

M/F 79/21

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MOUNT
EVEREST
FOUNDATION

KUNYANG KISH
'80

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Members of the Expedition
L to R: Phil Bartlett, Steve Venables, Dave Wilkinson

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BRITISH HUNZA EXPEDITION 1980/ BRITISH WEST KARAKORAM EXPEDITION 1980

KUNYANG KISH 25,760 ft.

**The first attempt on the unclimbed Northwest Spur and
North Ridge of the world's 22nd highest mountain**

Expedition members :

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| DAVE WILKINSON | (34) | Polytechnic Lecturer, Birmingham.
Alpine Climbing Group,
Climber's Club.
Previous Expeditions :
West Karakoram, 1975.
Latok 2, 1978.
Peruvian Andes, 1979. |
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Alpine Climbing Group.
Climber's Club, Oxford Alpine Club.
Previous Expeditions :
Baffin Island, 1976.
Kishtwar Himalaya, 1978. |
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Alpine Club,
York Mountaineering Club.
Previous Expeditions :
Hindu Kush, 1977.
West Karakoram, 1979. |
| CAPT. IRFAN WALI KHAN | (27) | Liaison Officer |
| Khubaiyar | (ageless) | Liaison Officer's cook |

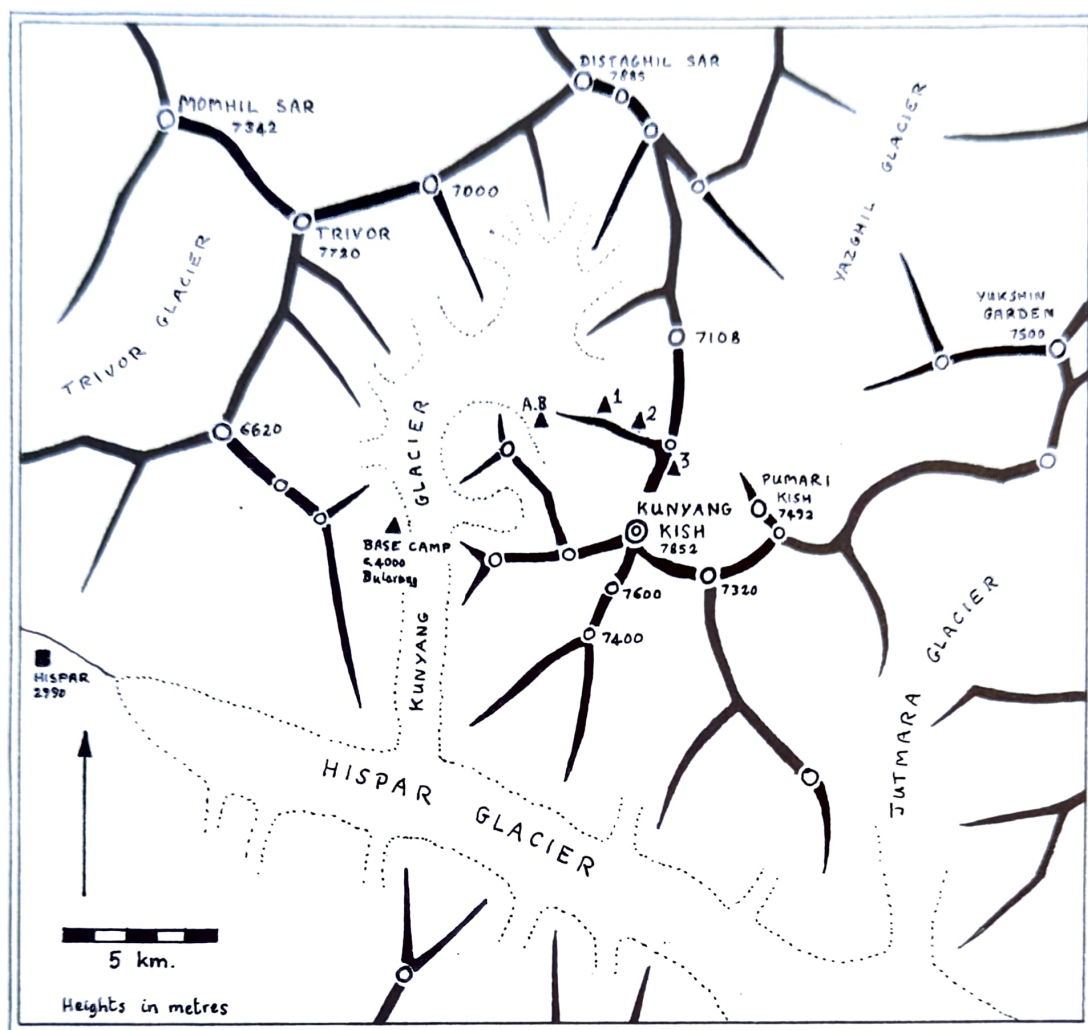
INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of 1979, Phil Bartlett and Stephen Venables planned a lightweight expedition to the West Karakoram — the "British Hunza Expedition 1980". Meanwhile, Dave Wilkinson had been planning his "British West Karakoram Expedition 1980" and had permission from the Pakistan government to attempt Kunyang Kish. Both teams were heading for the same area and both were conspicuously short of members, so we decided to join forces for a three man attempt on the unclimbed North Ridge of Kunyang Kish.

Kunyang Kish is the 22nd highest mountain in the world. It is a huge and complex peak; towering above the Hispar Glacier, in the West Karakoram range. It has been climbed once, by a Polish expedition in 1971. They climbed the long south ridge which had defeated a British attempt in 1962 and a Japanese attempt in 1965. On each of these three expeditions a climber was killed and the mountain gained an awesome reputation for danger and difficulty.

The successful Polish expedition had examined the north side of the mountain and dismissed it as impractical and unsafe. However, a few years later David Wilkinson thought differently, after examining a photo of the Northwest Face. A 7,000 ft. spur climbs up the side of the face, leading to the North Ridge of the mountain. Both the spur and the ridge appeared from the photo to offer snow and ice climbing of a reasonable standard; and the spur appeared to avoid the line of fire of the vast seracs which dominate the faces to either side. Dave's proposed route was an attractive and logical line up one of the most impressive mountains in the world, and on July 5th, 1980, we set off to find out whether it really was climbable. We were the first expedition to visit the mountain for nine years.

THE APPROACHES TO KUNYANG KISH



Bularung is merely a camping ground. There are no buildings.

A.B. = Advance Base.

1, 2, 3 = Sites of main snow-holes.

This is a simplification of part of J. Wala's comprehensive Karakoram map. Both this and the Japanese map mark the topography of the N.W. face of Kunyang Kish incorrectly, with the glacier branch below the N.W. face flowing west towards Bularung. In fact the glacier flows north-west and a sizeable ridge makes it impossible to take a direct line from Base Camp to Advance Base.

WITH LUCK NOT ON OUR SIDE

The journey from London to our base camp on the Kunyang Glacier took eighteen days. We flew to Islamabad, where we were well looked after by hospitable staff of the British Embassy. After nine days we continued with Wali, our Pakistani Liaison Officer, who accompanied us as far as Base Camp. We travelled by road to Gilgit and on to Nagar, on the south side of the Hunza valley. From there we walked the remaining thirty miles up the Hispar and Kunyang glaciers. The walk took a slow six days, thanks to the intransigence of our porters.

Base Camp was sited at Bularung (c. 13,500 ft.) — a grassy ablation valley on the west bank of the Kunyang Glacier. Due to an error in the map we were further from the foot of the climb than we had expected to be and it required a tedious five hour crawl over the boulder-strewn glacier to reach the north west spur. Phil and Stephen reconnoitred the route over the glacier on July 25th and saw the 10,000 ft. high North-West Face of the mountain for the first time. The spur to the left of the face did look climbable and we returned to Base Camp in a mood of optimistic enthusiasm.

At this stage the weather was fine and we made good use of the time, carrying loads up the glacier acclimatising all the while. We were intending to climb onto the crest of the spur by its north flank and were stockpiling food and equipment on this side. It was only after our third journey up the glacier that Dave spotted what looked a safer and easier line on the south side. Bad weather kept us in Base Camp for four days; but then, on August 3rd, we returned to try this approach. We managed to reach the crest of the spur at c. 19,000 ft., and descended the same day, and moved all our supplies from the original reconnaissance camp to a new Advance Base at c. 15,500 ft. just below the south side of the spur. The route up to the spur was fairly straight-forward. The Garadh Gully (named after a similar feature on Ben Nevis) bypassed an awkward icefall, leading to the glacier basin immediately below the Northwest Face. From there we climbed a long 45° snow and ice slope up to the crest of the spur. The whole of this approach was exposed to stonefall after about 9 a.m., which necessitated leaving Advance Base around 2 a.m. to avoid serious danger.

We now made very rapid progress. Two days later we climbed

back up to the spur, carrying full loads. We continued along the twisting crest, on firm, frozen snow for a few hundred feet, to the site of Camp 1 — a crevasse in a sheltered hollow, at c. 19,500 ft. The crevasse was filled with packed snow, so we dug out a snowhole and spent the night there. The next morning we continued up the northern slopes of the spur, avoiding its tortuous crest. We climbed most of this section in the dark, as the slope appeared to be avalanche-prone, and we wanted to get back down before it was hit by the sun. At c. 21,000 ft. the spur merges into a steep snow face. We struggled slowly up this, zigzagging between crevasses and seracs. At about 9 a.m. we reached the skyline, at the lowest point on the long ridge between Kunyang Kish and Kunyang Kish North.

It was an exciting moment; for the first time we looked over beyond the Kunyang basin to the endless expanse of China. We also had our first close-up view of the North Ridge of our mountain — a beautiful, twisting snow arete, leading straight up the summit pyramid. But there was an obstacle : we were standing on the north side of a sizeable bump in the ridge — almost a peak in its own right. There was no easy way round the back as we had hoped there would be; we would have to climb up its steep front face and then descend to the start of the North Ridge of Kunyang Kish. This small peak was an annoying obstacle on a route that had so far proved unexpectedly straightforward, so we irreverently named it “Sod’s Law Peak”.

We had gone far enough for one day, so we left a cache of food and hurried back to Camp 1, before the sun hit the dangerous avalanche slope.

We spent a contented afternoon outside our snowhole, enjoying the view out past Trivor to the Hunza valley and the vast pyramid of Rakaposhi. For the first time we felt confident of success : within two weeks of arriving at Base Camp, we had reached a height of c. 22,000 ft. without suffering unduly from the altitude. We had climbed two thirds of the route, without even uncoiling a rope. This meant that we could move up and down the route as often as we needed to, without resorting to belaying and abseiling. By not carrying heavy climbing gear, we could afford to carry more food and fuel. Obviously this unroped climbing had its dangers, particularly when we eventually climbed the steep face of Sod’s Law Peak. However, on the mainly snowy terrain, belaying would have been slow and problematical, and we each felt happier being responsible for our own safety, moving steadily, unfettered by ropes. Probably the biggest danger was the

possibility of an avalanche on the slopes above Camp 1. But if we had been caught in one, it is doubtful whether a rope would have been any help.

We needed more supplies on the mountain and we needed a rest; so, the following morning, we descended to the glacier and returned to Base Camp. Bad weather kept us there for our second enforced stay and it was four days before we returned to Advanced Base, with heavy sacks full of food and fuel. After four hours sleep, we set off again on the six hour climb to Camp 1. Phil and Stephen waited there a day for Dave, who had been delayed, making a social call on the Japanese expedition camped near Trivor. Then we all continued towards Sod's Law Peak, kicking two feet deep steps in new snow.

Camp 2 was another snowhole about 15000 ft. below Sod's Law Peak. Yet another snowfall kept us there for two nights, cowering below a subsiding roof, which was being slowly pressed down by the weight of snow avalanching from the slopes above.

The weather cleared again and we climbed up towards the North Ridge, under a starry sky. At dawn we collected our food cache and traversed back across the slope below Sod's Law Peak, our sacks bulging with a week's supply of food and gas, on top of duvets, sleeping bags, stove and pans and a small amount of climbing gear. The face of the peak steepened to 50°; patches of brittle ice alternated with deep snow. From the summit we had to descend the steep West flank of a dangerously corniced ridge — a piece breaking off gave Phil a narrow escape — and down to the Col below the North Ridge proper. There was now a strong, cold wind, blowing more and more clouds over from the southwest; so we stopped and started to dig our third snowhole. Digging out an 8' x 6' x 4' cave, at about 22,500 ft. is a tiring operation; and we were very glad when we could finally crawl into the security of our burrow, thirteen hours after leaving Camp 2.

We were now in a firm position to try for the summit. We had enough food and cooking fuel to last a week; two days' climbing would get us up the North Ridge; we were all fit and well acclimatised for the attempt. But we were never given a chance — a four day storm kept us marooned in the snowhole. In the early hours of the fifth day we made a futile attempt at uphill progress, through three feet of new powder snow. It quickly became obvious that a summit attempt was out of the question; the only answer was to descend to Advanced Base to rest, eat and collect more supplies, while the new snow consolidated. But even descending was going to be risky; so, very much at Dave's

instigation, we resigned ourselves to another tedious day's waiting in the snowhole, to give the worst of the avalanches a chance to fall, before starting the descent.

At dawn the following day we were wading our way back over the top of Sod's Law Peak, when one of the huge cornices broke off with a violent bang and went roaring down the far side of the ridge. Luckily we had judged the fracture line correctly and were just below it. The slopes down to Camp 1 were a jumbled mess of avalanche debris. Everywhere there were jagged lines where three feet of windslab had broken away to slide 4000 ft. to the glacier below; we were glad we had spent the previous day of fine weather waiting at Camp 3. After a six hour descent we arrived back at Camp 1, relieved to be safely down. The following morning we continued down to Advanced Base, where we ate our first square meal in twelve days, and then lay down in the hot sun, enjoying the one completely cloudless day of the whole expedition.

The wind soon started to blow again, bringing more unstable weather. Perhaps we would have to wait longer than two days at Advance Base, so Dave and Stephen reluctantly stumbled down to Base Camp to fetch more food. Paul Nunn and Tony Riley were there, having just walked up from the Hispar Glacier. It was good to see new faces and swap news; but they were sadly unable to join us on the climb, due to a violent fever, which turned out later to be Hepatitis. After a good sleep and a large meal, we left them and returned to Advance Base — our sixth and last journey up the glacier.

The weather was far from settled. It didn't look as though we were going to have a prolonged spell of fine weather for the second attempt. Dave kept assuring us that Karakoram weather was good — the storm had been a freak and we couldn't possibly have such bad luck again. We certainly deserved some fine weather, or at least the sort of weather where the snowfalls only last for a few hours. We knew that we could sit out a day or two of moderate snowfall at Camp 3 and still climb the remaining 3000 ft. to the summit. The North Ridge was quite feasible and we were fit; only a prolonged storm could stop us from reaching the summit.

Once again we climbed up the Garadh Gully in the dark. Again we climbed the delicate, exposed crest below Camp 1. Again we dug out a Camp 2 (the previous one had been completely demolished in the storm). Again we panted slowly up Sod's Law Peak and arrived at Camp 3 with another week's supplies. The snowhole was completely

covered over with avalanche snow and, by the time we had dug our way in, the entrance tunnel was about eight feet long. We spent the afternoon inside, sorting our food rations for our summit attempt. But, as we looked out in the evening, we could see suspicious cigar-shaped clouds forming over Distaghil Sar, across the glacier. The storm arrived the following morning.

This time we were marooned for a mere four days, and by that time we were resigned to returning empty-handed. As the hours dragged by, we lay in our sleeping bags talking of home. We eked out our food carefully, not knowing how long we would have to wait before it was safe to descend. High altitude lethargy set in; each time one of us had to get up to clear snow from the entrance, it required an enormous effort to crawl out of a warm sleeping bag, put on boots and anorak and burrow through to the cold, blasting wind outside. On the fifth night the sky was clear and we packed up to leave for Camp 1.

The descent was again worrying. This time the weather had been colder and the slopes down to Camp 1 hadn't yet avalanched. We waded nervously down through deep powder, praying that it wouldn't slide from under our feet. At Camp 1 we ate with abandon and discussed the meals that we would eat at Base Camp and Nagar and Gilgit and Islamabad. Beyond that lay England — a gastronomic paradise. But first we had to get safely down, off the mountain. The crest below Camp 1 now consisted of brittle ice overlaid with loose, sugary snow and it required all our concentration to climb down it safely, the following morning. Then it only remained to crampon down the long 45° slope, now avalanche-swept bare ice, and on down the Garadh Gully to the safety of the glacier. We packed up all the equipment at Advance Base, shouldered 80 lb loads, and carried on down to Base Camp. The mountain was once again hidden in thick, dark clouds, and we were glad to be down and on our way home.

Wali and his cook, Khubaiyar, were waiting for us at Base Camp. It was good to be once again in the company of other people. Wali was his usual warm-hearted, humourous self, full of sympathy for our bad luck on the mountain. He had had news of several other expeditions who had also failed, in a summer of exceptionally bad weather. This was some consolation, and further convinced us that our failure had been due to no lack of perserverance or competence on our part. When we left, two days later, bitter disappointment was giving way, to a feeling of excitement at the thought of returning to the valley, and a profound relief that we had returned unscathed from the slopes of Kunyang Kish.

FINANCE

Sponsors: **Mount Everest Foundation**
 British Mountaineering Council
 Illustrated London News
 Birmingham Post

In spite of expensive air fares, exorbitant porter rates and a large peak fee, the expedition only cost about £3,500. This is a paltry sum compared to the £100,000 or more, which some Himalayan expeditions spend. Nevertheless, we would have been hard put to pay all of this "paltry sum" out of our own pockets; and we are extremely grateful for the generous grants from the MEF and BMC, and the financial support of the newspapers. This significant income meant that rather than being financially ruinous for us, the expedition was merely very expensive!

In the following accounts certain items to which sponsors cannot be justifiably asked to contribute are not included. Principle amongst these are personal items of clothing and bivouac equipment bought specially for the expedition, and extra film.

Exchange rate = 22 rupees to the pound.

EXPENDITURE	£	INCOME	£
Transport	2200	Mount Everest Foundation	800
Flight x 3	1260	British Mountaineering Council	500
Airport tax	14		
Road Transport	146		
Porters	740	Illustrated London News	350
Porter's insurance	40	Birmingham Post	100
	<u>2200</u>	Bath Evening Chronicle	20
Peak fee	672	TOTAL SPONSORSHIP	<u>1770</u>
Accommodation, taxis	65	Member's Contributions	1866
Supplies in Pakistan	305		
L.O.'s living allowance	24		
L.O.'s equipment (not returned)	60		
Admin., expenses, U.K.	90		
Film	100		
Report	120		
TOTAL	<u><u>£ 3636</u></u>		<u><u>£ 3636</u></u>

MEDICAL

Sponsors:

Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

CIBA Laboratories

Fisons Pharmaceuticals

Hoechst UK

Janssen Pharmaceuticals

May & Baker

Reckitt & Colman

Roche Products

Searle Laboratories

Seton Products

WB Pharmaceuticals

We had no qualified doctor in the team, so we limited our supplies to a small range of pain killers, anti-biotics and dressings, plus the usual sun cream, stomach pills etc.. The only really strong drugs were Frusemide (diuretic) and Palphium (analgesic); luckily neither of these had to be used. The only drugs that were used in any quantity were Immodium (an extremely effective anti-diahhorea pill) and Codis and Paracodol (both very effective for dealing with high altitude headaches). Seton dressings and Brulidine cream dealt perfectly with minor injuries. Uvistat cream and lip salve provided adequate protection against the sun.

P.B. and S.V. both had frost-nipped toes after the first trip to Camp 3 (at the time of writing — October — they have just come back to life); and, in spite of double boots and overboots, neither of them ever had completely warm feet; perhaps Ronicol or Persantin would have helped.

Apart from the usual digestive problems, the only illness was Hepatitis — D.W. became ill with the disease after returning to England. Five members of the R.G.S. Karakoram Project caught the disease in the area. Two of them, Paul Nunn and Tony Riley, went down with the fever while visiting our base camp. D.W. and S.V. shared a meal with them at the time, and it seems likely that this is how Dave (who hadn't had the Gammagobulin injection) caught it. Altogether, it seems likely that Hepatitis is endemic to this area.

Altitude didn't pose any serious problems. We all acclimatised well and, apart from the occasional headache and a general feeling of lethargy, P.B. and S.V. didn't suffer any ill effects. D.W.'s usual minor but irritating altitude cough showed up one deficiency in our supplies — Bradasol, the only cough cure we had, was a pleasant taste but totally ineffective.

We only used a tiny proportion of our medical supplies; but in the event of a serious accident, we would have needed just about everything we had. Such a disaster almost occurred on the walk-in, when the caravan of porters was caught in a rock avalanche. Several people could have been killed; miraculously, there was nothing worse than a few cuts and bruises.

EQUIPMENT

Sponsors:

Carsons Camping Centre (Bath)
Charlwood Festival Committee
Damant Thermawear
D.R.G. Plastics
Dunlop Footwear
Europeasure
W. L. Gore & Associates (U.K.)
Helly Hansen (U.K.)

Kodak
Metal Box
Mountain Equipment
Tower Housewares
Transatlantic Plastics
Vango
Vista Thermal Products

For a mountain this size, our equipment stock was modest. None of the climbing gear (6 ropes, an assortment of rock and ice pegs, slings etc.) was specially acquired. Care was taken with clothing, where the provision was adequate but not excessive.

Vital items were provided by Mountain Equipment, Vista and GoreTex. P.B. had the Vista Windlite jacket and all members used the Vista K2 mitts. Both these products were genuinely felt to be a noticeable advance on anything previously available.

All members had down duvets. Sleeping bags were Mountain Equipment Redlines, all with some form of GoreTex covering. In D.W.'s case this covering was integral to the bag, whereas P.B. and S.V. had Nomad bivouac sacks. Having spent ten days in a snowhole at 22,500 ft., we would say that these are little short of essential; their value in keeping down equipment dry cannot be overemphasized. This is one of the real qualities of GoreTex.

Damart Thermawear was used extensively and, again, was thought quite invaluable. Vests, long-johns, gloves, socks and balaclavas (more comfortable than wool) were all used.

Helly Hansen Polar gear proved itself again.

When not in double boots, we had Dunlop Green Flash shoes, and found them ideal for the walk-in and for wearing in Base Camp.

Unusually, no-one had trouble with blisters; and the comfort of these shoes was undoubtedly a major factor.

The cooking went well. Optimus primus stoves were used up to and including Advanced Base (c.15,500 ft.). Above that we used Vango's A.L.P. bivi stoves, which are well designed but less well made. Self-sealing butane cylinders were provided by Europleasure, in two sizes — 245 g. and 485 g.. Satisfactory in every way, these lasted much longer than we expected: even the smaller size nearly covered two day's cooking at high altitude.

The Tower pressure cooker was invaluable for cooking rice, lentils and potatoes at Base Camp. At this altitude (c.13,500 ft.) cooking without a pressure cooker is an extremely slow business.

Transatlantic Plastics provided us with a wide selection of heavy guage polythene bags, which were extremely useful for packing everything from individual food rations to 25 kg. porter loads. D.R.G. Plastics donated excellent plastic boxes for packing medical supplies, Metal Box some useful tin ones. We are happy to say that all items of sponsored equipment proved both valuable and highly satisfactory.

FOOD

Sponsors:

Batchelors Foods

Evans Medical

Farley Health Products

Haldane Foods (Raven)

Kellogg's Company of Gt. Britain

Quaker Oats

Rowntree Mackintosh

Tate & Lyle

Whitworth Holdings

We were greatly helped by generous donations from the above companies, who provided the bulk of the food which we ate on the mountain: freeze-dried meals, soup, orange powder, sugar, glucose powder, dried fruit and chocolate. The Raven freeze-dried meals really did cook quickly — five minutes was ample, even at 22,500 ft. "Rise & Shine" and "Cup-a-Soup" were both popular drinks; and Rowntree Mackintosh's products were extremely popular, particularly Aero and Breakaway bars.

At base Camp we were mainly dependent on supplies bought in Pakistan. One can buy almost anything in Rawalpindi and Islamabad; but foreign luxuries such as chocolate and dried food are very

expensive and difficult to find. We bought large quantities of ghee, flour, lentils, rice and biscuits. Tinned meat, fish and cheese provided our main source of protein, with garlic, spices and a precious bottle of ketchup for added flavour. We bought fresh potatoes and onions in Gilgit; they were still quite edible after three weeks at Base Camp, and in future we would take far more fresh vegetables.

The topic of food was discussed minutely throughout the expedition. This mainly took the form of idle phantasizing and we in fact ate a perfectly adequate diet; but we all agreed that, for a seven week stay in the mountains, more variety, with more "treats", would be well worth the slight extra weight and portering cost.

TRANSPORT

Sponsor: British Airways

Transport constitutes far and away the biggest expense of an expedition such as this (see financial report).

The team flew Heathrow-Rawalpindi and back by British Airways Tristar. The alternative flights go to Karachi and Delhi, both further from the Karakoram. Total baggage weight was about four times the allowance, and B.A. became one of the expedition's main sponsors, by very kindly agreeing to carry the excess free of charge. Note that extra baggage not arranged in advance is now extremely expensive (about £7 per lb.). Air freight charges are considerably less. B.A. and their Rawalpindi representative David Graeme, gave us invaluable help over the return journey. It is undoubtedly a great advantage to be dealing with a British airline, and thus one's fellow nationals.

Transport from Rawalpindi to Gilgit is by road (permit required) or plane (extremely unreliable, due to weather). We hired a private minibus for 1200 rupees. This is the top price, from Karakoram Tours, a well-known private company, who are efficient and fast. We returned as a "part load", with another company for 390 rupees.

From Gilgit, jeeps can be hired very easily. We paid 500 rupees for one jeep, which took four of us and 450 kg. of baggage to Nagar. (A Japanese expedition hired six jeeps for the same journey and paid out 50,000 rupees!)

At Nagar, where porters must be hired, the problems start. Three days would be a reasonable time for the walk to the Bularung base camp. The porters insisted on taking six days and had to be paid over £5 each per day. With Afghanistan now closed, these are probably the most exorbitant rates anywhere. However, there is no "free market" and it seems from everyone's experience that arguing is a waste of time. The return journey was accomplished in two days, but six days' wages still had to be paid! On the walk-in we took sixteen porters, each carrying 25 kg., made up approximately as follows: 10 loads — food, 5 loads — equipment, 1 load — paraffin; on the walk-out: 5 loads. Only a little food was left at Base Camp. The return journey to Rawalpindi was trying, with the road in a bad state, but was without major incidents.

MFF Searcharge Hike.

Same team + R. Renshaw
are making another attempt
in 1981. MFF have given a
further grant of £900 towards it.

Jim.

THE EXPEDITION IN RETROSPECT

Was it all worth it? For those of us directly involved, undoubtedly, "yes". It was a great adventure; we saw a lot of new country and a lot of new people; there was good climbing on a route of considerable aesthetic appeal and the views were magnificent.

To be coldly objective about it, we failed; but our failure was purely the result of bad luck, and not incompetence. Our own satisfaction with the trip is very much based on the knowledge that it was competently carried out. The initial planning was thorough and Dave dealt with the officialdom of Pakistan with great success. The food was good (except when our cook prepared it) and, with the exception of the climbing gear, we took nothing that we didn't use and left behind very little that we should have taken. We all acclimatised well; and we made a good team. All this makes it all the more annoying that we should fail because of one little factor beyond our control — the weather.

It was a worthwhile venture for us; but we hope that we have succeeded for our sponsors too. We took some 1000 photographs and used a variety of products under arduous conditions. We gained considerable experience of the area, which we hope will be valuable to future parties.

On the plus side, the West Karakoram still has tremendous climbing potential. Rakaposhi looks very attractive; the highest peak — Distaghil Sar — relatively boring. Ultar is one of the highest mountains still unclimbed and is extremely accessible, rising directly from the Hunza valley. It looks hard, however. There are innumerable virgin peaks in the 20,000 — 22,000 ft. range, many of which would be very difficult, for instance those bordering the Hispar Glacier. Overall, the area has the advantage of relatively short walk-ins and reliable transport from Pakistan's capital. And, according to tradition (myth?), the weather is usually good.

On the minus side, expeditions to the Hispar area have to use the Nagar porters, who have been notorious for their laziness since the 19th century. (Expeditions on the west side of the Hunza river could use the Hunza men, who are infinitely more co-operative). Unfortunately there are no 8,000 metre peaks, apart from Nanga Parbat, which lies to the South outside the Karakoram proper, and which always gets unstable weather in July and August. Some of the most attractive propositions such as the faces rising from the Batura Glacier, are closed to expeditions. One other problem: the Karakoram is probably the most expensive area to climb in the world, except for

China. (The views north into that country were tantalising!)

Anyone wanting further information on the expedition, or about climbing in the area in general, is cordially invited to contact the expedition members.

EXPEDITION DIARY

"fair" : Usually a clear morning followed by clouds in the afternoon.
Occasional snowfall.

"bad" : Thick cloud cover, wind and snowfall, ruling out movement up and down the mountain.

DATE	ACTION		
July	5	D.W. & S.V. fly to Islamabad	
	12	P.B. arrives in Islamabad	
	15	Expd. leaves Islamabad	
	18	Expd. leaves Nagar	
	23	Arrive at Base Camp	
	24	1st recce to foot of N.W. Spur	fair
	25	1st carry to reconnaissance camp	fair
	27	2nd carry to reconnaissance camp	fair
	28	Explore North side of N.W. Spur	bad
	29	Return to Base Camp	bad
August	30, 31	At Base Camp	bad
	1	At Base Camp	bad
	2	Return to upper glacier	fair
	3	1st climb up to the N.W. Spur	fair
	5	2nd climb up to the N.W. Spur. Camp 1 established	fair
	6	Climb to the North ride	fair
	7	Return to Base Camp	bad
	8, 9	At Base Camp	bad
	10	Return to Advanced Base	bad
	11	Climb to Camp 1	fair
	13	Establish Camp 2	fair
	14	Stuck at Camp 2	bad
	15	1st ascent of S.L. Peak. Camp 3 established	fair
	16 - 19	Stuck at Camp 3	bad
	20	Day's wait at Camp 3	fair
	21	Descend to Camp 1	fair
	22	Descend to Advanced Base	cloudless day
	23 - 25	Resting at A.B. and journey to B.C. for food	bad
	26	Climb to Camp 1	fair
	27	Stuck at Camp 1	bad
	28	Establish new Camp 2	fair
	29	Climb to Camp 3	fair
	30, 31	Stuck at Camp 3	bad
Sept.	1, 2	Stuck at Camp 3	bad
	3	Descend to Camp 1	fair
	4	Descend to Base Camp	fair
	6	Leave Base Camp	
	8	Arrive in Gilgit	
	13	Fly Islamabad-London	

Acknowledgements

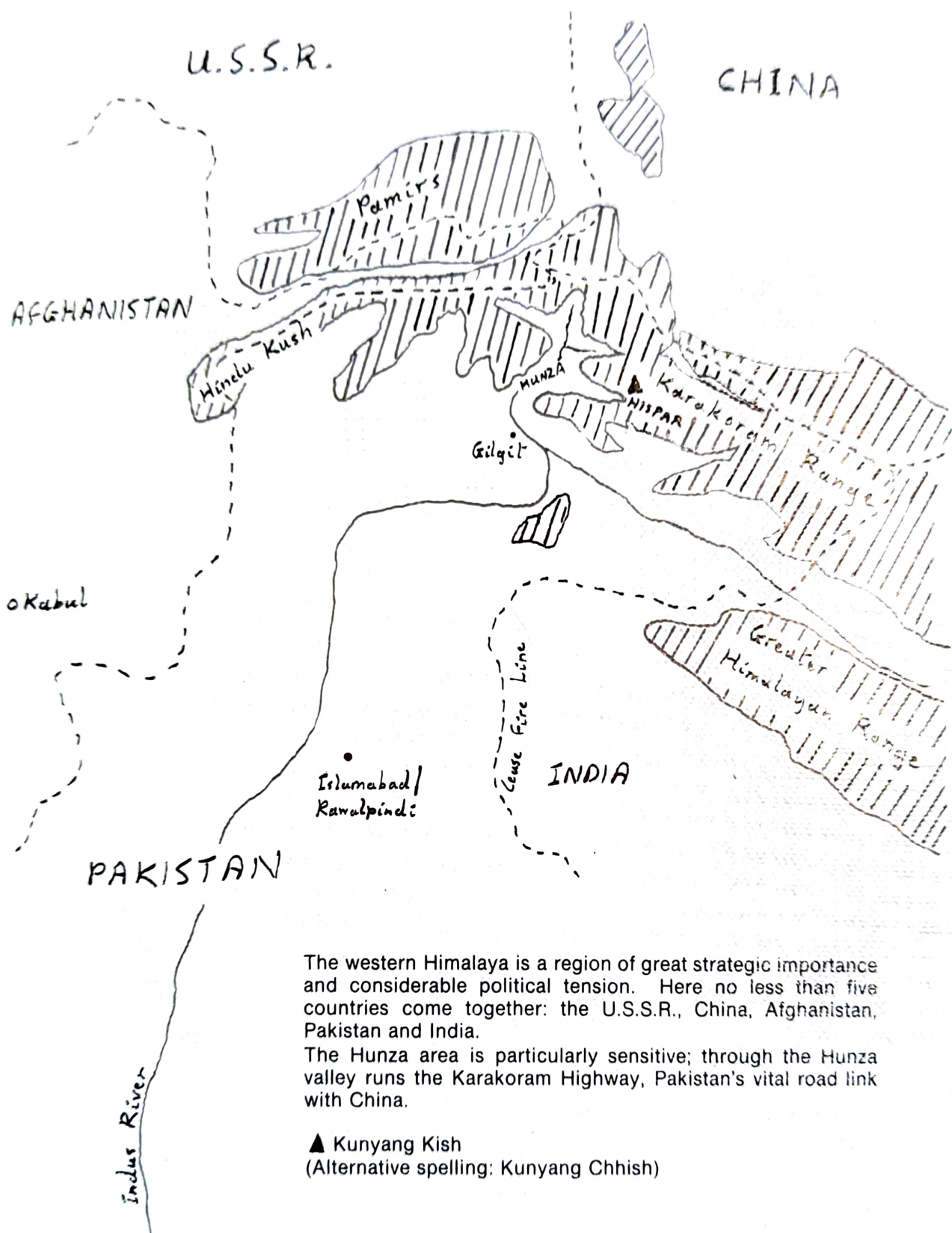
Trudi Nuttall
Paul Nunn
Tony Riley
Adrian Smith
Jonathan Dawson
David Granville
~~ADRIAN~~ Bedford
Ann Venables
Wali
Dr. B. Juel-Jensen
David Graeme
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The western Himalaya is a region of great strategic importance and considerable political tension. Here no less than five countries come together: the U.S.S.R., China, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

The Hunza area is particularly sensitive; through the Hunza valley runs the Karakoram Highway, Pakistan's vital road link with China.

▲ Khyang Kish
(Alternative spelling: Khyang Chhish)