

Expedition members were: W.E. Donaghue, leader, J. Lovatt, J. Chase, T.A.J. Goodfellow, G.D. Hughes, Dr. C.A. Pinelli.
SWAT KOHISTAN. First ascent of Miangul Sar.

The Innominate Mountaineering group (leader W.E. Donaghue) climbed Miangul Sar (local name - Dingi Sar) height c. 5,800m.

Two separate ascents were made, by differing routes :-

On 2nd August 1968 - B.D. Chase & T.A.J. Goodfellow by the N.W. face and W. ridge.

On 6th August 1968 - G.D. HUGHES and J. Lovatt by the W. ridge.

The mountain lies to the N.E. of Kalam inbetween the Gabral and Ushu valleys. It had previously been attempted from the Ushu valley by an Italian party in 1964 under the leadership of Dr. C.A. Pinelli. He estimated its height at 5,800 m. We thought it probably higher than this, since it appeared to be higher than Falak Sar 5,914m, thought to be the highest in this area.

Our approach was via Kalam, Gabral and the Gabral valley. At the head of this valley is a pass - the Maidhan - leading to Laspur in Chitral. The mountain dominates this pass to the East, and it drains into the Dingi valley which runs E-W from the Maidhan forming an obvious approach to the mountain itself.

The expedition travelled overland in an ex-army Austin K9 1 ton truck, leaving England on 2nd July 1968 and arriving in Islamabad, W. Pakistan, on 17th July. The expedition left Islamabad on 12th July August, arriving

in England on 28th August.

Expedition members were:- W.E. Donaghue, leader, J.Lovatt,

B.D.Chase, T.A.J.Goodfellow, G.D.Hughes, Dr. M.J.Macmahon.

The expedition was accompanied by Squadron Leader Osman Beg of the Pakistan Airforce.

Two separate ascents were made, by differing routes:-

On 2nd August 1968 - B.D.Chase & T.A.J.Goodfellow by

the N.W. face and W. ridge.

On 6th August 1968 - G.D.HUGHES and J.Lovatt by

the E. ridge.

The mountain lies to the N.E. of Kalam in between the

Gabral and Babu valleys. It had previously been attempted

from the Babu valley by an Italian party in 1964 under the

leadership of Dr. G.A. Rinaldi. He estimated its height at

5,600 m. We thought it probably higher than this, since it

appeared to be higher than Babu Sar 5,914m, thought to be the

highest in this area.

Our approach was via Kalam. Gabral and

the Gabral valley. At the head of this valley is a pass -

the Kaidan - leading to Jagan in Chitral. The mountain

dominates this pass to the East, and it drains into the Babu

valley which runs W from the Kaidan forming an obvious approach

to the mountain itself.

The expedition travelled overland in

an ex-army train to 1 ton trucks, leaving England on 2nd

July 1968 and arriving in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 17th July.

The expedition left Islamabad on 18th July, arriving

FIRST ASCENT OF MIANGUL SAR: SWAT KOHISTAN - WEST PAKISTAN

MIANGUL SAR : c. 5996 m. - Local name Dingi Sar

First discovered and named by Dr. C.A. Pinelli -
Unsuccessful attempt on summit (Bolletino of
C.A.I. 1967)

COMPOSITION OF SUCCESSFUL PARTY - INNOMINATE MOUNTAINEERING GROUP

W.E. DONAGHUE - Leader

J. LOVATT - Deputy

G.D. HUGHES

B.D. CHASE

Dr. M. McMAHON

T.A.J. GOODFELLOW

Sqn. Leader Osman Beg, - Liason Officer.

TRAVEL:

Overland in Austin kg ex-army 1 ton truck, following Asia
Highway to Islamabad, Pakistan via: Istanbul, Teheran, Meshed,
Herat, Kabul, Khyber Pass, Peshawar.

FORMALITIES:

Permission to climb in this area must be sought well in
advance from Pakistan Authorities. Swat is an autonomous
kingdom ruled by the Wali. His permission must also be obtained.
Pakistan attaches a Liason Officer to all official

expeditions. We found our Liason Officer most helpful with arranging local porters. This advantage outweighed other disadvantages.

APPROACH TO MOUNTAIN:

Road to Saidu Sherif, Capital of Swat State. The road now extends from Saidu Sherif to Kalam* and Gabral. Saidu Sherif - Gabral is 6 - 8 hours driving. From Gabral to Basecamp was 2½ days march up the Gabral Valley. Access to these mountains is thus quick and uncomplicated.

* Survey of India Map. The road Kalam-Gabral is not marked.

PORTERS:

Obtainable at Gabral, with or without donkeys. The Swat Authorities also insisted that we had two Policemen with us continually. Standard equipment: 1881 Lee-Enfield rifle.

APPROACH MARCH:

Straightforward, following the Gabral River. The Gabral Valley is a much frequented route into Chitral (Laspur). On reaching a high plateau/pass, called Maidhan, Miangul Sar is at once visible to the East, dominating the pass and the valley (Pinelli's 'UNBEKANNTES TAL' - local name, Dingi Valley) which now runs E.W. from the foot of Miangul Sar to Maidhan (Two days from Gabral).

The approach now lies up this valley (fording river). Our base camp was placed on a high pasture where the river flattened

out, close to a Summer Village on the extreme edge of the tree-line. ($\frac{1}{2}$ day from Maidhan).

ASCENT:

Three further camps were established, the last and highest was on the glacier underneath the face (S.W.) and immediately below the couloir which formed the start of our route. (See photograph). The number of camps might have been reduced had we had more time to acclimatize.

DETAILS OF ROUTE:

1. B.D. Chase and T.A.J. Goodfellow. 2.VIII.68.

Approx. times.

Start	04.30
W. ridge	11.30
Summit	13.15
Camp	17.00- 18.00

S. ridge. The Couloir, easily angled at first but becoming very steep and pitted higher up, gives excellent cramponing. Even at its steepest, we were able to move together. The sun does not reach it until late and there was no stonefall. Our exit was via a 500' rock gully leading to the W. ridge. This was loose and quite hard technically, especially at this height (18,500 - 19,000 feet, 3 hrs. to ridge). From here, the S.W. ridge was quite straightforward with the exception of a short rock-barrier, which yielded to a diagonal traverse. The summit has two peaks; we thought the North Summit higher. Descent via

DETAILS OF ROUTE: - continued

S.W. ridge was straightforward, except for the section already mentioned.

2. G.D. Hughes and J. Lovatt. 6.VIII.68.

By the W. ridge. Following the West ridge all the way, the previous party's route of descent. This route presented no problems except for the rock barrier already mentioned. Descent was by the same route.

Approx. times

Not noted.

FURTHER EXPLORATION:

Members of the expedition reconnoitred a glacier to the immediate S.W. of Miangul Sar containing various smaller unclimbed peaks. B. D. Chase and Dr. M. McMahon reconnoitred the glacier under the N. Face of Miangul Sar which appeared formidable. G.D. Hughes and T.A.J. Goodfellow climbed a subsidiary peak (c. 17,500) which they named Longjohn Sar, in commemoration of one of the party's clothing.

RETURN:

We returned by our route of approach, which was, of course, quicker in descent. We reached Saidu Sheriff within two days from base camp.

SUMMARY:

The area has been extensively explored. The main summits nearest Kalam have been climbed (Mankial, Falak Sar). The mountains round the Ushu valley have been explored by Dr. Pinelli. Two Cambridge parties have visited the Siri Dara glacier further to the East.* Miangul Sar was the last of the main peaks in Swat to remain unclimbed, and is possibly the highest. There still remains however a large number of 19,000 - 20,000 ft. peaks further to the N.W. on the Swat/Chitral border, visited in 1968 by a British Expedition (reported in this issue?). The Japanese have also been active in Swat, but I have found no record of their expeditions.

*See A.J. 1966 for summary of expeditions in this area.

We felt our expedition noteworthy for a number of reasons:

- i) The pattern of the expedition was representative of what is fast becoming 'the new style', appropriate to 'The Golden Age of the Small Expedition' which our former President, Eric Shipton, foresaw.

Our pattern was:

- a) small group
- b) minimum equipment - identical with serious Alpine Season.
- c) limited use of porters - to base camp only.
- d) low cost - a total cost of approx: £70-80 per head. Possible reduced to £60 depending on sale of vehicle, articles etc. (For further details of cost, grant, gifts, etc. see report).

- e) speed of travel to mountains, compared with cost. The expedition was 58 days from England.
- f) speed in reaching summit - 6 days after establishing base camp.

- ii) This pattern is suited to the size of the mountains (19,000 - 20,000 ft) and their ease of access. We felt that, given more time to spend in the mountains themselves and hence to acclimatize, they could be treated on an Alpine scale. We felt that our first route of Ascent - the couloir - was more appropriate to an Alpine rather than Himalayan tradition. We were reminded, in these mountains of Wymper and the Golden Age of Alpine Peaks.
- iii) One of the party is a Social Psychologist, the other a Research Psychologist. It was an agreed aim of the expedition that some study should be made of the effects of stress on the group; stresses both in the nature of the task, and in the speed with which, given the time at our disposal, we were bound to accomplish it. It is beyond the scope of this account to discuss our findings. However we feel that our awareness of this aim, and of the disfunctions that might arise in the group through failing to cope with stressful conditions, greatly helped us to develop a group culture which, whilst containing inevitable anxieties within the group, ensured also the efficient performance of our task.

APPENDIX: ITINARY AND RECORD OF ASCENT.

July 2 0030 Sailed Dover
6 Ankara : Turkey
10 Iranian Border
11 Tengeran
13 Afghan Border
15 Kabul
17 Islamabad, W. Pakistan
17-22 Islamabad, awaiting completion
of formalities.
23 Saidu Sherif, Swat
24 Gabral, end of road
27 Established Base-Camp
28 Established Camp I
29 Established Camp II
31 Ascent of Longjon Sar
Aug. 1 Unsuccessful attempt on Miangul
Sar from high bivouac.
Camp III established on glacier
below couloir.
2 Successful attempt on summit, via
N.W. face and W. ridge.
6 Second ascent via W. ridge
8 Struck basecamp.
9 Saidu Sherif, Swat.
10 Islamabad
12 Left Islamabad, noon
13 Kabul
16 Afghan Border
18 Tengeran
21 Iran/Turkey Border
24 Istanbul
28 London.

APPENDIX: ITINARY AND RECORD OF ASCENT.

July 2 0030 Sailed Dover
6 Ankara : Turkey
10 Iranian Border
11 Teheran
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