



RYE 1984 RUINSARA YOUTH EXPEDITION

We are organising a 15 member (8 experienced—7 youth) expedition to the Ruinsara Valley in Garhwal Himalaya in May-June 1984. The 7 young members will undergo training and then the team will attempt the peaks surrounding the base camp. There will also be treks to Har-ki-Dun and Dodi Tal.

SPONSORS: The expedition is sponsored by 'The Mountaineers', Bombay, an association of mountaineers to promote and support advanced mountaineering activities for the experienced climbers. In the past the association has sponsored many expeditions which climbed Devtoli (22,270 ft), Kalindi (20,020 ft), Chiring (21,520 ft) Sudarshan Parbat (21,350 ft), Chaturbhuj (21,880 ft) and last year 5 peaks in unknown valleys of Spiti were climbed. The association is very active, with members organising and participating in various mountaineering activities regularly both in Himalaya and Sahyadris. 'THE MOUNTAINEERS' is a registered association and all donations to it are exempted under the Income-tax Act, Section 80-G.

THE AREA: The Ruinsara Valley lies near Jamnotri in district of Uttarkashi, U.P. Har-ki-Dun is the adjoining Valley and the entire region is famous for its beauty. It is a well known area and frequently visited. To its north lies Kinnaur. It has many glaciers and from moderate to the most difficult peaks with the easy approach and the variety of terrain it is an ideal training cum climbing ground.

THE PLAN: After travelling by train and bus to Uttarkashi, the team will proceed to Netwar, the last road head. From here it is a beautiful 3 day trek to the base camp, including a night at Ruinsara Lake. At the base camp the younger members will undergo a 5 days training in basic snow and ice crafts. The team will then be split upto attempt at first the smaller and easier peaks and then the higher ones like, Bandarpunch (20,720 ft), Kalanag (20,956 ft), White Peak (20,020 ft) and Swargarohini (20,512 ft). After the climbing the team will return to Uttarkashi via. Dodi Tal, a beautiful trek.

HISTORY: The region is known for the frequent visits of students of the Doon School under the leadership of J.T.M.Gibson, and Gurudayal Singh, this was a favourite region for them. Gibson was particularly instrumental in attempting and first ascents of peaks in this area. Our plans are based on his book 'As I saw it!' and other available information. BANDARPUNCH : was attempted in 1937 (J.A.K. Martyn, Gibson, Tensing Norgay) and first ascent made

on 20 June 1950 (Tensing, Greenwood). KALANAG (Formerly known as 'Black Peak') was attempted in 1953 (Gibson and Doon School team) and the first ascent made in 1955 (Gibson, Passang, Chetan and others). WHITE PEAK was attempted in 1950 by SW face and is still unclimbed. SWARGAROHINI was attempted several times since 1958. Swargarohini II (20,372 ft) was climbed by a Canadian team (Virk, Clarke) in 1974 and the main peak is reported to have been climbed in 1977 by a team from Calcutta. (Mountain Lovers Association).

There has been several ascents of Kalanag, few of Bandarpunch.

ROUTE and SCHEDULE:

8 May	Dep. Bombay	4 June to	Attempting
11 May	Arr. Netwar (via. Uttarkashi)	13 June	harder peaks (Swargarohini Bandarpunch)
12 May to	Trek to base camp.		
18 May			
19 May to	Initial training.	14 June to	Return trek to
24 May		20 June	Uttarkashi via Dodi Tal.
25 May to	Attempts on easier peaks (Kalanag, Hanuman White Peak and others)	24 June	Arr. Bombay.
3 June			

PORTERS : 4 porters will be assisting the team permanently. Initially porters and mules will be employed till base camp. to ferry a large bulk of luggage.

MEDICAL COVER: The team consists of 2 doctors and all the necessary medicines will be carried.

EQUIPMENT : The association has some mountaineering equipment. The balance will be hired or purchased.

FOOD: A detailed food list will be prepared based on definite scales. There will be different items for trekking and high-altitude. Special items will be carried from Bombay while flour, rice, vegetables etc. will be purchased at Dehra Dun. Packing of the food will be done in smaller quantities - each packet containing all the items.

BUDGET:

Transport/freight charges/porterage	Rs. 9,600.00
Food for members	Rs. 12,500.00
Porters and their food	Rs. 12,800.00
Insurance	Rs. 1,600.00
Equipment	Rs. 5,600.00
Photography (still)	Rs. 1,250.00
Medicines	Rs. 2,400.00
Miscellaneous	Rs. 2,000.00

		Rs. 47,750.00
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THE TEAM : ALL INDIAN NATIONALS

- 1) HARISH KAPADIA: (LEADER) Age 38 years. Businessman
Climbed: Ikualari (19,900 ft), Bethartoli Himal South (20,730 ft), Shiti Dhar (17,353 ft), Devtoli (22,270 ft), Kalabaland Dhura (20,030 ft) and Koteshwar II (18,670 ft), 4 peaks in Spiti. Attempted: Bhagirathi II (21,364 ft), Tharkot (20,020 ft) and Yogeshwar (21,710 ft).

Extensive high-altitude trekking over high passes in North Sikkim, East Nepal, East Kumaon and Ladakh - Zanskar, Over 650 ascents in the Western Ghats.
- 2) ZERKIS BOGA: Age 37 years. Medical Representative.
Climbed: 'Tower' (18,350 ft), Bamba Dhura (20,780 ft), Chiring We (21,520 ft), Sudarshan Parbat (21,350 ft), and Gangotri I (21,890 ft). Attempted: Tharkot (20,020 ft) and Devtoli (22,270 ft), Mana (23,860 ft). High-altitude trekking in North Sikkim and Nanda Devi North Sanctuary.
- 3) ARUN SAMANT: Age 35 years. Architect.
Climbed: Peaks in Dhaula Dhar, Rudugaira (19,090 ft) and Lagma (18,701 ft).
Attempted: Bethartoli Himal (20,840 ft),
Trekged : Everest base, Dhaula Dhar and Pindari Glacier.
- 4) BHUPESH ASHAR: Age 28 years. Executive.
Climbed : 4 peaks in Spiti. Trekged over high passes in Nubra valley (Ladakh) and Zanskar, Tempo La (Lahul). Rock Climbing at Panchmarhi-Trekking in Western Ghats.
- 5) MUSLIM H. CONTRACTOR: Age 25 years, Executive.
Basic training. Expeditions to Manda, Guan Nelda, Dhaula Dhar and Kailash in winter. Trekged to Bhillangna Valley, Everest base and Darma valley. Trekking and rock climbing in Western Ghats.
- 6) Flt.Lt CHANDRASHEKHAR JAYWANT: Age 32 years. Pilot, I.A.F.
Climbed: Lagma (18,701 ft).
Trekking in the Western Ghats.
- 7) JAGDISH C.NANAVATI: Age 55 years. Executive.
Basic training course at Darjeeling. Participated in expeditions to Nilgiri Parbat (leader), Hanuman Tibba Indo-British expedition, Bethartoli- Himal. Trekged to : Kuari Pass, Kashmir, Satopanth and Bagnue glacier and Darma Valley.
- 8) Dr.VASANT N. DESAI: Age 67 years. Medical Doctor.
Doctor to the expeditions to: Hanuman, Rajrambha - Chaudhara, Kalabaland glacier and Swetvarn Indo-French expedition. Trekged to: Manali, Singalila, Chamba-Pangi, Gosainkund, Everest base, Dhaula Dhar and Darma Valley.

YOUTH TEAM:

1. Dhiren Toolsidas: Age 20 years.(Engineering) (leader-youth)
Darma Valley trek, Kailash Parikrama in winter.
2. Ravi Mariwala : Age 17 years. (Science).
Trekked to Pindari glacier.
3. M.s Genevieve Desa : Age 19 years (Medicine)
Basic Training course at H.M.I.,Darjeeling.
4. Milind Pansare: Age 19 years (Computer science)
5. Ms Hina Patel: Age 17 years (Commerce)
Basic Training Course at H.M.I.,Darjeeling.
6. Kartik Bhagat: Age 23 years (Medicine)
Trekked to Pindari glacier, Sandakhphu and winter
circuit of Kailash.
7. Ms Parul Seth: Age 18 years (Home Science)
Basic training course at H.M.I.,Darjeeling.

All Youth members are students and extensive trekking and rock-climbing experience in Sahyadris/Pachmarhi.



RUINSARA YOUTH EXPEDITION

R E P O R T

SUMMARY : The expedition was organised with a view to train young members between the ages 16 to 21 and to expose them to high altitude climbing experience. The expedition was successful in climbing the following peaks.

1. Bandarpunch West (White Peak) 10 June - First Ascent
(6102m - 20,020 ft.)

Summiters : Arun Samant, Dhiren Toolsidas and Harish Kapadia

2. Kalanag (Black Peak)
(6387m - 20,956 ft.)

a) 29 May - Climbed

Summiters : Kartik Bhagat, Dhiren Toolsidas and Harish Kapadia

b) 31 May - Climbed

Summiters : Arun Samant, Ravi Mariwala and Sher Singh.

3. 'Barasukha' 1 June - Climbed
(C.5530m - C.18,200 ft.)
(South of Dhumdhar Kandi Pass)

Summiters : Genevieve DeSa and Dhiren Toolsidas

4. 'Chhotanag' 1 June - Climbed
(5220m - 17,120 ft.)

Summiters : Milind Pansare and Pratap Singh

5. 'Ruinsara' 24 May - Climbed
(C.5480m - C.18,000 ft.)

Summiters : Arun Samant, Kartik Bhagat, Ravi Mariwala and Pratap Singh.

DETAILED REPORT :

The party started from Bombay on 8 May and after initial transport problems, reached Dehara Dun

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AN EXPEDITION BY :

THE MOUNTAINEERS

72, VIJAY APARTMENTS, 16, CARMICHAEL ROAD, BOMBAY 400 026
TF 363772 - 313227

GRAM : WINTERWEAR

on 10th and roadhead Sankri (196 km. - via Nangaon Purola and Mori) on 11th. We arranged for 15 mules at Rs.40 per day and trekked to Taluka (6800 ft. - 12 km.). A little tiring road brought the party to Osla (8700 ft. - 10 km.). From here we changed to 35 porters (Rs.28 p.d. inclusive of food). On 14th we climbed steeply to Dapsu to get an excellent view of our peaks and then proceeded along the Ruinsara nala and camped at 11,000 ft. (15 km.). Next day we bypassed the disappointing Ruinsara Tal and after crossing a tricky rocky section, established base camp at lower Kiar Koti (13,800 ft. - 4 km.). For the next two days we recceed and ferried loads to ABC at 14,100 ft. (2 km.) ahead of upper Kiar Koti.

From 18th to 22nd various routes were recceed and training was imparted. Everybody felt fit and well acclimatised at the end of this period. White ferrying of loads to Camp 1 of Kalanag continued, the team made the first climb of the expedition on 24 May (Ruinsara Peak).

Other members kept themselves busy by small scrambles near ABC and critical observation of surrounding peaks. A party left on 26th for a trek to Har Ki Dun.

On the same day we started for our ascent of Kalanag. Camp 1 was across the lateral moraine of the Kalanag icefall at 16,500 ft. (4 km.). Camp 2 - 18,200 ft. (1 km.) was through a maze of crevasses and 1500 ft. below the Col. On 28th 1st attempt failed for want of enough equipment to climb 300 ft. ice-wall which barred the way. On 29 May the party left camp 2 at 5.30 a.m. and reached the top at 4.45 p.m. in very strong icy winds. Gigi missed the summit by 300 ft. and was lucky to return safely. The second team repeated the ascent in perfectly calm and sunny weather and enjoyed good views.

On 1 June, 2 parties left separately for previously recceed peaks. Chhotanag was climbed by moving across the top of the icefall and then followed the North ridge to the top. Barasukha was climbed by following steep scree slopes and a sharp snowy southern ridge.

After 3 days of rest, we traversed the Bandarpunch glacier for 6 km. to make Camp 1 at 15000 ft. for Bandarpunch west. The glacier was totally broken and full of deep crevasses. After a recce a route was found over the true left

lateral moraine of Bandarpunch West glacier. The upper icefall was crossed and Camp 2 was at 17,400 ft. A day was spent to fix ropes in the last icefall which barred the way and the party had to cross very delicate snow bridges to go across. Camp 3 was set up at 18,600 ft. (2 km.). On 10th 1st ascent of Bandarpunch West was made by following the Northeast ridge to the highly corniced summit. We could look down upon the west ridge unsuccessfully attempted by Tenzing Norgay and J.T.M. Gibson in 1950. We withdrew to ABC on 11th amidst heavy snowfall.

Dhiren and Harish crossed Bali Pass (16,000 ft.) (from Ski Valley 2 of Gibson) to the Yamotri Valley in 2 days. We returned by the pilgrim route to Dehra Dun.

NOTE ON ECOLOGY :

Generally, the moraine walls were crumbling at a fast rate due to a geological fault running through this valley. Forest cover was intact and still lots of dead wood was available. With many trekkers visiting this valley Ruinsara Tal camping ground was thoroughly polluted and a disgrace. We saw a musk deer, marmots, bharals and numerous variety of birds.

Yamotri was stinking with dirt and the entire route was perhaps the dirtiest Himalayan trail ever.


Members : Harish Kapadia (Leader), Arun Samant, Jagdish Nanavati, Dr. Vasant Desai.

Dhiren Toolsidas (Leader - youth), Genevieve De Sa, Parul Sheth, Hina Patel, Kartik Bhagat, Ravi and Shyam Mariwala and Milind Pansare.

Also Accompanied : Mrs. Geeta Kapadia, Mrs. Sheela Jayawant, Mrs. Manda Nanavati, Sonam, Nawang and Prashant.

Period : 8 May to 27 June 1984.

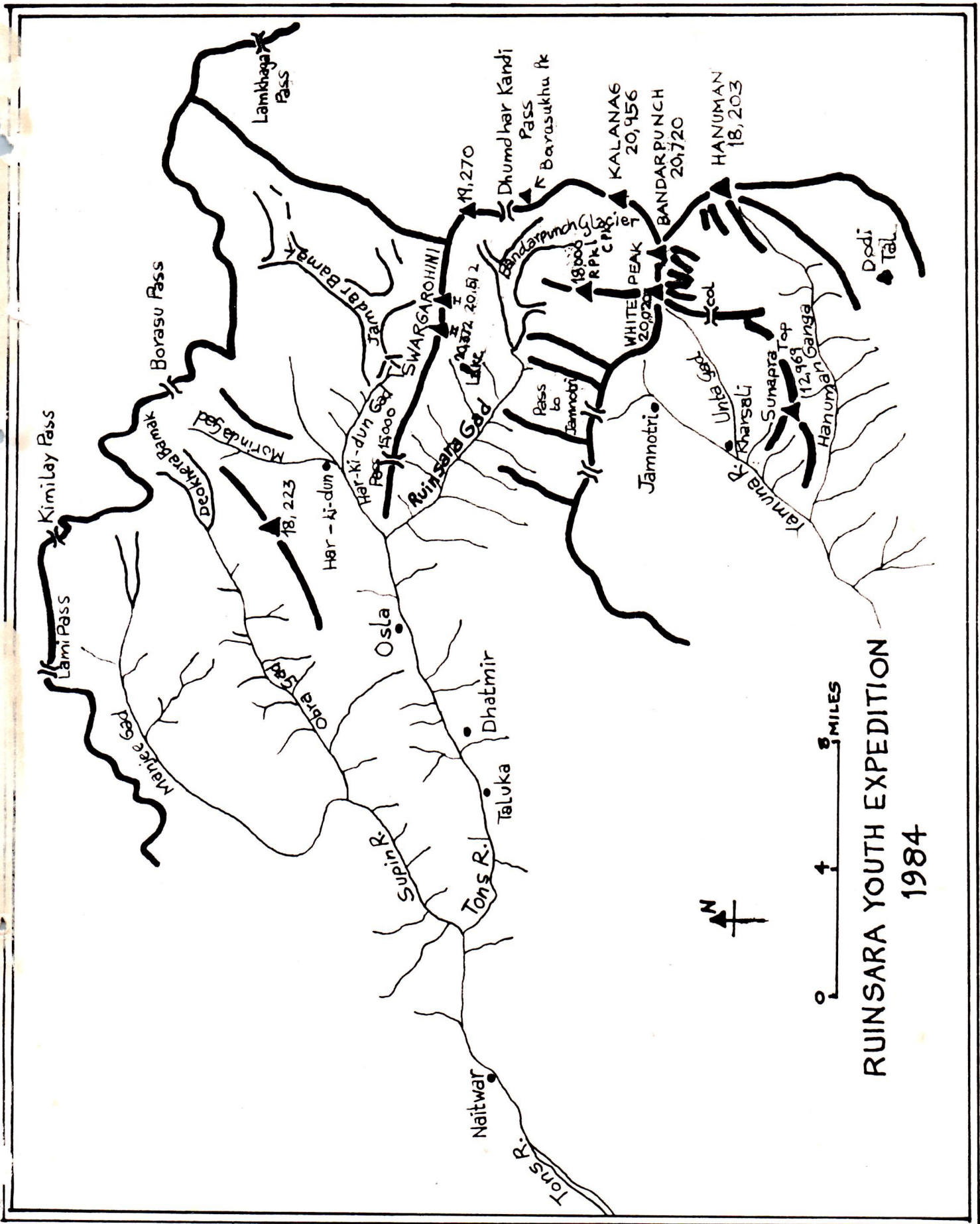
The Mountaineers,
72, Vijay Apartments,
16, Carmichael Road,
Bombay-400 026.



Harish Kapadia

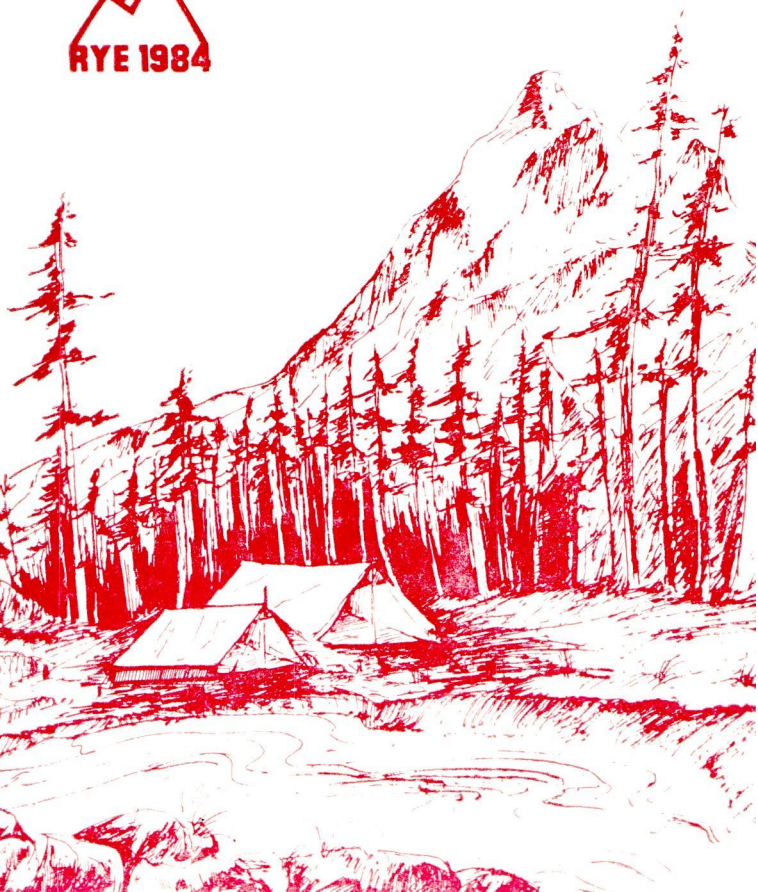
Leader.

28 June, 1984.



RUINSARA YOUTH EXPEDITION
 1984


RYE 1984



RUINSARA YOUTH EXPEDITION, 1984

LOG - BOOK

By DHIREN TOOLSIDAS (LEADER-YOUTH)

A. INTRODUCTION

The main aim of the expedition was to introduce, train and give exposure to high altitude to a selected team of youngsters between the ages 16 to 21. Though there are many training institutes in the country, it was felt that a high standard of expertise can be achieved rather quickly by such a personalised training programme. We were running basic-advance courses and an expedition together. The training included almost everything that one should know like practical climbing, theoretical aspects and various aspects of nature. All the initial planning, correspondence, gathering of material, packing and transportation were undertaken by young members. Organisation was also managed by them. After the experience in this trip, we are certain that such an expedition is extremely beneficial in imparting excellent training and gaining experience.

Though mountaineering is practised for many years now in India the social and parental attitudes differ widely. Our young group hailed from a variety of backgrounds and student community. Some were fortunate of being highly encouraged by their parents, some had lukewarm response, other parents were worried and at least one were down right hostile. However these attitudes had almost no psychological effect on them while on the mountains.

All the members physically prepared by jogging and exercising for 6 months and this led to excellent fitness.

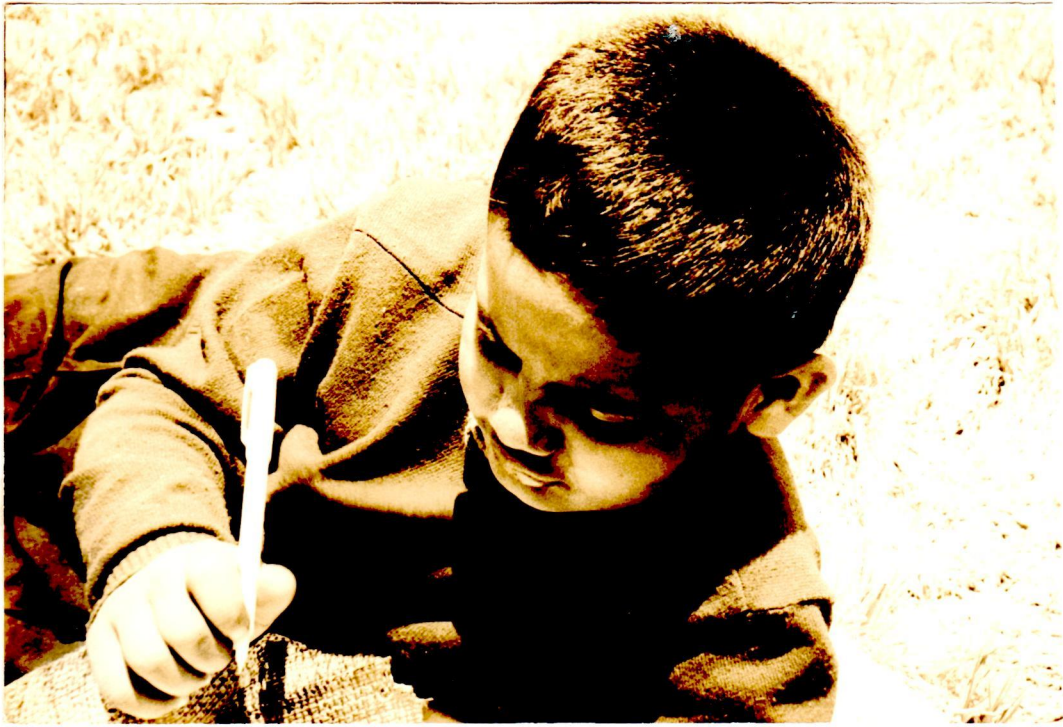
The combination of youth and experience was beneficial to both. The strength of younger members, the experience and the wisdom of the elders made an excellent combination and a most enjoyable team. Age group was 8 to 68 and climbing abilities varied from a first visit to Himalaya to a most experienced generation.

Overall, the results achieved were most enjoyable and a high level of experience was gained.

B. DAY-TO-DAY MOVEMENTS

MAY 8 :

The team departs amidst problems as the Frontier Mail is delayed by 5 hours. We are almost certain to miss our connecting train from Delhi and



so a couple of telegrams are immediately despatched to get a bus arranged. Our luggage is loaded onto the Dehra Dun Express thanks to a co-operative clerk at the luggage counter. Our dinner presented by the Taj flight kitchen is consumed at the station.

The train departs finally at 12-45 a.m. On May 9 and Mr. Vinod Sheth, who is the only person still around to see us off is declared the "Man of the departure".

MAY 9 :

The day is spent on the train and the heat is kept away with the help of fifteen water-melons and squashes.

MAY 10 :

Reach Delhi at 1 a.m. and we are greeted by the welcome sight of JCN and our 5 Garhwali porters. We all shift to the bus station and take the first bus to Dehra Dun and make our purchases of rice, atta and fresh vegetables. There is a scarcity of kerosene due to severe rationing but eventually Ravi finds a friendly fellow who sells us our requirement of 60 litres and Ravi is duly awarded the "Kerosene Chakra".

Meanwhile, our Sherpa who was to turn up this morning at 8 a.m. failed to do so and the best we could do was to look at the brighter side - the expedition would save money. Already a lot of extra costs had cropped up due to the delay. We had booked a reserved bus for our 18 member team and we had to pay them halt charges for the night.

MAY 11 :

Loaded our 1000 kg. of luggage on the bus and set off comfortably for Sankri. Lunch was at Damta. We reached Sankri Via Naugaon and Purola. The road from Mori to Sankri was just about alright for our bus. As we got off at 5 p.m. negotiations began for mules, and finally we got 15 mules at Rs.40 per day plus food plus Rs.40 for the return.

The rest house was occupied so we had to stay in a small room which was a sight with 18 people frantically packing their rucksacks in preparation for tomorrow's trek. Sankri 6800 ft.

MAY 12 :

Ravi and Arun left at 5 a.m. to accompany the mules to Osla (22 km.) while the rest would go only to Taluka (12 km.).

The trek to Taluka was a beautiful flat one passing through a thick pine forest high up above the river. Reached our destination at 11 a.m. and



had our first meal of parathas at the hands of our head porter Sher Singh which left everyone licking their fingers. The three rest houses were all occupied and we managed to get one room and pitched two tents. The afternoon was spent writing letters and grabbing some much needed rest.

MAY 13 :

Everybody was enchanted by the trek from Taluka to Osla. There was not a single patch which was not covered by a shade of green. The route climbed up steadily. Leaving at 7 a.m. we reached Osla rest house (8700 ft.) at 3 p.m. The village is about 500 feet higher on the opposite side of the river. There are 3 rest houses two of which were occupied and so we had to pitch 3 tents.

From Osla onwards the loads were to be carried by porters as the mules could go no further. Hence in the afternoon there were negotiations. We were a bit anxious as porters from Osla are known to be troublesome. Finally, we engaged 34 porters headed by Dayaram Singh at Rs.25 daily plus Rs.15 for return. They were to drop us at Kiar Koti in two days. We also paid each one Rs.10 for food for the three days.

MAY 14 :

Each porterload was around 30 kg and so after the usual mumbling and grumbling we were all off at 7 a.m. The route continued on the true left of the river going up slowly to a plateau at 10,000 ft. from where we got a splendid first view of Kalanag, Bandarpunch and Bandarpunch West (White Peak). After this the route dropped down 500 feet to the Ruinsara river and we crossed a bridge. This point was just a little upstream from the junction of the Harki dun and Ruinsara rivers. After this, the route continued all along the river. We passed a couple of lovely camping grounds and finally camped on a ground at 11,000 feet about 1 km. short of Ruinsara Lake. It began raining as soon as we pitched tents.

So far we had got plenty of dead wood and all our cooking was done on it.

MAY 15 :

Like all other mornings, this one was bright and clear and we moved on towards base camp. The ladies and children remained behind. Leaving at 8 a.m. we reached lower Kiar Koti at 1 p.m. On the way we passed Ruinsara Lake which we all found quite disappointing in terms of beauty. There was a scare as the box containing our crampons fell down 600 feet. Dayaram Singh immediately retrieved the crampons and luckily they were not damaged.

We paid off the local porters who had served us well, retaining the leader and another one to fetch us firewood.

The weather again turned bad and it snowed steadily for a couple of hours. Our height was 12,600 feet.

MAY 16 :

We had planned the Advance base camp at upper Kiar Koti and so we left with heavy loads on yet another fabulous morning.

We reached the site in 2 hours which was a little ahead of a massive boulder. We wanted to push onwards to another field but it meant crossing a ridge about 400 feet high and then descending down to the field which we thought would be too much with all the loads. We pitched one tent and returned to our previous camp. The altimeter at Upper Kiar Koti read 13,200 feet which was a bit confusing as previous expeditions had base camp at 14,500 feet.

Meanwhile the lower group had joined us and the camp became more active. The girls kept talking and giggling, Milind was thrilled when 'Disco-Station' played on the radio and Vasantbhai was in full form as everybody got a dose of philosophy.

MAY 17 - 18 :

It was decided to move camp still further and so we ferried loads ahead and made ABC on a field beside a break in the moraine ridge. A kitchen was made using stones. The place gets extremely dusty in the afternoons.

A reccee was carried out to a point 500 feet higher on the moraine in order to find a good training ground. This year there has been very little snowfall and the snowline is quite high - about 15,500 ft. Kalanag could be seen clearly and the imposing South wall of Swargarohini stood immediately above us.

MAY 19 :

We sorted out all equipment and the rest of the team came up and base camp was finally established. We had a serious map reading session in the evening and our height was made out to be 14,100 ft.

MAY 20 :

Today we had our first training session on a not-too-ideal slope on the moraine ridge a little above our camp. Unfortunately there was



and the other side of the mountain range
as a result of a series of small earthquakes
which had been felt in the region for some time

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little above our camp. It was very
of a not-a-little above our camp. It was very
of a not-a-little above our camp. It was very

no suitable training ground nearby and of the 8 young members few were total strangers to snow while the others had little experience. Experienced members were only two, Harish and Arun.

Due to the problem of training ground we decided to start movement on the mountains around and training could be done in the process.

Another factor which prompted this was the weather. It had remained extremely favourable all along and we saw no point in wasting it.

MAY 21 :

Today was a rest day and two groups were made, which would move in different directions. One would comprise of Harish, Dhiren, Gigi, Parul and Milind to recce the route to Camp 1 of Kalanag. The other consisting of Arun, Ravi, Kartik and Hina would attempt a peak approximately South of us. It is a subsidiary peak of 5749 m and was climbed by Gibson's team in 1953. Actually the point visible from base camp is a point of c. 18,000 ft and the true peak (5749 m) lies behind on a connecting ridge. The team planned to attempt the peak by crossing over the Bandarpunch glacier and from a gully to cross over to the eastern slopes and then attempt the peak.

In this region erosion is so predominant that features are changing yearly. As one of our local porters was telling us, last year the route to our camp was quite straight and now we have to go up 400 feet to cross a stream coming down the slopes of Swargarohini. Our recce revealed a tricky route towards Camp 1 of Kalanag.

MAY 22 :

The initial part of the route towards C1 consists of crossing the moraine ridge and going down on the other side through little scree. The route goes on the other side and leads down to a sheltered camping ground previously used. We thought that it would be an ideal base camp site. Further, the route goes along the true right bank of the Bandarpunch glacier. At one point, the entire slope has been washed down and the steep scree has got to be crossed. The slope is entirely exposed.

Finally we reached the upper part of the Kalanag icefall which would be our Camp 1.

Meanwhile Arun's party had gone through the gully but turning the corner they found that the route was difficult.



and tried to reach the route to Camp I of Kalsang. The other consisting of Arun, Pavi, Kartik and his would attempt a peak approximately 1000 ft. It is a relatively peak of 5749 m and was climbed by Tibetan team in 1957. Actually the point visible from base camp is a point of 5150 ft and the true peak (11) is a point of 5749 ft and the route. The team planned to attempt the peak by crossing the mountain through a narrow gully and from a rocky slope to the east of the peak and then attempt the peak.

In this region erosion is an important feature and is changing rapidly. As a result of local features are falling in, last year the route to the camp was very difficult and we have to go up and down the steep slopes and we have to go up and down the steep slopes. The route of the camp was very difficult and we have to go up and down the steep slopes.



MAY 23 :

Arun's party came down to the moraine platform at the bottom of the gully and we met them there to decide what to do next. They would attempt the 18,000 ft. peak from the slopes above them i.e. those opposite Advance base camp.

MAY 24 :

Our team made a ferry to Camp 1 and on the way we fixed rope on the dangerous section. The other team succeeded in their venture reaching the top of the peak at 3 p.m.

Climb of Ruinsara peak c. 18,000 ft.

MAY 22 : (by Arun Samant)

Started at 8.00 a.m. with Ravi, Kartik, Hina and myself for Ruinsara Peaks (18750 ft and c. 18000 ft) with Pratap and three other porters. We got down the moraine ridge, crossed a stream, crossed iced up moraine of the Bandarpunch glacier, climbed upto the otherside to the base of slope of a gully by 10.00 a.m. Climbed up the snowed up gully from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. From 2.00 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. climbed up the eastern slope to a point where we could camp. Except Pratap all porters returned to ABC. We made a 2 ft high stone wall out snow on the upper slope to make a platform to pitch 2 tents facing each other. We were inside our tents by 4.00 p.m. at the estimated height of about 16,500 ft.

From the bottom of the gully to the camp site snow was in very good condition, weather was fine, slope was less than 40°. However the route from the top of gully to the camp was exposed. However, in order to place the camp as high as possible and as 3 porters had to return we did not rope up.

MAY 23 :

Started for the summit attempt at 7.00 a.m. Ravi had gone up slightly, Kartik and Hina on one rope were moving up, myself and Pratap were about to start when Shersingh came up with a note from HBK calling us down as in JCN's and his opinion (and as confirmed by porters) route upto the camp site and beyond upto peak was dangerous. They had seen the route yesterday during reece to C.I of Kalanag.

Accordingly we packed everything and started downward all roped up at 9.00 a.m., reached the top of the gully by 10.00 a.m., the bottom by 1.00 p.m. Hina, who was very tired and shaken up went back to ABC with HBK party who had come up to meet us. We decided to climb c. 18000 ft peak directly from here.



MAY 24 :

Started at 6.20 a.m. from camp, reached the base of wall at 7.30 a.m. Roped up-Ravi and Pratap, Arun and Kartik. Second rope reached the col by 12.30. Final summit climbed at 2.45 p.m. True summit is 25 m. beyond snow summit visible from ABC. Started down at 3.30 p.m. reached camp 5.30 p.m. From Col to summit and bottom of wall on one rope.

MAY 25 : (Dhiren continues)

Today, everybody was together at ABC and Jagdishbhai and Mandaben left for the lower base camp site.

MAY 26 :

The bulk of our party today left ABC on their way down. They planned to trek to Harki-Dun and have a camp at Dapsu which is a lovely green plateau at the junction of the Ruinsara and Harki-Dun Valleys.

There were 7 members left at base camp and our 5 permanent porters. Of them Harish, Gigi, Kartik and Dhiren formed the first team to attempt Kalanag and they left with Sher Singh and Pratap Singh and occupied Camp 1. The other team of Arun, Ravi and Milind were to follow a day later.

MAY 27 :

First team left for C2 with two porters who would ferry loads. The route was initially through a snowfield and then it went up the slope first a little to the right and then to the left avoiding crevasses. Camp 2 was set up at 2 p.m. about 1500 feet below the col. Two platforms were made for the tents and as the 2 porters turned downwards, Kartik and Dhiren went up to open the route to the col. They turned back 100 feet below the col as the weather was now closing on.

It snowed heavily in the evening making us wonder if we would be able to move tomorrow. Our height was about 18,200 feet.

MAY 28 :

Woke up at 2.30 a.m. and left for the summit at 5 a.m. in excellent weather. After climbing for 500 feet Gigi returned to Camp 2 as she was not feeling well. The other three continued, reaching the Col at 7.30 a.m. and after spending 1 hour there we moved up rightwards reaching the bottom of a bergschrund at 10 a.m.



The old man was sitting in front of the tent
and the children were gathered around him.
They were all looking at him with interest.
The old man was talking to them and they
were listening carefully. The old man was
telling them about his life and his experiences.
The children were very interested in what he
was saying. They were all looking at him
with great attention. The old man was
talking to them for hours. They were all
enjoying the conversation. The old man was
a very interesting person. He had a lot of
stories to tell. The children were all
listening to him with great interest.



The boy was sitting on the ground
and looking at the camera.
He was wearing a dark hat and a light jacket.
The background was a dry, open landscape.
The boy was looking at the camera with a neutral expression.
The landscape was very dry and open.
The boy was sitting on the ground in the middle of the landscape.
The landscape was very dry and open.
The boy was looking at the camera with a neutral expression.
The landscape was very dry and open.
The boy was sitting on the ground in the middle of the landscape.
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The landscape was very dry and open.
The boy was sitting on the ground in the middle of the landscape.
The landscape was very dry and open.
The boy was looking at the camera with a neutral expression.
The landscape was very dry and open.

On our left was a steep slope of 200 feet which met the north ridge of Kalanag and on our right was a gentler but longer route which would also meet the ridge. The latter route was full of powdery snow and very avalanche prone and we felt that it would be too exposed.

It was about 11.15 by the time we crossed the bergschrund and with the weather not looking so good we decided that it was too late and so we turned back. Our height was about 20,300 feet, about 500 feet above the Col. Tomorrow we would have another go.

MAY 29 :

We left slightly later today though we reached the Col at the same time as yesterday. At the bergschrund we roped up and Kartik started leading at 10.30. By 12.30 we were all on the top of the ridge and were lashed by strong winds. Here the slope was not very steep but we roped up as there were quite a few crevasses on the ridge.

At 2.30 the summit still looked far away and the route ahead difficult and so Gigi had to sit down and we moved ahead. Going from the right of the summit dome, we reached the top at 4.45 in extremely strong and chilly winds and we spent only 5 minutes on the top. On getting down we found Gigi quite cold and unable to talk and we practically pushed her down on the rope. Things were better at the Col where we got sunlight and eventually we reached C2 at 7 p.m. absolutely tired. Kartik and Dhiren put some food on the stove and they went off to sleep. What a mess in the mess!

MAY 30 :

We woke up only when the second team arrived at C2. They occupied and we went down to C1. Many crevasses had widened.

MAY 31 :

Two members Arun and Ravi with Sher Singh reached the summit going mainly by the same route. the only difference being that they went from the left of the summit dome.

From C1 Milind and Pratap Singh went up the moraine just above the camp for a recce to the Dhumdhar Kandi Pass. They reached a point below the ridge above.

JUNE 1 :

Milind and Pratap left for Pt. 5220 m south of the camp while Dhiren and Gigi left for a point on the Barasukha Khaga (ridge) which was recce yesterday.



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Both teams left at 8 a.m. and the first reached the top of "Chhotanag" at 10 a.m. The other team went up a moraine then to the right of an ice-wall and after that up a steep moraine patch of about 200 feet to reach the top of the ridge. Then they went left along the ridge and roped up from one point as the ridge was sharp and corniced. They reached the top of Barasukha (c. 18,200 ft) at 12.30 p.m. The top was heavily corniced on one side with steep ice on the other side dropping down to the Kalanag icefall. They returned to C1 at 3.30 in heavy fog.

Meanwhile Arun, Ravi and Milind had gone down to ABC and the rest of us stayed at C1.

JUNE 2 :

Everyone rested at ABC and equipment was dried out.

JUNE 3 :

Goodbyes were exchanged as Ravi, Gigi and Milind left for home. They were to reach Osla today and meet Jagdishbhai and party, there three porters accompanied them who would return to ABC tomorrow.

JUNE 4 :

Our next aim was Bandarpunch West (White Peak) which is a virgin peak of 6102 m (20,020 ft). We had observed the mountain from Kalanag and noted that though the upper slopes were fairly simple, the problem area was the two icefalls, one at the junction with the Bandarpunch glacier and the other above that and of course the Bandarpunch glacier itself had to be negotiated. It was totally 12 km from our ABC. A long order.

JUNE 5 :

Left ABC at 9 a.m. and moved onto the glacier, once on the glacier we were engulfed by a thick fog and so progress was slow. We moved along the moraine which was on the right (true left of the glacier) at the same time maintaining a distance from the wall on our right. A little distance after the turning we moved left towards to the centre of the glacier and were soon blocked by a number of very wide crevasses. We had to retrace our steps and then moved towards the right traversing upwards along a moraine slope and reaching a snowy Col which was visible from below. From this point we moved a little to the left and set up Camp 1 at 15,200 feet on the moraine ridge.

To our right came down the icefall from Bandarpunch West.



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We now had two alternatives. One was to go straight ahead along the glacier and then turn up with the glacier towards the West peak. The other was to go right up the icefall and then negotiate the second icefall. For the latter there was a probable route along the true left of the icefall on a moraine ridge. We decided that the easiest thing to do was to recce both directions.

JUNE 6 :

Harish and Dhiren went straight along the glacier and after going for a while it became apparent that the glacier offered no safe route and so they returned to C1.

Arun and Kartik returned with the good news that we could go up their route and that there was a snowfield above the icefall.

We had retained only one porter, Pratap at C1 and the other 3 were to make a ferry today. When they came it was decided that tomorrow Sher Singh would join us.

JUNE 7 :

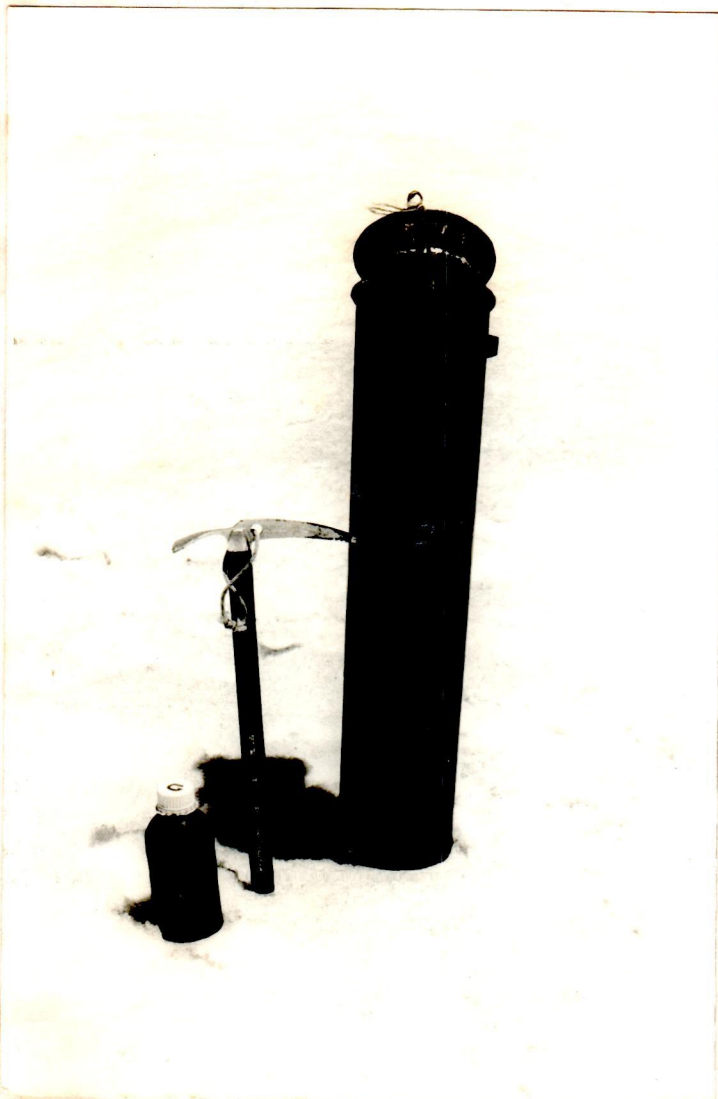
Harish, Dhiren, Arun and Pratap moved up while Kartik would join them once Sher Singh came. They reached the snowfield at 12 noon, having left at 9 a.m. and proceeded from there, first deciding to go through the centre of the icefall and then deciding that it was safer from the left. Camp 2 was established at the base of the rocky point on the true right of the icefall at 17,400 feet.

Kartik and Sher Singh joined them at 4.30 p.m.

JUNE 8 :

It was decided that today Harish and Dhiren would occupy Camp 3 which would be above a big bergschrund which was at the bottom of the northern slope of the West Peak. Sher Singh and Pratap Singh would ferry and Arun too would come along to study the route as he and Kartik would attempt a day later.

We moved into the icefall and soon we were blocked from all sides by wide crevasses and we had to turn back. We decided to recce today and so we sent our porters back. We now went a little to the right and the route solved itself until it was blocked by a crevasse. It was wide and Arun descended into it and found a probable route to cross it. We did not know if it was possible to get out of it on the other side and whether there was a possible route ahead. We have to return tomorrow with fixed rope and pitons and try and make a route. If possible Harish, Arun and Dhiren would



'Snow-Tank' experimented by Arun Samant on expedition. When filled with snow it provided 20 ltrs. of water in 4 hrs and at ABC with plastic cover it gave hot water in 4 hrs.

occupy C3. Kartik would have to stay at C2 as the icefall could deteriorate in a couple of days and in case of an emergency it was important that one member stays out.

JUNE 9 :

Today Dhiren went down into the crevasse and fixed the rope and fortunately there was a route to get out of the crevasse. Everyone crossed it quickly as there was continuous melting in the crevasse. From there we moved along a snow slope and decided to cross the bergschrund at the extreme right. It was now 10.30 a.m. and it had taken us 2 1/2 hrs. to cross the crevasse, having left C2 at 7 a.m.

A snow bridge helped us over the bergschrund and at 12.30 p.m. we set up C3 at 18,600 feet at the bottom of the northern slope of West peak. The porters turned back and reached C2 in 1 hour.

JUNE 10 :

We woke up at 3 a.m. and got a scare as it was snowing. At around 4.30 it improved a little and we decided to get ready and sure enough, it was sunny when we left at 6.30.

We climbed straight up, using crampons and we were on the NE ridge. Once on the ridge the snow became softer and the weather bad. Yet, the weather held and we could move on avoiding a couple of crevasses and finally we were at the corniced top at 9.45 a.m. The top was not very safe and so only one person could stand there at a time. The clouds cleared a little and we could see the imposing face of Bandarpunch next to us.

By 12.30 we had descended to C3 and stayed the night there.

JUNE 11 :

Left C3 at 7 a.m. and were soon crossing our fixed rope. It had become quite dangerous as the snow bridges had become weaker and new holes had opened up. Led by Harish we crossed it safely to C2. As we left C2 it began snowing steadily and we expected our porters who had gone ahead to be waiting at C1 but there was no sign of them. We looked around for them and then had to move down. Once we descended from the Col. the weather cleared and this time we returned from the centre of the glacier which was a much easier and safe route. We found footsteps indicating that our porters had gone ahead. Eventually, we reached ABC at 5.30 p.m.

JUNE 12 :

Woke up to bad weather and it remained that way most of the day giving us no chance to dry any equipment.

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JUNE 12

...to bed with and it remained
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...our equipment.

JUNE 13 :

The weather cleared a little and so we all moved down to Ruinsara Tal and camped there.

JUNE 14 :

Today Arun and Kartik left and planned to reach Taluka. Meanwhile Harish and Dhiren met a member of a Bombay team which had attempted Swargarohini III (Pt. 6209 m). They had failed on this difficult climb due to bad weather.

The Ruinsara Lake campsite had been left extremely dirty by the Doon School party who had stayed here a couple of days ago. It was a sorry sight with litter and food lying all over the place.

JUNE 15 :

Our porters Sher and Pratap Singh came up with Dayaram Singh of Osla whom we were taking to Yamnotri as guide.

JUNE 16 :

The route to Yamnotri went along Ski Valley II as described in Gibson's book. It is a broad valley across the Ruinsara river and is slightly upstream when compared to the Lake.

Leaving at 7 a.m. we descended and crossed the river and climbed up on the other side. Soon we entered Ski Valley II and went along a prominent moraine ridge more to the right. By about 3 p.m. we were at 14,500 ft. and since the weather was getting bad we camped on the moraine.

JUNE 17 :

We left camp at 6 a.m. and immediately moved onto the snow, and then crossed a prominent bergschrund which was on our left. After a small traverse we climbed up a moraine slope to the top of the divide and then on the right we traversed left and descended to the Col at 8 a.m.. Our height was 16,000 ft.

From the Col, which is known as Bali Pass, we got a view of Swargarohini, Bandarpunch as well as the rocky southern slopes of Bandarpunch West.

On the other side we descended on steep moraine and then we were on grassy slopes. A tricky descent took us down to Damni, a camping ground. Though there is a camping ground here, there is no water anywhere from the pass to Yamnotri. The path is quite inconspicuous as there is little use. Finally at 1 p.m. we were on the old pilgrim route to Yamnotri and we moved up to Yamnotri and reached in an hour amidst an unimaginably dirty and stinking

atmosphere. We cancelled all plans of staying or bathing there and we rushed down to Janki Chatti (5 km) where we got very decent accommodation at a guest house built by the Birlas and the manager was kind enough to let us stay in the suite.

Next morning leaving early we reached Hanuman Chatti (8 Km) and took the bus to Dehra Dun.

C. Participating Members :

Harish Kapadia : Climbing for many years and was leader and overall in charge.

Arun Samant : He has been climbing for many years and was leader of second climbing team and had most satisfying climb of 3 peaks. He designed for this trip a solar heater which melted snow and even supplied hot water at low altitudes.

Jagdish Nanavati : Remained very active around ABC particularly observing Swargarohini. Youth learned to be meticulous and accurate from him.

Dr. Vasant Desai : A veteran of many trips was accompanied by his grandson, Prashant. Everyone gathered in his tent for Indian philosophy and spiritual discussions.

Dhiren Toolsidas : Leader of the youth team, responsible for all the organisation, accounts and general movements. Developed into a fine climber with 3 climbs in this trip. He was deeply moved on summit of Bandarpunch West, his first virgin. If you are just turning 20, you have prepared hard, fought against jaded attitudes - then you are entitled to a tear or two - aren't you ?

Ravi Mariwala : A day before he turned 18, he was on the summit of Kalanag. A very strong climber who can turn his strength to great advantage - if he chooses to. Planned all the food menus and himself ate most of it!

Ms. Genevieve De Sa : Left cold 300 ft. below the summit of Kalanag, she gathered enough strength to return safely. Quite fit for a girl and whenever beaten would say "So what, you are a guy".

Dr. Kartik Bhagat : The first team reached the summit of Kalanag by his efforts. Did well on the trip and remained in support for the later part. This hesitant medico turned a full doctor immediately on our return.

Ms. Parul Sheth : Thin, skinny and 'never hungry' she was expected only to grace the occasion. But

actually did very well, was active and would have climbed further with a little luck. A wonder girl of the trip. "Oh My" !

Ms. Hina Patel : With regular exercises, she was very fit. However, exposure and a nerve -racking traverse made her nervous and she gladly opted for the Harki Dun trek.

Shyam Mariwala : The most immaculately dressed climber of the team. Thoroughly enjoyed though a little early sickness pushed him down. And he actually managed to retain his clothes spotless till the end of the trip.

Milind Pansare : On his first trip to Himalaya. Stayed around in support and at last climbed one peak. Known as M.G. to all.

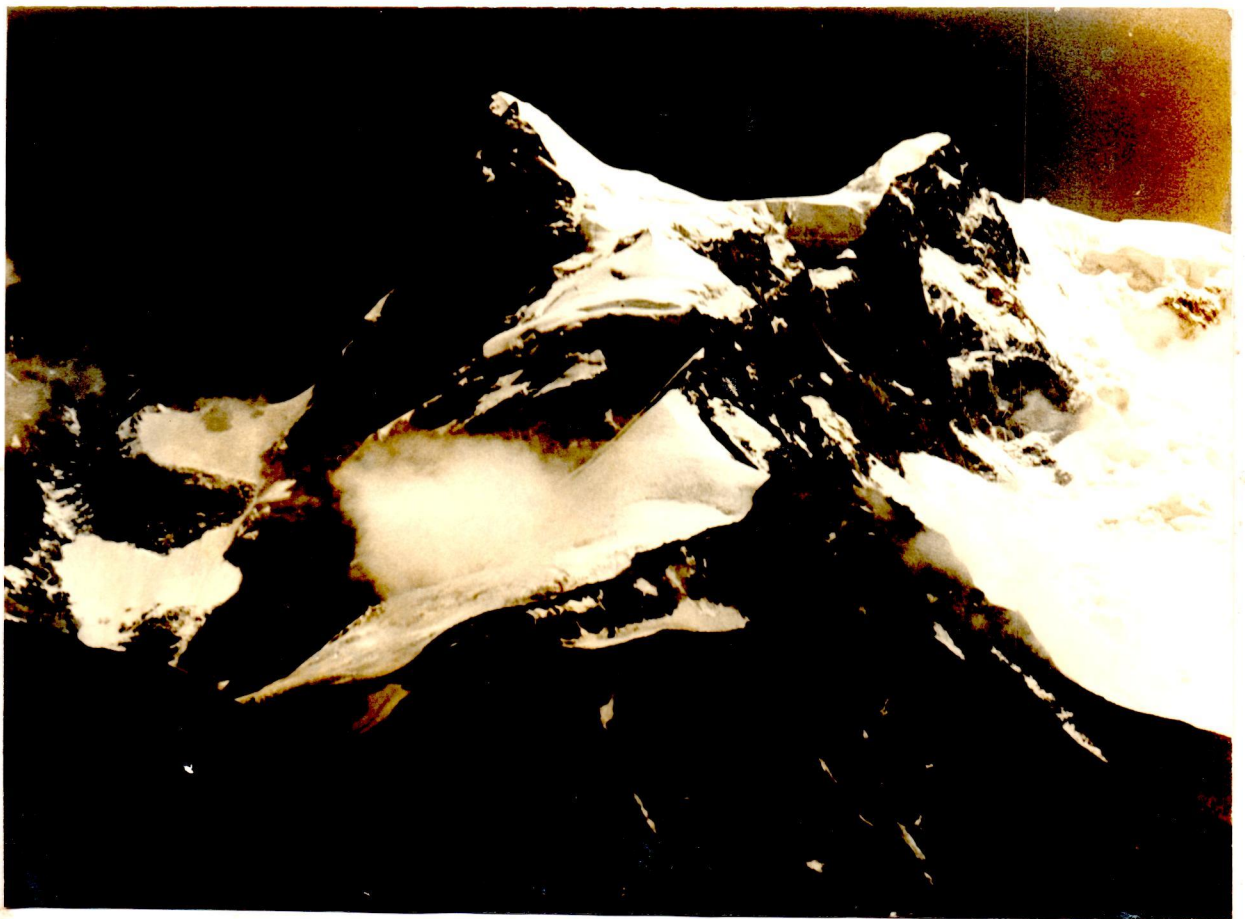
Mrs. Geeta Kapadia, Sheela Jayawant & Manda Nanavati : The 3 ladies looked after the youth thoroughly and added colour to the proceedings. Prepared chocolate - puddings and a variety of excellent food for all of us. We never had it so good in food.

Sonam & Nawang Kapadia and Prashant Desai : Aged 11, 8 and 10 respectively. Stayed at ABC and trekked to Harki Dun, were always very active and fit. Collected many 'plus points' and quipped in with many wise-cracks like; "I was like a frog in a well. Now I have come out and seen the world". Sure they will see more.





Swargarehni peaks as seen from C1 on Kalanag. L to R: II, (6247 m), I (6252 m) virgin and extreme right peak IV, 5966 m, first ascent by Calcutta team in 19



Swargarehni peaks from on way to Bali Pass. Left peak III, (6209 m) virg
On right peak II, (6247 m) first ascent by Canadian expedition in 1974.

