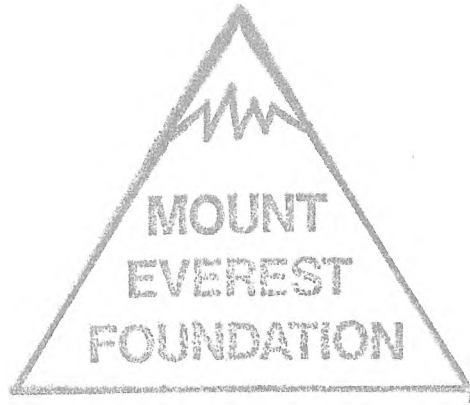


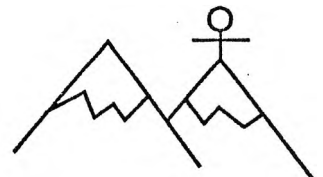
25803

623

94/21



**BRITISH  
WOMEN'S  
KARAKORAM  
EXPEDITION  
1994**



+ 623

## **TEAM MEMBERS:**

Penny Clay (leader)  
Julie Carter  
Wyn Clayton  
Mary Twomey

## **OBJECTIVES:**

Sceptre Peak (5800), unclimbed south-west ridge. East ridge climbed by RAF in 1961.

Mitre Peak (5945), west face, climbed in 1961 by RAF.

Crown Peak, unclimbed, height unknown.

All these peaks are located on the Aling glacier which lies to the north-west of Hushe. Sceptre and Mitre lie above the icefalls on the eastern branch of the glacier whilst Crown Peak (or, as it turned out to be, Portcullis, see below) stands on the main glacier.

## **ITINERARY AND ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS:**

17/7/94 - Leave UK.

24/7/94 - Base camp established on main arm of glacier, c.4100m.

28/7/94 - Bivvy at foot of icefalls on eastern branch of glacier, c.4400m.

30/7/94 - Bivvy at top of icefalls, c.4600m. Second recorded British ascent of eastern icefalls.

31/7/94 - Bivvy on snow plateau below Sceptre/Mitre col, c.5100m.

02/8/94 - 5am. P Clay, W Clayton, M Twomey reach summit ridge of Mitre Peak, c. 5900m. J Carter remained at the bivvy, unwell. Summit unapproachable due to poor snow and cornice danger.

*Route - Scottish grade 1/2, following RAF line of ascent. Some stonefall risk on lower slopes. Second recorded British ascent.*

During this trip up the eastern glacier we discovered that our Crown Peak was in fact Portcullis, named by the RAF and attempted by them from the east side. The real Crown Peak stands above the eastern icefalls out of sight from the main glacier. It appears to be over 6000m and is unclimbed.

09/8/94 - Bivvy at northern tip of the main glacier opposite potential routes on west side of Portcullis (previously Crown). Summit lower than anticipated, perhaps 5500m and routes very thin. High avalanche risk in couloir (attempted by A Stimpson in 1991). Decide to abandon attempt.

12/8/94 - P Clay and M Twomey return to bivvy site at foot of eastern icefalls.

13/8/94 - Bivvy at top of icefalls.

14/8/94 - Bivvy on snow plateau below Sceptre/Mitre col.

15/8/94 - Reconnoitre unclimbed south-west ridge on Sceptre, reach c.5400m. Decide to make summit attempt that night. 4pm, weather deteriorating, poor visibility and continuous snow by nightfall.

*Route - Scottish grade 1/2. Only possible difficulty in view bergschrund at c.5500m.*

16/8/94 - Forced to retreat to base camp by bad weather.

19/8/94 - Porters arrive at base camp.

20/8/94 - Leave base camp.

28/8/94 - Arrive back in UK.

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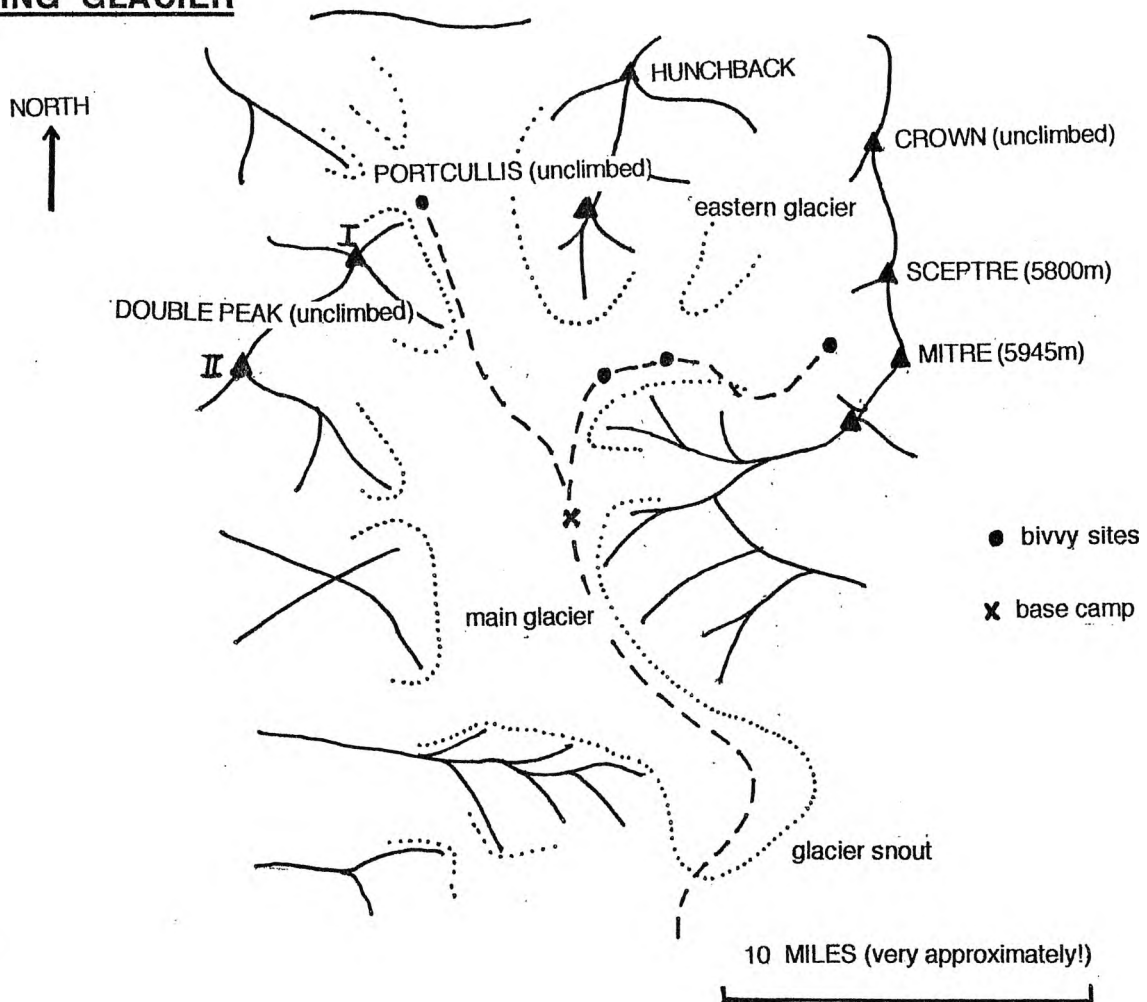
## MAPS USED

Our most useful source of information was the Royal Airforce Karakoram Expedition 1961 report. Experience proved their basic map to be the most accurate which our explorations confirmed.

Maps from recent British expeditions to the main branch of the glacier were less than reliable, if not confusing.

Thanks to Neil Wilson in Glasgow for lending us photos of what wasn't Crown Peak and telling us about the moraine!

## ALING GLACIER



This map is based on the 1961 RAF report and included for sketch purposes only. Please note this is *not* to scale.

## SERVICES USED IN PAKISTAN:

Through Baltistan Tours/MLM Systems:

### PORTERS

15 for 7 stages walk in from Hushe to Aling base camp.

5 used (though 6 would have saved us carrying huge loads!) for walk out.

### COOK

for 34 days.

### KITCHEN HIRE

arranged by agent.

### SIRDAR

7 stages.

### TRANSPORT

from Islamabad -> Skardu - minibus (arranged by agent)

from Skardu -> Hushe -> Skardu - jeep (ditto)

Skardu -> Islamabad - public bus.

### HOTELS

3 nights - Islamabad

4 nights - Skardu.

NB: We felt the use of an agent would be invaluable in arranging logistics in an area and country none of us had ever been to before. Also as this was our first expedition it seemed a good idea to avoid being ripped off. Unfortunately experience has proved that this is not so and that expeditions are just as vulnerable to exploitation by creditable agents.

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**EQUIPMENT**: the following companies generously donated equipment:

**NORTH CAPE**

gave us Pertex/fleece windsmocks which proved to invaluable as they were warm, comfortable and hard-wearing.

**NEEBEE LTD**

provided NBX Goretex lined boots for the walk in. They were comfortable and waterproof but the soles suffered somewhat on the interminable moraine.

**CROOKES HEALTHCARE**

donated Sun E45 products which were extremely effective.

**SMITH AND NEPHEW**

provided items essential for any womens' expedition!!

**LAKELAND PLASTICS**

gave us large quantities of resealable plastic bags which were excellent for hill food, documents, medicines etc.

**THE CLIMBERS SHOP, AMBLESIDE**

kindly supplied us with headtorch batteries.

We also received assistance in the purchasing of gear from the following companies:

**DURHAM MOUNTAINEERING**

Technique XP waterproof and breathable jackets and trousers.

**RAB DOWN EQUIPMENT**

down clothing, sleeping bags.

**TERRA NOVA EQUIPMENT LTD (WILD COUNTRY)**

tents and clothing.

**MOUNTAIN TECHNOLOGY (GLENCOE) LTD**

technical ice tools.

**MOUNTAIN LEISURE LTD**

Vuarnet sunglasses.

**THE GREAT ARETE, BANGOR**

ropes and harnesses.

**AGFA film.**

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

### INCOME : £

300	Alison Chadwick Award
500	MEF
500	BMC
4000	Members
600	Contingency fund
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5900	TOTAL

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### EXPENDITURE: £

2156	Flights
536	Insurance
259	Food from UK
200	MLM Systems for gas
2450	Costs in Pakistan - agent/porters/cook/kitchen hire/transport etc.
299	Other costs - administration/public transport/hotels etc.
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5900	TOTAL

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