

Pt. 6,249m was first climbed as long ago as 1955 during Alf Gregory's productive Mersey-side Himalayan expedition, which climbed many peaks in the Rolwaling region and made a reconnaissance of Gauri Shankar. Peter Boulton and Denis Davis, who crossed the Menlung La west into Tibet and made an ascent of Ripimo Shar (6,647m) from the north, also moved north up the Menlung valley and climbed Dingjung Ri from the west. They were hindered from reaching the summit of this then unnamed peak by a crevasse, over which they executed a big jump. As Kang appears in so many peak names, they felt it apt to name the peak after one of the world's great jumpers, the kangaroo, and called the peak Kangkuru, a moniker that stuck for many years and appears on the Japanese maps.

In March 2008 Kenro Nakajima returned and completed the route with Hiroki Yamamoto. The two climbed to the summit from a high camp at ca 5,430m and their climb, which appears to be the first authorized ascent of the peak, will be reported in *AAJ 2009*.

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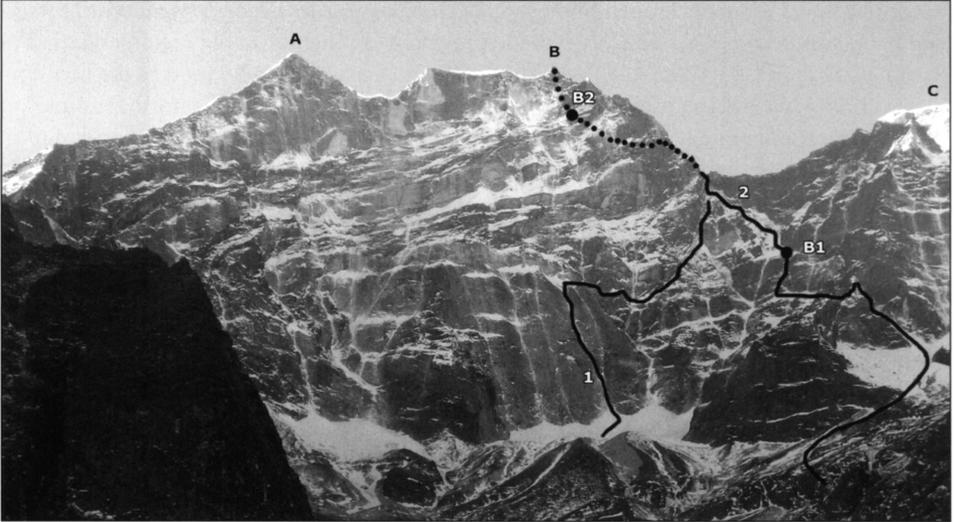
Likhu Chuli I, north ridge, attempt. Japanese Koichi Ezaki and Hiroshi Kudo made the first official attempt on the north ridge of Likhu Chuli I (6,719m). The well-known trekking peak of Parchamo (6,279m) is the northerly extension of this ridge. On November 24 the pair climbed the steep and technically difficult east (Khumbu) flank of the ridge towards the crest, fixing rope to 5,950m. Above, they felt the need to fix more rope. They had cached ropes earlier in the month, after Ezaki led a larger expedition to Parchamo, but when they returned they found the ropes had been stolen. Not wishing to progress without more fixed rope, they abandoned the expedition.

In 1960 a French team, led by Robert Sandoz, that had Chobuje (Chobutse, 6,686m) as its original aim, climbed a number of peaks from the Rolwaling, including Parchamo and Pimu. After abandoning Chobutse due to ice fall, they turned to Likhu Chuli I (then known as Pigpherago Shar). After establishing camps at 5,500m and 6,150m, Cécile Barbezat and Nawang Dorje reached the summit on October 21 via the steep, difficult west ridge. To the west, Likhu Chuli II (Pigpherago Nup, 6,659m) has no known ascent. Both summits were officially opened to foreign climbers in 2003.

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Kwangde Lho, north face in winter. In January 2008 Vladimir Belousov and Alexander Novikov made a calendar-winter ascent of Kwangde Lho (6,187m) via a new route on the Hungo face. The Russians' original aim was a line between the Breashears-Lowe December 1982 route (ED2, WI6, 1200m) and the Lorenzo-Munoz 1985 route, Mandala (1150m, little information on difficulty). However, when they arrived below the north face, they found very dry conditions, and the only possible line they felt they could climb without resorting to aid was the wall beneath the Kwangde Lho-Kwangde Nup col.

Belousov and Novikov started on January 8, carrying two small rucksacks, one sleeping bag for both climbers and a Bibler tent. Their route slanted left across the lower section of



The north or Hungo face of Kwangde in relatively dry winter conditions. (A) Kwangde Shar (6,093m), (B) Kwangde Lho (6,187m) and (C) Kwangde Nup (6,035m). (1) The start of Mandala (1,150m, Lorenzo-Munoz, 1985) and (2) Chicory (5.7 WI4 M4 40-50°, 1,200m, Belousov-Novikov, 2008), with the bivouac sites B1 and B2 marked. A photo showing all the remaining routes on this face appears in AAJ 2007. Vladimir Belousov

Kwangde Nup's north face, climbing a couloir and rock band to reach the northwest spur descending from the summit of Lho. Below the central rock barrier, near the point where Mandala comes in from the left, they made a horizontal traverse right. The crest above had looked difficult, probably requiring hard rock climbing and aid; to the right lay icy mixed walls that could be climbed free. The Russians chose these and eventually reached the southwest ridge 100m below the top, where they made their second bivouac just short of the summit. It was -20°C, very windy, and they were unable to pitch the tent. They sat up all night trying to keep warm and the next morning reached the summit in clear weather at 9.30 a.m. They named their route Chicory. Although it is hard to say whether the new route shares common ground with Mandala, Chicory is mostly 40-50° snow and ice with five difficult pitches: three (M4, WI4, M3) through the rock band above the narrow couloir on the first day, one the exit pitch onto the southwest ridge (M3 and 5.7), while the last was on the south side of the mountain just below the second bivouac (M2/M3 and WI3). On the first four the leader led without a pack, the second jumaring while carrying both packs.

From the summit the pair descended the original route (Ishikawa-Iwahashi-Ogawa-Sherpas, 1978), making several rappels to reach the south ridge, which was hard ice. They descended to the Lumding Valley, walked across the frozen lake, and made the long, arduous climb back north across the Lumding La, finally reaching Phakdingma on the Dudh Kosi on the 12th. Although the vertical gain on the north side of the mountain is 1,200m, Chicory has an estimated climbing distance of 2,110m. It is probably the easiest way to reach the summit ridge via the Hungo face.