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Mount Everest Foundation

Expedition report of:

**The 2004 New Zealand Unclimbed China
Expedition**

Daxue Shan Range

**September-November 2004.
(Expedition Reference 04/11A)**

Sean Waters, January 2005.

Mount Everest Foundation

The 2004 New Zealand Unclimbed China Expedition September-November 2004.

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1. Summary

Between late September and mid November two New Zealand climbers visited the central Daxue Shan Range in the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Region of Western Sichuan (Map 1). This region is relatively well known due to the monarch of the range Gongga Shan (Minya Konka 7556m). Peaks in the northern end of the central Daxue Shan have also seen some attention but several peaks in the middle of the range remained unattempted.

This expedition began life as the Unclimbed Tibet expedition heading for the Nyainqentangla Range of eastern Tibet, however at the last minute while the expedition was in Chengdu preparing to fly to Lhasa, the necessary permits were cancelled. This necessitated a rapid change of plan and two unclimbed peaks in the Daxue Shan, Longemain (6294m) and Daddomain (6380m) were identified as new expedition objectives (Map 2).

The expedition climbed Longemain via the west ridge reaching the summit on the 20th October a climb involving two camps above an Advanced Basecamp (ABC) (Fig 1). This was followed by a successful ascent of the west ridge of Daddomain, also via two camps above the same ABC (Fig 2). The summit was reached on 29th October.

After the Tibetan permits were cancelled the expedition employed the services of the Sichuan Adventure Travel Company in Chengdu. This is affiliated with Mr Dou, the agent who had organised our Tibetan permits. We requested them to organise the Daxue Shan permits, arrange the compulsory cook and 'guide', as well as organising transport and basecamp logistics. They did an excellent job of this, being very well organised and providing excellent staff.

We drove from Chengdu to Laoyuling via Kanding, over the 30th September and 1 October. This was followed by a four day walk via the Biuxi La into basecamp in the Moxi Valley. From this base we established an ABC on the glacier that drains the western side of Longemain. Our intention was to climb as much as possible in alpine style. Unfortunately the terrain didn't lend itself to acclimatising on anything other than the routes we intended to climb. This necessitated an initial carry and then the establishment of Camp One on Longemain before heading down to basecamp. We headed back up the mountain on the 16th Oct and summited on this attempt.

Daddomain was climbed with one carry to a half way point between ABC and Camp One, and then a single push to the summit.

We walked out down the Moxi valley and spent several days at the Gongga Monastery before walking out over Xi Mei La to the road end. The expedition ended on the 6th of November back in Chengdu.

2. Introduction

The 2004 New Zealand Unclimbed China Expedition (the expedition) began life as the 2004 New Zealand Unclimbed Tibet Expedition, which had obtained permits to climb in the Nyainqentanghla East Range of eastern Tibet. Illegal climbing by various other expeditions in the area caused the cancellation of our permits by the Chinese Tibetan Mountaineering Association while the expedition was preparing to fly to Lhasa from Chengdu, China. At short notice the expedition had to find new objectives and, over a period of only a week, organise an expedition to them.

The spelling of Chinese or Tibetan place names in this report is our own, where we have not been able to confirm correct spelling. These place names are listed in Appendix B along with pronunciation notes for frequently used Tibetan terms.

In this report the central Daxue Shan refers to mountains in the vicinity of the Gongga Shan Massif and shall be referred to as the Daxue Shan.

More information on the expedition may be gained from www.summitfootprints.com

2.1. Purpose

The expedition consulted with the Sichuan Adventure Travel Company (SATC) in Chengdu. From these discussions and some further research, two peaks in the Daxue Shan Range, Longemain (6294m) and Daddomain (6380m), were chosen as expedition objectives. Neither peak had been previously attempted.

2.2. Location

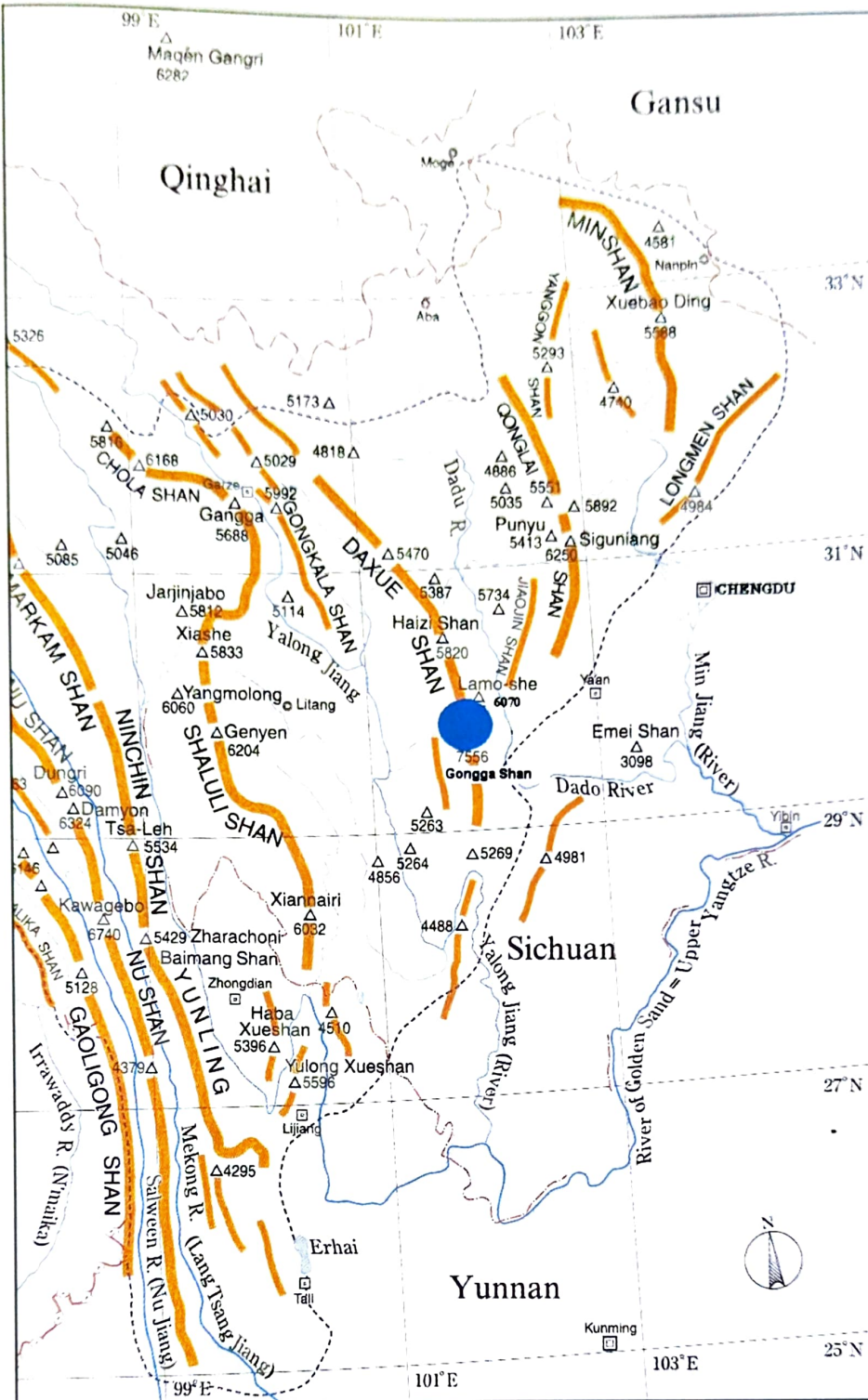
The Daxue Shan Range is in the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in western Sichuan, China (Map 1). It is included in the larger mountain group referred to as the Hengduan Mountains (Map 1). Longemain and Daddomain lie on the Ranges main divide (Map 2), immediately north of the best known and highest peak in the range, Gongga Shan (7552m). Their positions are

- Longemain: N 29 deg 39.110 min, E 101 deg 50.241 min,
- Daddomain; N 29 deg 40.503 min, E 101 deg 50.250 min.

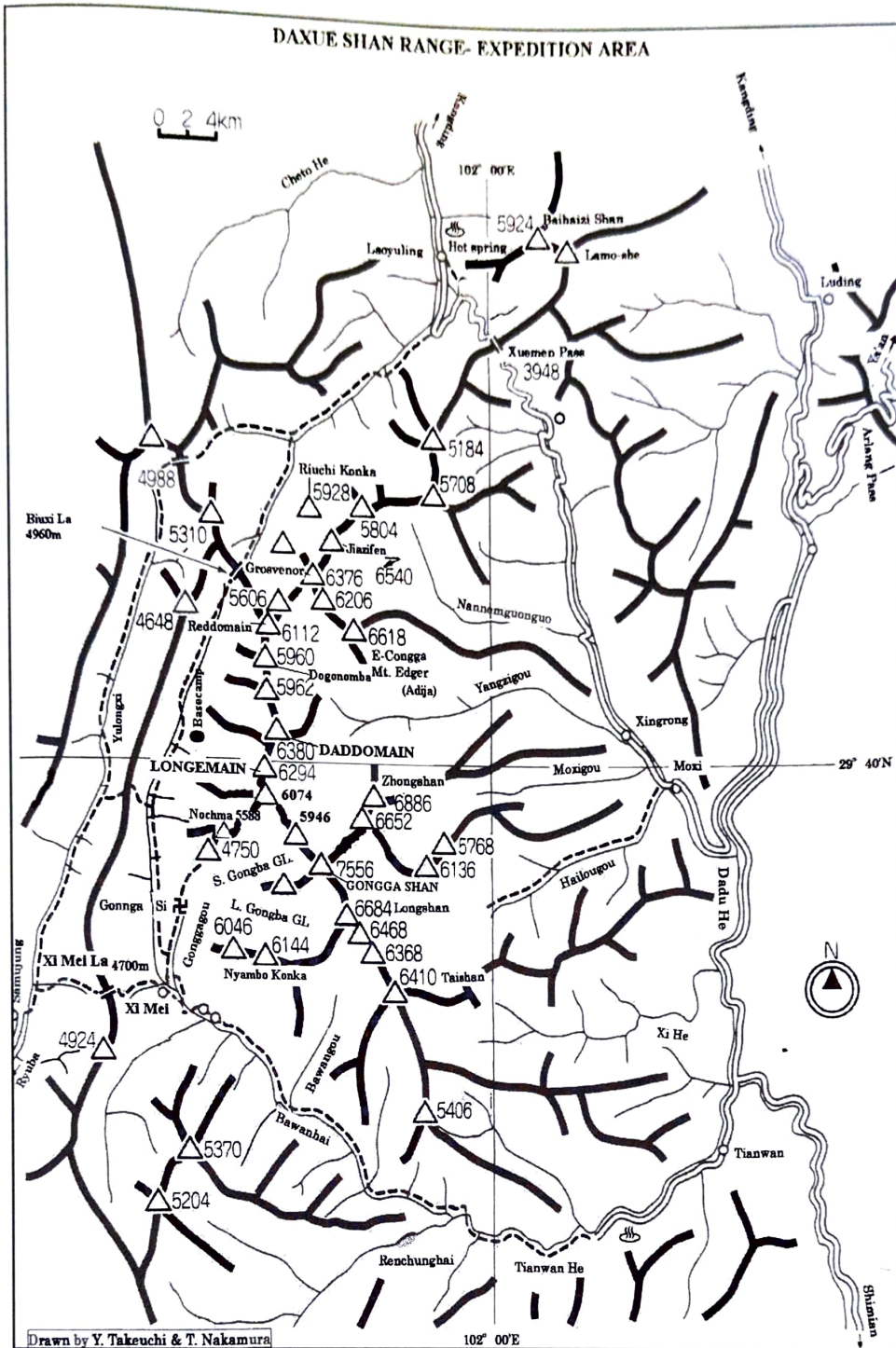
2.3. Character and Area Access

The Daxue Shan area can be accessed by a single long days drive or, as in our case, two shorter days drive from Chengdu. Access to the central part of the range is via the main city of the region, Kanding. From here a road heads further west towards Lhasa, Tibet. We used this road to drive to Laoyuling, the village we began walking from, and also returned on this road from the west at the end of the expedition.

The Daxue Shan range runs more or less north-south (Map 1 & 2). The highest peak is the giant Gongga Shan (Minya Konka 7556m) while the main valleys lie between about 3000m and the main passes at around 4950m. Gongga Shan is the only peak above 7000m with many peaks lying around the mid-6000m mark. The range marks the eastern edge of the Tibetan plateau, a final upheaval before the topography drops into the great lowland basins of Sichuan. To the west, ranges of barren hills of around 4500-5000m, stretch as far as the eye can see.



Map 1. Regions of Western China. Expedition area marked by the large blue circle. The dotted line denotes the area of the Hengduan Mountains. Dash-dot line denotes Chinese provincial borders. *Map adapted from; East of the Himalayas- The Alps of Tibet, by Tomatsu Nakamura.*



Map 2. Central Daxue Shan Area.

Adapted from a map in; East of the Himalayas- To the Alps of Tibet, by Tomatsu Nakamura

3. Personnel

The expedition consisted of two New Zealand climbers, a Chinese cook and a Chinese 'guide'. These staff positions appear to be the minimum required by the Sichuan Mountaineering Association.

New Zealand Climbers

Sean Waters.

Sean is a 35 yr old from Christchurch, New Zealand. He currently works as an Adventurous Training Instructor for the New Zealand Army.

Jorian (Jo) Kippax

Jo is 34 yrs old and has just moved from Auckland to Tasmania, Australia. He is a Doctor specialising in Emergency and Aero- medicine.

Chinese Staff

'Guide'

Xiao Mei acted as our liaison officer. She is a student of Tibetan Buddhism and speaks exceptionally good English. She added an enormous amount to our expedition with her ability to explain many Tibetan customs, especially regarding Buddhism.

Cook

Hezeyuan (Caar) was our cook and 50 yr old super-granny. Her cooking skills were fantastic as were her organisational and logistical skills. She was experienced in providing a great service to foreign expeditions and was able to explain a great deal regarding Chinese history.

Jo's wife Leah Avery accompanied us to basecamp and remained there until the 15th October whereupon she departed by horse and travelled onto to Lhasa.

It should be noted that the Sichuan Adventure Travel Co from Chengdu provided us with our two excellent staff members.

4. Preparation and Logistics

4.1. Introduction

This section deals with the organisation and logistics as organised prior to beginning the walk into basecamp. It should be noted that the usual exhaustive research work was not possible due to the very limited time frame available for planning the expedition after the cancellation of the permits for the original Tibetan objectives.

4.2. Research

Prior to the cancellation of our Tibetan permits we had made contact with the Sichuan Adventure Travel Co (SATC) in Chengdu as they are affiliated with Mr Dou, the agent we were using in Lhasa. They appeared to have very good connections with the Sichuan Mountaineering Association, as well as an extensive knowledge regarding previous activity in the mountains of western China. When we found ourselves unable to climb in eastern Tibet we returned to SATC to discuss possible unclimbed objectives in Sichuan or Yunnan. While there appears to be many unclimbed objectives in this area, many appeared to be off limits due to permitting issues or problems with local authorities. No doubt there are also many objectives that SATC was unaware of, especially to the south of the Daxue Shan. We didn't have time to research these extensively and our search narrowed down over two days to Longemain and Daddomain. Searches of the internet, email communications with Mr John Nankervis and Chas Tanner in New Zealand, as well as reference to these peaks in Tomatsu Nakamura's publication, *East of the Himalaya- To the Alps of Tibet*, indicated that these were worthwhile objectives and presently unclimbed.

Prior to arriving at basecamp we had no photographs that we knew categorically were of the two peaks in question, although it did turn out that a magazine cover featuring Gongga Shan, which we picked up just prior to leaving Chengdu, included Longemain, a fact that became obvious once we had seen the mountain.

4.3. Formalities

The Daxue Shan Range lies in the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan and hence come under the jurisdiction of the Sichuan Mountaineering Association. We have heard rumour that this jurisdiction may be about to change and hence, rules, regulations and costs may also change.

All permit formalities were organised by SATC in a very quick and professional manner. We were charged US\$1500.00 per peak (charge for virgin summit 6-7000m). Because so little information was available regarding the two objectives we were allowed to pay for one permit up front and suspend the second permit payment until we had decided whether or not we wished to attempt the second peak. We advised SATC by satellite phone that this was the case.

4.4. Area Information and Previous Activity

At the time of climbing almost all our knowledge was based on information supplied by SATC. At a later date we gathered information from a Chinese Outside Magazine Gongga Shan Special, as well as various articles and books mentioned in Appendix A.

Most climbing in the area has been focussed on Gongga Shan, at one time believed to be the highest peak in the world. This was first climbed in 1932, a very impressive effort, and at the time the second highest climbed peak in the world. There appears to have been 19 expeditions to Gongga Shan. Seven have been successful via only two routes, the NW and NE ridges, putting 20 people on the summit while 19 have died trying. Sobering statistics indeed.

Elsewhere in the range;

- 1981 British ascent of Riuchi Konkha (5928m)
Swedish ascents of Pt 6886m (Zhong Shan), Tai Shan 6410m, and Pt 6652.
- 1982 American ascent of Nochma (5588) from SE and Gomba from S.
- 1882 American ascent of Jiazifen (6540m)
- 1999 Japanese ascent of Reddomain (6112m) via NW ridge.
- 2001 Korean ascent of Edger (Aidija 6618m)
- 2003 British ascent of Grosvenor (Zenoziak 6376m) via N face/W ridge.

We were unable to obtain official copies of Chinese People's Liberation Army maps, however SATC provided us with two photocopies of these maps (area of interest only). These were of a scale of 1:100000 and seemed to be of reasonable accuracy. We have since been able to access Russian military maps at a scale of 1:200000, from East View Cartographics at www.cartographic.com. Sheet H4724 covers the area of the Daxue Shan we were in.

4.5. Climbing Seasons

We were obviously locked into the time of year as we were already in China prepared for the eastern Tibetan climbing season. Luckily this coincided well with the best season in the Daxue Shan. There appears to be two possible seasons, April/May and September-November. We arrived at basecamp in early October walking in almost constant cloud and drizzle. Shortly after arrival on 5th October the weather cleared. Mid to late October and early November are by all accounts the best periods although the temperatures in November were getting significantly colder. Reports are that the April/May season is significantly less settled although there have been successful ascents of Gongga Shan over that period..

4.6. Provisions and Fuel

We obtained climbing food in New Zealand in the form of Backcountry Foods Dehydrated meals, Mother Earth and Powerbar snack bars, Verkerks salamis and Easy Yo dehy yoghurt for basecamp. All other food was purchased in Chengdu or

Kanding, with supplementary climbing food being purchased by us, and basecamp food being organised by SATC. This food was varied, fresh and plentiful. A huge, comprehensive supply of groceries is available at the Metro supermarket in Chengdu.

Fuel is always the bugbear of these expeditions and this one was no exception. We purchased 97 octane petrol, on the recommendation of SATC. This clogged our Primus multi-fuel stove after a single evening meal and the stove required constant cleaning after this. We had purchased some Butane/propane gas canisters in Chengdu but not enough for the duration of the expedition. The satellite phone came to our rescue, and it transpired that SATC knew someone near Kanding with ex-expedition gas canisters. We had these sent in and they saw us through. Butane/Propane Gas canisters were difficult to find in sufficient quantities in Chengdu. We would recommend prior communication to check whether SATC or other companies can supply the required amount.

The other related issue that nearly brought us to our knees was the issue of cigarette lighters. We bought a significant number in Chengdu, however when we got to altitude it transpired that the peizo-electric variety did not work. Again the satellite phone came to the rescue and we had several traditional flint lighters sent in with the gas canisters. These seemed to work much better although still, at times, begrudgingly.

4.7. Logistics

SATC organised our travel to and from Chengdu via comfortable 4WD vehicles. They organised our horse/mules and drovers for the walk in and out, as well as basecamp food and equipment. This included cook tent, cooking equipment, chairs and tables. All equipment supplied was more than adequate and in good serviceable order. Logistics were well organised and happened smoothly and effectively. SATC were exceptionally good to deal with and responded to our 'emergency' requests (gas canisters and cigarette lighters) with speed and efficiency.

Table 1
Expedition Itinerary (all dates are 2004)

Dates	Activity
25 –29 Sept	Chengdu- Selecting objectives and negotiating logistical and permit support with SATC
30 Sept- 1 Oct	Drive to Laoyuling via Kanding
2 –5 Oct	Walk to basecamp
6 –31 Oct	Climbing Longemain and Daddomain
1 Nov	Walk to Gongga Monastery
2-3 Nov	Gongga Monastery
4-5 Nov	Walk out via Xi Mei La, Drive to Kanding
6 Nov	Drive to Chengdu.

4.8. Finance

The expedition cost approximately NZ\$18000.

We received various grants including the Mount Everest Foundation grant of £700.00, a W L Gore Ltd Shipton Tilman Award of US\$6000.00 and a NZ Alpine Club Grant of NZ\$3000.00. We are extremely grateful for this support.

4.9 Air Travel, Expedition Luggage and Freight

We flew with Thai Airways to Chengdu via Bangkok and returned the same way. We managed to arrange excess baggage of 10kgs each, however this only applied one way. On the outgoing trip we had two accompanying passengers and so were able to spread the luggage across their allowances as well. We freighted some equipment to Chengdu. Our advice would be to have an address to freight it to and/or get a Chinese speaker to accompany you to Chengdu airport to uplift the freight.

On the way home we had to freight a significant amount of equipment by sea and still got hit by large excess luggage fees. Freight was through China Post and arrived home without problems in around eight weeks.

4.10. Medical Arrangements

Jo organised and transported all medical equipment.

No significant medical problems transpired during the expedition. Jo was able to advise and treat local people on occasion.

5. Expedition Activities

5.1. Introduction

This section describes our activities once the expedition was underway.

5.2. Access, In and Out

The expedition accessed the Daxue Shan area by vehicle from Chengdu. The drive from Chengdu to the main city of the region, Kanding, took a full day. The road was generally in very good order although many delays were encountered due to road works. These will presumably improve the road further still. A further hour or two driving took us to the small village of Laoyuling. From here four days walk up the Zoexi Gu, over the Biuxi La (4940m) and into the Moxi Gu took us to a basecamp at the confluence of the Moxi Gu and the stream which drains the western aspect of Longemain. Basecamp was established at an altitude of 3870m, in position N 29 deg 40.649 min, E 101 deg 47.498. The entire approach walk was through open valley floors on good tracks. Vegetation consisted of open grasslands and small shrub-like trees.

The walk out was south down the Moxi Gu valley to the old Gongga Monastery where we spent several days before moving down to the small village of Xi Mei. From here the path headed up and over the Xi Mei La and down into the Yulong Gu and the roadend. The walk was conducted over five days although without the stay at the Monastery this could be done in two. Initial travel was through terrain very similar to that encountered on the walk in, however the path soon descended into a substantially forested and very beautiful environment. The Gongga Monastery is a magical place and should be on every visitors list. It provided a stunning end to the expedition and inspiring views of Gongga Shan.

The drive back to Kanding took a long afternoon on potholed roads. These headed south initially before swinging west and joining more substantial roads to head north and then east to Kanding.

5.3. Initial Recce of Longemain

On the 7th October the weather dawned clear for the first time since leaving Chengdu. We immediately set off up the ridge directly above basecamp on the western side of the Moxi Gu. As it turned out this ridge was the lower west ridge of Daddomain. At an altitude of 4870m we were finally able to see what one of our objectives looked like. Daddomain remained hidden behind a beautiful subsidiary summit but the western aspects of Longemain were revealed in all their icecliff festooned finery. We moved higher up the ridge before dropping down into the valley that drains Longemain's western aspects, and stashing equipment at the valley glacier's terminal lake. This glacier was dubbed the Longemain Glacier and will be referred to as such in the rest of this report.

This recce convinced us that the most logical route would be to ascend the glacial icefall before tackling a steep wall that led to the col between Longemain and Daddomain. This would allow us to attempt both peaks from one high camp.

5.4. Longemain (Fig 1)

On the 9th Oct we set off on an initial foray towards Longemain. We set up an Advanced Basecamp (ABC) on the Longemain glacier at 4700m. This was accessed via a razor-backed lateral moraine on the true left of the glacier and lay immediately below the glaciers icefall, three hours above basecamp. The improved views from this camp showed that the icefall was likely to be problematic and the approach to the intended route to the col was very threatened by large icecliffs on the southern aspects of Daddomain and the western aspects of Longemain. After some deliberation we decided to abandon the plan to reach the col and instead focus on Longemain's west ridge.

Due to the lack of suitable peaks to acclimatise on in the immediate area, it was decided to acclimatise on the route. This precluded a pure alpine style ascent, but we hoped to remain as close to this ideal as possible.

The west ridge was to be accessed via a long unconsolidated couloir in front of a triangular subsidiary summit. On the 10th Oct we carried a load to within 100m of where this couloir reaches the west ridge and returned to ABC. Conditions were less than ideal with deep, loose snow often consisting of several feet of graupel. The couloir was obviously very avalanche prone and we dubbed it 'Purgatory Gully'. On the 11th Oct we returned to our equipment stash and moved up onto the west ridge, establishing Camp1 (C1) at 5270m. In the process we were both hit by lightening on the ridge crest. The following day (12th Oct) we climbed 100m above C1 before returning and beginning to establish a lightening proof snowcave at the C1 site. Sean suffering from a migraine, brought an end to this activity and we descended to ABC and then Basecamp.

On the 17th Oct we moved back to ABC and the following day slogged our way back up Purgatory Gully to C1 where we finished the snowcave. Weather kept us in C1 the following day although we used an afternoon clearance to plug steps above camp and fixed about 10 meters of rope through a small rock step. On the 19th we climbed the ridge above C1 to a point above the subsidiary peak at around 5750m where we established another snowcave for Camp 2 (C2). This was a lovely days climbing up a sinuous, reasonably steep ridge. The next day (20th Oct) we climbed above C2 through deep snow for a few hundred meters before traversing out above the west face, under Pt 6074 (map 2), paralleling the ridge. At 1620 we reached the summit after threading through heavily sustrugied bands of icecliffs just below the peak. The summit was broad and easily walked around upon. We descended to C2 through a beautiful, still evening with the sun sinking into the Tibetan Plateau. On the 21st Oct we descended to Basecamp stripping all equipment from the mountain except ABC.

Conditions on this climb were variable although it would be fair to say that deep snow predominated. Only two small rock steps were encountered, between C1 and C2. On the steeper parts of the route conditions were firm and allowed good front pointing. These long, expedition type routes are always hard to grade but the Alaskan system seems to lend itself best. The west ridge of Longemain would fit at about Alaskan Grade 4.

5.5. Recce of Daddomain

On the 23rd of Oct we walked north up the Moxi Gu to investigate the valley that drains the north-western aspects of Daddomain and hopefully to see these aspects of Daddomain itself. This valley, one hours walk north of basecamp, proved to be exceptionally beautiful and provided very good views of Daddomain. The north and north west faces of this peak are very impressive. They sweep in unbroken steepness for approximately 1400m up to the true summit and a western subsidiary summit respectively. These faces would be major undertakings and would see little sun. We felt that a better chance of success for our exploratory type expedition lay back in the Longemain valley where we already had an ABC. We decided to attempt the west ridge of Daddomain, accessing it from the original ABC.

5.6. Daddomain (Fig 2)

We walked back to ABC on the 24th Oct and spent the following day tent bound in poor weather. A late clearance on the 26th gave us an opportunity to decide on which rocky coulior might offer the best access to the west ridge, and to carry a load of equipment part of the way up it.

On the 27th we climbed our selected coulior which proved to consist of loose, steepish rock covered by unconsolidated snow. This coulior lay to the left of the obvious, large and snowy, funnel shaped coulior that can be seen from the valley floor. We reached the ridge crest late in the day and found an open crevasse at 5470m, in which to pitch our tent and call Camp 1. The following day we climbed a short distance up the ridge to 5870m and, both feeling very lethargic, established another tent camp, Camp 2 (C2).

On the 29th we climbed steep ground above this camp and sidled around the southern aspect of the western subsidiary peak before traversing a series of basins which led to a broad gully between the main peak and the western peak. We cut across this and up onto the southern ridge of the main peak where we dumped packs and followed it up to the summit pyramid. At this point we traversed slightly to the east before heading up a steepish ramp that led directly to the summit. We arrived at 1600. Shortly afterwards we began the descent to C2.

On the 30th Oct we descended the ridge to the top of a large obvious coulior system that promised quick access to the valley. This proved to be trickier than anticipated with very loose rock making abseil anchors hard to find. On arrival to ABC we cleared this and moved down to Basecamp.

Conditions on this climb varied considerably. All the rock encountered was in the lower sections while accessing the west ridge and was very loose. Snow conditions on the ridge tended to be firmer than on Longemain although sections in upper basins were loose and deep. Again steeper aspects provided good front pointing. We would grade this route at Alaskan Grade 4, although colder conditions made this route considerably more taxing than our ascent of Longemain.

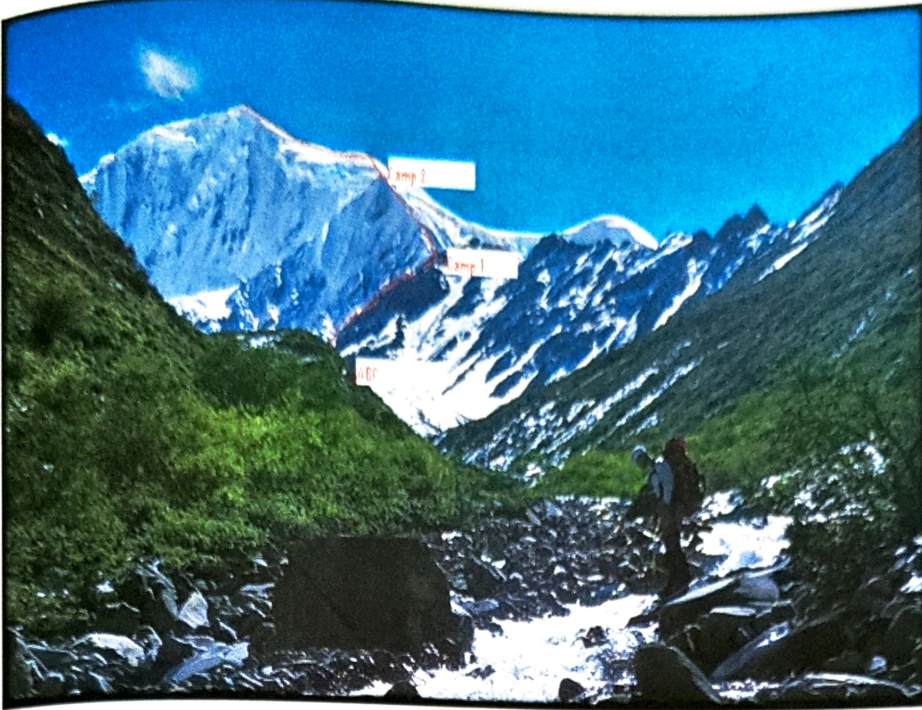


Fig 1. The western aspect of Longemain (6294m). The route climbed is shown along with the camps. ABC is obscured but its elevation indicated. Dotted lines indicate that the route is out of sight.

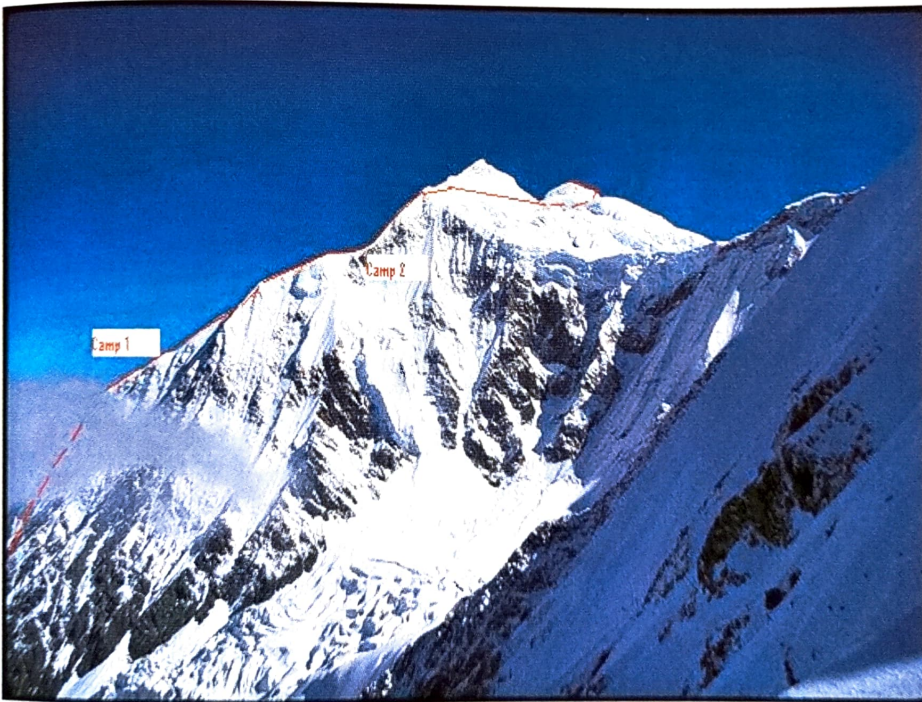


Fig 2. The southern aspect of Daddomain from the west ridge of Longemain. Approx route onto the west ridge is indicated by the dotted line.

6. Weather

In general we encountered good weather and locals commented on what a dry autumn the area was having. The expedition can be divided into meteorological thirds. Early in the trip afternoon thunderstorms occurred most days, usually accompanied by hail and snow. The extent of these was evident in the several feet of graupel in the snowpack in Purgatory Gully. The middle third of the expedition remained largely fine and settled while the last third was somewhat unsettled, with common snowfall. The end of October was noticeably colder and autumnal change was evident in the vegetation. Snowfalls of up to 15cm were experienced in basecamp.

A dominant feature of the weather in the Moxi Gu was thick banks of fog that rolled in regularly in the afternoon. These often reached an altitude of up to 5000m and brought very poor visibility, snow and damp, cold conditions. It was usually gone by afternoon. It is interesting to note that none of the surrounding valleys seemed to suffer from this phenomenon.

Daily weather observations will be posted on www.summitfootprints.com once available.

7. Conclusions and Future Prospects

- Permission to climb in the Daxue Shan Range appears to be readily granted, although rumours are that authority may soon be passed to Administrators within the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. This may alter the situation.
- The western aspects of the central Daxue Shan Range remain largely 'unspoilt' and are populated by Tibetan yak herders. The eastern aspects of Gongga Shan at least, are becoming increasingly developed and touristic.
- Road access from Chengdu to the region is very good and takes 1-2 days.
- Access to the Moxi Gu area is possible either from the north via Biuxi La or the west via Xi Mei La. Both routes provide good tracks.
- Expedition equipment is carried into the area by horse and will usually require at least one drover per 2-3 horses.
- A liaison officer ('guide') and a cook are required.
- The Sichuan Adventure Travel Company (SATC) in Chengdu offers an excellent, efficient service and can provide an invaluable source of information on the area.
- Most food types are available in Chengdu although it is advisable to bring specialist climbing food from home. The Metro Supermarket has a large range of groceries and can provide almost anything you can dream of.
- 97 octane petrol is the recommended fuel but seems to quickly clog stoves especially while simmering. Butane/propane gas canisters are available in very limited quantities in the numerous outdoor stores in Chengdu. For greater quantities it may be best to liaise with SATC or freight from home.
- The piezo-electric lighters available in Chengdu do not work at altitude. The flint style lighters do.
- Maps should be sourced prior to leaving your home country.
- Many climbing opportunities still exist in the Daxue Shan. The two peaks immediately north of Daddomain, Pk 5962 and Dogonomba (5960m) remain unattempted and look worthy of attention. The north and north-west faces of Daddomain would provide fantastic challenges to aficionados of big steep faces. Many other peaks in the range appear to be unclimbed and to the south of the area is a sea of mountains about which we know little. It appears though, that this area is largely unexplored.

8. Acknowledgments

The Unclimbed China Expedition had a huge amount of assistance and support from many avenues. The expedition wouldn't have been possible without this and we gratefully acknowledge their help. In particular we would like to thank the following organisations for financial grants:

- The Mount Everest Foundation
- W L Gore & Associates for the Shipton/Tilman Award
- The New Zealand Alpine Club
- The NZ Defence Force and the Singapore Fund.
- The NZ Community Trust.

The expedition was sponsored by the following companies which provided superb equipment, finance and/or food. These companies stuck with us despite the permit difficulties encountered early in the expedition. We owe them a huge vote of thanks.

- Bivouac Ltd
- Placemakers Ltd
- Macpac Wilderness Equipment Ltd
- Suunto Wristop Computers Ltd via Adventure Extreme
- Thorlos via Beattie Matheson Ltd
- Smith Sport Optics via Sportive NZ Ltd
- ROCOM Wireless Ltd
- Powerbar
- Mother Earth Ltd
- Easy Yo Ltd

Plus, Lees Solar, Portables Plus, BackCountry Foods Ltd and Verkerks Ltd

The following people supplied us with invaluable help and information, to them many thanks:

- Mr Tomatsu Nakamura
- John Nankervis
- Colin Monteith
- Lizzi Edmonds
- The Sichuan Adventure Travel Company.
- Xaio Mei and Hezeyuan (Caar), our wonderful staff.
- Jo Haines of Spiderweb Design
- Chas Tanner
- Friends and loved ones for their support when we were pulling our hair out.

9. Copyright

The compiler of this report and all members of the expedition agree that all or part of it may be used or copied for the purpose of private research.

Appendix A. Articles and Books that may be of use

Note: Many of these articles and books have only been discovered by the expedition since our return home. Some of them have not been sighted. Many are written concerning Gongga Shan.

1. Burdsell & Moore- Men against the Clouds 1932
2. Burdsell and Moore- Climbing Mighty Minya Konka, National Geographic Magazine, May 1943
3. T Nakamura- East of the Himalaya- To the Alps of Tibet
4. J.F Rock- The Glories of Minya Konka, National Geographic Magazine Vol 58 No4 1930
5. American Alpine Journal 1983, 1994
6. Alpine Journal 1982.
7. Japanese Alpine Club- Reddomain Expedition Report.
8. Murphy & Murphy- Adventure Beyond the Clouds, 1982.

Appendix B. Chinese Tibetan Place-Names

The following names, as used in this report are spelt according to our understanding of the local pronunciation (which is shady at best). It should be noted that the most common 'non-phonetic' pronunciation used in words contained in this report is of the letter 'x'. This is pronounced che (as in she). Hence Moxi is pronounced Muche.

Laoyuling
Xi Mei
Zoexi Gu,
Biuxi La

Other common Tibetan terms used in this report:
La = mountain pass
Gu = valley

Appendix C. Contact Information

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