Mount Everest Foundation Notes 1989–90

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The following notes summarize reports from expeditions which have received the approval of the Mount Everest Foundation, and this is in most cases accompanied by a grant. MEF approval is generally an important first step to seeking assistance, financial or otherwise, from firms or other organizations. It should be noted that the MEF only 'sponsors' expeditions in exceptional circumstances, e.g. the 1981 Mount Kongur Expedition.

Copies of the full reports of the expeditions briefly summarized below are lodged, when available, with the Alpine Club Library and the Archives Section of the Royal Geographical Society, and may be consulted in these places. Some expeditions will already have been described in the *Alpine Journal* and in mountaineering periodicals.

The expeditions summarized in the following notes took place between April 1989 and October 1990 (with one belated exception). These notes are compiled from reports received up to 1 December 1990.

America, North and South, including Arctic Regions

88/35 *British Huayhuash Expedition* (July-August 1988)

This four-member party was obliged to abandon their proposed route on the S ridge of Seria Norte, but succeeded in climbing the S face of Nevado Sarapo (6127m) in the Huayhuash area of Peru.

89/24 *Flight of the Condor (mountaineering and parapente)* (July-August 1989)

After acclimatizing with ascents of Huayna Potosí (6080m) and Ayllayco (5500m), this four-member team went on to climb Viluyo (III and I), Hancopiti (VIII and I), Ancohuma (6427m), the N peak of Illampu, and finally Illimani (6487m), with some innovatory parapenting on the descent.

89/25 *South Patagonian Ice-Cap Expedition* (October–December 1989)

This three-man party did not achieve their main objective of a return crossing of the S Patagonian ice-cap (Chile), between latitude 51°S and 51°10'S, or to

reconnoitre the Cerro del Diablo, but they did succeed in establishing a new route from the Torres del Paine National Park up the E side of the Tyndall glacier, when eight days were spent in bad weather on the ice-cap.

89/32 *Bath University Apolobamba Cordillera* (July–September 1989)

After climbing Huascaran Sur in Peru, this four-member team moved to the Cordillera Apolobamba in Bolivia, where they achieved the first ascent of the N ridge of Cololo (5915m), the second British ascent of Nubi (5710m) and the first ascent of the SW ridge of Palomani Grande (5768m).

89/48 *Loughborough Students Andes*

Part 1: July–August 1989. This eight-member team from Loughborough spent six weeks in Bolivia, climbing in the Cordillera Apolobamba where they made the first British ascent and traverse of Huelancalloc (5836m), the third British ascent by the W ridge of Cololo, and first ascents of 10 other summits, including Mita (5500m), three unnamed peaks of 5375m, 5370m and 5305m, and the second ascent of Iscacuchy (5650m).

Part 2: October–November 1989. Four members from Loughborough continued to the Torres del Paine National Park region in Chile to make a successful first ascent of the NW face/N ridge of the Cerro Negro (2100m) on the N ridge of the Paine Grande, a new route on the Trident, and repeated the S ridge on the formidable Torre Norte.

89/51 *Sangay* (November 1989)

This six-member scientific group carried out a study of phytosociology and the morphological assessment of plants of the paramó in the areas of Laguna Estrallada and Lagune Verde in the Sangay National Park in Central Ecuador. They also studied the limnology of three lakes and four river systems, collected data from five forest sites (550 trees), and recorded six soil profiles.

90/1 *Southern Ocean Mountaineering Expedition* (December 1989–February 1990)

This five-member team explored the Allardyce and Salvesen ranges in South Georgia, succeeding in their objective of a first ascent of Mt Carse, also first ascents of Mts Vogel and Kling and some unnamed outliers.

90/7 *Tierra del Fuego Expedition* (January 1990)

This three-member party resumed attempts made in 1988 on Monte Roncagli (2300m) in the Cordillera Darwin. Based on Yendegaia Bay on the Beagle Channel, they succeeded in the first ascent of Roncagli on 14 January 1990 via

the Dartmoor glacier and the N ridge to the N top. They also made the first ascent of Pico Pais de Galles, E of the Stoppani glacier.

90/13 *British Mount Foraker (Alaska)* (May–June 1990)

This two-man party was anticipated by two days in their proposed first ascent of the SSE 'French' ridge of Mt Foraker. Instead they climbed the SE ridge of Mt Crosson, retreated owing to technical difficulty on a new route on the WSW buttress of Mt Hunter, and were also turned back by bad snow conditions on a new route on the SE face of Mt Foraker.

90/24 *Northern Group East Greenland Expedition* (July–August 1990)

This nine-member group climbed some 15 of the significant peaks in the previously unvisited northern area of the Kronprins Frederik mountains of East Greenland.

Himalaya

89/4 *British Gangotri (Sumeru Parbat)* (August–September 1989)

This eight-member team abandoned their attempt on the W face of Sumeru Parbat, but succeeded on the hitherto unclimbed S ridge, without however proceeding to their ultimate objective of a first British ascent of the summit.

89/5 and 89/5A *Blackspur Makalu Expedition 1989*

Though this expedition was unsuccessful in its main objective of traversing Makalu, two members made a first ascent of the W face of Kangchuntse (Makalu II). The accompanying nutritional expert brought back a detailed valuable report on the 'Nutritional and Calorific Intake on a High Altitude Expedition', drawing the conclusion, *inter alia*, that periods of rest at Base Camp should be used to restock the high protein, fat and carbohydrates that are vital to replenish body glycogen and fat reserves for continued extreme high-altitude activity.

89/11 *Manaslu NE Face* (September–November 1989)

This 13-member party climbed in independent groups of two or three. Heavy snow throughout September made the face avalanche-risky. After establishing Camp 3 at 7700m under the ice cliffs, two groups attempting to go higher were forced by high winds and bad snow conditions to abandon the attempt.

89/16 *British Langtang Lirung* (September–November 1989)

This eight-member party laid determined siege to the formidable SE ridge of Langtang Lirung (7234m). One member succeeded in the first British ascent (sixth in all) by this ridge; two others reached within 100m of the summit.

89/21 *Scottish Garhwal Expedition* (September–October 1989)

This four-member climbing party attempted the first British ascent of Bhrigupanth (6772m), in the Gangotri area, by the SE face, but turned back at *c*5900m in the couloir below the S col.

89/35 *British Manaslu SW Face* (September–October 1989)

This lightweight attempt by two climbers established Advanced Base at 4350m, fixed ropes up the rock pillar to 5200m, and from a bivouac at 6500m attempted to push along the horizontal ridge to the summit, but could not complete the climb owing to the excessive length of the route.

89/38A *UK–New Zealand Lobuje East (6119m)* (October–November 1989)

After climbing the S ridge to the false summit (6070m), this four-member team made an extensive reconnaissance of routes on the W and E faces. Ice conditions caused them to abandon a new route on the W face at 5070m, and also an attempt on the E face by the Lowe–Kendall couloir.

89/41 *British East Ridge Meru Expedition* (August–September 1989)

Unstable snow conditions prevented this nine-member team from achieving their objective of the first ascent of the E ridge of Meru (6672m, Gangotri area); they turned back at 6300m. Some had the consolation of reaching the summit, or close to it, of Bhagirathi III (6512m).

89/43 *British Winter Taboche Expedition* (November–December 1989)

All members of this British–West German team (three UK, one German) succeeded in the first ascent of Taboche (6501m) in Sola Khumbu; two by the SE ridge on 11 December; two by a new route on the SE face.

89/45 *Hagshu Peak Expedition* (August–September 1989)

This five-member team accomplished their objective of the first ascent of Hagshu Peak (*c*6300m) from the north. A first attempt by the NW ridge and across the E face was abandoned, but the second team succeeded in reaching the summit by the E face.

89/58 *Hagshu N Face Expedition* (June–July 1989)

This three-man team, despite logistic and metereological difficulties, managed to climb well over half way up the formidable N face of Hagshu before turning back after three nights of storm.

90/4 *British Army Gyachung Kang Expedition* (April–May 1990)

This 12-member Service party forced a way through the wide icefall by its W end. Two members reached a high point of 7100m on Gyachung Kang (7922m) before turning back because of avalanche and snow conditions.

90/17 *New Zealand Everest Expedition* (April–June 1990)

This nine-member team attempted the traditional route on the N face of Everest, but approaching it by the Middle Rongbuk glacier and left-hand start of the Great Couloir. One member reached the top of the Third Step at 8730m but turned back rather than proceed alone. Others retreated on a second attempt owing to absence of bottled oxygen.

90/22 *TWTCC Expedition to Central Lahoul* (September–October 1990)

This five-member group abandoned their proposed first ascent of the N face of Minar in favour of the SE ridge of Mulkila. Three reached the col below the summit pyramid at *c*6100m.

90/31 *British Army Tilicho Peak Expedition* (September–October 1990)

This Service party came close to succeeding in their objective of the unclimbed S face of Tilicho peak, having overcome all serious difficulties before having to retreat at 6600m owing to a non-fatal accident.

Karakoram

89/36 *London University Expedition to East Karakoram, Charakusa Valley* (July–August 1989)

This 11-member party trekked in the area of the Gondokoro, Chogolisa and Charakusa glaciers, climbing Nayser Peak (5500m) and Gondoro Peak (5800m). They made the first ascent of Point 5500m which they named Senate Peak in honour of London University.

89/44 *Hushe Valley Expedition* (August–September 1989)

This six-member party concentrated on the Aling glacier system, a tributary of the main Hushe valley, and made what they believed to be the first ascent of Reed Peak (5625m). They also carried out an extensive reconnaissance of the Aling valley, sighting many impressive unclimbed peaks.

89/47 *International Hushe Valley Expedition* (July–August 1989)

This 15-member party had as its objective the Charakusa and other spires. Heavy snow and poor rock caused retreat on the Charakusa spires, on Namika

and on Sulu (6010m), but a group succeeded in climbing the N ridge of the fine granite Nazer Peak (5800m).

90/15 *Batura Glacier Expedition* (June–August 1990)

Members of this five-member team climbed a 5450m peak at the head of the Pir nala on the watershed between the Batura and Lupgha valleys, a twin-peaked summit of 5800m, and two 6000m peaks around the Miniapin glacier.

90/16 *British Trinity Peak Expedition* (August–October 1990)

Owing partly to bad weather and partly to an accident (non-fatal), this seven-member party did not establish itself very high on their objective of the unclimbed SE face of Trinity Peak (6800m) at the head of the Chogolisa glacier; but they reckoned that their intended route was feasible.

90/21 *British K7 Expedition* (July–August 1990)

This strong four-man team attempted the second ascent of K7 by the unclimbed SW ridge, described as superb climbing on high quality rock. After 14 days on the ridge, including 'five nights without a pit', they retreated from the Fortress.

90/29 *Nanga Parbat Geomorphological Expedition* (September 1990)

This two-woman team successfully carried out their planned sampling of (a) glacially-ground silt and (b) silt produced by cold-weathering process on five moraines or debris fans of the Hange, Rupel, Shaigiri, Sacha and Rakhiot glaciers and their valleys, on SW Nanga Parbat. They found it difficult to test rock for thermoluminescence in field conditions.

90/30 *NUMC Malangutti Glacier Expedition* (June–August 1990)

This three-member team succeeded in their objective of climbing unclimbed peaks in the Malangutti glacier area, in particular Mt Neverett (5700m). They also made the second ascent, by a new route, of Shufktin Sar.

Elsewhere: Central Asia and South-East Asia

90/12 *British Speleological Expedition to North Vietnam* (March–April 1990)

This nine-member caving team explored the 'classic' river cave of Phong Nha ('Teeth of the Wind'), and surveyed and photographed 18km of other caves in various karst areas of N Vietnam, particularly Quang Binh Province. Despite political difficulties, this was a successful speleological reconnaissance in unknown country.

90/18 *British Turkestan Expedition* (June 1990)

This two-man party achieved a successful new line on the N face of Ak Su (5355m) and explored the potential of this area, noting numerous unclimbed faces and peaks.

90/28 *USSR/British Pamir Caving Expedition* (July–August 1990)

17 cavers divided their time between the exploration of caves in (a) the Kirktau Plateau at the W end of the Zeravsankij mountains in Uzbekistan, finding three new pot-holes; (b) the Arabika Massif in the W Caucasus; and (c) the Ukraine.

90/36 *ASPEX '90 Anglo–Soviet Pamir Caving Expedition* (July–August 1990)

11 British pot-holers co-operated with 10 Soviet speleologists in a preliminary exploration of an extensive cave system in the limestone wall of the Hodja Gur Gur Ata Plateau (3921m) in the Bajsuntai area of Uzbekistan.

Appendix: Mount Everest Foundation to administer Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant

In 1978 Alison Chadwick, a British climber, died close to the summit of Annapurna I, whilst a member of the successful American women's expedition. Three years earlier, together with Janusz Onyszkiewicz (her Polish husband) and Wanda Rutkiewicz she had already reached the summit of Gasherbrum III – at the time the world's highest unclimbed summit, and probably for ever the highest virgin summit climbed by a woman. A Memorial Fund was instituted in her name, which provided 'grants to further British and Polish women's mountaineering in the world's greater ranges, ie further afield than the Alps'.

At the end of 1990, the entire assets of the fund were very generously passed to the Mount Everest Foundation who intend, as far as possible, to adhere to these guidelines.

The MEF exists to support British and New Zealand applicants proposing to climb new routes on high remote mountains: the Foundation will now consider expeditions in which there are both Polish and British (or New Zealand) women members (or a single member) for the Alison Chadwick award.

Applicants should apply to the MEF for an 'Application for Grant' form: their eligibility for the 'MEF Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant' will be considered automatically during the screening process.

Requests for forms should be made to the Hon Secretary of the MEF, giving details of the intended objective. They must be completed and returned to him by 31 August or 31 December of the year preceding the expedition. Early applicants will be interviewed in November and the later ones in March. It is advisable to submit applications as early as possible.

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