This name denotes neither a top nor a peak, but an interesting natural formation in the NW slope of the peak, Malý Ganek. About ⅔ of the way up a massive debris gallery has formed across the whole of a wall. The upper part over the gallery is easy and not interesting. The lower part is approximately 280m high, quite vertical and overhanging in its upper part. It is considered to be the most difficult Tatra wall. At present there are 12 climbing routes, mostly extremely difficult. The approach under the wall is from the camping site in Bielovodská dolina (White Waters Valley) or from the chalet under the peak Rysy across the saddle Váha.

The W wall of peak Lomnický štít.

This wall is prolonged to the right, 300m high in the middle and 400m high on the right-hand side. In the central part there is a huge overhang in the form of an ice-hockey stick called Hokejka. The rock is solid and so considered one of the most beautiful wall climbs in the High Tatras. The approach under the wall is possible only from Téry's chalet in Malá Studená dolina or descending from the top on the NW ridge. There is a cable way to the top of Lomnický štít. On the wall there are 17 routes classified V to VI.

The N wall of Malý Kežmarský štít.

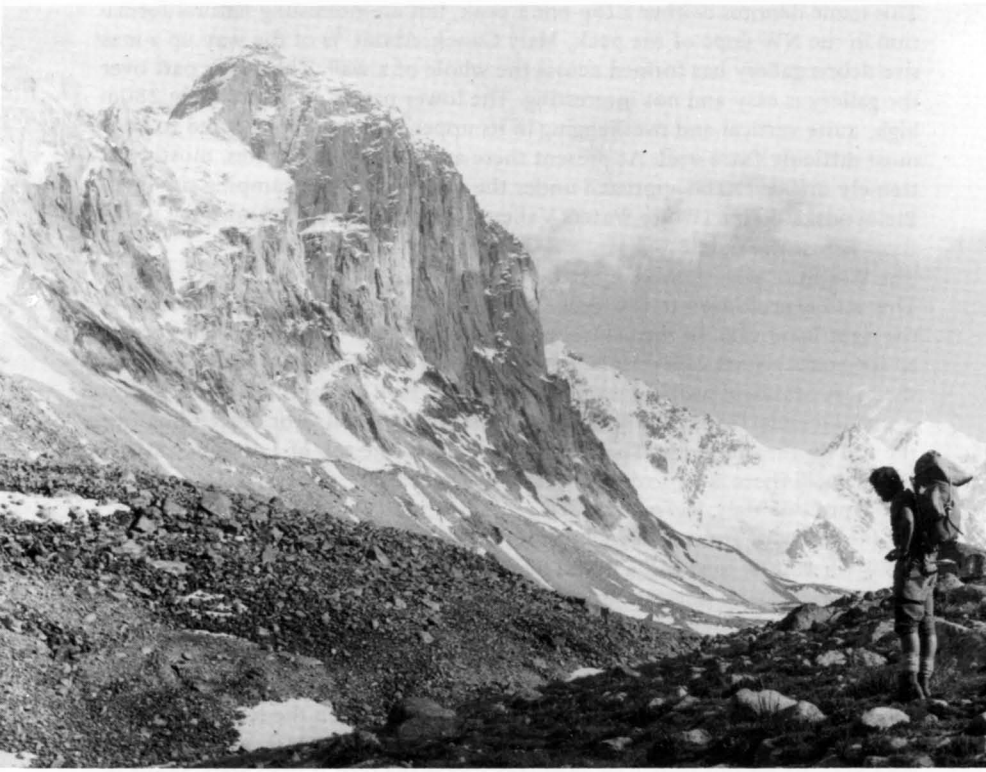
To the valley of Dolina Zeleného from Malý Kežmarský štít (2513m) extends a NW rib 1000m long and a 900m high N wall which is crossed in the middle from the left-hand side upwards by a debris shelf called Německý žebřík (German ladder). The highest Tatras wall is thus divided into 2 parts. The upper part over the German Ladder is relatively compact and not so steep, the lower part is steeper and furrowed by huge buttresses and chimneys. A well-known ascent is Stanislawski's route up the middle chimney; on the left buttress there is a *direttissima* and a *super-direttissima.* At present there are 20 climbs classified V to VI on this wall. The approach under the wall is very easy, about ½ hour from Brnčal's chalet.

The High Tatras also provide numerous beautiful climbs of intermediate and lower grades of difficulty both in summer and in winter. The traversing of the main ridge is also a favourite. It is a demanding tour in winter, lasting for weeks, and has been carried through only a few times using expedition-like tactics.

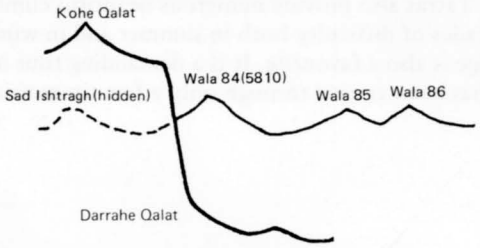
The north of England Himalayan expedition—1975

Paul Bean

Paul Bean (leader), Dawn Bean, Mike Hosted, Mike Anderson (New Zealand) and Terry Funk (Switzerland) arrived in Kabul on 15 June after a slow and eventful drive along the now well-known Himalayan highway. Formalities were dealt with in record time and we drove our Transit N to the end of the surfaced road at Kunduz. Here we hired a small 4-wheel drive Russian truck for the 3½-day journey of adventure to Eshkashem. Our chosen area was the Darrahe



33 Part of the Qalat head-wall from near Camp 1 (This and next two photos: N of England Himalayan Expedition)



Qalat, a long day's walk S up the Darrahe Khaspek. The valley terminates in a glacier below the N face of Sad Ishtragh.

During the first 10 days bad weather prevented us from doing anything ambitious but we did manage to check the map and explore the many side valleys for potential climbs. During the reconnaissance period we made the minor first ascents of W37 (4530m) and Safed Sarke (4872m). We also discovered an ice-pass (4885m) which leads from the head of the Darrahe Qalat into the Darrahe Syarpalas; later this pass was traversed in the opposite direction, E to W (PD Inf).

The weather cleared on 18 July and before we descended to Eshkashem on 27 July we made the following first ascents using a camp at the head of the Qalat, then a bivouac below the peak itself–Kohe Nova (W93) (5200m),

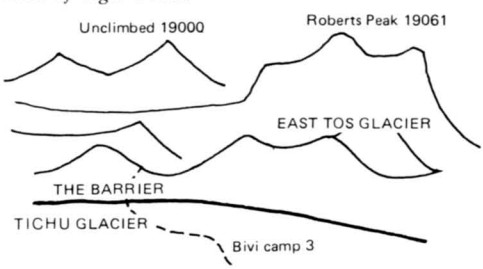
E face, a concave snow-face finishing with broken rocks and a short knife-edge snow-ridge, descent same route, 19 July, Paul and Dawn Bean, grade PD Sup; Kohe Barabar (W94) (5050m), S couloir, traversed diagonally crossing a rock-ridge running S from the summit and entered a snow-filled chimney which led into a steep ice-couloir, then 400–500ft of snow-slopes with short rock steps to the summit, descent by an abseil off the rock-ridge above the ice-couloir to easy-angled snow on its W side, 20 July, Paul and Dawn Bean, grade AD; Kohe Akery (W98) (5100m) N face, a concave ice-face very steep for the final 200ft, the route following a wedge-shaped trough formed by a recent avalanche, leaving the surface as generally good snow-ice, descent by easier slopes to the W, 24 July, Mike Hosted and Terry Funk, grade D Inf; Kohe Habib (W107), second ascent, W ridge, a fine looking ridge which turned out to be broad, flat and easy, a short 45° slope leading from a col to the W required care, 24 July, Paul Bean and Mike Anderson, grade PD Inf.

We stayed in Kabul until the monsoon in N India should have been over, but we were getting reports that indicated a late season and in fact when we arrived in the Kulu valley the road was only just motorable. Mike Anderson left us and we were joined by John Darling and Ernie Shield who had just arrived by air from England. Sherpa Rinzing, an excellent companion, was also added to the party. Dawn Bean was the victim of a mysterious illness and had to stay in the valley. For the second part of the expedition we had chosen the E Tos glacier and 3 particular peaks—Tiger Tooth, Point 20495 and Point 20300. The area lies E of Indrasan and S of the Bara Shigri glacier with approach by way of the Parbati valley and Tos nullah.

We left the Kulu valley on 2 September, drove up on the ramshackle bus to the roadhead just before Manikaren and after collecting our 6 mules walked in very easy stages to the site of Base Camp at the foot of the moraine-choked Tos glacier. The monsoon went on so long that we began to think it would run into the winter; for over 3 weeks we were base-bound apart from establishing Camp 1 at the junction of the E Tos glacier, stocking it with climbing gear for 2 teams and food for 2 weeks, as well as making a more accurate survey of an area of 5500–5800m peaks due E of Base Camp. This also led to the first ascents of 2 minor peaks of around 5000m either side of Base Camp.

The weather looked like improving, so on 20 September we all moved up to Camp 1, but the first attempt to reach Tiger Tooth was thwarted by a snow-storm on a ridge of low peaks we aptly named 'the Barrier'. Bad weather set in again and things were looking desperate until another improvement came on 28 September. Paul Bean, John Darling and Ernie Shield moved up to occupy a bivouac tent that had been abandoned below the Barrier. Next day they crossed this and descended to the Tichu glacier for a final camp. There was a slight snow-fall during the night but at 7am they set off unroped up 45° snow to a col at the start of the W ridge. Here they roped and moved together very quickly up a 50° shoulder, with typical conditions of a foot of powdered snow on top of hard ice. After traversing diagonally across the open S side of the ridge they followed the base of a band of rock that encircles the summit until a very steep powder-filled chimney led through to the summit ridge. At 11.05 they reached the top, a huge cornice perched over the Bara Shigri glacier. The height had been

34 SW from the summit of Tiger Tooth

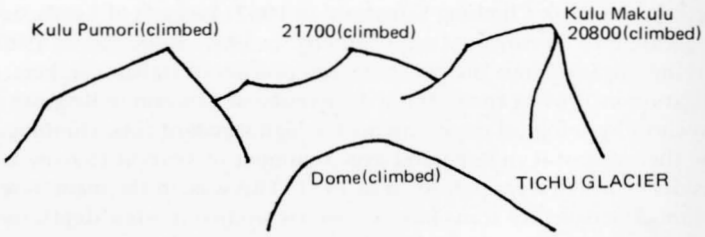


surveyed at just over 6000m but the altimeter failed and let us down with a reading of 5880m. The climb was graded AD; descent was by the same route.

On 29 September after a 2-day reconnaissance around the base of Point 20300 Mike Hosted and Terry Funk, joined by Rinzing, moved up to occupy an abandoned tent above an ice-fall to the N of Camp 1, below 2 attractive peaks that separate Point 20495 from White Sail. Next day we made the first ascent of the W peak, which was named Angdu Ri, by way of the col between the peaks and then easier slopes to the rounded summit. The E peak was abandoned because of bad snow conditions. It was observed that the complicated structure of the S side of Point 20495 would present high technical difficulties, particularly on the most prominent line, the S ridge. In 1961 Barbara Spark and Jo Scarr climbed all but the final few feet of Point 20495 from the Bara Shigri. Lack of time led to Point 20300 being left to a later date.



35 ESE from the summit of Tiger Tooth



Now Ernie Shield left for home, Paul Bean concentrated on mapping, while John Darling accompanied by the irrepressible Rinzing made the first ascent of a peak E of, and adjoining, Point 20495. It was named Rinzing. From a camp below the S face the route followed 40–45° slopes of deep soft snow to a col and then in equally bad conditions up slopes of 30–35° to the summit at 5880m, grade AD to D, descent by the same route.

Before we left Camp 1 Mike and Terry attempted a small peak E of Roberts's peak but turned back in a white-out approximately 100m from the first summit. Conditions also prevented them from clearing up a survey mystery to the S. The expedition reached Kulu valley on 12 October. The area is ideal for light-weight Alpine-type expeditions and apart from the still-awaited first ascent of the beautiful Point 20300 and many lower peaks, White Sail (6446m) and Papsura (6451m) both offer exciting new routes on steep ground.