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High on the South Ridge of Janhukot 6805m above the Gangotri Glacier, Garhwar Himalaya

Contents

MALCOLM BASS & PAUL FIGG

**Success on Janhukot 6805m, at last.
Gangotri Region of the Garhwal Himalaya, Indi**

Page 2~15

HENGDUAN MOUNTAINS CLUB

Future Alpine Paradise in West Sichuan Highlands

Page 16~30

Alluring Rock Peaks “Gangga Massif” and Forbidden Mountains “Kawarori”

Success on Janhukot 6805m, at last.

Gangotri Region of the Garhwal Himalaya, India

There's a saying in the U.K. 'If at first you don't succeed try, try again'.

That was exactly what Malcolm Bass and Paul Figg had to do before succeeding on standing on the summit of Janhukot 6805m in the Garhwal region of the Indian Himalaya, luckily for Guy Buckingham he managed it on his first attempt. The big day came on the 6th June when the trio reached the summit after making the first ascent of the mountain via the south west buttress to the south ridge and then on to the summit.

(The map below shows a part of Garhwal West copies from "Indian Himalaya" of JAC Tokai)



Janhukot lies at the far end of the Gangotri glacier and is reached by two days hard walk from the luxuries of base camp at 4500m opposite the Bhagirathi peaks and below Shivling. The location for base camp couldn't have been better, situated on a wonderful grassy meadow with fantastic views of the mentioned peaks it was a superb place to relax in comfort and do a spot

of bouldering but more importantly allowed easy access to Kedar Dome where we spent 3 days acclimatising to a height of 5600m. Kedar Dome is the ideal peak for acclimatisation being non-technical, objectively safe and needing minimal effort to gain height.

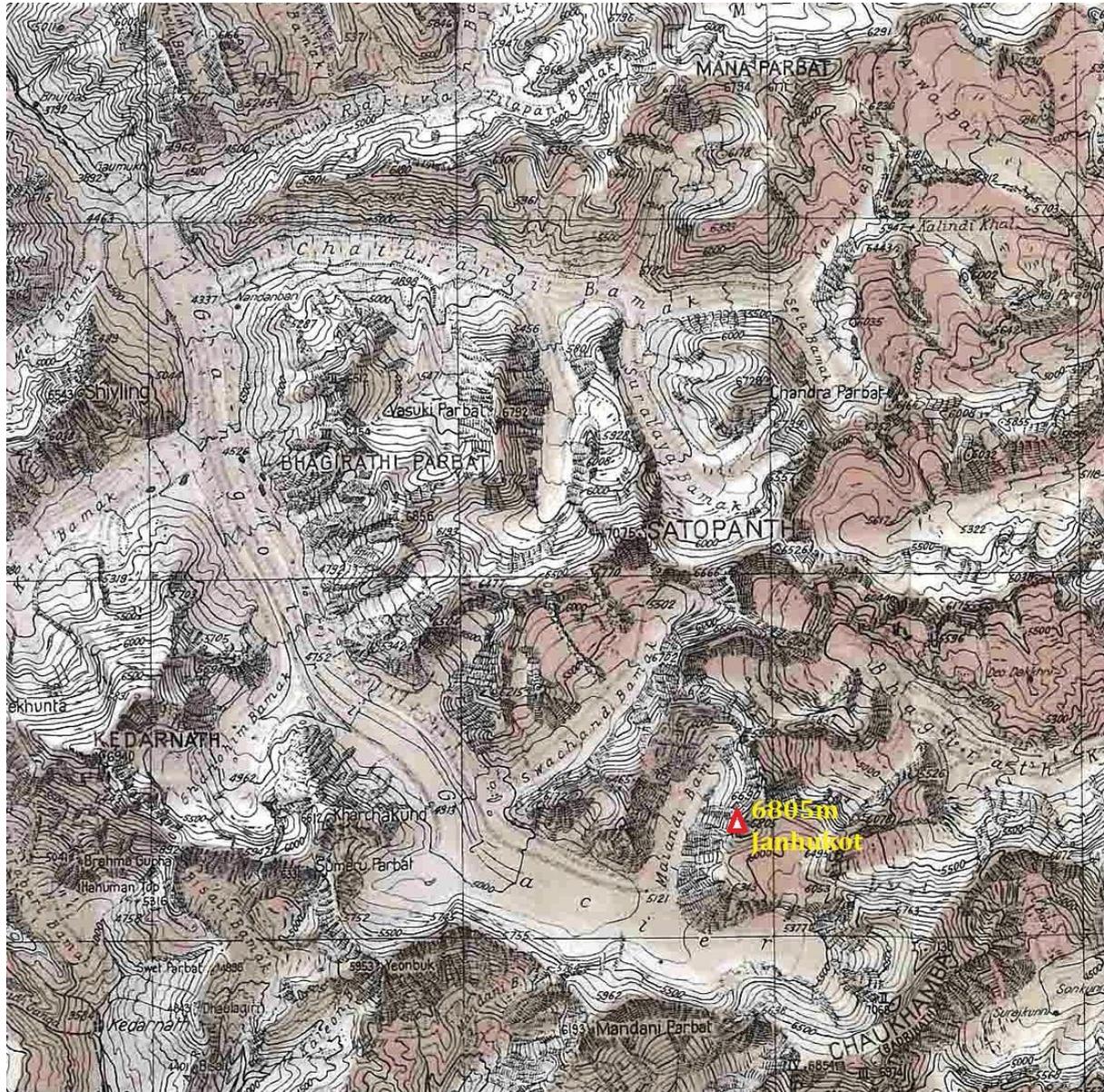


Janhukot Southwest Buttress – Hamish Frost_Coldhouse

Following a couple of day's rest enjoying the fantastic cooking from our base camp cook Santabir Sherpa (pizza to pumpkin pie and obviously great curries) courtesy of Rimo Expeditions, we set off for the two day battle to cover the 19km of moraine and glacier that took us to Advanced Base Camp below the south west buttress. We were accompanied by Pemba Sherpa (High Altitude Porter) and photographer Hamish Frost who would stop there for a few days to photograph our progress, Anoop Tamang (Sirdar) Liaison Officer Vikram Ghiyal who returned to the comfort of BC after spending the night and viewing our objective.

Once at ABC around 5000m with a few hours of afternoon light left we took the opportunity to take a look at the route we had planned to take. This was going to be the same that Malcolm, Andy Brown and I had first attempted in 2004 and tried again in 2014 by Malcolm and Simon Yearsley when they reached 6600m. We aimed to ascend the south west buttress until it joined the south ridge and then continue up this to the top, sounds easy in theory. After a couple of hours sleep Malcolm, Guy and I set off at 00:30 on 3rd June each of us with our own nervous and apprehensive thoughts for company heading for the snow slope that would put us onto the buttress. It was great to be on the mountain after all the months of planning and training as we made rapid progress soloing up the lower snow slopes and ramps at Scottish grade 2/3. We were aiming for the bivy spot that Malcolm and Simon had used in 2014 as we knew this would be a safe haven with our tiny little 3 man tent protected by an overhanging rock face.

By early morning we had made 800m of height gain and at the bivy spot, above here our route took a line up a funnel that would soon be potentially flowing with spindrift and avalanches once the sun hit the face, with no wish to risk pushing on through this we sat out the day resting.



Map of Survey of India 1: 150,000 (Swiss Foundation)

The following morning in good spirits we set off, this time roped up leaving the easy ground below us for hard ice buried under a layer of snow, the pace slowed and we only managed 300m of ascent, possibly due to the altitude but probably due to our combined ages of 150. Climbing as a three at least meant you had someone to talk to whilst the leader made slow progress. After an uncomfortable night's sleep on a ledge that was far too small, why is it ledges always look bigger than they actually are? we were on the move again working well as a team swinging leads heading toward the junction with the south ridge. Once on the ridge the difficulty of the climbing eased but the seriousness increased. The weather started to change with threatening clouds rolling in, ahead of us was a 300m long narrow ridge of soft

snow that offered no chance of protection other than throwing yourself off the other side of the ridge if someone did take a fall. Guy bravely took the lead and after an uncomfortable traverse of the ridge we were rewarded with what proved to be an amazing find, a 50m abseil placed us in a snow bowl below a rocky buttress. No longer would we have to spend hours chopping out a ledge for the tent, only for it to still be too small, or be tied to the mountain whilst we slept, we could put the ropes away for the night and sleep in comfort. After hot drinks and food, we were off to sleep and planning for an early start the next day, hoping to reach the summit.

With the summit only 300m somewhere above us in the cloud it was going to take more than a bit of snow fall to put us off, we'd planned to set off at 5.00 a.m. but woke to light but wet snowfall the first of the trip and poor visibility. Unsure of the route above we sat it out in the tent, at 7.00 the weather improved so leaving the tent behind and with light sacks we made a traverse below the south ridge, avoiding the technical climbing involved in 'The Castle' that had been encountered on the 2014 attempt. Weaving a way through the many buttresses we re-joined the ridge, high above, through the clouds we could see the summit or so we hoped, but didn't want to be too confident in case we were disappointed. All we needed to do now was safely get past this last obstacle, yet more unprotected climbing along the heavily corniced ridge. The climbing had never been technically difficult anywhere on the 1700m high face but it had certainly tested our nerve with the result of a fall on the unprotected sections having serious consequences.

Malcolm came close to this as we neared the summit taking a short fall through the cornice and taking a good look down the 800m high east face, visibly shaken the only option was to quickly put it to the back of your mind and carry on. As we neared the summit snow conditions improved, and ice screw protection was available as Malcolm took the lead for what we hoped would be the final pitch that would take us to the summit. There was no doubt that Malcolm had reached the summit when Guy and I could see arms being excitedly waved about, it was very fitting that it was Malcolm was first to reach the summit, it was his third attempt and the driving force behind the expedition. We were all soon on the summit together sharing emotional hugs as the clouds briefly cleared to reveal magnificent views in all directions. Summits are no place to linger and with the time at 5.00 p.m. we needed to start descending, heading back to the comfort and security of the tent below and much needed food and drink. Carefully retracing our route along the corniced ridge, keeping well away from the edge this time all that was needed was a few abseils and a short fall into a bergschrund by Paul and we were back at the tent.

One feature of the expedition that helped psychologically was that Malcolm knew a safe and quick way down that he and Simon Yearsley had used in 2014 that descended the shorter east face. After a good night's sleep in the snow bowl, with Guy leading the way and efficiently setting up abseil anchors we were soon back on flat ground with only a long walk in front of us to reach a deserted ABC for a night and then back to Base Camp. None of us were looking forward to the walk back to BC, we were keen to do two day walk in, in one day back to BC. Snow conditions on the glacier had changed we regularly sank up to our thigh's in the soft snow. We all hoped that we'd meet the team from BC coming up to meet us but didn't want to be too optimistic in case we were disappointed and would have to carry the heavy loads all the way to BC on very tired legs. Much to our relief Hamish, Vikram and Anoop appeared half way down the glacier with chapattis and potato's but more importantly to share the load carrying. The climbing on the route might have only been five days but the two day approach and walk to BC had certainly worn us all out physically and mentally.

Jahukot History

Janhukot has attracted challenges from as far back as the 1980s when it seems to have been attempted by an Indian team from West Bengal; details are scant. In 2002 it was tried by an Austrian team; heavy snowfall prevented much progress. Malcolm Bass and Paul Figg made their 1st attempt in 2004 along with Andy Brown reaching 6000m on the SW buttress. Pat Deavoll and Marty Beare from New Zealand on the same expedition reached 6400m via the main couloir on the west face. A group of American and Indian climbers led by Bryan Hylenski and Anindya Mukherjee then made attempts in 2010 and 2011 from the east side.

Malcolm returned for his 2nd attempt in 2014 with Simon Yearsley, making the best effort to date via the south west buttress to reach a high point of 6640m amongst hard mixed climbing high on the crest of the south ridge, an area they dubbed "The Castle". Strong cold winds forced them to retreat after 14hrs of climbing on their hoped for summit day, and Malcolm Bass suffered some frostbite to his hands during their descent to their bivouac. In 2016 Hylenski was back, but found the mountain in exceptionally dry and dangerous post monsoon conditions which turned him and his partner back on the west face couloir.

Summary

First ascent of Janhukot 6805m, Gangotri Region, Garwhal Himalaya, India.
Via south west buttress to south ridge. 3000m, 1700m vertical. ED1. Scottish IV.
Descent via south ridge to south east ridge to couloir into eastern glacial basin.
3 June to 7 June 2018
Climbers: Malcolm Bass, Guy Buckingham, Paul Figg

Expedition Members

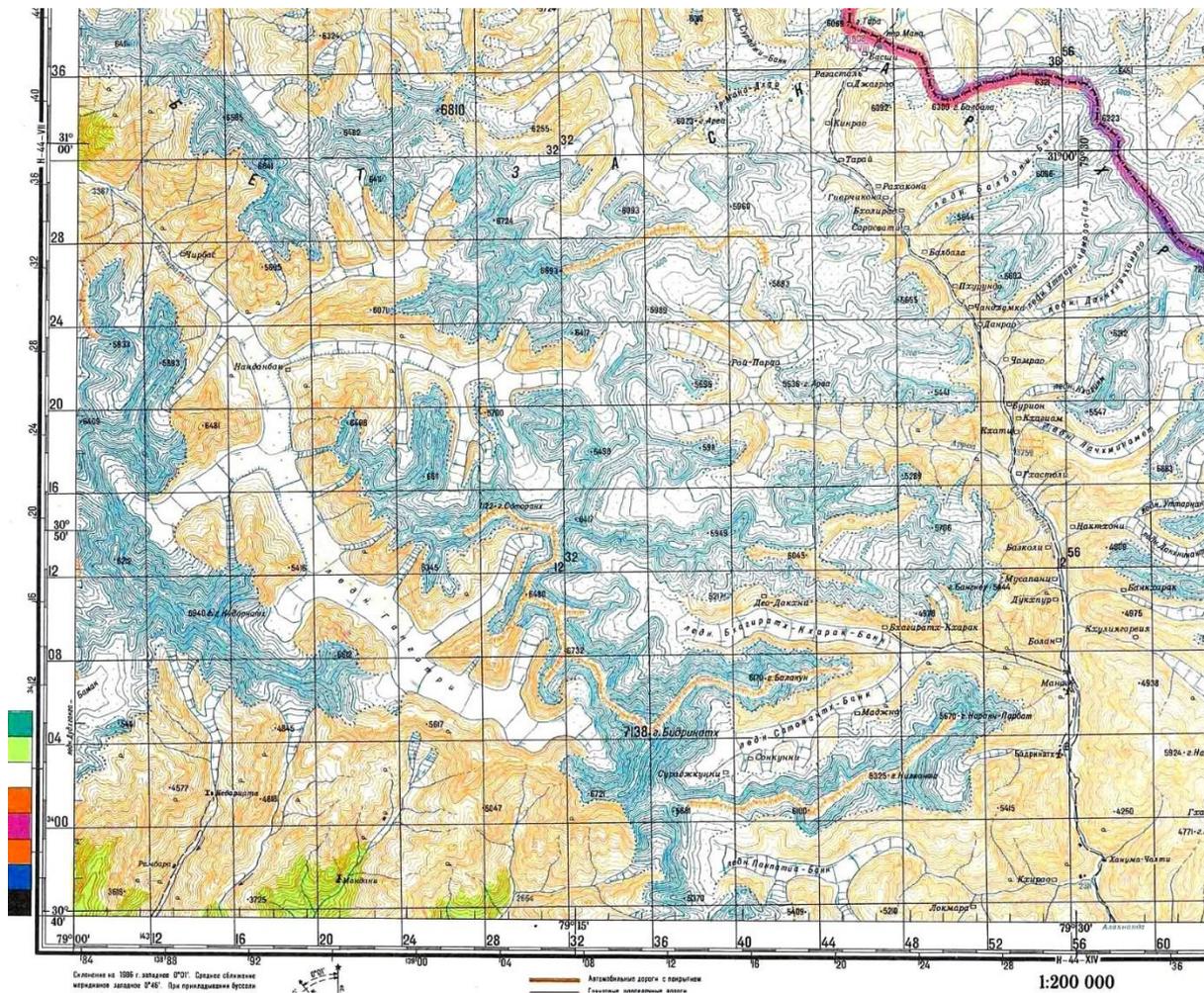
Mr Malcolm Bass (Leader)
Mr Paul Figg (Climber)
Mr Guy Buckingham (Climber)
Mr Hamish Frost (Photographer)
Mr Vikram Ghiyal (Liaison Officer)
Mr Anoop Tamang (Rimo Expeditions Sirdar)
Mr Santabir Sherpa (Chef)
Mr Pemba Sherpa (High Altitude Porter)
Mr Hari Singh (Cook's assistant)

The climbers would like to thank their sponsors and supporters without whom such trips would not be possible:

PERTEX [<http://www.pertex.com/>]
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The Mount Everest Foundation [<http://www.mef.org.uk/>]
The Montane Alpine Club Climbing Fund
The Thomlinson Trust
Montane
La Sportiva
Petzl

Janhukot has been referred to as Jannuhut and Jankuth in previous reports however according to Anindya Mukherjee (Indian Mountaineer and Explorer) Janhukot is the more acceptable and usual spelling.

Pictures and Area Information



From Russian Topographical Map 1: 200, 000



Paul Figg, Malcolm Bass, Guy Buckingham – Guy Buckingham



Approaching the South Ridge – Guy Buckingham



High on the South Ridge above the Gangotri Glacier – Guy Buckingham



Guy Buckingham soloring the lower slope



Guy Buckingham on the upper ice slope day 3



Malcolm Bass and Paul Figg celebrating reaching Summit of Janhukot – Guy Buckingham



Descending from the Summit – Guy Buckingham

Garhwal Division

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Divisions of Uttarakhand

Coordinates: [30° 30′ N 78° 30′ E / 30.5° N 78.5° E / 30.5; 78.5](#) Garhwal (IPA: /gəɾuːɔl/) is the western region and administrative division of the [northern Indian state](#) of [Uttarakhand](#) which is home to the [Garhwali people](#). Lying in the [Himalayas](#), it is bounded on the north by [Tibet](#), on the east by [Kumaon](#) region, on the south by [Uttar Pradesh](#) state, and on the northwest by [Himachal Pradesh](#) state. It includes the districts of [Chamoli](#), [Dehradun](#), [Haridwar](#), [Pauri Garhwal](#), [Rudraprayag](#), [Tehri Garhwal](#), and [Uttarkashi](#).

The people of Garhwal are known as [Garhwali](#) and speak the [Garhwali language](#). The administrative center for Garhwal division is the town of [Pauri](#). The Divisional Commissioner is the administrative head of the Division, and is a senior Indian Administrative Service officer. As the administrative head of the division, the Commissioner is overall in charge of the 7 districts in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, and is aided in his duties by an Additional Commissioner and the District Magistrates. [Vinod Sharma](#) is currently the Divisional Commissioner of the Garhwal Division.

Garhwal is the land of many 'garh' or forts. This region was made up of many small forts which were ruled by chieftains. Therefore, the history of Garhwal before the dynastic rule of the 'Panwar' rulers is very obscure. Kanak Pal was the first ruler of the state of Garhwal in 823 AD.

History

The Garhwal Himalayas appear to have been a favorite locale for the voluminous mythology of the Puranic period. The traditional name of Garhwal was Uttarakhand. Excavations have revealed that it formed part of the [Mauryan Empire](#).

The earliest reference regarding Garhwal and its pride spots are cited in the Skanda Purana and the Mahabharata in the Van Parva. Skanda Purana defines the boundaries and extend of this holy land. It also finds mention in the 7th-century travelogue of Huen Tsang. However, it is with Adi Shankaracharya that the name of Garhwal will always be linked, for the great 8th-century spiritual reformer visited the remote, snow-laden heights of Garhwal, established a [Joshimath](#) and restored some of the most sacred shrines, including [Badrinath](#) and [Kedarnath](#).

The history of Garhwal as a unified whole began in the 15th century, when king Ajai Pal merged the 52 separate principalities, each with its own garh or fortress.

For 300 years, Garhwal remained one kingdom, with its capital at Srinagar (on the left bank of Alaknanda river). Then Pauri and Dehradun were perforce ceded to the Crown as payment for British help, rendered to the Garhwalis during the Gurkha invasion, in the early 19th century.

The earliest ruling dynasty of Garhwal known is of the [Katyuris](#). The Katyuri Raja of Uttarakhand ([Kumaon](#) and [Garhwal](#)) was styled 'Sri Basdeo Giriraj Chakara Churamani'. The earliest traditions record that the possessions of Joshimath Katyuris in Garhwal extended from Satluj as far as Gandaki and from the snows to plains, including the whole of [Rohilkhand](#). Tradition gives the origin of their Raj at [Joshimath](#) in the north near [Badrinath](#) and subsequent migration to Katyur Valley in Almora district, where a city called [Kartikayapura](#) was founded.

Katyuris ruled Uttarakhand up to the 11th century and in certain pockets even after their decline. In Garhwal their disruption brought into existence 52 independent chiefs. One of the important principalities in that period was that of Parmars, who held their sway over Chandpur Garhi or Fortress.^[2] Katyuris ruled Uttarakhand up to the 11th century and in certain pockets even after their decline. Kanak Pal was progenitor of this dynasty. Raja Ajay Pal, a scion of the Parmars in the 14th century is credited with having brought these chiefs under his rule.^[2] After his conquest Ajay Pal's domain was recognised as Garhwal owing to exuberance of forts. It is possible that after annexing all principalities, Raja Ajay Pal must have become famous as Garhwala, the owner of forts. With the passage of time his kingdom came to be known as Garhwal.

Garhwal Kingdom

[Garhwal Kingdom](#) was founded by [Rajputs](#). Nearly 700 years ago, one of these chiefs, Ajai Pal, reduced all the minor principalities under him and founded the Garhwal Kingdom. He and his ancestors ruled over Garhwal and the adjacent state of [Tehri-Garhwal](#), in an uninterrupted line till 1803, when the [Gurkhas](#) invaded Kumaon and Garhwal, driving the Garhwal chief into the plains. For 12 years the Gurkhas ruled the country with an iron rod, until a series of encroachments by them on British territory led to the [Gurkha War](#) in 1814. At the termination of the campaign, Garhwal and Kumaon were converted into British districts, while the [Tehri](#) principality was restored to a son of the former chief.

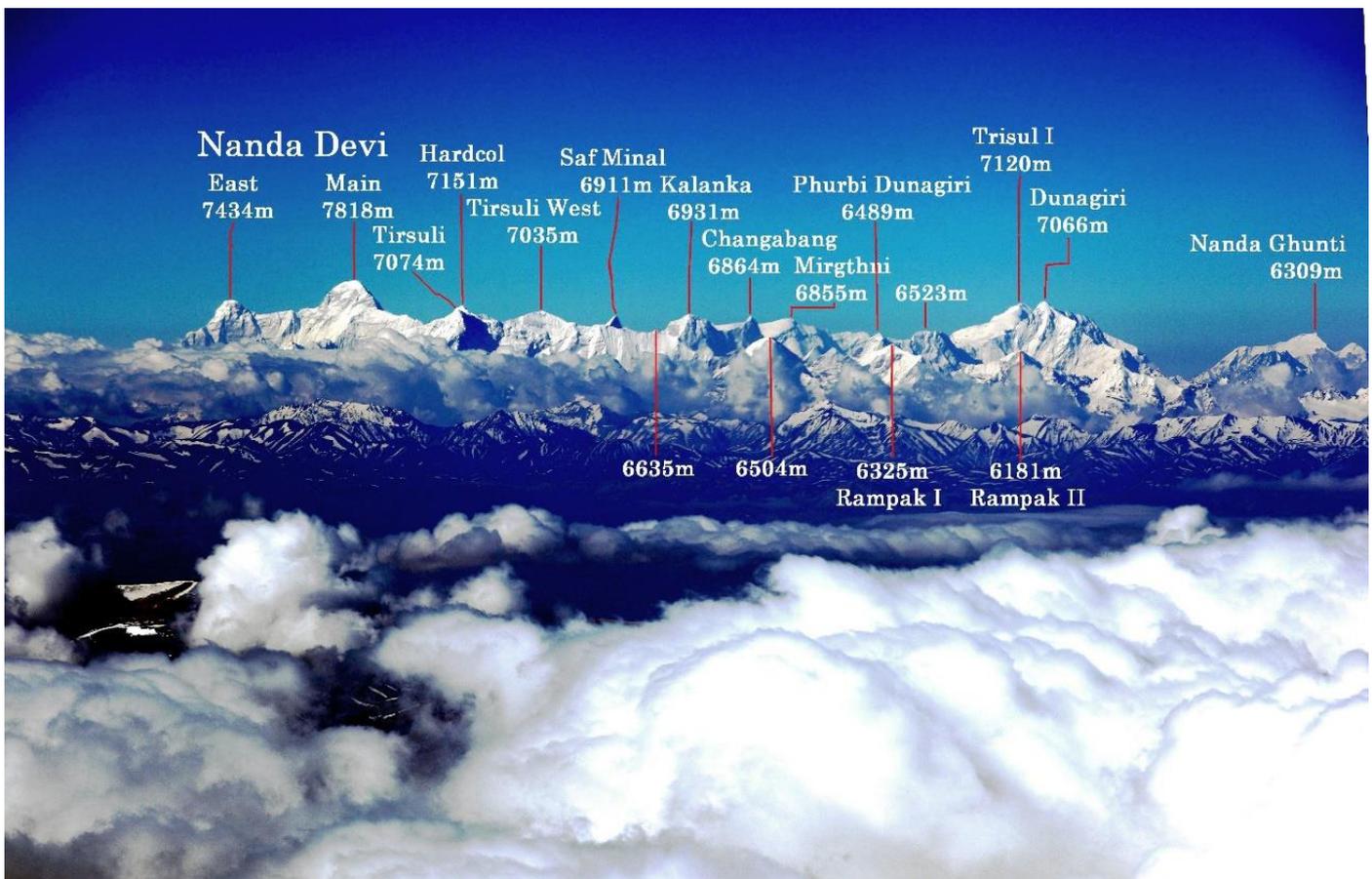
The British district of Garhwal was in the [Kumaon Division](#) of the [United Provinces](#), and had an area of 5,629 sq mi (14,580 km²). After annexation, Garhwal rapidly advanced in material prosperity. IN 1901 the population was 429,900. Two battalions of the Indian army (the 39th Garhwal Rifles) were recruited in the district, which contained the military cantonment of Lansdowne. Grain and coarse cloth were exported, and [salt](#), [borax](#), livestock and [wool](#) were imported. Trade with [Tibet](#) was considerable. The administrative headquarters was at the village of [Pauri](#), but [Srinagar](#) was the largest city. It was an important mart, as was [Kotdwara](#), the terminus of a branch of the [Oudh](#) and [Rohilkhand](#) railway from [Najibabad](#).

During the turn of the 19th century, the Gurkhas attacked Garhwal and drove the rulers of Garhwal down to the plains (Rishikesh, Haridwar, DehraDun). Pradyumna Shah died fighting at the battle of Khurbura. Thereafter the rulers of Garhwal took the help of the British forces in India and regained their kingdom. The rulers of Garhwal gave away 60% of their kingdom for the support the British gave them in driving back the Gurkhas.

During the Second World War, the Raja Narendra Shah contributed his troops and aircraft to the British war effort. In recognition for his services, the British gave him the title of "Maharaja", made him a Knight Commander of the [Order of the Star of India](#) (KCSI) and knighted him. Thus his full title was Sir Maharaja Narendra Shah KCSI.

Geography

[Nanda Devi](#) is the second-highest mountain in India.



Above picture was taken from a commercial flight from Ali (West Tibet) to Lhasa

[Valley of Flowers National Park](#), a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#)

The region consists almost entirely of rugged mountain ranges running in all directions and separated by narrow valleys, which in some cases become deep gorges or ravines. The only level portion of the district was a narrow strip of waterless forest between the southern slopes of the hills and the fertile plains of [Rohilkhand](#). The highest mountains are in the eastern [Chamoli district](#), the principal peaks being [Nanda Devi](#) 7,816 m (25,643 ft), [Kamet](#) 7,756 m (25,446 ft), [Chaukhamba](#) 7,138 m (23,419 ft), [Trisul](#) 7,120 m (23,360 ft), [Dunagiri](#) 7,066 m (23,182 ft), and [Kedarnath](#) 6,940 m (22,769 ft).

The [Alaknanda River](#), one of the main sources of the [Ganges](#), receives with its affluents the whole drainage of the district. At [Devprayag](#) the [Alaknanda](#) joins the [Bhagirathi](#), and thenceforward the united streams bear the name of the [Ganges](#). Cultivation is principally confined to the immediate vicinity of the rivers, which are employed for irrigation. In June 2013 a multi-day [cloudburst](#) centered in the mountainous valleys of the area resulted in widespread damage and over 5,000 deaths. [4] It was India's [worst natural disaster](#) insofar as death toll since the [2004 tsunami](#).

Garhwali people

Garhwalis are an [Indo-Aryan ethno-linguistic](#) group who primarily inhabit the Garhwal [Himalayas](#). Any person who has ancestral Garhwali roots or lives in Garhwal and has a Garhwali [heritage](#) is called a [Garhwali](#). They include all those who speak the Garhwali language or any of its dialects.

The culture of the present Garhwal is an amalgamation of influences from the indigenous population coupled with traditions superimposed by immigrants who settled in the region. A majority of the people are involved in the agriculture, tourism and the defense industry.

Garhwali people are divided into three castes: [Garhwali Brahmins](#), [Garhwali Rajputs](#) and Shilpkars. Their surnames are based either on the names of their villages (Simalti,Raturi, Kotiyal, Sati, Khanduri, Gairola, Butola, Kharola, Jakhmola, Naithani, Maithani, Chamoli, [Bahuguna](#), Mamgain, [Bhatt](#), Dhyani , [Pant](#), [Hatwal](#), [Dabral](#) Juyal, [Uniyal](#), Pokhriyal, Dobhal, Semwal, Nautiyal, Thapliyal, [Painuly](#) (Painuli), Dimri, Dobhal,Kaintura, Kanswal, Badoni, Ghildiyal, Belwal, Nainlwal, Kathait, Bagiyal, Barthwal etc.) or according to their professions ([Bisht](#), [Bhandari](#), Negi, Rana, Payal, [Joshi](#), Kothari, Aswal, Rautela, Chauhan, Kandari, Gosain, Panwar, Patwal, [Rawat](#), Kuthi, [Koli](#), Tamta etc.)

Shilpkars, on the other hand, are composed of sub-castes and are classified as [Scheduled Castes](#) in the Constitution of India. Even with the wave of migrations, the ancient culture survived and was adopted by incoming people.

Garhwali language

The Garhwali language (गढ़वाली भाषा) is a [Central Pahari language](#) belonging to the Northern Zone of [Indo-Aryan](#) and is native to Garhwal.

Garhwali is one of the 325 recognized languages of India, [5] spoken by over 2,267,314 [6] people in [Tehri Garhwal](#), [Pauri Garhwal](#), [Uttarkashi](#), [Chamoli](#), [Dehradun](#) and [Rudraprayag](#) districts of [Uttarakhand](#). [7] Garhwali is also spoken by people in other parts of [India](#) including [Himachal Pradesh](#), [Delhi](#), [Haryana](#), [Punjab](#), [Uttar Pradesh](#) and [Bihar](#).

UNESCO's [Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger](#) designates Garhwali as a language in the 'unsafe' category and requires consistent conservation efforts.

Garhwali Art & Sculpture

Garhwal was known for real art of stone carving which is died later but still you can experience woodcarving art. You can experience this art on every door of the house and on Hundreds of temples. The places where you can experience more architectural beauty are Chandpur Fort, Pandukeshwar near Badrinath, Temple of Srinagar and the Devalgarh Temple.

HENGDUAN MOUNTAINS CLUB
Future Alpine Paradise in West Sichuan Highlands
Alluring Rock Peaks “Gangga Massif” and Forbidden Mountains “Kawarori”
(Text and pictures by Tom Nakamura)

Political situation in Tibet is uncertain and sensitive. Since no foreigner is allowed to enter remote areas of my field, eastern Tibet, in 2012, instead I organized an elderly survey team from the Hengduan Mountains Club (Tom Nakamura, Tsuyoshi Nagai, Tadao Shintani) to visit West Sichuan Highlands and Yunnan from late September to late October.

The main objective was to photograph, map out and identify peaks of the Gangga massif and least-known Kawarori. The Gangga massif is just south of Ganzi town and the Yalong Jiang, a northernmost extension of the Shaluli Shan range. Kawarori is a sacred mountain of the Gongkara Shan range which is located east of the Gangga massif and Yalong Jiang, northwest of the Daxue Shan range in the West Sichuan Highlands. The Yalong Jiang is one of the large tributary of the Yangtze River (Chang Jiang). Reconnaissance of the Gangga massif was made only one time in 2005 by a Japanese party from the Nagano Prefecture, but less results.



Gangga I Group: Central Peak 5670m (left), North Peak 5650m seem from Ganzi

Our team arrived at Chengdu on the 26th September. Sichuan Earth Expedition Inc. arranged for our trip as usual and Zhang Jiyue joined the team. We left Chengdu for the mountains on the 28th September. We followed a newly-built highway Chengdu-Xichang making a detour of Erlanshan Tunnel passage. Acceleration of highways construction in West China is amazing. We left the highway at Ximien and drove northward along Dadu River, and then crossed a pass Xuemenkan 3948m down to Kangding new town. The pass divides Minya Konka massif to southwest and Lamoshe massif to northeast.



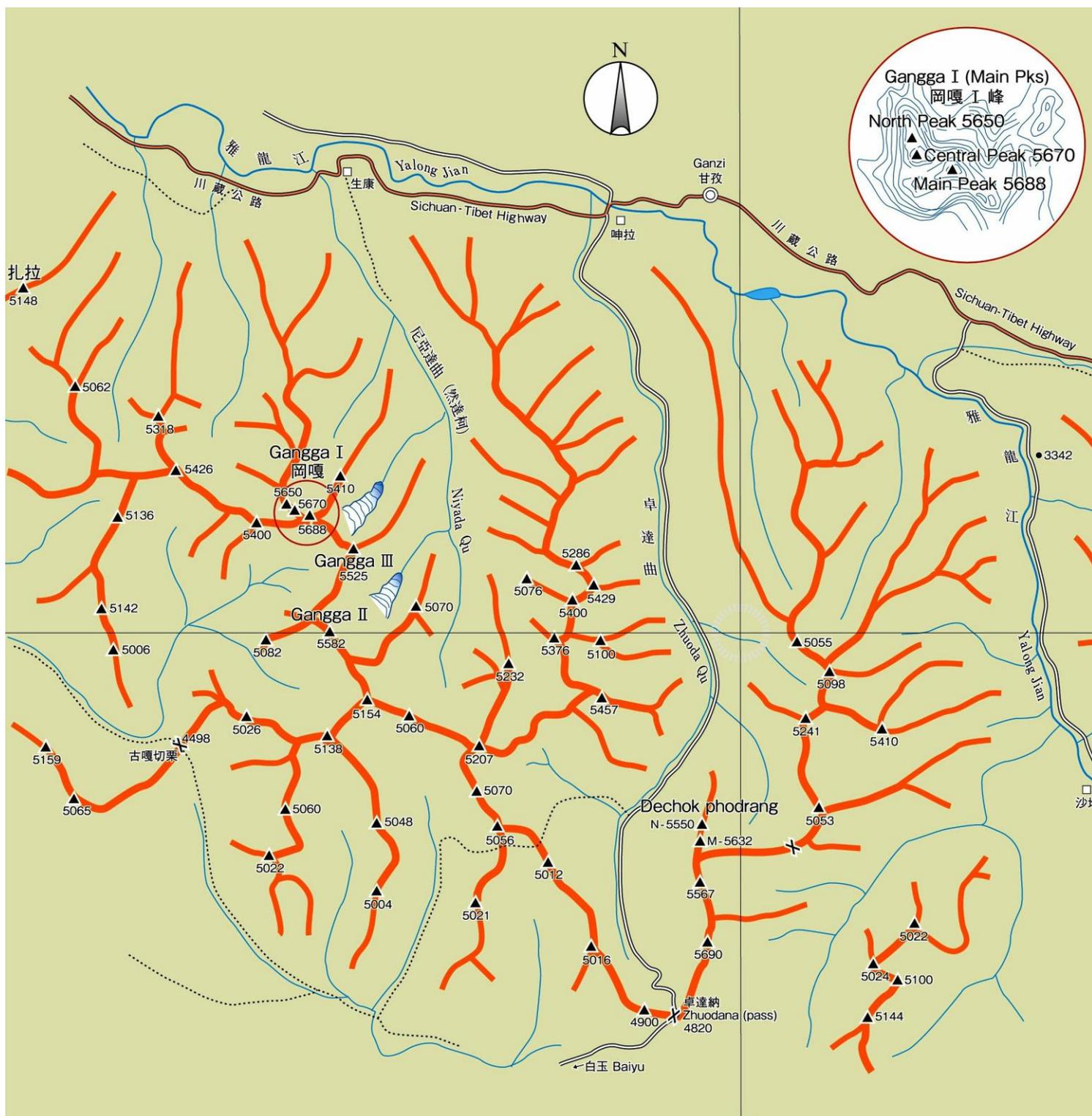
Panorama picture of the central part of the Gangga Massif east face, Shaluli Shan

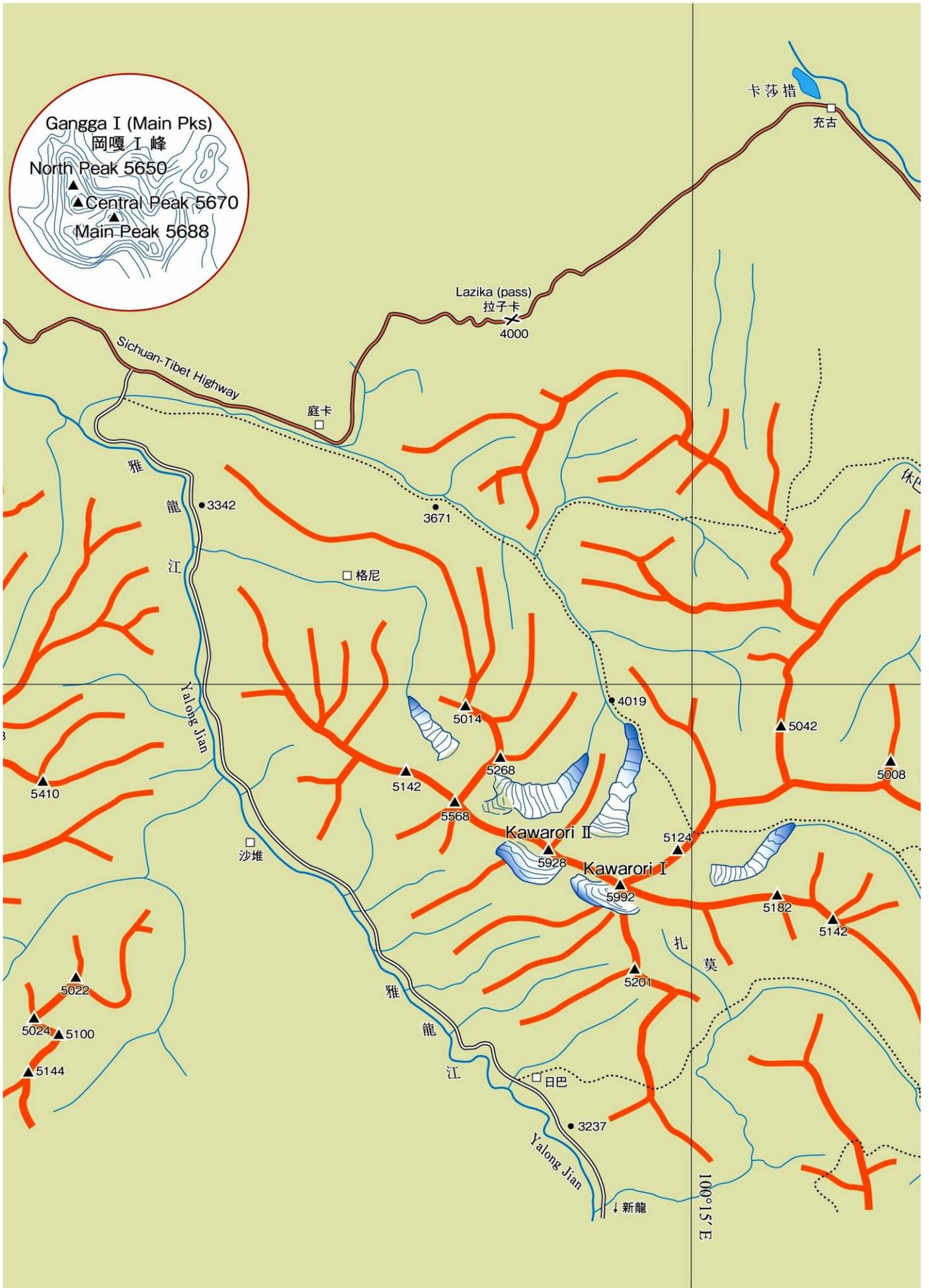
I must mention two unusual factors of our survey trip. One is an extraordinarily bad weather in late September to mid October and the other is a political situation. During our travel in two weeks, only one and a half days were considerably fine weather (but not perfect blue sky) though I could take advantages of a narrow chance to photograph the mountains necessary for peaks identification. We stayed at Ganzi town only three nights during the good weather.

On the 30th September we ascended to a pass Lazika 4,000 meters of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway for taking a panorama view of the Gangga and Kwarori. From this pass Erich Teichman viewed Kwarori in 1918. On the 1st October we enter a valley just south of Ganzi town and ascended to a high pass Zhuodana 4820 meters leading to Baiyu County for reconnaissance of the central part of the massif. Remaining one week were spent for visiting interesting places including a village with famous stone towers in Danba County and Mt. Siguniang. It was a keen interest in going to the largest monastery and school with 20,000 monks and students in Seda, but I regret that there was no time.

The other problem was a restriction imposed on foreigners due to political uncertainty in the region. The areas of Ganzi and adjacent counties were closed to foreigners in principles since spring of 2012 when Tibetan monks' fire suicide happened. As after the spring, fire suicide took place intermittently, the authorities became nervous about foreign visitors. Under such circumstances we could manage to travel

through the officially restricted areas with no difficulty and without any problem thanking to Jiyue's careful attention. We met only a couple of westerners and no Japanese throughout the trip. We returned to Chengdu on the 10th October and flew to Kunming on the 11th for traveling south Yunnan and north Laos to retrace footsteps of the 19th century French Mekong River expedition. This is another story.





Mountains of Kawarori were first reported by an early British consular officer and explorer, Eric Teichman who traveled through the highlands in 1918.

[Passing Joro, the trail tops a rise and emerges on to rolling grass-lands now patched with snow. Here we saw many gazelle. A long pull up hill with occasional short descent brought us to the top of the She Chu – Yalung Divide, only about 13,000 feet high. As one tops the last rise, the great range beyond the Yalung bursts into view, a glittering mass of ice, snow and rock, culminating in the snow-clad mass of Kawalori (“peak of everlasting snow”), a sacred mountain of Nyarong, and one of the highest peaks in Eastern Tibet. This great range is here pieced by the Yalung, and glimpses of it are occasionally caught from the She Chu valley below Driwo.]

(Travels of a Consular Officer in Eastern Tibet Erich Teichman, Cambridge 1922).



Kawarori II 5928m (left), Kawarori I 5992m (right) southwest face – Photo: Takao Ohe

Kawarori of the Gongkara Shan range is located 30 km southeast of Garzi. Two principal peaks Kawarori-I 5,992m and Kawarori-II 5,928m remain unclimbed. Local Tibetan pronounce it “Kawaruori” but in this article “Kawarori” applies. Reconnaissance was first conducted by a Japanese party, Yamanashi Mountaineering Federation in autumn of 1999 and then a British party first attempted on climbing in autumn of 2005. They set up the second camp at 4,800m. However hostile monks of a lamasery forcibly opposed the British to continue climbing for religious reason because of Holy Mountains. They could not help to abandon the attempt. Another British party came to Kawarori in 2007 but a climbing permit could

not be obtained.

The Tohoku University Alpine Club planned to climb Kawarori in summer of 2011 in a hope that a climbing permit would be issued. After getting an official permit of the Sichuan Mountaineering Association, they left Japan on 24th July. To their great upset, however, their plan was turned down by a senior official, Deputy Director of Sports Administrative Department, Garze Tibetans Autonomous Region at Kangding. He excused that Kawarori was holy mountains to local Tibetans and would oppose anyone to climb the mountains. Supposedly there might have been the other reason of recent sensitive and uncertain situation as monks' fire suicides, though the official was silent. In fact, the public security bureau (PSB) was cautious and nervous about foreigners to contact local villagers in Khamba territory.

However, Kawarori I was finally climbed by Bruce Normand (British climber) party with no permit.



Panorama of the central part of Gangga massif seen from Lazika 4000m east face – Photo: Takashi Shiro



Eastern rim of Gangga massif Pk 5690m (left), Pk 5241m (central) east face – Photo: Takashi Shiro



Gangga I Group: (from left) Main 5688m, Central 5670m, North 5650m east face A flock of flying hawks



Gangga: (from left) 5429m, 5400m, 5286m northeast face



Gangga 5429m (left), 5826m (right) east face



Gangga Pk 5318m west of Gangga I NE face (above)
Gangga 5241m east face (below)





Gangga II 5582m east face (above)
Gangga Peak 5241m north face (below)





Gangga (left) 5567m (right) 5690m west face



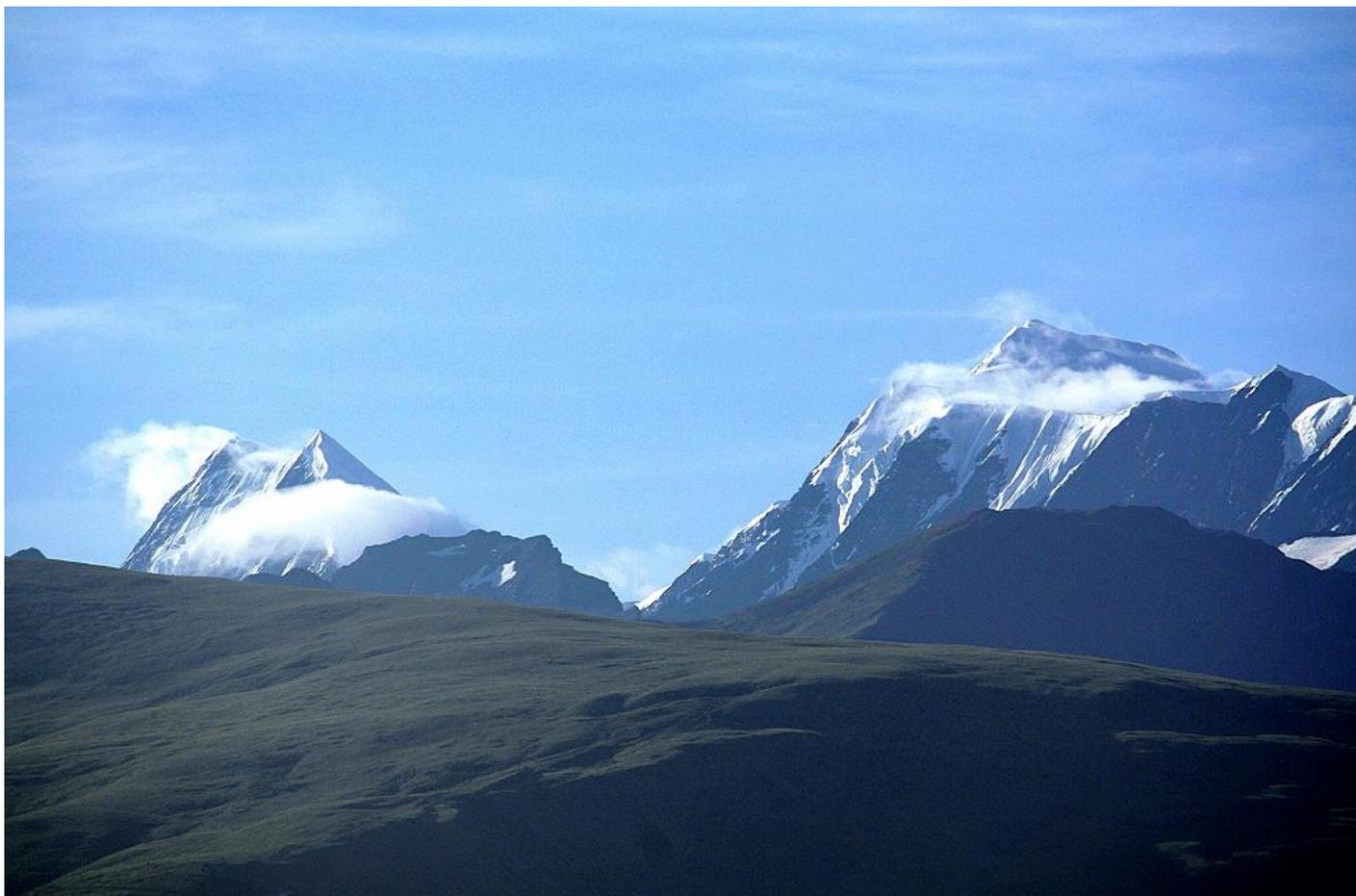
Kawarori I 5992m (left), Kawarori II 5928m (central), Pk 5568m (right) northwest face



Kwarori I 5992m north face (Takao Ohe)



Kwarori II 5928m north face



Kawarori I 5992m (left), Kawarori II (right) northwest face – Photo: Takao Ohe





Chunglu village stone tower in Danba



Danba girl in the valley of beauty