



## AAC Publications

---

### **Rimo III (7,233m), southwest face, attempt; Dunglung Kangri (6,365m)**

India, East Karakoram

Our Indo-British expedition comprised Satyabrata Dam (Indian leader) and me (British leader), Paul Figg, Simon Yearsley (both U.K.), Dan Singh Harkotiya, Tashi Phunchok, and Konchuk Thinless (India), the British artist Rachel Antill, and liaison officer Raj Kumar.

Satya Dam is a renowned explorer, mountaineer, influential ex-military commander, past leader of an Indian Everest expedition, and was liaison officer on our Vasuki Parbat expedition in 2010. His prestige, and the large number of trouble-free trips to India made by the British members over the last 20 years, were no doubt instrumental in our gaining permission to visit the Rimo peaks. The army at Siachen Glacier base proved very helpful, and two soldiers accompanied us throughout (at army expense), in addition to our military LO.

We approached from the west via the North Terong Glacier. Crossing the Terong River was made possible by a Tyrolean fixed by the joint Indian Army–IMF expedition attempting Rimo I (7,385m), which was ahead of us. Unfortunately, we had snowfall on 15 of the 26 days spent at or above base camp (4,950m), and never experienced temperatures less than -7°C.

After exploring a route up the horribly boulder-strewn glacier and icefall to reach the basin beneath the southwest face of Rimo III, we acclimatized by climbing to 6,400m in the couloir between Rimo III and II. Then, from a high camp at 5,775m below the southwest face, we climbed through the night up a couloir left of the elegant central buttress of Rimo III, reaching a high point of ca 6,200m before descending the following morning in a snowstorm that turned to rain below 6,000m. After more days of snowfall, and realizing the face would not clear, we decided to attempt an attractive unclimbed peak at the end of a ridge southwest of the Rimo group, west of previously climbed peaks Sondhi and Sundbrar.

On September 13 we scrambled 500m to a bivouac on a rocky spur at 5,600m. It snowed overnight, but we left at 6:30 the following morning, climbing a south-to-north rising line across two icefields (hard, brittle ice) and two, loose snow covered rock spurs to a final icefield, which we climbed direct to a gendarmed ridge at the top of the southwest face (ca 6,000m). We followed the attractive crest east to reach a ca 6,180m col between the forepeak and summit pyramid, then moved together with intermediate ice screw protection before climbing three harder pitches to the summit. Winds were gusting 40-50mph, and in a whiteout it all felt very Scottish. The ascent was 700m from the bivouac, 1,200m from the glacier, AI3. Our altimeter recorded 6,365m, and we named the peak Dunglung Kangri, which in local Ladakhi means “sharp, windy mountain.” The expedition was grant-aided by the Mt. Everest Foundation, British Mountaineering Council, Alpine Club, and Polartec.

Using traditional siege tactics, the Indian Army–IMF expedition climbed high on the original 1988 Japanese route up Rimo I, but missed the summit due to bad weather.

Malcolm Bass, Alpine Club, U.K.

## Images



Dunglung Kangri from base camp.



Paul Figg and Simon Yearsley negotiate loose mixed ground between icefields during the first ascent of Dunglung Kangri.



Rimo Group from the North Terong Glacier. (1) marks the top of the Pinnacles on the southwest ridge, with the snow slopes above leading toward the summit. (2) Route followed on first ascent of Dunglung Kangri.





Southwest face of Rimo III. The line marks the attempt by Bass, Figg and Yearsley to the left of the prominent central buttress.



Southwest face of Rimo III.



Simon Yearsley on the lower icefield during the first ascent of Duglung Kangri.

## Article Details

Author	Malcolm Bass, Alpine Club, U.K.
Publication	AAJ
Volume	55
Issue	87
Page	304
Copyright Date	2013
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions