

# Attempt on Khangri Shar in Khumbu Himal

## JAC Senior Party Expedition

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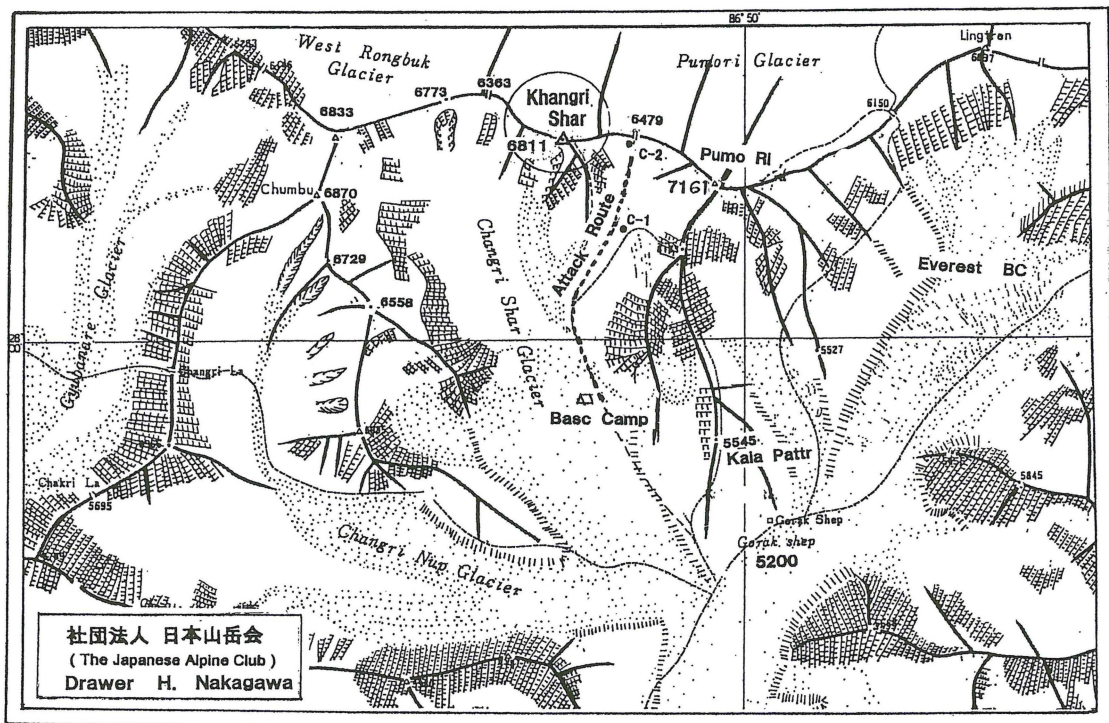
**K**hangri Shar 6811m is one of the unclimbed peaks in the Nepal Himalaya which was just recently opened for climbing by the Nepal Government in the fall of 2002. It is located very close to Pumori 7161m to the west beyond a col in the Khumbu Himal of the northeastern part of Nepal and is one of the peaks ranging on the Nepal-Tibet border. Khangri Shar has an outstanding feature guarded with rock walls on which the layers of strata are eminently exposed.

The Changri Glacier flows into the Khumbu Glacier near Gorakshep, through which passes the so-called “Everest Highway” a very popular trail for trekkers. The Changri Glacier separates into two glaciers in the up-stream. Khangri Shar soars dominantly and seems even lofty between the glacier heads of the East Changri Glacier and its side glacier in the Pumori side. This side glacier was chosen as our climbing route. We named the side glacier “JAC Glacier” just for our recognition. Khangri Shar must not have been named by the local people, as no one recognized the name of the peak. Presumably, the Nepal Government named this peak as it opened the peak climbing. Meanwhile, you may find the “Khangri Glacier” in place of the Changri Glacier which is found on old maps. However, the locals call it “Changri Glacier”. Therefore, Changri Shar would be more appropriate and authentic for the name of the peak than Khangri Shar.

(Editor received the following information from Lindsay Griffin:-

“The col on the border was the same as that reached by the Americans in 1990 who unsuccessfully tried the North West Ridge of Pumori. They seem to refer to the Khangri Shar peak as Chumo. So there is another possible name for you.”)

Khangri Shar Senior EXPEDITION 2003



We were the first to have attempted to climb this peak as there is no other record of the ascent. Prior to our expedition Makoto Nebuka and Sherpa Anu made a reconnaissance in the winter of 2002 to look for BC location and climbing route. As a result, they found three routes. But, only one route among those three was considered capable for our senior members who are over 55 years old. That route is the one that leads to the summit, climbing the ridge on the border via a col.

To avoid high altitude sickness our caravan crossed the Kongrama Pass ca 5300m to acclimatize. There were difficulties going over the pass due to time constraints. We only had a permit for one month expedition period. Some of the members had to retreat on the way and descended as they were not recovered from altitude sickness. Time and expense of this expedition should have been planned in accordance with the condition and age of our members.

The working period from setting up BC to leaving was 12 days. BC was located on the plateau, which has a small glacial lake at the foot of Pumori. Four Sherpas paved the climbing route. They had gone ahead of our caravan for the purpose.

The outline of the ascent is as follows;

With 100m ropes fixed, we descended from BC to the Changri Glacier along with the side moraine. We then crossed the JAC Glacier tongue which flowed into the left bank of the East Changri Glacier, then ascended a slope of the side moraine and began to climb on a rock wall. After going through the couloir above us, we ascended a steep scree slope, and then climbed up the foot of the wall diagonally to the right. A wide ice and snow slope followed and led us to a snow ridge, which was on the right bank of the JAC Glacier. Along with the ridge we had reached C1 on a glacier plateau at about 6000m. The steep rock ridge continued straight forward from the C1 plateau to the summit. The route to the summit via the rock would have been an exhilarating climb for skilled climbers. We had fixed 600m of rope from the foot of the wall to C1. From C1 above, we first avoided crevasses then climbed up a steep ice-clad slope of the JAC Glacier on the right bank, then at times climbed down the rocks, went up through the shellacs zone to a gentle slope of the glacier. On the end of the glacier tongue another shellac belt crossed a tip of the glacier. After climbing up an iced couloir we could see again the gentle slope of the glacier. The glacier head led to the foot of the ice wall, which continued to a col on the border. We had planned to set up C2 on the col. The ice wall looked about 200m high with Himalayan fluted ices.

The foot of the ice wall was in the seracs zone at 6300m. There were crevasses about five meters in width. We deposited 500m of fix rope. Then from the next morning we began to pave our climbing route but the crevasses forced us to give up the ascent. Our original plan was to set up C2 on the col and then to fix ropes up to the summit. If we were able to cross the crevasses by using ladders, there would have been a chance to stand atop Khangri Shar. The total length of the fixed rope that we used from BC to the highest point that we reached was about 2,200 meters.

We returned to Namuche Bazaar via the Everest Highway having crossed two high passes and going through Chora and Rango.