

Expedition Report: Miyar Nala 2006

MEF Reference: 06/03

This four-person expedition had designs on the west ridge of Peak 5690 and a route on the nose of the Orange tower in the Jangpar. However, stomach illness on the visit to the Jangpar necessitated a change of plan and the team looked for objectives that were close the base camp at the snout of the Miyar glacier. Three first ascents were made and one repeat: 1. Goya Peak (5230m) which is located directly above base camp and 2. Gateway Ridge (to the summit ridge: 5600m) which is found above Dali Got. 3. Black Peak (to just below the summit: 5340m). 4. Christina Peak (PD), 5420m

Contact Details / Expedition Members

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Jeremy Frimer (Climbing)
Michel van der Spek (Climbing)
Sarah Hart (Support)

Original Objectives of the Expedition

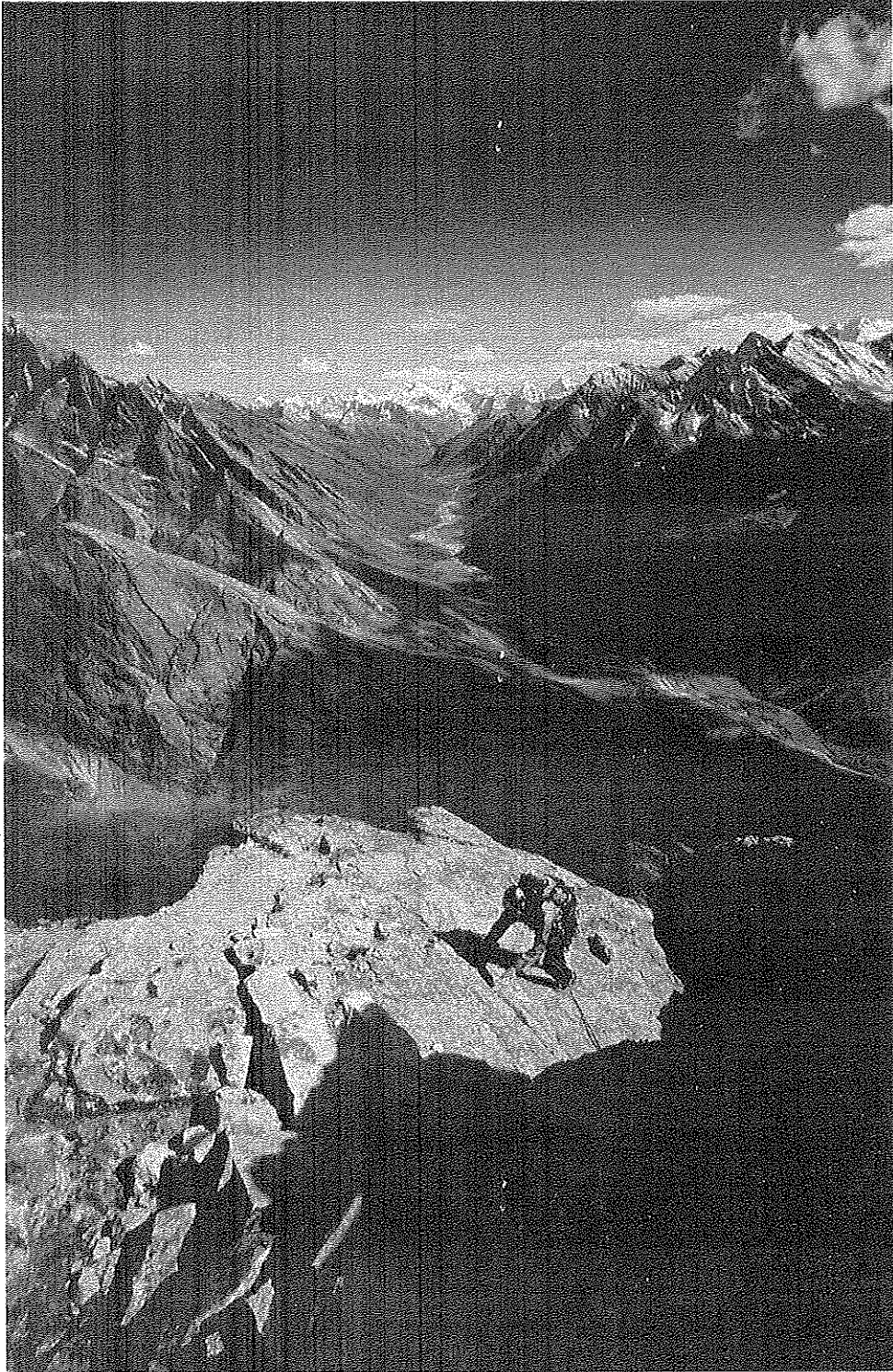
- Peak 5960m (located to the north of the Dali glacier – see map). An impressive rock pyramid of a peak when viewed from the Jangpar glacier. The west ridge would be a good, challenging line and the col at its foot can be accessed from either the north (steep with objective danger) or the south (easy).
- The Orange Tower, 5200m (located to the north of the Jangpar glacier – see map). A very impressive tower of grey and orange coloured granite. The nose is the most obvious line. A good and easier alternative would be round to the left where a ramp up a buttress of grey rock (which is the best quality) leads to the top of the tower that sits behind the Orange tower.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Routes Climbed and attempted
Explanation for changing of plans

2 Sep	Flight to Delhi
3 Sep	Shopping and logistics in Delhi
4-6 Sep	Travel to Manali via Shimla by train to Shimla and then Jeep to Manali
7 Sep	Jeep to Udaipur / Tingrat
8-10 Sep	Walk up Miyar valley to base camp at c.4000m
9-13th Sep	Acclimatisation including hikes to recce 'Himashanca' This mountain (named after its resemblance to the Huayhuash's Jirashanca) is located in the first valley to the right (West) as you walk down the Miyar valley. It is a spectacular peak. The prominent ramp at the right side of the face is capped by a cornice that is only visible from the peak opposite (highest point reached: 5325m by Oliver Metherell). We investigated both the valleys downstream of the peak but they were dead

Michel van der Spek on the final slopes leading to the summit of Goya Peak on the first ascent.
Photo Oliver Metherell



- ends and did not shed any light on a possible descent. A new route was climbed on right hand side of this peak (Antiparques, M6, 60 degrees) by a different team.
- 14 Sep Ascent of Gateway Ridge by Jeremy Frimer and Michel van der Spek
We reached the summit ridge (to 5.600) after much simul climbing and some pitching to 5.9 (HVS). The descent ridge turned out to pack some surprisingly narrow and complex bits of terrain but we improvised and reached the tent by 8pm.
- 15-18 Sep Walked into the Jangpar with five days food. The walk in featured some unpleasant moraine. No new routes were attempted as we were affected by stomach problems.
- 17 Sep Michel van der Spek climbed Christina Peak (east of the Miyar and north of the Jangpar). The ridge (PD) consisted of scrambling and the summit was reached at 1130.
- 18 Sep Walk out
- 19 Sep Rest day / Snow overnight
- 20 Sep Unstable weather
- 21 Sep Unstable weather
- 22 Sep Walked in to attempt Castle Peak. Snow stopped attempt. We found flat ground on the North side of the stream.
- 23 Sep Clear weather this morning so we walked in to attempt the peak above and to the north of the campsite. We reached the summit at 3pm after ascending the SW ridge. Descent was down the line of the route by abseil and the grade was D- with climbing up to French 5c. Length 600m, Alt 5230m. Climbers: Oliver Metherell and Michel Van Der Spek
- 24 Sep Striking camp
- 25-26 Walk out to Tingrat
- 27 Jeep to Manali

GENERAL LAYOUT AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Miyar Nala lies a days travel from Manali via the Rohtang La pass. The mountains are below 6500m high with access and descents that are often involved. Glaciers radiate out from the mountains. With the exception of the Dali and Miyar North these are covered in boulders, making access difficult. The area is made up of primarily metamorphosed granite.

TRAVEL

UK to and from Delhi.

We used Airline Network (0870 700 0543) and British Airways. On the return journey our bags were overweight and we were charged £100 for excess baggage. We were also charged £100 to change the date of the flight. Taxis are available from the airport. The going rate for a taxi from the airport is 250-650 rupees.

Delhi to Manali

We used the train for the outward journey to Manali. This turned out to be a mistake and took two days. A better option is to take the overnight bus to Manali (12/14 hours).

Manali to Tingrat

We used Tarachand, who provides a jeep from Manali. His price is 5000 rupees (\$100) plus tip. His mobile phone number is: 098164 59696 and his home number is 01902 257123

ACCOMODATION

Delhi

We stayed in the YWCA near Connaught Place and we got a room there for 1200 rupees each (ywcaindigh@vsnl.net) and they charge for half days. They can also send taxis to meet you at the airport and book bus tickets. Excellent food is available nearby at The Park Hotel. Another option is to stay in the slightly seedy and noisy area of Pahar Ganj. Rooms at the brand new Hotel de Holiday Inn are available, deholidayinn@hotmail.com from 700 rupees each.

Manali

We stayed in the Hotel Drilbu. It had reasonable prices (500 rupees) and plenty of hot water. Tarachand (our driver) recommended the hotel owned by his brother. This was also acceptable (350 rupees) although hot water could be intermittent.

FOOD/PROVISIONS

From MEC at Vancouver we brought hydrated boil in the bag meals. They are excellent as they only need heating for a few minutes.

The Big Shop

You can do all your shopping in Manali (although we got drugs in Delhi). A small discount is available on bulk purchases. We got most of our supplies from Super Bake, which is found, at the top end of the high street. Things to especially watch out for; popadoms, chocolate, sweet chilli sauce, tinned fruit, boiled sweets. There are two agencies nearby which can help out with mess tents (200 rupees per day) and gas (500 rupees each).

Snowland Holidays: PH 91-1902 54168, 52248, snowland@vsnl.com

Mountain Expeditions: Opposite Verma News Agency, Near Old Fountain, The Mall, Manali, PH 01902 254 297, mobile, +91 98160 34297, itsmekhem@rediffmail.com

There is also a nearby market for base camp equipment like pots and pans and petrol containers.

EQUIPMENT

Tents

We used three tents and a Rab Mountain Tent. We also hired a base camp mess tent in Manali

Stoves

We took a Himalaya Multifuel and an MSR International. The stoves were running on petrol and needed frequent cleaning. We took 10 litres of petrol and three gas cylinders. A pressure cooker was used to negate the effects of the altitude at base camp.

Base Camp

This was for 4 people for 20 days

nutella

oil - 2l

biscuits, hobnobs, digestive, savoury, packet soup

pasta (18 packets of 500g)

rice - 5 kilo
8l of powdered milk: 4 kilos
hot chocolate powder - 1 kilo
drink crystals / ice t 1 kilo
eggs (lots)
200 teabags
coffee powder
popadoms / crisps
gasoline (10l) - advise a bit more
pistachio nuts
dried apricots
nuts
dried fruit
sauces for cooking
tomato sauce
turmeric
onions
sweet chilli sauce
garam masala and other spices
cans of tuna
vegetables cans
cans of pineapples
sugar
10 of 100g choc
8 bogroll
pepper in canteen
salt in canteen
cashew nuts
ziploc bags
cornflakes
porridge oats
muesli
bags of sweet
jam

Quantities

This was for 21 days total

Breakfast

14 cereal x 600g = 8.4 kilos
powder milk 200g x18 = 4 kilo
oatmeal x 5 x 400 = 2kg
eggs x 4 x 12 = 4 dozen

Lunch

5 days of energy bars
therefore need 14 days
crackers: 21 big packets = 42 packets
cookies: 17
dried fruit 4kg
nuts 4 kg
3 jars jam

pistachio, almonds

Dinner

Already had 5 days of freeze-dried

11 pasta x 600 = 7 kg

5 rice x 600 = 3 kg

soup 2l x 21 days = 42 litres worth

5 kg canned fruit

15 cans tuna

sauces for dinner

salt, pepper, curry sauce, soy sauce, tom sauce

popadums 10 packet

Kitchen Utensils / Base Camp Hardware

pressure cooker

leatherman

stove repair kits

stoves

large pot 4l

large fry pan

scourers

wash up liquid

plates

bowls

mugs

cutlery

chopping board

large knife

containers for gasoline

containers for cutlery

pressure cooker

mess tent

water containers

gas cylinders

lighters

weigh scale for porters v useful

Other

songbook

backgammon/ chess

card games

books

sat phone

radio

FIRST AID KIT

We purchased the following drugs in Delhi:

Flagyl / Metranitazol (for Giardia) 2g or 2000mg ie 5 pills for 3 days once a day

Ciproflaxin for gram negative ie anthrax, salmonella, dysentery, e coli

Demarol= a strong painkiller
Nifedipine or adealat for acclimatisation
Immodium for Diarrhea

We also carried a small first aid kit for use on the mountain. This contained large wound dressings, tape, steristrips, and a mouthpiece and was carried in a ziplok bag.

MEDICAL NOTES

if you are getting nasty sulphurous burps then comes diarrhea and vomiting then there is a good chance you have giardia. Take 2 g of flagyl and stop eating. 24 hours later you should feel better. 2000mg once a day for 3 days.

If there are no burps then try the Cipro. The course for cipro is 250mg 2 x a day for 5 days. Not a bad idea to start with 500mg. Please remember that Cipro causes bad photosensitivity eg. On a cloudy day with spf 30; you will burn.

COMMUNICATIONS

Sat Phone

We decided to take a SAT phone. In case of emergency it is a wise thing to take. We borrowed the phone from the company that Michel works for.

Radios

We took two small radios for our own communications. They work in line of sight.

INSURANCE

The team took out insurance with the Austrian Alpine Club and the Dutch Alpine Club

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Mc of S Grant:	850	Porters	400
MEF Grant	500	Jeep Transport	100
Austrian Alpine Club:	200	Internal Transport	100
Dutch Alpine Club	300	Food / BC hardware	300
TOTAL	1850	Misc Expenses	520
		Flights	2400
		TOTAL	3820

OTHER OBJECTIVES

From base camp at c.4000m plenty of routes have been climbed, but by no means all possible routes. Once you make a journey to the Jangpar hardly anything has been climbed. This is due to the difficulty of access to this glacier.

We found three towers in the area of The Orange Tower (East of Jangpar Got). The middle one looked good. Behind the Orange Tower is a pointy, stand-alone thumb that also has potential. However, it could involve a long approach for a small amount of climbing. Jangpar East is blocked by a hazardous icefall. The right hand side looked to be the most feasible.

Peak 6060 (at the head of the Dali Glacier) looked like the Ogre and appeared to consist of good granite. 5880 also appeared to offer some good climbing. Accessing 5960 from the Jangpar appeared difficult due to a huge double serac band and stonefall.

Peak 5780 and 5760 are found on the south side of the Jangpar a kilometre east of the Miyar glacier. In appearance 5780 is not dissimilar to The Courtes, consisting of ice with a rib going up the centre of the face. The left hand side is threatened by a serac and the right hand side is endangered by a serac with a cornice. The only feasible way up is a rib which looked safe from all sides. However, the descent looked complex, with a look at going down into the Dali glacier being a good option.

In appearance 5760 looked similar to the East face of Mt Dickey. The upper half consisted of five steep rock 'fingers' and the lower half consisted of 60 to 70 degree ice. The best option for descent appeared to be the SW side, with a possible gully visible from Gateway Ridge. From the summit of Christina Peak we could see the peaks that lie north of the Northern tributary of the Jangpar Glacier (labelled 'Jangpar North' on the map). Whereas the Jangpar surface consists of glacial rubble, Jangpar North seems flat and easy to walk on. There are two lakes that look like a good campsite. There are several peaks here. 5800 and 6400 appeared loose and unexciting. The SE buttress of Peak 5700 appeared more interesting.

The Triple Towers (East of Jangpar North) didn't look good from where we were and neither did the Devil's Wall (Jangpar West), appearing to consist of capping rock with objective dangers above.

CONDITIONS

We experienced good weather until the 19th when conditions deteriorated. It became noticeably colder as winter approached.

CONTACTS

Contacts we have used for climbing in this area: Jim Lowther and Lindsay Griffen
David Kazlikowski is known to have climbed a new peak left of Neverseen and Silvia
Vidal has soloed a new big wall route to the right of Igor's/Vlado's on Castle Peak.

We are more than happy to help and answer questions

Oliver Metherell, oliver@super7.co.uk. Jeremy Frimer, jeremyfrimer@gmail.com. Michel van der Spek, mavdspek@yahoo.co.uk

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We were also assisted in our research by Lindsay Griffen, Jim Lowther, Bill Ruthven and Yvonne Sibbald.

