ARMY MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION EXPEDITION, 1959

By H. R. A. STREATHER

During the summer of 1958, thought was being given to a proposal for an expedition to the Himalayas the following year, sponsored by the Army Mountaineering Association. I was firmly of the opinion that, should such a proposal materialise, the expedition should be so planned that new blood from the Army would be introduced to the Himalayas. The plan should allow for the maximum amount of travel and climbing by small parties within the expedition. There was little or no point in just collecting together the few Himalayan ' old hands ' who were serving in the Army, with the object of making a desperate attempt on the ' highest unclimbed ' or the ' most difficult ' Himalayan peak.

The object should be to establish a Base or Depot Camp, where local porters would be available to help establish forward Base Camps, and where peaks of from 17,000 ft. to about 24,000 ft. could be easily reached. By setting the ceiling at 24,000 ft., I hoped it would be possible to avoid much of the load carrying between lower camps that takes up so much of the time on an attempt on a major peak. I was thinking in terms of two or, at the most, three camps beyond any forward Base that could be established by local men.

In January 1959, it was learnt that the War Office would give the project official and financial backing. I was asked to organise and lead such an expedition.

The object was to be ' to introduce personnel with some background of mountaineering or expedition experience to mountaineering and travel in high Asiatic terrain, with a view to training a nucleus of instructors for organising expeditions in future years '. It was hoped that close co-operation with the Pakistan Army would be possible and that they would join in the project.

The first area selected was that of the Tirich Gol in Chitral. This would give access to the mass of glaciers and unclimbed peaks that lie along the Afghanistan border to the north of Tirich Mir. Time for planning was now short as it was hoped that the expedition would be in the field towards the end of June. I was looking forward to getting back to Chitral, having served and climbed there several years back, but alas! this was not to be. At the eleventh hour we heard that political permission had not been granted for us to go there. We were

told that we must remain south of a line drawn on the map through the towns of Chitral and Gilgit.

We decided therefore to establish our Depot Camp near Arandu at the foot of the Chogo Lungma glacier in Baltistan. This would enable us to explore, survey and climb on the glaciers and peaks of the Hispar Wall and of the Chogo Lungma group. The Ganchen group would also be within reach if we should have time to spare. Overall, the area would suit our purpose well but unfortunately, with the change of plan coming at such a late stage, we had little opportunity to read up reports by previous expeditions to the area.

The party was fifteen strong, when we assembled in Rawalpindi on June 18 and had been joined by two members from the Royal Navy and three Pakistan Army Officers.

Captain H. R. A. Streather	The Gloucestershire Regiment—Leader
Major F. L. Jenkins	Royal Army Chaplains Department—Deputy Leader
Major P. G. H. Varwell	The Gloucestershire Regiment—Organising Secretary
Captain A. J. Imrie	The Royal Hampshire Regiment
Captain R. G. S. Platts	Royal Engineers
Captain T. Hardman	The Border Regiment
Lieutenant G. F. Chapman	The Gloucestershire Regiment
Second-Lieutenant D. H. Philpott	Royal Engineers
Sergeant M. Quinn	Royal Artillery
Lieutenant M. B. Thomas	Royal Navy
Lieutenant V. J. Fricker	Royal Navy
Dr. P. J. Horniblow	Special Air Service (A.E.R.)
Captain Jawed Akhter	6th Frontier Force Regiment
Captain Inayat Ullah	Army Ordnance Corps
Lieutenant Abdul Ghani	The Baluch Regiment

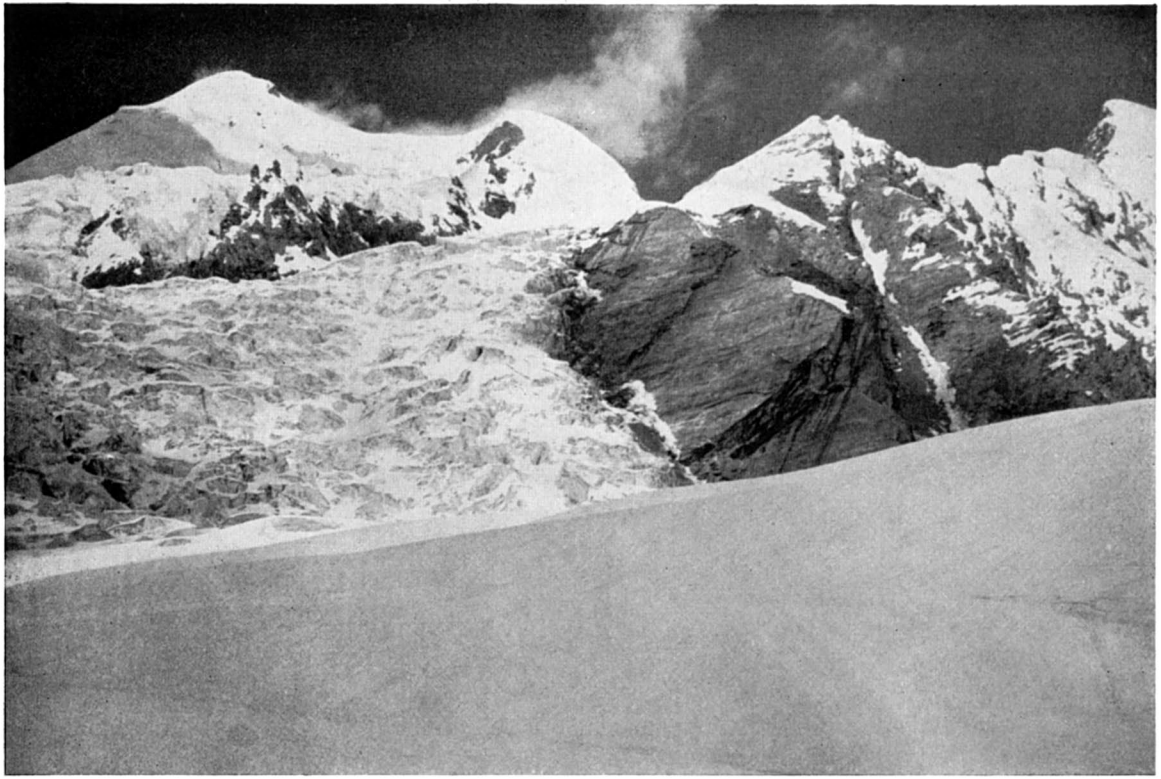
Dr. E. J. Clegg, The Parachute Regiment (T.A.), who had been our doctor on Kangchenjunga in 1955, was to join us later. Members had come from Germany, Switzerland, England, Pakistan and Kuwait. It was a large party but the plan was that we should work in two or more groups. We were well looked after in Rawalpindi by the 13th Lancers and Probyn's Horse, and some of us managed to fit in a flying visit to Peshawar and the Khyber Pass. It was good to be back and to meet again so many of the old friends whom I had made when I was serving as A.D.C. to the Governor there. During our drive up the Khyber Pass, we stopped for tea with a hospitable village headman who



Photo, F. L. Jenkins]

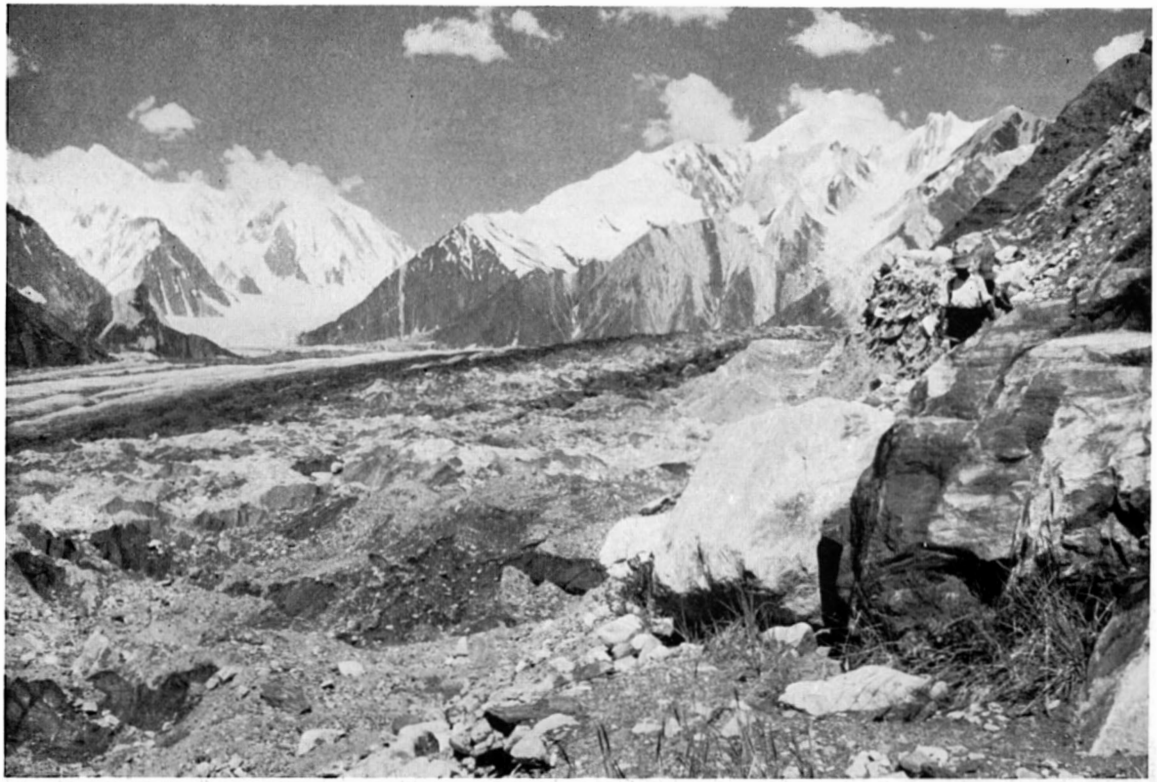
HARAMOSH AND NANGA PARBAT FROM CAMP 3 ON MALUBITING.

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Photo, F. L. Jenkins]

'GLOSTER PEAK', 19,500 FT., ON HISPAR WALL.



Photo, F. L. Jenkins]

CHOGO LUNGMA. VIEW UP CHOGO LUNGMA GLACIER. MALUBITING ON LEFT, YENGUTZ HAR (SPANTIK—THE PYRAMID PEAK OF BULLOCK-WORKMANS) ON RIGHT.



Photo, F. L. Jenkins]

MALUBITING EAST PEAK FROM CAMP 3 (C. 21,000 FT.).

dramatically announced that an inter-village vendetta was due to be resumed later that day. Some of the members of the party were sorry that we could not stay to see the fun!

We returned to Rawalpindi to make final preparations for the flight that the Pakistan Air Force had so kindly arranged for us on to Skardu. In all, three flights by Bristol Freighter were needed to lift us and all our equipment.

We took off shortly after dawn and turned north over the steep brown foot-hills. Away on the horizon, the hills grew into mountains and merged into a vast panorama of gleaming snow slopes, ice-walls and jagged rock ridges. On our right, Nanga Parbat towered above its neighbours, presenting its challenging ridges to the sun. As we flew on, over the Babusar Pass, our wing tips seeming barely to skim the mountain-sides, Rakaposhi and Haramosh, scenes of climbing triumph and tragedy appeared to the north.

Skardu had changed little since I was last there in 1953. There was a new school and a new Rest House, and here we stayed in unexpected comfort while we made arrangements for the five-day journey on foot to our Depot Camp at Arandu. One of the first people to call on us at the Rest House was old Haji Ali, from the village of Satpora, who, with fifty other men from his village, had helped us back to Skardu from our K2 Base Camp after the tragic accident there in 1953. With him were Taqi and Mohd Hussain, both of whom had helped us that year. It was Mohd Hussain who had carried the frost-bitten George Bell for so many miles back to Skardu. I asked them if they would like to join us as our High Altitude Porters and they gladly agreed. They brought three others with them, brothers or sons, and the six of them, under Haji Ali as Sirdar, worked with us throughout the expedition.

Two parties, on consecutive days, each with about eighty porters set off up the Shigar valley for the first twelve-mile stage to Shigar and then on to Arandu, where we joined up again on June 27.

We now had about six weeks ahead of us in the mountains. We were all fit and looking forward to the climbing.

The outline plan was to be in three phases:

Phase I

We would spend the first week or ten days, in three parties, acclimatising, and at the same time carry out a reconnaissance of the whole area, looking for promising objectives.

Phase II

We would spend the next two weeks climbing on suitable peaks that we had found during the first Phase. For this we would split into two main parties with each working from an Advanced Base.

Phase III

The rest of the available time would be spent on two ' Expeditions ', trying some worth-while peaks of about 23,000 ft. One of the objectives we had in mind for this was Ganchen and the idea of Malubiting was tempting although we doubted if we would have time for such an ambitious project.

The first Phase is best described by the parties concerned, as sent out in our Expedition Newsletter :

STREATHER'S PARTY

On 28th June, the Party, suffering somewhat from glacier lassitude, made the hot and tiring crossing of the lower Chogo Lungma glacier, then went up a steep path on the Kero Lungma to the squalid hamlet of Harimalchu. Although sheep appeared to have prior claim to all available accommodation, a camp site was eventually found. Next day, a fine site was discovered by a lake, and after lunch, the Party followed the glacier, and climbed a convenient ridge to a height of 15,000 ft. There was a magnificent view of the array of peaks which are the Expedition's future targets. Those to the South of the Kero Lungma glacier offer only steep broken ridges and overhanging ice-cliffs, but the North side peaks look more promising.

The 30th saw an infinitely depressing crossing of the Kero Lungma moraine, and, by way of consolation, a splendid camp site with cool stream and abundant firewood. During a climb to about 16,000 ft. behind the Camp, a superb herd of about 20 ibex, which appeared about 150 yards away and remained apparently unafraid for some minutes, made a Shikari's dream. Ram chicors, the size of turkeys, zoomed overhead. On the following day the Party moved on to the top of the Kero Lungma glacier, for the first time over snow and crevasses. Camp was made on the ice at the head of the glacier, and the Party divided. Thomas, Hardman, Jawed and Philpott were to locate the Nushik and Bolocho Las, and reconnoitre local peaks, while Streather and Varwell returned via Ibex Camp to Arandu to organise re-supply. On 3rd July, rain stopped play, but ten loads of supplies were sent up to Ibex Camp.

PLATTS' PARTY

On the second day, they separated from Streather's Group, and headed due north for a spur at the junction of the Kero Lungma and Alchori glaciers. After a trudge over unpleasant moraine, camp was made in a gully just below an old Bullock Workman camp at 13,150 ft. Next morning, the Party moved further up the Alchori glacier to a further Bullock Workman camp at 14,283 ft. 1st July was spent in establishing a camp on a nearby ridge at 16,300 ft., and next morning, Chapman and Platts climbed the ridge to a 17,300 ft. summit ; then the whole Party descended to a camp mid-way between the previous two.

On the following day, the Party went across to the South side of

Alchori and descended to Domok. The journey to Arandu on 4th July was made exciting by erosion of valley sides, causing torrents of water and stones. One porter's load was lost, and two crushed when they had to make a hurried getaway from a rock fall.

JENKINS'S PARTY

The third Party under Jenkins, consisting of Imrie, Fricker and Dr. Horniblow, with 2 porters, set off two days later than the others, owing to a variety of minor ailments, which benefited from the rest. Their object was to recce the length of the Chogo Lungma glacier. After crossing a moraine to the north side of the glacier—an unpleasant scramble over an upheaval of rock, ice and mud—they walked along the side of the glacier for 2 days, through various and attractive scenery; passing willow groves, small lakes and a wide variety of hill flowers, ranging from the prosaic dandelion to a beautiful flower resembling a blue lily of the valley. At the end of the 2nd day, they reached Dust Camp, set high on a promontory at the entrance of the Bolocho glacier. A German Scientific Party camped here for two months in 1955. It afforded a fine view of Spantik, 23,056 ft., at the head of the Chogo Lungma, but apart from that had little to recommend it, as it was almost inaccessible, prone to dissolve into a cloud of dust when the West wind blew—which it did inevitably—and relied for its water supply on a fickle snow patch above it. A few tins of pilchards left behind by the Germans proved uneatable.

Next day they made an early start for the foot of Spantik, which at this stage they believed to be another peak, Malubiting. Another hour was spent crossing the wretched moraine on to the glacier proper, where the Party split into two ropes of three. The going was not difficult, but Jenkins in the lead saw the bottom of the glacier inadvertently on two occasions. A tent was pitched at about 15,000 ft. about 1 p.m., where Jenkins and Imrie proposed to stay the night and recce the foot of the mountain. Fricker and Horniblow then escorted the porters back to Dust Camp.

It began to rain at 5 o'clock next morning. The Party from Dust Camp made their way up to the Glacier Camp, where they arrived at 10 a.m., to find Jenkins and Imrie tent-bound. In worsening weather the whole group withdrew to Dust Camp and spent a wet evening, lightened by a casserole of steak and onions, cooked in the tents. The porters camped in a cave, skilfully fashioned under the direction of Fricker, who shows promise as a civil engineer. Next morning they made a precipitate withdrawal to Arandu in the sleet and rain, the whole journey being completed in the day, thanks to the discouraging weather.

Back together again in Arandu by July 3, we were tent-bound for a few days by uninterrupted rain and snow, but plans went ahead for the next stage as soon as the weather should clear. We intended to establish one Base on the North side of the Kero Lungma (Ibex Camp) and one

on the North side of the Alchori glaciers. From both of these we could climb on the Hispar Wall.

Again, these climbs are described by members of the party:

KERO LUNGMA PARTY

On 8th July, at a criminally late hour, the party left to establish a camp from which to climb the conspicuous rock peak above Ibex. Since the establishment of 4 climbers by 2 porters involves the climbers themselves carrying more than cameras and chocolate, and since the late start reduced the climb to a treadmill over soft snow, we were glad to call a halt at about 15,600 ft. The rest of the day passed in sunbathing and culinary crises that did much to assist in insulating the floor of one tent. Hardman succeeded in cursing us awake the next morning at an unearthly hour, and we actually left the camp, Spur Camp, at 0400 hours. We reached the summit, 17,100 ft., in 2½ hours straightforward going, slightly complicated by the soft snow. The crust ceased to be reliable at 0615 hours. From the summit ridge, which was heavily corniced, we quickly succeeded in imagining a route to a conspicuous peak on the Hispar Wall, to which we gave the original name of 'Sugar Loaf'. On return to Ibex, and in the absence of any other climbers, we decided to investigate this route.

On the 10th, we again left Ibex, carrying far too much to be comfortable, and established ourselves at about 15,300 ft. on the 2nd spur on the true left of the Kero Lungma. The site between two rock towers was thereafter known as the 'Yeti's Nest', for reasons which are too obscure to be explained. The following day we left, late as usual, with the ambitious idea of setting up half the Party, Jawed and Hardman, in an Assault Camp for 48 hours. On paper this was sound; in practice it was nonsense. However, having slashed our way up a steep snow ridge, turned a major rock tower, and tangled with an icefall, we reached a snow basin which seemed an excellent site for an Advanced Base, giving access as it did to 3 peaks on the Hispar Wall. We gave the idea lengthy consideration over a lengthier luncheon, dumped tent and gear, and left rapidly but not hot foot for Ibex Camp with plans for a week's campaign. Here we learned that Streather, Fricker, Inayat and Dr. Clegg—who had reached Arandu the previous day after a wet journey from Skardu, and still accompanied by the livestock they had acquired in the villages—had arrived the previous day and left again for 48 hours' exploration of the glacier behind the camp. While we waited for them, we sent two more porter loads up to the 'Yeti's Nest', in the hope that our grand design would be acceptable to all. In the main, it was. Fricker and Inayat did attempt a small rock peak, the Jimspitze, but apparently it was falling down at about the same rate they were climbing it. The Party reached the col, at the head of the glacier, and were able to advance by rock beyond the cornices to a spectacular view of the Hispar. The height of this col was estimated at 19,000 ft. and from this stem all subsequent disagreements between altimeters, observa-

tion of known points, guesstimation, and ' How high was our Sally '.

On 14th July, Hardman, Jawed, Philpott and Thomas, were lifted complete to the Advanced Base, which proved to have one drawback—the sun was off it by 1615 hours. The next day, Hardman and Jawed were established on the westerly of the two cols at about 17,800 ft. That night a mauve tinge in the sky threatened failure to all our plans, but only a few inches of snow fell. It delayed Hardman's assault on the ' Sugar Loaf ' until 1600 hours the next day, and the summit was reached at 1900 hours, a fine and original effort. The conservative estimate of the height was 18,500 ft. During this day, Philpott and Thomas were set up in the vicinity of the easterly col by Streather and one porter, a tedious slog in soft snow. This camp was at 17,900 ft., between cornice and rock on the ridge. Later survey showed the cornice to be well supported, though a few feet away a hole between snow and rock served to emphasise the airiness of the site.

At 0530 hours on the 17th, shouts were heard, and Philpott and Thomas were horrified to see Jawed gambolling about on the Hispar Wall some 100 ft. below a large cornice. But it subsequently turned out that this was all under control and was in fact part of an attempt to avoid an impasse on the West ridge of the central peak ; however, it was an appalling sight at such an hour. Hardman and Jawed perforce retired baffled at the central peak, rather lower than the ' Sugar Loaf ', and it was gained some two hours later by Philpott and Thomas. They descended by the South ridge, and met Streather, Clegg, Fricker and Inayat at its foot. Defeated by deteriorating snow conditions, these four gave up their attempt on the central peak and came up to Cornice Camp for the view. When they left, Fricker remained to strengthen the Party for its attempt on the right-hand peak, which looked intimidatingly steep from the camp.

After a restricted night, the Party left at 0445 hours, and reached the top in 2½ hours over very steep snow. The altimeter showed 19,010 ft. A most satisfactory summit, consisting of a narrow snow ridge. The descent went more easily than was expected and camp was reached about ½ hour before Hardman and Jawed arrived for their attempt. About 1000 hours, Fricker, Philpott and Thomas returned to Advanced Base and spent a lazy afternoon. Streather and Clegg had moved off to the ' Sugar Loaf ' Camp, but, in the event, threatening weather and poor snow prevented a second ascent.

On the 19th, Hardman and Jawed climbed the right-hand peak, and the rest of us returned to Ibex Camp. On the 20th, Ibex was evacuated, and the Expedition was re-united at Domok.

Alchori Party

The Party arrived at their Base Camp site, just under 14,000 ft., on the North side of the Alchori glacier at lunch time on 9th July. In the afternoon, the beginners were introduced to the use of crampons and the rope under the capable eyes of ex-Commando Instructor Quinn and Jenkins. Next day, the groups split—one Party to Gloster

Peak, the other to climb a 17,000 ft. snow peak behind the camp. Much new snow made this not only tiring but pointless, and the Party decided to wait for better conditions before attempting a rock peak of about 18,000 ft. on the South side of the glacier.

After one or two uneasy nights owing to snow showers, Imrie, Horniblow, Chapman and Ghani set out with one porter on 15th July, and after some delay, crossed the moraine and established camp on a delightful grass patch at about 15,700 ft. A further snow fall in the night depressed the Party, but a dawn inspection showed the snow to be crisp, and the climb started in sunshine.

A long snow ridge interspersed with rock and scree provided little difficulty until a steep snow slope was reached about 250 ft. below the foot of the rock tower forming the summit. The slope was crossed slowly and cautiously, ice appearing in several places. All the major difficulty of the climb was in two pitches on steep and sometimes wet and rotten rock. These were overcome, but after several minutes dangling in a chimney about 30 ft. from the summit, in which every hold was rotten, Imrie decided that further efforts would be dangerous, and the Party descended after five hours at grips with the mountain.

Gloster Peak

On the 10th July, a Party, consisting of Platts, Varwell, Chapman and Quinn, set off from Base Camp with three porters and 5 days' supplies. At the foot of Gloster glacier, they got their first full view of the peak, a beautiful sight in the morning sun. By noon, they had established Camp I at the foot of the lower icefall. Close examination revealed that the lower half of the mountain appeared quite a formidable problem. It was decided that a summit bid would be made via avalanche slopes on the West, crossing the top of the lower icefall and up the East ridge. Platts and Chapman made a recce of the avalanche slopes by crossing a loose rock buttress and up a very loose scree slope, while Quinn and Varwell went up the centre of the buttress. Eventually a more practicable route was found to the left of both of these. Next day was fine, and Platts and Chapman formed the first Summit Party, with Quinn and Varwell acting as porters. Nine hours were spent ploughing through knee and sometimes thigh-deep snow, and finally through the séracs and crevasses of the lower icefall. At 3 p.m. it was decided that no further progress could be made, and it was a disappointed and tired group that made camp at only 16,500 ft. Varwell and Quinn then left to make their way back to Camp I, where they arrived at 5 p.m. En route they noticed that one part of the track was covered with fresh avalanche snow, but apart from an odd comment they were too tired to care. The following day, Varwell and Quinn again set off for Camp II with the intention of staying the night there, and attempting the summit the following day. This was not to be however, as when they reached Camp II at 1045 hours, they found all kit packed, and Platts explained that Chapman and he had set out at 4 a.m. on a summit bid, but owing to soft snow, it was

clear that after two hours, they could not possibly make it. Once again the whole Party shouldered their loads, and plugged on towards the foot of the S.E. slope. They reached it at 3.30 p.m. after another miserable day, and Camp III was set up at 17,300 ft.

It was realised now that only two people could possibly attempt the Summit owing to the food shortage, so once again Varwell and Quinn descended to Camp I. On 13th July they prepared to return to Base Camp, and at 1030 hours they saw Platts and Chapman at the top of the S.E. ridge, with what appeared to be only a reasonable slope between them and the summit. They were next seen descending at 1230 hours and it was obvious that the attempt had failed. At Base Camp, Jenkins left the following day with two porters to meet the pair, who reached Base Camp on the afternoon of the 14th, where they stated that Camp III was still not high enough, as the ridge was knife edged and would take a considerable time. On the 15th, Varwell and one porter went up to join Jenkins at Camp I, with a view to doing a recce of the West icefall and ridge. It was arranged that Platts and Quinn should follow the next day with fresh supplies, and at Camp I they found a note saying that the first pair had found a way through the icefall and were going to attempt the S.E. ridge that day. Early morning, Platts and Quinn set off for Camp II, and found the route through the West icefall considerably easier than they expected, and they reached the new Camp II at 10 a.m. Here another note told them that the previous day's attempt had proved abortive, and that Jenkins and Varwell were having a last attempt that day. Platts and Quinn went on to a height of 17,100 ft. where the porters declined to go on any further. This was understandable as the snow was getting very steep and soft, so there was no alternative but to set up camp and send the relieved porters back down. At 3.30 that afternoon, Varwell and Jenkins made a somewhat undignified approach in a mass of avalanche snow to the door of the tent, where it was learned that they had got up after 7½ hours. Everyone was overjoyed and cups of tea were drunk in celebration.

Varwell and Jenkins then went down to their camp leaving the other two to make a bid the following day. Platts and Quinn decided that the earlier the start the better the conditions, and accordingly, at 1 a.m. on the 18th, awoke and breakfasted from a tin of rice and tea. At 2.30 a.m. they roped up, donned crampons, and started the ascent. The moon went down and climbing by starlight was a most wonderful sensation. Dawn saw them only about 1,000 ft. from the summit, and at 7 a.m., they became the 3rd and 4th to stand on that splendid peak. The meter showed 19,300 ft. An hour was spent on the top taking photographs and admiring the breathtaking view. One could see down the great Hispar glacier and, to the east, the Muztagh Tower and other peaks. Eventually they left the top and descended. The 18th and 19th July saw both Parties back in Base Camp, having enjoyed a most tremendous experience and succeeded in adding the name Gloster Peak to one of the summits of the Hispar Wall.

So much for Phase II of the expedition. The new names on the Hispar Wall were solely for our own reference and we do not presume to expect them to appear on future maps !

By now all members had climbed above 17,000 ft., some of them considerably higher. We had explored new passes and climbed several new peaks but, more important, a mass of experience had been gained. We were now a strong, experienced party, capable of taking on more ambitious projects if we should have the time to do it and if the weather should remain kind to us.

We decided to split again into two parties. One, under Platts and Thomas was to attempt Ganchen, an impressive-looking snow peak of 21,000 ft. The other under myself, would carry out a recce of Malubiting, 24,200 ft. We set off from Arandu on that last phase of the expedition on July 23 with only about two weeks' climbing time left to us.

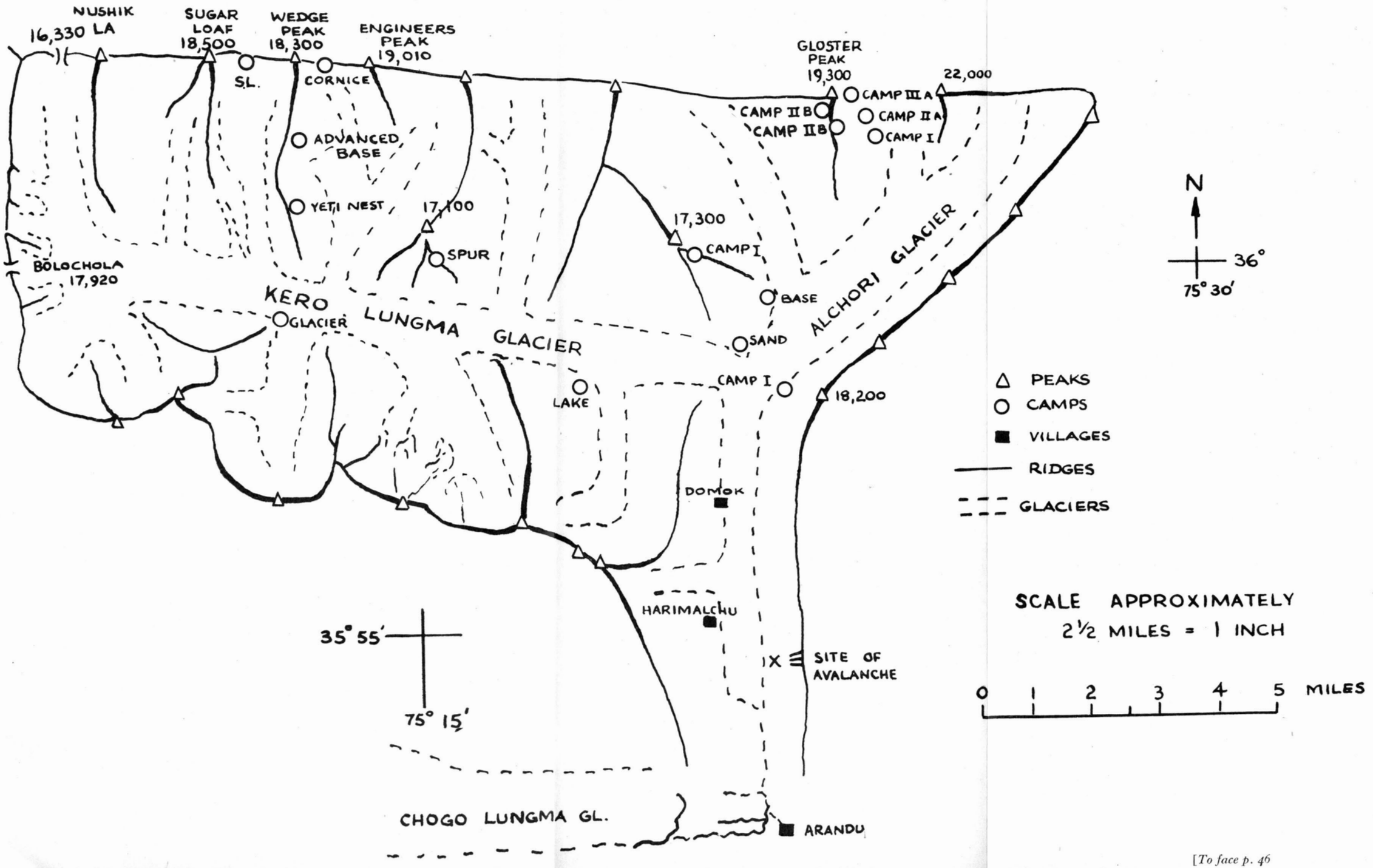
The Ganchen party were unfortunate and did not get very far. They were held up first by a large icefall on the Western approach, and then a subsequent attempt via the Dongus glacier also proved unsuccessful.

We were more fortunate on Malubiting and, considering the limited time available to us, met with a certain amount of success.

During the next five days we moved up the Chogo Lungma glacier to establish an Advanced Base and then Camp I at the foot of Spantik, near the mouth of the Malubiting glacier, and below the South-east ridge of Malubiting respectively. After a lot of hard work by all the climbers and by the four porters who were with us, Horniblow, Imrie, Jawed Akhter and myself were established in Camp II at about 20,000 ft. Imrie and Jawed Akhter had found a possible site for Camp III on the ridge which leads to the Eastern Summit.

We woke early on August 1 in the hope of making a good start on hard snow, but we were held up because it was snowing lightly and there were low clouds. This did not look like a spell of really bad weather, and so I decided to push on as time now was short. Horniblow and I were able to establish Imrie and Jawed Akhter in Camp III, at about 21,000 ft. by mid-day, and leave them there for an attempt on Malubiting East next day. Soon after we returned to Camp II, we were joined by Varwell and Chapman, who had struggled up through deep snow from below. Next day all four of us climbed up to Camp III and then on to the foot of the final rock peak in still uncertain weather. We could see Imrie and Jawed Akhter climbing on the ridge ahead of us, and at about 1230 hours we were overjoyed to see an ice-axe held by Imrie flashing in the sun on the summit. They had had a fine climb. They had been able to move together up to the unstable rock ridge, except where new snow and verglas forced them to move with more caution. They had been stopped by a snow wall 200 ft. below the summit but had managed to by-pass this by a very steep snow

ROUGH SKETCH OF KERO LUNGMA - ALCHORI GLACIER BASINS



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slope to the left, and a small rock tower leading to the summit snow slope. The descent was difficult and exhausting down on ice and snow face to the south of the ridge. They had gone forward a little for a brief survey of the ridge beyond their summit leading on to the main summit of Malubiting. We met them as they reached the foot of the snow face and helped them back to Camp III. It was 6 p.m. when we reached there. The summit pair had been climbing for nearly twelve hours and had reached about 23,000 ft.

I had hopes of putting further pairs to the summit but didn't trust the look of the weather. There were high clouds coming in from the south and I felt now that we were in for a bad spell. I decided on an immediate withdrawal and when, for the next few days it continued to snow in earnest, we were glad to be off the mountain.

I had decided to return myself via the Haramosh La to Gilgit and not go back to Arandu and Skardu with the rest of the party. Chapman was to come with me, and Jenkins, Varwell, Horniblow and Jawed Akhter saw us safely to the top of the La. After Jenkins had said a brief prayer for the two Oxford climbers who were killed on Haramosh in 1957, Chapman and I set off, through the mist, for the long climb down into the Mani valley. This had pungent memories for me being so close to the route that John Emery and I had followed on our climb down after the Haramosh tragedy two years before. It was a hard climb, and Chapman and I did not reach the site of our old Base Camp, at the head of the Mani valley, until late in the evening.

On our way down the valley I met many old friends who had helped us in 1957 and welcomed the opportunity of thanking them again for all they had done for us that year.

In Gilgit I was able to arrange for a plaque to be fixed in memory of Bernard Jillott and Rae Culbert, who had lost their lives on Haramosh. This had been the main purpose of my journey.

By August 17 we were all once again back in Rawalpindi. At a Reception held for us by General Headquarters, we were able to express our thanks for all the help we had received from both the Pakistan Army and the Pakistan Air Force, who had so kindly flown us and all our equipment from Karachi to Skardu and to fly us back to Karachi. Hopes were expressed that expeditions of this kind, based on mutual co-operation between the Services of the two Countries, might become more frequent, if not annual events.

In all we had climbed six new peaks of between 17,000 ft. and 23,000 ft., and had visited several new passes on the Hispar Wall. But the measure of any success we might have achieved was not in these tangible results but rather in the experience gained by all of us. I hope that at least some of the members will climb in the Himalayas again and perhaps lead their own expeditions there.