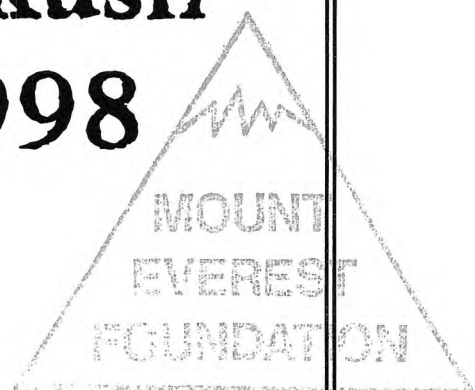


British Sani Pakush Expedition 1998

Final Report



Supported by **British Mountaineering Council**
Lyon Award
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Assistance from **Rab Clothing** **Lyon Equipment**
Terra Nova **Outside**

Date: **19 July 1998 - 30 August 1998**
Location: **Batura Karakorum, Pakistan**
Climbers: **Al Powell**
Andy Benson
Kenton Cool
Rich Cross

Abstract

Attempt on the unclimbed 2600m W Buttress of Sani Pakush (6885m) in the Batura Karakorum, northern Pakistan during Jul-Aug 1998. The expedition achieved a high point of 5600m, nearing the end of the technical difficulties before rockfall and bad weather forced retreat.

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1. Introduction

Sani Pakush (6885m) lies at the head of the unfrequented Kukuay glacier on the West end of the Batura Wall in the Karakorum. The one and only ascent was made by a German team who climbed the NW ridge in 1991. We were seeking a long rock/mixed line on a 6-7000m peak, preferably somewhere out of the way and as such the 2600m W Buttress seemed to fit the bill admirably. The team - Al Powell, Rich Cross, Kenton Cool and Andy Benson have all climbed extensively together before and are nowadays very (in)tolerant of one another's varied social deficiencies. Despite failing to summit we all came back safe and sound having had a good adventure - which is the essence of a successful trip. This report is intended to help others plan a similar venture and as such contains a few useful nuggets we picked up along the way - I hope it proves useful.

Al Powell September '98

2. Expedition Diary

First, there follows a summary of day to day happenings and the weather we encountered.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WEATHER</u>
Sun 19 JULY	Flight - Dep Manchester	Pissing Down-HaHa!
Mon 20	Arr Islamabad - freight + shopping etc.	Bloody Hot
Tue 21	Briefing, Dep Islamabad pm	Still Bloody Hot
Wed 22	Arr Gilgit - Park hotel, shopping	Not so Hot
Thu 23	Jeeps to Bar	Showery
Fri 24	Walk in - Stage 1, camped at Betalatok	Hot + Sunny
Sat 25	Walk in - Stage 2, camp just past Bebuskuta	Hot + Sunny
Sun 26	Walk in - stage3+4, camped at Badudarukush	Damp, Showers
Mon 27	Wages fiasco, stages 5+6, Arr BC 4pm	Cloud, clear by LT
Tue 28	Sorting out BC, recce up Glacier pm	Overcast, rain PM
Wed 29	AM - load carry to ABC, camp + observe face	Sunny
Thu 30	Set off for NW col, GI unfrozen, so down to BC	Clag down + damp
Fri 31	Up to ABC, up 2nd+3rd icefalls, camp at 5200m	Sunny
Sat 1 AUGUST	Climb to col (400m 45-55dg ice), camp at 5700m	Sunny + windy
Sun 2	Abbed col, return to BC	Sunny
Mon 3	Resting at BC, RC + AB climbing near BC	Sunny
Tue 4	Climb 1st tower, camp on col at 5200m	Sun am, showers pm
Wed 5	Abseil to GI, KC suffers crevasse fall on way to BC	Snow + rain
Thu 6	Dossing BC	Overcast + damp
Fri 7	Dossing BC	Overcast + damp
Sat 8	Dossing BC	Overcast + damp
Sun 9	Dossing BC, AB up hill behind BC (4800m)	Overcast + damp
Mon 10	Dossing BC, KC and RC climbing near BC	Overcast, clear pm
Tue 11	Climb 1st tower, met ibex en route, camp on col	Sunny
Wed 12	1/2 way up 2nd tower, camp at ~5300m	Sunny
Thu 13	Up to base of 3rd tower, camp at ~5500m	Sunny
Fri 14	5 pitches up 3rd tower, rockfall, bail to 3rd camp	Deteriorating steadily
Sat 15	Down climb + abbs to 1st camp, V wet conds	Heavy snow
Sun 16	Descent to BC.	Heavy snow
Mon 17	Resting BC	Sunny
Tue 18	Dossing BC	Sunny
Wed 19	AP ill, AB, RC+KC clear ABC	Sunny
Thu 20	Packing up BC	Sun, big storm pm
Fri 21	Dep BC, stages 6+5, sick man + load burning	Thunderstorm pm
Sat 22	Walk out, stages 4+3, camp at Bebuskuta	Sunny intervals
Sun 23	Walk out, 4hrs to Bar, Jeeps to Gilgit	Thunderstorm pm
Mon 24	Waiting for minibus in Gilgit	Sunny
Tue 25	Dep Gilgit in afternoon	Sunny
Wed 26	Arr Rawalpindi pm	Hot + sticky
Thu 27	PM - climbing in Margalla hills + drinking	Hot + sloppy
Fri 28	Debriefing + PM hike up Mt Happiness	V Hot + sticky
Sat 29	Day trip to Murree + final Admin at HTT	Much cooler
Sun 30	10 hr delay before dep, Arr Manchester 8.30pm	10hrs in a sauna

3. Travel

3.1 Flights

We flew Manchester - Rawalpindi with PIA. They offer good deals to climbing expeditions (see appendix iii). We paid £526 each incl. 40Kg outward baggage (standard 23Kg return - see note on air freight). Go straight to 1st class check in and they should know who you are (they never seem to weigh expedition baggage if you've got double allowance, so you can always throw at least 50Kg on.....). Going out was fine, but we had a 10hr delay coming back and the service was terrible. You could try BA (same price), but getting a baggage deal is more difficult.

3.2 Karakorum Highway

From 'Pindi we drove up the KKH as it's more reliable than the flights to Gilgit and less hassle with gear. A 12 seat air conditioned van cost £150. We booked a 2nd one for return on a set date, but it could be better to just hire one in Gilgit when you arrive back in case you save time on the way out.

3.3 Jeeps

We got three jeeps from Mountain Movers opposite the Park Hotel in Gilgit (a good base) for Rs1500 each and booked two for return. Again we shouldn't have bothered with the return booking, as arriving in Bar a day early we hired two jeeps from the locals to get back to Gilgit sooner. The journey takes about 3 hours.

3.4 Walk In

This starts at the village of Bar above Chalt on the KKH. Six fairly short (2-3hr) stages:-

1. Betalatok. 2. Bebushkuta. 3. Kutadarukush. 4. Badudarukush. 5. Dududarukush and 6. Saiyodarukush lead up the Kukuay glacier to Base camp at 4000m (see map A). The approach took 4 days, though could easily be done in 3 (see Porters). The 1st two stages are fairly easy but if the bridge is down at the end of stage two, this will add an extra stage detour - luckily it was in tact. Once on the glacier things get quite arduous as it is covered in moraine nearly all the way up, the only clear ice appearing on the last stage. The best camps are at the end of stages 2 and 4 - Badudarukush being a particularly fine tarn (mentioned in Tilmans account - see appendix v).

4. Environment

4.1 Base Camp

Base Camp is located near the head of the Kukuay Gl. at an altitude of 4000m. The place is known locally as Saiyodarakush and lies just beyond a prominent bluff on the left side of the glacier. There are several flattened tent platforms on moraine ridges and a reliable clean water supply. Also present are memorial cairns to a Japanese who died of AMS, flower meadows on the hillside above and some good crags just down valley from camp. On a less pleasing note, Japanese plastic packaging littered the whole area. We spent several hours combing the screes and collected a blue barrel full. Please make the effort to remove any more that we missed.

4.2 Flora and Fauna

In 1991 the Bar Valley instigated a wildlife preservation programme whereby the local hunters in theory became game keepers, deriving income from showing tourists the some 1000+ Ibex in the valley and issuing just 5 trophy permits per year to wealthy hunters from outside. In practice however illicit hunting still goes on - one of our return porters came a couple of days early with the specific intention of shooting Ibex. (Our LO managed to get hold of his gun on the last day and handed it over to the local WWF officials).

Bear and Snow Leopard also flourish, though the only bear we saw had also recently been shot. Our LO had worked on a bear preservation programme on the Dessoai Plains and informed us

that such a crime is punishable by several years in jail. (He got the cook to find out who had shot it and reported this man to the regional WWF in Gilgit).

Our most memorable wildlife encounter involved being comprehensively burned off by three Ibex who had soloed 5hrs up the route, bypassing HVS pitches on the way. When they finally made a bolt for the glacier they ran straight down the cliff at full speed, passing 5 of our abb anchors in under a minute!

Beyond that, BC was shared with a couple of rodents (Rich and Andy), various birds including the odd chough and raven, plus the usual range of Alpine flowers.

4.3 **Rock**

The area is composed of fine grained grey granite with some notable marble intrusions. On route we usually encountered excellent but very compact slabs and walls, or quite blocky loose terrain - all of which demanded an assured approach for success. By way of comparison the rock is very similar to that found in the Ecrins. We only encountered rockfall very occasionally, but disturbingly the 3rd tower regularly discharged quite large blocks from its right flank when we were up there (see incident in 5.4 & note on topoi).

4.4 **Weather**

The longest spells of good weather we encountered were a couple of 4 day periods (see diary). The only serious storm we encountered occurred when we were on route but only lasted a couple of days. Good stable weather always came in with a W wind, whereas poor weather always came in from the South. At least 5 good days would be needed to summit.

4.5 **Glaciers**

Most of the upper Kukuay glacier is heavily crevassed and the quickest routes tended to follow drainage lines or troughs up the edges of the icefalls rather than up the centre. The third icefall is particularly dodgy due to being overhung by a line of seracs. We also saw the bowl above completely fill with a debris plume due to serac fall off the NW ridge - somewhat disturbing as we had camped there whilst acclimatising. We moved roped as a 4 almost all the time, which proved useful when a snow bridge collapsed and deposited Kenton 30ft down a slot when we were returning from fixing the abb stations. Luckily he escaped after a bit of a struggle.

4.6 **Environmental Considerations**

BMC environmental guidelines were adhered to during the trip and we generally adopted a low impact approach. All refuse was packed out and in addition we carried out a clean up of the base camp area, removing a considerable amount of Japanese rubbish as well as maintaining an eye on stuff dropped by porters. Leave camps last and do a litter pick coz they always drop stuff and since you are responsible for their presence then ultimately any litter is also your responsibility.

Call me a sceptic, but it sadly comes as little surprise to discover that your \$200 donation to the environment fund does not go directly to environmental protection projects (neither do the fines for abandoned equipment). Our LO had organised 3 large clean up expeditions and failed to get any money from these funds. They got sponsorship off a large bank, but did also get some money from the Government via a different allocation.

It is worth noting that in a relatively poor country the local mountaineers are putting large amounts of time and effort into cleaning up their own mountains of pollution left by affluent foreigners - a point large expeditions should really acknowledge and take heed of.

5. Climbing

5.1 Sani Pakush - West Face

From our photos we believed the W buttress to be a continuous feature leading directly from the glacier to the summit. In actual fact the topography of the west face is somewhat different (see map B). On the left the W ridge starts at 5200m above the uppermost (3rd) icefall of the Kukuay glacier. It joins the NW ridge (the line of first ascent) at around 6300m. Directly below the summit are a couple of long mixed lines which we considered, but they melted out very rapidly. To the right, the W buttress starts at an altitude of 4300m with the hard climbing concentrated on 3 rock towers in the first 16-1700m. There after the buttress joins the S ridge where 8-900m of 35 degree snow with a couple of mixed steps leads to the summit at around 6900m.

5.2 Acclimatisation (see diary)

We did a couple of load hauls to establish ABC (basically a gear stash) at 4300m above the 1st icefall, then acclimatised by making a trip up to the col (5700m) at the foot of the NW ridge. This was also done to check the ridge out as a possible descent route, but it was festooned with seracs and ice cliffs so the idea was rejected.

5.3 Style and Tactics

The plan was to place a camp at the top of the first tower and set up abseil anchors down the lower half of the route, prior to an alpine style push. On closer inspection we anticipated harder rock sections might require a fair bit of sac hauling and jugging to save time. Therefore to allow safe jugging we took one 60m 8.5mm dynamic and one 60m 10mm semi dynamic rope per pair and standard light alpine racks, planning to climb as 2 pairs and join forces on the hard bits. In the end we hauled and jugged on one short pitch on the 2nd tower and were setting about more serious amounts of sac free leading on the 3rd tower before making the decision to bail (see below). Having 4 men on the mountain cut down the 'commitment' factor considerably, but lead to complications and faffing around at camps, on hard pitches and seriously increased the loose rock risk. Without route finding problems you could reach the base of the third tower in 2 days rather than 3.

5.4 The Route (see topos)

After establishing a camp at 5200m on the col behind the 1st tower and fixing the abseil line (16x60m abseils) down to the glacier we left BC at 4.30am on 11th August on our main attempt. After picking up supplies at ABC we crossed the bergschrund at 8.30 and moved together up the easy lower ground and snowfield. Five hours up the route and 2 pitches above the first VI pitch, Andy nearly got hit by rocks dislodged by 3 Ibex in the basin above. We suspect they had climbed up there in an attempt to keep out of our way. As already mentioned, they finally galloped at full speed straight down our abseil line. We reached the col in 11hrs with out further incident.

The next day (12th) after some route finding problems we finally found a way up on to the right flank of the second tower where AP and AB got a tent up on snow and KC and RC spent the night at a sitting bivi 1 1/2 pitches below. On the 3rd day (13th) we reached the base of the 3rd tower at 5500m and spent considerable time cutting tent platforms out of the ice.

On the morning of the 4th day the weather showed strong signs of breaking big style. We climbed 5 mixed and rock pitches up the only feasible looking line on the 3rd tower, crossing bold and protectionless walls up to E3 5c. Kenton had set up a jugging line and was investigating the difficult ground ahead. 40 ft out from his last gear he was very nearly hit by a large rock, which then chopped the belay of the jugging line. Luckily no one was on the rope at the time - but we had also witnessed several other large rockfalls from the 3rd tower.

This incident, together with the difficult and compact terrain which could not be frigged if the weather broke persuaded us to bail and we returned to the previous camp. This proved a wise move as the expected storm moved in over night and deposited some 40-50cm of snow over the next two days as we made a tricky descent, reaching Base Camp after dark on the 16th. With insufficient time to mount another attempt the weather duly improved the following day, but the route was still plastered in fresh snow. ABC was cleared on the 19th and we departed BC on the morning of the 21st August.

6. Equipment

6.1 Climbing Hardware

We took out 4x60m ropes plus a spare and some static for fixing/jugging if necessary plus 100m of abba tape, 50 abba station pegs, 40 crabs for ditching and about 3 racks of gear. On the hill, racks consisted of a set of nuts (1-10), 4 cams, 8 extenders, a few pegs and slings plus abbing gear. Due to the compact nature of the rock, more small wires and blade pegs would have been useful.

6.2 Tents

We had two Quasars and two Mtn Hyperspaces courtesy of Terra Nova loan stock at Base Camp, plus a mess tent (\$4/day from HTT - would be as cheap to buy one in Pakistan) and 2 large tarpaulins for porters/ cooking shelter. On the hill we used 2 pole, single skin assault tents (Macpac and Terra Nova).

6.3 Stoves and Gas

All cooking at BC was on a local Kerosene stove (50l of Fuel). On the hill we used Markill Stormy stoves and got 36 Epigas cans (£4.95ea) from Dai Lampard's 'Frontier' company. You need to order this early (Feb/Mar) as supplies are often limited. We had some difficulty getting the gas as it wasn't in Islamabad as ordered and had to come from Skardu. Gas is available in second hand shops, but may be butane in refilled cans. This doesn't burn well at altitude.

6.4 Food and Stores

We bought route food and goodies in Britain, working on 70-80 man days in case we decided on some kind of capsule ascent. In the event we were left with loads of fodder and gas at the end of the trip. Route food consisted of 100g of crunchy muesli for breccie, a couple of energy bars during the day with 1 pack of noodles, couscous or smash and some vegeburger mix for tea plus soup, hot chocolate, custard and isostar for drinks. In addition several tins of fish were added to the rations.

Other things for BC included cheesecakes, yeast paté, Marmite, Toffee Treat etc and anything else we fancied spreading on Pourris for breakfast. We spent £180 in Britain.

NB Try and take food out on the flight and send hardware as airfreight. We did it the other way round and had problems (see below).

Any decent cook should know what he needs incl. quantities. We bought the stove, kitchen equipment (incl. a large blue barrel) and tarpaulins in Rawalpindi and most of the food in Gilgit.

6.5 Air Freight

We used SOS Airfreight at Manchester Airport (contact - Colin Griegson) who did us a good deal on 100kg sent in 4 barrels for £200. Customs clearing in Pakistan was dealt with by a local agent with the assistance of HTT (cost - Rs5500). You will need a full packing list with the value of each item included. We experienced problems at the debriefing due to having nearly all our air freight composed of consumable items (food, abba anchors etc) and all our baggage containing climbing equipment. When we tried sending our climbing gear back as air freight the ministry refused to sign the forms, saying you could only freight out items that had been freighted in due to import regulations so our gear would have to go as excess baggage on the return flight (costing £1200 instead of £200). Therefore take consumable items such as food and abba kit in your baggage and only *freight out* hardware items you intend to *freight back*. The solution adopted by our agent was to doctor the list in the middle of the briefing and claim we were now sending a load of excess food back, then bribe the customs officials to clear the contents of the barrels. The bribe even appeared on an itemised bill, under Rs3000 - 'other charges'. The freight came back to Leeds/Bradford airport via Servisair (£22 handling). Customs clearance is a matter of supplying a contents list and signing a form at the office on the ring road rather than paying for someone to do it for you.

7. Gear Sponsorship

We are immensely indebted to the following companies, who provided substantial assistance to the expedition by the supply or loan of the large amounts of gear detailed below.

Lyon Equipment . In addition to a very generous £1250 cash award, Lyon equipment supplied us with £1250 worth of gear from their range. This comprised all our fixed rope, pegs, crabs and abbtat, 2 sets of excellent marmot thermals, a pair of crampons for Andy, plus a large mountain of flapjacks, Peak bars and Isostar - all of which saved us a fortune.

Rab. This was an extensive sponsorship deal which involved a lot of liasing in the months leading up to the trip. Rich worked closely with Rab, helping them design a set of integrated clothing and down gear. They supplied us all with customised one piece suits, windproof pile gear, base layer tops, duvets, sleeping bags and lightweight cagoules for the approach march, in addition to providing LO and cook clothing from their standard range. Of the prototype garments, the base layer tops and down gear in particular, proved to be outstanding pieces of kit.

Terra Nova continued their longstanding support to British climbing expeditions with the kind loan of 4 top notch tents for the trip.

Outside of Hathersage saved our bacon on the way to the airport by providing a hefty discount on all the last minute bits of kit we still needed but couldn't really afford - thanks boys!

8. Personnel

8.1 Agent

We used Himalayan Treks and Tours (HTT) and liased with Javed in the Rawalpindi office. Despite difficulties in communication via our fax lines (Email could be better) they provided an excellent service as usual. Alternatively, an increasing number of trips are liasing with the Pakistan Adventure Foundation who are a voluntary body able to provide considerable assistance at minimal cost.

8.2 Liaison Officer

Our LO, Mr Afzal Sheerazee was totally excellent. He is a committed mountaineer who works for the civil service in Lahore. Apart from dealing with the constant porter hassles with patience and aplomb, he chased up gas supplies, local admin people and smoothed a host of other trouble spots along the way, then kept us entertained with day trips around 'Pindi on the way home! He also subscribes to High magazine and is a mine of information about climbing in Pakistan. Mr Sheerazee has organised a number of clean up expeditions to polluted base camps on big peaks and is in the process of setting up a Wilderness Foundation in Pakistan on similar lines to the Italian organisation of the same name that has been training Pakistani LOs about environmentally sensitive mountaineering in recent years.

The Ministry are following a policy of training all LOs about such matters and only recruiting civilians with a genuine interest in mountaineering rather than military personnel as was often the case before, so hopefully any problem LOs should now be weeded out.

8.3 Cook

HTT supplied us with the services of Mr Mohammed Ali of Thagas, Ganche District who is an excellent cook and has very good references. Unfortunately he also has a pair of brand new Grivel 'Machine' axes (lent to us to test for a gear review) and Kenton's telescopic ski poles, all of which he nicked and did a runner with at the end of the trip. Please note that the reference we supplied him with prior to leaving should now be amended "This man is a robbing bastard".

8.4 **Porters - BEWARE**

They were also robbing bastards. The men of Bar Valley have a legacy of sharp practice which they follow with vigour. None of us had encountered such a constant stream of attempts to rip us off at every opportunity, despite having a very diligent LO who drew up an explicit contract signed by himself, the Sirdar, ourselves and local administration in Bar - plus all porter names and ID cards checked and recorded at the outset.

The 6 stages to Base Camp represented a steady 3 day walk in to our mind. However sitting on ones arse for 15mins for every 10 mins walked and stopping 2hrs for lunch seem to be standard practice, so we got there in 4 days after much cajoling (they had never done it in less than 5 before!).

Apart from all the usual requests for medicine for trivial ailments, there follows a list of rip-offs we encountered.

1. *Sirdars.* They opened by demanding 3 Sirdars - one from each village at the road head. This was turned down. The Sirdar we did get also turned out to be ineffectual in the extreme.

2. *Food.* We hired 25 porters. They said 2-3 extra men would be needed to carry their food (porters normally carry their own food). We reluctantly agreed and having removed bedding which several attempted to add to the pile, the food came to 9 extra loads (thats 9kg each!!).

3. *Sheep.* As is often done, the porters asked us to buy them a sheep on the 2nd night. Since I am a vegan, no one else was happy about the method of slaughter either and they were the worst porters we had ever met, we declined. They bought 2 sheep for themselves anyway, *then* 2 days later at Base Camp the Sirdar tried demanding we pay Rs5000 (way over the odds) for these sheep after the event. We suggested he go forth and multiply.

4. *50% Pay rise.* On the 4th day when they had eaten hardly any of the 9 loads of food, our LO sent 4 men back. On paying them the agreed amount a massive argument erupted, with demands for a 50% pay rise and a strike. Ructions continued for 2 hours and we finally had no choice but to cough up or not reach base camp. Even then one of the 4 continued by some load splitting ruse and on the final stage several carried hardly anything - one arrived with just an empty water can in his hand.

5. *Swapping men.* It came to our attention that at least 4 men on the list were sat in Bar having 'sold' their places to some other poor sod who would only get 50% of the wage packet for doing all the work. Previous expeditions have encountered this scam, but with *both* men then claiming a wage for the one load carried.

6. *Sending extra men.* As predicted by this stage, 4 extra return porters appeared than the 18 requested on our list. When we explained there were no loads for them, the Sirdar said there was one 'very sick' man who we had to pay 2-3 others to carry down. Our LO pointed out that he was their responsibility since we hadn't requested this extra man and he was not our employee. The illness then became a stomach bug for which we gave medication.

7. *Sick man.* On arriving at the porters last camp at the end of stage 5, we encountered the aforementioned 'sick man' pretending to be unconscious in front of the fire where he had apparently lain for 3 days without eating or drinking, despite them only arriving there the previous night. His complaints ranged from diahorrea to heart palpitations and it was demanded we now hire 4 men to carry him down. We refused. They dumped loads and 'set off for Bar', including the sick man who miraculously regained the ability to walk. We set about ditching and burning all excess food and materials to reduce the loads to a point where we might be able to manage without them. The porters were appalled by this and rapidly capitulated, so we rehired them minus two men as we had burned 50kg of stuff.

8. *Go Slow.* That evening the 3 porters carrying our tents and cooking kit surprisingly turned up over an hour after everyone else. Threatening to burn more loads resolved the problem quickly.

In addition be prepared for constant internal disputes and bickering about load allocation and wages between groups from different villages. The basic problem is that despite being on the opposite side of the Hunza river, Bar still lies within the administrative region of Lower Nagyr - so although the government pay rate is Rs220/ stage all in, the locals have tried to emulate the men of Nagyr across the valley by enforcing a rate of Rs245 + 1/2 pay return =Rs 367.5 /stage. The

problem was that they agreed to work at the Govt rate, *then* demanded a pay rise *and* continued to rip us off at every opportunity.

Despite this, there are some decent blokes - the well educated men were reasonable - but the rest were all too prepared to go along with the trouble makers. Our LO has advised all future expeditions to hire porters via the local Pakistani Govt administration rather than village admin. in Bar. Overall however it would be cheaper, faster and less hassle to get 25 Balti porters from Skardu bussed over, get a police escort to avoid trouble and hire just one English speaking local guide. I would advise consulting with the ministry and LO before taking such a step, but if one or two future parties did this it would make the locals realise the short-sightedness of their actions.

At the strong suggestion of our LO and in an attempt to ensure less trouble for future expeditions, we filed a 'request for lawful action' against the porters for breach of contract with the Deputy Commissioner in Gilgit and asked for the Rs35,000 we overpaid them to be donated to a local school. This went down very well with the Commissioner, who assured us action would be taken. The outcome is awaited.

PS Due to having seen too many 70's Kung Foo films the porters of Bar are very fearful of men with long hair - believing this signifies expertise in the martial arts - so you could use this to your advantage if one of your party is so endowed!

8.5 Stripy

Stripy is possibly the worlds foremost mountaineering woolly mouse and accompanies Kenton everywhere. This summer he selflessly donated his sallopets to help clean up an embarrassing bowel explosion Cool suffered en route. We are yet again indebted to Stripy for his years of devoted service to expedition climbing and to Caroline Falder who spent hours hand sewing the aforementioned sallopets.

9. Finance

We were extremely fortunate to get 4 major grant awards for the trip (see below) and most of our additional gear and clothing free, all of which saved a lot of money. Due to nuclear testing sanctions the Rupee also dropped considerably in the weeks before departure, but these potential savings were wiped out by the porters and other unexpected expenses, so we ended up very close to our anticipated budget. A financial summary is detailed below (full accounts in appendix ii).

Item	Income	Expenditure
Visas + Peak fees		-1007
Flights + Transport		-2517
Personnel		-2143
Air Freight		- 543
Food + Supplies		-1036.25
Insurance		-1020
LO + Cook Gear		- 345
Travel Expenses		- 486
Admin + Misc		- 117
Nick Estcourt Award	+1000	
BMC Grant	+1750	
MEF Grant	+1000	
Lyon Award	+1250	
Personal Contns (4x1044.52)	+4178.08	
Excess Gas Sales	+ 28	
Interest	+ 8.17	
Totals	+9214.25	-9214.25

10. Budgeting

The following may be of help in budgeting a future trip to this part of the world.

1. **Peak Fees** (6-7000m) - \$1200 in 1998 = £700
2. **Flights** we paid PIA £526 each.
3. **LO** \$15/day + \$15/day food & accom allowance when in towns.
4. **Cook** Rs450/day (+ often gets to keep kitchen kit).
5. **Agent** HTT charge \$350 (£220) for a 4 person expedition.
6. **LO + Cook clothing.** ~£1000 aim to get some free/cheap.
7. **Porters** Govt rate is Rs220/stage + ~Rs200 kit allowance.
Bar men asked Rs 367.5/stage.
Generally work on 4/5 porters per person (including LO).
8. **Gas** 250ml can per pair/night - £4.95 each from Frontier.
9. **Food + Supplies** We spent £180 in GB + £370 in Pakistan.
10. **Airfreight** ~£2/kg + £60-80 clearance Pakistan, £22 in UK. We sent 100kg out + back.
11. **Travel Expenses** approx £10-15 /person/day for good food + accom.
12. **Jeeps** We hired 3 up, 2 down at Rs1500 a time to Bar.
13. **Visas** ~£30 ea. NB must pay by postal orders at Bradford consulate.
14. **Insurance** £235 each, BMC annual world-wide - has recently gone up.
15. **Environment fund** (compulsory 'donation') \$200 = £120.
16. **LO + Porter insurance** LO + 40 porters for 1 month cost \$120 = £80.
17. **Mess tent hire** ~\$4-5/day (NB can buy a new one for Rs10,000).
18. **Bus Hire** Air conditioned van cost £150 a time Pindi - Gilgit.
19. **Environment Bond** \$1000 - returnable. (abandoned kit fines are \$0.5/m of rope + \$110/tent - you must declare how much rope you have).
20. **Helicopter Bond** \$4000 - returnable. (NB agent looks after all your bond money and issues a credit certificate to give to the ministry).
21. **Contingency** A grand or so is nice if you have a pliable bank manager. Alternatively, we got Andy to bump off all his elderly relatives so he could pay for the bonds instead.
22. **Pre + post trip expenses** (grants, faxes, copying etc) At least £150.

We set up spreadsheets to work out the budget, keep accounts and a cash budget for expenses in Pakistan - in addition to keeping the usual lists of expenses as they occurred. NB Take out at least enough dollars to pay the LOs wages - more are never a problem.

We also have a 'Chairman's' account at Lloyds Bank which has the name changed each Autumn to the following years expedition, then they issue us with a new cheque book so we can start all over again!

11. Other Objectives

The ridge running south from Sani Pakush contains 3 fine peaks along a mighty wall. Unfortunately all are daily subject to huge and regular rockfalls and serac collapse. On Sani Pakush the W ridge looks a fine mixed objective - there are hard lines on its flanks too. The W face has a couple of safe (ie unexposed to avalanche and serac fall) looking long snow/mixed lines leading directly to the summit. On Seiri Pakush there is a fine snow arete leading to the summit from this side (I don't know whether this was the line taken by the British Batura expedition during the first ascent in 1984). There are also several good steep couloir lines around that might be climbable early in the season, though during our stay they always melted out within a day or so

of clear weather. From the NW col some impressive walls were visible near the head of the Batura Gl. but there exact location is uncertain (at the moment...) Our LO was also involved in a Lahore based project cataloguing and photographing sub 6000m objectives. They have good info for the Hushe and Nanga Parbat regions at the moment. There is also a book project to photograph and catalogue all 6-6500m summits, though it is expected to take at least 4 years to complete.

12. Killing Time in 'Pindi

We stopped at The Paradise Inn again as it is near HTT, but for real luxury (& booze) then Flashmans or the Pearl Continental are where its at. The British Embassy bar also extends a welcome to all visiting climbing expeditions. We were lucky enough to share the hospitality of Mr Mahmood Pervaiz (our original LO who couldn't make it) on the way back - he drove us about in his car and plied us with copious amounts of booze. Other time filling activities include:-

1. *Climbing* There is a bolted limestone buttress in the Margalla Hills just outside Islamabad. I forget the name of the village, but your agent should know it. Park at the end of the road, walk right through the village (narrow alleys) and the buttress is 200m up the spur in front. Walk 150m up the LH (dry) valley then traverse right, through scrub. There are a few bolts and top rope probs about 10m high and up to F6a. The crag is in the shade after 4.30pm.
2. *Mt Happiness* - We also hiked from Islamabad up to Mt Happiness one scorching afternoon. If you fancy being lazy get a taxi to the Margalla Hills Park and up to the Capital View Point restaurant which is just 400yds from the top.
3. *Murree* - At 7000ft, Murree is a pleasant spot to escape the heat for a day. The bus costs Rs25 and takes under two hours. You can also hire a van another 20km up the road to where a 2 stage chairlift takes will take you to within a 10 minute stroll of the highest point in the Punjab for the princely sum of Rs100. The whole area is very touristy, but pleasantly cool and there were quite a few gift shops for the boys to buy 'bird stuff' in before going home.

13. Thanks

To Rob Collister for the photo that inspired the trip, Andy MacNae for advice and sitting on all the screening committees, the BMC, MEF, Nick Estcourt Award & Lyon equipment for all the dosh, Rab, Lyon Equipment, Terra Nova & Outside for the gear, Andy Cave for the reference, Fruity Morris and John Morgan for drugs advice and procurement, HTT for logistics and bribing customs officials, Afzal Sheerazee for being such a top LO, Mohammed Ali for cooking pakora and chips and nicking all our gear (bastard), Mahmood Pervaiz for his kind hospitality in Islamabad and finally Stripy for donating his sallopets for use as toilet paper.

14. Appendix

14i Pakistan Shopping List (6 men, 30 days - some items bound to be missed)

Item	Qty	Item	Qty	Item	Qty	Item	Qty
Rice	50kg	Eggs	200?	Tinned Fruit	10	Wash up liq.d	1
Sugar	15Kg	Pancake mix	4kg	Salt/Pepper	1	Candles	12
Flour	50kg	Basan flour	2kg	spagetti	2kg	tea towels	2
Dahl	6kg	jam/honey	5 jrs	macaroni	2kg	bog roll	10?
Milk Tea	1kg	Kerosene	~50l	energile	6pks	table cloth	2m
Green Tea	1kg	Dried fruit	2kg?	soups	10?	plastic bags	1kg
Milk Powder	10kg	jelly	?	cheese	5pks	kerosene lamp	1
Potatoes	25kg	custard	1kg	pressure cooker	2	thermos flask	2
Cooking oil	10kg	fresh tomatoes	2kg	KFS,cup,plate	6sets	empty sacks	12
Onions	10kg	ketchup bottles	4?	pans,lg+small	5-6	matches	6?
Cabbage	5kg	tomato paste	10	knives+utensils	?	alarm clock	1
Okra	3/4kg	coffee	1kg	meas. jugs	2	torch	1
Spices	1kg	fish tins	40	tarpaulins	2	LARGE barrel	1
carrots	10kg	corned beef	5	stove+spares	1	water drum	1or2

14 ii Accounts

Date	Notes	AI	Contributions			Other	Expenses
			Andy	Rich	KC		
24/11/97	Route pictures - colour copies		12				-12
25/11/97	£10 to Rob Collister for photos	10					-10
26/11/97	NEA forms - colour copying	10					-10
04/12/97	Peak Fee		702				-702
07/01/98	Balance from Greenland					1.69	
05/03/98	Nick Estcourt Award					1000	
19/03/98	Frontiers - 35 Gas canisters						-173.25
26/03/98	Lyon Award					1250	
26/03/98	Petrol to Lyon equip	10					-10
19/05/98	BMC Grant					1750	
02/06/98	MEF Grant					1000	
05/06/98	Flights - KE Adventure Travel						-2105
10/06/98	Interest					6.48	
20/06/98	Printing and stationary		15				-15
20/06/98	Food - Morrisons + Beans	148					-148
20/06/98	Food - Morrisons				78		-78
23/06/98	Visas	175					-175
01/07/98	Insurance - £235 each	235	235	235	235		-940
15/07/98	Freight	210					-210
15/07/98	LO plastics				60		-60
15/07/98	LO and Cook clothing		38				-38
18/07/98	4 films - for gear shots	28					-28
18/07/98	Faxes - HTT	10					-10
18/07/98	Drugs + Tan cream				45		-45
18/07/98	Repair kit		29				-29
18/07/98	Food + Sew kit	7					-7
18/07/98	LO Fleece Trs		30				-30
18/07/98	LO + cook sunglasses		32				-32
18/07/98	Diamox etc		20				-20
18/07/98	LO clothing				35		-35
18/07/98	LO + cook clothing		50				-50
18/07/98	Batteries + Mags			30			-30
18/07/98	Rab gifts			20			-20
19/07/98	Cash taken out	900	1680	1166	1793		
20/07/98	LO wages - \$700						-467
20/07/98	Agent - \$350						-220
20/07/98	Gilgit bus - 2x\$235						-312
20/07/98	Env. fund 'donation' - \$200						-130
20/07/98	LO + porter insurance - \$120						-80
20/07/98	Env + Helicopter bonds						-3000
21/07/98	Food + Supplies						-473
22/07/98	Jeep Hire						-100
27/07/98	Porters- Rs114000						-1267
24/08/98	Cook wages - Rs17000						-189
29/08/98	Mess tent hire - \$4x32days						-85
30/08/98	Travel expenses						-486
30/08/98	Freight						-311
30/08/98	Return of bonds					3000	
30/08/98	Excess gas sales					28	
30/08/98	Miscellaneous						-22
05/09/98	Report + freight handling(£22)	50					-50
	Totals	1793	2843	1451	2246	8036	-12214
			Total Contributions =				16369
			Account Balance =				4154.92
			Contribution per person =				1044.52
	Bonds + Contingency money returned	748	1798	406	1201		

14 iii Contacts

Contact	Assistance Provided
Rob Collister Tel 01696 760378	Photos of Sani and Seiri Pakush.
Marion Lawrence (PIA sales manager) Tel 0117 9272788	PIA Flight deal.
Dai Lampard - Frontier, Ty Gwyn, Nant Peris, Gwynedd, Wales, LL55 4UE Tel 01286 871184 Fax 872171	Gas in Pakistan.
Colin Grierson - SOS Air Cargo Ltd Tel 0161 437 0521 Fax 499 1361	Airfreight. (Servisair at Leeds/Bradford handled it on the way back - £22)
Himalayan Treks and Tours (HTT), Mohammed Ali Changazi, PO Box 918, 112 Rahin Plaza, Murree Rd, Rawalpindi, Fax: 00 92 51 563014 Tel: 515371 E mail: himalia@isb.comsats.net.pk	Agent in Pakistan
Afzal Sheerazee - 830/3, Gulistan Colony, Mustafabad, Lahore, Pakistan Tel 00 92 42 6859194 Fax 682544	Info on Pakistan Adventure Foundation Sub 6000m objectives (Hushe, Nanga Pbt) environmental issues/info.

14 iv First Aid items in italics were actually used

Drug	Quantity	Use/ Effect	Method	mtn kit
<i>Paracetamol</i>	40x500mg	mild painkiller	oral	no
<i>Co-proxamol</i>	25	mild painkiller	oral	no
<i>Ibuprofen</i>	150x200mg	medium painkiller	oral	yes
Dihydrocodeine	50mg/ml	V strong painkiller	oral/intramuscular	yes
<i>Ciprofloxacin (ciproxin)</i>	50x250mg	Antibiotic-stomach bugs, prophylactic use	oral	no
Penacilin	1 course	sore throats-severe, mouth infections	oral	yes
Erythromycin	1 course	non allergenic alternative to penicilin	oral	no
Augmentin	1 course	wounds + infections	oral	no
<i>Immodium</i>	30x2mg	control of Diarrhoea	oral	no
<i>Omeprazole</i>	10x20mg	Gastritis - acid indigestion	oral	no
Piriton	10x4mg	Allergic reaction to stings, bites etc	oral	no
Adrenaline	1 vial	Anaphylaxis (extreme allergic reaction)	intramuscular	no
Diamox	28x250mg	Altitude probs / acclimatisation	oral	no
Nifedipine	4x20mg	Pulmonary oedema	oral	yes
Dexamethasone	4x2mg	Cerebral oedema	oral/intramuscular	yes
Valoid (cyclizine)	50mg/ml	vomitting	intramuscular	no

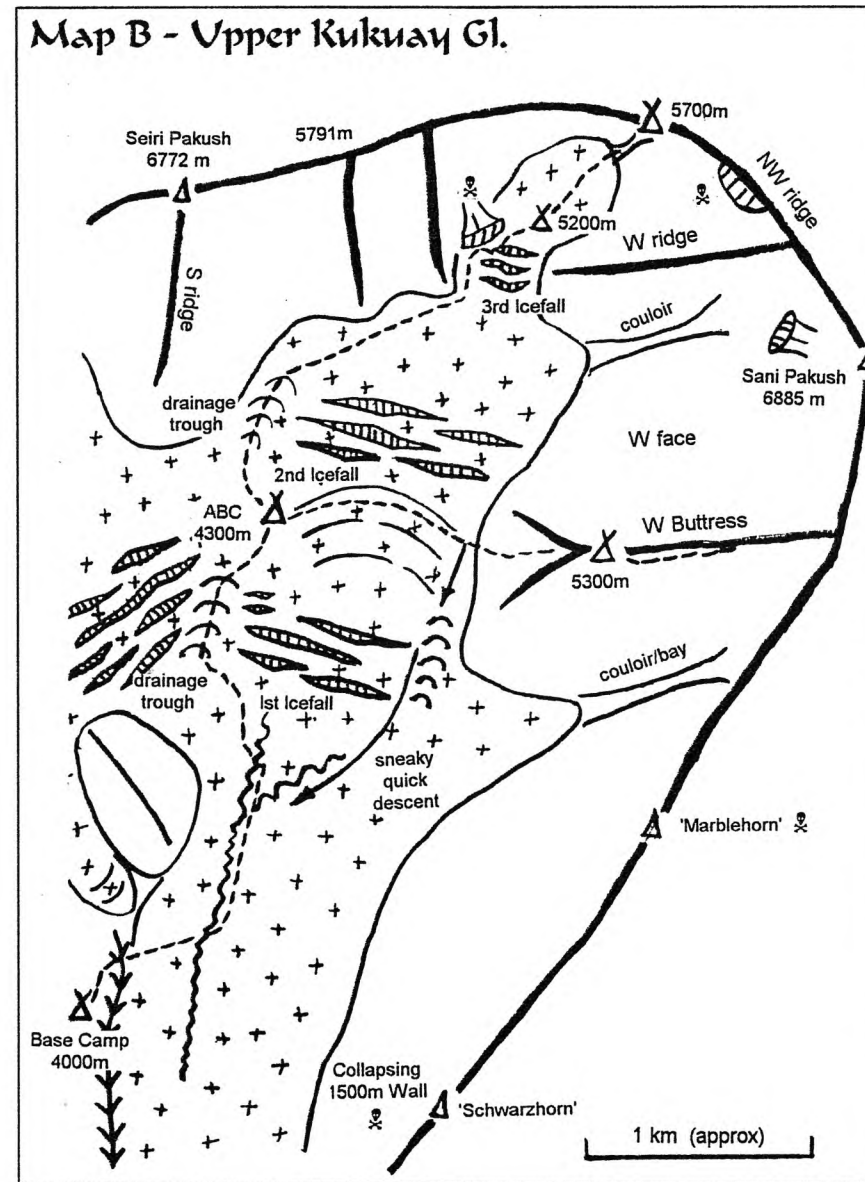
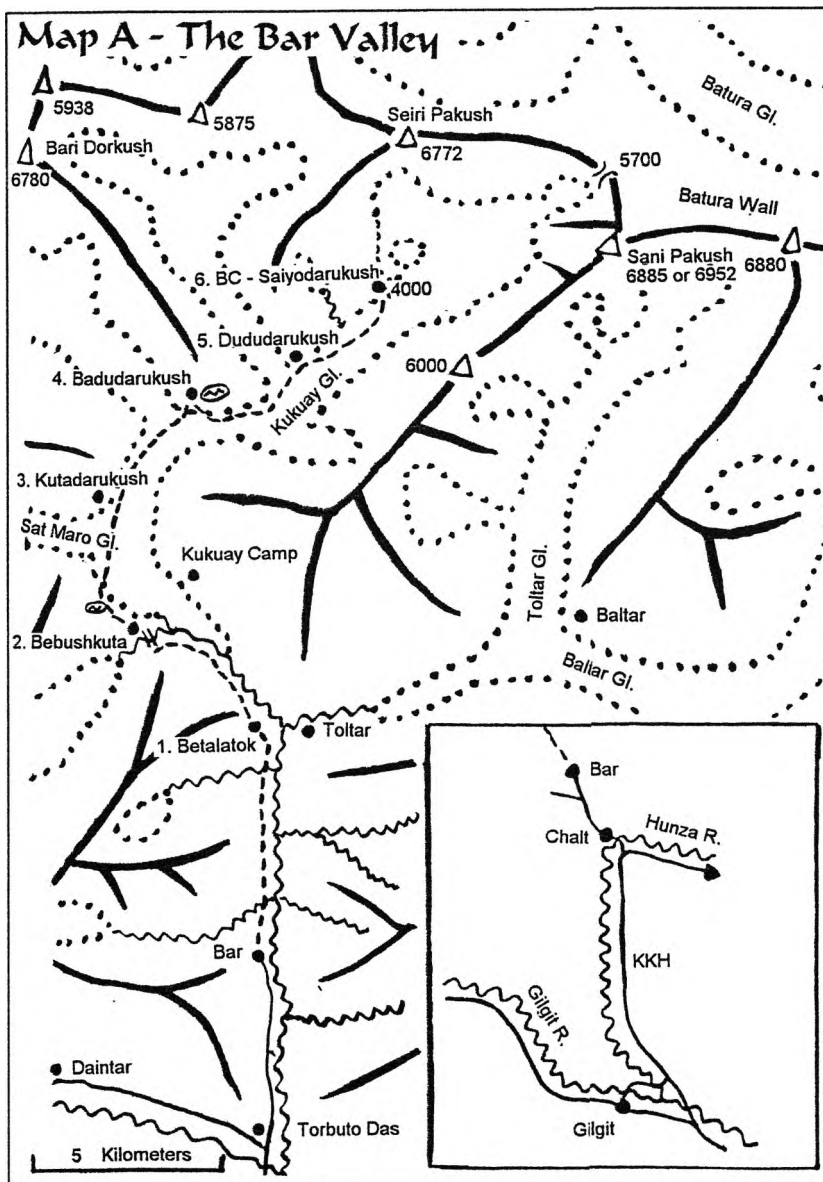
In addition the usual supplies of plasters, wound dressings, swabs, creams etc were taken. Antiseptic wipes were most useful as all small cuts/grazes on hands etc were cleaned thoroughly because they infect easily and don't heal well at altitude.

14 v References

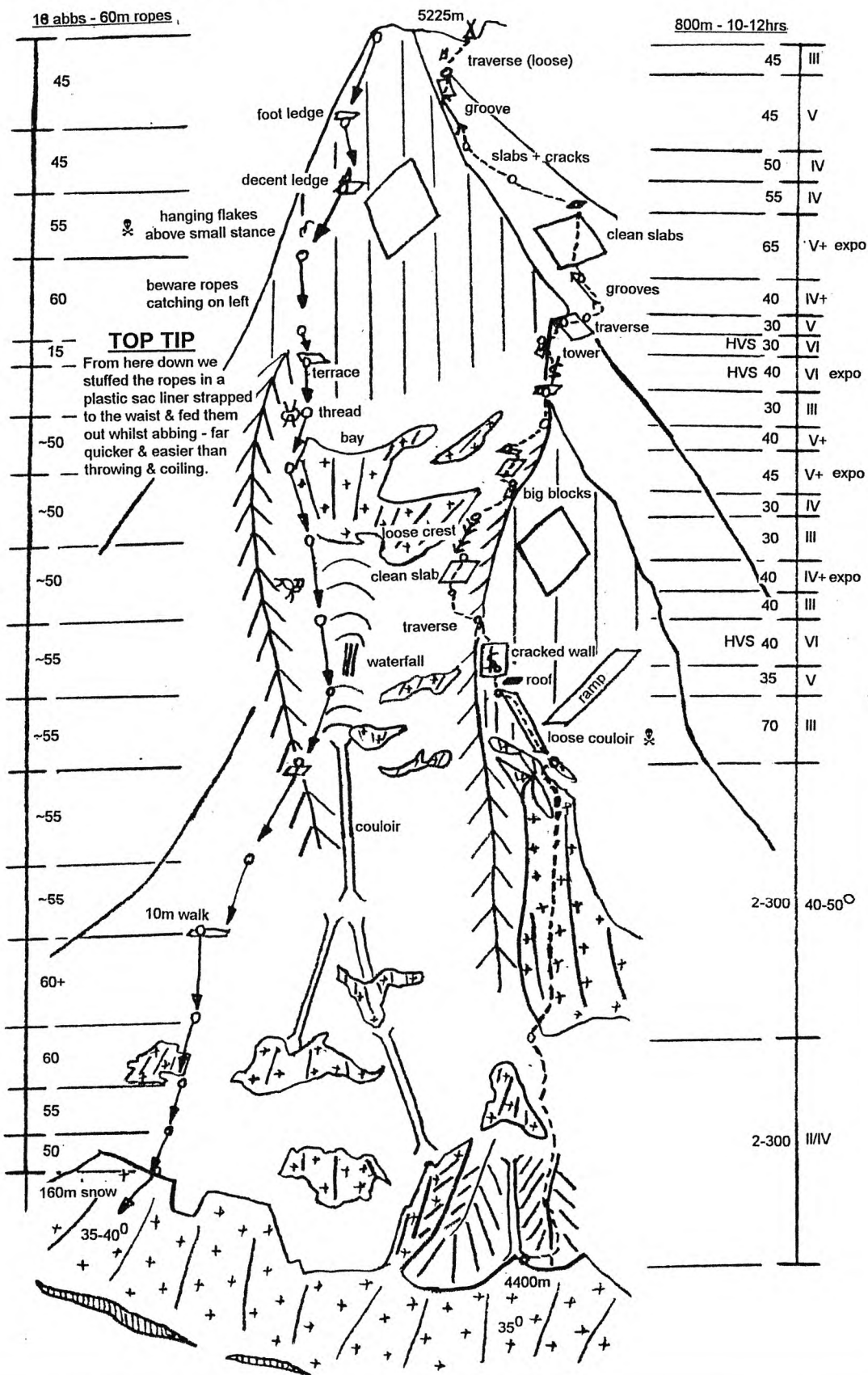
AJ83 1978 P65 Picture P70
HJ49 1991 P233-234
AAJ35 1993 P270-271
AAJ36 1994 P256-261
HW Tilman - Two Mtns and a River, Ch16 - The Kukuay Gl.
Lonely Planet - Trekking in the Karakorum and Hindukush.
Leomann Maps - Karakorum, Sheet 1 (has mistakes, but US Army map is V poor)
Pakistan Ministry of Tourism - Mountaineering Rules and Regulations

14 vi Further Info - Drop a line or give us a ring anytime.

Al Powell, 1 Wrangthorn Ave, Hyde Park, LEEDS, LS6 1HE, (0113) 2741713.
Andy Benson c/o 18 Iain Rd, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 4PA, (0141) 9427202
or 25 Matlock Rd, Walkley, Sheffield, S6 3RQ, (0114) 2338506



Topo i - The First Tower



Topo ii - Second & Third Towers

