

**Mount Everest Foundation**

Report by Alan Hinkes

Challenge 8000 1997



Attempt planned for six 8000m peaks;

Lhotse  
Makalu  
Kanchenjunga  
Nanga Parbat  
Dhaulagiri  
Annapurna

Main sponsor Berghaus.

Film to be made by Channel 3 North East, Tyne Tees TV. Provisionally four half hour documentaries over four weeks. Beginning on the 17 March in the Tyne Tees and Yorkshire TV areas initially.

28 Mar: Leave the UK with two man Tyne Tees crew, Director David Thomasson and cameraman. They would go to BC for a few days and then return to UK.

29 Mar: Arrive Kathmandu. BA Manchester to Delhi and Indian airlines to Kathmandu. One week in Kathmandu organising permits for Makalu and Kanchenjunga. Cook and cook boy and American Fabrizio Zangrilli will go to Makalu in April and another cook and cook boy to last village before Kanchenjunga BC.

6 April : Fly to Lukla and trek to Phakding.

7 April: Namche

8 April: Namche

9 April; Namche, trek to acclimatise.

10 April: To Tenboche

11 April: To Deboche.

12 April: To Pheriche.

13 April: Rest Pheriche, cameraman is feeling pretty bad with altitude and diarrhoea. I go for a trek with David Thomasson.

14 April: To Lobuche

16 April: See Benoit Chamoux chorten/memorial.

18 April: Kala Patar

19 April: Gorak Shep to BC. Cameraman down to Lukla. Director David to BC with me.

20 April: BC.

21 April: David leaves.

22 April: In BC. I am on Mal Duff's permit to climb Lhotse. Plan to go to C1 with Mal, through Icefall. Mal says does not feel well and decides he will wait a day, I decide to go and wait for Mal at C1 then we will to go to ABC (C2) together.

23 April: Leave BC after 0700hrs - bit late. Through Icefall for first time. Exciting and scary. Stop C1, 5900m. Hear on radio Mal died at BC. Stay at BC.

24 April: Was going to go down to BC, but do not fancy booze-up for Mal. It's not my scene. So I move up to ABC (C2), 6500m

25 April: ABC (C2) to BC.

26 April: Birthday.

27 April: BC until 30 April.

1 May: C1.

2 May: C1.

3 May: C1 to C2.

4 May: C2 until 6 May.

7 May: C2 to C3, acclimatise to 7400m. Sleep C3.

8 May: C3 to C2.

9 May: C2 to BC.

10 May: Cold morning. In BC until 19 May, getting debilitated.

20 May: BC to C2. Good time, less than 5hrs climbing time.

21 May: C2. Rest and checking weather and conditions.

22 May: C2, 6500m, to C3, 7400m, plan to leave at 2300hrs.

23 May: Left C2 at 0200hrs to summit Lhotse 1430+hrs. Clear weather, some wind on top. Fix ropes up gully to top. Probably around Scottish 2 (perhaps even 3), some bare rocky sections where snow blown off. Very loose shattered rock, difficult to find protection or bang in pegs. Rockfall danger, helmet would have been a good idea. Final gully probably 500m to 600m.  
Superb views of Everest.  
Descend to C3. Taking between one hour and one hour fifteen minutes to Lhotse C4, 7800m, and then to C3, 7400m, in two to three hours. Spent nearly one hour on top filming for documentary with digital video and enjoying the view.

24 May: C3 to C2 to BC. Clear all my kit off mountain.

25 May: Snow in night at BC.

26 May: BC.

27 May: Helicopter to Lukla.

28 May: Helicopter to Makalu and meet Fabrizio.

29 May to end of May: Attempt Makula. Wait for helicopter and strip mountain. Weather very unpredictable, getting warmer, rockfall danger. Monsoon moving in. Fabrizio hit on side of face by an ice block and knocked out. Decide to retreat. No mountain is worth a life. Returning is a success. The summit is a bonus.

Kanchenjunga is off. Return to UK for a few days.

To Pakistan for Nanga Parbat.

29 June: Manchester BA to Islamabad. Lot of admin and meetings at Ministry. Trekking in Margalla hills. Very hot and humid, 40C++.

11 July: Leave Islamabad up Karakoram Highway to Besham.

12 July: Besham to Chilas

13 July: Jeep to roadhead at Bunar Das and begin walk in in the heat. Locals have guns, rifles and AK47's.

14 July: Trek in with porters and donkey.

15 July: Arrive BC, 4000m, on rough grass. Quite pleasant compared to usual moraine and ice BC's. A few other expeditions here. Some ascents already made of Nanga Parbat.

15 to 21 July: Dump equipment on the mountain near C1.

22 July to 2 Aug: Find out all equipment dumped near C1 is stolen. Sneeze on flour on chapati. Pro-lapse disc. Trapped. Helicopter does not arrive.

3 Aug: Struggle down 2000ft. Intend to walk/stagger out if helicopter does not arrive.

4 Aug: Helicopter arrives, flown to Islamabad for medical treatment.

11 Aug: Return to UK.

Post monsoon expeditions postponed.

Challenge 8000 is still on, I have nine 8000er's now - five to go. I will try these in 1998. The goal is all fourteen 8000m peaks.