

Muchichul Glacier Expedition 1993 – MEF 93/51A

Summary

The team made one foray into the Yain Hisk cwm.

Peter Thompson made the first ascent, solo, of Majun Chhish 5870m, climbing the north face and east ridge from the Mandosh Glacier.

Oct 25/22

93/SIA

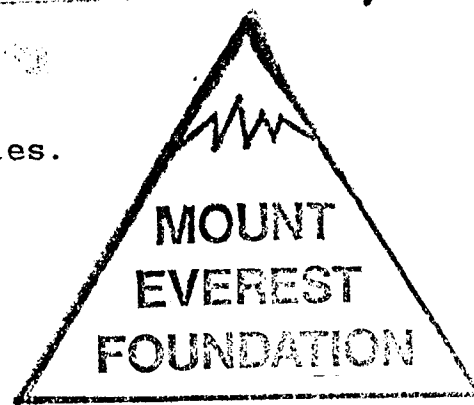
British Muchichul Glacier Expedition 1993

aka Muchuhar Glacier

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Stated purpose of expedition

Exploration of Southern Cwm of Hachinder Chish with a view to a future new route from there and climbs on the sub-6000m metre peaks that circle this cwm.

Actual achievements of this expedition

The expedition was hampered by unseasonable amounts of rain, suffering 16 days of rain (from showers to hailstorms) out of 22 days at and above base camp.

The team made one foray into the Yain Hisk glacier and Peter Thompson made a solo first ascent of Majun Chish 5800m.

Team Members

Duncan Hornby
Burt Simmons
Kevin Rogers
Peter Thompson
John Hornsby

Chronology

- 9/11th July Expedition members fly to Karachi/Islamabad
- 15th July Expedition all in Gilgit, having purchased gas and food for the trip.
- 16th July Travel to Aliabad
- 17th July Negotiations with porters
- 18th July Leave Aliabad
- 19th July Arrive Base Camp at Gutum Talje (3600M)

+ 623

20th July Acclimatisation walks to 4500M overlooking Yain Hisk glacier, no way onto glacier through ice-fall.

21st July Rock Climbing on compact granite slabs around base camp

22nd July Raining

23rd July Raining

24th July Raining

25th July Raining

26th July Raining

27th July Walk up and onto Mandosh Glacier stopping at 4500M to bivvy. Set out at midnight up large couloir towards summit ridge of Majun Chish (5800 m). 6 hours hard trailbreaking through deep crusted snow took us at daybreak to the summit ridge at 5400m. As conditions were so avalanche prone we decided to bail out. We decided it would probably be suicidal to descend the gully so we opted to descend the ridge until a rock-strewn gully allowed a less nervous descent.

28th July Decided to stay put on the glacier to maximise acclimatisation.

29th July Return to base camp

30th July Rest day

31st July Team gain access to Yain Hisk glacier by 300ft abseil and explore this area. Several good objectives are sized-up, but a route on Hachinder Chish looked unfeasible.

1st August Rain

2nd August Rain

3rd August Rain

4th August Rain

5th August Rain

6th August Light Rain Exploratory walk to Batokshi meadows at head of Muchichul glacier.

7th August Rain

8th August Rain easing

9th August Return to Mandosh Glacier, Afternoon Bivvy at 4500M. Depart 1 AM up same gully with much less snow. Duncan falls in crevasse and decides snow conditions dangerous. In the face of deteriorating weather and uncertain snow conditions everyone except Peter decides to descend. Peter pushes on alone and reaches the summit in poor conditions.

10th August All members descend to base camp in heavy rain.

11th August Rain and Hail with snow overnight. Finish what little remains of the food.

12th August Walk out leaving a stash for a return visit.

With still unstable weather conditions some of the team decided they might as well return home to work, while Burt and Duncan decided to sample chinese beer for a few weeks while Pete headed towards Skardu to trek, loosely arranging to meet up again in two weeks.

Duncan and Burt arrive back in Aliabad on 29th August with no sign of Pete.

30th August Having decided to attempt Majun Chish from a different valley, Duncan and Burt took a long thirsty walk up the Hachinder valley camping near a deserted village at 3800m.

31st August Continue walking camping near a reasonable water supply at approximately 4400m.

1st September From our camp a large couloir seemed to provide a logical route, however our entry into the couloir was greeted by several large rocks, so we traversed left and up gaining the ridge line at 5100m. Our way up looked a lot less inviting than the Zmutt nose on the Matterhorn so we decided against it and climbed onto a subsidiary summit at about 5200m where we had phenomenal views across to the Hispar and snow lake and down to Naltar.

2nd September Walk out to Aliabad, ominous high cirrus.

3rd September Heavy rain, decide to go to Gilgit.

Unfortunately Duncan had been suffering with undiagnosed Amoebic Cysts in his liver and intestines for the last week and decided he needed medical attention.

Burt stayed in Pakistan for several more weeks trekking near Nanga Parbat and in Hushe.

Pete returned on his own to the cache at Gutum Talje but was once again thwarted by bad weather and deep snow.

Prologue

The team was hampered by unusually bad weather and as we discovered afterwards this bad weather extended over most of Pakistan and caused record rainfalls in Ladakh.

There are many fine alpine style objectives in this area.

EXPEDITION ACCOUNTS

Pakistani Visa	£23 per person
Airfare London-Karachi person	Between £310 and £360 per
Airfare Karachi-Islamabad	£80 per person
Ground Transport	£18 per person
Accommodation Pakistan	£20 per person
Food purchased England	£30 per person
Food purchased Pakistan	£80 per person
Epigas	£40 per person
Equipment	£120 per person
Porters	£50 per person
Insurance (arranged individually)	£ 130 per person
Total £901 per person	
Total Expedition costs £ 4505	
Less Grants totalling £ 1500	
Members contributions £ 3005 ie £ 601 each	

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

45 Pakistani Rupees to one Pound Sterling

PORTERAGE

On arrival in Aliabad a day was spent finding a guide who we considered up to the job and then agreeing a rate of pay.

We eventually settled on Taigoun Beag of Hunza Safaris. He is a registered high altitude porter with the Pakistani authorities though I think it is many years since he has been active in this field. The rates that were negotiated with him were very reasonable, 200 rps a day for the guide and 150 rps a day for porters without food. As usual porters would be paid half wages for the walkout.

The usual rate in Pakistan appears to be 250 rps a day for a porter. In restricted areas a government set rate

applies for each stage of a journey. This has led to some porters outside of restricted areas attempting to bargain for very vague stage payments rather than daily payments. It always makes good sense to agree a fixed price to the destination regardless of time taken.

Taigoun Beag and his porters were very straightforward to deal with and we agreed a price of 600 rps per 25 kg load to base camp. In the event the walk-in took two rough days walking and the porters asked for an extra days pay, as we had been going to tip them anyway we just settled for an extra days pay, ie 750 rps per porter. Although we overpaid the porters on number of days worked we had such a good daily rate that it all worked out the same.

EQUIPMENT

All the members of the expedition had been climbing for many years and so had tried and tested items of gear.

Items that were purchased new included two vauDe space explorer tents, these were chosen for their light weight and low cost. The tents proved to be very comfortable for two people at base camp and quite sufficient for three people on the mountain. The main problem was poor design of the bell-end which didn't make good use of the space and non-existent through ventilation which made cooking in the tent problematical. This said though the tents are very light and a good compromise for those on a limited budget.

We took a combination of Epigas and Kerosene stoves with us, intending to use kerosene at basecamp and gas "on the hill". At basecamp we used a "traditional" primus which worked very well on the local fuel, the MSR proving to be quite temperamental, though we had occasion to use gas when cooking in the tents during long periods of rain.

SNOW AND ROCK CONDITIONS

The rock in the area is granite of differing qualities but from our experience although there seemed to be a lot of cracklines they invariably turned out to be just protectionless seams. This appears to be the same problem encountered by parties attempting the nearby Bublomotin.

CONCLUSION

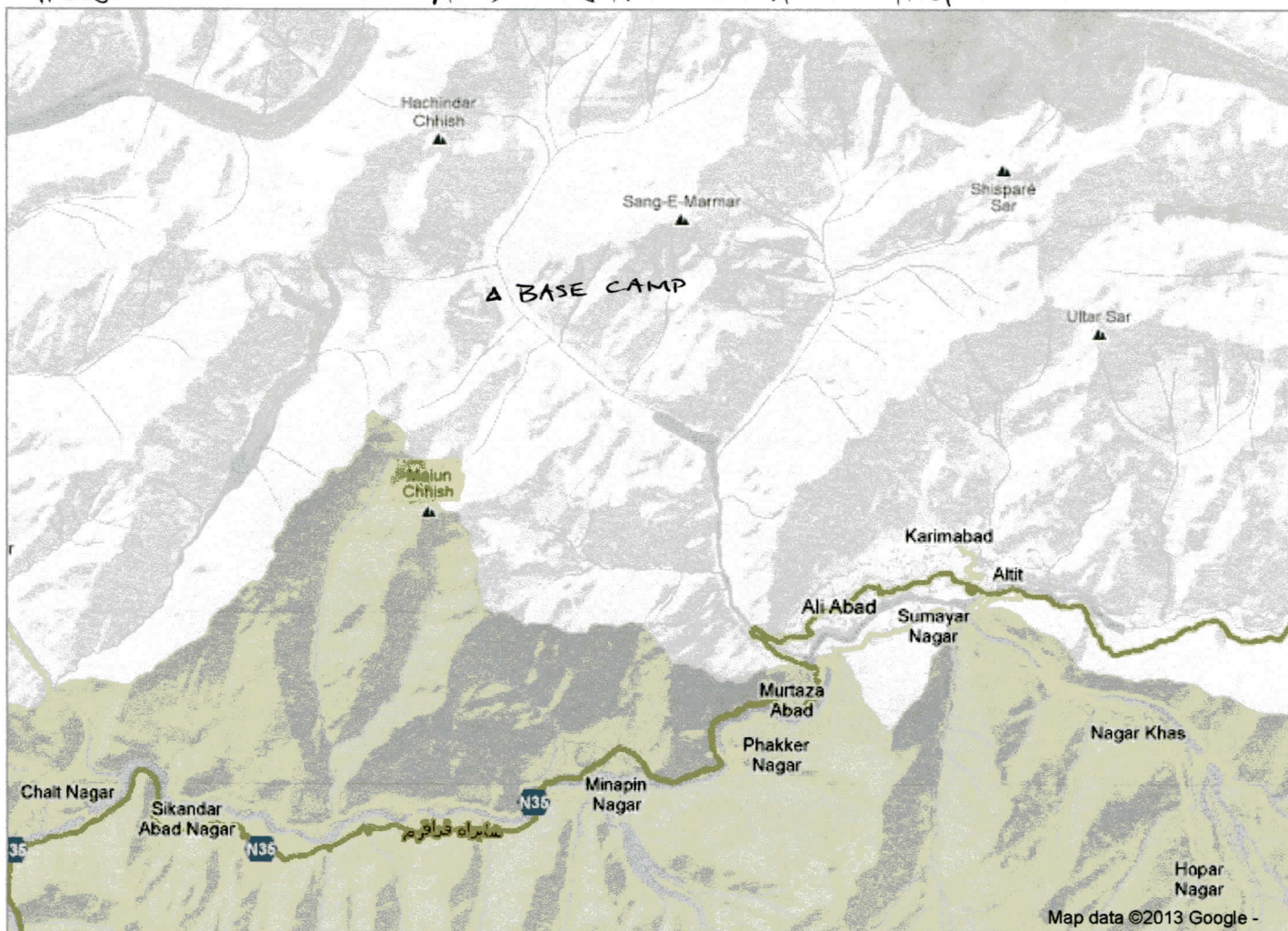
The trip was unsuccessful due to the poor weather, however, the team saw many tantalising alpine adjectives that make the area well worth a visit.

With the short walk-in it would be possible to climb in this area in a three week round trip from the UK.

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.



HUNZA VALLEY AND KARAKORAM HIGHWAY



MAJUN CHHISH (MAJUN CHHISH) 5870 m
 LAT/LON 36°20'09" N 74°27'55" E

BASE CAMP 3650 m
 LAT/LON 36°24'20" N 74°29'10" E

ELABORATION: JER;
PRINCIPAL SOURCE:
Cryopedology and Desi
No 1 (Batura) T. Miyar
Photos and literature



MAJUN CHHISH

TOPOGRAPHICAL SKETCH MAP OF THE BATURA WALL - PASU SAR - SHISPARE SAR

WALA, 31 - 452 KRAKOW, ul. Pawła Włodkowica 4/57, POLAND, CONSULTANT: ANDERS BOLINDER - THE HIMALAYAN CLUB - SWITZERLAND
 Practical Piloting Chart TPC G-7A, 1: 500 000, Edition 1 ACIC-US AIR Force 1968, The Map of Batura Glacier 1: 60 000 compiled by institute of Glaciology,
 Research, Academia Sinica Lanchow China 1978, Kammerverlaufskizze der Deutschen Himalaya - Karakorum Exp. 1954/59, Map of Karakorum 1: 200 000,
 IWA TO YUKI No 51/1976, J. Kurczab: Shispare, M. Prątkowski TATERNIK 1/1975, Sketch map: Rejon Batura - Jerzy Wala, Andrzej Paulo TATERNIK 1/1984.



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Majun Chhish first ascent route. The picture was taken from Batura I. The peaks from right to left are Hachindar Chhish, Majun Chhish, Rakaposhi and Nanga Parbat.



Majun Chhish with the summit out of picture to the right.