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JAC'S GRANTS YEAR 2001 FOR THREE EXPEDITIONS

Lhotse, Gasherbrum & Sanglung

Three teams to be sent in this autumn to winter have met the criteria for consideration for an award of JAC funding for foreign mountaineering expedition grant 2001. The total amount of the grant is 160 million Yen (equivalent to 1.3 million US Dollar).

- (1) Winter ascent of South Face of Lhotse (8616m) by JAC Tokai Section
- (2) Gasherbrum I (8068m) & II (8035m) by the Meiji University Alpine Club
- (3) Sanglung (7094m) in Tsangpo Great Bend by the Nihon University Alpine Club

South Face of Lhotse – Eight members led by Osamu Tanabe challenge the most formidable giant wall aiming at the first winter ascent. The South Face of 3300m height was attacked twenty times in the past repeatedly by Reinhold Messner, Jerzy Kukuczka and Christof Profit etc. Most of them were defeated and five climbers including Kukuczka and Nicholas Jaeger were killed. The South Face was first climbed by Tomo Cesen in the spring of 1990 but a certain doubt was not put off. In the autumn of 1990 Soviet team succeeded in opening a new route in the big wall when seven members suffered from serious frostbites.

JAC Tokai Section party made a reconnaissance in December 1999, result of which has had them take advantages of a narrow possibility of the most stable conditions in early December. They are to commence an assault on December 1 and complete the climbing before a fierce winter jet stream of 100km/min. gets prevailing.

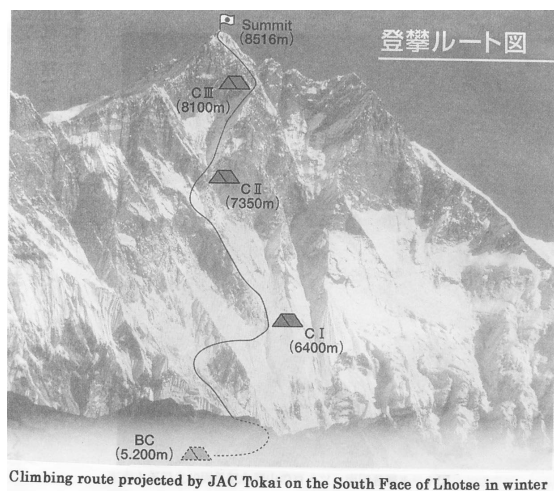


Fig.1 Climbing route projected by JAC Tokai on the South Face of Lhotse.
from "Yama" (JAC monthly news letter) May 2001

Gasherbrum I & II – In commemoration of the 120 years anniversary of Meiji University and the 80 years anniversary of their Alpine Club as well the expedition has been organized in full support of all the club members. One of the main purposes is to give an opportunity to the younger generation. All of the six climbing members under the leadership of Kazuhiro Takahashi are 20s years old. They will also undertake a field survey regarding environmental issues through a research of glacial topographies. All the members climbed GII on July 29 and GI on August 13 in succession.

Unknown Sanglung in the Tsangpo Gorge – Very few experts in Himalayas have a knowledge of this mountain, but seventy-seven years ago Frank Kingdon-Ward had already visited the hardly accessible region of the world largest canyon in 1924. He published his narratives on the journey-*The Riddle of the Tsangpo Gorges* (Edward Arnold, London, 1926). He wrote in the book as follows. “Across the river is a range of snow-peaks, and above Payi is the great bulk of Sanglung, 23,018 feet, with a terrific snow cliff facing eastwards; east of that again are several smaller snow-peaks, and then the range, which just west of Sanglung had attained the dazzling height of 25,445 feet in Namcha Barwa, sinks down and melts into the low rounded jungle-covered hills of the Abor country.” Sanglung locates 8km east of Namcha Barwa inside of the great bend.

Four members of the Nihon University Alpine Club led by Susumu Nakamura challenge Sanglung in an alpine style from October to November. A fluted snow cliff, ice and rock mixed wall and hair-raising final ridge to lead to the summit would, in no doubt, be more than exciting. Hopefully they are able to scale and unveil this alluring mountain massif.

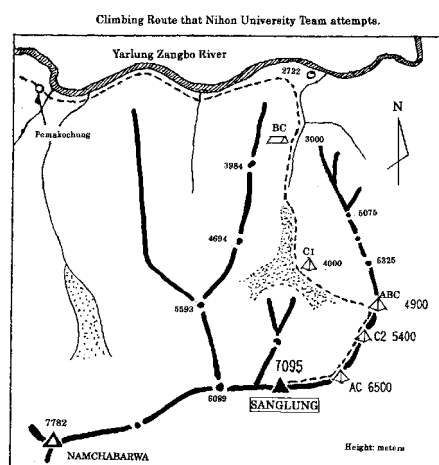


Fig.2 Climbing Route ,Nihon University Team attempted.

Drawn by Nihon University Alpine Club

From *The Riddle of Tsangpo Gorge*, Captain F. Kingdon-Ward, 1926 London

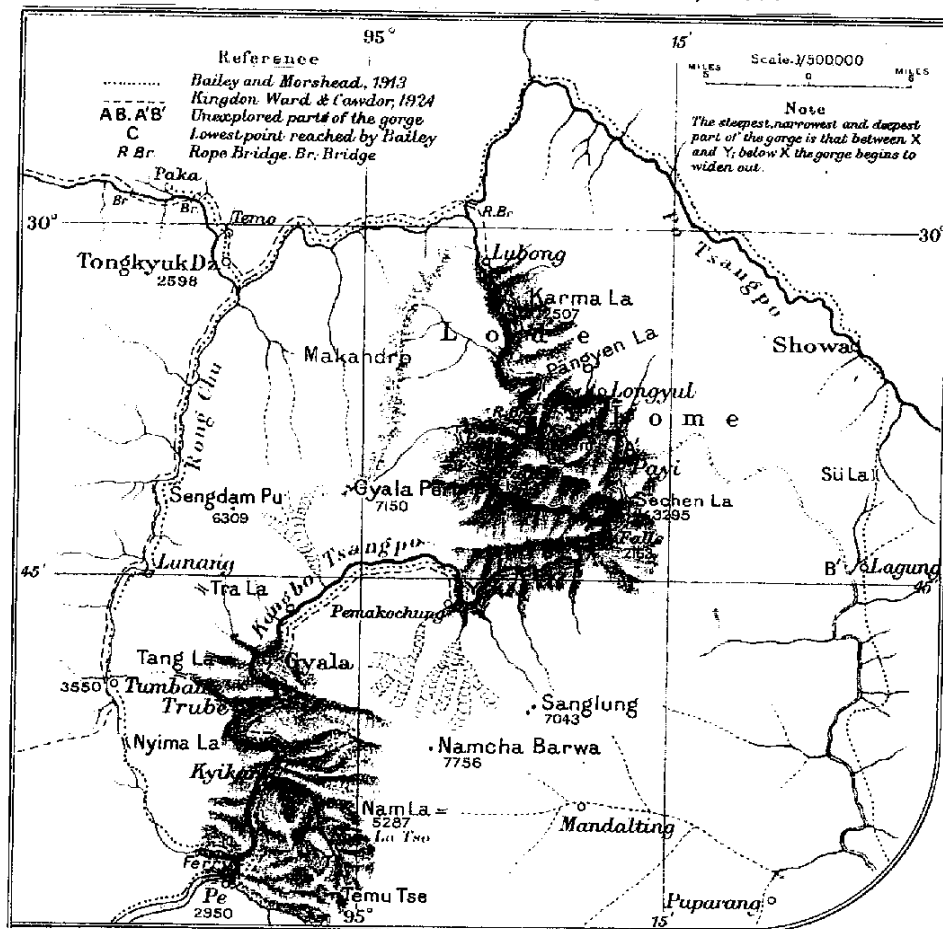


Fig.3 Sanglung Location. from "The Riddle of Tsangpo Gorges" Captain F. Kingdon-Ward, Edward Arnold, London, 1926