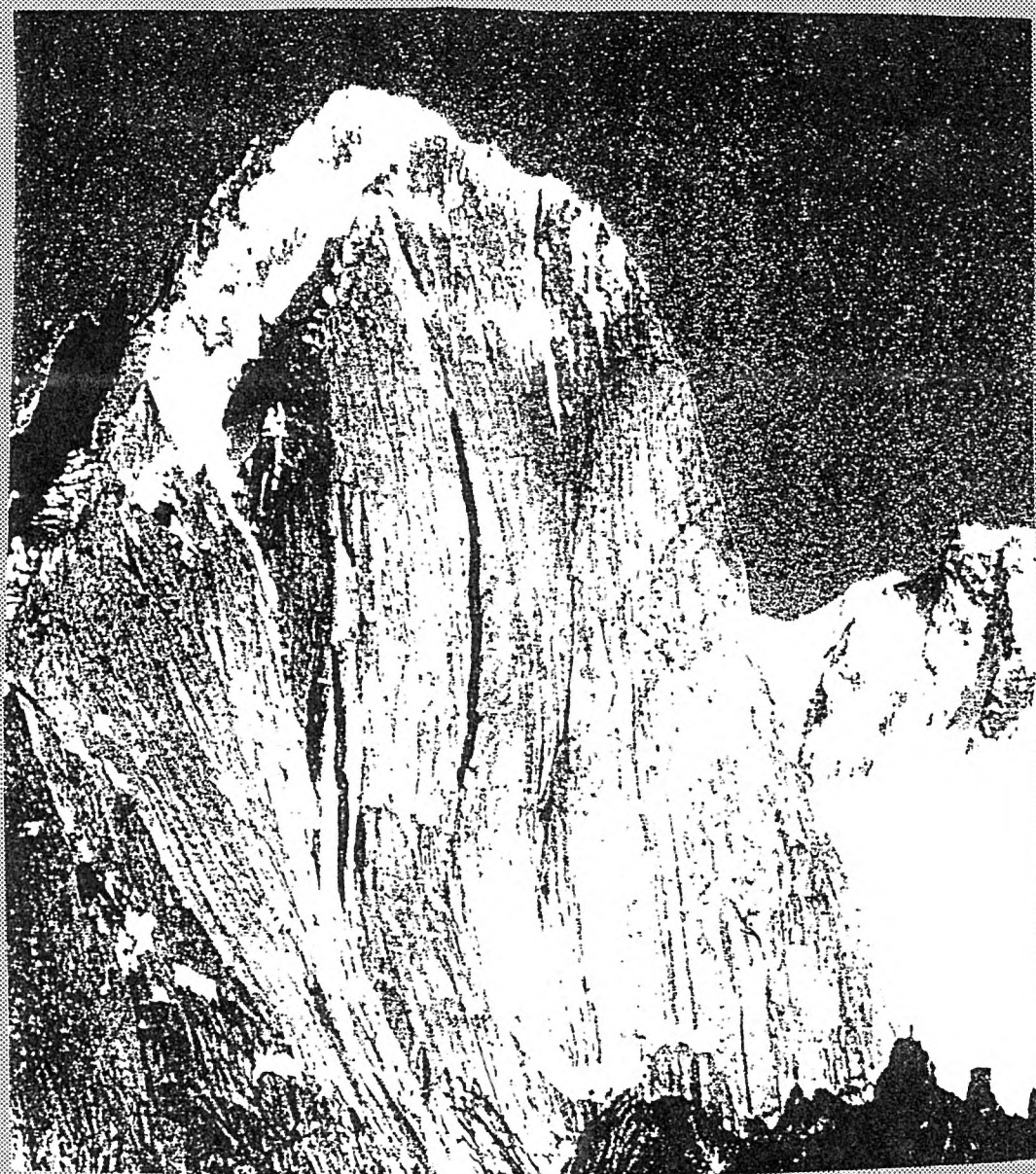
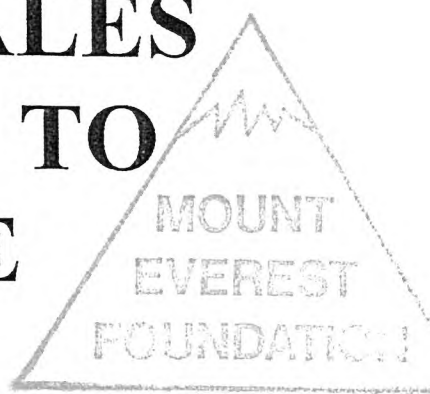


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JOINT NORTH WALES EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE



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JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

NORTH WALES EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE 1997

Objective

Team

New route information

Equipment

Logistics

Travel

Accommodation

Food

Medical

Environmental

Freighting

Sponsors

Maps

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

OBJECTIVE



To make the first ascent of the South East face of a mountain called BEATRICE by two new lines. The two teams; one all male the other all female would climb independently of each other, but on the same face. The mountain is approximately 5900m high and has a steep granite face of around 800m. Beatrice is situated above a tributary glacier, off the main Charakusa glacier in the Hushe area of the Karakoram in Pakistan. The style of the ascent was of Big Wall tactics, once established on the face.



Kath Pyke Glenda Huster Louise Thomas Ibrahim(cook) Grant Farquar Zakert(guide) Steve Mayers Mike 'Iwid' Turner

Mike "Twid" Turner

Background

Age 30 working in N Wales for last 7 years as a full-time instructor at Plas y Brenin. Has been climbing for 15 years and is a UIAGM mountain guide & MIC holder.

Climbing Summary

Leads at E8 traditionally and 8a on bolts including numerous first ascents in N Wales notable ascents: The Hollow Man E76b (Gogarth), first ascent of Howl at the Moon E76c (Castell Cidwm).

Winter climbing grade VII (ice & mixed) in Wales, Scotland, France and Canada. notable ascents: Baisser de la Lune and an early repeat of The Fly.

Alpine / long route experience

9 summers and 4 winters in Alps, lots of personal and guided routes.

notable ascents: Walker Spur, Freney Pillar, Divine Providence (Chamonix) and The Fisch (Dolomites). USA - big walls: Hallucigen Wall, The Black Canyon of the Gunnison (Utah) and The Nose, Shield & Salathe wall (Yosemite).

Expedition experience:

Patagonia '93 & '95: first ascents of Caveman (750m) and A Fist Full of Dollars (800m)
Greenland '96: second ascent of Moby Dick (Ulamertorsuaq - 1300m) and first ascent of Umwelten (Nulamatorsoq - 700m)

Grant Farquhar

Background

Age 29 working in N Wales as a Doctor. Has climbed extensively in UK and abroad for 13 years

Climbing Summary

Leads at E8 traditionally and 8a on bolts with many new routes particularly in Scotland. Extended climbing trips abroad to Europe, Australia and USA. Some winter routes in Scotland.

notable ascents: The Bells, The Bells E76b (Gogarth), The Scoop E66b (Strone Ulladale, Harris)

Alpine / long route experience

Brandler-Hasse and The Fisch (Dolomites), Hannibals Alptraum (Ratikon, Switzerland), Gullivers Travels (Grand Capucin, Chamonix) and Salathe Wall (Yosemite)

Steve Mayers

Background

Age 36 working in N Wales managing The Beacon Climbing Centre. Holds an MIA and has climbed extensively in the UK and abroad for 15 years.

Climbing Summary

Leads at E8 traditionally and 8b on bolts with many first ascents in UK and abroad. Extended climbing trips to Australia, Europe and USA. Winter climbs at grade VI in Scotland, Wales and France

notable ascents: Extinction E86b (first ascent - Gogarth), Wolverine E76b (on-sight, first ascent - Pembroke), The Scoop E66b (first one day ascent - Strone Ulladale, Harris)

Alpine / long route experience

Frenchman's Cap (Tasmania), The Fisch & Brandler Hasse (Dolomites), Hannibal's Alptraum (Ratikon, Switzerland), Gulliver's Travels (Grand Capucin, Chamonix), American Direct & The Dru Couloir - winter (Chamonix), Chibaina (Todra Gorge, Morocco)

NORTH WALES WOMENS EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

Objectives: To climb as an independent all womens team. We intend to climb a new route on a peak named Beartrice. The mountain has apparently been climbed once by a snowy couloir but has an unclimbed, steep rocky face. We intend to climb a new route, big wall or alpine style, up this estimated 800 - 1000m face. We believe that this is the first time that a British womens team have attempted a new route which is such a technical objective.

Louise Thomas

Background

Age 33 working in N Wales for 3 years as a full-time instructor at Plas y Brenin. Has been climbing for 15 years and is a UIAGM mountain guide & MIC holder.

Climbing Summary

Leads at E5 on traditional routes and has climbed extensively in the UK, Europe and Jordan
Winter climbing grade V/6 (ice & mixed) in Wales, Scotland, France and Canada.

Alpine / long route experience

9 summers and 3 winters in Alps, many guided and personal routes

notable ascents: American Direct - in a day, Cengalo N Buttress, N face of Mt Scercenand
traverse of the Bernina (Alps)

USA - big walls: Hallucigen Wall, The Black Canyon of the Gunnison (Utah) and The Nose,
Shield & Salathe (Yosemite)

Expedition experience:

Patagonia '93 & '95: first ascents of Caveman (750m) and A Fist Full of Dollars (800m)

Greenland '96: second ascent of Moby Dick (Ulamertorssuaq - 1300m) and first ascent of
Umwelten (Nulamatorsoq - 700m)

Glenda Huxter

Background

Age 32 working in N Wales as support worker for those with severe learning difficulties including
teaching outdoor activities

Climbing Summary

First female climber to on-sight E7 and the first to climb a new route on traditional gear at E5.

Winter climbs at grade V.

notable ascents: The Bells E76b (Gogarth), Lord of the Flies E66b (Cromlech),

Care in the Community E5 - first ascent (Gogarth), The Storm - first ascent (Lewis)

Alpine / long route experience

Salathe Wall, The Nose, Washington Column SE face, Half Dome regular route (Yosemite),
Split Pillar (Squamish, Canada)

JOINT NORTH WALES EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE



————— 'The EXCELLENT ADVENTURE'

LADS ROUTE

TWIDDOC3.DOC

————— 'HATEJA'

GIRLS ROUTE

The Route

An account of the climbing days on Beatrice:

day 1 - pitch 1 sieged by Twid & Steve. 20m of tricky overlaps were aided to an easier section of free climbing to loose ledges (A3 and 5a). Ropes fixed and descend to advance base.

day 2 - pitches 2 & 3 climbed at about 5b to more ledges & possible bivi site for portaledges. Ropes fixed and descend to advance base.

Poor weather forced a retreat to base camp for 5 days after which we returned with ledges and food with intention of staying on the face.

Day 3 - arrive at wall late in the day. Jumar up to ledges to find banked up snow in place of useful ledges reached previously. Dig out a small ledge and set up a portaledge camp. Reasonable camp with melting snow providing water and only hazard from falling ice coming out of cracks higher on route.

Day 4 - spend morning adjusting fixed ropes and improving camp. In afternoon Steve and Twid climb pitches 4 and 5 up superb corner (A3+). Fix ropes and descend to portaledge camp.

Day 5 - Twid and Grant continue up corner for pitches 6 and 7 (A3+). Fix ropes and descend to portaledge camp.

Day 6 - Steve and Grant climb pitch 8 (A2 & 5b), pitch 9 (A2 and very wet!) and pitch 10 (A3 and loose). Fix ropes and descend to portaledge camp.

Day 7 - Steve and Twid climb pitches 11 and 12 (A2 but with much more free climbing up to 5c). Fix final ropes and descend to base camp to rest.

Sit out 3 days of bad weather at base camp before returning for a final push.

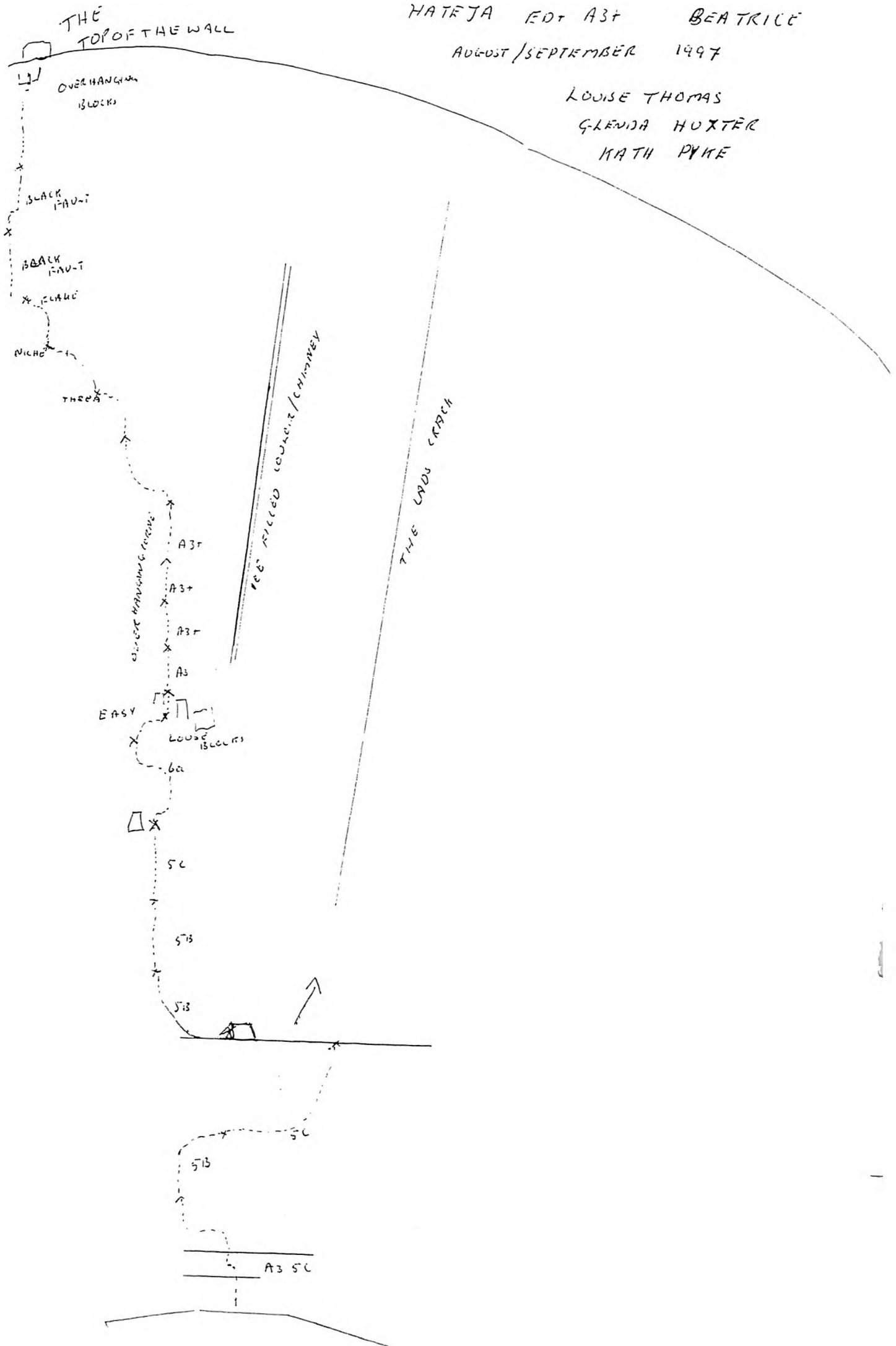
Day 8 - Jumar up to portaledge camp in afternoon.

Day 9 - Early start. Jumar up to high point approximately 300m above camp. Grant, Twid and Steve climb together for final pitches (13 - 18) leading us to the top of the route. More free climbing up to 5b as angle eased, some loose rock but, as with the rest of the route, mostly on immaculate rock. Take photos, admire the view and then start abseiling back to portaledge camp clearing all ropes en-route. Arrive back at camp after a 15 hour day.

Day 10 - Clear camp in morning. Descend to glacier with all equipment and then a long haul back to base camp.

HATEJA ED+ A3+ BEATRICE
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1997

LOUISE THOMAS
GLENDA HUXTER
KATH PYKE



FIRST ASCENT OF THE SOUTHEAST FACE OF BEATRICE

HATEJA (strong willed, determined lady) ED+ A3+ 750m

Louise Thomas, Kath Pyke, Glenda Huxter.

12 days climbing August/ September 1997

We were a team of three women; Kath Pyke Glenda Huxter and myself. The choice of people was simple; women inspired by the mountain, women prepared to attempt a new route, at altitude and with some concept of big wall climbing. Believe me, there are not many, so I was completely delighted when both Glenda and Kath agreed to join me.

Despite all our plans and promises our first opportunity to climb together was actually on Beatrice. In fact the first time that we coincided in the same room was 24 hour before departure. This fact seemed to make little difference. We each bought something different making, I believe, a strong and supportive team.

As women in a Muslim country we were anxious both as to how we should behave but also how we would be treated. Our anxiety increased with all bad press recounted by friends and fellow climbers who had previously visited Pakistan.

Fortunately our anxiety was unfounded. We were very well treated and well looked after and along side this we had no beurocratic nightmares. The three of us felt that it was important to respect the Pakistani culture. We wore the traditional 'shalwar-chemise' while in the towns and cities and kept arms, legs and head covered when in general public company. As a result were rarely harassed although we were occasionally the subject of curiosity. Glenda was particularly favoured and renamed by our cook and guide 'Nazia'

In less than a week we had arrived in Islamabad, collected freight, permits and food, travelled the Karakoram Highway to Skardu before a jeep journey took us up to the Hushe valley from where we began our walk in.

We were eager for exercise and perhaps too enthusiasm, as we tended to walk very fast. We started walking at just under 3000m, base camp was at 4100m. During the three days walk from Kande through Hushe then on up to base camp we were carrying as heavy loads as possible to save on porters but also to demonstrate that we were able to put some effort in ourselves. During these days Glenda began to suffer from the effects of altitude. As a team we felt that it was important to support any member who was not well. That they should not carry such big loads, that they should not be forced on regardless. I believe that the women's team felt more at ease with this, though it is desperately hard and frustrating for the person who is ill.

Arriving at base camp was a stunning experience. The glacier that we had been weaving through pushed over right leaving a flat almost grassy meadow with streams running through. At the far end the porters waited to greet us with singing and dancing. Our cook Ibrim already laid tea and goodies for our arrival. Rocky peaks surrounded us but we were thrilled that Beatrice was dominating and beautiful.

After establishing base camp it was decided to keep 2 porters to transport some equipment up to advanced base. As we had no idea where advanced base would be this meant that we had to sort gear, carry loads and locate an advanced base with no rest day. We decided on an early start to avoid the heat of the day. Fortunately no matter how early, Ibrim was always ready with porridge and chapaties. We all carried loads going by

different routes to try and identify the best way up through horrible scree and big rolling boulders. We found probably the best route on the right side of the slope but these slopes are never good.

2 to 3 hours later we all lay over heated and in various states of exhaustion on a moraine rib at the side of the glacier. This became advanced base with Ferrino and Wild Country tents. Glenda was now feeling distinctly poorly and so descended back to base with Twid and Grant who were also suffering with the heat and altitude. Kath, Steve and I continued up on to the glacier to try and find a route through and to get a better look at the face. We were eager to try and identify some possible lines. Three hours later we had not arrived at the base of the wall. We were between huge crevasses, relatively secure but not willing with our minimal kit to go further. We sat on our hump-backed lump of glacier, necks straining, our eyes upwards. The face looked hard, very hard. There were lines to the left that looked promising but what mainly caught our attention was a stunning over hanging crack that cut the main face. There was a potential stopper as overlapping roofs guarded the bottom of the whole of the main face walls. We turned tail and in about a third of the time descended to base to report back.

What to report? I imagine, in our hearts, we all hoped that there would be that weakness bottom to top after a little jaunt across the glacier. There is always a good reason why something so stunning remains untouched. What if we had to join the lads to break through the bottom roofs? Glenda may have been feeling unwell but she was utterly depressed by the thought. 'It matters so much more for us to do it on our own.' We would look to the cracks on the left. We discussed tactics and climbing rotors. All irrelevant in the end. If you were fit enough you climbed. Our plan was that Kath and I would have a leisurely day walking to advanced base. This would allow us to then make a start on a line. Glenda was now dealing with a resting heart rate of 110, feeling exhausted at any exertion. She would remain at base carrying loads if she improved. On the lads side both Twid and Grant appeared to be suffering from altitude. Steve joined Kath and I at advanced base.

We rose early hoping to make a start climbing. Through the boulders Twid appeared not wanting to let Steve down. Four on the rope was a definite improvement through the crevasses. Soon we reached our hump back and sat again to study the wall. Again we looked to the left a continuous corner and crack system maybe ledges. We were hopeful but as we looked we began to be aware of the tale tell signs of debris at the bottom. Reluctantly we began to share our fears then suddenly there was no need for quietly murmured uncertainties as the mountain let go of a torrent of ice rock and water down our once hopeful corner. The roofs were the only answer. There was only one way through.

The glacier seemed to extend and grow, the wall never seeming to arrive. Finally we kicked our way up a steep tongue of snow to the base. We teetered below the wall, hacking ledges to stand on. The plan was to break through the roofs and weave a way up on to an apparent ledge from which 2 possible lines continued. The rules were simple led for an hour and a half then lower off for the next person.

Twid began free climbing then aiding breaking through the first roof. It was my turn next to tackle the second and biggest roof. I tried to sound totally at ease, eager to get on with it. I was in fact terrified. What if I was incapable of doing 'my bit'? Quickly I reached the roof it was seamed with blind cracks. I placed a downward pointing

knifeblade to move up on, it groaned. The hopeful looking crack up left yielded nothing but a small RP. Trying to convince myself that my heart pounding in my ears was altitude, I gently moved up. It all held I was up over the roof, my time up, my turn over. Steve made his way up in to a hopeful crack system on the left. Unfortunately the rock was loose and he had to keep climbing just to find a good belay. Our first day climbing was over, four weary souls made a quick descent to boil in the bag meals and cosy sleeping bags.

The next day Grant appeared and replaced a now suffering Twid. Another early start back to the wall. It was Kath and Grants turn to push the way. Grant's lead took him back in line with our start making it possible to fix 100m of rope to the snow. Altitude was making us all slow so I jumared to help them just in time to follow Kath on an excellent pitch that took us to our ledge and future bivvy site. . Despite our early starts we were always fighting the end of the day. Kath and I organised the stance as best we could with ropes and gear. We surveyed the ledge, which was generally more of a slab with some very precarious boulders perched around apparently defying gravity. Memorising what we could we slid down the ropes and back to the tents.

Twid was waiting with tea and supper keen to hear how we had got on. We were happy to have reached the ledge. The line the lads were contemplating looked inspiring. It appeared to be a continuous overhanging crack. From the ledge Kath and I had been able to identify a corner system which looked feasible as far as we could see. It was more difficult to judge what happened higher up. However we decided it was our best option.

A rest day was definitely needed. We felt a little more relaxed as a start had been made and the next move would be to get established on the wall. As we sat supping tea and making plans in the dark, a head torch glimmered through the scree, it was Glenda.

We were really pleased to see her. We were concerned firstly; in case she had become more ill, secondly; that she would be miserable on her own at base camp and thirdly; that we were becoming more acclimatised. Fortunately she was not miserable as Ibrim and Zakir had been delighted to have someone to look after. Unfortunately she did not seem any better and had developed a horrendous cough.

In the morning Grant, Kath and Steve descended to base for a rest. Twid and I slept late before heading up the glacier carrying loads. Glenda accompanied me to see how she would feel. She did not feel well, everything felt a tremendous effort. Being ill on a trip must be the most soul-destroying experience. Not only do you have to cope with feeling lousy but you have to cope with feeling that you cannot contribute, that you are left back on your own wondering what you can do and contemplating how much it has cost you to feel ill in a far off land.

Back at advanced base we lazed in the sun, which soon disappeared behind steadily thickening clouds. We knew the signs, a front was approaching. Quickly we bundled kit into tents, grabbed every ones' sleeping bags and stumbled our way to base.

Ibrim was delighted; lots of people to look after and cook for. He celebrated with chips. The rain began as we huddled into the kitchen dining area that had been built for us out of tarps, boulders and climbing tape. Over tea I nursed a minor cut shin that I had sustained when a boulder had rolled while I had been standing on it. Kath then pulled up her leg to reveal a badly swollen and bruised ankle. Her foot had become pinned between two boulders on their descent. She was probably lucky not to have broken it.

That night we were too tired to worry about the consequences but the dry morning that followed found the three of us in deep discussion. Kath sat icing her ankle in the glacial stream while Glenda confessed that her pulse was still 110. We were a sorry team. Then the rain continued again.

It rained and some of the tents began to leak. Luckily it began to snow. We festered between tents and Kitchen and occasional exploratory walks up the hillside. Around us the mountains began to crash and boom as avalanches tumbled down. We felt very safe in our camp but still it snowed and snowed. We read, played cards watched endless chess challenges and felt the weariness of inactivity.

On a couple of days two of us returned to advanced base. The Ferrino tent had completely vanished under feet of snow beside it the super nova remained standing if slightly squashed. If it had collapsed as well we might have had great difficulty in finding our kit.

Finally after 8 days of rain and snow we woke to dispersing clouds. The mountains began to appear plastered in white. We made our plans to return to the wall. Although the poor weather had been frustrating it had made us take our time. Glenda had taken antibiotics as Grant suspected that she might have an infection. For the first time Glenda began to feel well. The enforced rest gave time to recover and Kath's ankle time to heal

For the first time all six of us headed up to advanced camp ready to go to the wall. Ibrim and Zakir sent us off after a fantastic pizza. We were on our way.

After digging out the tents we went to sleep full of hope and woke to yet more snow. Emotions were mixed and tempers fraught ought we to wait or push. Was it worth breaking trail? Fortunately we packed sacks and for six hours we waded through the snow burrowing a trail. The once innocuous glacier appeared an unfriendly and intimidating beast with its dangers so well hidden. We were grateful for the security of numbers on the rope. Exhausted by our efforts we reached dump zone and retreated. It took a full day to recover.

Finally we woke to a different morning, cold and clear. We made quick progress up our trail but despite this the final trail breaking now in the heat of the day through untouched snow while ferrying loads to the base of the wall took till late afternoon. We did not have enough time but still we began to jumar and haul bags up to our ledge. Darkness crept onto us as we reached our high point. It was no longer a ledge but a snow slope. All our equipment and ropes were buried. The lads moved up the snow to the base of the wall in waiting ledges that Twid had erected. Glenda, Kath and I struggled with the dark and weariness. Eventually late in the night we drank hot brews in sleeping bags on our temporary ledges. It was worth the effort.

Sun and falling ice woke us. The day was spent establishing a really good camp. We hacked out ledges, constructed mighty anchors, hung the portaledge, and made a funnel to collect water as the snow melted. Finally there was nothing left but to begin climbing. Glenda led off making tentative moves over loose rock into the corner, once establish she settled down to a long pitch of good climbing at about 5b. Kath followed and then continued on above. While they pushed out nearly 100m I came close to a heart attack trying to fit our Karrimor storm fly over the portaledge. Relieved when eventually the ledge was squeezed in I was dismayed to discover the zips on the outside only!

The girls returned happy and excited to have made progress with promises that my pitch looked great.

30m away the lads had made a slower start up the steadily steepening cracks. Steve was fit and eager unfortunately neither Twid nor Grant were well. However Twid was happy to belay in between vomiting from his bed.

We would wake early in order to jumar in the cool before the early sun hit our route. The bad weather seemed to mark a change of season although it was still warm in the sun at all other times it was utterly freezing. The lower section of our route was beneath a huge chimney couloir. In the cool it was safe but as the sun hit its ice filled cracks we would be showered by ice and small rocks. Glenda and I reached the top of the ropes with the sun. The warmth was lovely, the climbing steady but as time progressed the urgency of falling ice changed the mood of the climbing. Nearing the end of the rope a solid, huge spike appeared perfectly situated out to the side under a sheltering wall. Glenda joined me then launched back in to the firing line before escaping out left. Above she uttered that "it looked not too bad" but then went quiet. It was desperate moves with minimal protection. Glenda had recovered! The pitch took her on to what we hoped would be more ledges and possible bivvy sites. The ledges were non-existent but piles of teetering, huge loose blocks. Carefully we climbed up through heading for a steep corner above. By mid day we had lost the sun and although this made the lower corner much safer it was freezing. We fixed our ropes as carefully as possible and abseiled to bed and waiting tea.

The steep corner looked possible if aided. This was what I had to psyche myself up for. I was excited, nervous and totally committed. For several days we worked on the corner. I was slow but we made progress. The crack became awkward not yielding easily to gear. Pegs would rip, Nuts gave way to pee nuts and RP s. these would then not fit in to the crack but needed mashing. While I whittled away reminding myself to breath gently and stand lightly on my etriers Kath or Glenda would patiently encourage even after hours hanging in a harness in horrendous cold.

Each day we would return to the ledge and third person who was ready with hot tea and meals. There was a marked difference between the two teams living on the wall. Other than brief greetings the lads rarely talked to us. We could have been from another planet speaking a strange language! They were never unfriendly but they would climb, eat and sleep. Because we girls were smaller we could all snuggle into the double porta ledge for meals and gossip making life on the wall a very sociable experience. The other factor was that we felt weary but healthy were as Twid was still being sick and Grant would have his ups and downs.

Every day we were hopeful that we would see a break through, an easing and a way to the top. After a slow start with some hard aiding the lads had suddenly made progress breaking through the difficulties their crack had finally kicked back into steady free climbing. They were ready to go for the summit. Grant and Twid were still suffering so they decided to return to base for a rest before the final push. As snow began to fall we decided to go down as well.

By descending we hoped to get a look at the face however the cloud moved quickly in. It was Friday night, in a week we would have to have all our kit back at advanced base. I felt pleased with what we had achieved but so unsure what would happen. Would we have enough time?

We three rested Saturday but made an early start on Sunday. The weather was unsettled but cleared as we lunched. Again as we crossed the glacier the clouds obliterated our view of the face. The snow began as I jumared the first rope. I waited for Kath as we tried to haul some extra equipment. It snowed above me but water began to pour down the ropes and freeze. Kath struggled as her jumars began to slip on the ice covered ropes. Through the mist I could see the lads arrive.

“GO HOME GO DOWN” I screamed.

Of course they took one look and had no intention of coming up. Fortunately Glenda who was at the base of the wall was able to retreat with the lads. Kath and I decided to get up to the shelter of the ledges as quickly as we could.

The next hour was like a dream. It was freezing, raining and snowing, we were aware of the dangers of getting really cold and wet. I rushed to ascend the final rope pushing the jumar aggressively to cut through any ice but ice was not the problem and my action turned slush to ice, the jumar clattered down the rope into my chest. I took a big breath and calmly placed prusiks around the ropes.

Monday; We woke to a calm silence after a fitful night. The sun warmed the outside of the ledge and the orange of the canopy gave the impression of a fine day. We disturbed the peace beating the snow off the shelter and fighting with outside zips. On the other side the lads' camp was a torrent of water on their back wall with icicles decorating the base of their ledges. We spent a sunny few hours drying our kit. Below we could spy the same process happening at AB. Just as we began to contemplate the others return the clouds tumbled in, the sun vanished and it began to snow. We slept, chatted and slept.

Tuesday: Early sun dragged us from our beds. Being on the wall gave us a day in hand.

Up the ropes tentatively, checking for damage. The corner still continued, not relenting, not easing. I settled down and began aiding. Above me placements appeared to dwindle. I kept trying fiddling eventually something would hold and I would move up. Occasionally a good friend placement would remind me how useless the other pieces had been. Up on the wall we were able to watch a little trail being traced through the Glacier. The minute figures putting scale to the huge holes that they were weaving through.

Glenda was waiting at the ledge. The good news was that we had reached the top of the corner. The bad news was that the wall did not ease and the crack lines that we had been heading for still looked hard.

There was however a flake line out left.

Wednesday: We were woken by the lads heading off before dawn. I did not want to move. Earlier than I wanted I was back on the ropes heading up with Glenda. Glenda moved left to the flakes, easy climbing drew her away from the cracks and the solace of protection, scary moves would bring her back to find a belay. We made progress. For the first time the whole face appeared and we were able to watch the lads in a huge expanse of wall then disappear over the top. We were thrilled for them but worried by the sounds of retching. The sun had gone I was freezing but Glenda was prepared to do one more pitch. Her hands were numb as the rock drew the heat away not even adrenaline put heat back into them. She moved left again in to another crack. From this belay, flakes continued above and although we still could not see if they would take us to the top, we had to hope.

That night Twid, Steve and Grant returned safely to the ledges they had been to the top of the wall. Their route sounded brilliant. They were subdued by fatigue.

Thursday: Our last opportunity. We planned to rise at 4am unfortunately at 3am I was woken by the cold wet flakes of snow landing on my face. We closed the flaps and went back to an unhappy sleep. Discussions restarted at 6am. Could we afford to wait? What if the weather continued to snow, would we be able to ascend our ropes to retrieve the climbing gear? Eventually we decided to go up and retrieve the gear. We would all jumal in case the weather improved.

Going up the ropes it became apparent that this would be our last effort we were all too tired for a repeat performance. As Kath and I reached our high point the snow stopped. Kath led off aiming for a triangular niche that promised to become a belay. It was useless, she sounded worried. With the

aid of pegs an anchor was constructed and we were on our way. A black fault line was reached, it continued up. The fault was loose but continuous by 3pm we were below a final corner and steep cracks that led to the summit. We were on our way. Glenda headed up she, suddenly she was aware how exhausted she was how tired her muscles were. Kath and I willed her on. At 5.45pm we were on the top of the wall, perched on a tiny pinnacle. Chuffed to bits the clouds dispersed revealing mountains layered with mountains. We wanted to stay; we wanted this moment for as long as possible but as ever darkness made its call.

The top is never the end. We cleaned as much as we could and finally looked in dismay at the amount of kit that we were going to have to abseil with and carry in a day to AB. Kath and I touched down on the snow and hauled our kit over some cathedral size holes to wait for Glenda. Approaching the roofs Glenda glanced below to discover that the rope had shredded. The weight of her and her kit would strip it. Seeing it she was able to deal with it.

Finally we stood on the snow too hot and too tired. We each had a huge sack and haul bag with ledges and ropes spewing out. Our next attempt at death was to tie ourselves together to cross the wet glacier but to each be dragging a beast of a sack. One slip we would be catapulted into any waiting hole.

Eventually we took a grip of ourselves and resorted to shuttling kit to the dry glacier where we were then able to drag the beasts.

We abandoned all but the essentials above AB and headed in the dusk to base.

I had felt little emotion until looking down the final scree I saw Ibrim and Zakir followed by the lads heading up to meet us. I felt silly as tears welled up at the sight of them. I sniffed them back and was saved as Ibrim produced the teapot and three mugs. Hugs and tea all round. We were definitely down

LOGISTICS

It was the first time that any of the team had been to Pakistan so much advice was sought. Thanks must go to many people particularly Dai and Rhona Lampard for there inspiration to visit the area and provide photos of the face. They offered good advice on logistics and lent a very useful old expedition report. Ewen Jones for his donation of barrels. Mary Twomey, Andy Cave, Andy McNae and the BMC for advice. The Beacon Climbing Centre, Plas y Brenin Kitchens particularly John the Chef, and anybody else not mentioned.

Cheers.

As it was all going to be a first we were advised to use an agent.

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Fax 00920515630121

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Himalayan Treks and Tours were magnificent reliable and reasonably priced. They helped with our application for a permit, provided us with a Guide, a Cook, booked all transport, accommodation, flights, stored equipment and generally helped in any way.

Great thanks must go to all particularly Chengazi, Zakir, Ibrim, Javid and Nasir.

It is worth while employing an agent as it saves vast amounts of time and gives a backup. The agent helped set up the interview at the Ministry of Tourism to allow our permit to be issued. The Ministry were very helpful and it only took one day to get the paper work completed. The new man in the office at the Ministry was very helpful. He is keen to keep the admin down to a minimum. Only the expedition Leader was needed for the interview.

It is very useful to have a copy of everybody's passport and permit .The agent also organised the debriefing on return to Islamabad. Again only the Expedition leader was needed.

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

PERMITS AND REGULATIONS

As the area was in a restricted area a local guide was needed before a permit could be issued by the Ministry. They had to be present at both the initial and final briefing. A fee of 40 dollars per person was paid and evidence of insurance for the porters had to be shown. The agent sorted out the insurance for the porters which was daily cover of 250 rupees per day.

All members of the team had to get a visa for entry to Pakistan. This was gained from the Pakistan Embassy in Bradford. A postal order was sent with the passport and with in one week the visa came back.

PORTERS

On arrival in Kande we were met with wall of faces. Our guide and cook started organising out about 30 porters. We had judged, by roughly working out the total weight of our luggage, that each person would need approximately 6 porters. For the band of porters we also employed a Sirdar, who's job it was to organise them and check that the loads were correct. The Sirdar is not expected to carry a load. However on both the up and the down walks our Sirdar helped struggling porters and carried a load.

The team also carried loads, which helped us get fit and gain some respect from the porters. Old rope is useful to help in bundling loads together.

We did not require hessian bags

A spring balance is crucial to help weigh the loads (30kg fishing balance). All the loads were sorted at Hushe (at the campsite) and put into 25-kg loads. We had plenty of plastic barrels, which were great for keeping gear together, but were difficult to carry.

It is important to keep the gear together to count the pieces, so that you are not paying too many porters.

Rupees

Insurance	250 per porter
Equipment	200 per porter
Food	50 per porter per day
Stage	100 per porter (7 stages)
For return stage	50 per porter per stage
Rest day	??? (possibly 1 days pay per trip up /down)

From this money the porters bought their own food and equipment. This was more preferable for them. The return trip to their villages they completed in one long day.

The Ministry of Tourism sets this rate. There is a book available explaining costs and what to provide.

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

The porters earned every penny. They work hard and were totally trust worthy. To allow all the villages to benefit from the expedition a few porters were taken from each village. This was a lot fairer and meant that no village felt hard done by. Although it was not such a fundamentalist area it is advisable that at least the leader wore long trousers to gain respect from the porters. The girls stayed covered up most of the time.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment either went by plane with the team or four days earlier by freight.

Personal equipment

SLEEPING BAG 4-5 SEASON

BIVI BAG KARRIMAT AND THERMAREST

STOVE (either Epi gas or Markil stormy and MSR)

GLOVES 3-4 PAIRS

HAT

THICK AND THIN FLEECE

DUVET

THERMALS

T-SHIRTS

SHORTS (GIRLS SKARFS)

FLEECE BOTTOMS

COTTON TROUSERS

WATERPROOF TOP AND BOTTOMS

SOCKS

BOOTS (leather was better than plastic)

TRAINERS

PERSONAL CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

TENT

GAITERS

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

PERSONAL CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

HARNESS

CHEST HARNESS

ASCENDERS

PLATE (not ATC type bad for kinking ropes on abseil)

HELMET

ROCK BOOTS (be able to comfortably have socks on)

PRUSIK LOOPS

11MM ROPE AND 9MM ROPE

ETRIERS

GROUP CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

ROPE 300M (per team of low stretch rope 10mm)

PEGS 100 per team (blades ,hooks, angles, LA ,leepers,mashies,etc)

BOLTS (for belay stations when needed)

FRIENDS 3 full sets per team + extra TCU'S)

WIRES 4 sets per team

PORTALEDGES

100M TAT

HAUL BAGS

EQUIPMENT FOR BASE CAMP

TENTS FOR COOK AND GUIDE

BASE CAMP TENT OR TARP

KITCHEN (bought in Rawalpindi)

STRING

FUEL (2 25-gallon containers of petrol)

BALANCE 30KG BEST

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

OTHER USEFUL ITEMS

WASHING WET-WIPES, SOAPS , ETC

BOOKS (remember they are happy)

GIFTS (useful gifts to gain good will: whisky, pens for kids, books for school, cigarettes for porters, T-shirts, caps, photos of peak to give to Ministry and agent)

LIGHTERS

MAPS

SPARE HEADED PAPER

EQUIPMENT FOR GUIDE AND COOK

If the guidelines are followed to the letter both our Guide and Cook should have been fully kited out with every imaginable bit of kit. After talking to the agent we were given the advice that this was not needed, we felt it was necessary to take the spare gear just in case .We were very glad we had as it was very happily taken and needed by the cook and guide .Our advice is to take gear even if is not required.

We provided each for them; A tent, T-shirts, fleece, waterproofs, boots, gloves, hat, karrimat, food, medicine (remember in UK), food in Islamabad, we offered accommodation (but wasn't needed) and paid them the arranged fee with the agent plus a 5-10% tip for good service. If you treat them well they will look after you well. We actually stayed with the village of our helpers who where extremely hospitable.

GUIDE FEE US DOLLAR 12(per day)

COOK FEE US DOLLAR 9(per day)

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

ACCOMMODATION

Islamabad

On arrival in Islamabad we jumped straight into taxis and shot off to a Hotel which we had been advised to stay in. It was handy to have some rupees, which Mary Twomy had given us, so that we did not have to change money at the airport (big van 600+ max).

Hotels in Rawalpindi are cheap, hotels in Islamabad are expensive. We stayed in Rawalpindi which was great for the atmosphere and close to the bazaars for shopping. The three hotels we stayed varied massively in quality. They will always try and sell you the most expensive rooms first, so barter them down. Our agent was very helpful in arranging a cheaper deal. When you are shown the rooms make sure they are up to your expectations. If not ask to see an other one. We wanted a loo, a shower, and towels and most importantly, in the 30 degrees heat, air conditioning.

Park Hotel 750 rupees for a double room. OK but noisy

Paradise 700 + tax (which you pay every where, ask for a receipt !)

The Holiday 1500 + tax (by far the best but it is expensive in the peak time)

The Holiday Hotel was close to the Pearl Continental which isa great place to eat, 10 \$ for all you can eat. It might look clean but you can still get ill! We celebrated our success by a feast there on the way back. Taxis are cheap in town only 30 rupees, so they were used at night to get around. Come 6 o 'clock it is pitch black. Carrying the expeditions money round your waist meant that a taxi was a sensible way to travel. .All documents and money were carried on the body at all times. Hotel rooms could not be seen as totally safe places to leave money, although we did not have any problems.

Skardu

Skardu has fewer places to stay, with a great variety of prices. Both on the way in and on the way out we stayed at the Indus Hotel, which was right next to our agent's office.

Indus 20\$ per double room with shower and loo.

It is handy to have a large area where you can sort out your gear into porter loads and a place to store your kit.

Travel arrangements to base camp

Manchester to Islamabad by British Airways

Islamabad to Skardu by 19 person bus

Skardu to Kanday 2 jeeps

Kanday to Hushe jeep and then 3 hour walk

Hushe to Shasu to camp 7 hour walk

Shasu to base camp 6 hour walk

London to Islamabad

The flight from London was comfortable enough but getting to the Loo was a major expedition in itself. We were only allowed 23 kilos luggage with 4 kilos hand luggage we were a little over but had no problems with excess luggage.

Islamabad to Skardu

We arranged a 19 seater Toyota bus which proved the extra investment of £30 over the 12 seater. The bus allowed us ample room to stretch out and store most of our equipment in the back. Well recommended!! The bus journey lasted 24 hours, for 18 hours on the informal Karrikorum Highway. We stopped half a dozen times to let the driver recover. At every stop the hygiene of the cafe left a lot to be desired. We only drank tea or Coke, a few of us had to deal with bad stomach upsets. Take plenty of pills to bung you up. The journey was well worth taking spectacular scenery and driving!! We all agreed taking the plane back would be preferable.

Skardu to Hushe/Randay

Two jeeps were hired one took all our equipment, one took us and our guide. Initially the road is tarmac but for the last bone rattling 2 hours a rough track. We stopped only twice but the journey seemed to take all day. There had been a massive landslide at Kanday, which had taken out most of the village and a 100m section of the road, making it impassable by jeep. We spent the night at the village below here and proceeded in the morning. Porters transported the equipment across the landslide to awaiting jeeps which ferried our gear up to Hushe. We decided to get some exercise and walked the last 3 hours to Hushe village. The Hushe valley is a very green and fertile place.

Hushe To Midwalk

After an early start from the campsite we staggered off after the porters. From 6am to noon we walk along the valley floor to a rest at Hakims Place. After brews and some food we headed off for a further 2 hours to our camp site, on the side of the glacier. There was no water at this site but plenty of shade from the intense sun. Two porters carried two barrel loads of water for 200m to the camp, a fine effort.

Midway Camp to Base Camp

Another early start 6am, we again trailed behind the porters up the lateral moraine to reach the dry glacier which was undulating and covered in boulders. After half an hour we again mounted the lateral moraine by an improbable soily bank. After one hour we reached the smooth dry part of the Charakusa. The glacier was followed for a further hour. The final half hour walk over flat glacial till led us to our idyllic base camp.

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

Hushe

At the road head we stayed with the family of our Guide for one night before moving up to the campsite at Hushe. At the village of Kande we spent some time with the local school, some of the qualified teachers in the team gave a few lessons, while the others partook in a local test match with the village first eleven. Due to the pitch having vegetables growing in it the ball tended to have an irregular bounce. Twid managed to bowl out one of the chief mans sons with a goldy, which almost resulted in tears, until a more sympathetic style of bowling was adopted before an incident could happen!

Hushe does have a few stores that sell basic provisions and it can be used as a possible place to stock up, at that last minute. Local vegetables were excellent and the apricots were superb. Buying the produce was not a problem as long as it didn't leave the locals short; it did bring some hard currency into the valley, which they preferred.

Saitcho

This is the half way point for the walk to base camp. There are two places to stay. Both sell food and drink. We stayed at Hakims place 'Cafe at the end of the world' which sold cold Coke and Fanta, as well as allowing our cook to prepare food for us. A truly awesome spot for views of the Charakusa basin particularly of K7. This is now the main way out for expeditions going to the Baltoro e.g. K2 and the Gasherbrums. On our way in we passed many expeditions coming out, all looking very pleased as the weather had been perfect for over 30 days. There was rumour of over 500 people at some of the base camps. We were looking forward to getting some peace in our base camp, and were glad to see a large Italian team coming from the same base camp, and returning home. We were even more glad to here that they hadn't climbed our proposed objective.

BASE CAMP

At base camp we put up our tents kindly provided by FERRINO, and built a plastic palace for our kitchen and store. A mess tent would of been better but more money. For burnable rubbish we dug a large and deep hole and burnt the waste, often vegetable peelings. On the way out every thing was covered over. The latrine was a deep hole which again was covered over on leaving.

Base camp was in a very safe place regarding avalanches, and we were glad of this during the weeklong storm, which dumped masses amounts of snow down.

Water was on hand in the way of a pleasant little stream; luckily with not too much rock flour in it.

The campsite was idealic and provided an excellent cricket pitch for the regular one test matches between Pakistan and the Welsh eleven. Needless to say Pakistan won most of the time, but much to the amusement of the Pakistan eleven, the girls bowled and batted far better than the lads could manage. It was put down to the 4200m altitude and shoulder injuries but more likely lack of talent. A cricket bat bought for peanuts in Rawalpindi would be excellent value for those rest days and would make an fitting present to the local communities on the way out. Pocket chess was popular, but frustrating for everybody

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

except Grant who only lost once in 4weeks! Cards were also great value and we were all impressed with Glenda's gambling background. Zakir and Ibrim, or should I say Bill and Ted as they were commonly called, kept us in great shape with the very high quality of the grub. We ate better than at home. The only problem was the getting through of the 12 jars of peanut butter we ended up with, a recommendation from Dai Lampard.

FREIGHTING

It was going to be impossible to take every thing on the plane and we were only allocated 24 kg + 4kg hand luggage on the plane, so we had to freight and there are a few lessons to be learnt. The freight was packed into plastic barrels 10 days before departure. The contents of each barrel need to be **exactly** written down and the rough worth of the contents listed next to them. Keep the costs down, because if the costs of your imported goods are too high they will charge you tax. We were charged £50 in Pakistan for having this. The freight was picked up by the freighting agent SOS. SOS provided excellent service and were reasonably priced. The freight goes on a plane a few days earlier and are stored for you in customs in Islamabad. If they are sent more than 3 days before a holding charge is applied. 6 barrels and 2 portaledges came to around £350 (one away). Once you arrive in Islamabad the freight has to be cleared by customs who open the goods and repack it for you, and of course charge for the pleasure. This can be quite a hassle without the connections of an agent who seems to know which back door to go in first! It is important to freight the same stuff in as the same stuff out, or they will charge you for the tax. Food and medical supplies are not taxed it seems.

SOS FREIGHT

MANCHESTER AIRPORT

FREIGHTING GAS

Gas could not be relied on to be bought in Pakistan, so you either freight it yourself separately packed or you buy it from an agent. We bought our gas from FRONTIER LTD who has an agent in Pakistan. The gas could be picked up in either Islamabad or in Skardu, where we picked up ours. We used 30 cartridges.

FRONTIER LTD

TY GWYN

NANT PERIS

LLANBERIS

GWYNEDD

TEL 01286 871184

JOINT EXPEDITION TO BEATRICE

FOOD

Food was divided into hill and camp food. Some was bought in Islamabad and Skardu, the rest was brought from UK.

UK food was hill food that we thought would be a problem buying in Pakistan. The main bulk of the freighted food were hydrated ready to eat boil in the bag meals. On the wall hydrated meals are best as it is easier to carry the meal then the extra water needed to cook dried meals, and they taste a lot better. These meals were fantastic although the variety could have been wider, particularly for the veggies. The chicken Balti went down well, our cook reckoned it to be more of a Punjab dish! We also freighted flapjack, which the PYB kitchens made and doubled bagged. The Beacon Climbing Centre kindly donated power bars.

PAKISTAN in Rawalpindi there is no problem with buying food and the choice available. We also had the added help of having our Guide to buy the food and the kitchen. Zakir would show us where the best bizarre where and help with the bartering .To buy all the food took one very long day. The fresh food was left to be bought in Skardu, where again the choice was fine .It was very useful to have Dai's food list and it's quantities for bulk buying but it is more important to have the advice of your cook . A list of food for staples is useful before going shopping. Variety of food was crucial to keep you interested in eating particularly at altitude.

NORTH WALES JOINT BEATRICE EXPEDITION, 1997

MEDICAL REPORT

Fortunately we encountered no major medical problems in the members of the expedition or in the local population. The following is a list of the commoner problems that I was prepared to expect in Pakistan.

TEETH

A pre-trip dental check up is a good idea. Oil of cloves can be used to treat toothache and an emergency filling kit is optional.

IMMUNISATIONS

There are no mandatory immunisations but the following are highly recommended;

- Hepatitis A
- Polio and Tetanus boosters
- Typhoid
- Meningococcal

In addition, it may be worth considering;

- Hepatitis B
- Rabies

MALARIA

Anti-malarials are necessary because of the year round risk below 2000m in Pakistan. Mosquito repellants will reduce the risk of transmission. In the event of a malarial illness, it is essential to seek medical help but we also took a supply of anti-malarial treatment.

ALTITUDE SICKNESS

None of us took Diamox (Acetazolamide) as prophylaxis against mountain sickness but this may have aided acclimatization and would be recommended in anyone with a history of acclimatization problems in a dose of 125 or 250mg bd. For the treatment of acute mountain sickness, I had supplies of Acetazolamide, Nifedipine and Dexamethasone of which we needed Acetazolamide for mild mountain sickness. Fortunately nobody developed HAPE or HACE. It should be remembered that the most effective treatment is descent and this is mandatory in anyone with severe or worsening mountain sickness to avert the risk of HAPE or HACE which are frequently fatal. We had no oxygen or Gammow bag, but we only went up to 5800m. Highly recommended to obtain and read is the High Altitude Medicine Handbook. We used Ibuprofen for analgesia against altitude headaches

FOOD AND DRINK

It is essential to purify all drinking water by tablets, a filter or boiling. I preferred the taste of the silver tablets to the iodine or chlorine ones which are a bit like drinking a swimming pool.

DIARRHOEA

A degree of traveller's diarrhoea is inevitable. More serious diarrhoeal illnesses such as dysentery or giardiasis can easily be acquired. We used Ciprofloxacin as a once off dose or a course for prolonged diarrhoea. A supply of Metronidazole is essential to treat the diarrhoea of Giardia which has characteristic features. Rehydration is very important with any diarrhoeal illness and an electrolyte solution such as Rehidrat or flat coke is useful for this. To plug you up, it is possible to use Motilium (which also treats nausea), Imodium (which also treats stomach cramps) or Codeine (which is also a painkiller).

INFECTIONS

We had a supply of broad spectrum antibiotics to deal with any infections such as cellulitis, pneumonia, meningitis (IV) or UTI. We also took anti-fungal cream for athletes foot and thrush.

EYE PROBLEMS

We had Chloromycetin ointment for conjunctivitis and Tropicamide drops for snow blindness.

SKIN

We had anti-histamine and also mild steroid cream for rashes and insect bites.

FIRST-AID KIT

Our first-aid kit was comprehensive and included the above medications as well as painkillers, suture material, local anaesthetic and syringes for intravenous injection, anaphylaxis kit, plasters, bandages and dressings, a thermometer and alcohol wipes. It may be worth taking a cervical collar. Splints can be improvised with duct tape and karrimat.

I would like to point out that as well as being the expedition doctor, I am a qualified medical practitioner, albeit a psychiatrist (although this did prove useful given the mental health of the other team members). Therefore anyone wishing to utilise any of the above medications should get medical advice and clear written instructions before doing so.

Grant Farquhar, 1997

BEATRICE EXPEDITION 1997

2 Expenses

Home

Flights	£3200
Travel UK	£170
Insurance personal	£1000
Admin	£50
Freight	£332
Medical	£120
Gas	£150
Equipment	
Ropes static 600m	£300
Ropes Dynamic 3 /11mm ,6/9mm	£500
Batteries	£75
Hardware	£270
Haulbags 3/£140	£420
Porta ledge	£400
Food	£180
Total UK	<u>£7167.</u>

Expenses

Pakistan

Agent	£282
Permit	£150
Freight	£110
Guide	£375
Cook	£260
Porters ins	£60
Porters	£1118
Taxis	£50
Bus KKH to Skardu	£250

BEATRICE EXPEDITION 1997

Jeeps Skardu to Kande	£88
Jeeps Kande to Hushe	£24
Return	£112
Flights Skardu /Islamabad	£260
Total	£3139

Hotels	£178
Meals	£380
Food and fuel	£750
Tarps	£49
Stove	£6
Kitchen	£95
Total	£1859
Misc.	£30
Pakistan total	£5028

TOTAL **£12195**

INCOME

MEF	700
ALISON HARGREAVES	500
SPORTS COUNCIL FOR WALES	
MEN	820
WOMEN	560
FOUNDATION FOR SPORTS AND ARTS	750
LYON EQUIPMENT	125
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>3455</u>

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	8741
EACH PERSON	<u>1457</u>

SPONSORS

We were very fortunate to be sponsored by many different organisations. Many thanks go to a great number of people who helped make the expedition a great success. We were particularly grateful to:

THE WELSH SPORTS COUNCIL particularly Marilyn Godfrey

THE MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION and the great work of Bill Ruthven

THE FOUNDATION FOR SPORTS AND ARTS Thanks to Jean Benyon, John West and Rachel Leonard

LYON EQUIPMENT and Julia for sorting the gear out

THE ALISON HARGREAVES TRUST for supporting the girls team. In particular Alison's parents for the supporting letter

THE BMC for their support to the project

FERRINO thanks for those warm nights with their very generous gear support

KARRIMOR and Lewis Grundy for their clothing sponsorship and excellent portaledge covers .

MAMMUT UK thanks to Andy Bowman for the great help with climbing boots and excellent ropes

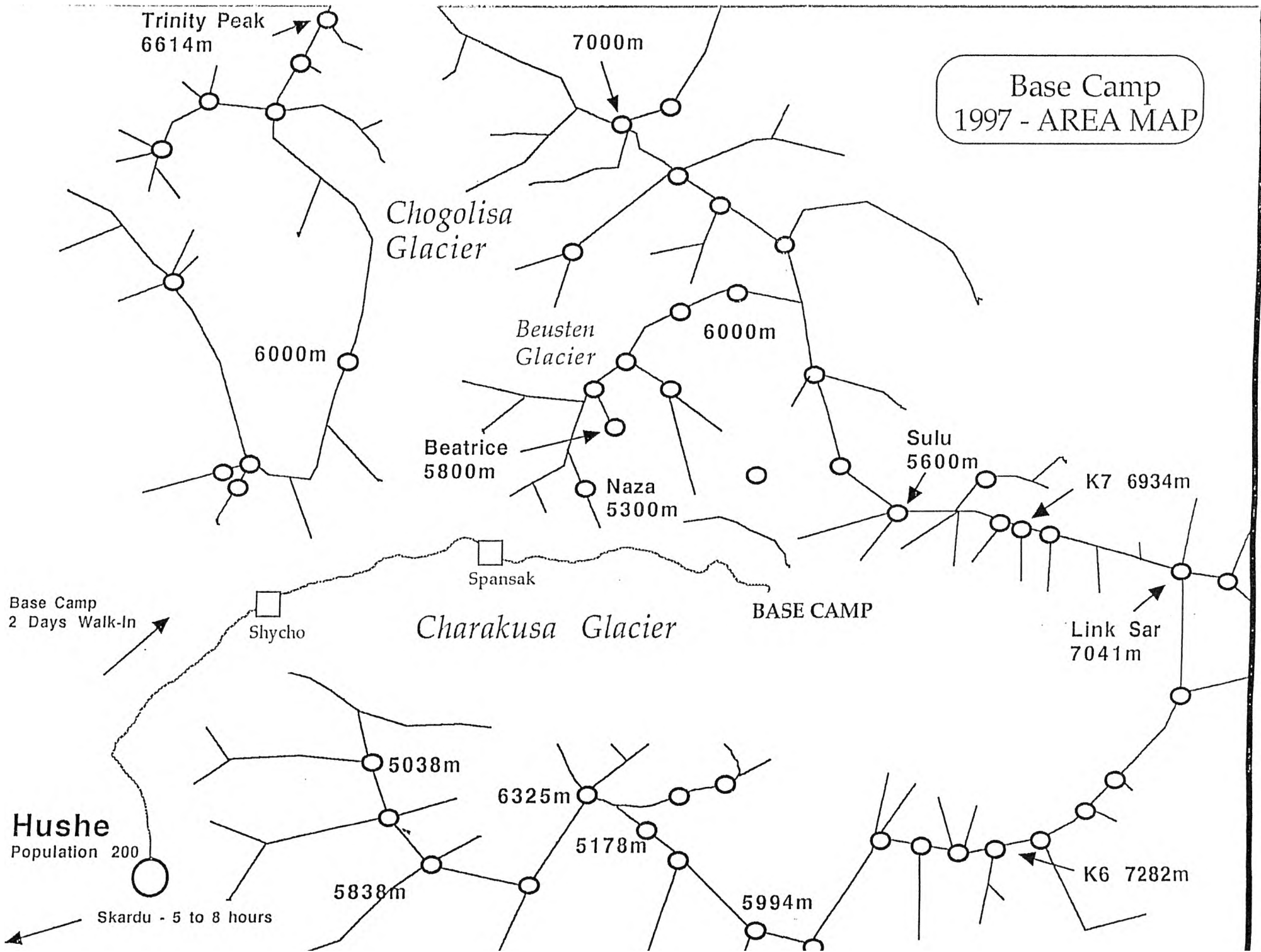
HB specially to Huge and Marianne for the technical gear and tape

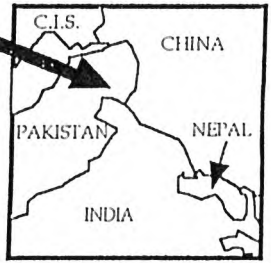
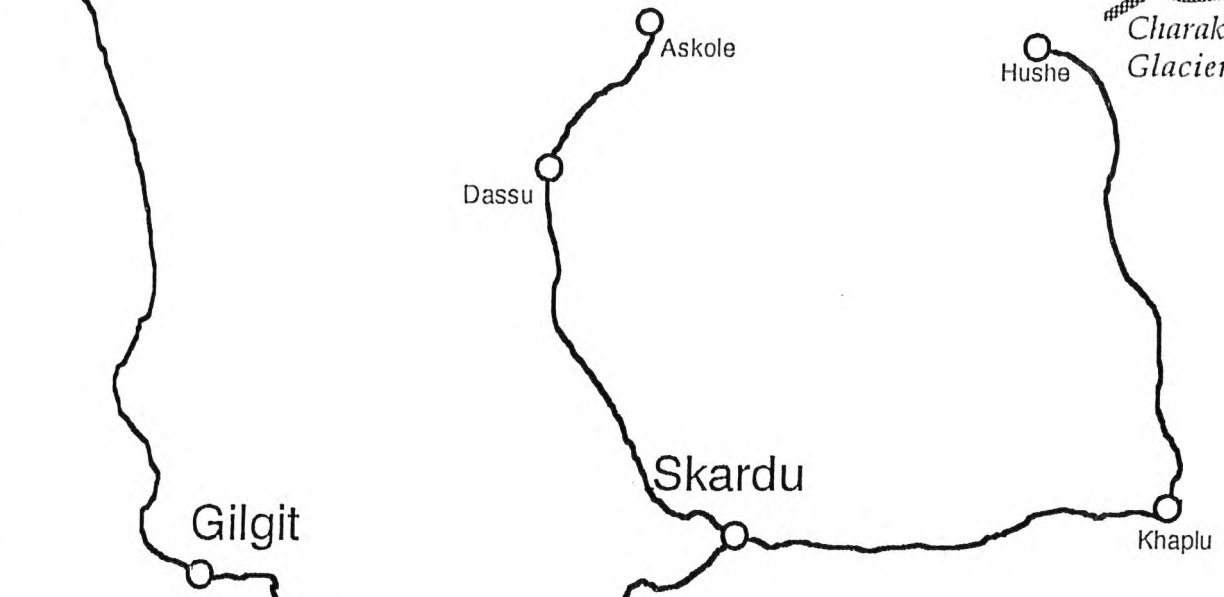
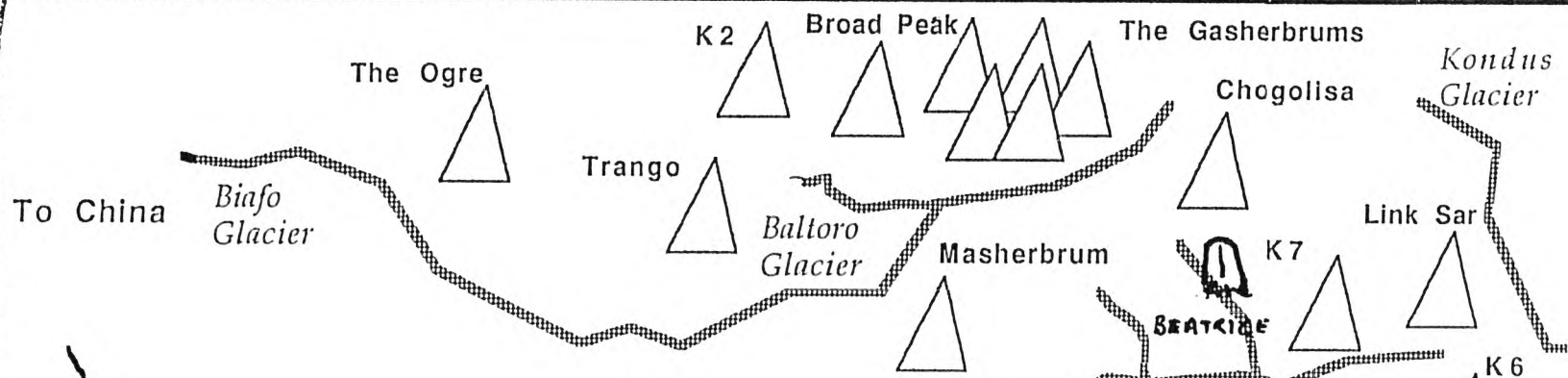
SALOMON UK for the boots for Steve and Grant

METOLEUS UK for the haul bags

AND TO ALL OUR EMPLOYERS WHO ALLOWED THE TEAM TO TAKE TIME OFF FOR THE VENTURE .

Base Camp
1997 - AREA MAP



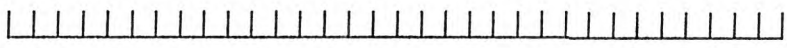


Manchester 8 hours
 New York 24 hours
 Tokyo 13 hours



The Karakoram Highway

Scale : Distance to Time



Short Long Ages Eons →

Islamabad & Rawalpindi