



Honboro Massif, Bondit Peak, Northeast Spur Attempt

Pakistan, Masherbrum Mountains

Bondit Peak (a.k.a. Bondid, formerly Muntin) is a prominent mountain of a little less than 6,000m situated near the head of the Bondit Glacier at 35°20'29.06"N, 76°16'27.59"E. The Bondit Valley rises southwest from the Kande Valley, which in turn rises initially northwest from Kande in the Hushe Valley and leads eventually to the south side of Honboro (6,459m). Maps and satellite imagery of this region are poor, and there is very little other information available. Irena Mrak reported briefly on Bondit in AAJ 2010. (Mrak refers to it as Muntin Peak, but this name appears to have fallen out of use and no locals recognized it.)

Elliot Bowie, Kadin Vincent (both New Zealand), Diarmuid Murphy (Ireland), and I attempted the northeast spur of Bondit from a base camp at around 4,400m on the last green meadow and easy water source before the white ice of the lower Bondit Glacier. We reached this point reasonably acclimatized after trekking over the Gondogoro La from Askoli.

Our first attempt was via the icefall, which proved too heavily crevassed to cross. We then attempted to climb directly from the base of the north spur. While this may prove a feasible route, it is well-defended by numerous seracs; more than once these dropped small blocks on us.

After August 10, when it started raining on the exact day our local friend Muhammed Ibrahim had predicted, the already loose nature of the mountain altered drastically for the worse, and any further attempts became suicidal. We switched our attention to a minor unnamed peak of around 5,600m further west. Once again, serious avalanches, this time of rock as well as snow/ice, forced us to abandon the attempt. On both peaks our high point was around 5,300m.

On other days we explored part of the surrounding country, which offers several little known glaciers and superb unclimbed peaks, many of around 6,000m. Future parties would be wise to visit earlier; late June and July were recommended locally.

– Nathan Dahlberg, New Zealand

Images



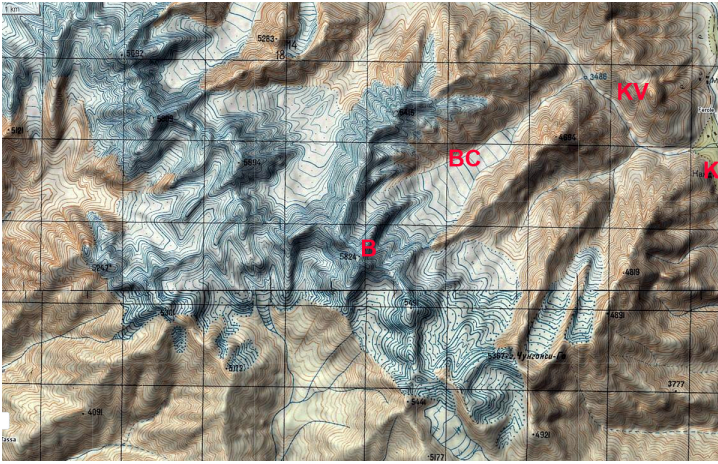
The unclimbed northeast spur of Bondit Peak (ca 6,000m).



Looking south over the rim of the Bondit Valley toward the first main glacier basin south of the Kande Glacier from its entrance above Kande village. At the head of this valley, the most distant triangular snow mountain is named Raja Peak. All major summits, which have altitudes from 5,400m to 5,700m, are thought to be unclimbed, but trekking parties are regularly taken to a small point called Iqbal Top (somewhere on the nearer rock ridge), as it gives fine views of the high Baltoro peaks. Bondit Peak is just visible far right.



Looking west into the Bondit Cirque. Bondit Peak (ca 6,000m) is in the center, with the northeast spur in profile. The unnamed ca 5,600m peak attempted in 2019 is on the far right of the picture.



Map of lower Kande Valley and Bondit Glacier. (B) Bondit Peak. (BC) 2019 base camp. (KV) Kande Valley. (K) Kande in the Hushe Valley.

Article Details

Author	Nathan Dahlberg
Publication	AAJ
Volume	62
Issue	94
Page	
Copyright Date	2020
Article Type	Climbs and expeditions