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SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The aims of the expedition, as laid out in the preliminary report were to achieve new routes in the Ruwenzori area of Uganda and to generally increase mountaineering standards in the region.

However it became apparant in a letter from Mr Colin Mclean, Ugandan High Commissioner, dated 24 May 1985 that access to the Ruwenzori was no longer possible. A band of several hundred National Resistance Army Guerillas, led by Yoweri Museveni had recently occupied the eastern side of the Ruwenzori and Ugandan Authorities would not allow access to the area. He explained that the risks of being caught in any crossfire would be unacceptable.

Reluctantly, we decided that the expedition as planned could no longer go ahead but with advice from Imperial College Exploration Board and the RGS we decided to visit Mnts. Kenya and Kilimanjaro to attempt new routes and carry out some exploration.

I would recommend that the Ruwenzori should not be visited for some time. Since the Military Coup in July the situation has deteriorated but I believe, given time, that the country will sort itself out and climbing resume again.



EXPEDITION MEMBERS

Neil Hodgson	Expedition leader
Address:	154a Blackstock Road Finsbury Park London N4
Franco Turrinelli	Equipment and Medical
Neil travers	Food and photography
Gavin Douglas	Treasurer
Ian Bibby	Internal affairs
Jeremy Lay	Sponsorship
Xelia Bull	Sponsorship

ACHIEVEMENTS

The expedition took place between July-August 1985

We arrived in Nairobi on July 1st and left for Mount Kenya on the 6th of July, returning on the 29th of July.

We approached the mountain via a recently developed route, the 'Old Moses Route', Being only the third party to complete it (see later). The approach took two days and a base camp was established at Two Tarns (4490m) on the south side of the mountain.

From here several routes were climbed (see directory). Ascents were made of Batian (5199m), Nelion (5188m), Pnt. Lennana (4985m), Pnt. Piggot (4957m), Pnt. John (4883m), and Midget Peak (4700m). Three new routes were climbed on Pnt. Piggot and Midget Peak. 'Hunting the Hyrax' on the West face of Piggot is we believe, a major development on the Mountain and is probably its first grade VIII (English E3).

The weather patterns were fairly unpredictable, temperatures not dropping to lower than -10'c at night. The afternoons tended to be completely Cloudy, visibility poor and snow would often fall. The south side of the mountain, being in winter conditions at this time was a good 4'c colder than the north sidewhich was in summer conditions. Most climbing was carried out in the morning when the weather was generally better. The worst period of weather was a three day white-out experienced on the 'Ice Window' when two bivouacs were forced.

We also attempted an ascent of Kilimanjaro (5895m) But this proved financially inviable. The Tanzanian authorities had recently implemented a 500% rise in the Park entry fees which would have amounted to \$40 US per person per day.

The expedition returned to UK at the end of August.

APPROACH ROUTE

Routes from Bantu Lodge

Three unspoiled routes have been developed. As they are poorly defined it is useful to obtain more information and possibly a guide and porters from the Bantu Lodge; the Lodge also provides comfortable accomadation, forest walks in its vicinity and a short trip to the nearby Mau Mau caves. The Lodge is just off the main Nairobi to Nanyuki road and clearly marked 6km. beyond Naro Moru town.

The Old Moses Route

This route follows the ridges N of the Naru Moru Stream and provides some of the most beautiful forest walking and scenery on the mountain. The 3000m roadhead can be reached by saloon cars in good weather. Game trails lead past good campsites to a picturesque stream crossing and magnificent heather forests. Beyond a sharp ridge is followed to moorlands. At 4150m. an easy traverse leads into the Telekei valley (6h. from the roadhead) or two tarn can be reached in an extra hour up the ridge.

Andrew Wielichowski

CLIMBING DIRECTORY

Routes on Bation and Nelion

Ice Window Route V-
Diamond Couloir VI
Ne Buttress of Batian V+ A1

Others

South ridge of Pnt. John IV-
Nw face of Piggot III

NEW ROUTES

West Face of Piggot. (N.Travers, J.Lay, G. Douglas)

1) Hunting the Hyrax 12 hours VIII- E3
Start in the corner on the left hand side of the massive slabs,
beneath the orange overhang.
a) 45m Climb the corner passing small overhang. 5c
b) 30m Move left into 3rd groove and climb to triangular ledge,
peg belay. 5c
c) 30m Climb faint groove behind belay, over small bulge into big,
orange, leaning crack. Traverse left into overhanging grooves. 5c
d) 25m Traverse left taking easiest line to large hanging block.
Move left to belay in large corner. 6a
e) 8m Move right up groove. 5b
The route continues easily along ridge to summit.

2) Route 2 12 hours VII- E1 (N.Travers, G. Douglas)
This route starts at the right hand of the slabs. 100m left of a
large scree filled gully is an obvious corner. To the left of
this corner lies a shallow groove.
a) 65m Climb to base of groove. 4a
b) 30m Climb groove until 6m below overhang. 4c
c) 20m Climb groove to overhang, left and ascend shallow groove
to easier ground. 5b
Continue easily to summit.

North face of Midget Peak (N. Hodgson, N. Travers.)

3) Bodyline 6hrs VI+ E1
Climb crack system directly to col between Midget Peak and Midget
Minus.
Four pitches up to col, with the crux lying in the 3rd pitch at 5a/b.
Easily up from col to summit

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Expenditure

Flights 7 at 350	2520
Freight, duty and Storage	572
Porters	222
Park entry fees	80
Food	300
Equipment	745
Photography	235
Transport	660
Misc.	40

total 5734 pounds

Income

Personal contribution	2660
I.C. Exploration Board	1500
I.C. Board loan	300
Mount Everest Foundation	250
Dunsheath Award	500
STC	160
Lakeland and Pennine	100
Donations	40
T Shirts	30
Raffles	300

Total 5730 pounds

Neil Hodgson.