

## 1990 BRITISH TRINITY PEAK EXPEDITION

### Expedition Members:

Victor Redville - Climber, Leader.  
Mark Miller - Climber, Medic.  
Kevin Murphy - Climber.  
Colin Jamieson - Climber.  
Duncan Talbert - Support Climber. **INITIAL REPORT**  
Graham Lipp - Support Climber, Treasurer.  
Ronnie Robb - Support Climber.

### 1990 TRINITY PEAK EXPEDITION

#### Contact Address of Leader:

2 Redcar Road  
Sheffield  
S10 1EX  
(0742)666787

#### Objective of Expedition:

Trinity Peak (c.6,800m) is situated at the head of the Chogolisa Glacier in the Hushe Valley system of the Eastern Karakoram in Pakistan.

The objective was to make the first ascent of the South-East face, a steep impressive 1600m mixed face, punctuated halfway across by a dramatic ridge which leads directly to the summit.

#### Dates of Expedition:

- 20.8.90: Team arrives Islamabad.
- 21.8: Meet agents. Go to Ministry of Tourism, sort out LO, Pollution fee, helicopter bend.
- 22.8: Official briefing; purchase food.
- 23.8: Ronnie, Graham, Duncan, Askar (L.O), Izag (Cook) leave via KKH for Skardu.
- 24.8: Victor, Kevin fly to Skardu. Team re-united.
- 25.8: Sort out gear left previous year at K2, shopping.
- 26.8: Drive to Hushe in Jeep.
- 27.8: Sort out porter loads; hire porters.
- 28-30.8: Walk in. Set up Base Camp.
- 31.8: Colin arrives, abortive load carry above BC.
- 1.9: Carry loads up glacier - Recce.
- 2-5.9: Acclimatization climbs. Mark arrives.
- 6-7.9: Set up ABC just below rognon in ice-fall. Victor and Mark attempt to establish Camp 1 above ice-fall, caught in serac-fall. Victor dislocates shoulder. Graham descends to BC then on to Skardu for helicopter.
- 8-11.9: Camp 1 established and stocked, 2nd runner, (Ronnie) leaves for Skardu. No chopper. Mark and Colin head up.
- 12.9: Message arrives chopper due next-day at BC. Victor descends with assistance of team. Mark and Colin climb Brogo Herzan Peak (c.6,000m).
- 13.9: No chopper. Runner sent cancelling chopper, organising

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24.8: Victor, Kevin fly to Skardu. Team re-united.  
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27.8: Sort out porter loads, hire porters.  
28-30.8: Walk in. Set up Base Camp.  
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1.9: Carry loads up glacier. Recce.  
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8-11.9: Camp 1 established and stocked, 2nd runner, (Ronnie) leaves for Skardu. No chopper. Mark and Colin head up.  
12.9: Message arrives chopper due next-day at BC. Victor descends with assistance of team. Mark and Colin climb **Bongo Herman Peak** (c.6,000m).  
13.9: No chopper. Runner sent cancelling chopper, organising

jeep.

- 14.9: Mark and Colin return BC.  
15.9: Victor leaves for Hushe 10am, arrives 6pm. Leaves by jeep 9pm for Skardu.  
16.9: Victor arrives Skardu 3am, catches 7am flight (with Ronnie) to Islamabad. Shoulder re-located in Islamabad. Mark and Kevin carry gear to foot of Raven Peak.  
17.9: Victor discharged from hospital. Team head up to ABC.  
18.9: Mark, Colin and Kevin move up to Camp 1 for attempt on Central spur of Trinity. Graham and Duncan carry loads above ice-fall.  
19.9: Mark, Colin, Kevin move Camp 1 higher, Duncan and Graham carry loads up to Camp 1. Weather deteriorated, all return to ABC.  
20.9: Overnight snowfall, Duncan and Graham return to BC. Rest remain at ABC.  
21.9: Victor and Ronnie fly back to UK. Mark, Colin and Kevin return to BC.  
22.9: Duncan and Graham leave for recce to K7 BC. Rest have rest day.  
23.9: Kevin, Colin and Mark return ABC.  
24.9: Duncan and Graham return BC. Kevin, Colin and Mark head up Camp 1, decide to move onto easier right-hand ridge. Started snowing lunch-time, 18 inches by next day.  
25.9: Colin returns BC, run out of time. Kevin and Mark remain at ABC.  
26.9: Route abandoned: Gear and fixed rope up rognon he stripped, ABC packed up, Kevin and Mark return BC.  
27.9: Colin leaves.  
29.9: Duncan and Graham to K7 BC for rock-route. Kevin and Mark to Raven peak, manage 5 pitches.  
30.9: Overnight snow. All return BC.  
1-5.10: Bad weather, decide to abandon BC. Tidy-up.  
6.10: Mark and Kevin strip gear left on Raven. Duncan and Graham descend to Saysho with porters.  
7-8.10: All team arrive at Hushe.  
10.10: Return by jeep to Skardu.  
19/20.10: All arrive in Rawalpindi. De-brief.  
21-23.10: Duncan, Graham, Kevin return UK.  
24.10: Mark flies out to Nepal.

**Weather:** from walk-in...

- 26-28.8: good, sunny and hot.  
29-30.8: cloudy, some rain.  
31.8-4.9: good, sunny, hot  
5.9: rain. Snow overnight at BC (c.4,000m).  
6-9.9: good, sunny and hot.  
10.9: overnight snow at ABC (c.4,700m) burnt off by 10am.  
11-17.9: good, sunny and hot.  
18.9: perfect -very cold at camp 1.  
19.9: weather deteriorating fast from SW.  
20.9: 2" snow overnight at ABC, continued throughout day.  
21.9: snowing at ABC, heavy rain at BC. (mild).

22-23.9: very good weather, sunny and clear.  
24.9: Started snowing by noon at camp 1, by morning 18" fallen.  
25.9: snow all day.  
26-27.9: cloudy, cool, rain.  
28.9: some improvement, bit of sun.  
29.9: good day, deteriorated overnight from SW, snow by early morning.  
30.9: cool, cloudy, snow not melting.  
1.10: 4" snow overnight at BC, lying down to 3700m. Snowed all day.  
2.10: -10C overnight at BC, snowing, overcast.  
3.10: some improvement, sun burnt off snow at BC.  
4-5.10: weather slowly improving, but snow now appears permanent on faces.  
6-7.10: cool, cloudy.  
8.10: deteriorated from NW, very windy.

therefore roughly the weather was good: wet: snow  
22:12:11 days.

#### Accident/illness:

No major illness.

#### Accident:

On the morning of 7.9.90, two members Mark and Victor left the newly established ABC to find a route through the ice-fall to establish Camp 1. After an hour at approx. 10am, they were about to quit the gully system they had been following beside the left-hand side of the rognon and regain the rock.

Suddenly a serac-wall directly above them collapsed, trying to get out of the path of the descending ice, Victor slipped, falling approx. 30-40 feet losing some gear, dislocating his left shoulder, and spraining his right ankle.

A retreat was made back to ABC, and with good teamwork the casualty was lowered down the front of the rognon. Here an attempt was made to re-locate the shoulder, but due to the time elapsed (4 hours) the muscles had gone into spasm. Lacking the drugs to counteract this the attempt failed.

A request was sent by runner for a helicopter, however, after 8 days it had still not arrived. By now the casualty could, with assistance walk, so evacuation was made by foot to Hushe, jeep to Skardu, and plane to Islamabad. Here the shoulder was finally re-located under GA after a total of 10 days out of position.

#### Route description:

Due to the combination of the accident which delayed the team, and the bad weather and heavy snowfall the team never really became established on the face.

A major initial barrier was the ice-fall below Trinity. Split at half-height by the rognon on which ABC was established, the lower half of the route followed a meandering set of gullies to the hidden alpine meadow of ABC. Above this the initial route was to follow the left hand-side of the rognon; however after the accident a safer hidden gully was found directly up the front of the rock.

The basin above the rognon was an essentially flat open glacier with a second smaller ice-fall running from the base of the central spur across to the main fall, becoming lower the further away it got from the mountain.

The actual route appeared, under close inspection, to be viable and safe however the team never had a chance to actually get onto it properly.

Estimated costs:

	£
Flights	3950
Peak fee	650
Insurance	700
Helicopter bond	200
Pollution fee	125
Food	600
Porters, sirdar, cooks	1300
Transport in Pakistan	500
Living costs	450
Liason officers costs	<u>350</u>
Estimated total	<u>8825</u>

A complete list of costs will appear in the full report.