

The Baltar Expedition 1998



Name and address of contact for further details

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Stated Purpose of Expedition

Exploration of the Baltar Glacier & sub-glaciers and climbs on peaks upto 6000m.

Actual achievements of Expedition

The group explored the North, West and East branches of the Baltar glaciers making attempts on Baltar peak and Dariyo Sar. From the map there had appeared to be a fine range of sub-6000m peaks but in reality most proved to be too dangerous.

Team Members

Duncan Hornby, Nick Shea, Gary Howell, Stephen Brooks and Burt Simmons.

Chronology

14th July The team rendezvous in Gilgit,

17th July Depart by hired jeeps from Gilgit to roadhead at Bar village. Porters were hired and started walking to Shuwe.

21st July After reconnaissance of suitable sights team make basecamp on moraine beside main Baltar glacier at 4000m.

All the team developed a range of gastric illnesses on the walk-in.

24th July After some rain we make a foray onto the West Baltar glacier.

29th July Return to West Baltar glacier and make an attempt on Baltar pk (circa 5600m). Warm conditions and soft snow force a retreat. On the descent we had a close call with a large collection of large fast moving boulders.

1st August Nick and Burt leave BC

4th August Travel to Nth Baltar Glacier to make attempt on Dariyo Sar. Attempt abandoned in deep soft snow.

10th August Second attempt on Dariyo Sar abandoned.

13th August Trip abandoned and team depart Base camp.

Weather Conditions

The team experienced very warm and unstable conditions. Night time temperatures at 5000m were above freezing. This led to poor snow conditions and a lot of rockfall.

Expedition Accounts

Pakistani Visas	£40 per person
Airfares London-Karachi/Islamabad	£ 560 per person
Ground Transport in Pakistan	£16 per person
Food Purchased in England	£20 per person
Food Purchased in Pakistan	£15 per person
Equipment purchased	£850 as a group
Porters	£360 as a group
Insurance	£ 480 group total
TOTAL COST	£4390
Grant from MEF	£450
Grant from BMC	£500
Personal Contributions	£3440

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Money

The Pakistani rupee was very unstable this year, at the start of the trip we could get 75 rupees to the pound. By the time we left Pakistan we could get 95. It is best to change all your money in Rawalpindi as the rates are better than in Gilgit.

Porterage

We arranged porters on our arrival at the end of the road in Bar. We arranged a reasonable daily rate but got stung on the number of days to walk in. As we had heard that there could be problems employing the wrong porters in Nagar we made sure that the agreement was approved by the village Lambadar (This was a hereditary post of village headman created by the British, it was abolished by ZA Bhutto and is now only honorary). The Lambadar accompanied us as Sirdar without carrying anything. There were the usual unjustified complaints about the size of loads and a good natured attempt to get us to buy them a sheep. "Rule of the valley" was invoked on several occasions but these seemed to be made up on the spot.

Equipment

The team members used some new and some tried and tested designs for personal kit. Equipment suitable for summer alpine climbing is perfectly acceptable for climbing at these heights at this time of year. The most important considerations seemed to be coping with heat and rain as it was rarely cold.

Due to a communication breakdown we ended up with only one Epigas stove, when the valve/pipe connector fractured we were forced to improvise a repair. Without our comprehensive repair kit we would have had major problems. At basecamp we cooked on locally purchased Kerosene stoves which proved to be very effective. The stoves were cheap (£3) and simple.

We suffered one other piece of kit failure when the sole came off a pair of Asolo Superlights. Attempts to repair it with glue and cable-ties failed. You can't do much without a pair of boots

Gas

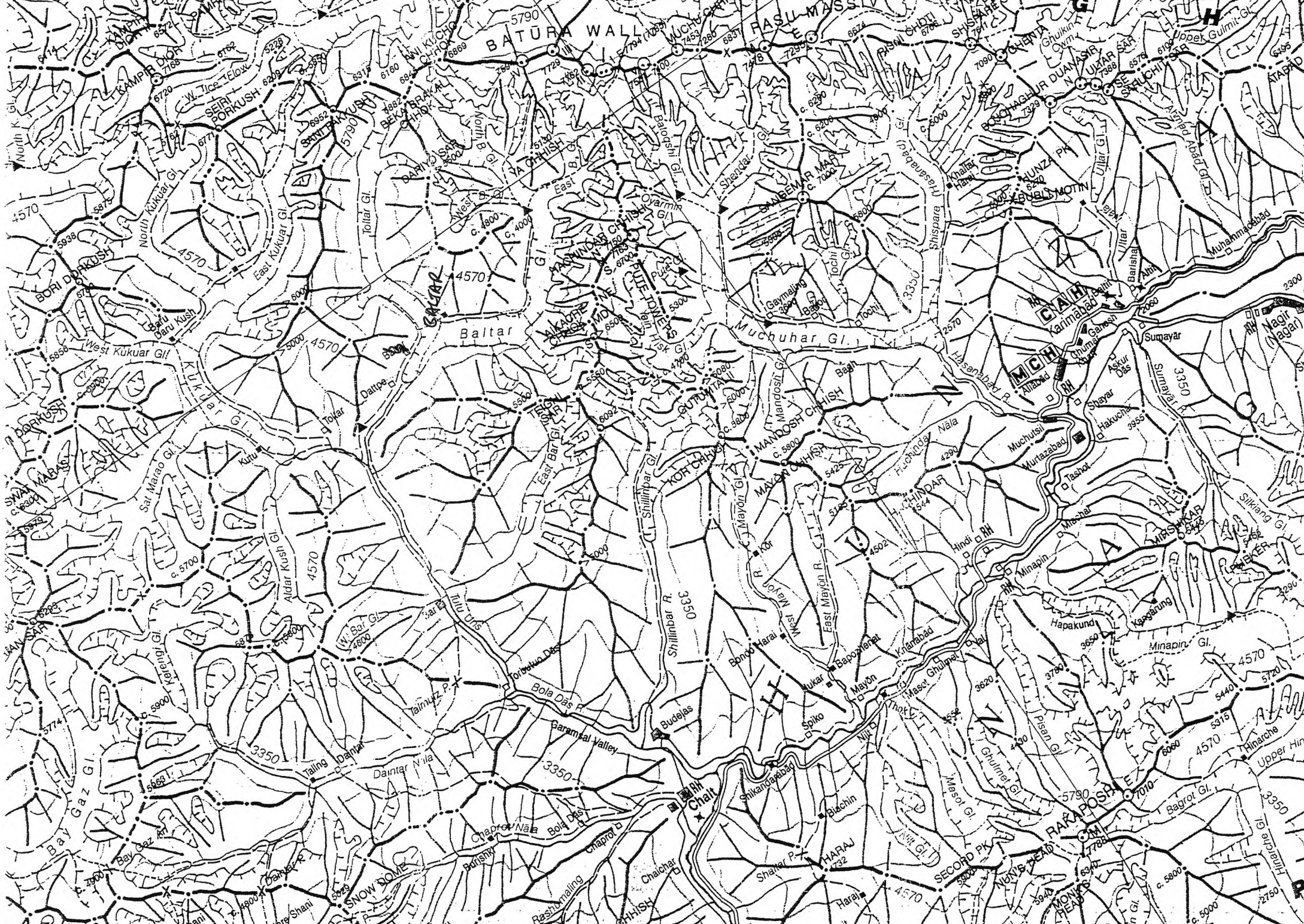
We purchased some gas from Dai Lampard at Frontier systems in Nant Peris. Unfortunately he failed to inform his Pakistan contacts of this and there was no gas available in Islamabad. We managed to prevail upon the Skardu office of Baltistan Tours to send us some of their supply to Gilgit, due to this error we were delayed several days in Gilgit. It is cheaper and easier to buy your gas from the secondhand shops in Gilgit.

FURTHER OBJECTIVES

Beka Brak Chok 6882m appears to have an objectively safe route of about alpine D/TD on its East Face with a good base camp on the moraine below Dariyo Sar. There also appears to be another objectively safe route on the South face of Ani Kucho Chok 6869m utilising the same base camp. There seemed little else sensible and unclimbed in this area.

CONCLUSION

The trip was unsuccessful due to a combination of ridiculously warm weather, anxiety about rock fall and gear failure. It seems wisest to attempt this kind of objective much earlier in the year.



BATURA WALL

RASUMASSLY

BORI DUKUSH

BALTAR

MUCHUHAR G.I.

MICH

KARAMABAD

KOR CHISH

MANDOSH CHISH

MUNAZABAD

BAY GAZ G.I.

CHAPRO

CHITRAL

RAPOSH

MINAPIN

SNOW DOME

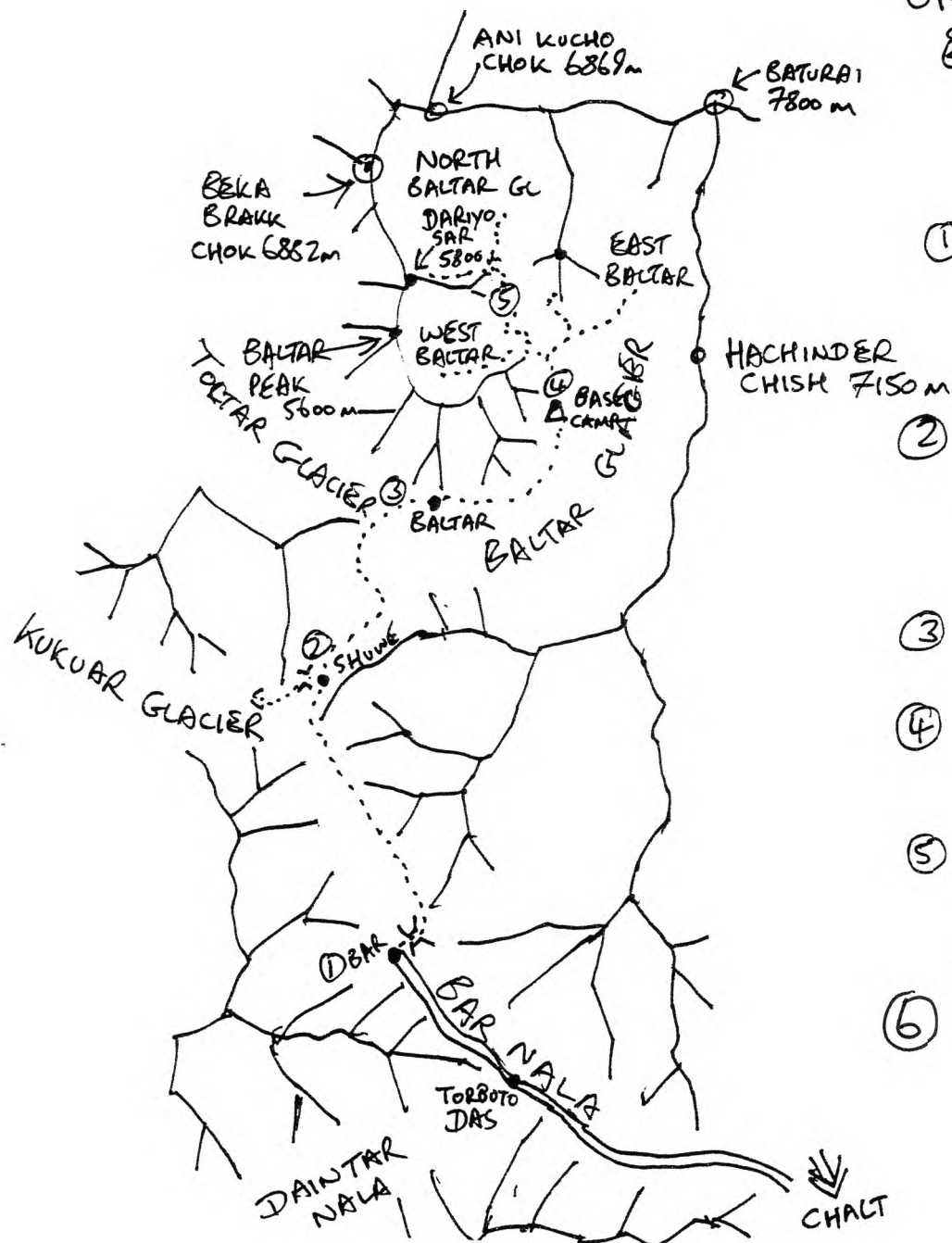
CHAICHAR

SHAYAR

MONS HEADS

RAPOSH EX

BRITISH BALTAR '98 EXPEDITION



- ① JEEP TRACK EXTENDS TO BAR VILLAGE. A LARGE, WELL ORGANISED VILLAGE, WITH MANY PORTERS AND SEVERAL JEEPS
- ② "SHUWE" - SUMMER PASTURE SETTLEMENT, MANY CAMPSITES & WATER. PATH FROM BAR FOLLOWS EAST SIDE OF RIVER. PATH TO BALTAR FOLLOWS EAST SIDE OF RIVER, TO GLACIER, CROSS GLACIER TWICE TO BALTAR
- ③ BALTAR - LARGE PASTURES AND SUMMER SETTLEMENT. Circa 3300m
- ④ "KHANA TAMAREH" (?) OR CAMP 4. GOOD MELTWATER SUPPLIES ON FLAT MORaine. Circa 4000m
- ⑤ "?" MORaine AT BASE OF DARIYO SAR. MELTWATER SUPPLIES & GOOD CAMPSITES. SUITABLE BASE CAMP FOR BBC & AKC. Circa 4200m.
- ⑥ "KHORI KARTRUCH" BC FOR BATURA PERK.