping).
9th.... To Base Camp. Afternoon snowstorm.
10th to 12th Preparation for climb. Setting up Advanced Base Camp (c4900 mts) on glacier - c5km from Base Camp. Afternoon snowstorm.
13th to 15th Setting up of Camp 1 at rocky notch on top of approach gully (c5100 mts). Afternoon snowstorm.
16th/17th Setting up of Camp 2 on plateau under North Face (c5300 mts). Afternoon snowstorm.
18th... Acclimatisation. Afternoon snowstorm.
!9th... 1st Attempt on North Face. Very difficult bergshrund. Climbed 250 mts up steep/deep snow towards steeper ice walls. Deteriorating weather forces us to retreat to Camp 2.
20th... Sitting out storm at Camp 2. (We calculate we must allow 7 days for ascent and descent. As our departure from Base Camp is scheduled for 26th September, we decide we must make a final attempt on the 21st.
21st... The weather has improved, as normal in the mornings, but there is much new snow. We climb the bergshrund again and reach the 1st steep ice walls by 11am. Extremely steep and difficult climbing leads for a furthur 150 mts onto the middle snow slope. The weather has deteriorated again, and by 3.30pm, it's a blizzard. We have no option but to dig a snow hole where we are, in the middle of the snow slope. The continous spindrift means we are unable to light our stove and have food or drink. This bad situation continues most of the night.



- 22nd... The weather has improved, but we have no option but to retreat. An orderly abseil evacuation is made, using ice screws, snow bollards and rock pegs in the few rocks we excavate. We abseil over the bergschrund and descend to Camp 1 by 2pm. We recuperate there overnight.
- 23rd... We dismantle Camp 2 and descend to the glacier, taking with us, all equipment and rubbish from Camp 2, and from Camp 1. We continue on down to Base Camp. Ironically, the weather is better today than at any time. Our liason Officer goes to Abram village to organise porter/yaks.
- 24th/25th... Base Camp.
- 26th... Base camp is dismantled, all rubbish burned and buried, all tins gathered and bagged for taking down and out. We descend the Hagshu Nullah to Abram and await our transport.
- 27th... Truck transport to Kargil. (Hotel).
- 28th... .. to Leh. (Hotel).
- 29th... Day spent in Leh, organising flight to Delhi.
- 30th... Flight to Delhi. (Hotel).
- 1st October... Team leaves Delhi for London.

N.B. The British Hagshu North Face team gratefully acknowledges the help and donations given by the Mount Everest Foundation and the British Mountaineering Council in this attempt of what is, arguably, a very difficult, but alpine style objective in the Indian Himalaya.

A copy of this report has been forwarded to the BMC, and a requested article, from the Himalayan journal, will be completed shortly.



D.J.(Smiler) Cuthbertson
November 1992

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Balance Sheet

Income		Expenditure	
M.E.F. Grant	750	Peak Fee	500
B.M.C. Grant	500	Air Fares	
		London/Delhi (1)	1146
		Delhi/Leh (2)	404
Personal Contributions		Trekking Co. services	
(3 Team Members		Includes Transport from	
At 815.00 ea)	2445	Leh/Abram. All porter/yak	
		services to/from base camp.	1440
		All base camp facilitated	
		ie. Food, camp cook etc.	
		Telephone/Fax/admin	
		expenses	24
		Hotel expenses Delhi/Leh	57
		Sundry equipment purchases	124
		(incl excess baggage costs)	
	3695		3695

Notes:-

- (1) Includes 3 team members
- (2) Includes Liason Officer


D.J.Cuthbertson
19.11.1992

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copy for I.M.F.

