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ANGLO-NEPALESE NORTH EAST NEPAL EXPEDITION - SPRING 1998

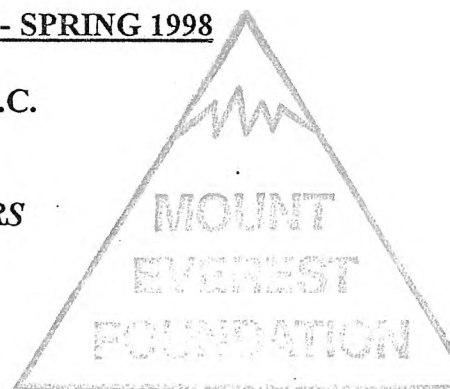
**EXPEDITION REPORT FOR M.E.F. AND B.M.C.**

***UK MEMBERS***

Julian Freeman-Attwood  
Lindsay Griffin  
Skip Novak  
Doug Scott (Leaders)

***SUPPORT TREKKERS***

Sharu Scott  
Terry Mooney  
Emme Rothschild  
Elenor Caputo



***NEPALESE MEMBERS***

Shera Zangbu Sherpa  
Norbu Zangbu Sherpa  
Nawang Karsang Sherpa

***LIAISON OFFICER***

Vijay Dhungana

***KATHMANDU AGENTS:***

'Explore Himalaya' - Permission  
Specialist Trekking Co-operative - Logistics, food, transport, HAPs, Porters, Sherpa Staff

The objectives were to attempt the west ridge of Jongsang (7,473m) and unclimbed Drohmo (6,850m) via the South Pillar. The team left Kathmandu on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1998, flying to Suketar (Taplejung), then making an approach trek via Chirwa, Amjilassa and Ghunsa to the yak pastures of Lhonak, where base camp was established on the 13<sup>th</sup> April at an altitude of 4,650m.

After an initial period of reconnaissance and acclimatisation Freeman-Attwood, Novak and Scott established Camp 1 ('Rock Camp') at c5, 180m below the South side of Drohmo on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, and on the following day made an inspection of the glacier leading to the South Face of the mountain above. Griffin, who did not take part, was at this stage still attempting to recover from a stomach illness which had troubled him throughout the approach trek. On the 27<sup>th</sup> unforeseen circumstances led to Freeman-Attwood unfortunately leaving the expedition.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Griffin, Novak and Scott moved up to Camp 1 and on the 29<sup>th</sup> established Camp 2 on the upper glacier at c5,600m. With no safe route to the West Summit, reckoned to be the highest of the four summits of Drohmo on the latest Finnish map of the area, the three decided on the Central Spur of the South Face, leading to a point on the summit ridge to the right of the Central Summit. On the 30<sup>th</sup> the climbers ascended the glacier and fixed five pitches of mainly steep snow ribs to reach a point (c6000) just below the crest of the ridge that leads to the steep Central rib of Drohmo's South Face, now about 100 metres away. Equipment was cached at the end of 700 feet of fixed ropes before descending to the glacier camp. The next day the climbers returned to the foot of the climb with enough food for a five day push but Griffin was unwell and they reluctantly returned to the Glacier camp.

The combined effect of night-time snow fall, Griffin's ongoing illness and a general insufficient quantity of food left at the camp sent the climbers down to Base on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. At this point Scott and Novak decided to leave for home. On the 4<sup>th</sup> May Griffin, Novak and the three Sherpas removed all the equipment from the mountain whilst Scott organised the evacuation of the bulk of the expedition equipment.

Griffin decided to remain with the three Nepalese members in order to attempt the main objective. Unsettled weather kept the climbers at Base Camp for another week during which time Griffin recovered from his illness. On the 10<sup>th</sup> the three Sherpas carried loads to a proposed Camp 1 on the Broken Glacier at c5,240m. That day and the following it snowed heavily but on the 12<sup>th</sup> all four climbers were able to move up to Camp 1 and the next day establish Camp 2 at c5,800m below the West Ridge of Jongsong. With the weather now good and everyone fit the 14<sup>th</sup> was spent making a reconnaissance of possible lines free from objective danger that would lead safely to the upper West Ridge. A point of c6,050 was traversed on the lower section of the ridge and snow conditions were found to be bad. It snowed all day on the 15<sup>th</sup> but on the 16<sup>th</sup> the return of good weather, which marked the start of a relatively long settled spell, allowed the climbers to reach a point of c6,250m on the South Spur of the West Ridge. After this Griffin felt that it would be very unwise for him to continue without another British climber on the team, so further attempts were abandoned and on the 17<sup>th</sup> the climbers descended to Base Camp. They started their walk out on the 19<sup>th</sup> and reached Kathmandu on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### *BRIEF DIARY OF EVENTS*

#### *APRIL 1998*

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fly from KTM to Suketar
4 <sup>th</sup>	Phrumbu
5 <sup>th</sup>	Chirwa
6 <sup>th</sup>	Sakathan
7 <sup>th</sup>	Amjilassa
8 <sup>th</sup>	Kyapla
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ghunsa
10 - 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ghunsa
12 <sup>th</sup>	Kambachen
13 <sup>th</sup>	Lhonak
14 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Acclimatisation around Lhonak etc.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rock Camp established
28 <sup>th</sup>	Griffin, Novak and Scott to Rock Camp
29 <sup>th</sup>	Camp 2 (Drohmo)
30 <sup>th</sup>	Drohmo South Face to pt. c6000 near foot of South Pillar

## *MAY 1998*

4 <sup>th</sup>	All equipment brought down from Drohmo
5 <sup>th</sup>	Novak and Scott leave for KTM
12 <sup>th</sup>	Griffin, Shera, Nawang and Norbu to Camp 1 (Broken Glacier)
13 <sup>th</sup>	Camp 2
14 <sup>th</sup>	Reconnaissance of Jongsang West Ridge to a point of c6,050m
16 <sup>th</sup>	Inspection of South Spur to upper West Ridge, Height reached c6,250m
17 <sup>th</sup>	Descent to Base with all equipment
19 <sup>th</sup>	Leave Base Camp
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chirwa
25 <sup>th</sup>	Suketar
25 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	Flights Cancelled
27 <sup>th</sup>	Walk to Kaball
28 <sup>th</sup>	llam
29 <sup>th</sup>	Birtamode
30 <sup>th</sup>	Kathmandu

## *COMMENTS*

- a. The three Nepalese members, especially the sirdar, Shera Zangbu, were most professional in their approach to the work involved and the care of their 'clients'. They were always prepared to be helpful and understanding even under difficult circumstances.
- b. Vijay Dhungana was very good in his role as liaison officer. Vijay took his responsibilities very seriously and was quite professional in his approach. He was a great asset in getting Griffin back to Kathmandu. He was one of the few Liaison Officers in recent times to see an expedition through to the end.
- c. All rubbish that could not be burnt or properly buried was brought back to Kathmandu. Used batteries were taken back to the UK for proper disposal. It would be useful to know whether there are proper disposal facilities available for these potentially dangerous items in Kathmandu or if this is envisaged in the future. A considerable amount of rubbish was also collected and disposed of at Lhonak. Rubbish appears to be on the increase at other 'night stops' along the Kangchenjunga trekking route. Most of this does not originate from trekking parties but from yak herders etc who are increasingly setting up temporary residences at the upper sites during the main period of the trekking season.
- d. The South Pillar of Drohmo was climbed during September and October 1998 by Doug Scott and Roger Mear. There were 27 pitches, 6 bivouacs above the glacier and 24 abseils to get off.

## BRITISH NORTH-EAST NEPAL EXPEDITION SPRING 1998

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#### EXPENDITURE UK

Jonsong Peak Royalty	1875
Lon/KTM/Lon Air Fares @ £565	4520
First Aid/Medicines (Skip UK)	300
Photographic - Prints of mountains (Doug)	85
Admin. UK (Phone/fax/sec. Doug)	320
Food UK (Doug)	130

#### EXPENDITURE NEPAL

Charter Flights KTM/TPJ	1603
TPJ/KTM flights 7 @ £80	560
TPJ/KTM flights 1 @ £22 (Sharu)	22
Explore Himalaya Service Charge	500
NMA charge for Nepali climbers	62
Liaison officer equipment	687
3 x climbing Sherpa equipment @ average \$500	937
Insurance 5 Nepalese staff (exp Him)	171
LO salary @ 300 rup pd x 60 days	180
Advance to climbing Sherpas x 3	300
Equipment 1 x shovel (exp Him)	20
Copy of Indian map of Kangch area (Exp Him)	20
Hotel 5 nights	725
Western food purchase KTM (Julian)	200
Delivery of Western food & gas (Exp Him)	196
Rations & fuel charges (STC)	1065
Bus/truck transportation of rations & equipment	535
Staff food to Taplejung	54
Trek permit charges	126
Trek permit extension charges (2 x \$40)	50
Staff wages inc climbing sherpa	1414
Porters/yak transportation costs TPJ/BC/TPJ/Kabeli (Doug)	2640
Local food camping charges on trek & BC	392
Trek permit ext delivery cost to BC	72
12 x tents/kitchen equipmnt/ropes/6 x tarpaulin hire/depreciation charges	470
Late Entry - over budget costs for Lindsay Griffins return	103

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE** £20,334

#### INCOME

4 X £2000 Personal Contributions from support trekkers Sharu Scott, Terry Mooney, Emme Rothschild, Elenor Caputo	8000
2 x Personal contributions of £2676 from Julian Freeman-Attwood and Skip Novak	5352
1 x Personal contribution of £2782 from Doug Scott	2782
1 x Personal contribution of £1200 from Lindsay Griffin	1200
MEF	1000
BMC	1750
Purchase of First Aid & medical supplies by STC	250

**TOTAL INCOME** £20,334